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International Conference on Community Empowerment, Coping, Resilience and Hope



Abstracts

Edited by:

**Venkat Pulla, Radha R Chada, Bharath Bhushan Mamidi,
Vinita Pandey, Subhash Chandra Mamidi**

Published by:

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Abstracts blind Peer Review

We have been assisted in the blind peer review process by a number of colleagues in academia and in the fields of practice. Dr. Neelmani Jaysawal, Department of Social Work, Visva-Bharati, India, Dr. Keshav Walke, MSS Institute of Social Work Nagpur, Dr. Venkat Pulla, Australian Catholic University, Australia, Dr. Abraham Francis James Cook University, Australia, Nompumelelo Thabethe, University of KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa, Dr. Ndungi Mungai, Charles Sturt University, Australia, Prof. Tulshi Kumar Das, Department of Social Work, Shahjalal University of Science & Technology, Bangladesh, Bharath Bhushan Mamidi, Centre for Action Research & People's Development, India, Dr. Bala Raju Nikku University of Science, Malaysia, Dr. Kanchana Lanzet German Development, Germany, Prof. Azlinda Azman, Universiti Sains Malaysia, Malaysia, Mr Ernest Leslie, RCUES, Osmania University, India, Asst. Prof. Radha Reddy Chada, Kasturba Gandhi Degree and PG College for Women, India, Prof. Ilango Ponnuswami Department at Bharathidasan University, India, Dr. Rituparna Bhattacharyya Independent Researcher, Oxford, UK, Asst. Prof. Yolanda Ealdama, University of the Philippines, Philippines, Dr Deb Selway, Queensland University of Technology, Dr Deborah Graham, James Cook University, Dr Shawn Somerset, Australian Catholic University, Mr Christopher G Montgomery, Department of Communities, Government of Queensland, Australia, Jeanette Ninnis, Service for the Treatment and Rehabilitation of Torture and Trauma Survivors, Wagga Wagga, Australia, Dr Vinita Pande, Osmania University, India, Mr Subhash Chandra Mamidi, Carped.org India, Dr and Jennifer Woods, Charles Sturt University, Australia.

Warm Greetings from Sunny Brisbane

In 2006, one person¹ had a dream. He shared that dream with two² other people in a café and eventually they shared that dream with six³ other people and together they created The Brisbane Institute of Strength's Based Practice Inc. This is not an astounding, or even unusual event, but it is a story that in its own way mirrors the theme of this conference. The dream that individuals, families and communities could be empowered to grow, develop and have resilience through sharing and understanding Strengths Based Practice at an academic and practice level was a powerful one. With no money, no home and as full time workers, not a lot of spare time; we were challenged to believe in ourselves and our capacity to deliver a meaningful message and presence in an already crowded global marketplace of ideas. We had hoped that we would find like-minded practitioners and citizens around the world, and we did. There have been times when our organisation has been challenged by life events for our members, our own short comings and, at times, global events and their impact upon the viability of conferences, that has tested our personal, professional and group resilience.

At our first ever conference, held here in Hyderabad in 2006, a community of interest was formed that has continued to inspire global interest in Strengths Based Practice. It has empowered practitioners to take a strengthened Strengths Based Practice approach to their work and inspired and built networks of academics and practitioners within and across continents and countries. Back in 2006 we hoped and dreamed that in ten years' time, the Brisbane Institute of Strengths Based Practice would be able to return to Hyderabad again. It is with a great sense of humility at the strength and inspiration provided to us by the global community, that you represent, that we are able to return to Hyderabad two years earlier than anticipated to host this conference in collaboration with CARPED.

I wish you all the best for the conference and for success in the projects and work that we hope this event inspires within you.

Peter Binyon

*President and Acting Treasurer,
Brisbane Institute of Strengths Based Practice,
2012-2014*

¹ Dr Venkat Pulla

² Peter Binyon & Christopher Montgomery

³ Palani Thevar, Rita Kugler, Duncan Williams, Christine Radke, Dragan Bombek

Oral Presentations

Community - Empowerment

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Coping, Resilience

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Emancipatory social work education and community empowerment

Vishanthie Sewpaul¹, Thobeka Ntini, Zama Mkhize and Snegugu Zandamela

¹ Senior Professor, University of KwaZulu Natal (UKZN). South Africa,
email:SEWPAUL@ukzn.ac.za

Abstract: In this paper we discuss the links between emancipatory social work education and community empowerment. Based on Freirian-Gramscian-Althusserian theoretical analyses and praxis, we argue that the development of critical consciousness has the potential to contribute to radical and empowering social action. In doing so, we draw on the voices of students who have had the benefit of emancipatory social work education, and on our experiences in working in communities. Emancipatory social work education, rooted in critical and radical theories, highlights the iterative relationship between the personal and political dimensions of life, thus rendering the micro-macro dichotomy a false one. It thus brings into sharp focus the complex inter-relationship between agency and structure. Emancipatory social work is directed at heightening awareness of external sources of oppression and/or privilege that hold the possibility of increasing self-esteem and courage to confront structural sources of marginalization, oppression and exclusion.

Keywords: emancipatory practice, fieldwork, critical consciousness, whole school approach

Short Bio: Vishanthie Sewpaul, PhD, is a Senior Professor at University of KwaZulu Natal (UKZN). She is currently part of a national taskforce re-writing standards for social work education and training in South Africa. She is the President of the Association of Schools of Social Work in Africa (ASSWA). She is a Vice-President on the IASSW Board. She served as the Co-chair of the Global Standards Joint IASSW/IFSW Committee for Social Work Education and Training and is currently the Co-chair of the Global Social Work Definition Taskforce. She was twice voted one of top thirty researchers at UKZN, and was selected, by the Ministry of Science and Technology, as the 2013 Runner-Up for the Distinguished Women in Science Award (Humanities and Social Sciences) for “her outstanding contribution to building South Africa’s scientific and research knowledge base”.

Locating Spaces for Standards and Competencies in Care: Evaluating Child Care and Protection Services

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¹Pearls for Development

²Tata Institute of Social Sciences

³Consultant on Child Rights

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Abstract: In most evaluations of projects, including programs for child care and protection, the focus is most likely to be on assessing the organisation’s outputs as proposed by the donor

rather than on what it means to the child. This undermines the very purpose of making a significant difference to the children, the recipients of the program, due to misplaced priorities. A standards and competencies in care framework were used to assess the impact the program had on children in nine child care and protection homes in three cities. The evaluation used a qualitative inquiry that appreciated the strengths and the shortcomings from the prism of the child. Participatory processes that had a strong grounding on elucidating the strengths and competencies through the eyes of the service provider and the children were used. The evaluation findings explored spaces, and provided suggestions, for improvising child care and protection across the chain of homes in existence and those planned to be set in the future. Having carried the evaluation within the early years of the establishment of the services, the findings provided the organisation to revisit their strategies.

Keywords: Child Protection, Standards, Evaluation

Short bio: Dr. Rego, a social development professional with M.Phil and Ph. D from NIMHANS, Bangalore. She has worked on child care and protection, prevention of child trafficking, child counseling and school mental health and neonate and child nutrition and survival. She has provided consulting services to bilateral such as USAID and DFID and international organizations UNICEF and UNDP.

Rejigging social work practice: Application of Gandhi's ideas on secularism

Pallassana R.Balgopal, Venkat Pulla, & Kollengode R. Ramakrishnan

Abstract: Demographic shifts occurring globally have secularism under siege. Many of the countries that promoted the practice of secularism are apprehensive of the influx of new arrivals inside their borders. The locals feel threatened by the drastically different values, religious beliefs and practices these aliens bring. As a response to curb immigration and to ensure assimilation of those already inside their borders, these countries are enacting restrictive laws requiring stricter adherence to the Judeo-Christian values and prohibiting the practice of other religious beliefs. It is in this context of tumultuous global political climate revisiting secularism, especially Gandhian secularism, is timely. This paper discusses the major tenets of Gandhian secularism. In particular, it explores the negative and positive impacts of secularism on the formulation and implementation of social policies within democratic societies such as India. The paper concludes with an in depth examination of social work's value base and practice principles within the context of Gandhian ideology of secularism.

Keywords: Gandhi, social work, secularism, globalization, strengths perspective

Short bio: Professor. Pallassana Balgopal (Ph.D., Social Work, Tulane University, 1971) is a social worker, educator, researcher, and practitioner with over 42 years of teaching, curriculum development, research, consultation, and practice experience in social work. His academic interests include immigrant and refugee populations, Asian Indians, Asian families, Asian

American elderly, and multicultural counseling. Dr Balgopal received 2007 Champaign Urbana International Humanitarian Award (Human Rights); Fulbright Scholar, India, 2008-2009, 2000-2001 and the Life Time Achievement Award, National Association of Professional Social Workers of India.

Testing the Culture of Poverty: Best Practices or Greater Marginalization?

Elena Delavega, PhD, MSW,

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Abstract: Solving poverty is so important to the modern world that it is the first of the Millennium Development Goals (Kanbur, 2005). As a result, many solutions are proposed. One of the most insidious social innovations is Ruby Payne's "Framework for Understanding Poverty," a "Culture of Poverty" approach blaming poverty on the poor (Payne, 2005; 2012). Although Payne's "Framework" is widely used globally, it has not been empirically tested (Duncanson 2011; Tyler 2010; Valencia 2010) until now. This places many of the world's most vulnerable people at risk of being further excluded and marginalized by those attempting to help. This paper presents research testing the "Destiny" trait within Payne's complex "Framework," which posits that the poor believe in fate, not understanding that they can make the "right choices" to exit poverty, whereas the non-poor believe they control their destiny and make the "right choices," thus insuring their own prosperity. This study disentangles causes and effects by experimentally exposing research participants to artificially created "Choice" or "No Choice" conditions to test their reactions upon frustration of expectations. According to "Framework," lower-income individuals do not expect choice and thus will not experience frustration, whereas middle and high-income individuals are expected to experience frustration upon the removal of expected choices. Preliminary results indicate that those who are not poor react in a similar manner as the poor when placed in "No Choice" conditions. The author will present extended results, and will discuss the implications of the findings for social welfare services, interventions, and policy.

Keywords: culture of poverty, Framework, Destiny, marginality, vulnerability

Are you putting in right energy on the bottom line and focusing on the team: about resilient times and taking care of yourself

Shane Warren

Principal and Director, International Resilience Institute Sydney, IRIS

Short bio: Shane Warren is an international motivational speaker and coach. He comes from both social sciences (counselling and communication) and a business (finance and leadership) background. Focuses a lot of his professional energy assisting business go through change in the Asia Pacific and is the CEO of the International Resilience Institute, Sydney and co-editor of 'Perspective of Coping and Resilience, 2012.

Appreciating the value and meaning of Awe as a unique construct for community empowerment

Felicia White-Meyers,

New Directors, Behavioral Health, Texas USA, fwhitemeyers@yahoo.com

Abstract: In the midst of overwhelming focus on narratives that describe states of negativity, pathology and turmoil, the Awe of living can often seem elusive (Schneider, 2008), appearing to be an orientation which cultivates a robust, hope filled and positive response to life. Awe capacities seem to be a powerful source for coping and resiliency. This recognition and perceptiveness to beauty in nature, people, and the world are strongly rooted in gratitude, spiritual/religious ways of being, as well as wellbeing and the quality to which one is satisfied with life (Büssing, Wirth, Reiser, Zahn, Humbroich, Gerbershagen, & ... Baumann, 2014). The purpose of this article is to examine the impact of these associations and ways they are linked to and practiced in coping and resiliency. It will also review some of the history and current trends exploring this psycho-spiritual paradigm and the therapeutic implications for developing the capacity for Awe.

Keywords: Awe, narrative social work, gratitude

Short bio: Felicia White-Meyers, LCSW is an MSW, UTA Arlington, 2007, currently working for New Directions Behavioral Health. Felicia is associated with Texas Association of Addiction Professionals, President elect, 2007-08; Texas Association of Addiction Professionals, President, 2008-10 She considers herself a licensed clinical social worker and lifelong learner and always been committed to sharing valuable protective insights, knowledge, and strategies to her community as well as her clients. She is undertaking her doctoral work.

Toward a Better Understanding of the Relationship between Resilience and Posttraumatic Growth

Carol Tosone, Ph.D.

Associate Professor, New York University Silver School of Social Work

Abstract: There is some conceptual ambiguity between Resilience and posttraumatic growth (PTG) in the professional literature, with some suggesting that PTG is a form of Resilience and others that PTG is a superior construct. This presentation aims to provide further clarity by examining the relationship between Resilience and PTG in a group of New Orleans Mental Health Responders personally and professionally exposed to Hurricane Katrina. Findings indicate that the correlation between Resilience and PTG is positive and statistically significant albeit modest. When controlling for variables associated with Resilience and PTG respectively, Compassion Satisfaction has the greatest overlap. Primary/Secondary Shared Trauma, Posttraumatic Stress, and Compassion Fatigue exhibit moderately strong relationships to Resilience but rather weak relationships to PTG. Conversely, Life Events and Shared Trauma/Professional Posttraumatic Growth exhibit stronger relationships to PTG than to Resilience.

These findings support the interrelationship of resilience and posttraumatic growth, but suggest that each have specific variables more associated with one than the other.

Keywords: Resilience, PTG, Hurricane Katrina, Social Work, Compassion satisfaction

Short bio: Dr. Carol Tosone is an associate professor of social work and recipient of the NYU Distinguished Teaching Award. Dr. Tosone, who joined the NYU Silver School of Social Work faculty in 1993, is a Distinguished Scholar in Social Work in the National Academies of Practice in Washington, DC. Dr. Tosone is series editor for Essential Clinical Social Work Series published by Springer; co-editor of three books, *Love and Attachment: Contemporary Issues and Treatment Considerations*, *Short-term Treatment, Doing More with Less: Using Long-term Skills in Short-Term Treatment*, and *Contemporary Clinical Practice: The Holding Environment Under Assault*; and author of numerous professional articles and book chapters. She has also served as the executive producer, writer, and narrator of educational and community service media. Dr Carol Tosone is addressing the Brisbane Institute of Strengths Based of Strengths Based Practice conference for the fourth time. Croatia, 2009, Brisbane, 2010, Sarajevo, 2011 and Hyderabad 2014.

TWO in TWO MILLION YEARS!

A reflection of working with the salt pan families of Gujarat, India.

Anne Riggs, PhD.

7 Sterling Avenue, Highett 3190, ariggs@alphalink.com.au, www.anneriggs.com

This visual presentation explores creative arts practice and training in engaging and empowering disadvantaged communities in India and Nepal. Its main focus will be with the Saltpan families working in the desert of Gujarat. Whereas India is, in many ways, thriving as a growing economy, there are still many communities who suffer from poverty, disadvantage and prejudice. Some, like the Saltpan families, are a largely ignored and disadvantaged community existing in one of the wealthiest states of the country. Artists in Community International first visited this community in 2013 to run a visual art and drama day. What began as a single art-day with the children of the desert expanded to include the whole community with parents and teachers. We returned in 2014 to run a longer project and to develop an on-going relationship with this community. We share ambitions with local community leaders to assist the saltpan families further their education, and develop and enhance their quality of life. I will discuss the creative projects I conduct with performing artist, Alex Pinder. The presentation will include reflections of the important role of our collaboration with community leaders in enabling our projects. I will also reflect on the ambitions we have for our projects to help empower women and girls.

Short bio: I am a visual artist with a studio practice of over twenty-five years. I am also a community artist, and co-founder with Alex Pinder of Artists in Community International, an arts organisation providing arts, creative education, and training in communities in Australia and SE Asia. I teach a number of units on BA Community Mental Health and AOD issues at

Chisholm Institute, and run arts programs for survivors of sexual assault and family violence through the South Eastern Centre Against Sexual Assault and Connections Uniting Care, Melbourne. Particular areas of interest are: trauma, loss and grief and art as means of recovery, community development and engagement.

Social and Economic Returns of Empowering Youth participation in Voluntary Work in Civil Society Organizations in the Sultanate of Oman

Dr. Mohamed Lashin, Dr. Wageha Al-Anni, and Dr. Rashid Al-Fahdi

College of Education- Sultan Qaboos University - Oman

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Abstract: The current age of economic and social transformations has witnessed the development of voluntary work with its new philosophy and concepts which changed from being a charity work to become a cornerstone of sustained development of the society. Volunteering has key role in enhancing the values of people's participation, social responsibility, integrity, donation, and group belongingness. Most societies seek to empower youth to participate in voluntary work in all aspects of life and in all organizations, in the light of empowerment domains which include participation in decision making, independence, professional development, effectiveness, status description, and efficacy. A number of research studies reveal that there is still some weakness in the belief of youth voluntary participation with significant dependence on governmental efforts. These beliefs lead to the youth's distance from voluntary work. Non-governmental organizations (NGOs) play a vital role in caring for youth and development of their skills through participation in decision making particularly as governmental organizations fail to fulfill the needs and demands of youth due to low awareness and motivation among youth about social and economic returns of volunteering. This study aims to explore such returns and how they can motivate the youth towards voluntary work. This paper attempts to identify the social and economics returns of youth voluntary work in the activities of NGOs. The paper also makes recommendations to empower youth voluntary work in the Sultanate of Oman.

Keywords: Youth empowerment, motivation, volunteerism, NGOs, CSOs, Sulatanate of Oman

Short bio: Prof. Dr Mohammed Abd Al Hamed Mohamed Lashin is specialised in education with M Sc in Faculty of Education (Elazhar University, Egypt) and Ph. D in Faculty of Education (Zqaziq University, Egypt). He teaches in College of Education –Sultan Qaboos University, Oman. His research interests include comparative education, educational research, elementary education, higher education, educational adminsitration,and knowlege management.

Empowering Sultan Qaboos University Students' Participation in Voluntary work in Omani Society

Dr. Rashid Sulaiman Al-Fahdi, Dr. Wajeha Thabit Al-Ani, and Dr. Muhammed Abdulhameed Lashin

Department of Educational Foundations and Administration/ College of Education
Sultan Qaboos University. Oman

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Abstract: Voluntary work is an important type of donation and benevolence in human history. The prevalence of voluntary work in the society reflects the extent to which its people are civilized. Moreover, Voluntary work is first step to the establishment of civil organizations in order to help people and ensure social solidarity among citizens. Youth participation in voluntary work can be achieved through provision of opportunities for training, professional development, access to information. Empowerment of youth involves their participation in decision making, independence, professional development, influence of real situations, and efficacy. Therefore societies seek to empower the youth to participate in all aspects of voluntary work and at all societal levels. This paper analyzes Sultan Qaboos University Students' actual participation in voluntary work - opportunities, nature of youth activities, stipulations, and contributing factors. The study sample included 372 students from both genders at Sultan Qaboos University from scientific and literary major. Study indicated that public service was the most attractive type of voluntary work to students. This was followed by environment protection, and benevolent work. The results showed that there were a number of factors which had an impact on students' participation in voluntary work. These included competition between establishments and individuals working in the field of voluntary work. Results also showed significant differences in attitudes towards voluntary work between students in scientific and literary majors. The results are discussed in view of a number of proposals for empowering students' participation in voluntary work.

Keywords: Empowerment, University students, attitude, voluntary work, youth, training

Short bio: Dr. Rashid Sulaiman Al-Fahdi is Assistant Professor in Department of Educational Foundations and Administration; Research interests include Educational Administration, Higher Education, Educational Leadership, Comparative Administration, Educational Planning, Educational Foundations, and Educational System. His doctoral research from Manchester University is on comparative study of Sultanate of Oman and the UK in regard to use of computer technology in higher education.

