

**DEMYSTIFYING
CRIMINAL
JUSTICE
SOCIAL WORK
IN INDIA**

EDITED BY

**MARK DAVID CHONG
ABRAHAM P. FRANCIS**



THIS BOOK ADDRESSES THE RELATIVE LACK OF
ACADEMIC AND PROFESSIONAL LITERATURE IN
THE AREA OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE SOCIAL WORK.

This compilation explores the scope of responsibilities undertaken by social workers in the field of criminal law in India when dealing with clients who are either offenders or victims of crime. It provides an in-depth understanding of the socio-structural, legal and practical challenges faced by Indian criminal justice social workers.

The book encourages social work professionals and students to consider three major areas: encouraging education and training in this subject; protecting the human rights of offenders and victims of crime; and addressing mental illness within the criminal justice system. It hopes to demystify social work in the area of criminal justice, particularly because of the stigma attached to it, given the potentially coercive enforcement of criminal law vis-à-vis the traditional ethos of social work being primarily about 'caring', 'empathy' and 'empowerment'.



MARK DAVID CHONG is a Senior Lecturer in Criminology and Criminal Justice Studies at the College of Arts, Society and Education, James Cook University, Australia.



ABRAHAM P. FRANCIS is an Associate Professor at the College of Arts, Society and Education, James Cook University, Australia.

₹ 950

ISBN 978-93-860-6247-5



9 789386 062475

SAGE www.sagepublishing.com
Los Angeles | London | New Delhi | Singapore | Washington DC | Melbourne

CHONG
FRANCIS

DEMISTIFYING CRIMINAL JUSTICE
SOCIAL WORK IN INDIA

DEMISTIFYING CRIMINAL JUSTICE SOCIAL WORK IN INDIA

EDITED BY

MARK DAVID CHONG
ABRAHAM P. FRANCIS



DEMYSTIFYING CRIMINAL JUSTICE SOCIAL WORK IN INDIA

EDITED BY

MARK DAVID CHONG
ABRAHAM P. FRANCIS

 SAGE

Los Angeles | London | New Delhi
Singapore | Washington DC | Melbourne

Copyright © Mark David Chong and Abraham P. Francis, 2017

All rights reserved. No part of this book may be reproduced or utilised in any form or by any means, electronic or mechanical, including photocopying, recording or by any information storage or retrieval system, without permission in writing from the publisher.

First published in 2017 by



SAGE Publications India Pvt Ltd

B1/I-1 Mohan Cooperative Industrial Area

Mathura Road, New Delhi 110 044, India

www.sagepub.in

SAGE Publications Inc

2455 Teller Road

Thousand Oaks, California 91320, USA

SAGE Publications Ltd

1 Oliver's Yard, 55 City Road

London EC1Y 1SP, United Kingdom

SAGE Publications Asia-Pacific Pte Ltd

3 Church Street

#10-04 Samsung Hub

Singapore 049483

Published by Vivek Mehra for SAGE Publications India Pvt Ltd, typeset in 10.5/12.5pt Cambria by Diligent Typesetter India Pvt Ltd, Delhi and printed at _____.

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data Available

ISBN: 978-93-860-6247-5 (HB)

SAGE Team: Supriya Das, Sandhya Gola and Ritu Chopra

Contents

<i>List of Illustrations</i>	ix
<i>List of Abbreviations</i>	xi
<i>Foreword by R. R. Singh</i>	xiii
<i>Acknowledgements</i>	xvii
<i>Introduction: Demystifying Criminal Justice</i>	
<i>Social Work—Filling the Void</i>	xxv

Section I **Foundational Frameworks, Theories, Concepts and Problems**

1. The Influence of Social Work within the Indian Criminal Justice System: A Critical Overview 3
Vijay Raghavan and Sashwati Mishra
2. Explaining Criminal Behaviour 33
K. Jaishankar and Amit Gopal Thakre
3. The Prevalence of Mental Illness within the Indian Criminal Justice System 50
Mark David Chong, Jamie Fellows, Sonny Jose, Abraham P. Francis and Kelly-Ann Williams

Section II **Criminal Justice Social Work Practice**

4. Police Social Work: Active Engagement with Law Enforcement 85
Ruchi Sinha
5. Correctional Social Work in India 107
Ilango Ponnuswami, Sonny Jose and Praveen Varghese Thomas

