

EDITORIAL

The Journal of the Madras School of Social Work (JMSSW) is a peer-reviewed Journal of Madras School of Social Work, a renowned institution for social work education in India. I am immensely pleased, as its editor, to write this editorial for this present volume. Facilitating quality publications in the fields of social work and social sciences is one of the objectives of the Madras School of Social Work.

It is heartening to note that the contributors of papers for this particular volume have made a great effort to consolidate their experiences in specific areas that particularly interest them. The paper by J.M.Arul Kamaraj discusses the life style of women workers in unorganized sectors and particularly in steel utensil industries at north Chennai and presents various suggestions to empower those women. The paper by P. S. Sreedevi portrays the Gandhigram Rural University imparts knowledge and experiences that will stand its trainees in good stead when they take up a career in rural development, and how this unique institution aims at nurturing professionals for nation-building by imparting values. Author Sisir Das has made an invaluable contribution to the existing literature through his analysis on the reasons for absenteeism among Paniya tribal students. He cites certain key factors - such as a lack of awareness, the indifferent attitude of the parents concerned, a lack of interest in studies, laziness, poor health, and long-distance commuting contributes to the high rate of absenteeism in schools. The paper by T.Mythili compares emotional maturity levels of adolescent boys and girls and looks at contributory factors like emotional instability, social maladjustment, personality disintegration and lack of independence that contribute to the emotional maturity. P.K.Visvesvaran has written a fine review of the book titled 'Social Work Profession in India: An Uncertain Future' edited by T. K. Nair.

The Editorial Board places on record its appreciation to the commendable work done by all the contributors of papers, and the

Board of Reviewers. But for their contributions, the release of this journal issue would not have been possible. The hard work of the members of the Editorial Board needs a special mention and appreciation for their valuable time and contribution. I am especially appreciative of the services rendered by Dr V. Sakthi Regha and Dr A. Enoch, Associate Editors, of Journal of Madras School of Social Work for their meticulous and painstaking coordination efforts. I wish all our readers a fruitful reading experience!

DR. V.A.VIJAYARAGAVAN
PRINCIPAL-IN-CHARGE CUM CHIEF EDITOR