Strengths-based Assessments and Recovery in Mental Health: Reflections from Practice

Abraham Francis, PhD,

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Abstract: Social workers in the mental health sector are required to undertake assessments to determine the needs of their clients and to use appropriate strategies of interventions in a very demanding and compelling environment. One of the critical questions being asked in this context is- What do social workers really do in an assessment? And how do they do the assessment? Is a strengths based assessment model feasible in a predominantly biomedical model of practice? What is recovery? How can these concepts be applied in practice? How can the invisible nature of social work intervention be made more explicit and thus develop a sense of professional leadership? These are some of the questions that prompted this paper. Hence, in this paper the author discusses the relevance of strengths based philosophy and addresses how these ideas can be employed in adopting strengths- based assessment practice, and a recovery practice frame work in the mental health field with a special focus on social work. This is further illustrated with two case studies, which helps the readers to form questions and provides some practice tips for social workers to become an effective recovery oriented practitioner in the field.

Keywords: Mental Health, Strength-based Assessment, Recovery

“If I had more money, I would buy rice”: Cultural and sustainability dimensions add resilience to food security for populations in economic transition.

Shawn Somerset, Associate Professor,

Public Health Discipline Lead, and Deputy Head, School of Allied Health, Australian Catholic University, Brisbane, Australia

Abstract: The public and political discussions around food security in a globalized world continue to be dominated by the agribusiness sector and its highly quantitative, commodified interpretations of food security. This is manifested regularly by the use of oversimplified apparent consumption data to assess population food security. The far more holistic UN definition of food security gives credence to both food quantity and dietary quality, not only in terms of nutrient composition but also of cultural and sustainability contexts. Populations with marginal and seasonal susceptibility to food insecurity understandably focus on acquiring sufficient dietary energy, with absolute quality of food sadly being a more distant aspiration. Many developing countries however are now moving rapidly through economic transition where food supply is becoming more accessible and resistant to seasonal fluctuations. In many instances, the continued focus on cheap energy presents substantial risk for increased prevalence

of diabetes, exemplified by the Nutrition Transition phenomenon. This consolidation of food supply is a critical time point for populations in economic transition and presents a genuine opportunity for local communities to reclaim the cultural and sustainability imperatives inherent in true food security. This paper uses case study examples from South-East Asia, the Middle East and Australia to explore opportunities to decommodify food security at the community level.

Short bio: Associate Professor Shawn Somerset leads the national program in public health at Australian Catholic University. He has tertiary qualifications in Nutrition and in Infectious Disease Immunology. He has worked in government, industry and university sectors on food and nutrition-related projects in Australia, Europe, the Middle East and Asia. His general field of interest relates to how the world is fed, the various controls, barriers and facilitators involved, and how the expanding world population will find food into the future. Answers to these issues span a range of research contexts, from clinical investigations into the impact of various diets on health and disease, through to population-based studies on determinants of food consumption – issues that are central across the world, in countries both rich and poor. Email: Shawn.somerset@acu.edu.au

The intertwining of coping, resilience and hope: A review from social work perspectives

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Abstract: Life stress events are primarily due to human being's interaction with their social environment. In fact, in social work practice, the concept of "person-in-environment" becomes the main focus of intervention. The successful of mobilizing and enhancing individual's personal and environmental resources can lead to a person's motivation to cope with life stress, elevates resiliency and to further establish hope for better life. The effectiveness of intervention however will greatly rely on individuals as well as the social workers. This paper will review the intertwining and the interlinking of these three important concepts – coping, resilience and hope in helping individuals, groups and community to develop better, particularly from the social work perspectives. Illustrations and discussions of these interlinking concepts will be supported by relevant social work practice or intervention. It will also address some of the issues and hindrances in the implementation of these pertinent concepts towards working or enhancing clientele's psychosocial wellbeing.

Keywords: coping, resilience, hope, social work practice

Short bio: Azlinda Azman, PhD is Head of Social Work Programme at the School of Social Sciences, and Convenor of the AIDS Action and Research Group (AARG), both at Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM). She was a Fulbright Scholar and obtained her Doctor of Philosophy

(PhD) degree in Clinical Social Work from New York University, New York, United States of America (USA). Dr. Azlinda chairs the National Joint Council Committee on Social Work Education, an executive committee member of the Malaysian Association of Social Workers (MASW) and member of the Steering Committee in drafting the Malaysian Social Worker's Act.

Lost to View: The Resilience of Indigenous Australians in the Face of Systematic Racism.

Deborah G Graham

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Abstract: Indigenous Australians are extraordinarily resilient to have survived at all. They have been massacred, disenfranchised, marginalised and discriminated against since colonisation. Consequently, ongoing physical, emotional, psychological and social harm is evident resulting in too many original Australians feeling rudderless and hopeless. Initiatives to improve the plight of Indigenous Australians have shown mixed results. Self-determination and empowerment have been recommended as positive strategies to improve coping and resilience, while also fostering hope. How achievable is this though in a society like Australia? Automaticity of thought, as evidenced in stereotyping, is linked to deep-seated beliefs derived from social interaction and the society that an individual lives in and absorbs values and beliefs from. As Frith (2012) noted, introspection of our actions can be fragile and erroneous. We need to think about what we think. We need to examine thinking and actively promote the need to self-regulate thinking in all members of society. How we think about other people affects them. How people see themselves is largely made up of reflected appraisal. This paper provides examples of racism linked to automatic thinking (and the harm that it can do) along with some strategies aimed at increasing equity and social justice for Indigenous Australians. No matter how resilient Indigenous Australians are, unless the environment fosters equality while valuing the uniqueness of Australia's first people, long-term positive gains will be difficult to obtain. It is time for all Australians to join with Aboriginal Australians in understanding and celebrating their pivotal place in Australian society.

Keywords: Indigenous Australians; Racism; Education; Strength; Stereotypes; Resilience

Short bio: Dr Graham is an Associate Professor in the Department of Psychology at James Cook University, Cairns, Australia. She is also a Research Fellow with the Cairns Institute. Her research has included investigation of the circumstances leading to homelessness in Indigenous women, analyses of services for the provision of drug and alcohol interventions for Indigenous men and women, and the use of brain injury assessment tools in Indigenous communities.

Building Effective Outcomes within the Community – Case Study in the Field of Disabilities

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Abstract: In the field of community development there are a number of funding models. Communities that have identified their common needs and are working towards ameliorating may seek resources within (self-funded), raise resources outside their community (donation seeking), or depend on and utilise government funding (state funded). The ‘South West Brisbane Disability Network’ (SWBDN) has been established as an unregistered network of service and provides a broad field of disabilities, to address community interest and advocacy options to improve quality of service provision. This paper presents the common objectives for which the Network was created and the process through which a number of successful outcomes were negotiated.

Keywords: Community Organisation, Stakeholder’s Development, Disability

The Global Public good and the opportunity cost: is there a choice for the marginalised? Hope

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Abstract: Economic growth although well intentioned has both positive and negative impacts. While growth has caused greater inequality, unprecedented poverty and deprivation and many other negative consequences; development can and should reverse this process. The world has plenty. The plague, world wars, HIV/AIDS, tsunamis and epidemics have devastated the human race. But we have bounced back and taken control. The human race is the most resilient and hardy and will overcome challenges and obstacles in many different ways imaginable. Nobody gave up but all bounce back. However, underlying all these assumptions are the opportunity costs to society. It raises the question of global public good. While outcomes of research and development can benefit society, but who should bear their costs? While resources are plenty, should society allow the exploitation of these resources in an unsustainable manner? This paper attempts to present both micro and macro approaches to understanding how society cope under various circumstances from a non-social work perspective. It will justify the use of *ex-ante* approaches to manage the issues. The impact of HIV/AIDS has gone beyond the health sector. Poverty is just not limited to monetary dimensions but has gone beyond that too. Is there choice for the marginalised? Is there hope for them? While the examples in this paper will refer to issues of HIV/AIDS and the vulnerable poor farmers, other cases will be explored too.

Keywords: Development, opportunity costs, ex-ante approaches, coping strategies

Social Work Education in India and Australia

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Abstract: This study attempts to cross-compare social work education, curriculum, research, fieldwork, and professional social work practices across India and Australia. It reviews the development of social work education along with its best practices in both these countries. In doing so, it aims to understand the policies related to social work and social welfare in both the countries. In India, the social work training began in the year 1936 whereas in Australia, it started in 1940 with its launch in the University of Sydney. In Australia, the professional association called Australian Association for Social Work (AASW) accredits course work authority while in India it is the University Grants Commission (UGC) and the National Accreditation and Assessment Council (NAAC). Social work education in Australian universities is generic and its aim is to produce graduates with a broad range of skills in a considerable range of practice settings. India offers both generic and specialised course works. Interestingly, to date, social work in none of the countries has a registration in compliance with any state or federal agency. However, self-regulation alongside continued professional development, and peer supervisions are encouraged and followed. In Australia, the practice standards are maintained by the Australian Social Work Education and Accreditation Standards (ASWEAS) who also regulate and guide curriculum development for social work programs in Australia. Fieldwork placement of social and community work students are dependent on the voluntary good will of the managers of social service agencies to support and resource.

Keywords: Social Work Education, Best practices, Social work Policy, Globalization

Afrocentric Social Work in the 21st century and beyond

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Abstract: The paper is a critical review on how Afrocentric social work could be applicable to Africa in the 21st century and beyond. Schiele (2000) in *human services and the Afrocentric paradigm* and Graham (2002) in *Social work and African-centred world views* have made solid cases for the approach. These two books and their other related work refers to social work in the United States and Britain respectively. This paper argues that the Afrocentric approach has a wider application. The Afrocentric paradigm has identical principles with Ubuntu which in Africa exemplifies African values and ethics in the service of humanity. While social work theories make western theories and philosophies their reference point, the Afrocentric paradigm

is based on traditional African philosophies, history, culture, values and ethics. There are also common grounds with social work values and ethics in upholding human rights and focusing on service to alleviate human suffering. For the African people to cope with modern challenges it is important for them to seek strength in the foundations of their indigenous cultures. African cultures value collectivity, reciprocity, spirituality and interconnectedness of all beings. While much of these values are eroded by modernity and market forces, the concept of Sankofa advocates returning to the past to find what is forgotten in order to build a strong and resilient future, noting that the past, present and future are all interconnected. The focus of this paper is to demonstrate how these values can address the challenges of social development in our time.

Keywords: Afrocentric; Ubuntu; social work; human rights; social development; indigenization.

Short bio: Mungai Wa Ndungi, PhD is a lecturer in Social Work at Charles Sturt University. Recent publications include 'Rethinking Masculinities in the African Diaspora' in *Migrant Men* (2009) and 'Immortality is in your name' in *Framing My Name* (2010). Current researches are immigrant settlement in country areas and human rights. Ndungi has worked in a variety of social work setting including Research, Counsellor/Advocate in torture and trauma, Caseworker for asylum seekers, and foster care field worker.

Response to a Strengths-Based Approach in Social Work in Schools: An Indian School in Dubai

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Abstract: Strengths-based approaches in social work have been introduced in the west in a number of social work settings including schools. As part of a research study the authors investigated the overall reception of students, parents and school counsellors to a strengths-based approach in one-to-one counselling in a school setting. As a secondary objective the authors wanted to gain an understanding of how a school social worker is perceived by the parental community and also how social workers perceive their role and respond to the expectations of that role. The authors utilised a grounded theory approach, allowing the data to drive the research process and the findings to naturally emerge via that process. As a result, the outcomes that unfolded at significant steps in our research made us unpack the traditional core expectations of school social work, gaining an insight into the role and expectations of social work roles in a predominantly alien working population living in an Arab country. While school social work as a concept may be western, its counselling component sits well within the cultures that we grappled with. However, we have cautiously considered the context of social work as a profession dominated by Western influences, and possibly the impacts of the application of

strength-based principles in non-Western environments. Our paper draws implications for improving student engagement within schools and scoping further a role for counselling in school. Certainly we will allude to our limitations in the present study and profile some research possibilities for exploring the applicability of social work methodologies in culturally diverse contexts.

Keywords: School social work, Strengths based, Qualitative research, Cultural sensitivity

Short bio: Amanda Kay holds a Master Qualifying degree from Charles Sturt University, New South Wales, recently been accepted to undertake doctoral work in Australian National University, currently lives in Dubai, UAE, with family.

Social Work and Diversional Therapy: Common Threads from a Strengths Perspective

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Abstract: This paper seeks to explore the commonalities that exist within the professions of Diversional Therapy and Social work practice from a Strengths perspective. It highlights the significance of social connectivity in the company of purposeful and meaningful engagement. Discussing therapeutic mechanisms, like Art therapy, which are commonly employed by both Diversional Therapists and Social Workers for restorative purpose.

Keywords: Strength based practice, Diversional therapy, Social work, resilience, empowerment, Social inclusion, strengths approach

Short bio: Margaret Helmer has sixteen years' experience in Community Aged Care and disability services with seven years' experience relating to the planning, programming, coordination and delivery of social support and recreational programs. Margaret's group work is person-centred and strengths- based to support the psycho-social wellbeing of vulnerable consumers. Margaret Helmer is currently working towards her Masters in Social work degree with Charles Sturt University.

Building Resilient Communities through Culturally Dynamic Partnerships

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Abstract: Crisis in society can be caused by a number of social, political, environmental and economic factors including dramatic and immediate ones like the assassination of national

leaders or the 9/11 attacks in the United States, or they could be longer term ones like the Global Financial Crisis. They all have significant effects in terms of intense distress within individuals and communities. They also bring out the best and the worst in human responses. In particular, crises that can be directly or indirectly blamed on human agency are very prone to be turned into issues of racism and racist action across cultures and affect community resilience. Currently, cultural competence is a widely used method of developing the ability of people to manage inter-cultural relations, including issues of racism-related crisis. This paper will draw on the literature and research of cultural competency to argue that, while this method has some areas of strength, it also has some major failings such as the use of inappropriate terminology, lack of acknowledgement of the issues of power and racism, lack of cultural safety and the lack of acknowledgement of the dynamic nature of cultures. In this paper, the principles towards developing an alternative framework of Culturally Dynamic Partnerships (CDP) will be presented as a way towards enabling communities to deal with racism-related crises. This model would incorporate some of the most effective aspects of older models of cultural competence and cultural safety while going beyond some of the negative issues inherent in them.

Keywords: Culturally Dynamic Partnerships, Cultural Competency, Cultural Safety, Crisis, Racism

Short bio: Narayan Gopalkrishnan is an internationally recognized academic with extensive experience in Australia and overseas, working in universities, NGOs and the private sector over the last 25 years. He lectures at James Cook University in the areas of mental health, community development, human rights and social justice and working with diverse communities. Narayan was formerly the Founding Director of the Centre for Multicultural and Community Development, an academic research centre of the University of the Sunshine Coast, Australia, which focused on research and development relating to multiculturalism and community development.

Health at Every Size: a Weight-neutral Approach for Empowerment, Resilience and Peace

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Abstract: Obesity is high on the agenda of governments and health and welfare agencies worldwide. The placement of body weight at the centre of discourse about health is referred to as the weight-centred health paradigm (WCHP). Critical analysis of the WCHP has increased in recent years, resulting in arguments for a paradigm shift. Critique of the WCHP encompasses ideological, empirical and technical issues. The consequences of the WCHP have been identified

as an adipophobic environment (an environment that creates fat hatred and weight stigma), and diminished health, wellbeing and quality of life for people with weight concerns. Many critics argue that it is time for a change of paradigm. The Health at Every Size® (HAES) ® approach offers a more salutogenic, compassionate, humane and evidence-based approach to weight concerns. HAES is a strengths-based, ethical approach to enhancing the holistic health and wellbeing of all people. It does not advocate that people are automatically healthy at every size, but that people at every size can be supported to adopt practices that will enhance their health and wellbeing, irrespective of whether these practices result in changes in body weight. The HAES approach aims to empower people to do what they can to improve their health, including developing their resilience and capacity to cope with the trauma of living in a weight centred and adipophobic society. Ultimately, the HAES approach aims to create hope for people to make peace with their bodies.

Keywords: health at every size; weight-centred health; critique; paradigm shift; peace

Short bio: Lily O’Hara is a health promotion and public health educator and practitioner with experience in Australia and the United Arab Emirates. She has worked on a broad range of health promotion initiatives with government, non-government, university, workplace, school and community organisations. Lily is passionate about social justice and the need for health promotion programs to be truly health promoting.

Health Promotion: A Critical Salutogenic Science

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Abstract: Health promotion is a relatively new health science discipline focused on creating health and wellbeing at individual, group and population levels through health and health related policies and programs. Addressing inequities in the health of people via policies and programs that address the milieu of interrelated cultural, social, economic, and political determinants of health is at the heart of health promotion practice, and as such it is a political process. A critical and salutogenic approach characterises health promotion best-practice and is well established in the health promotion literature. However, the realisation of critical and salutogenic practice can be challenging for practitioners in an environment where biomedical and behavioural health paradigms dominate. Health promotion practitioners need to partner with and learn from other disciplines that have or share similar challenges. “*Health promotion is everybody’s business*” is a catch cry in the field and conversations with others with similar ideals, values and principles about how to work together in the pursuit of health for all are needed.

Keywords: Health promotion, salutogenic, holistic, ecological science, health paradigms

Sustainability and Community Empowerment in Disaster Management

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Abstract: The community is at the frontier of any kind of natural hazard and disaster. Empowering the community by internalizing the tools and methods of disaster risk reduction is a good way to deal with the future potential risks. Community empowerment is a type of capacity development where its members decide on the goals and strategies for disaster risk management, contribute some if not all) of the resources needed, and monitor their performance (Asian Disaster Preparedness Center,2013).The most common elements of community involvement are partnership, participation, empowerment and ownership by the local people. Unless the disaster management efforts are sustainable at individual and community level, it is difficult to reduce the losses and scale of the tragedy. The objectives of this paper are: 1) to discuss the emerging needs of survivors during the various phases of the post-disaster situation; 2) to emphasize the need for designing interventions incorporating the principles of sustainability and community empowerment and; 3) to focus our attention toward management of disasters technologies and disaster preparedness programs that foster the resilience. The utility of the empowerment approach in addressing the socio-economic conditions of local communities and the active involvement of disaster-affected people in the pre and post disaster initiatives is argued as a requisite to deal with disasters in a more effective and efficient way.

Keywords: Empowerment, sustainability, disaster risk management, Andaman & Nicobar Islands

Social Work with Elderly: A Rural Study

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Abstract: Social work profession enhances the well-being of people by intervening at the points where people find difficulties. Interventions are intended to assist clients in alleviating problems impeding their well-being. Old age is the last phase of one's life where elderly confronts many challenges with regard to their physical, mental health and support system. The quality of life of rural elderly in India is deteriorating because of inadequate facilities and weak support system. This paper is based on the impact of social work intervention in improving the mental health condition of a group of elderly people residing in rural India. The study was conducted in the Madwana village of Lucknow district in Uttar Pradesh. The entire process of the study was facilitated by a Lucknow based NGO – 'Aarambh Welfare Foundation'. The design of the study was quasi experimental. Various activities were conducted as a part of social work intervention: counselling, motivational, awareness, and sensitization programmes. During intervention various social work methods, principles and values were applied, for a period of six months. A structured interview schedule was used for data collection. The study revealed that social work intervention has reduced the feeling of depression, loneliness, and anxiety, resulting in improved quality of life among rural elderly.