6. Reviving Criminal Justice Social Work through Probation in India: Historical Solutions to Contemporary Problems 127
Roshni Nair and Vijay Raghavan
7. Social Work Intervention in Juvenile Justice 145
K. P. Asha Mukundan
8. Supporting and Assisting Victims of Crime: The Indian Scenario 165
Pravin S. Khandpasole, Jyoti P. Khandpasole, Mark David Chong and Katherine Hoffensetz

Section III Way Forward

9. The State of Criminal Justice Social Work Education and Professional Training in India 195
Sanjai Bhatt, Atul Pratap Singh and Digvijoy Phukan
10. Human Rights in the Indian Criminal Justice System: Women and Children 215
Venkat Pulla, Mark David Chong, Abraham P. Francis and Margaret Henni
11. Cybercrime Victims in India: Responsibilities, Reactions and Issues of Criminal Justice Social Workers 244
Debarati Halder and K. Jaishankar

<i>Conclusion: The Future of Criminal Justice Social Work—Reflections</i>	262
<i>About the Editors and Contributors</i>	280
<i>Index</i>	293

Foreword

I am delighted indeed to write a foreword for the book edited by Dr Mark David Chong and Dr Abraham P. Francis titled *Demystifying Criminal Justice Social Work in India*. This book is the result of a collaboration between two scholars (the former being a criminologist and a lawyer, and the latter, a social work academic) which will help social work students, practitioners, researchers and educators in their various endeavours with the criminal justice system (CJS) in India. In doing so, they have attracted scholars from various universities, colleges and non-governmental organisations (NGOs) in India to contribute and share their experiences and expertise with the readers. Thus, this book offers a critical insight into criminal justice social work (CJSW) based on their research, practice, reflections and clinical expertise.

As we know, the application of social work in the CJS is an important area of practice in India. It is one that requires culturally appropriate research, innovation and relevant practice frameworks. The academic discourses, debates and ideas presented in this book reveal an excellent academic rigour and showcase robust thinking in this field. It demands serious thinking, prompts the reader to revisit the often taken-for-granted concepts and supports them to develop a practice framework that is grounded in research. This will hopefully inspire the readers to advocate for changes in their own practice contexts.

The book additionally initiates some relevant contemporary and evidence-based discussions on various matters related to the Indian CJS. I find the title *Demystifying Criminal Justice Social Work in India* particularly interesting and fascinating as it talks about demystifying some of the often misunderstood or mistaken notions around this subject, thereby bringing greater clarity to this important theme. In fact, it is a path-breaking research project that will not only inspire social work students in shaping the

way they perceive the world, but will also be an impetus to further research, collaboration and publications to enrich the field of CJSW in India.

What do social workers do? This is a question very often asked by people both from practice and the academia. Social workers are employed in a variety of contexts and work towards promoting social justice and human rights. In July 2014, the International Federation of Social Workers (IFSW) as well as the International Association of Schools of Social Work defined 'social work' as:

[A] practice-based profession and an academic discipline that promotes social change and development, social cohesion, and the empowerment and liberation of people. Principles of social justice, human rights, collective responsibility and respect for diversities are central to social work. Underpinned by theories of social work, social sciences, humanities and indigenous knowledge, social work engages people and structures to address life challenges and enhance wellbeing. (IFSW, n.d.)

Rapp and Sullivan (2014) stated that '[t]he importance of recognizing and exploiting strengths in the natural environment is vitally important to social work, and is one clear area that distinguishes this discipline from others in the helping professions' (p. 137). Not content with the critical analysis of the existing issues that plague the CJS, this book offers a glimpse of how criminal justice social workers can address these challenges in new and exciting ways. Here, the editors extol the virtues of utilising a strengths-based practice to mitigate the coercive and stigmatising elements of the CJS. That said, this approach does not simply discount the obvious problems or weaknesses of the offenders or of the victims of crime, but rather concentrates on offering possibilities, promises and hope to those who often lack such optimism in life (Francis, 2014, p. 27). To that end, Francis and Chong (2015) proposed the embedding of three 'C's into the CJS that represent a strengths-based practice (SBP), which can be utilised alongside the existing and necessary fundamental aims of control and compliance. These three 'C's are as follows: climate, compassion and commitment (Francis & Chong, 2015, p. 95). Without going into detail here, suffice it to say that social workers

