Book Review: Social Work education in countries of the East: Issues and Challenges

This book is a contribution of 33 prominent professors of Social Work from all over the world. It consists upon 33 chapters and 20 are related to Pakistan with a large amount of knowledge. It is edited by Dr. Selwyn Stanley, department of Social Work, School of Psycho-Social Science, University of Ply moth, United Kingdom. It is published by Nova Science Publishers, Inc. New York, in 2011. The profession of Social Work has taken roots as one that enables people to deal with various complex circumstances. The ultimate goal is to usher a better quality of life and promote Psycho-Social functioning of people and their environment by an improved social order. Social Work education is hence the crucible where one's professional repertoire is molded and the professional acquires knowledge, skills and attitudes are so vital for effective and ethical practice according to the local socio-cultural values and norms of the area. This requires proper social work training to meet the challenges of the 21st century.

This book "Social Work education in Countries of the East: Issues and Challenges" provides a flavor of social work from the 33 countries of the East and some other countries. The main focus of the book is to give the readers particularly to those who are associated with the social work professional organizations. It gives an overview of local issues, historical background of the countries, policies, programmes, current trends and challenges. The book also examines the way that social work education occurs within the religious, cultural and governmental systems those are functioning in that country. Some common concerns in terms of resources, lack of regulatory bodies, lack of political commitments, appropriate supervision in placement of agencies and issues related to the role Clarity, status and recognition of the respective countries are discussed in the book. It also presents a scenario of optimism and of conscious efforts to maintain and improve academic standards and placement experiences for students. The contributors of the book have discussed lobbying and advocacy strategies with government bodies and social work education in local socio-cultural development. Chapter 20 is regarding development of social welfare and social work in Pakistan, written by Dr. Gheyas Uddin Siddiqui. This chapter is consist on historical background of Pakistan, people and population, major characteristics of the population of Pakistan, concept of social welfare in Islam and all important Islamic institutions are highlighted. After independence the development of social welfare institutions and their programmes, the importance and steps taken for social work education are also discussed. The challenges for social work development in Pakistan, such as over population, poverty, illiteracy, corruption, drug abuse, terrorism, problems of national integration, women rights and social empowerment, the universal declaration of human rights are also discussed in this chapter. To meet these challenges, trained and skilled professional social workers are required. The development of social work education, professional training and teaching of social work in universities and professional Social Workers Associations are also discussed.

The book under discussion provides an over view about social work education and development in 33 countries of the world. Those are America, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Cambodia, China, Cyprus, Chavchavades, England, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Israel, Japan, Kazakhstan, Korea,

Lebanon, Malaysia, Nepal, Pakistan, Palestine, Philippines, Qatar, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Taiwan, Turkey, UAE, Uzbekistan and Vietnam. This is first book which is given very fruitful information regarding history of social welfare programmes of these countries. It may be useful for the students of the social work, educators associated with the social work organizations, planners, policy makers and general readers. The abstract of the book can be watched on Nova's website at http://www.novapublishers.com

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