Keywords: Social Work Intervention, Mental Health, and Rural Elderly

Food / Health Security Crisis: Learning from the Vulnerable Rural Households

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Abstract: In this paper attempts to map different means adopted by the rural poor to maintain / regain one's health, nutritional status and an acceptable level of well-being. The paper attempts to document changing dietary practices of the handloom weavers' community in South India affected by income poverty. Strategies helping resilience and recovery from adversity, shock and stress are discussed from the experiences and learnings of handloom weaver community in South India.

Keywords: poverty, hunger, malnutrition, food insecurity, coping, resilience

Short bio: Dr Radha R Chada teaches graduate and post-graduate courses in clinical nutrition and dietetics. She is also associated with Public Health Nutrition action research interventions and impact assessment studies for civil society organisations. Her research interests include Type 2 Diabetes among children, food and nutrition security, dietetics, and clinical nutrition.

Women Empowerment through Collective Farming in Leased Lands – New Forms of Land Struggles and Community Mobilisation

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Abstract: Equity and justice in the sphere of land issues is crucial to the struggle for survival of millions of rural poor. It is more critical to the women who are yet to be recognized as farmers legally and socially so that their claims and struggles for the rights are given a fair chance. Implementation of the land reforms has been unfinished mission in Andhra Pradesh, home to Telangana Peasants Armed Struggle (1948-1951), which has also declared pro-poor

policies and pro-women's policies signifying continued importance of land issue that could usher in a great leap forward for the rural poor and the women. This paper highlights the lessons of *Samatha Dharani* (land equity), a three year programme of Andhra Pradesh Mahila Samatha Society supported by Government of India and UNDP, providing rural women of vulnerable communities to have land through land lease programmes where groups of women lease in land for collective farming in 500 villages covering an extent of 3940 acres. There is great scope for land banks for leasing out to women's groups and experience of *Samtha Dharani* and Indira Kranti Patham land access programme of state government indicated widespread interest of the rural poor in land issues. The paper discusses the outcomes of *Samatha Dharani* and how it became model for both civil society and the government to pursue the mission of land distribution for rural poor. What sustained *Samatha Dharani* beyond the project period in some of the villages provides road map for effective policy to ensure land rights to rural poor women. Case studies explain how the lives of rural poor, especially of women from Dalit communities, have changed for better besides converting the fallow land into a productive asset.

Keywords: land rights, women farmers, collective farming, women empowerment, resilience

Short bio: Mr Bharath Bhushan Mamidi is associated with civil society organisations since 1985. He is founder secretary of Centre for Action Research and People's Development, and coordinated state level NGO networks engaged in child rights and participatory forest management. He worked as advisor to state governments in the area of social safeguards and labour adjustment programmes from 2001 to 2009.

Malnutrition and Resilience: A Fight through Social Interventions in Nepal

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Abstract: This paper is an attempt to establish the relationship between resilience, poverty, socio-cultural norms and malnutrition in terms of stunting, underweight and wasting among children under five years and chronic energy deficiency (CED) in women in Nepal; and the role of social interventions in addressing the challenge. Nepal Demographic Health Survey 2011 showed that the number of stunted children reduced from 49% in 2006 to 40% in 2011. Protein-Energy Malnutrition (PEM) among children remains the major challenge. Malnutrition is mostly seen in female children and women. Limited resources constricting the buying capacity on one hand and ignorance on the importance of nutrition for good health on the other hand are one of the major causes of malnutrition in the country. Besides, the vicious cycle of malnutrition and poverty has been fuelled by food insecurity issues of the country and other socio-cultural factors like gender discrimination, thus deteriorating the resilience of the sufferers. There are

only a handful of social initiatives that work for the upliftment of nutritional wellbeing in Nepal. Nutrition Rehabilitation Home, a concept started by Nepal Youth Foundation is one of such initiatives that shelters severely malnourished children and educate mothers on the matter since 1998. In a small way the government of Nepal has also taken up sensitizing the community on the need of proper nutrition to pregnant and lactating mothers. The authors thus recommend scaling up of social interventions that promote nutritional health of children, pregnant women and lactating mothers of Nepal.

Keywords: Malnutrition, Poverty, Stunting, Pregnant women, Lactating mothers, Resilience, Children under 5.

Short bio: Venkat Pulla, PhD is currently Discipline Coordinator of Social Work Programs at the Australian Catholic University, Brisbane. Dr Venkat Pulla more recently taught social work at the Charles Sturt University and at the University of the Sunshine Coast, Queensland, Australia. His research interests are in human coping and resilience, spirituality, green social work and the strengths approach to social work. He has founded the Brisbane Institute of Strengths Based Practice.

Preparing social workers for empowerment: the place of positionality and its continual intricacies

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Abstract: Reflexivity, positionality, privilege, situated knowledge and perceptions are intrinsically woven. The profession of social work appears to have an inbuilt capacity for self-reflective process. Our thoughts on our own world and our knowledge and experiences appear to influence our responses to our clients. The question that clearly needs to be raised is: has this knowledge of the world distorted/influenced our perceptions of another individual's reality/truth? This question and its underlying domains of thinking have catalysed and shaped this paper. Our premises to begin with are that all truth is relative; that the lens in which an individual views both self, others is variable; and that despite our best intentions, the undertaking of our positionality is still fraught with bias and pitfalls. We explore the individual concepts of reflexivity, positionality, privilege, situated knowledge and perceptions and we discuss their intricate relationships and what it means to have an unbiased view. This paper utilises an auto ethnographic and grounded theory approach in deconstructing our professional and personal experiences. The generalisation of such research lies with their audiences and how it resonates with their lives and lives of others that they know (Ellis 2004:194-195). This paper is the first in a series addressing the concept of positionality; it provides a substratum for questioning the

efficacy of the current application of positionality. The paper proposes an empowering lens for the profession of social work and human services.

Keywords: positionality, social work, introspection, empowerment, objectivity

Music and Mayhem: a dual therapeutic approach

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Abstract: ‘Young carers’ is the term used in Australia to refer to children and young adults aged between five and 25 who provide unpaid care to someone that has an illness, a physical disability, a mental health issue or are frail aged. Some definitions also caring provided for someone who has an alcohol or other drug problem. This workshop will platform the situation of young carers. Succinctly the concerns are: 1) Their physical and mental health and wellbeing can be seriously affected; 2) Lack of identity; and, 3) Self-recognition of the positives of caring. This workshop will, in greater detail, outline a short term intervention program that was designed for young carers aged between five and 12 years. Its praxis, however, is universal in promoting well-being and resilience in all children and young adults as well as having the capacity to be both extended in duration or be incorporated in existing programs. It focuses on three main topics - self-esteem, emotion, and communication. This program blends the counselling approaches of narrative therapy, with particular focus on the tree of life and art therapy. ...And music therapy. Music is created by using African drums reflecting and giving sound/voice to the content of the conversations ...and a lot of noise, fun and mayhem!!!

Keywords: Young Carers, wellbeing, resilience, narrative therapy, music therapy

Short bio: Leisha Townson is a Social Worker in private practise and a social researcher. She has published previously in the areas of coping, resilience, trauma and disability. Leisha is currently researching with Venkat Pulla on the intricacies of positionality that affect our thinking and working with people. She endeavours to commence her PHD in the very near future. leisha.townson@hotmail.com

Tackling Contemporary Challenges through Strengths based Approach in Social Work Practice

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Abstract: Social work practitioners work with problems of individuals and groups and organizations, where the demands often require finding sustainable and effective solutions. Practitioners may indulge in a variety of methodologies but the objective continues to remain solution focused. Most people who suffer from ailments often feel as if they are victims of

situation and fail to look within their own resources for solution. It is at this moment that we need to highlight people's strengths to derive solution for their persisting problem. Deficit could thus be discounted to tackle the case through strengths based approach to explore more effective results. Strengths based practice is a social work practice theory that emphasizes people's strengths and self-determination. People are bestowed with innate capacity, skills, knowledge and other potential qualities which are often not tapped optimally during challenges. The challenges or struggles could well be addressed if the strengths highlighted. This paper analyses the significance of the Strengths Based Approach in Social Work and its relevance to the changing times. It is strongly believed that the evolution of this approach is in synthesis with the existing practices but a step forward towards effective problem solving on a case to case basis. When an individual realizes one's full potential and ability of doing things, it naturally enables to make a better living for them.

Keywords: Social Work, Strengths based practice, working with individuals

Community Policing for Conflict Resolution and Community Resilience

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Abstract: In many parts of the globalized world, there has been an escalation in conflicts with multi levels of chaos and anarchy leading to huge loss of lives, economic slowdown and most sadly, a sense of fear and uncertainty in the community. Within the third world, ethnic clashes and communal violence are being classed as equal to the threats of terrorism. Efforts of the law enforcing agencies are constantly challenged to resolve community oriented conflicts on their own. Emerging models of conflict resolution to ensure normative order and community resilience require the communities to be their partners. There is an increasing need for the police as the law-enforcing agency to transform into a community-oriented agency since the ground of enforcement is community. The dismal police–population ratio in India (106 police personnel per 0.1 million population) has not only over-burdened the critical forces but have been influencing their performance immensely. In this background, the paper argues how community policing can provide a new perspective with multiple benefits of conflict resolution, peace building, community resilience and most significantly community empowerment. The research is based on an empirical study (based on 10 focus group discussions and in-depth interviews) in Hyderabad, joint capital of the newly formed Telangana and Andhra Pradesh states. The sample includes all ranks of police personnel from constables (staff of police station and lowest in hierarchy) to Director General of Police (DGP - in charge of state police force). The findings indicate that community policing can be an important strategy, an instrumental philosophy, and hope and action for conflict resolution and community resilience.

Keywords: Community policing, crime, conflict resolution, community empowerment, resilience

Short bio: Vinita Pandey is an Assistant Professor, Department of Sociology, Nizam College, Osmania University, Hyderabad, India. She has published in areas of qualitative and participatory research, Indian middle class and development issues. She is the recipient of Vidya Shiromani Award by the Citizens Council of Andhra Pradesh.

Practice of Strength-based Community Development in India and relevance of emerging community empowerment models in Urban Poverty Alleviation

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Abstract: An important fall-out of community-led initiatives of rural and urban poverty alleviation in India is the development of Self-Help Groups and their federations, to make user participation a quantifiable reality. Collectivization as the foundation of successful community-targeted initiatives has seen some important milestones while yielding valuable modules of the process of building community architecture. The success of the community-led and community-steered development intervention in few states has prompted policy-makers to envision community mobilization as an important entry-level activity, on which all other initiatives are built. Urban-based groups today are viewed as being relevant to the unique urban context and present a high level of applicability given unique characteristics that typify urban communities. Group empowerment and development process across various initiatives has rendered groups capable of taking up high responsibilities and emerged as decisive forces in socio-political realm. However, the group development process has suffered intrinsic flaws. Strategy for group tenure, indicators for group achievement and readiness for role change, progressive goal achievement and, long-term plan and terms of engagement between group promoters and groups have not been clearly spelt out. Are groups, which are now considered engines of urban development, slowly turning to become Frankenstein's Monsters? If so, what strategy can be suggested to help groups mature positively? What should be incorporated into the plan for nurturing current institutions and building new institutions (like Street Vendors' Common Interest Groups and Associations) that can help them to be effective engines of urban poverty alleviation with an inbuilt phase-out or role-change plan?

Keywords: Community Mobilization, SHGs & Federations, urban poverty alleviation, empowerment, role-change

Short bio: Ernest Leslie is a development professional with experience of building self help groups and federations and training community level functionaries on nurturing thematic groups. He is currently involved in sensitizing senior-level urban functionaries of various Indian States on social mobilization and development of institutions for poverty alleviation, as part of Regional Center for Urban & Environmental Studies, Osmania University, Hyderabad.

Reconciliation narratives of Survivors from War in Bosnia and Herzegovina

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Abstract: The aim of this article was to analyze the retold experiences of 27 survivors from the 1990s war in Bosnia and Herzegovina. I have examined verbal markers of reconciliation and implacability, and I have analyzed described terms for reconciliation that are being actualized in the narratives. In the narratives of those interviewed, implacability is the prominent them, but the possibility of reconciliation is mentioned, if some conditions are met. These conditions are for example justice for the victims of the war, a confession from the offender and his emotional involvement (for instance showing remorse and shame). The picture that emerges from the analyzed narratives is that it is easier to forgive someone imprisoned for his atrocities.

Keywords: reconciliation, narrative, forgiveness, implacability, conditions for reconciliation, shame, justice, perpetrator, emotion, victim.

Short bio: Goran Basic, PhD, is Postdoctoral researcher in sociology at the Department of Sociology, Lund University. Research concerns fieldwork in Bosnia and Herzegovina, written articles on the postwar society and carried out an evaluation of a project in the Swedish juvenile care. He is currently collecting empirical material for analysing the collaboration between border police and coastguard in the countries of Baltic region.

Hope Building and Surviving Domestic Violence: Childhood Experiences

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Abstract: Research suggests that hope is an important element in the development of resilience. Although adversity and trauma can have a devastating effect on people and their world views by diminishing hope, these are also the situations that give birth to hope. This paper seeks to gain an understanding of the role of eco-systems in building hope in the context of children surviving domestic violence (DV). In order to gain insight into this phenomenon, the personal accounts of coping and resilience of eight adults with childhood exposure to domestic violence were examined. The study used a qualitative/phenomenological approach. In-depth face-to-face interviews were conducted by using a semi-structured question schedule. The contents of the interview transcripts were inspected to identify common themes and specific experiences of each participant, focusing on the systems in the individual's life including other individuals, family members, peers, friends and community groups and the aspirations and events that facilitated change and contributed to the development of hope and resilience. Thus, this study

proffers the importance of eco-systems in a person's life in building hope and resilience and reiterates the importance of an eco-systems framework that social workers could use to develop resilience research and practice to help those affected with DV in childhood.

Keywords: Hope, Resilience, Domestic Violence, Childhood Experience

Short bio: Day, Antoinette Lucy, BSW (H) is a fourth year honours student in social work has worked in aged care and disabilities sector. Antoinette has been curious about how some people cope and become resilient, while others struggle. She is passionate about the psychosocial development of children and helping children become resilient adults.

Challenges facing Indigenous people in Canada: possible new directions

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Abstract: First Nations/Indigenous people have been and continue to be subjected to various and evolving forms of colonization in Canadian society. They have experienced social, economic, and political exclusion and marginalisation from various arenas of decision-making resulting in increasingly poor health, income, educational, employment and social outcomes. Adopted as mechanisms to reclaim autonomy through self-governance, political activism and cultural reclaiming have been instrumental in supporting Indigenous people and their allies to challenge existing oppressive structures and to foster new paradigms for future growth and development. This paper/presentation details specific innovations developed by Indigenous peoples in Canada that have served to mobilise First Nations, Metis, allies, and governments to acknowledge and take concrete actions to address historical oppressions and create new pathways that are informed by Indigenous ways of knowing and being.

Short bio: Anita Vaillancourt (BSW/H, MSW) is an Adjunct Professor at the University of Northern British Columbia and is currently an instructor and pursuing PhD studies in Social Work at the University of Toronto. Anita has taught and conducted research as an Assistant Professor (term) in the Social Work program at the University of Northern British Columbia in the areas of welfare reform, women's addictions, family violence, critical pedagogy and child welfare.

Empowerment and resilience: some reflections from service user involvement in social work education

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Abstract: Concern with power, particularly in regard to oppression and empowerment, has been a defining feature of social work in the U.K. (Adams, 1996; Bailey and Brake, 1975; Ferguson & Woodward, 2009 Gutierrez et al, 1998). “Yet, for something so apparently familiar, there is relatively little consensus as to what power actually is” (Tew, 2006:34). Power is a contested concept and there is no agreement as to how it should be defined (Lukes, 2005). Bourdieu (1993) puts the blame for this confusion at the door of sociologists who look for the differences between theorists rather than similarities. He illustrates this point by arguing that Marx’s view of the social world as a system of power relationships does not necessarily conflict with Weber’s (1978) theory of legitimate power. If we use the word ‘empowerment’ it is important to be clear about what we mean. So for example, do we mean a transfer of power that we have the means to give, or are we simply justifying the perspective taken in our work – that is a service user or community group perspective? Any discussion of power demands a choice is made between critiquing power as an unacceptable means of enforcing co-operation (Habermas, 1991) or conceptualising it as a universal feature of all social relationships (Bachmann, 1988). Relying on reflections following some research carried out into service user involvement in social work education in the U.K., the author will argue that we should not overlook resilience as a factor when considering these issues.

Keywords: Empowerment, resilience, service user involvement, anti-discriminatory practice, social work

Short bio: Dr Rosemary Rae, B.Sc. (Hons), M.Sc., CQSW, PGCE (FE), EdD. Rosemary graduated with a B.Sc. in Social Sciences in 1975 and qualified as a social worker in 1982. She was involved in various community action groups throughout that time. Since 1990 she has worked as a Senior Lecturer for the University of Huddersfield, gaining her Doctorate in 2012. She is a member of the Higher Education Academy and a Registered Social Worker in the U.K. Her current research interest is in field of professionalism, power and user involvement.

Social support for building resilience and preventing academic stress among college students in a developing country

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Abstract: The paper looks at social support as a moderator and its role in building resilience during academic stress among college students. It is based on the organizational framework

based on social ecology models and major constructs that provide a framework for resilience research developed by Kumpfer. Techniques such as effective strengthening of self-efficacy, building positive relationships with others, environmental mastery and autonomy, resist peer pressure, respect differences, building confidence in one's own abilities, coping mechanisms for handling past negative experiences, importance of goals setting were major outcomes and play key role in building resilience. It is essential that educators consider the evidence from this research and utilize it to promote programs fostering resilience

Keywords: Social support, Resilience, Academic stress

Short bio: Dr.K.S.Meena is Assistant Professor at Department of Mental Health Education at NIMHANS, Bangalore. Research interests include building resilience in adolescents, suicide prevention, school mental health and IEC material to impart health education. Dr. K.S. Meena has international and national papers to her credit and is actively into research.

Understanding Young Women's Empowerment in Rajasthan

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Abstract: India is currently home to almost 300 million young women and girls aged 24 or younger, who, if empowered to access meaningful education and training, have the potential to be socially and economically transformative force for the nation. However, school retention rates, beyond the primary level, at present remain unacceptably low. In Rajasthan, the largest state of the country, gender based inequalities are acute. The state recorded a female literacy rate of 53 per cent in 2011, well below the national average of 65 per cent. While the gender gap at the primary level has been bridged, the gaps at the upper primary and secondary levels show that fewer than four out of ten girls are still enrolled in school and less than one in ten make it to tertiary level. The gaps are even starker among students from the socially and economically marginalized Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe communities. Every fifth female in Rajasthan is married below the legal age of 18 years with rates as high as 27 per cent in rural areas. This paper explores how female college students from marginalized, low-literacy families across Rajasthan managed to successfully overcome economic, social and cultural barriers to girls' education and gain access to a college education. By focusing on the uncommon behaviors of this successful minority, rather than the barriers to educational progression, this paper employs a "positive deviance" approach. It also identifies the individual characteristics, infrastructural supports, social triggers, and public policies that helped these disadvantaged young women reach tertiary education in order to inform education policy.

