

Book Reviews

PRINCIPLES OF MEDICAL SOCIAL WORK. By I. Sundar. pp. xv +368, tables, figures, references. 2014. Serials Publications: New Delhi. Hard cover. Price ₹ 1595/-.

This hard cover volume contains some eighteen chapters titled: Nature and scope of social work; Interdisciplinary approach to health and social work; Health belief model; Health behavior: psychological theories; Medical social theory; Social epidemiology; Public health; Social work practice methods; Social workers in public health; clinical social work; hospital social work; Genetics and medical social work; Social workers in medical health services; Stress management; Community health; Community health workers; Clinical ethics; and Bioethics in medical profession.

Medical social work is a sub-discipline of social work, also known as hospital social work. Medical social workers assess the psychological functioning of patients and families and intervene as necessary. Medical social workers typically work on interdisciplinary team with professionals of other disciplines such as medicine, nursing, physical, occupational, speech and recreation therapy etc.

Dr I. Sundar, Professor of Economics, Annamalai University, has developed and presented this volume as a text book for social workers and specifically for those students who interested in medical social work studies and research. The eighteen chapters presented in this volume discusses the basic areas of medical social work in public health, community health, clinical social work, hospital social work, genetics and medical social work, etc. Clinical ethics and Bioethics in medical profession are two chapters which elaborate what medical staff as professionals should do or how they should behave concerning a certain individual case, especially in the process of decision making. The author has also discussed about the education need of the students and physicians about ethical issues and laws, which can have a direct impact on the type and quality of care that an average patient must receive.

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This book is an excellent introductory volume on medical social work, which would be of great help for students who intend to take up medical social work as a post-graduate specialized course.

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INTRODUCTION TO MEDICAL ECONOMICS. By I. Sundar. pp. xii +330, tables, figures, exhibits, diagrams, references. 2013. Serials Publications: New Delhi. Hard cover. Price ₹ 1795/-.

This hard covered volume on medical economics discusses on topics titled as: Medical economics: basic concept; Economics of medical technology; Medical care model; Demand for medical care; Cost of medical care; Welfare economics of medical care; Economics of health care; Macro economics and health and medical care; Health production function; Hospital economics; Economics of preventing hospital infection; Economics of the pharmaceutical industry; Medication management; Medical marketing; Medical tourism; Health insurance. Thus the author has introduced medical economics to students elaborately giving basic concepts of the various aspects of medical economics.

Medical economics deals with cost of procurement of medical devices, instruments, equipments, tools and machines. Medical economics is an emerging discipline in the context of growing demand and supply of medical services. The direct and indirect cost of surgery also constitutes the subject matter of medical economics. The comparison of the cost of medical care among the countries constitutes the subject matter of medical economics. The approach of medical economics differs from that of health economics with respect of development and utilization of medical technologies, surgical technologies, therapy technologies and development of new medicines and drugs. Medical economics

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makes an analysis of direct cost of medical care. The direct cost of medical care includes the cost of consultation, cost of drugs and medicines, cost of laboratory test, cost of minor operations, cost of major operations and cost of hospital bed charges. It also includes the transport cost, cost of supplementary nutrition, cost of care takers, etc. Medical economics includes the economic and financial impact of disease in general on the patient, the physician, society or government.

There are various medical care models like — Health valuation model, the demand for health model, the demand for health and longevity model, Murphy and Topel model, and a few others. All these have been discussed by the author with illustrations. For diagrammatic presentation the author has used figures and exhibits giving hospital organization chart. Each chapter discussion is well illustrated with diagrams and figures. The references have been given at the end of the book. Instead of the word ‘references’ the word ‘bibliography’ would have been more appropriate.

Dr I. Sundar, Professor of Economics, Annamalai University, has developed and presented this volume as an introductory text book on medical economics for students and researchers who are engaged in medical economics studies. Administrators in government medical services and hospitals may find this book of much help in health care services.

