
EDITORIAL

The Ministerial Committee to Review the Implementation of the White Paper for Social Welfare will be presenting its preliminary research findings and policy proposals at a National Summit in September 2015. A range of stakeholders in the welfare sector will be invited to the Summit, at which the Minister of Social Development is expected to be present.

From March 2014 to March 2015, the Committee undertook Provincial Reviews to assess the implementation of the White Paper on Social Welfare across all nine provinces. By the end of March 2015, social development and social welfare services in all nine provinces had been reviewed. These research findings have emanated from consultative processes held with a range of government departments and organisations. Since its inception, the Committee has undertaken reviews in all provinces by adopting a two-phased approach. Firstly, written and oral presentations by managers from provincial DSDs (Departments of Social Development), the South African Social Security Agency (SASSA), the National Development Agency (NDA), non-profit organisations (NPOs) and community-based and faith-based organisations were made in response to generic questions developed by the Committee. Written and oral submissions were received in response to a set of questions that focused on the following:

1. Identify and discuss the achievements of the White Paper since 1997.
2. Are there challenges and lessons of experience from which we can learn?
3. Are there critical gaps in services and benefits being provided?
4. Provide details broken down according to programmes and beneficiaries as well as budget allocations for social development services. Discuss issues related to the financing of social welfare services.
5. What are your recommendations and proposals for improving social development services and ensuring social protection is promoted to achieve chapter 11 of Vision 2030 in the National Development Plan?

Secondly, two districts were sampled in each province. In these eighteen districts, focus group discussions were conducted with service providers, beneficiaries and social service practitioners; and identified sites were visited.

In July 2015, the Committee met with Institutions of Higher Learning, the South African Council for Social Service Professions, and professional associations, for example, representatives from the National Association of Child Care Workers (NACCW), community development practitioners, the National Association of Social Workers – South Africa (NASW-SA) and the

Health and Welfare Sector Education and Training Authority (HWSETA). Issues related to selection of students, bursaries, training, human resources, specialisation and supervision were discussed. The National Summit will bring together all these inputs and research findings in a report for further discussion.

The articles in this issue range from a comparison of drug policies in South Africa and Kenya; African marriage counselling and the relevance of Western models of counselling; a comparison of family resilience in remarried families from South Africa and Belgium; transformation of social work from social control to social change in Zimbabwe; an evaluation study of a support group programme for informal caregivers to prevent elder abuse; to development of a supervision tool for postgraduate supervision. A summary of each of these articles is discussed below, for your information.

The goal of **Geyer, Lombard and Wairire's** article on '*A comparative content analysis of South African and Kenyan drug policies from a social development perspective*' was to compare the content of the South African Drug Master Plan 2006-2011 with Kenya's National Drug Abuse Control Policy 2011 from a social development perspective. A quantitative analysis was undertaken to compare the content of these policies. Both policies emphasise the dimensions 'levels of service delivery' and 'integrated service delivery', with limited attention to the 'rights-based approach' and 'capital development' dimensions of social development.

Haselau, Kasiram and Simpson's article on '*African marriage counselling and the relevance of Western models of counselling*' explores the relevance of Western models of marriage counselling in an African context with Zulu couples. The article examines the philosophies that underpin marriage in contemporary Zulu unions, in addition to the worldview, values and practices of the Zulu people with regard to marriage.

The aim of **Greeff and Cloete's** article on '*Family resilience factors in remarried families in Belgium and South Africa*' is to provide a comparison on resilience factors between Belgian and South African remarried families. Parents and children from both Belgian and South African remarried families participated in the research. The results reveal both differences and similarities between the two populations. This present study contributes to the growing body of literature on the resilience of remarried families.

Masuka's article on '*Transforming social work in Zimbabwe from social control to social change*' promotes the idea that social work needs to

transform from social control to social change in Third World countries. This transition is analysed in the context of the new global definition of social work and how its various components can be applied to transforming social work education and practice in Zimbabwe.

The purpose of the article by **Ananias, Strydom and Ellis** with the title, '*A support group programme with informal caregivers to prevent elder abuse*' is to describe an evaluation of the effectiveness of a support group with informal caregivers of older people in an urban and a rural community setting in Namibia. Informal caregivers were equipped with knowledge on aging and caregiving through the support group programme. Group processes were measured and the outcome of the group was assessed with standardised measuring instruments. Support group interventions contributed positively towards community care of older people.

The article by **Grobler** on '*A supervision tool to guide postgraduate students during research supervision*' proposes a specific tool within the supervision context that may enable the supervisor to meet both the academic and the emotional needs of students. A qualitative approach was employed with a case study design. A sample of twelve students was utilised to guide them towards a better understanding of themselves, in order for them to complete the course successfully. The results revealed that specific selves are evident during the supervision process that either motivate the students or act as barriers.

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