Keywords: Education, marginalised, girls, triggers, transformative, empowerment, positive deviance

Short bio: Dr. Shobhita Rajagopal is Associate Professor at the Institute of Development Studies, Jaipur. She has over two decades of experience in social development research, training and policy advice with special emphasis on women in development and mainstreaming gender concerns in policy planning and implementation. Her research interests include politics of gender in educational processes in Rajasthan and India at the elementary secondary and tertiary levels.

Strengthening Women Farmers through Sustainable Low Cost Vegetable Production Project: Experience of Women SHGs in Uttar Pradesh

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Abstract: The women farmers in Uttar Pradesh, like in other parts of the country, were considered only as a ‘helping hand’ of men and were denied any role in the decision making. They also did not possess any control over agricultural production and marketing process. The project initiated by Oxfam India with its partner NGO, Vinoba Sewa Ashram in 2008-09 adopted an integrated strategy to establish the identity of women as a farmer and tried to develop economic leadership. The project since its inception has been trying to provide due recognition for women farmers in their socially unacknowledged but significant contribution towards agricultural production in Shahjahanpur and Pilibhit districts of Uttar Pradesh. Subsequently, Oxfam in association with its partner NGO took an initiative to organise women of 1928 households in 41 villages into Self Help Groups (SHGs), linked them with banks for credit, organised training and exposure visits, set up demonstration plots and promoted treadle pumps to instill confidence and paved the road for the economic independence of the women farmers of the area. In total 912 women farmers who are engaged in vegetable production in 130 and 177 hectare of land are involved with the project. The project has been successful with regard to enhancing food and nutrition security of women and children by capacitating women farmers in low cost vegetable production, recognition of women farmers at state level through institutional strengthening and advocacy, and developing and strengthening power in the market for women vegetable producers.

Keywords: Women Farmers, Vegetable Production, Self Help Groups, Empowerment, Food security, Sustainable livelihoods

Empowering Women through Cooperative Agriculture: Towards the Actualization of Self Reliance and Improvement of Maternal and Child Nutrition in Afikpo Lga of Ebony State Nigeria

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Abstract: The women constitute a significant population of inhabitants of the Nigerian society. According to 2006 population census, their population is higher than that of the men. In this regard their welfare is important if the well being of the overall population is to be achieved. The cultural practice in Nigeria is such that women are made to be dependent on men in all things. It is within the light of this practice that this work focuses on the Afikpo women of Ebony state south east Nigeria. The women are poor and find it difficult to feed even their children. It is important to note this community depends on agriculture for livelihood and the products of this activity are sex sensitive. In most cases capital is unavailable for women to go onto extensive agriculture. Thus, their efforts are limited into subsistence farming which in most cases is not sufficient for them. In the light of this, this work look at women forming cooperatives societies and coming together to produce staples that will improve their diets and that of their children since they are the primary care givers. This is due to the fact that they can assess loans and even make contributions to enhance their work unlike when they operate individually with little or no capital. The work drew its strength from previous cooperative food production and processing owned by women before and their implication on the economy of the women. The study found out that the condition of Afikpo women will improve in the area of nutrition if they go into cooperative agriculture and that it will equally empower them.

Keywords: women farmers, cooperative farming, women empowerment, Afikpo, child protection, food security

Coping and resilience in perennial floods of Bangladesh

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Abstract: This paper investigates into the coping mechanisms that the flood-affected people adopt in order to survive. It is based on an empirical study of low lying land of eastern part of Bangladesh prone to frequent flash floods that forces some of them to migrate to urban centres while others continue to remain or take up shorter relocation as survival mode and return. The paper presents an exploration of the resilience process that the people go through and the process of facing the challenges with courage and building up their confidence. Relevant review

of literature on this issue of people's struggle; and their coping mechanisms of the affected people allows us to introduce the intertwined concepts of coping and resilience, with its multifaceted dimensions. Beginning with narratives that show how individuals, groups, communities display both coping and resilience every day. The paper presents people's stories of living with this adversity how they build their resiliency. It delves at the efficacy of an inner strengths approach that seems to work for these people in poverty shattered by flash floods year after year.

Keywords: Coping, Resilience, Floods, Social work

Short bio: Das, Kumar Tulshi, PhD is Professor, Department of Social Work, Shahjalal University of Science & Technology, Sylhet-3114, Bangladesh. He has been formerly Dean in the University. Dr Das is an active member of the Schools of social work in Bangladesh. He has obtained his PhD from the Jawaharlal Nehru University, Delhi, India. He is on the editorial board of a number of Journals prominent among them the International Journal of Social Work and Human Services Practice. tulshikumardas@gmail.com, dastulshi-scw@sust.edu

Environmental awareness among rural self help group members

Laxmi

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Abstract: Self help groups (SHGs) are formed in large scale in India. SHGs of women have become very common in villages of Karnataka. Large numbers of rural women have been enrolled into SHGs by both government and non government organizations with the aim to empower women. Self help groups are homogeneous groups of the rural poor. The number of members in the group ranges from 10 to 20 members. The objective of SHG formation is not only economic empowerment but also integrated empowerment by focusing on enhancing skills, knowledge, capacities and awareness generation. Self help groups are the platform to discuss various issues like environment, health and hygiene, child development, women empowerment and so on. The degradation of environment can be checked with the intervention of rural women SHGs. The aim of the study is to assess the level of environmental conservation awareness among rural SHG members. The data for the study is collected from 50 SHG members by using interview schedule. The interview schedule consisted of information related to personal and family profile of the respondents, environmental awareness and suggestions of the SHG members to conserve environment. The study revealed that majority of the SHG members have higher level of awareness regarding environmental conservation but actionable awareness level is not satisfactory.

Keywords: Self Help Groups, homogeneous, empowerment, environment, conservation, actionable awareness

Short bio: Dr Laxmi is Assistant Professor in department of Social Work, Pooja Bhagavat Memorial Mahajana Education Centre, Mysore, Karnataka. She also worked as State Counseling Coordinator in HIV/AIDS Intervention Programme and as consultant counselor to Nephrology department of Vikram Hospital Mysore. Worked with rural women through SHGs and associated with interventions focused on environment, health and hygiene, HIV/AIDS, community empowerment.

Building family resilience- a social work approach

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Abstract: In this paper a social work approach to build family resilience is discussed. Families are considered as the units of strength or interchangeably as units of resilience. While members of the family may be individually focused it is often the collective unit – the family and its strengths or resilience that turns into an area of intervention for social work. The paper utilises conceptualization of family resilience as an active process of endurance, self-righting, and growth response to crises and challenges. Brief but succinct literature review is provided to support the concepts canvassed in the paper. This paper is based on a review of the family empowerment core strategies of ‘Save a Family Plan’, an international NGO and its work in India. The paper also describes relevant programs aimed at poverty amelioration through provision of opportunities that build resilience in families. In the authors’ experience social workers infuse resilience behaviors through well-coordinated agenda of self-reliance in intervention families to bring in positive change. This paper is empirically based and utilised interviews of forty professionals working with families in the field of community development. The authors utilised qualitative methodologies in this study. The authors affirm that assisting coping and building resilience has led to empowerment in the families and communities.

Keywords: Family resilience, family empowerment, Social Work

Short bio: Dr Rajeev S.P is Head of the department of Social Work at the De Paul Institute of Science & Technology, Kerala, India. He teaches Social Work at the post graduate level.

‘Women on the margins’ running successful informal micro-businesses: A Western Cape, South African Township Case Study

Connie O’Brien & Elizabeth Clack

Abstract: This study should be seen against the South African context where poverty, inequality and joblessness are key concerns. Despite experiencing 20 years of democracy the majority of

Black South Africans still bear the brunt of the Apartheid legacy with Black women still being most affected by poverty. Not much research has been done on Black women traders in the informal sector in the Western Cape where this study was conducted. This qualitative, explorative pilot study focused on factors that contribute to the success of sixteen women-owned informal micro-businesses in two township communities. Five key informants from government and NGOs providing small business support were also interviewed. The findings clearly show that the success of these informal businesses were largely due to the women's ability to be flexible, adapt and innovate in their business practices. These women also demonstrated resilience and perseverance both in the face of township violence as well as managing the impact of the economic downturn. They were able to adapt their trading practices to client demands and placed a high value on good customer relationships. All of these small businesses were not registered. A key recommendation emanating from this study is the need to document further case studies concerning successful small businesses and to engage in large-scale mixed methodology research into the informal sector in South Africa.

Keywords: Black marginalized women; informal micro-businesses; informal sector

Short bio: Connie O'Brien is a senior lecture and postgraduate research coordinator who teaches courses on research at undergraduate and postgraduate level at the University of Cape Town's Social Development.

Motherhood and Mothering: Reflections from researching resilience in Kashmir

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Abstract: Though motherhood has been glorified in the patriarchal societies, this glorification does not necessarily lead to rights and entitlements in lives of every woman. Motherhood (along with caring and nurturing role) sometimes becomes a vulnerability for women in adversity or in disadvantaged contexts. And sometimes motherhood and mothering becomes a human strength (as viewed in the care focused feminism). In both scenarios, motherhood and mothering do seem to become significant in defining identities of women. Based on a qualitative research on resilience among women widowed due to the conflict in Kashmir, this paper focuses on how women view their experiences as single mothers, and how exercising identity of being a 'mother' becomes a part of the resilience process. In my analysis of narratives of women, I employ the understanding of resilience as a process of navigation (towards opportunities and resources) and negotiation (with systems/ people in environment). I discuss how for a woman in context of conflict, this process can involve aspects such as: use of the motherhood status to intervene and seek resources and entitlements, drawing determination and purpose to sustain herself and her family, investing in children for future security. This research, focusing on understanding patterns of resilience among women widowed due to conflict in Kashmir, involved fifty women

who reported their husband to have died or disappeared. These women were from two districts- Kupwara and Srinagar.

Keywords: resilience, widows, conflict, Kashmir, identity, mother

Short bio: Shweta Verma is a social work professional with 12 years of experience in the field of mental health and disability rights. She worked with Saarthak (an NGO) for 10 years and continues to volunteer with them. As a PhD scholar with Dept. of Social Work, JMI, she is engaged in research on resilience among women widowed due to conflict in Kashmir. She has also worked with the Delhi School of Social Work (Delhi) as an Assistant Professor (Ad-Hoc).

A Study of ‘Reaching Out’ and ‘Bringing Home’ as Coping Mechanisms in case of Sudden Death

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Abstract: Sudden death of a dear one has devastating impact on families which may vary vastly with different individuals. Absences may lead to loneliness, financial crises, lack of impetus and to a neglect of self and others. Resilience and coping devices then, become pertinent. The objectives of the study were to understand impact of sudden death of a close kith or kin, on immediate family members and to outline strategies that people have been adopting to cope up with the trauma and to develop resilience. The qualitative study was conducted on ten people who were in the age group of 30-52 years using methods like theme-based discussions, observation, narratives and anecdotal reports with the ones who have experienced the sudden death either of life partner, child or parents. Two important strategies that helped individuals to cope after sudden death were: (i) reaching out via recourse to classic literary creations such as poetry and (ii) ‘bringing home’ (in the context of immediate kith and kin). The researcher has tried to relate the above mentioned strategies with the literary creations of Amrita Pritam and Alice Munro. The second strategy viz. “bringing home” a person after his demise, an attempt at completion, like closing the circle, was born out of the emotional belief that every creature needs a mother-like home and the remains and personal effects craved adoption or assimilation. The age-old mechanisms of bringing home in all cases irrespective of monetary liabilities, health status etc should be encouraged to enable near and dear ones to cope up with the experience of sudden death and empower themselves with necessary inner strength by developing resilience.

Using Arts-Based Interventions for Empowerment and Social Justice

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Abstract: This presentation focuses on arts-based interventions used to mobilize communities to take action and pursue social justice initiatives. This presentation will discuss specifically

how performance-based approaches lead to change at the community level and how people can empower themselves using these embodied methods. The presentation also seeks critical dialogues with participants and explores the international relevance of the presented interventions.

Short bio: Sharon Stopforth, MSW, RSW has been a clinical counsellor for the past 15 years specializing in the areas of abuse, trauma, addictions, depression and anxiety. Sharon is a Certified Integrative Body Psychotherapy practitioner and has been practicing mind/body counselling for the past 8 years. Sharon is in her second year of the Ph.D. program at the University of Calgary and is pursuing research in the area of embodiment, performance, and social justice.

Empowering Women through Self Help Groups in India

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Abstract: Empowerment provides a greater access to knowledge and resources, more independence in decision making, considerable ability to plan lives, more control over the circumstances which influence lives, and freedom from customs, beliefs and practices. Thus, women empowerment is a process in which women challenge the existing norms and culture, to effectively promote their wellbeing. If women were empowered to do more and be more, the possibility for economic growth becomes apparent. Empowering women in developing countries is essential to reduce global poverty since women represent most of the world's poor population. In India, women Empowerment is a buzz word to-day. As a nation, India is committed to the empowerment of women. As majority women lack assets that help contribute to their empowerment and well-being, economic independence through self-employment and entrepreneurial development must be paid attention to. So, the Government of India has provided for Self-Help Groups (SHGs). A Self-Help Group is a small voluntary association of poor people preferably from the same socio-economic back drop. The micro-credit given to them makes them enterprising; it can be all-women group, all-men group or even a mixed group. However, it has been the experience that women's groups perform better in all the important activities of SHGs. The participation of women in Self Help Groups (SHGs) made a significant impact on their empowerment both in social and economical aspects. Today there are more than 25 lakh SHGs in the country, ninety percent of them are women Self-Help Groups. In this context, this is a modest attempt to study the impact of SHGs on women. This paper is a generalized study based on a desk review to scrutinize the women empowerment through SHGs and also describes the current position of women empowerment in India.

Keywords: Women empowerment, Self Help Groups, Empowerment, India

From Individual Empowerment to Social Movement: Drought management for ecological restoration

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Abstract: Today this life is at stake from the womb to the tomb. As a result there is imbalance in many aspects of life even in the climatic conditions. Kankewadi, in Ahmednagar, Maharashtra, where we began community mobilisation work many people were facing a losing battle. They could hardly see any light at the end of the tunnel. Jesuit Priests responded to this situation through an innovative method of Watershed Development programme with the ultimate vision of holistic people centered development. The 'Social Centre' a philanthropic NGO came into being as a ray of hope to the rural folk in the drought prone Ahmednagar district of Maharashtra. The paper describes the methods adopted to empower people and usher in improvements in the quality of life of the people. The results of the process disturbed social, economic, political and cultural benefits across all sections of the society in Kankewadi and its neighbouring villages. The so-called voiceless people became leaders of the local governing bodies. Social Centre's approach of problem solving with participatory ideology has motivated Government institutions to adopt the watershed development- to build water as a critical resource for community empowerment, livelihood development and also to reduce internal displacement of the poor in India. The results of over 125 villages from this programme has potential for turning into a movement of development that restores the ecological sanity while tackling both short term goals of poverty alleviation and long term goals of positively holding people in their native habitat.

Keywords: watershed management, rural poverty, social action, social work, drought management

Short bio: Fr Joseph D'souza SJ is a Jesuit priest from Pune Province of Maharashtra. He has several years of experience in the pastoral field. He is the Director of Social Centre, Ahmednagar, Maharashtra which aims to make rural communities self-reliant through community mobilization for natural resources particularly watershed management.

Building helplines and caring for missing children: A community project

Kahte hai dhoondne se toh khudaa bi milta hai: If one searches, you can even find God

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Abstract: Every 30 seconds, a child goes missing in India and majority of them are girls and from poor socio-economic background (Singh, K.P, 2014). Referring to government figures accepting that only 45 per cent of them are fortunate to reach their homes, the Supreme Court observed that "Nobody seems to care about missing children. This is the irony," (TNN, 2014). Many of these missing children tragically find themselves being trafficked to an unknown and dangerous world which is sometimes thousands of miles away from home and end up as child labour, begging, inmates of a shelter home, or forced into sex trade. It is possible to ensure child protection and address the problem of missing children with active support of the civil society, and fortunately there is growing involvement of the NGOs. The present paper described the processes utilised by a team of volunteers with limited resources that successfully assisted 370 missing children reunite with their families. The paper while presenting the broad learnings in this field suggests practical measures that are replicable; prominent amongst these is the role of civil societies, volunteers, media, and ICT.

Keywords – missing children, child protection, community empowerment, resilience, hope, civil society

Short bio: Subhash Chandra Mamidi is a child rights activist and member of Juvenile Justice Board. He is associated with advocacy interventions in the area of child protection, mother and child health, and right to education. He is Director of Programmes, Centre for Action Research and People's Development and member of Project Hopeline, a volunteer based intervention to trace missing children.

Social Work in Border villages of Nepal

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Abstract: This paper synthesizes social work reach to marginalized communities with special concentration on *Madheshis* in Terai of Nepal. The term *Madheshis* refers specifically to populations living in Terai (plain) region of Nepal – close to Indian boarder- they have distinct

cultures, languages, and traditions. Yet, historically peoples of Terai have witnessed social, cultural, and political subjugation which are still evident in their day to day lives. Amongst several other issues, the notion of nationality has always remained a challenge for them due to their different appearance and language in comparison to *Pahade* (hill populations). Therefore, these authors representing the same marginalized community and also young social workers of Nepal seek to explore issues of Terai population from social work perspective. In the process of mainstreaming issues of *Madheshis* within social work in Nepal, we employ self-disclosure and anecdotal experiences. By doing so, this paper eventually aims to underpin equity and social justice of *Madheshis*' communities as well as quest to expand the horizon of social work intervention in Nepal.

Keywords: social work in Nepal, Madheshis, ethnic sensitive practice, marginality,

Short bio: Amit Kumar Yadav is a MSW student at Roshni Nilaya, Mangalore, India.

Saarthak Mental Health Care Plan: A Recovery focused care plan tool for Mental Health interventions in India

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Abstract: Recovery is the key framework of contemporary rights based mental health interventions. The tools to make this framework an operational reality are not available. This paper outlines a recovery focused care plan tool being used at Saarthak (a mental health NGO in Delhi) in its mental health services for the past five years. The care plan is strengths' based and personalized. It outlines what the person can do for themselves, what the family can do and what the service provider can offer. The process of care plan development is participatory. The inputs, outputs and outcomes of the care plan are measurable. The tool is in the process of being validated and digitized.

Short bio: Dr. Bharti Tiwari started her journey as a mental health professional in the year 2000 with Saarthak, an NGO focusing on mental health needs. She is a Clinical Psychologist by training. Her work till now has included psychotherapy and psychological assessments with a wide range of clinical population across age groups, including anxiety, obsessive compulsive disorders, depression and people living with severe and enduring mental illness, and people living with Dementia.

Challenging conventional peace processes in Africa –the need for community participation

Dr Connie O'Brien and Samson Barrigye

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Abstract: A retrospective, qualitative study that explored the potential for community participation in the Juba Peace Process using an empowerment/participatory perspective drawn from peace research and conflict resolution theory was carried out in Northern Uganda. A cross-section of 169 village elders, youth and women (who were purposively selected) were interviewed in 13 focus groups conducted in 13 sub-counties within four districts. Twenty six key informants who were knowledgeable about the level of community participation in the peace process were also interviewed. A core hypothesis is that the inclusion of community members and aspects of their traditional conflict resolution practices would be key factors in democratizing any peace process and making it more sustainable. Being included in a peace process is particularly important for the Acholi people who have experienced the disempowering impact of being internally displaced as a result of protracted conflict. A cogent argument is also made for enabling mechanisms which allow for greater community participation. Empirical evidence support the need for a more nuanced inclusive approach to synchronizing traditional conflict resolution practices with dispute settlements that occur within the legal justice framework.

