BOOK REVIEW


The rationale for the book is premised on the problem of alcoholism in India. The author argues that alcoholism not only affects the individual’s health, but also poses a serious threat to the alcoholic’s family and society. The effects of alcoholism and its manifestations extend to family relationships with the outside world disturbing; subsequently leading to stigma and ostracism. The book details how professional social workers can help alcoholics and their families.

The author states that alcoholism is an illness and has devastating consequences on the socioeconomic health of the family. These concepts are clearly operationalised through the lived experiences of in-depth case studies. The mixed methods approach captures the magnitude as well as subjectivities associated with alcoholism.

The guidelines for social workers are skillfully interwoven with easy to understand comprehensive illustrations on the threats, challenges and implications of alcoholism. It will help not only researchers and practitioners, but also all other individuals and organisations concerned with the issue.

The sequencing of the chapters in the book could have been better planned and presented. For instance, Chapter 6 ‘Treatment and Rehabilitation of Alcoholics: Social Work Intervention Through Family’ is placed before the chapter on case analysis (Chapter 7). The case studies which reflect the qualitative dimension of the study should complement the quantitative findings of the preceding chapters. Also, an in-depth discussion on ethical
issues such as beneficence and nonmaleficence would have greatly benefitted the social work perspective of the study. However, in general, the book serves as a practical guide and has the potential to provide strategies for social work intervention.

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