PREFACE

Professional social work education in the country has been undergoing continuous upgradation from its inception. The quality of professional social work education and the competence of professional social workers are thoroughly debated topics throughout the length and breadth of the country and particularly in the state of Kerala.

The extent of impact by 40 years of professional social education in Kerala on social change is still a very much debated issue in all platforms where professional social work teachers, students and practitioners assemble. Kerala society has drastically changed in its needs and requirements for the last 40 years and whether professional work education has been successful in responding to its changing needs has always been a concern for professional social workers. This concern had very well being reflected in all the papers published and presented during state level and national level professional social work education seminars and discussions conducted in the state of Kerala for the last two decades.

Consultations and discussions held with professional social work teachers, students, practitioners and employers brought out the fact that today’s professional social work education in Kerala lags behind in knowledge base, development of practical skills and building proper attitude in the aspirants of the profession. It is all
the individual experiences, perceptions and opinions of the people consulted and discussed. Even papers presented and published on professional social work education in recent years are projections of these perceptions and experiences rather than the result of any research conducted. So the researcher wanted to make a study on professional social work education in Kerala to find out the truth of what is being often heard on the incompetence of professional social workers to deal with the current social problems in Kerala. Out dated syllabus and irrelevant specializations together with outmoded training methodology are the often heard complaints on professional social work education system.

The present study is entitled “Professional Social Work Education in Kerala - Problems and Prospects”. The whole work is given in seven chapters: Review of Literature in the first two chapters: Methodology in the third chapter: discussion on the findings in the fourth, fifth and sixth chapters: findings and suggestions in the final chapter.

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