Keywords: conflict resolution; community participation/empowerment; Juba Peace Process; traditional conflict resolution practices

Short bio: Connie O'Brien is a senior lecturer and postgraduate research coordinator who teaches courses on research at undergraduate and postgraduate level at the University of Cape Town's Social Development.

Adivasi Land rights deprivations - A way forward

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Abstract: Land is the most important natural asset from which tribals derive their security and social status. In the context of tribal life, the relationship with land is not only economic but also occupies spiritual and emotional space. Alienation and restoration of adivasi land and land rights has been one of the most complex and sensitive issues in Andhra Pradesh. Over the years, the adivasis have been through continued dispossession of both individual and community control over their resources. Unabated land alienation has also seriously threatened their identity in their own homelands. Currently non-tribals constitute about 50 per cent of the population in the Scheduled Areas. They control more than 50 per cent of the lands, in spite of the Tribal

Protective Land Transfer Regulations that have been in force since 1917, which prohibit transfer of lands between tribals and non-tribals. In order to restore tribal land rights, several interventions are required. Legal support is to be extended to adivasis to claim their alienated lands back and forest rights. This paper looks at the experiences of activists, NGOs, tribal forums and response of the government in addressing the issue restoration of tribal land rights. The paper discusses varied interventions and their outcomes in strengthening tribals' claim to land and forest.

Keywords: land alienation, tribal development, scheduled areas, forest rights, land rights, legal aid, Andhra Pradesh

Short bio: Dr Trinadha Rao Palla is a legal activist engaged in advocacy on forest rights, land alienation among tribals. He is engaged in action research interventions of the civil society on land acquisition by development projects. His research interests include human rights, tribal self rule, tribal livelihoods and forest entitlements.

Overcoming Marginalization- Immigrants and Leadership Development

Dr. Hieu Van Ngo

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Abstract: This presentation focuses on leadership development of immigrant parents and youth in the context of Canadian multiculturalism. Using the work of a community-based advocacy organization as a case study, this presentation provides an analysis of systemic discrimination against immigrant learners in the education system, and details grassroots, collaborative efforts to mobilize and support immigrant parents and youth to critically reflect on their realities, and to take collective actions to influence positive changes in policy and practice in order to promote access of immigrant learners to equitable educational opportunities. The presentation also seeks critical dialogues with participants and explores international relevance of the presented issues.

Short bio: Dr. Hieu Van Ngo's areas of scholarship include community development, community leadership, immigration, diversity, inclusive education, cultural competence, youth crime prevention, nonprofit management, theoretical development and collaborative research. Recently, Dr. Ngo was awarded with 5.3M to develop, implement and evaluate a collaborative, identity-based wraparound approach to youth gang prevention. Mr. Ngo has received a number of awards for his work.

Supporting High Risk and Gang Involved Minority Youth- The Power of Collaborative Inquiry and Action

Dr. Hieu Van Ngo

Faculty of Social Work, University of Calgary, Canada, email hngo@ucalgary.ca

Abstract: Drawing upon the work of a collaborative effort to support high risk and gang involved youth in Calgary, Canada, this presentation showcases the power of participatory action research, particularly in community mobilization, knowledge building and development of effective practice. First, it provides an overview of the community challenge, namely gang involvement of youth from immigrant families. Second, it details the processes involved in collaborative inquiry and the insights into the lived experiences of gang involved youth. Third, it outlines the practical framework for youth gang prevention in the context of multiculturalism, and presents the ongoing coordinated, comprehensive services and support for high risk and gang involved youth. The presentation also seeks critical dialogues with participants and explores international relevance of the presented issues and practices.

Short bio: Dr. Hieu Van Ngo's areas of scholarship include community development, community leadership, immigration, diversity, inclusive education, cultural competence, youth crime prevention, nonprofit management, theoretical development and collaborative research. Recently, Dr. Ngo was awarded with 5.3M to develop, implement and evaluate a collaborative, identity-based wraparound approach to youth gang prevention. Mr. Ngo has received a number of awards for his work.

Review of Food Security as a Social Protection Measure in Kenya

Josephine Misaro

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Abstract: The primary purpose of a government is to protect its citizens. This protection takes various forms, depending on the enemy at hand. Food insecurity is an enemy of man that every sovereign nation ought to protect its citizens from. Food insecurity is a factor in poverty, one of the three enemies of progress (the other two being ignorance and disease) that Kenya committed itself to getting rid of at the time of political independence in 1963. Bill of Rights of Kenya's constitution promulgated in 2010, commits itself to preserve the dignity of individuals and communities and to promote social justice and the realization of the potential of all human beings. Food security is not just about filling the stomachs of a hungry majority with good food; it is also about upholding the dignity of those people. The World Health Organization defines food security as existing "when all people at all times have access to sufficient, safe, nutritious food to maintain a healthy and active life". This paper assesses the policies and other efforts put in place by the Kenya government, the initiatives by Non-Governmental Organizations

that have positively contributed to the vice, and the efforts made by affected individuals and communities themselves to deal with food insecurity in the last fifty years. Therefore, the aim of the paper is to gauge the extent to which Kenya in the last fifty years of political independence has reached in dealing with food security: specifically the progress made, challenges incurred and what remains to be done. By so doing, this paper will cultivate deeper insight and generate better clarity into the issues of food security as an aspect of social protection, and the role of policy and governance in food insecurity alleviation.

Keywords: Social Protection, Food insecurity, Non-Governmental Organisations

Short bio: Josephine Misaro is a PhD student in the Department of Sociology and Social Work, University of Nairobi. She is also engaged as an Assistant Lecturer in the same Department. She holds Bachelor of Arts and Master of Arts degrees in Sociology from the University of Nairobi. She has published 6 papers in peer reviewed journals and attended several conferences and workshops. She has a special interest in Social Work. Josephine is married to ChrysMisaro and together they have 2 sons.

Dissent as empowered citizenship: Engaging youth on new technologies in New Zealand

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Abstract: The concept of dissent is often absent in the literature on empowerment. Yet, it lies at the heart of democratic politics and citizenship. Dissent can throw up alternative ideas for sustainable policy making and also enable marginalized actors to become resilient as they organize themselves and create change. In this paper, we draw on the findings of a youth citizen panel in New Zealand as part of a larger project on ‘Sustainable Citizenship: Transforming Public Engagement on New and Emerging Technologies’ to show how facilitating a clash of ideas brings out innovative and energetic policy ideas in youth. The citizen panel of men and women between the ages of 18 and 24 deliberated on policies on new technologies such as nanotechnology and interacted with a team of experts, including scientists, social scientists, and engineers. They talked about what new technologies meant to them and how they perceived issues around the social, political, environmental and other implications of these technologies. The strongest ideas came through when the panelists got an opportunity to express dissent towards established policy-making structures and public engagement processes. A qualitative analysis of the transcripts allowed us to identify three broad themes emerging from the discussions of the panel: (a) Identification of issues not under the spotlight in the mainstream

policy domain of new and emerging technologies; (b) insights into priorities of single-demographic marginalized groups that remain silenced in broader democratic platforms; and (c) a distillation of issues through a clash of ideas rather than asymmetric dialogues.

Keywords: Youth, empowerment, dissent, citizenship, sustainability, new technologies.

Short bio: Dr Debashish Munshi is Professor of Management Communication at The University of Waikato in New Zealand. He is an interdisciplinary scholar with a special interest in issues of diversity, equity, ethics, social justice, and sustainability. He has three books and his work has appeared in several international journals. He has also co-led a major Royal Society of New Zealand-funded project on sustainable citizenship.

Child abuse: Hearing the voices of pre adolescent children in a rural town in the Eastern Cape

Mrs Nevashnee Perumal

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Abstract: Child abuse is a global social problem affecting a country's most vulnerable group viz. children. Against the landscape of a relatively new democracy, the South African government is still navigating its way through the residue of apartheid. However, changes in policy in the children and families sector has been revised in the form of the Children's Act 38/2005 and the White Paper on Families (2012). However, rural and marginalized groups in South Africa are seen to have more serious 'bread and butter' issues to focus on, stemming from the legacy of apartheid, than to focus on issues of child protection. Nevertheless, children, irrespective of their social background ought to be able to identify risk factors associated with abuse and have basic knowledge of how to protect themselves when faced with abusive situations. Such knowledge and education is obtained in more well- resourced communities and schools as opposed to poorer, more under resourced village and rural communities. The question prompting this study was how much information do primary school children in a South African rural town have on child abuse, the indicators of abuse and actions to take if faced with an abusive situation? This paper reports on a qualitative, exploratory study which was conducted to hear the voices of pre-adolescent children (8-11 years old) on child abuse in the rural town of Alice in the Eastern Cape, South Africa in order to identify strengths in pre adolescents living in a rural town; and to build resilience.

Keywords: pre-adolescents, child abuse, protection, safety, school, resilience

Empowerment of Student Social Worker-reading between the lines

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Abstract: In the last two decades many higher education institutions have been working to adapt themselves to a diverse population of students. Social work educators, too, deal with issues such as race, class, gender, sexuality, age and (dis) ability which are critical to understanding people's lives, contemporary issues and possibilities for change. Fieldwork is a central component in social work education. Many students perceive their field education as the most important part of their studies wherein they gain experience in direct practice and develop their professional identity. Many Schools of Social Work struggle to find the 'best fit' between learning in the field and in the classroom. Although supervision is the key to student learning, it is essential to understand the perspectives of students at various stages of learning on field related issues. Moreover, students are encouraged to question 'cherished beliefs and assumptions' by becoming witnesses to social injustices. Being a professional requires learning life-long skills which requires a different kind of investment on the part of the educator. Self-assessment and peer assessment among Supervisors and faculty must be encouraged. There is a dire need for entry level assessment of students who opt for the social work profession. One also needs to discuss the tension and power relationships between ourselves and our beneficiaries. The million dollar question is as to where are our service users and clients positioned within fieldwork. The paper attempts to throw light on some of these dilemmas and suggest possible ways of addressing the challenge.

Keywords: Student learner, empowerment, silence, life-long learning, service user

Short bio: Field work practitioner and academician with over two decades of work experience with various organizations including United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. PhD from Delhi University on the topic "Women Employees in Information Technology Enabled Services: Challenges and Coping Mechanisms". Taught at Delhi School of Social Work. Currently working as Fieldwork Coordinator at School of Social Work, Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai.

Nirbhaya and after, how safe are Women?: Experiences from Safety Audit of Thiruvananthapuram City, Kerala, India

Sonny Jose, Preetha Menon, Abhishek John & Gayathri K

Abstract: Public spaces are meant for anyone, to access at any point of time. The increasing incidence of violence against girl children and women has created alarm about the safety in public spaces. Safety-pin is an innovative educational as well as interactive App that has a safety audit menu; it holds promises for augmenting women safety and empowerment. The

researchers undertook an audit using Safety-pin covering 565 points for Jagori, New Delhi to assess the area under Thiruvananthapuram City Corporation. The audit considered nine aspects such as visibility, lighting, openness, access to public transport, perceived security, density and pedestrian infrastructure. The study reflects on the lived experiences of the auditors and the safety readiness of the Pensioners' Paradise, Thiruvananthapuram City. It was observed that women were not expected to venture out late or access public spaces, civic response was low, infrastructure and lighting were extremely poor. The study concludes that safety readiness is still embarrassingly low and leaves much desired leaving opportunity for planning and designing safe public spaces for women and girls.

Case study of a comprehensive, multisystem strengths-based drug prevention intervention

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Abstract: The saying, '*It takes a village to raise a child,*' highlights the important influence that neighbourhoods and communities have on child and adolescent development. The paper reports on the first phase of a strengths based intervention implemented in a socially marginalised community characterised by poverty, community disorganisation and apathy, low social cohesion and community support, a lack of cultural and community pride, a normative, pro-drug use community culture, easy access to drugs in the community, poor expectations of and investment in education, inadequate youth and recreational services, and non-adherence to drug regulating laws. The practice guidelines were derived from an empirical study with 10 adolescent drug users, 27 adolescent non-drug users, 10 peer mentors, and nine social service professionals living and or working in the community. The first phase of the strength based intervention, piloted with 75 grade 10 and 11 learners and their parents, is underpinned by the following protective factors that emerged from the empirical study: promoting a culture of learning and hope for the future, mobilising peer support and advocacy groups, developing positive peer influence skills, academically engaged and supportive educators, collaborative relationships between parents, teachers, religious institutions and social service agencies, promoting a safe school environment, promoting community cohesion and culture of Ubuntu in the community, developing pro-social community outlets, community mobilisation and community pride.

Short bio: I am a social worker with over 20 years' experience, and clinical psychologist, teaching undergraduate and postgraduate students in the Department of Social Development Professions (Social Work Programme) at the Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University, South Africa. I completed my doctoral studies in 2014, focusing on culturally sensitive drug prevention interventions. My area of interest and expertise include youth, family and community resilience.

Role of NGOs in developing resilience among families living with HIV/AIDS

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Abstract: HIV/AIDS is not only a medical problem but a social problem too. It has disastrous impact on families. Stigma and discrimination associated with the disease alienate the family from primary social support systems. Psycho-social support and fulfillment of material needs by NGOs are much needed interventions. A study was conducted to explore the role of NGOs in developing coping strategies and resilience among families living with HIV/AIDS in Delhi, India. Purposive sampling was used to select the participants from the nongovernmental organizations working for such families. We used face to face interviews with children and their primary care givers, observations, narratives of children and mothers and standardized tests as tools of data collection. All families were linked to more than one NGO working in the field of HIV/AIDS. Parents valued the material and psychosocial support provided by NGOs. They found such support important not only in improving quality of life, reducing stress, but also in decreasing stigma and discrimination. Families had mixed feelings about the working of the NGOs. There were constraints in the working of NGOs. The global economic crisis affected the funding of HIV/AIDS programme and NGOs. NGOs empowered the families by enriching their knowledge about HIV/AIDS, developing necessary skills and hence built their confidence and developed resilience among them. Efforts should be taken to save the NGOs from the impact of economic recession.

Keywords: HIV/AIDS, stigma, resilience, NGOs, psychosocial support

Ideal Village and Challenges for Replicability - Case study of Hiware Bajar Village in Maharashtra, India

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Abstract: Hiware Bajar is considered one of the ideal villages in the state of Maharashtra. It is self-sufficient in development of natural resources. With the help of land and water conservation programme the village is having sufficient water even in the drought year, and the farmers are able to take at least two crops in a year. This could happen because there are strong rules developed in the village related to water use and cropping pattern. The village farmers and particularly small farmers have developed a milk dairy as subsidiary occupation in the village which provides subsidiary income to the villages. Women of the village have formed the Self-help groups for saving and credits purpose and they participate in all aspects of the village. The village sustained its development continuously for twenty five years due to strong leadership provided by Popatrao Pawar. The village has developed and strengthened the local self-government i.e. Gram Panchayat at the village level. Today all the decisions related to

development and governance are taken in the Gram sabha. All the people including women and Dalits participate in the village decision making process. The aspect of replicability is another issue discussed in the development discourse in relation to model villages. In this paper, an attempt has been made to document the best practices of the village development. The paper will analyse issues of sustainability and replicability aspects of 'model village'.

Keywords: Model village, replicability, decentralised leadership, vision, sustainability, village governance

A Study of Wildlife Conservation and Suffering Livelihoods of People Living in Villages Chorkhamara and Thadezari of Nagzira National Park **Dhanusha Kawalkar,**

Student of BSW- III year, Matru Sewa Sangh Institute of Social Work, Nagpur -440010, India

Abstract: The paper is a study of wildlife conservation and its relationship with suffering livelihoods of the tribals from two villages namely Chorkhamara and Thadezari in Nagzira National Park in Maharashtra State. The present study basically aimed at exploring the conflict between wildlife conservation and suffering livelihood of the tribals in the Nagzira National Park and to suggest alternate livelihoods options. Field research tools comprised Focused Group Discussions in two villages and interview schedule for data collection in 15 villages. It was found that there is a strong relationship between wildlife conservation and suffering livelihoods of the tribals. The study also revealed that the resettlement process had a great impact on deforestation of Nagzira National Park and the livelihoods of the forest dependent communities.

Keywords: conservation, conflict resolution, livelihoods, Nagzira National Park

AmeriCares India: Access to Health Care for the Urban Poor Mobile Medical Clinic Program

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Abstract: Surviving in the city is a daily crisis, for the slum population in Mumbai who are essentially migrants from the villages and small towns seeking to escape rural poverty. Extremely high population density, food insecurity, poor access to drinking water and sanitation coupled with high cost of living and job insecurity adversely affects their quality of life. The disease pattern is typical leading to indicators worse than those in the villages; this fact blanketed by better-than-average morbidity and mortality indicators of the city. The AmeriCares India Mobile

Medical Clinic Program is an established & unique model of ‘Access & Continuity of Care’ striving to provide access and continuity of quality primary care for marginalized communities in urban slums, using mobile medical units coupled with information technology. The process is initiated with a rigorous site selection based on secondary research and area visits involving stakeholder participation. One MMC team visits each site every two weeks at a prefixed time managing an optimal balance between reach and continuity of care. The service is set apart by online EMR for patient tracking, guided referral for serious conditions and co-ordination with government authorities and private health care providers. A robust back office system of monitoring and tracking of clinic activities, supplemented by community feedback is in place. Our experience has shown that providing quality care to people who live in constant crisis increases their self worth, empowering them and making them resilient; helps improve health and sanitation, their health seeking behavior and ultimately their quality of life.

Keywords: Mobile Health Care, EMR, Health Education, Community Feedback

Short bio: Dr Swati Jha MBBS (LHMC, N Delhi), DCH (DU), MPH (TISS, Mumbai) has worked widely on health related projects within the urban slums in Mumbai and has handled projects in public health. Dr. Jha oversees the planning and execution of the programs run by AmeriCares India Foundation in addition to managing partnerships with NGOs across the country.

Women empowering themselves and their community: A case study of a women’s organisation in Austerville, Durban, South Africa

Barbara Simpson

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Abstract: In 1961, in terms of the apartheid South Africa’s Group Areas Act, thousands of so-called “colored” (term referring to people of mixed racial heritage) people were forcibly removed from their homes and re-settled in Austerville, a disused World War 2 military transit camp. Twenty years into democracy in South Africa, the area remains largely “colored” and beset with social problems such as overcrowding, unemployment, gangsterism and drug related problems, violence and domestic abuse. In the late 1990s, social work students from the University of KwaZulu- Natal, who were placed in Austerville for their field placement, worked with a group of women who have gone on to become one of the strongest community based organisations in the area. Calling themselves, “WOW” (Women of Wentworth), they have obtained land and built offices and a crèche, they run a number of social programmes, mainly for women and children and they have been responsible for bringing several government services to the area. This poster presentation narrates the story of WOW and will reflect on how the collective efforts of a small group of women has not only been empowering for themselves but also provided a beacon of hope for the wider community. It will suggest that social work has much to learn from the Women of Wentworth about resilience and coping efforts, about

perseverance and commitment, and about responding to community needs in ways that are concrete and immediate.

