

Generic Issue

Social Issues and Concern: Social work Perspectives

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Editorial

This issue of Social Work Journal addresses the theme of Social Issues and Concerns: Social Work Perspectives. This theme was addressed by 11 papers contributed by 19 authors of Social Work and Social Sciences from India and Bangladesh.

Abhimanyu Datta in his paper titled, "Social Work Education in India: Contemporary concerns and challenges" highlighted some of the contemporary issues and challenges of Social Work Education in India. The article also discusses the major concern and challenges of the student and professional social workers as well. He further reveals that challenges in social work education includes gaps in theory and practice, course structure, content and pedagogy, fieldwork components, community expectation and students' learning opportunities, corruption versus professional values. Finally, the author put forwarded some intervention measures such as field action initiatives through colleges/schools/departments, conducting seminar and conferences related to theoretical understanding and "Fieldwork in Social Work" as the key theme for discussion, Establishment of Social Work Alumni Association should be encouraged at every University or institutional level which will pave the way of Social Work Education in India from a new perspective. This probably addressed with appropriate measure so that the next generation learners need not face the challenges associated with the social work education in India.

Amina Pervin and Priyanka Bhattacharjee in their article titled, "Political Participation of Women living in the Slum: A study conducted in Sylhet City" states that political participation of women who are living in the slum has to be understood in connection with the overall socio-cultural, economic and political situation of slum people in Bangladeshi society. The article argues that the current situation of political participation of women living in the slum area of Sylhet city and nature and trends of political involvement of slum women at local and national level politics, their expectations and perceptions towards elected officials and some barriers and obstacles faced by slum women during political participation. They further emphasize that people living in the slum communities in Bangladesh are facing extreme level of exclusion and marginality, subject to continuous deprivation and neglect. Political participation of slum people especially women's participation in politics is very occasional- and conducts only during local and national level election. They are indifferent about their political rights as most of their basic needs remain unfulfilled. Women living in slum also faced various obstacles to participate in politics such as working pressure in home and outside, patriarchal social structure,

such as lack of attachment, emotional support, resident ration and so on. The study concludes that, the prime function of social work is to give assistance to individuals in regard to the difficulties that they face in their life situations. Here, the changes in an organizational structure or minor changes in the organizational function such as appointing at least two social workers in Institution, make a report and address the issue of caretaker, scope and space for social case work and social group work intervention, rehabilitation of children after resolving their emotional disturbances etc can bring a lot of changes in lives of institutionalized children.

Apurba Saha and Angshu Lama in their article titled, "Aging: A Psychosocial Theoretical Perspective" explain that Old age is a phase of life cycle characterized by its own developmental issues, many of which are concerned with loss of physical ability and mental acuity, friends and loved ones, status and power. Authors emphasize on psychological as well as social theories of aging and how it is interpreting the successful aging process. These theories focus on changes in behaviour, personality and attitude as we become aged. They further critically highlight the global and Indian perspectives evidently with the psychological theories, socio-cultural theories and biological theories associated with Aging process. The paper concludes that though different theory has explain ageing differently and there is no uniformity of ageing process, it is not easy task to achieve successful ageing and some consider ageing is a liability for society, state and nation but it can be assets if we channelize their experience, and wisdom constructively.

In the paper titled, "Common Perception on Sexual Harassment of Female Students of Bangladesh: Interpretations from the Field Understanding" authors use exploratory research design to get an in-depth understanding of the nature and causes sexual harassment and its impact on the female students studying at the public universities in Bangladesh. The finding of the study indicates that females are largely suffered by tortured by the patriarchal society, because of which they are being victim of sexual harassment. It is also found that because of sexual harassment, females are going through mental and physical effects. These effects do not letting them to lead a proper healthy life. Finally, authors suggested absence of proper implementation of law and weakness of law enforcement agencies were also

identified responsible for the increasing sexual harassment in the country which needs to be demolished by proper socialization and proper implantation of law and order.

