

AREAS OF SOCIAL WORK PRACTICE

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With technocratic and neo-liberal order in place, the world is changing at a faster pace. Industrialization and accompanied urbanization have led to chaos in the social order. The familial and social bonds are breaking down, and traditional support systems have collapsed. Most of the fields of activity are commercialized and many private spaces, lost. The economic and political order is frustrating the masses. Social Work is an overarching profession that has the capacity to reach out in all circumstances. The methods, strategies and techniques to deal with the life-altering situation at the individual, group and community level are already in place. Guided by its values and ethics, the profession has made itself relevant to emerging socio-economic, political and cultural issues. Each such issue needed an individual consideration, and hence, different areas of Social Work practice emerged. Eighteen papers included in this volume study the most pressing issues: health, education, children and families, tribal, urban, industry, refugees, livelihood, and spirituality. The volume intends to serve the interests of Social Work students, academicians, researchers and practitioners.

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SCHOOL SOCIAL WORK

School Social Work

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HUMAN BEINGS are born and destined to reach their highest potential and humanity for which institutions indeed play an important role. The most profound influencing institutions are the family and the school. These social institutions significantly contribute in developing, shaping, reshaping and strengthening the cognitive ability and behaviour of a child. It is argued that socialization continues from cradle to grave passing through a number of stages and institutions from family to the neighbourhood, to the school, and to the place of employment. To this, Robinson (1978) and Gandhi (1990) rightly noted that socialization is the process of training the human beings for social participation which can be achieved through a number of socialization agents, of which family and school stand out at the top. After a family, the school apart from a learning institution, lays down the foundation for future and induces social awakening in a child. Robinson (1978) also argued that "school should undo developmental deficiencies in children caused by the familial factors".

In the light of the historical delineation and achieved milestones of social work practice, professional quest, body of knowledge and practice settings social work has emerged as a multifaceted profession. Its intervention with the individuals, groups, communities, schools and school settings is well known to the world since its beginning. With the beginning of the social work services in schools in the year 1906-07 in the New York City school social work took its first breath. The idea of intervention in schools by social workers has developed and become integral to the social work with changing process of education from bi-polar to the tri-polar.