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NATURAL RESOURCES AND SOCIAL WELFARE. Edited by Anil Bhuimali. pp. ix + 173, tables, figures, photographs. 2014. Madhav Books: Gurgaon. Hard cover. Price ₹ 795/-

This edited book on Natural Resources and Social Welfare by Professor Anil Bhuinmali of Department of Economics, North Bengal University, contain twelve articles contributed by fifteen scholars. The articles have not been grouped under any section. The articles discuss upon — Cultural rights of adivasis: a study of Pradhans and Thotis of Andhra Pradesh; Sustainable use of natural resources and people’s participation in India; Population, poverty and

environmental linkages in Bhutan; Small landholdings prefer custom hiring mechanism of agriculture in West Bengal; Community mobilization and assessing the Status of Janani Suraksha Yojana; Dynamics of rural to urban migration of agricultural labourers :a micro-level study in Cooch Bihar district of West Bengal; Role of information technology in Indian agriculture: an exploratory study; Managing natural resources for poverty reduction; Utilization of funds obtained through various centrally sponsored schemes – a study of two districts of West Bengal; Is inflation related to economic growth in India: an econometric study; and lastly on The tea crises, its magnitude and the condition of poverty stricken women plantation workers in Dooars.

Dr Malli Gandhi discusses on the dance as the cultural rights of the adivasis of Andhra Pradesh. There are ritual and harvest dances among Pradhans, they are worshippers of nature. The author discusses about various forms of dances among the Pradhans and Thotis of Andhra Pradesh. It seems this article somehow does not fit with the title of the book. Rest of the articles are discussing on the social welfare of the communities of West Bengal with special emphasis on poverty, landholding, labour migration, plantation workers, etc. The collection of articles does not have a specific focus, however most of the articles touches upon poverty and natural resources. There is one article on Bhutan that deals with population, poverty and environment. There is a general article on economic growth in India. This book is of a very general nature with some emphasis on agriculture and poverty reduction.

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WOMEN EMPOWERMENT THROUGH SELF HELP GROUP. By R. Ramachandra Rao. pp. x + 252, tables, references. 2014. Serials Publications: New Delhi. Hard cover. Price Rs. 995/-.

This volume on ‘Women Empowerment through Self Help Group’ contains only five articles titled as: Self Help Groups and Women Empowerment; Micro Finance and Women Empowerment; Self Help Groups and Government Programmes; Self Help Groups and Women Empowerment: A Case Study; and lastly

Socio-economic Characteristics and Levels of Empowerment.

The first article on Self Help Groups and Women Empowerment presents a general discussion on self help groups in India and world level, the need for women empowerment, about history of silent revolution in Tamilnadu as researched by various authors, SHG linkages with bank, and various government programmes on women empowerment. It further discusses on political empowerment, judicial legal system, panchayati raj institutions, women and agriculture etc. The second article discusses upon 'Micro Finance and Women Empowerment'. This article presents the status of micro finance in India, SHGs bank linkage, microfinance impact on empowerment, impact of women's status and gender relations in home, status in the community, business impact etc. The third article is on 'Self Help groups and Government Programmes'. This paper emphasizes on 'Tamilnadu Corporation for Women Development Mahalir Thittam (Women's Project) which is a nodal agency implementing the SHG programmes in Tamilnadu. The author discusses the crucial role played by NGOs in promoting group organization of women. A case study of self help group and women empowerment has been presented by the author as the fourth article. The author has discussed the guidelines for the development of SHG and the formulation of rules and regulations for it. In the guidelines the author has discussed about the meeting, savings, keeping of accounts, books to be maintained by an SHG, savings and thrift, internal lending,

problems, planning etc. Case studies of five NGOs of Thanjavur block have been presented in detail. The decision making capacity of women has also been discussed. The last article deals with 'Socio-economic Characteristics and Levels of Empowerment', wherein the author discusses the socio-economic background of women in the study area, so as to understand the levels of empowerment. In this article he discusses level of empowerment of women — low., medium and high of 336 respondents, religion and level of empowerment, community and level of empowerment, age and level of empowerment, education and level of empowerment, etc. The author also discusses on general confidence and decision-making on family matters, and concludes that women's involvement in decision-making and creating awareness are the most urgent requirements of a modern society.

The articles presented in this volume have cohesiveness in its presentation. The author has covered all the aspects of self help group and women empowerment in general with specific case studies of some NGOs of Tamilnadu. Though there are some editorial drawbacks, however, this book would be of much help to the NGO workers and researchers who are engaged in micro finance projects and women empowerment.

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