

Call for Proposals

Social Development and Social Work: Learning from Africa

A Special Issue of the *Journal of Community Practice*

Special Editors: **Alice K. Butterfield**, University of Illinois at Chicago, **Abye Tasse**, Addis Ababa University, and **Benson Chisanga**, University of Zambia



The Editors of the *Journal of Community Practice* invite proposals that address aspects of **social development and social work in Africa and their relevance to other regions of the world**, especially innovative approaches to reducing poverty and vulnerability. This special issue highlights development-oriented work going on in Africa. Africa has a long experience with reducing poverty and vulnerability. In the contemporary period, social development and social work are at the forefront of dealing with abject poverty and some of the world's most difficult problems. These include orphaned children, child abuse, illiteracy, human trafficking, malaria and HIV/AIDS, war and natural disasters, migration and refugee resettlement, and food security. Collaborative and interdisciplinary efforts by universities, government, non-governmental organizations, and multi-national and international donor organizations span the areas of community development, child welfare, health, agriculture, the environment, and higher education. Given the marked intra-regional diversity, the topic will be of relevance to scholars and practitioners in Africa.

Two decades ago, James Midgley challenged social workers and others involved in international work to learn from their colleagues in developing countries. This challenge has resulted in study abroad programs, faculty exchange, collaborative research, program development, and technical assistance and training. Effective partnerships are viewed as collaborative, based on participation, respect, and mutual learning. The bulk of this work is available in research reports, needs assessments, policy documents, program evaluation, and descriptions of innovative practice on the Internet. Although action-oriented research and new program development is taking place, there is a lack of research by African scholars published in peer reviewed journals outside of Africa that brings these efforts in social development and social work to the attention of academics, students, and practitioners so they can learn from it. Consequently, the transfer of Africa's experience to other regions of the world has been minimal.

- This special issue of the *Journal of Community Practice* is designed to highlight the contemporary African experience with reducing poverty and vulnerability so that those in other regions of the world can learn from it. The editors encourage the submission of **interdisciplinary research and innovative practice models on this theme**.
- In concert with this theme of learning from scholarship and practice in Africa, the **first author of manuscripts must be a person living and working in Africa**.

Proposals should not exceed 1000 words (2-4 pages with references and an abstract of 50 words). Send in electronic format to JCP@ACOSA.org by February 1, 2010. Authors will be notified by April 1, 2010 of the editors' decision regarding the submission of papers. Complete manuscripts are due August 1, 2010, and will be peer reviewed. All work must be original, unpublished, and not submitted for publication elsewhere. For information, contact Alice K. Butterfield akj@uic.edu, Abye Tasse abyetasse@yahoo.fr, or Benson Chisanga at bchisanga@hotmail.com

The *Journal of Community Practice* is an interdisciplinary journal based in social work. JCP is a forum for knowledge development in social work and the social sciences, including urban planning, social development, community organizing, sociology, and nonprofit management. The Journal of Community Practice is sponsored by the Association for Community Organization & Social Administration (ACOSA), and published by Routledge, Taylor & Francis Group, LLC.