Short bio: Barbara Simpson is Senior lecturer, Social work, University of KwaZulu- Natal, Durban 4041, South Africa. She is chairperson of University of KwaZulu- Natal: Community Outreach and Research (UKZN: CORE) which is a registered NPO run by the social work discipline at UKZN. We have two community based student units – one at Austerville and one at Bhambayi. These student units provide practice placements for students and provide a valuable social work service to the two communities. Email simpson@ukzn.ac.za

Women Empowerment through SHGs: Case Study

Dr. N. Deepa

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Abstract: SHGs play an important role in improving the financial affordability of the target families by supporting the groups with financial resources. Women empowerment is now considered as one of the major sources of growth and employment generator. The paper has evaluated the current status of two SHGs in Nawabpet village of Ranga Reddy district, Telangana. To understand their model of operations, through a personal contact and questionnaire designed to understand how SHG's operate. The paper examines effectiveness of the model to endure sustainable growth. Detailed study revealed that people are very much interested with group formation but not satisfied with the functioning of the SHGs due to lack of awareness among members. Many of them can no longer sustain themselves through agriculture because of the erratic monsoons, which ruin crops and the inability to repay loans. There is a great need for a viable model of SHG which can empower and provide members with gainful avenues to grow and look after their families. This paper identifies and suggests the method by which policy makers and government attempt to reduce the barriers and make systems more effective in addressing the expectations of the members. Findings suggest importance of organising the members for sustainable livelihoods based on financial literacy, skill development, entrepreneurship exposure, market analysis, infrastructure and institutional support.

Keywords: empowerment, sustainability, SHG, viable model.

Short bio: Neeli Deepa is Assistant Professor, Department of Economics, Loyola Academy Degree and P.G. College. She has been engaged in teaching and research for the last 10 years. She has also been awarded the (ICSSR), Fellowship for completion of her PhD on 'Role of Infrastructure in Development', which she successfully completed in 2008.

A Comparative Study between UK and Sri Lanka on Social Work Practice in Mental Health

Lakshika Liyanage

Head of the Department of Social Sciences of the General Sir John Kotelawala Defence University, Rathmalana, Sri Lanka

Abstract: This research attempts to identify social work practice in mental health settings in the UK and in Sri Lanka (SL) with the aim of identifying the best community based mental health social work practice. UK has a deinstitutionalized mental health system whereas in SL, mental health services are mainly institutionalized. Data were collected from an ethnographic study conducted with two Community Mental Health Teams (CMHTs) in the UK and a qualitative study in SL with the National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH). Research findings reveal a number of differences in the practice of social work in mental health sector in the two countries. These differences are mainly due to the mental health policies and legislation adopted by the respective countries. A more community based system is effectively functioning in the UK whereas in SL, it is more institutional based. In both countries social workers face tremendous tension in their roles and the common identified issues include medical dominance, poor salary, over load of work, status in the multidisciplinary teams and stigma attached to the social work profession. Unique problems to SL include the recruitment procedure of PSWs including their educational qualifications, work facilities and awareness for the profession. Heavy amount of paper work has become a major issue for both MHSWs and AMHPs in the UK. SL as a developing country, who is in the process of changing her mental health policy has to learn many things from the well-established multidisciplinary mental health system in the UK. UK could also look at the strong societal supportive system available in SL in providing community based support to service users.

Keywords: Mental Health Social Work, Psychiatric Social Work, Community Mental Health, Care Coordinator, Approved Mental Health Practitioner

Short bio: Dr Lakshika Liyanage is a senior lecturer, currently working as the Head of the Department of Social Sciences of the General Sir John Kotelawala Defence University in Sri Lanka. She has more than 12 years of experience in teaching and supervising social work students at both undergraduate and post graduate levels. Her research interests include mental health social work and strengths based practice in social work.

Promoting social and economic enterprise hand in hand is the need of hour

Anil K. Singh

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Abstract: Social development and entrepreneurship must be built on basic existing norms and ethics of people. A holistic approach must be determined in order to realize the entitlements of

beneficiaries more effectively and to create a more sustainable path to social and economic development. The development of women-owned organizations is an indispensable strategy for strengthening the position of poor women; by increasing their achievements, promoting their priorities, assuring their entitlements, and securing their inclusion, organization and above all, their sense of self-respect and dignity. Capitalizing on existing resources, including government agencies and leadership at the community level is essential in developing responsible, cohesive interventions. A Self Help Group with dominant initiative of credit and saving may be designed very well & aim at mainstreaming women, but in practice it may not necessarily succeed. Such intervention, if limited to just Forming Women Credit Groups & credit for consumption, may not help women to become the mainstream partners. The practice of Women SHG may still keep women within marginalized development. It has already been realized that information alone does not usher an empowerment process of a human being and similarly credit alone does not facilitate the sustainability and growth of Economic Activities. Generating need based interest amongst the potential members of communities, be they Women Credit and other Groups, Innovative way of Market let Prototype products out of Skill Upgradation and professional designers, Entrepreneurship Training and Exposure and Capacity Building, gender sensitization are felt to be indispensable for creating sustainable economic development.

Keywords: Entrepreneurship, entitlements, inclusion, dignity, SHG, women

Short bio: Anil K. Singh, A Social Entrepreneur, is a lifetime member of the Ashoka Global Fellowship Program and is a Fellow of the UK based initiative ‘Management In Development’ (MIND). He is also recipient of the “Best Citizen of India” award in recognition of his outstanding performance in the social sector. He is still restless as he plans to go many more miles towards fulfillment of the needs of the poor and deprived sections.

“I want to see a new Sri Lanka with no war, no fight, no bombs. A good Sri Lanka”:

Repatriation and Sri Lankan Tamil refugees in India

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Abstract: Following the end of the Sri Lankan civil war in 2009, Sri Lankan Tamil refugees in India are being expected to repatriate to their home country. Although voluntary repatriation has long been seen as the most effective and durable response to forced displacement, it can only be carried out by obtaining informed consent from refugees. This study examined Tamil refugees’ readiness for repatriation to Sri Lanka, and the challenges related to repatriation, and to conceptualize strategies for successful repatriation. Researchers used in-depth, semi-structured

questions to interview 15 participants from the different refugee camps across the State of Tamil Nadu, India at the Organization for Eelam Refugee Rehabilitation (OfERR), between June and August, 2013. Many participants, especially the older generation, consider repatriation if they have clarity in Sri Lanka's repatriation efforts. Lack of community resources and infrastructures for livelihood are the main challenges that prevent them to repatriate to Sri Lanka. As a most efficient strategy, creating transparency between Indian and Sri Lankan Governments could close policy gaps and speed up the repatriation efforts. On a practical level, Sri Lanka's apprehension to build resources and infrastructures may be costly; but, this study emphasized that the repatriation investment yields more lasting results by avoiding many of the direct and indirect costs of poverty, and by rising Tamil community resiliency to build a better future for Sri Lanka. Any enhanced effort to restore the trust between Sri Lanka and Tamils is vital for a successful repatriation of Tamil refugees to Sri Lanka.

Poster Presentations

Community - Empowerment

International conference

and

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Coping, Resilience

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14 - 16 December 2014

CSR: An emerging PPP tool of Community Empowerment

Vijendra Gadve

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Empowerment in simple words is process which enables to gain power, authority and influence over institution or society. When we talk about Community Empowerment, it directly or indirectly connects to social empowerment. Corporate Social Responsibility Policy Rules 2014 are enacted by the Ministry of Corporate Affairs Govt. of India. The proper implementation of the same may lead towards Community Development. The poster presentation attempts to portray the components of empowerment in present context and areas of intervention through CSR i.e. Economic Empowerment, Political Empowerment, and Social Empowerment. Analysis of CSR as a tool of community empowerment also examines the historical phases and intervention strategies adopted by corporates in their CSR activity. It also discusses how Corporate organization can draw sustainable strategies as a Corporate Citizen through Co-operation and Collaboration PPP model (Public Private Partnership of Corporate, Government and Non Government Organization) which shall have community empowerment as a shared vision of the all jointly working organizations in order to bridge the gap of inequalities and also to strengthen the individuals, families, communities & societies and thereby a strong Nation. This active participatory approach will not only lead towards empowerment and social accountability but we can say that we have understood and followed the path of “Trusty-Ship” shown by Late Shri Mahatma Gandhi, in true sense. It also discusses the barriers to empowerment and Social Security which is a challenging issue to be addressed in this competitive and globalised world.

Role of community mobilisation for arresting IMR – A case study Chenchu primitive tribal group

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Abstract: Status of Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PTGs) may be taken as the litmus test of the relevance and efficacy of developmental programmes and governance. Some tribal communities as small as 2074 (Thoti), 49,232 Chenchus and 83096 Konda Reddi in the state. Chenchus of Nallamala forest were declared a Primitive Tribal Group in 1975 owing to declining or stagnant population, low level of literacy, and pre –agricultural level of technology. The average population of a Chenchu village varied between 63 and 240 persons according to 2001 Census. Chenchu tribe of Nallamala forest was facing the challenge of a high infant mortality rate (IMR) that put the tribe on danger zone of extinction. The comprehensive study recording 14 infant deaths in 225 deliveries from January to December 2013 in 30 Chenchu gudems of

Prakasam district compared to previous year's ten infant deaths among the 80 deliveries. Three years work by Banjara Development Society (BDS), a NGO, has proved to be making wonders in arresting the age old high IMR and registering remarkable improvement in institutional deliveries, immunization and dietary practices through kitchen gardens contributing to a significant decline in infant mortality. Simple strategy of motivating the Chenchu women to opt for hospitals for safe delivery and close monitoring of health parameters of pregnant women made miraculous changes. Community mobilisation among the Chenchu women on health behaviour is not an easy task because they live in remote pockets of the forest and are scattered some times 10 to 40 kms from the road. The paper documents the low cost high impact interventions of the NGO.

Keywords: Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups, Chenchu, IMR, institutional deliveries, counselling, healthcare

Short bio: Dr Dharani is pursuing MD (Dermatology) and volunteers for community health interventions.

SHG Women's Awareness on the Problems and Issues of Children in Difficult Circumstances

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Abstract: There are situations where children are in difficult circumstances as they are vulnerable, powerless, helpless and exposed to different types of abuse. Such children have been neglected and there is lack of awareness on the problems and issues of children among public in general and SHG women's group in particular. The present study aimed at understanding the SHG women's awareness on the problems and issues of children in difficult circumstances such as abused children, children on the street, child trafficking, juvenile in conflict with law, child labourers, destitutes, orphans, neglected, institutionalized children, female infanticide, and child marriage. A total of 100 respondents from ten SHGs in Mysore were selected. Individual interviews were conducted for all the SHG members to collect their opinion and focus group discussion was done after the individual interviews to collect the group opinion on the problems and issues of children in difficult circumstances. Descriptive research design was adopted to describe the problems and issues of children in difficult circumstances. The result revealed that majority of the women SHG members were aware of the problems, issues of children and less number of respondents were aware of the services which are available for the children in difficult circumstances.

Keywords: Children, Difficult circumstances, SHG Women, Neglect.

Short bio: M. C. Sandhyarani is a Research scholar pursuing PhD in Social Work, University of Mysore, Karnataka. She also taught social work at PG level as Guest Lecturer at Department of Social Work, Kuvempu University and as Assistant Professor at DOS in Social Work, Pooja Bhagavat Mahajana Memorial PG Centre, Mysore.

A Study on girl child parents' perception regarding safe schools in Bangalore city

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Abstract: This paper explores the safety of girl children in schools of Bangalore. Primary and secondary education in Bangalore is offered by various schools which are affiliated to one of the boards of education. Schools in Bangalore are either government run or are private (both aided and un-aided by the government). Bangalore has a significant number of International schools due to expats and IT crowd. Education is a human right and a powerful tool of empowerment, and schools are important spaces in which to build respectful relationships between boys and girls. However, girls all over the world face violence and intimidation in, around, and on their way to and from school. Girl children experience violence at the hands of fellow students, teachers, school administrators and others. According to recent polls, citizens identified school safety as the most important problem facing the Bangalore schools. The present study is exploring the girl child parent's perception regarding safe schools in Bangalore city.

Arresting Juvenile Sex Ratio - A Case Study of Child Protection among Internally Displaced Population in India

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Abstract: Declining juvenile sex ratio in India with 914 females against 1000 males (Census 2011) is a grave concern. The problem of demographic imbalance is more serious among certain social groups and internally displaced population (IDP). Present study attempts to explore

reasons for low juvenile sex ratio (900 girls per 1000 boys) among the Gotti Koya tribe, comprising 16,000 population including 4000 children, who migrated from Dantewada district of Chhattisgarh state to Khammam district of Andhra Pradesh. Children among the IDPs are the worst affected. Forced displacement, loss of livelihoods and source of survival poses serious threats to very survival. Paper shares experiences of child protection measures to improve the nutritional status of children in IDP settlements through Community Management of Acute Malnutrition. The paper discusses evidence based learnings to address issues of child survival and demographic imbalances. Varied interventions and their outcomes among 1880 children in 50 IDP settlements explain what works well in improving health seeking behaviour and infant & young child feeding practices to arrest malnutrition, infant mortality and girl child discrimination.

Keywords: child protection, internally displaced population (IDP), child survival, Gotti Koya, sex ratio, acute malnutrition

Conflict Resolution through Inclusive Governance: A Focus on the Rural Livelihood Project in the State of Rajasthan

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Abstract: This paper examines the possibilities of conflict resolution through inclusive governance by ways of minimizing resistance from policy implementers and maximizing the same from the prospective beneficiaries. In this vein, it critically analyses the nature of conflict involved in the implementation process of public policies such as those concerned with rural livelihoods. In so doing, the paper focuses on the Rajasthan Rural Livelihoods Project (RRLP). The RRLP is an ambitious project aimed at empowerment of poor and marginalized sections of society including women in the rural areas of Rajasthan by maximizing the scope of economic opportunities in order to minimize the gap between the rich and the poor. The paper highlights the existing ways of neutralizing resistance that lead to conflict resolution in order to eliminate the problem of governance failure at the level of policy implementation. It does so by examining the aims, objectives, conflict of interest, and the challenges involved in implementing the RRLP. The objective of this paper is to expand the notion of inclusive governance by relating it to the role of resistance from policy implementers and the prospective beneficiaries as a tool of conflict resolution in the policy processes and practices at various levels of governance. The paper is based on online and offline archival sources.

Keywords: Conflict Resolution, Inclusive Governance, Resistance

A study on Rural Extension services for empowering village community through the prism of Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore

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Abstract: This paper highlights how Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore's experiences of rural reconstruction in pre-independence era in Birbhum district provide a landmark for the present community development programmes and reestablishment of village community life (Bolpur-Sriniketan Block and Illambazar block under Birbhum district of West Bengal). Rabindranath Tagore made pioneering efforts before Indian independence in the field of rural development, which started at Silaidaha, now in Bangladesh and took proper shape at Sriniketan, the poet's laboratory for his work in relation to village upliftment. He used the term "Rural Reconstruction" instead of rural development. He have wanted "to bring back life in its completeness into the villages, making them self-reliant and self respectful, acquainted with the natural tradition of their own country and competent to make an efficient use of modern resources for improvement of their physical, intellectual and economic condition." The poet initiated rural reconstruction programme at Sriniketan in 1922 which include development of agriculture, animal husbandry, education, health and sanitation; rural crafts and industries. To regenerate village life and cultivate the spirit of self-reliance, co-operatives and other organizations have been formed in two-dozen villages surrounding Sriniketan and Santiniketan.

Keywords: Rural reconstruction, Birbhum, Rabindranath Tagore, women empowerment, atma-shakti.

HIV & AIDS / STI among Tribal Communities of Khammam District, Telangana: A Few Learnings

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Abstract: Tribal communities are highly vulnerable owing to poverty, poor nutrition and lack of access to healthcare. There is a need to start mainstreaming efforts so that the spread of HIV can be arrested and the associated stigma and discrimination could be minimized. Inaccessibility to services, ignorance of personal hygiene; lack of awareness about RTIs/STIs among tribal women has increased their risk & vulnerability. The sanskritisation process has augmented their risk and vulnerability to HIV. In the absence of any scientific data on incidence and prevalence of HIV/AIDS and STI among the tribal communities, there are misconceptions of the tribal health practices, Sex among tribal communities is assumed to include multi partner sex, as well as casual unprotected sexual practices, because the tribal women are traditionally

independent. Any efforts, by the government and civil society, aimed at arresting HIV/AIDS and STIs need information about ground realities of incidence of HIV and STI among tribal communities. The Avahan (health awareness program) initiatives in Khammam district have provided them access to healthcare services. The intervention has enabled effective communication on HIV & STI, established clinics and provided treatment through qualified doctors. iNGOs have become catalysts to create organic linkages between the tribal communities and service providers. All traditional healers should be trained in influencing the tribes to better manage STI/RTIs and ICTC referrals. More emphasis should be laid on creating awareness among tribal adolescents through special outreach programs.

Keywords: Behavioral change communication, Tribal communities, HIV, STI, Sanskritisation

Short Bio: I have completed my Master's degree in Social Work (MSW) from Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS-1999) and MA Political Sciences from University of Hyderabad (1997). Past 15 years service in the social development sector involved Project Appraisal, Evaluation, Impact Analysis, Resource Planning and Deployment, Project Estimation, Scheduling, Tracking and Implementation in the areas of Public Health, Child Rights, CSR and Disaster Management.

Community intervention: Innovation in learning practices

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Abstract: Social work is an empowering and enabling profession guided by the human rights and service needs of the individuals, families, organizations and communities. Social work practicum intends to achieve dual outcome in terms of student learning on the one hand and empowerment of individuals, groups, families, organizations and communities on the other. Learning by doing, service learning and action learning are thus integral part of the social work learning process. In this connection, the Schools of Social Work across the country and globe have professional mandate to initiate need-based and strength-based social work practices in the social (field) laboratory. The primary aim of the paper is to share and disseminate the innovative learning practices introduced in field practicum in order to authenticate scientific social work practice. Department of Social Work adopted rural and urban communities and introduced community intervention model. The model has four dimensional framework – theoretical framework, development framework, methodological framework and action framework. The theoretical framework enables the students with social work knowledge appropriated to the need-based plan; development framework guides the students to understand the essence of macro-domain in terms of policies, legislations, constitutional provisions and programmes related to the issues; methodological framework sets the theoretical framework of the issue into the research process; and action framework guides the students to design, introduce, evaluate and validate the community intervention to deal with the community issues. The

community intervention model claims that the Schools of Social Work through the scientific social work practice in terms of appropriating social work knowledge to the field situations and reciprocal learning process empower the students and build strengths of the communities.

Community empowerment to ensure right to education of children of a Denotified tribe

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Abstract: Right to education, a constitutional guarantee to every child of India, is faced with several challenges. Rural poor, especially those belong to scheduled tribes and denotified tribes in India are excluded from schools and those enrolled into schools do not complete elementary school. This paper attempts to document interventions of civil society to strengthen the marginalized communities to access the right to education. The paper presents community mobilization processes of an NGO engaged in promoting education among Gangireddula community, a denotified tribe in Medak district of Telangana, India. Gangireddula people are poor and nomads, who are for more than half of the calendar year spend traveling to seek alms. Efforts at motivating households and communities to demonstrate the aspirations of the marginalized communities to enjoy right to education, are discussed in the paper to identify factors that empower the communities that remained away from “temples of learning” for generations. The paper describes the community empowerment processes through self help approach that were successful in converting 25 single teacher non -formal educational centres into formal Govt schools over a span of few years. The paper presents a case study of a Gangireddula village comprising 35 households in Medak district which is one of the most backward districts of India. How over the years villages of tribal villages became literate is narrated through case study of village, highlighting best practices of community mobilization to ensure the excluded communities access the right to free and compulsory education.

