

Book Review: Social Work Education and Practice Engagement Social Work Education and Practice Engagement Edited by: Sanjai Bhatt and Suresh Pathare

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The book titled as Social Work Education and Practice Engagement has been written by many renowned social researchers, and social scientists who tried creating the platform for meaningful engagements to discuss the social realities and also appraisal of various aspects of social work education in India. The social work began with the philosophy of charity followed by development with all and all for development, but at present social work has been focusing on the empowerment and liberation of the disadvantaged sections of the society - children, women, disabilities, stress management, etc.

This book has been arranged into two parts; the 1st part emphasises that social work is primarily a helping activity that involves a set of values regarding the dignity and is worth of every human being. It also highlights the field work practicum being the integral part of the social work practice. The 2nd part of the book deals with the practice-based engagements reflecting the nature of work, trends and challenges of the social work practice. It also tries to highlight the emerging areas of social work practice in India, as well as the traditional social work practice.

The social researchers who presented their views on the social work education are Prof H. Y. Siddiqui, Ms Vidya Rao, Prof Suresh Pathare and Mr Atup Pratap Singh. They have immensely developed an understanding about the trends of social work education since ages and this has been continuing till the 21st century. Prof Siddiqui has also highlighted one of the major issues that is needed to be addressed on the professional status of the social work education in India and also outlines the way ahead that gives a concrete direction for the sustenance of the profession and importance of their services. Prof Pathare in his paper on Social Work

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Education in India: Transition from Westernization to indigenization – has indicated that efforts have been made to indigenise the profession as social work basically has the westernisation. Therefore, he has documented the challenges faced and also has taken into account the efforts and experiments conducted to indigenise the profession.

As the 2nd part of the book highlights the nature, trends and challenges of social work practice, engagement has been documented about the several practice-based social work that includes working with the marginalised sections named as the Gujjar and Bakkarwal community, which constitute only 8% of the total population of the state and are economically and socially backward tribal groups. He has therefore suggested for the formation of the Gujjar Bakkarwal councils, which would also help to empower these communities.

Mrs Shivani Chauhan Barooah in her paper has highlighted the descent work and also strongly suggests that multidirectionality of social work practice as home-based work is found, which requires social work intervention.

The social scientists has also highlighted the issues covering the as strength perspectives and its practice in mental health, foreign aid and the role of social work intervention on the fund allocations.

This book covers almost every practice-based social work intervention in the recent years, highlighting the nature, trends and challenges faced by them. Mr Sanjai Bhatt and Mr Suresh Pathare tried to consolidate the papers with emphasis on everyday practice-based social work interventions that would not only help to gain knowledge about the research methodology, but will also help with the findings related to the subject matter. The book in all is one of the major and well consolidated in such a manner that would help to get an overview about the different aspects of the new trends of social work practice may it be with the management and service delivery system of the civil society or the formulation of the policies and programmes to address the vulnerable risk behaviour of gay in Mizoram.

Though this book covers mostly all major discussed issues of multidimensional approach related to practice-based social work interventions, it would be much better if it would also cover issues related to child rights and women – their vulnerability where communities practising such customs that are socially and culturally accepted and thus, initiatives to be suggested to address their vulnerability. As a whole, it would also pave the way forward to address the millennium development goals.

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