

Book Review: Field Instruction in Social Work Education . The Indian Experience.

K.Anuradha, Professor, Department of Social Work, Sri Padmavati Mahila Visvavidyalayam, Tirupati, Andhra Pradesh, India

Editors : Roshni Nair, Srilatha Juvva and Vimla Nadkarni. (2000, Routledge, India)

Introduction

This book is a valuable contribution to the discourse on fieldwork, a cornerstone of social work education. Comprising chapters authored by senior social work educators in India, it blends theoretical insights with practical illustrations to examine the current state and future trajectory of field instruction. Thematic organization allows the book to address pedagogical, ethical, and practice-oriented challenges in field education, contextualized to Indian realities.

Highlights from the chapters

○ **Core Values in Social Work**

Lata Narayan in the opening chapter introduces the *Samgrata* framework, which emphasizes compassion, social justice, and respect for life. It elaborates on the practice and internalization of these values during fieldwork.

○ **Coordinating Fieldwork**

○ **Nagamani Rao** underscores the importance of aligning key elements—trainees, supervisors, agency contexts, and learning opportunities—for effective field education.

○ **Pamela Singla** shares her experiences coordinating fieldwork at the University of Delhi, advocating for stakeholder networking as a nurturing activity.

○ **Neelam Sukhramani** frames supervision as a process of emotional and professional grooming, emphasizing mentorship and self-awareness over mere vigilance.

○ **Theory and Practice Integration**

○ **Sandra Joseph** highlights the necessity of applying theory contextually in social work interventions. Using the *MahalirThittam* project in Tamil Nadu as a case study, she demonstrates how theory empowers practice.

- **Recording and Documentation**
 - **Mohua Nigudkar** explores the purpose and significance of fieldwork recording, moving beyond the written word to foster reflective practice.
- **Supervision through Conferences**
 - **Kalyani Talvekar** details supervision via conferences, presenting transcripts of individual and group discussions while addressing associated dilemmas and challenges.
- **Innovative Models**
 - **Kaivalya T. Desai** discusses concurrent fieldwork training in Barak Valley, Assam, advocating for a reflective curriculum that emphasizes experiential learning.
 - **Helen Joseph** introduces the concept of the adaptive supervisor, presenting a "Facilitation Matrix" to guide supervisors in nurturing students' potential and improving performance.

The Key Strengths of this book are the Comprehensive Coverage, Indigenous Contextualization and Focus on Innovation and Challenges

Conclusion

Field Instruction in Social Work Education is a crucial resource and essential read for advancing fieldwork pedagogy in India. By bridging theory and practice and addressing indigenous challenges, the book offers both seasoned educators and newcomers a practical and reflective guide. It is an indispensable tool for fostering professional growth and ensuring the effective delivery of social work education.