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KAPS

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CONTENTS

Editorial	3
<i>Sonny Jose</i>	
Articles	
Burnout, Secondary trauma and Vicarious Traumatization: Reframing the cost of caring	6
<i>Anithamol Babu and Sonny Jose</i>	
Construction workers and social security	21
<i>Rohit Bharti and Sanjai Bhatt</i>	
Impact of Disaster 'YAAS': A case study of the coastal areas in Odisha	37
<i>Kheyali Roy and Shaurya Prakash</i>	
Parenting and Family Adjustment: A study among working women with children	47
<i>John Aloysius, Anithamol Babu and Akhil P Joseph</i>	
'Kinky' life : A phenomenological study	59
<i>Sheethal Mariam John* and Saji J. S.J.</i>	

Editorial

This issue of Empower features an eclectic mix of research articles generated from aspiring social work trainees, young professionals, research scholars, academicians of social work and the doyens in Indian Social Work education and practice as eminent as Prof. Sanjay Bhatt. The themes speak for our eclecticism and multi-disciplinarity typical of our profession.

Social and care workers, and especially those in health are at particular risk for burnout. This may negatively impact on the personal front by way of substance abuse, broken relationships and even suicide; it also manifests in terms of professional consequences such as lower patient satisfaction, lowered quality of care, negligence or errors in care, ending up in medico-legal issues with substantial costs for caregivers and service providers (NGOs, Hospitals). The first article titled Burnout, Secondary Trauma and Vicarious Traumatization: Reframing the Cost of Caring, authored by Anithamol Babu and Sonny Jose Chennattusseri gains relevance in the Covid-19 scenario, with the secondary trauma and burnout being commonly observed phenomena among professional caregivers - nursing, doctors and social work - owing to extended caregiving practices and very limited self-care. It exposes the mental health challenges encountered by care professionals.

The second article titled “Construction Workers and Social Security: A Study in Delhi,” authored by Rohit Bharti and Prof. Sanjai Bhatt, details on social security measures in the construction industry by exploring the various welfare measures for workers in the construction industry, perhaps one of the most hazardous industries populated by the most vulnerable segments consisting of interstate migrant workers, mostly supplied by exploitative labour contractors in National Capital Territory (NCT) of Delhi.

The third article titled “Parenting and Family Adjustment among Married Working Women” authored by John Aloysius, Anithamol Babu, Akhil P. Joseph on family adjustment espouses on transitions in families and the challenges in work-life balance experienced, especially among married, working women. The study shows empirically that married working women adjusted better by way of parental consistency among other variables, in striking a better work-life balance. The study is very interesting in the present social situation where more women are engaged in working and more adjustments required are in the family

The penultimate article titled Impact of Disaster ‘YAAS’: A Case Study of the Coastal Odisha, authored by Shaurya Prakash and Kheyali Roy explores the challenges - physical and socioeconomic - in the wake of the Yaas Cyclone in May 2021. The study highlights the loss to households, crops and agriculture, infrastructure and business and the need for communities to organise to become more resilient in the face the constant onslaught of natural disasters, in this case cyclones along Coastal Odisha.

The final article titled Living the Kink is a post-graduate research study selected for “Best Dissertation Award” by KAPS is authored by Ms. Sheethal Mariam John and her mentor Saji J. The article highlights the nuances about a least explored phenomena of kink sexual practices deemed to be highly therapeutic yet taboo. This study explores deep into the world of sexual minorities and their aspirations and highlights on the importance of sex education especially the dire need for education on kinksters as a sexual minority.

We from the Board of Editors hope that the academia and practitioners read through the same to appreciate the breadth and possibilities in social work and social research, and engage in creating a body of knowledge. Letting out a clarion call to all of you professionals to contribute as promised in our allegiance to the profession and abidance of our code of ethics.

Sonny Jose Ph.D.

Editor