

Editorial

In this second issue of *Journal of Social Work in Developing Societies*, we have four articles written by academics and a book review. The articles are all results from empirical studies. The contents of this issue reflect divergent areas of social work practice in Nigeria, which is in line with the core mandate of the journal (to emphasize exemplary research that advances the development of applied knowledge capable of informing the social work discipline and its broad concerns, particularly in Africa).

The first article by Chukwu and Idemili-Aronu provides us with rich quantitative and qualitative exploration of awareness and utilization of social services by families of persons with intellectual disability (PIDs) in Imo state Nigeria. Results indicated that not all the families who were aware of the existence of social services utilized them, and ignorance on the usefulness of such facilities also prevented families from utilizing them. The study concluded that social services for PIDs in Imo State even though in existence are grossly inadequate and inaccessible to many. Thus, it recommended the need for social workers to be involved in the development processes of policies directed at social services, as they have indispensable roles to play in the planning and execution phases, including scaling up compliance on the parts of targeted service users.

In the second article, Oyeleke and Eborika undertook the study of an all-important social problem plaguing the country – substance abuse. They investigated substance abuse in the context of its relationship to academic performance among students of the University of Lagos, South West, Nigeria. The article concluded that the prevalence of substance abuse among the study population cannot be overstated. It observed a strong relationship between substance abuse and poor academic performances. It therefore recommended that the department of social work should create a counselling department for the purpose of helping students who are already addicts, and also seek collaboration with relevant stakeholders in preventing further survival of the issue.

The need for social work professionals to influence policy that protects the rights of older adults in Nigeria is at the heart of the third article by Ebimgbo, Onalu, Atama, and Okoye. This need became imperative as a result of findings from their empirical study on various forms and predictors of maltreatment experienced by older adults in South-east, Nigeria. They noted that sex, marital status, living arrangement, and health status can determine the form of maltreatment experienced by older adults in Nigeria. The roles social workers could play at micro and macro levels were mentioned.

In the final article by Agbawodikeizu, Ekoh, Ebue, Ajibo, Atama and Okoye, qualitative methods (Focus Group Discussions and Key Informant Interviews) were used to investigate knowledge of what constitutes gender-based violence in Enugu-Ezike, and Igbo-Eze North Local Government Areas (LGAs) in Enugu state, Nigeria. Their analysis highlighted differing views about acts that constitute gender-based violence and noted also that these acts are still perpetrated and perceived as a norm in the studied sites. Thus, they recommended in-depth enlightenment programmes, especially at the level of grassroots, on acts that constitute gender-based violence by social workers, as well as government enacting laws protecting the rights of women in Nigeria.

As expected, all four articles highlight that social work research and practice is done with diverse populations, and in different ways. They will also provide readers with information regarding social problems that require social work interventions in Nigeria. The use of qualitative research methods in some of the papers provide readers with useful examples of how qualitative methodologies can help complement quantitative research methods, via adding real-life experiences to figures. The aim which is to give readers a richer layer of understanding and knowledge. In this issue, we are proud to include a book review and we hope our readers will welcome it, and perhaps, offer similar submission in the future.

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