A STUDY ON

“SOCIAL WORK EDUCATION IN KARNATAKA”

ABSTRACT

This doctoral work entitled “A Study on Social Work Education in Karnataka” is an empirical attempt to explore the functioning of social work institutions, including university departments offering post-graduate programme in social work in the State of Karnataka. The study probes into the academic and administrative aspects and comes out with a comprehensive understanding. It has adopted qualitative methodologies along with quantitative techniques to evolve a holistic perspective. The outcome of this study will benefit all those concerned with social work education to work out the modalities so as to make social work education a need-based one and also improve the quality of education to the highest possible level, making it accessible to all those who have an aptitude for social work.

The study is descriptive in nature. It has studied 53 departments offering post-graduate course in social work of which 881 MSW Students, 14 Chairpersons/Heads/Principals of social work institutions, 58 Social Work Educators, and 156 Fieldwork (agency) Supervisors by using research tools viz., Interview Schedule/Questionnaire and an Observation checklist are used for data collection. The primary data was systematically processed. Descriptive analysis was made to draw inferences. The thesis is organized into five unique chapters. Chapter one is introduction. A review of previous investigations is made in chapter two. The scientific procedures adopted in achieving the aim and objectives of the study are presented in the third chapter. Analyses of the tables, and interpretation and inferences are presented in chapter four. A summary of the major findings, conclusions and implications of the study are detailed in chapter five.

The empirical data reveals that the quality of social work education in Karnataka is significantly at a decline due to several reasons. Social work professionals are trailing in the field of development. This is due to lack of commitment, ideological orientation, and perhaps, incompetent desired skills, knowledge, and techniques. Non-social work professionals and non-professionals
perform better than social work professionals do. For this, social work educators, heads/chairpersons of social work institutions, agency supervisors, and the department of higher education are equally responsible. Social work education has failed to produce competent, committed, and skilled social work professionals in Karnataka. There has been a mushrooming of social work educational institutions in the recent past. Private institutions are lacking in ethical orientation and have commercialized this field. Increase in the intake of students and unqualified, incompetent, and inexperienced social work educators are damaging the system. Hence, the quality of social work education is steadily declining.

The study offers suggestions to the different stakeholders, viz., Department of Higher Education, University Authorities, Principals/Heads of the Institutions /Departments, Social Work Educators, and Agency Supervisors in order to improve the quality of social work education in Karnataka.