Keywords: Denotified tribes, nomadic tribe, universalisation of elementary education, NGOs, resilience, Gangireddula

Short bio: A practicing lawyer and member of Juvenile Justice Board, Nizamabad. She is associated with civil societies engaged in community empowerment for child rights.

Community empowerment and Protection of Human Rights

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Abstract: Human rights are the special rights enjoyed by every individual as a human being. Today, in the era of globalisation where we consider ourselves to be a part of global village

these rights plays a very crucial role. For example Right to life, a right which if not universally accepted then the existence of the person would become a big challenge. World is redefined as global village, because people today have not only mentally accepted but also have admitted, due to technological advancement that, there are no boundaries in between the place of their birth and place of their work, although there exist large physical boundaries. This kind of unified feeling has helped them a lot to groom in an unknown nation and has also encouraged people to fight for their rights. Today in the era of *rights* where almost every individual is fighting for these human rights, human rights have become synonym of the life of people. If the rights are recognised and respected then a person lives a dignified life. The paper attempts to explore the flip side of the coin where if the rights which individually protected are the strong tool in the existence of the people if, protected by a community will be of more importance and credence and if yes then up to what extent community can help in recognising and protecting the rights of individuals.

Keywords: Human rights, community empowerment, law, civil society, advocacy

Short bio: Dr. Anjali Thanvi is Assistant Professor, Faculty of Law, National Law University, Jodhpur (Rajasthan). Anjali studied LL.B. and LL.M.in Human Rights from Jai Narain Vyas University, Jodhpur. Her doctoral research is on Socio-legal aspects of National Rural Employment Guarantee Act. Her research areas include human rights, gender, surrogacy, trafficking, and international law.

Child Care Institution and Protection of Childhood: Case studies from Sambalpur

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Abstract: Children can be defined as excluded only by considering their circumstances relative to those of others. There are sections in children population who are deprived from their families. These are destitute children, children without legal parents, children who have lost their parents due to various reasons, etc. If we compare these children with other children who have the privilege of normal life of staying under the umbrella of family, without parental care and democratic space in the society these children are in verge of losing their childhood, which in turn make them marginalized from the mainstream society. For protecting these children, Child Care Institution (CCI) has evolved as alternative care. Are CCIs an alternative solution for the protection of destitute? Under this research question, the study was conducted in three Child Care Institutions, recognized by Government in Sambalpur district of Western Odisha. Study was conducted in these CCI by taking random samples from the institutions. This paper analyses the adjustment pattern of the children in the institutionalized care along with their coping strategies. It tries to find out the children's perspective on the experiences of living in the child care institutions and also discusses about whether adoption can be an alternative for a better

life for these children. Though children living in these institutions with care and protection but they lack parental affection. This paper also analyses the adoption as a strategy to protect this right, so that every child can get a secured childhood.

Keywords: child care institutions, coping, child protection, adoption

Perceptions of the community on involvement of self-help groups (SHG) in the TB control programme – A Qualitative study from Thiruvallur District, South India

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Abstract: Tuberculosis remains a major public health problem in India; lack of public awareness coupled with limited involvement and engagement of community has been identified as challenges impeding progress towards TB control. Involving local institutions such as Self Help Groups from the community could have an impact on TB control. This study was part of a larger experimental study to find out an effective TB sensitization programme among SHGs. This study was done to ascertain the feasibility and acceptability of SHG's in TB control activities as part of community engagement which is crucial. The qualitative component which was derived from the open ended questions using an interview guide covering 280 respondents was used. Study respondents, 70 in each group included community members, SHG representatives, district officials and health care providers. The questions covered TB control activities such as creating TB awareness, referral services of chest symptomatic and inclusion of SHGs as DOTS providers. Acceptance of SHGs as a powerful task force in TB control activities was expressed by the majority of the respondents in all the groups. The community members and health care providers especially felt that they could be utilized for promoting TB awareness and referral of chest symptomatic as they were closely linked to the community. Their usefulness as DOTS providers was largely expressed by the health care providers.

SHGs can be effectively utilized in the TB control programme as they are an accepted influential force in the community.

Communitization: Empowering Local Community – Experience of Nagaland, India

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Abstract: Communitization of Nagaland has made its own place in India & abroad Prior to “communitization”, the approaches of social institutions were top – down, without proper planning resulting in wastage of scare resources. To address this deep crisis of “under utilization” of social institutions, the concept of “Communitization” was evolved to harness the “social capital” in order to vitalize public institutions. In mid 2001, a broad concept paper on communitization was brought out in consultation with all the government departments. An ordinance was promulgated on 24th January’2002 providing legal stand for devolution of certain power and responsibilities to the community. Under the “Nagaland Communitization of Public Institutions and Services Act, 2002”, local committee was empowered to ensure proper implementation and even to apply “No work no pay” principle and the amount earned through “No work no pay” principle is considered as “grant – in – aid” for the committees, which is used to maintain and upkeep the institution. Therefore, the “Delegation of Financial and Cognate Power Rules 1964” was amended and sanctioning authority was given to local Drawing and Disbursing Officers. This paper discusses the process of communitization in Nagaland and how it has been successful in taking community into confidence while implementing any developmental program.

Levels of Women Empowerment among Members of Self-Help Groups - A Case Study of Mahabubnagar District

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Abstract: The present position of women in the society indicates the role, status and privileges enjoyed by them are not in proportion to their contribution to the development of society. A majority of the women are subject to all kinds of deprivation, ill treatment, injustice and discrimination both at home and outside. Despite introducing many constitutional measures for the welfare and upliftment programmes of women by both the Central and State governments, there has not been much improvement in the role and status of women in general, and among rural women of lower strata in particular, in terms of their socio-economic and political empowerment. In view of the above plight of the women before and after independence, much effort has been made by several reformers, leaders, government and voluntary organizations for their upliftment by spending crores of rupees to bring them into the mainstream of the society by initiating various development processes. This study is carried out to understand the phenomenon of women’s empowerment and its levels among members of Self-Help Groups in Mahabubnagar district and the factors associated with it.

A Space to Resettle, A Space for Hope: Sierra Leonean refugee women and Non-formal Education Spaces

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Abstract: Considering that in 2012-13 approximately 20,019 humanitarian entrants migrated to Australia (DIAC, 2013), many of whom are women with background of little to no formal education, there is a great need to build better understanding of how refugee women's engagements with non-formal education (NFE) spaces can affect their lives. This paper will present the findings of the author's MEd research study exploring how a small group of Sierra Leonean refugee women resettling in Sydney took part in NFE activities through the social spaces of their community group (Fuller, 2012). The research acknowledges that refugees, particularly refugee women, face complex educational, social, and personal challenges as they resettle. The women's descriptions and actions of their daily experiences provide valuable "decentred" (Mohanty, 2003) knowledge, which is immensely important for gaining understanding about the potential benefits involuntary migrants may experience through NFE activities. Adopting a postcolonial feminist lens assisted the study's methodological design of opening spaces for the voices of refugee women to talk about and explore their "experienced actualities" (Smith, 2005) of resettlement. By drawing upon the women's narratives, the study constructs knowledge based upon their embodied experiences with NFE during resettlement. The study found evidence suggesting that the women's NFE engagements opened opportunities for them to learn essential skills, develop a sense of belonging, gain hope for the future and build new, positive identities. Engaging in safe and supportive NFE spaces contributed to the women's empowerment, resulting in greater resilience and coping efforts to successfully resettle in Australian society.

Livelihood initiatives through Kudumbasree in Kerala

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Abstract: Kumbasree (KDMS), a holistic, participatory, women oriented, innovative poverty reduction approach jointly initiated by Government of Kerala and NABARD. It is implemented by community based organizations (CBOs) of poor women in co-operation with Local Self Government Institutions. The mission of Kudumbasree refers that "To eradicate absolute poverty in ten years through concerted community action under the leadership of local governments, by facilitating organisation of poor for combining self help with demand led convergence of available services and resources to tackle the multiple dimensions and manifestation of poverty

holistically”. Creating livelihood options through self help groups are one of their important objectives to achieve complete eradication of poverty in the Kerala State. This paper explains the most successful livelihood options initiated by SHG members of Kudumbasree. It will cover their detailed exploration to their initiatives, strategies and challenges. This paper will come out author’s direct experiences with Kudumbasree and its livelihood initiatives.

Keywords: SHG, Kudumbasree, safety nets, livelihoods, women empowerment

Rehabilitation Support in Long Term Mental Development of Juvenile Delinquents

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Abstract: Child development is important like development of material resources. India’s total population is 1.2 billion (2011 census), 40% comprising children. Most of them live in difficult circumstances, an estimated 12.6 million in hazardous occupations (2001 Census). Juvenile delinquents experience traumatic experiences, parental conflict and loss, physical and sexual abuse, poverty, neglect and shattering life-experiences, profoundly impacting their sense of self. According to UNICEF and WHO, the growing number of delinquents worldwide could be between 100 and 150 million. Research says that imprisonment has negative effects, leading to psychological deterioration. Involvement in drug trafficking, prostitution and slavery has grave consequences. The introduction of coping strategies, adjustment and well being of juveniles in the prison environment can be effective. The Juvenile Justice Act (2000) spells government responsible for care, protection, and development of such children. The provisions in the act apply to 2 categories of children: those in conflict with law and those considered to be in need of care and protection. Coping strategies are efforts made to master or reduce the demands created by stress (Weiten et al., 2011). They are classified as instrumental, emotion-focused, avoidant. Constructive coping methods aid healthy adaptation and adjustment to stressful situations (1982, in Weiten et al., 2011). Combination of effective rehabilitation programmes, use of community measures and adopting a developmental perspective on prevention hope to culminate in lower levels of crime (Losel, 2010). The paper aims to explore the scope of rehabilitation to provide a developmental support to juveniles with an endeavor to ensure a better future.

Keywords: child development, juvenile delinquency, prison adjustment, coping strategies.

Short bio: Deepanjana Chakraborty, has majored in psychology and French as an elective along with Diploma in Counselling and Guidance from IIS University, Jaipur (2012). She has

conducted a pilot study on Forgiveness in correlation to Personality Traits, presented paper on PsyCap in Chandigarh and Cyberfaking in Patiala. She is currently pursuing her post-graduation with specialisation in M.Sc. Forensic Psychology in Gujarat Forensic Sciences University, Gandhinagar. She further intends to work for correctional measures of Children in Conflict with Law and Children in Need of Care and Protection.

Self Promotion through Self Help Groups- A Case Study Empowered Women

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Abstract: SHG acts as the forum for members to provide space and support to each other and get income generation through micro-enterprises based on availability of resources besides motivating members to identify skills, group entrepreneurship, and involvement in marketing. Members implement many innovative ideas and train members in a variety of on- and off-farm income- generating activities for empowerment, welfare, poverty alleviation, and livelihood promotion. Many activities of SHGs expanding into many new areas necessitate studying the SHGs innovative activities and challenges in implementation. TVS motor company has CSR activities in many areas. Economic development is one of the area organizing SHGs is sub area of economic development. It includes Empowerment of women, Income Generation, Developing micro entrepreneurs. TVS-CSR promoted many SHGs in Mysore region. The study conducted at Bhaytralli, Debooru, Kembal (Nanjanagudu, Mysore District) comprised women from four trades - SHGs of chappatti making, Flower tying, Agarbatti packing, plastic wire bags making. The case study reveals that, the several problems faced by women before joining the SHGs are resolved as members of SHGs. After joining the SHGs women changed their life style as well as family. The family is partially or mostly dependent on women's work to support education of children and needs of daily life.

Keywords: Innovations, beneficiaries, Women, Self Help Groups, Resource mobilisation, CSR.

Municipal workers opinion towards public views regarding the Solid waste management practices in Bangalore city

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Abstract: The paper explores the solid waste management issues in Bangalore city. As of 2014, Bangalore is the third most populous city of India which is experiencing a huge growth in its massive population. The present population of the Bangalore city is 1, 01,78,146. (As per 2011 census Male 4,401,299 and female 4,024,671 total 84,25, 970). There are 198 wards under Bhrahath Bangalore Mahanagara Palike (BBMP). Every day Bangaloreans produce 35,000 metric tons solid waste. There are different ways and means to collect the solid waste in the city. In Bangalore city every day 16,000 Garbage Disposal workers have been paid by BBMP. At present many private agencies are also working in managing solid waste. The present study is exploring on Municipal workers opinion towards public views regarding the Solid waste management practices in Bangalore city.

Quality of life among Anganwadi workers of Mysore city

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Abstract: Anganwadi is a government sponsored child-care and mother-care center in India. It caters to children in the 0-6 years age group. They were started by the Indian government in 1975 as part of the Integrated Child Development Services program to combat child hunger and malnutrition. The World Health Organization (WHO) states health as “A state of complete physical, mental, and social well-being not merely the absence of disease . . .”. Further, WHO defines Quality of Life as an individual’s perception of their position in life in the context of the culture and value systems in which they live and in relation to their goals, expectations, standards and concerns. It is a broad ranging concept affected in a complex way by the person’s physical health, psychological state, personal beliefs, social relationships and their relationship to salient features of their environment. The paper is focused on the quality of life of women of Anganwadi workers of Mysore city as they play a critical role in nurturing the life of children from economically backward families. According to Child Development Project Officer of Mysore city (CDPO), there are 194 Anganwadi workers.

Keywords: Quality of life, Anganwadi workers,

Short bio: Dr Kusuma ML is a final year postgraduate resident in community medicine at MMC & RI. She completed her MBBS from Kempegowda Institute of Medical sciences, Bangalore. She has presented papers in state conference.

Child protection - Risk and protective factors for substance use among street children

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Abstract: The paper explored risk and protective factors for substance use among street children in India. The qualitative study comprised 7 Experts Interviews, 8 Key Informant Interviews, two Focus Group Discussions (FGD) with 9 substance using street children and two FGDs with 15 non using street children. The risk and protective factors emerging from the data are grouped and ranked according to their order of importance. The risk factors (74) and protective factors (59) identified in the study are grouped under Family factors, Peer factors, community factors, school factors, Individual or personality factors and other factors. The study revealed that wherever protective factors are substantially more, there are less risk factors and vice versa. Many factors contribute for substance use and protective factors need to be strengthened in order to make interventions effective. Parents, community, schools, service providers make significant difference in changing the lives of substance using children in general and substance using street children in particular. It is also revealed that collective action of the protective factors contributes significantly in addressing substance use among the street children.

Keywords: risk factors, protective factors, substance use, street children, child protection, child safety

Resilience building among the underprivileged youth pursuing higher education in India

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Abstract: Resilience is a term used to describe a set of qualities that foster a process of successful adaptation and transformation despite risk and adversity (Benard, 1995). Among youth only a few bright students are lucky enough to graduate from school and college. But these students face lot of challenges in adapting themselves in higher education campus. The admission of disadvantaged groups to educational and training programmes is part of the wider concern of promoting their resilience building. There are various factors that hinder their promotion in educational institutions like attitude of other students, mental hurdles, inability to balance

tradition and modernity, social factors, environment of family, communication, low academic inability etc. While resilience is a necessary attribute of the successful higher degrees students, resilience is an issue and shared responsibility for students, educators, institutions and communities alike. The educators in higher education institutes can use the “Resiliency wheel” model by Nan Henderson and play the role as agents of protective factors. Educators can create higher education institutes that are havens in which resilience can flourish. Such institutes boost the success of the youth from a under privileged class as they encounter the inevitable adversities in the campus. Providing opportunities for students to feel successful, valued, needed, empowered, and hopeful can be accomplished in ways that enrich required academic studies. This paper is all about the various factors that hinder their resilience, with a few suggestions of resilience building that higher educational institutes can train the educators to follow. With educational involvement as an indicator of resilience, this study explores the ameliorating effect of protective factors incompetence and mastery in the educational domain in the presence of risk factors.

Community Organisation and Women Empowerment through Self Help Groups; A Social Work Praxis

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Abstract: Fieldwork Training is an integral part of Social Work education anchored in the mission, goals and learning pedagogy. The present study is a model of concurrent field work training. The integrated concurrent fieldwork was initiated by the department of Social work, Walchand College of Arts and Science, Solapur. The present study highlights the work done by the Department of Social Work in ‘Pathari’ a rural community is a core of social work education so as to skills, attitude and values. The rural fieldwork centre was setup innovation in fieldwork training. The department of social work with humble efforts fascinated the integration of theory and practice imbibed with knowledge, skill, attitude and values into the social work trainee. The Pathari village provided space for social work students. The interaction of students from social work with the villager community generates some processes within the community that became sustainable brought in a level of empowerment in women.

Keywords: community organisation, Self Help Group, Social Work Praxis.

Collective Action for Protection and Preservation of Urban Lakes- Case Study of Save Our Urban Lakes

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Abstract: Hyderabad is known as ‘city of lakes’. There were about 3000 lakes in Hyderabad Metropolitan Region. Many of them are part of networks of lakes created in the 16th and 17th centuries. Due to rapid urbanization that took place during the last few decades, many lakes were damaged and destroyed. Lakes and water bodies play an important role in environmental preservation and maintaining ecological balance. They also serve as lung spaces, attract tourists. The urban lakes are constantly being subjected to the violations like obstruction of inflow and outflow channels, dumping of debris and waste material, encroachment, polluting water by letting sewage and industrial effluents, immersion of idols. The state government is also taking protective steps towards protection and conservation of lakes. All the lakes are being identified and listed with unique ID. Measures are also underway to fix the FTL boundaries and to prepare the lake maps for all lakes in Hyderabad city. Civil Societies play a very important role to circumvent the deteriorating condition of urban lakes and contribute towards protection and preservation of lakes. My paper discusses how several urban lakes disappeared, the process of protecting the lakes by Save Our Urban Lakes (SOUL) a voluntary organization, and the role of other civil societies at appropriate levels in sensitizing and mobilizing community, networking with different stakeholders.

Keywords: environment protection, NGOs, Hyderabad, lakes, advocacy, conservation

Prevalence of anemia among of dalit women in Tumkur city

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Abstract: Anemia is a greatest health problem in the age group of 14 to 50 age women in developing countries despite several initiatives as part of Millennium Development Goals focused on eradication of anemia. The present aim of the study was to determine the anemia and associated risk factors among Dalit women between the age group of 14 to 40. Descriptive research method and purposive sampling method has been applied. The researcher has been

adopted percentage prevalence statistical analysis. In this study researcher found women are having higher risk of being malnourished and this kind of risk increases at age of 14 to 40. While the overall prevalence of anemia among the Dalit women still high the rates of severe anemia are almost non-existent. A large proportion of anemia can be attributed to iron deficiency. The study recommends there is a need for comprehensive strategy for the prevention and control of anemia.

Keywords: Anemia, Dalit, Iron deficiency, health care

Motivational factors in upliftment of Marginalized FSWs – Role of CBOs

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Abstract: This paper examines whether motivational empowerment can mitigate biases in self-perception that are often imposed by social exclusion and stigma. Violence against female sex workers must be understood in the context of widespread violence against women. In this process, female sex workers (FSWs) community was created by the community based organizations (CBOs) who in turn mobilized its members for organization and developing an association to address the issue at the larger level. Two CBOs are taken for this study namely Chaitanya Mahila Sangam and Mahila Abhyudaya Sangam. Using case studies and field experiment, we study the impact of a motivation of belongingness and accountability among female sex workers by CBOs that raise self-esteem and build a stronger sense of “agency” among a highly stigmatized group: sex workers in Hyderabad. We find positive and significant impact of motivational drive on self-reported measures of agency, happiness and self-esteem. We also find evidence of higher effort towards improving future outcomes as measured by savings choices and health-seeking behavior. The present study design and findings enable us to rule out several social and cultural stigmas which hinder the social empowerment of female sex workers in Indian community. We argue that our findings highlight the need to account for motivational factors of CBOs to uplift and strengthen these communities.