Men and women differ biologically and their issues can also be categorized under two different dimensions. The taboo associated with menstrual cycle makes it utterly difficult for the women employees to express their discomfort freely and enjoy an inclusive space. The article titled "Effect of Primary Dysmenorrhea on Performance of Women Employees in Work Settings" attempts to analyse one of the major issues among women i.e. Primary Dysmenorrhea. The findings of the study reveal that such issues have been a major hurdle for women employees specifically in their performance. The author recommended that there should be a work environment free from any sort of discrimination and women should not feel any sort of discomfort to express any issue. The workspace should be more gender sensitized and should be flexible for all.

Rajdeep Dutta and Joyashri Dey in their article titled "Challenges of Women Empowerment and Models of NGOs Intervention in Assam" attempted to understand the challenges of women empowerment in Assam. Further, they highlighted some landscape of women empowerment in Assam and NGO's contribution towards the empowerment of Women. Since independence, North East India has been inflicted by a mixed of conflict which largely collision on the lives, mainly the women and the children. The article critically emphasizes the models of NGOs intervention in the micro, mezzo, macro to addresses the issues. Findings of the present study reveal for gender justice NGOs choose the models like awareness, education, advocacy, and women rights based approach to bring sense of equality. Finally, authors recommended that to make it possible, the NGO, government, civil society and likeminded people need to come forward to change the societal mindsets.

In the article titled, "Understanding Violence against Doctors and the Role of Social Workers in the Indian Context" Shilpi Shika Das reflects upon violence against healthcare providers. She highlights violence against doctors and nurses have a negative impact on the service delivery. With both global and local evidences of such forms of violence, it becomes important to understand and address the issue. Further, findings reveals violence against doctors triggers from multifactorial causes and thus also needs intersectional approach of preventive and control measures. The Author critically highlights the social worker's role and an integrated approach which will include the micro, mezzo and the macro level of intervention to deal with such vibrant issues in the field of healthcare.

Soumendra Banerjee in his article, "Child Labour Problem & Scope of Social Work Intervention in China discusses the challenges of child labour in China and attempts to prescribe which role the Professional Social Worker can play. He further highlighted that in China child labour is a sensitive issue. As a safeguard of the

children the Government of People's Republic of China announces various Children's rights. These rights cover the right to subsistence, full development rights, and the right to protection from harmful effects, abuse, and exploitation, the right to full participation in the family, cultural and social life, and so on. The author also comes up with the suggestive role of social work professional in the areas of care giver, cooperation with education, awareness building, moral protection and social care services for dealing with the problem of child labour in China.

Youth is the driving force of the future at least for a country where every third person in its any city today is a youth. But, we also need to understand that this is the most sensitive stage of life wherein the ever growing culture of being the best and conforming to the social constructs crushes down the youth of today and makes them vulnerable to various mental health issues. The paper titled as "A Study on Youth Mental Health Concerns with Respect to Stress & Anxiety and Its Impact on their Social Functioning" consisting of data from a semi urban region thus its findings gave a mix of problems faced by urban youth as well as youth coming from rural areas for their higher studies and are in a transition period culturally. This article has specifically focused upon its contribution in understanding and realizing the issues faced by the youth in this ever demanding modern society and how it is affecting their social life. The paper gave an insight on the various factors affecting the mental health of youth and its repercussions on their productivity and social functioning. The paper also strive to unfold the underlying stigma attached to mental health, which normalizes a youth feeling depressed or anxious, mixed with the socially constructed definition of 'successful' or 'desirable' under which the youth of today are pressured down to feeling as 'good for nothing'.

In the article "Reproductive Health Status of Tribal Women in Maharashtra" author has emphasized that good Reproductive health is a prerequisite condition for ensuring Safe Pregnancy and Child birth. The author has further added that as per different study reports Tribal Women in some parts of Maharashtra are facing lots of reproductive problems. Considering these issues present study has been conducted by the author to focus on the living conditions of the tribal married women of Nandurbar district in Maharashtra to understand their sexual and reproductive health status. The findings of the study reveal that the socio-economic indicators and the sexual and reproductive health of the respondents are poor. The paper recommended for policy level intervention to ameliorate the health conditions of tribal women in the stud area.

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