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EDITORIAL

The current issue presents one special editorial, four articles, one research report, and one 'Notes from the field'. The articles explore diverse subjects such as family preservation, fertility reduction, leadership behaviours of school principals, corporal punishment, teenage pregnancy, and community participation from Zimbabwe, Iran, Turkey, Indonesia, Malaysia and Mumbai. A brief introduction to the special editorial, articles, research report, and notes from the field is given below.

The special editorial titled 'Economics, Ethics and Mental Health in the Times of Corona' by Aseem Prakash dwells on a very contemporary issue that has created a global health crisis and left a deep impact on the way individuals live their everyday lives and perceive the world. It looks at how the three intersecting crisis triggered by the Covid-19 epidemic — economic consequences, social and public ethics and mental health issues — often do not unfold in isolation but interact to reinforce and strengthen each other. The author argues that these three crises demand revolutionary solutions from state, market and civil society to bridge the gap between individuals with strong and weak entitlements supported by the socio-public ethics of social solidarity, equity and peace.

The first article, 'Exploring Family Preservation in Zimbabwe' by Samuel Lisenga Simbine explores family preservation in Zimbabwe within the realm of a developmental approach to social work. It examines family preservation services as a developmental intervention that empowers families and communities alike to address their socioeconomic challenges. Based on 16 in-depth interviews, the study examines family preservation in Zimbabwe through the lived experiences and perspectives of the research participants. The researcher found that Zimbabwean culture in general upholds the notion of the extended family as a conduit of care

to vulnerable children. Thus, the article advocates the mainstreaming of cultural practices as a best practice for family preservation among others. It concludes that from a developmental approach perspective, family preservation can address the root causes of the growing menace of children living outside their family environment.

The next article, 'Fertility Reduction among Iranian Women: A Qualitative Study' by Batool Seifoori, Gholamreza Hassani Darmian, Aliakbar Majdi and Mehdi Kermani investigates whether the fertility phenomenon in Iran bears a superficial resemblance to the experience of developed countries or this similarity can also be reported in lower layers too. It examines the conceptual model of women's fertility using the grounded theory methodology. Based on semi-structured interviews with 42 women, the study revealed that the economy plays an important role in the fertility of women. It underscores that cultural promotion, political power to enforce demographic policies, mass media advertisements or drawing on people's religious beliefs is no longer effective in increasing the population, since women's fertility action in all social classes is influenced by the economic challenges that they encounter.

In the third article, 'A Study between Informal Relationships and Leadership Behaviours of School Principals', Hasan Basri Memduhoglu and Ahmet Saylik study the relation between informal relationships and leadership behaviours of principals working in secondary schools. Using the Informal Relations Scale developed by Memduhoğlu & Saylık (2012) and Multifactor Leadership Questionnaire Assessment Form (MLQ) developed by Bass and Avolio (1995), the article revealed that communication and informal relationships among school employees in and out of the school is insufficient. School principals display transformational leadership behaviours more than transactional leadership behaviours. The article concludes that there is a medium-level and positive relationship between the level of informal relationships and school principals' transformational leadership styles at secondary schools.

The fourth article, 'Corporal Punishment of Children in Indonesia: A Signal for Legal Reforms' by Rusmilawati Windari, Supanto and Widodo Tresno Novianto explores public opinion on the use of corporal punishment for children in Indonesia. Based on a legal empirical research using case and explanatory approaches, interviews of various sets of participants including criminologists, teachers, government representatives, and responses to questionnaires from parents, reveal that corporal punishment in Indonesia is no longer seen as a justification or a means to educate and

discipline children. However, public opinion is influenced by concerns over criminal lawsuits filed against parents and teachers. The article concludes that distinguishing between mild and severe forms of corporal punishment can protect teachers from unnecessary criminal proceedings and also aid teachers in performing their duties responsibly.

The research report, 'Unintended Teenage Pregnancy: A Qualitative Study to Explore Perspectives and Experiences of Young Mothers' by Wan Rafeza Rokimi, Fatimah Sham, Ajau Danis and Siti Zulaiha Binti Che Hat explores the perspectives and experiences of young mothers with unintended teenage pregnancies. Using a qualitative study design with a one-to-one approach, ten teenagers aged 16 to 19 years with unintended pregnancy were interviewed. Themes such as perspectives of unintended teenage pregnancy, factors influencing unintended teenage pregnancy, and approaches to overcome unintended teenage pregnancy emerged from the data. The research findings reveal that there is increasing acceptance of teenage pregnancy. Inadequate parental control and lack of monitoring during college years are seen as the main contributing factors to teenage pregnancy. The report concludes that the research findings can be useful to develop training modules and educational programmes for the prevention of unintended pregnancy among teenagers.

The issue ends with a Notes from the field, 'Enhancing Community Participation in Research for Under-five Children Living in an Urban Slum in Mumbai' by Suchitra Surve, Sanjay Chauhan, Varsha Tryambake, Iranna Masal, Sharmila Kamat, Rachana Dalvi, Bhagyashree Kanje and Beena Joshi. It presents the field experiences of researchers conducting a community-based study for assessing the vitamin D status of children between 1–5 years. While multiple reasons emerged for non-participation during the first phase, strategic community friendly approaches to engage parents and community improved the participation rate to 62.7 percent in the second phase. The note concludes that there is a critical need to enhance efforts for community engagement in paediatric research.

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