

This second 2018 issue of *Southern African Journal of Social Work and Social Development* has a wide and diverse coverage of topics. Two articles deal with challenges experienced by children: the presence of foster children in their families and albinism. Two articles deal with challenges adults face concerning children: parents' experiences of their children's hearing loss, and school social workers' role in inclusive education. One article focuses on the youth: their involvement in community development; and another focuses on adults: female drug users' views of aftercare programmes. And two articles deal with social interventions: a village savings and loan scheme and its contribution to peace, and housing and social amenities in a vulnerable community.

This range of topics points to the vital role that social work can and should play across the micro-macro continuum in promoting the well-being and dignity of all human beings. This contribution is central to the developmental social welfare approach, which seeks to bridge the gap between the personal and the structural, so that these work harmoniously to promote human flourishing. And it is central to the Global Agenda themes, which weave together the dignity and worth of people, human relationships, social and economic equalities and environmental sustainability. The range of topics in this issue is thus very pleasing.

Ntshongwana and Tanga explored the experiences of biological children living with foster children. Biological children experienced the presence of foster children in their family both positively and negatively. Among the positives were gaining new experiences of their parents parenting other children, which led to improved parent-child relationships. Among the negatives were poor preparation for the arrival of the foster children – biological children reported being ignored by the foster care social workers – and feelings of resentment towards the foster children. This research highlights the importance of social workers engaging not only foster children and parents, but also the biological children in a foster family.

Ringson investigated the experiences of children (and their caregivers) living with albinism in Zimbabwe. Children and their caregivers reported that both they and people in their community viewed albinism as a curse and lacked medical knowledge about the condition. This stigma led some children to drop out of school or to be unable to find employment. Despite the availability of social programmes for albinism, the participants perceived that these were not doing enough to undermine the stigma and discrimination. The author proposes a community-based protection model for children living with albinism.

Dauids and De Jager investigated the experiences of parents in response to their child being diagnosed with hearing loss. Their findings reveal major emotional upheaval the immediate days after diagnosis: shock, denial and grief, followed by anger, guilt and blame. Parents also reported the many behavioural and practical changes they had to make to adjust to having a child with hearing loss, such as learning sign language and the challenges of discipline and supervision. In the several years since the diagnosis, most parents had found ways to live well with their child's hearing loss. Recommendations for the multidisciplinary team are provided.

Van Sittert and Wilson set out to explore the role of school social workers in inclusive education. Inclusive education, which may be viewed as the domain primarily of educators, has significant social implications. The findings from interviews with school social workers revealed the various roles that they play in promoting children's holistic well-being within inclusive education. Despite a lack of mandate, they assessed children coming into inclusive education, focused on social problems as they arise, worked as members of the multidisciplinary team and provided ongoing support to learners.

Tirivanhu, Mataruka and Chirau raise concern about the lack of involvement of the youth in local development initiatives. Using an action research approach, they explored the use of community-based planning in fostering the inclusion of the youth in community development. Various processes contributed towards included youth involvement, such as community youth mapping and intensive consultation with the youth. Numerous benefits of involving the youth were found, such as improved cohesion among the youth across political divides and increased enthusiasm among the youth for community engagement.

Mhangwa, Kasiram and Zibane conducted qualitative research on aftercare services for female drug users, from the perspective of service users and service providers. Their analysis of the data is structured according to the fourfold bio-psycho-social-spiritual perspective, generating well-rounded insights into aftercare services for this group. The authors recommend increased activities in aftercare to stimulate holistic living, as well as attention to broader social-structural issues that impact recovery, such as stigma and violence against women.

Chivasa explored the contribution of village savings and loan associations in a Zimbabwean community to peace in that community. The savings and loan scheme is targeted primarily at reducing poverty and vulnerability among community members. However, the author found that key elements of the scheme's procedures such as social capital, friendships, social relationships, coexistence and tolerance contributed towards peace in the community. Furthermore, the outcome of the scheme also developed the capacity of community members to establish supportive and tolerant relationships within the community. All this cultivated peace. Such schemes, he concludes, can be useful in achieving multiple social aims.

Manomano's article focuses on housing programmes and social amenities in the Eastern Cape. Based on interviews with 250 residents and 26 key informants, he reports that most residents experienced a severe lack of basic social amenities, such as toilets, clean water, electricity and sewage disposal. Framing his critique of the situation within social justice and social development discourses, he argues that social work needs to be more concerned with the provision of adequate housing as a key social development intervention.

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