
Editorial

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This volume consists of five articles. Three of the articles focus on children. One of the articles focuses on street children in South Africa, while a second one examines challenges of caregiving of children with autism under COVID 19 conditions. The third article on children discusses issues pertaining to challenges of preparing children with disability for life after institutional care. The other two articles, one of them is a literature review on medical social work roles, inter-professional collaborative practice, and factors impeding its practice in hospital settings. Lastly is a presentation of an article on racial inequality in post-apartheid South Africa.

The first article by Fungai Matarise is entitled “*Children in Street Situations in South Africa: Conceptualizing Vulnerability*”. This is an exploratory qualitative study carried out by means of in-depth face to face interviews and literature review. Face to face interviews have the advantage that they can effectively capture the interviewee's thoughts and feelings. According to Haralambos and Holborn, (2004:906-907) face to face

interviews ensures that "issues can be explored in greater depth and non-verbal cues are picked up'. Face to face interviews provided a platform for the researcher to probe further and ask for clarifications. It enabled the researcher to explore issues in greater depth and detail thus making face to face interviews more appropriate for studies involving street children. Interviews have the advantage of convenience time for the participants wherever they might be, either in their offices or a selected room or spot. All the interviews for the street children article were carried out in the morning and mid-afternoon before lunch time. The interviews lasted between forty-five minutes to an hour, on average.

The article on street children explains and analyzes the governance of children in street situations in South Africa. Through the use of a post-structuralist deconstructive approach, vulnerability and social protection are explored as key concepts in the discourse of child vulnerability in South Africa. The South African Children's Act no 38 of 2005 shows that children in street situations in South Africa belong to a broader category of children in need of care and protection. The social problem of children in street situations continuous to be a contentious social policy and development issue. Street children's vulnerability remains central in the formation of social interventions for street children a group that experience adversity, risk and exclusion.

Sunungurayi Charamba, Anesu Aggrey Matanga and Rudo Mukurazhizha presents the second paper entitled "*Challenges of primary caregiving for children with autism during COVID-19 pandemic in Zimbabwe*". There is no doubt like elsewhere and everywhere COVID-19 brought in multi-faceted challenges to people with disabilities and their caregivers have not been spared. Charamba, Matanga and Mukurazhiza adopted qualitative inquiry that utilized a narrative design to explore challenges faced by caregivers of children with Autism Spectrum Disorder

(ASD) during the COVID-19 lockdown in Zimbabwe. Caregivers of children with autism faced many psychological challenges like stress, lack of training on COVID- 19 preventative measures, repetitive destructive behaviours, ASD management challenges. Some of the key recommendations made to deal with challenges faced by caregivers of children with autism are Autism sensitisation and workshops, education and training for communities on ASD, dissemination of care for children with ASD using media platforms advocacy for caregivers, extensive research by social workers so as to inform policymakers in addressing the challenges faced by the caregivers even for future pandemics.

The third article by Rudo Mukurazhizha, Admire Chereni and Itai Mafa is entitled “*Flaws in Preparing Children with Disability for Life After Institutional Care in Zimbabwe: Implications for Social Work Practice*”. This paper identified the flaws in preparing children with disabilities for life after institutional care living in Zimbabwe. The authors adopted a qualitative research paradigm and a phenomenology research design. It is clear that due to financial limitations institutions of care have limited choices for vocational skills training courses. Lack of financial resources limit what can effectively be done to prepare children with disabilities for life after institutional care. The findings show that there are also inherent systemic weaknesses and loopholes in the design of care plans which limits the success of the re-integration process. Limited family support and involvement weaken the acceptability and intergration of these children into the community. Underpinned by a social model of disability and social work lenses, the study recommended immense advocacy for the participation of children with disabilities together with their families in the preparation of care plans to ensure inclusion and sustainable reintegration. Furthermore, the paper pushes for closer monitoring and evaluation of institutional care facilities to

guarantee alignment and compliance of care plans with national policy frameworks that guide the placement and re-integration of youth with disabilities back into the community.

The fourth article by Joseph N Musuguri and Mariana J Makuu is entitled “*A literature review on medical social work roles, inter-professional collaborative practice, and factors impeding its practice in hospital settings*”. The article is based on a review of online articles focusing on medical social work practice in hospital settings with a focus on Tanzania. Medical social work practice in hospitals seeks to prevent and reduce negative psychosocial-spiritual consequences as a result of diseases and teach patients and families how to mobilize the available resources. The databases used for electronic searches of the literature were Google Scholar, ProQuest Central, PubMed Central, and ResearchGate. The article shows that generally medical social workers are not understood by other health practitioners. There is no consensus amongst health practitioners as to whether medical social work inter-professional collaborative practice contributes to the treatment outcome of patients. There are a multiplicity of factors impeding medical social work practice in hospital settings. There is need to explore the medical practitioners' experiences in the practice of medical social work in hospital settings.

The fifth article by Olonisakin Tosin Tunrayo, Adedeji Adekunle and Idemudia Erhabor is entitled “*Examining Psychological Outcomes of Racial Inequality for Black South Africans*”. Despite the ushering in of the democratic order after the 1994 elections South Africa remains an unequal society. The post-apartheid era has failed to put an end to racial inequalities and the enduring effects of racism. Apartheid and institutionalised racism continue to rear their ugly heads. South Africa's black population is mostly locked in a state of paralysis as far as racial inequality is concerned. The article presents literature and studies that shows the enduring effects of racism. Studies on social

inequality during and after apartheid are presented. The article highlight legal devices and legislature particularly before 1994 that was employed to ensure that racism is full entrenched in the South African society. Enduring social inequality for Blacks was emphasised through National surveys research that have consistently over the years shown this group to be disproportionately affected.

Psychologically racial inequality has had very negative influence on behavioural outcomes of Africans in South Africa. Racial inequality has impacted greatly on aggression, crime and social trust. Social inequality is a push factor as far as aggression, crime and social trust is concerned especially among the previously disadvantaged Africans. There is a need to establish a forum to deal with the trauma of the past especially apartheid. The continued increases in crime and violence as well as lack of self-respect within the South African community can be linked to lingering effects of apartheid. Bold steps need to be adopted to address social inequality in South Africa.