

Call for Abstracts: Social Work & Society Special Issue

Theme of the Special issue: Teaching Poverty in Social Work Classroom – Perspectives from Global South and Policy Implications

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The uniqueness of social work education across the globe is to equip the cadre of professionals to deal with the social issues and challenges from time to time. Every social order having diversity of population, culture, conditions and resources face challenges of inclusion-exclusion, inequalities, marginalization and injustice. The primary mission of social work profession is to work with the vulnerable, oppressed and marginalized population and help them to meet basic human needs. Owing to these principles throughout social work history there has been concern about social workers' commitment to the poor and to social action on their behalf. Social work has been coined as a “dissenting Profession” and social workers are considered to be the change agents with unique capabilities to deal with the social problems. In the present contemporary world there is a need to educate and train social work graduates to work with marginalized group affected by poverty across the borders. Perspective building of social work graduates in the classroom as well as in practice is essential as Students' attitudes toward poverty are known to affect the way that they treat individuals who are likely to be poor. Social work education and the manner in which we currently teach poverty and inequality have important roles in increasing justice and economic equality and promoting peace and harmony. Further in a constantly changing world Social work educators are responsible for ensuring that future practitioners are culturally competent and have the ability to work effectively with people from different backgrounds. Social work education has an important role in the development of critical consciousness among students. This special issue invite contributions from the social work educators and researchers around the world focusing on issues mentioned below in relation to Global South.

Idea of this special issue is to provide a rare opportunity to the academics in the developing and emerging countries to highlight their experiences and views on teaching poverty in social work classroom. Poverty impacts every society irrespective of development status. In this context global south perspective would be learning from the poverty reduction intervention strategies in the economically less developed countries. Despite enormous effort by the state and non-state actors in

poverty reduction in many south Asian countries, the results seem not very encouraging. As a result, poverty continues to be discussed, researched and written upon by the various academic disciplines. However, research evidence suggests that social work interventions to address poverty and its causative factors particularly at the macro level are confined largely to class room and seminar discussions. Huge gap between preaching and practice highlights professional inadequacies to deal with structural problems such as poverty and calls for a revisit to the scope and objectives of social work profession. Increasing dominance of market economies and neo-liberal discourse in the policy making and grass root effects in many of the South Asian countries, require a fresh look at the debates around poverty and the role of social work in its eradication or reduction. Hence we plan to critically look at various experiments both at the grass root levels and states' efforts in this direction. This special issue of the journal aims at documenting these to facilitate learning from each other's experiences in the global north and south and cull out the commonalities and unique aspects of poverty, policies and strategies to deal with it and implications of the same for social work education and practice.

Themes for the papers to be included in the special issue are:

- a) Determining the scope of social work in different socio-political-economic and cultural contexts
- b) Pedagogy for social work focusing on poverty
- c) Teaching poverty in social work classroom
- d) Skill development of social work graduates to work with poverty affected groups
- e) Attitude of different stake holders on poverty
- f) Knowledge building of social work graduates
- g) Policies and programmes related to poverty in the global south
- h) Best practices of poverty reduction
- i) Lessons from the past interventions
- j) Cross cultural Case studies
- k) Indigenization of knowledge in poverty reduction
- l) Field education and practicum in relation to poverty
- m) Poverty in comparative perspective

Key Dates

Please send abstracts of no more than 300 words by 15th May 2019 to: Assistant Professor Dr Rajendra Baikady rajendrabaikady@yahoo.com/ rajendra.tiss2013@yahoo.com

Call for paper Notification: 15th April 2019

Notification of accepted abstracts: 30th May 2019

Manuscript draft submission: 15th January 2020