

Book Review:

Social Justice and Social Work Profession in India: Challenging Responses and Responding Challenges

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Title of the book: Social Justice and Social work profession in India: Challenging responses and responding challenges

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Social work is as historic as the word society itself. The history of social work is rooted in the country's socio-religious character because going down into the grass root level of both parameters one reach at a single point. The concept of social work as a service has, therefore a history as old as the society itself. In the later era social work grew up as a professional as well as academic discipline that seeks to improve the quality and well-being of individuals, communities and help those who were affected by social disadvantages, poverty, physical illness or disability and socially discriminated groups. Social work emerged in 19th century as a part of the industrialisation. The emergence of social work profession in India was borrowed from the western culture. But still society finds it difficult to understand the need of social work in today's world. People have not completely accepted social work as a profession. At least some are still against the concept of considering social work as a profession. But if we really go deep into the subject, the actual need of the social work education and social workers in every nook and corner of the society will come out of the murk.

The need for social work as a profession in today's world has increased rapidly. The need for problem solving professionals in modern man's globalised life is the simple example showing the importance of social work in the contemporary world. In most of the development discourses social work and justice are greatly discussed terms. Especially in the Indian context both the concepts of social work and social justice are very widely used in the area of social development. The first part of the book deals with social work profession and social justice. The challenges for social work profession in India, how the ideas of social work and social justice needs to be understood from Indian socio-economic and cultural context, also the status of social work profession in the neo-liberal economy, the principles and possibilities explained in the background of neo-liberal economy is well explained in this part. The evolving trends in social work field is very detailedly explained in the chapter about CSR (Corporate Social Responsibility) and how CSR has helped the society in maintaining it's trajectory with due course of time. Many new acts were made supporting the trends explained in CSR for the betterment of the society. The role played by social networking sites are well explained in this book. Modern world is in its evolving stage and it is social networking sites which play a major role in connecting the people who share common interests, activities or real life connections. Social networking sites are very important tools of the 21st century, for social work and also for social workers. Situational analysis of tribals in urban areas in Delhi and case study of united Andhra Pradesh, where there is need of social auditing in community organisation is also included in the first part.

The second part unfolds the contemporary issues in modern India, explaining the problems faced by socially excluded ones, the people who were affected by the land acquisition

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acts mainly marginalised, landless and homeless people. The secure compensational acts amended for the welfare of such affected groups, problems of ethnic tribal groups in Andhra Pradesh, problems caused by development-induced displacement which led to relocation of thousands of people getting uprooted from their communities, also consequences of the process which resulted in formation of jobless, homeless, landless, marginalised groups in the society are also explained in the second part of the book. In this part we can also see various policies and acts amended for the well-being of displaced groups. Also this part of the book portrays in front of us the situation, facts/ figure of scheduled castes and tribes in India, their problems and issues and active role that should be played by social workers and government in helping them getting emancipated. There are chapters on contemporary situations of de-notified and nomadic tribes in Maharashtra, issues faced by Pardhis, the social injustices faced by women and how they are violated in domestic life, the need for women activists and social workers to join their hands for implementing judgements of justice for the women, the impacts of sanitation problems over women in Indian households (slums of India), problems of elderly women who are considered as lost assets of

family and problems faced by women in working sector (mainly e-waste recycling sector). Also there are chapters on ethical issues in community practice including cases of Manipur and Karnataka. An important chapter by Shalini Pandey over problems faced by transgender is also included in the second part. Transgender children are at higher risk for mental health problems such as depression, suicide or for sexually transmitted diseases, largely due to the fact that there is lack of family support towards them. The need to give them special care and support and considering them as an integral part of the society is what society could do for the welfare and betterment of them. Also there are two case studies by Neena Pandey explaining the loopholes and modifications needed in the criminal justice systems in India at the end of the book.

The book provide ample theories and examples of contemporary issues and challenges that the field of social work and social workers face and suitable responses to deal with the challenges explained in this book. It is indeed a very resourceful book that helps the readers get acquainted about the social issues existing in the modern society and how these challenges are faced and handled today.