Keywords: Motivation, empowerment, female sex workers, CBO

Short bio: Parthugari Clement is a research scholar in the Department of Social Work from Osmania University, Hyderabad. He has done his masters in social work and also masters in special education (mental retardation) from Osmania University. He has six years of field experience in different sectors like HIV/AIDS, Special Education and Academics.

Best practices in community organisation and women empowerment through self help in Andhra Pradesh, India

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Abstract: The community Organisation formed under Indira Kranthi Padham of SERP and MEPMA play a dominant role in the community. Strong people's organisations are the building blocks of sustainability. The programmes implemented under IKP and MEPMA i.e., Institution and Human Capacity Building , SHG Bank Linkage/ Stree Nidhi, Livelihoods , Community Invest fund/ Community enhancement fund, Community collative marketing , Land purchase scheme, Dairy Development , Gender, Health, Nutrition, Disability, Social Security schemes, UWSP, USEP, UWEP etc., helped SHG members in the state for Socio-Economic development . The best practices adopted in the projects paved way for achieving the cherished goal and objectives. E.g.: Community Based training, Women centric Developments, Facilitating Bank linkage and Stree Nidhi, livelihoods, Food security, empowerment, ownership and entitlement approach, Dairy value chain, Insurance , solving Gender issues, Convergence with line departments i.e., health, Nutrition and Disability component. Women empowerment is strengthened in different spheres namely social, Economic, Cultural, Political, Differently-abled, Psychological and Tribal Empowerment.

Short bio: Eswara Phani Kumar Manepalli is a Research Scholar (Part Time) for Ph.D. in Social Work in the Department of Sociology and Social Work under the guidance of Dr. Saraswati Raju Iyer, Assistant Professor, Acharya Nagarjuna University. He has presented a project report on "Food Security to SHGs under IKP" and working as District Mission Coordinator in MEPMA, Krishna District for Social Mobilization and Intuitional Building.

Building peace through value based education

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Abstract: "Since wars begin in the minds of men, it is in the minds of men that the defenses of peace must be constructed"(UNESCO Constitution,1945).What is taught directly and indirectly at schools is critical for communicating values and norms about interacting with other people, and about inequalities and power structures in society. Knowledge is political, and what is included in and excluded from the curriculum is contentious. Educational content and practices that violate the rights of children fail to build and/or maintain peace. Authoritarian power structures and practices within education systems –such as the use of corporal punishment and passive, rote teaching methods – undermine the potential of education to build peace. Education

systems also have a vital role to play in building and maintaining peace before, during, and after armed conflict, as previous Save the Children publications have stressed (see Save the Children, 2006, 2007a). Not only can education mitigate the impact of conflict by providing safe spaces and developmental opportunities for children; it can also actively transform the roots of conflict and build peace. As Birgit Brock-Utne (1989) points out, we must understand the conditions that lead to peace in order to understand the effect education can have on producing those conditions. Brock-Utne defines the concept of education for peace as “education or socialization that results in more peace in the world or that at least has as a result the greater likelihood that peace will be the existing condition than the case would have been without that education” (Brock-Utne, 1989, p. 78; italics in original). “There is no peace without hope.” Albert Camus, *The Plague* (1947).

Community Structures for Community Development: A Strength Based Practice in India

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Abstract: Community structures are playing significant role in developing and empowering individuals, groups and various communities in the world in general in the sub-continent of India in particular. The author did gain experience and comprehend the role of community structures in developing and empowering the urban, rural and tribal communities in India. Community structures including farmers’ clubs, women groups, youth clubs, grannies’ clubs, children groups etc. were formed and strengthened in both urban and rural communities. It was proved that these community driven models were very much strength to any community. If we promote community based organizations/ community structures, it would lead to expose the strengths of various categories of people, where they will be able to address their problems. This paper seeks to explain the significance of strength based practice through forming community structures in various communities and to draw the advantages behind promoting community structures in India.

Keywords: Community Structure, Strength Based Practice, Communities, India, Development

Nutrition status of plantation women labourer in Chikmagaluru district, Karnataka state

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Abstract: Chikkamagaluru is part of the Western Ghats where Arabica coffee is cultivated in around 85,465 hectares. The labourers working in coffee plantations are predominantly women. There is scarcity of reliable information on health and nutritional status of coffee plantation women labourers. During a period of higher growth and a reasonable pace of reduction in poverty, malnutrition especially iron-deficiency anemia has increased among women from disadvantaged social and economic groups located in coffee plantation. This paper describes health problems related nutritional deficiencies among women plantation labourers in Chikmagaluru. Researchers selected four different coffee plantations randomly from four Taluks of Chikmagaluru District. Socio-demographic and lifestyle characteristics of the respondents were recorded. Health problems and nutritional status were assessed through anthropometric assessment. Percentage prevalence and Chi-square test were applied in statistical analysis. Majority of women labourers in the plantations engage in manual labour and most of them are oral tobacco users. The study revealed skin problems, respiratory infections, and tuberculosis due to exposure to due to pesticides. Major non-communicable diseases like hypertension, stroke were on the rise in the community and were associated with modifiable risk factors like alcohol and tobacco use.

Keywords: coffee plantation, labour, disease, malnutrition, occupational health

Education of Disabled and Social Inclusion: Social Policies and perspectives in India

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Abstract: Based on recent experience and good practices with disable inclusion, this paper analyzes some of the basic building blocks for social inclusion policies in India. It distinguishes 3 levels of interventions to advance social inclusion and constitutional and legal protections for group rights: a) Constitutional frameworks and national policies, b) Institutional arrangements, and c) Pro-active programs to counter specific forms of exclusion. International and national anti-discrimination laws are among the necessary instruments to fight discrimination. National policies include counting excluded groups in national statistics. The paper examines the experience of India with government ministries or offices (“national machineries”) created to promote empowerment of the disabled. It finds that “mainstreaming” the concerns of excluded groups in agencies or ministries has worked in the case of disable inclusion, but success depends on strong support from the executive branch, close alliance with non-state actors and both

cultural and political openings. Finally, the paper examines public policies in affirmative action, education to promote inclusion, with particular emphasis on visually impaired.

Keywords: social inclusion; disable inclusion; national machineries for disable; affirmative action; social policy; inclusive education

Short bio: Satya Priyanaka is a University Grants Commission Junior Research Fellow. She has studied MA Anthropology (Hyderabad Central University) and completed. M Phil dissertation on Social exclusion and inclusive policy. She is associated with volunteer services or the visually impaired students in Hyderabad.

Principles of Teaching for Successful Intelligence

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Abstract: The purpose of this study was to see importance of successful intelligence in education which can enhance achievement. There are a number of researches which have tried to apply psychological theories of education and many researches emphasized the role of thinking and intelligence. While going through the various researches, it was found that many students could learn more effectively than they do, if they were taught in a way that better matched their patterns of abilities. Attempts to apply psychological theories to education can falter on the translation of the theory into educational practice. Often, this translation is not clear. Therefore, when a program does not succeed, it is not clear whether lack of success was due to inadequacy of the theory or inadequacy of the implementation of the theory. A set of basic principles for translating a theory into practice can help clarify just what an educational implementation should (and should not) look like. Sternberg's theory of successful intelligence; analytical, creative and practical intelligence provides a way to create such a match. The results suggest that theory of successful intelligence provides successful interventions in classrooms and provides a proven model for gifted education. This article presents principles for translating a triarchic theory of successful intelligence into educational practice.

Keywords: Successful intelligence; analytical, creative and practical intelligence, achievement, success

Short bio: Dr Shabnam is a recipient of young scientist award for the year 2012 presented by Dr APJ Kalam, former President of India. She is also member of Board of Studies and Departmental Advisory Committee.

Resilience and coping mechanisms seen among people living with HIV/AIDS

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Abstract: The HIV infection is an adverse situation in which individuals may find themselves as prey to fate, prone to death and having no meaning for the rest of life. The strong stigma attached to AIDS and PLWHAs (Persons Living with HIV/AIDS) and the possible rejection and labeling in the family and the society may lead some persons to think of ending up the life rather than facing the adversities that follow the disclosure of illness. This study deals with the range of social support, both familial and other institutional, which helps the persons to trigger the strength of resilience and coping mechanisms. In so many cases stigma prevents persons from seeking care and support, and also from receiving optimum care under local conditions. The study attempts to depict HIV/AIDS as a life threatening one like many others, which necessitates the need of empathetic support and co-operative efforts from the societal institutions, rather than alienating the infected persons on the basis of causal factors of the disease. A sample (50) of them who were members of Positive Network was covered. A great majority attended support group meetings, which helped them to adopt coping mechanisms following their peer group also their resilience increased with such interaction and support from the group. Catharsis plays an important role in helping them overcome their problems.

Keywords: People living with HIV/AIDS, Resilience, Coping Mechanism, Counseling, Catharsis

Addressing Gender Inequalities through Gender Education As a Best Practice

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Abstract: The Best Practice on qualitative educational research across a diversity of low-income countries to examine the gendered inequalities in education as complex, multi-faceted and situated rather than a series of barriers to be overcome through linear input-output processes focused on isolated dimensions of quality. It argues that frameworks for thinking about educational quality often result in analyses of gender inequalities that are fragmented and incomplete. However, by considering education quality more broadly as a terrain of quality it investigates questions of educational transitions, teacher supply and community participation, and develops understandings of how education is experienced by learners and teachers in their gendered lives and their teaching practices. By taking an approach based on theories of human development the article identifies dynamics of power underpinning gender inequalities in the literature and played out in diverse contexts and influenced by social, cultural and historical

contexts. The review and discussion indicate that attaining gender equitable quality education requires recognition and understanding of the ways in which inequalities intersect and interrelate in order to seek out multi-faceted strategies that address not only different dimensions of girls' and women's lives, but understand gendered relationships and structurally entrenched inequalities between women and men, girls and boys.

Impact of MGNREGA on Rural Development- A Case Study in Community Organisation for Sustainable Livelihoods

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Abstract: Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act 2005 (MGNREGA), also known as India's work fare program, aims to provide a safety net for vulnerable groups in rural area, promote sustainable development of the agricultural economy, and empower the rural poor through right-based law. MGNREG is implemented in 247,415 villages spread over 646 districts covering 284.6 million workers across the country. Since the beginning the scheme has provided employment to around 50 million households on an average every year which is one fourth of Indian rural households. The program also benefited a large scale of under privileged groups through creation and improvement of assets that help regeneration of rural ecosystem and creation of rural infrastructure vital for sustainable livelihoods. Around 5.17 million households benefitted 100 days of wage employment in 2012-13, an average rural household received 46.2 days wage employment (<http://mnregaweb4.nic.in>) helping in arresting distress migration. Albeit several positive outcomes, the MGNREGA does not have significant effect in the long term since those employed in MGNREGA works do not learn new skills required for occupational shift within the local economy or larger labour market outside. Besides, assets created through employment guarantee works are not providing sustainable benefits as they lack community participation and ownership of the infrastructure created. Several studies indicate there are several other problems in implementation of the programme including corruption, wastage and engagement of middlemen and contractors in violation of the norms. This paper discusses the areas for improvements based on the findings of field research. It is an attempt at finding best practices that enhance accountability and social audit through participatory process involving active role of the presents Gram Panchayats.

Keywords: MGNREGA, social audit, sustainable development, gram panchayat, capacity building

Child trafficking in India- Review of empirical studies

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Abstract: Every country in the world is affected by human trafficking. Thousands of women and children are trafficked every day. Within the overall profile of trafficking in South Asia, India is a country of both transit and destination. Trafficking, or trafficking in persons, is a form of modern-day slavery and millions of people around the world; children are victims of this crime (DeStefano, 2007). Data concerning human trafficking, particularly child trafficking, is severely limited. In child welfare research suggests a lack of awareness, understanding, and training about child trafficking. There are huge issues to pull children into trafficking those: social economical and geographical issues have taken major steps these include globalization, migration, government corruption, laws, Cultural tolerance, adoption, camel racing, Forced prostitution, Socially and religiously sanctified forms of prostitution, Sex tourism, Pornography, Debt Bondage ,Work Expectations, demand for prostitution and many other issues are contributing to child sex trafficking. The most significant challenges in this issue are lack of awareness among practitioners, and the reliance on reactive identification, strategies broader community Focus on sex trafficking, Victim fear, Unmet victim needs, Negative attitudes towards human trafficking victims, Lack of awareness about human trafficking laws, Low prioritization of human trafficking prosecutions, Focus on convictable cases Promising Federal Prosecution Practices. The objective of the study is to understand and analyze the issues and challenges related to child trafficking and to suggest social work intervention in order to reduce the rate of the problem. The study has reviewed the existed literature and tried to know how best social work intervention can play its role in doing the same.

Keywords: Children, Trafficking, sexual abuse, child welfare

Promoting Inclusive and Child-Friendly Schools in India: A Case Study

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Abstract: Success of universalisation of elementary education and effective implementation of Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act (RtE), 2009 are dependent on how inclusive and child friendly the schools are. This paper discusses a model implemented by Save the Children in three districts of Andhra Pradesh, India (Adilabad, Mababubnagar and Kurnool). The model comprised a three pronged strategy to strengthen teaching – learning processes to improve the learning levels of children, encourage participation of children and

SMC in the activities in educational improvement and setup and promote libraries / reading corners in schools. The results showed adequate changes in the learning levels of the children. There was a corresponding increase in the percentage of students who have scored Moderate, Good and Excellent grades, with the largest percentages concentrated in the Good and Moderate categories. In Mahabubnagar, the percentage of slow learners has decreased from 53% of 800 students to 4.5%, while in the case of Kurnool, the percentage of slow learners among the cohort of 800 students decreased from 25.5% to 7%, and in the case of Adilabad, the percentage of slow learners decreased from 67% to 3%. In Mahabubnagar, the percentage of students receiving “Good” grades increased from 13% to a historic 87% while in Kurnool, this percentage increased from 17% to 30.8%, and in Adilabad, it increased from 7.8% to 35%. Students receiving “Moderate” grading declined from 33.5% to 7% in Mahabubnagar and from 56.3% to 50.9% in Kurnool, while the number of students moving up from “Slow” to “Moderate” increased from 17.5% to 46.8%.

Keywords: RTE, learning levels, inclusive education, pedagogy, joyful learning

Short bio: Nitin Kumar has over 15 years of experience in the development sector in the field of child rights, protection, education, disability rights, youth empowerment, and advocacy. His research interests include Child Safety, learning levels, trafficking, vulnerability mapping, and M&E. He is currently working as Programme Coordinator in Save the Children.

The predicaments of forced acceptance: Surveying the cultural transformation among tribes in Kerala

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Abstract: Forced acceptance of certain modernized ideologies and technologies are the major reasons for cultural transformation among tribes. The topic highlights the pros and cons of forced acceptance of modernization in tribes. Indigenous and tribal people have their own cultures, ways of life, traditions and customary laws, but through the history lack of respect of these cultures has lead to a social conflict. Many of the tribes with their forest-dwelling culture do not have the motivation or the skill of settled cultivation. As a result, their land has been alienated to their better endowed tribal neighbors or non-tribes. The tribes in urban areas are in neither of the two worlds fully. Many of them adopt the technology, skill of the modern world, still retaining the emotions of the tribal world and so it affect their decision making process too. They are always caught in a dilemma, between the modern world outside and their own traditions, language, social law, spirituality, occupation and taboos. Their health system and medical knowledge over ages known as the ‘Traditional Health Care System’ depend both on the herbal and the psychosomatic lines of treatment. The usage of allopathic medicine, excessive drinking habits, changing food habits are some of the triggering factors for perpetuating diseases

among them. The common beliefs, customs, traditions, values and practices connected with health and disease have been closely associated with the treatment of diseases. The positive result of cultural transformation is the acquisition of advanced skills and it results in increased productivity and income among them. In Kerala, government has taken initiatives to rehabilitate tribes in a prescribed area but they are facing certain problems to settle there, because tribal people are mostly forest dwellers.

Keywords: Tribes, Modernization, Cultural transformation, Social conflicts, Tribal resettlement, Kerala

Community Participation in Village Health & Nutrition Day: Tripura Experience of Accelerating Health Care Services in Complete Convergence Mode

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Abstract: The concept of bringing quality health care services to the rural poor has been the baseline on which National Rural Health Mission is working. Reducing Infant and Child Mortality is a key among eight Millennium Development Goals (MDG). Tripura, a tiny state in North East, is also undertaking community processes interventions for reducing IMR. In April to June 2010, 24 people including 19 infants had died in Kangrai, a very remote village under Kanchanpur Sub-Division in North Tripura District. No information filtered out of the village for three months, while the deaths were going on. This was the pivotal force to start Village Health & Nutrition Day (VHND) in complete convergence mode involving General Administration, Panchayat Raj Institution, School Teachers, other line Departments and Community. Tripura is only State in the country, where VHND is organized four times in a month in all 1038 Gram Panchayats and ADC Villages, which is showcased as Best Practices and begged Prime Minister's Award also at National Level. The Health Indicators like IMR is reduced from 29 in 2011 to 28 in 2012 and the performance of Institutional Delivery, Children breastfed within one hour and Immunization etc. improved in last four years. A demand has been generated in the rural and tribal areas for organizing regular VHND in every month. The number of complaints against Government functionaries of health and ICDS of all levels has

skyrocketed, which in itself is a positive feature, showing public is demanding service delivery.

Keywords: nutrition, Tripura, convergence, Communitization, Awareness

Short bio: Dr. Supratim Biswas, a PhD in Mass Communication from Assam Central University and MAJMC, BJMC from University of Calcutta is working as Consultant (Community Mobilization) for Regional Resource Centre for NE States under Ministry of Health & FW, Government of India. He had also worked with UN Organization, Academic and Media in different capacity. He is also a freelance author and associated with different professional bodies.

Jeeva jala – a short film

(Impact of Fluorosis in Tumkur District and response of civil society)

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Abstract: For good health, the quality of drinking water is critical. But in Karnataka, where much of groundwater sources are concentrated with fluorides and nitrates, the impact is devastating. Dental and spine-related ailments are showing up in Pavagada Taluk of Tumkur District. Ground water is the important source of drinking water in rural areas. Water is one of the most difficult substances to obtain in pure state, because of its ability to dissolve different materials. Pollution of the ground water is of great concern. Inadequate intake of fluoride causes various physiological disorders in humans. Smiles on the faces of young children have vanished as they are afflicted by dental fluorosis. The Bureau of Indian Standards' permissible limit for fluoride in drinking water is 1.5 mg/litre and for nitrates, the permissible limit is 45 mg/litre. Pavagada Taluk of Tumkur District has a fluoride concentration of more than 3 mg/litre. It is therefore, necessary that the quality of ground water should be maintained at regular intervals to observe the suitability of water as potable water. This film reports fluoride contents and its impact on people's social life of Pavagada Taluk, Tumkur district, Karnataka.

“Hausala”

– (a short film documentary produced by specially abled children)

CHAI, Secunderabad, India

The film is about Chandini, a polio victim who struggles with different situations of life. Her hard work and determination help her to win through the numerous struggles in life.

The run time if 18.34 minutes.



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