
EDITORIAL

The recent launch of the National Planning Commission's report is an ambitious plan to address long-term strategic development for South Africa and be inclusive by engaging citizens in this process by eliciting ideas. This process was driven by the Minister in The Presidency for National Planning, Minister Trevor Manuel, deputy chair: Cyril Ramaphosa and 25 part-time Commissioners who were appointed on the basis of their skills and expertise. The mandate of the commission was to define the South Africa that we would like to achieve in 18 years' time and to map out a path to achieve those objectives. The Commission focused on two major concerns, eradicating poverty and reducing inequality (RSA, 2012). In doing so, their plan is to build people's capabilities so that they may participate in the formal economy. This stance resonates with Sen and Nussbaum's focus on enhancing individual's capabilities.

The Commission acknowledges that careful attention must be paid to the design of policies between now and 2030 to ensure that individuals are engaged in meaningful activity, the country is kept working and vulnerable groups are kept from the shocks of poverty (RSA, 2012:354). The challenge for the next 18 years is to rebuild structures for opportunities and assist individuals develop capabilities so that they may lead the life they wish to live. Many of the articles both in this issue and forthcoming issues will address a range of issues related to the social development approach, which acknowledges the enhancement of people's capabilities.

Schmid and Sacco's article offers a unique contribution about the resistance of social workers during South Africa's apartheid years of oppression and injustice. This qualitative study provides insights into how activism shaped both their professional and personal identities. Their perception is that these activities contributed to forming the social work landscape today.

This article by *Drenth, Herbst and Strydom* provides interesting material about a Grief Intervention Programme. Even though there is a plethora of literature on the topic, it appears as though there is a dearth of approaches on how to intervene with grief. This article offers a unique intervention through a Complicated Grief Intervention Model.

The relevance of phronesis (which refers to practical wisdom) is used by *Dykes* in attempting to understand and teach social work students who have

had Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE). The researcher explores the ACE's of social work students and the significance of the concept of phronesis in the ACEs of students in their training of social work.

The extent to which the Lesotho government's social welfare programmes meets the needs of its citizens in the rural areas is explored by *Tanga and Manyeli*. The findings indicated that these social welfare programmes are making a difference to the lives of its citizens. However, insufficient welfare benefits are provided to its citizens. The unregulated nature of social work practice needs to be considered.

Mtapuri argues that the 'total environment' is important to the design, formulation and implementation of social protection programmes. The author uses documents in a desk study to review social protection intervention in Zimbabwe. A key contribution to this article is a framework which will assist understanding social protection in general, and policy implementation and practice in particular.

Cross-cultural adoption in South Africa is researched by *Snyder*, and raises issues pertinent to its impact on adoptees. Comparisons are made between the context of US and South Africa with respect to research on race and cross-cultural adoptions, and in particular to strengths and limitations of research from both countries. The author argues that race and racism shape the experiences of black cross-cultural adoptees.

The social context of street children is explored by *Van der Westhuizen and Keet*. This qualitative study examines the perceptions of street children, their parents/guardians as well as the community in the municipal area of Drakenstein in the Western Cape. The findings provide focal areas for planning and implementation of social services to street children.

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REFERENCE

RSA. National Planning Commission. (2012). *National Development Plan 2030. Our future – Make it Work* Pretoria: The Presidency.