

## Book Review

# Social Work Education in India: A Resource Book

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Name of the Book: Social Work Education in India: A Resource Book

Year: 2015

Name of the Authors: Sanjai Bhatt & Digvijoy Phukan

Name of the Publisher: Alter Notes Press, New Delhi

Price: 800

ISBN: 9788190892377

Social Work is a profession devoted to helping the needy people, understanding the problems and issues existing in their societies and finding out possible remedies as development strategies for strengthening these ethnic groups in society. As a nation India is very diverse in cultural characteristics. When we go back into history and study about the savage discriminations that ruptured our society, the truth will be de-mystified in front of us, pointing out the main attributes (such as religion, caste, sex and economical background) that lead to the decay of societal values. This resulted in the marginalization of women, Dalits, tribal and nomadic communities, small farmers, children, youth etc. Social workers stood up for the marginalized class. There occurred a growing demand for social workers in every nook and corner of the society. It grew up as a social profession. The 'educator' was the key person largely responsible for the growth and establishment of social work as a profession. In this book 'Social Work Education in India: A Resource Book' we see details about the various Social Work Educational Institutions (SWEI) across the country and the need for social work to be considered as a social profession in today's world.

Social work educational institutions impart knowledge and skills to the students to develop appropriate attitude

for working with people and establishing linkages between practical knowledge and theories. This book gives a basic idea about the need for social work as a profession in contemporary world and the main areas where one could specialize while acquiring knowledge from the same. The quality of education depends upon many factors such as quality of curriculum, institutional structure, in-depth knowledge of teachers and students etc. The institution itself plays a major role in developing the status of social work profession in the society. In India the training for social workers started for the first time in 1930 by the Social Service League (SSL) in Mumbai. Many further commencements led to the foundation of Sir Dorabji Tata Graduate School of social work in 1936. This was one among the first social work educational institutions in India. Later the field of social work education started expanding with many deemed, central, state and private universities, colleges and institutions. This book provides the details about all the social work institutions across India and the courses offered by each one of them distinctively, how the social work has evolved as a social profession and challenges faced by people in the field of social work. Earlier there were only about 72 schools offering social work education in 1986. From there we have become more than double touching figure of 172 social work institutions by 2005 and today it has crossed above 525 institutions teaching social work in India (Bhatt p.07).

As explained in the book the social work growth rate and expansion of social work schools has been classified into five stages; the initiation stage, experimentation stage, expansion stage, moderation stage and finally explosion stage. The book also portrays the earlier traversed paths of social work into the transition stage where it finally evolved as recognized profession in India. It also provides its readers information about the core policy documents

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and amendments which show the evolution of social work profession and discipline in India. The book provides details to understand the social work profession, its values, ethics, functions and ideologies that support change and enhances professional growth and personal effectiveness. The details over career opportunities for graduates of MSW are also given in this book. There are ample job opportunities for MSW degree holders in both the government as well as non-governmental sectors. All jobs in this field are related with social services or charity works. They can look for jobs in the government sector as there are many opportunities there. Opportunity in the governmental sector is mainly in the community development projects pertaining to health, education, rural development, child, woman and tribal welfare etc. Work in NGOs' can be specific to either urban or rural area. Postgraduates in Social Work also have job opportunities in the industrial and corporate sector. Students opting social work as career may find job in child welfare and

family service agencies for providing mental, health, medical, educational and correctional services. Some MSW degree holders can prefer to be self-employed by establishing their own NGOs. Globalisation has widened the scope of employment for student opting for social work as their career.

The second half of the book provides basic information about social work educational institutions across the country. Considering the point at which social work stand today, the path travelled should not be forgotten and the book connects both ends together thus providing all the basic information on which position social work has reached today and what all amendments could be bring forth for better positioning of it as a profession all over the country. The book can help the students, teachers and practitioners at their individual levels to move forward in the field of social work. More effective plans can also be practiced considering the challenges now faced by the field of social work.