employing such a perspective will view their clients (whether offenders or victims), not just as problems or symptoms of some social malaise but as human beings—imperfect but not without redeemable qualities that can be leveraged upon to encourage reformation. Such an approach would dovetail ideally into the social workers' existing professional principles of recovery, social justice and fight against stigmatisation, discrimination and violations of human rights (AASW Code of Ethics, 2010, p. 12; AASW Practice Standards, 2013, p. 7; AASW Practice Standards for Mental Health Social Workers, 2014, pp. 6, 8). The SBP will certainly bolster a criminal justice social worker's efforts to address powerlessness, marginality, stigma and socio-economic disadvantage at a time when a punitive and custodial approach is gaining an upper hand over the reformatory, humane and rehabilitative approach in the legislatures, bureaucracies and the public after the Nirbhaya case in India. This has led to the amendment of law for trying juveniles as adults in cases of grievous crimes, which is regressive in my view.

There is no doubt that social work practice in the CJS can be challenging (Patterson 2012, p. 129). Sadly, institutional support for CJSW in India has not progressed as much as it has in the United States, Scotland or Canada. While social workers undergo a rigorous training both in the field and class rooms, there has always been much debate around specialisations in social work education, particularly at the undergraduate level. Unfortunately, CJSW modules do not feature very prominently in most undergraduate social work programmes in the country. This is something that should be reviewed as social workers definitely require specialised training to practice in the CJS as it requires significant knowledge and skills in other disciplines/subjects such as criminology, criminal law and procedure, as well as criminal psychology, to name just a few. As Patterson argued, '[e]fforts to challenge social injustice and racial disparities will require that social work collaborate with other disciplines' (2012, p. 175). Consequently, developing relevant interdisciplinary expertise is essential to social work practice in the CJS. It is indeed unfortunate that institutions such as National Institute of Social Defence, Directorates of Social Welfare/Corrections have over the years been headed

by administrators rather than professional social workers who preceded them.

Given the rapid social changes occurring in India, as well as the ever-changing landscape of professional practice, we cannot remain silent spectators but need to adequately respond to the challenges confronting society with conviction, determination and sensitivity. Social workers are called upon to respond to or intervene in these contexts not only by demonstrating their competence and confidence in practice but also by being compassionate and innovative in their approach (Francis, 2015). This book offers readers an opportunity to not only analyse these challenges from a critical point of view, but also provides guidance on how to meet them head-on with research-based knowledge, robust practical experience and hope.

I, therefore, congratulate the editors and chapter authors for making a significant contribution to the social work literature in this challenging field and wish the readers that they will engage as practitioners in the CJS. I hope this book will inspire them to become involved in more research, to build collaborative ventures and to move beyond the contents of this book to positively touch the lives of offenders and victims of crime, and thereby become messengers of possibility, promise and hope to those who are often the most socially marginalised groups.

Delhi

30 June 2016

Professor R. R. Singh

Former Head, Department of Social Work,
University of Delhi and Director, Tata
Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai

References

- Australian Association of Social Workers. (2010). *Code of ethics*. Retrieved from <http://www.aasw.asn.au/document/item/1201>
- . (2013). *Practice standards*. Retrieved from <http://www.aasw.asn.au/document/item/4551>
- . (2014). *Practice standards for mental health social workers*. Retrieved from <https://www.aasw.asn.au/document/item/6739>

- International Federation of Social Workers (IFSW). (n.d.). *Global definition of social work*. Retrieved from <http://ifsw.org/>
- Francis, A., & Chong, M. D. (2015). Application of strengths-based principles in addressing mental health issues in the criminal justice system. In A. Francis, P. L. Rosa, L. Sankaran, & S. P. Rajeev (Eds), *Social work practice in mental health: Cross-cultural perspectives* (pp. 90–102). New Delhi: Allied Publishers.
- Francis, A. P. (2014). Strengths-based practice: 'Not about discounting problems but offering possibilities, promises and hope'. *Adelaide Journal of Social Work*, 1(1), 27–44.
- Francis, A. (2015). *The social worker as a multidisciplinary team member: Embedding the 3 C's (competence, confidence and compassion) in social work education in mental health*. SWSO 2015. Conference paper presented at East London, South Africa.
- Patterson, G. (2012). *Social work practice in the criminal justice system*. New York: Routledge.
- Rapp, C., & Sullivan, W. P. (2014). The strengths model: Birth to toddlerhood. *Advances in Social Work*, 15(1), 129–142.

About the Editors and Contributors

Editors

Mark David Chong is currently a Senior Lecturer in Criminology and Criminal Justice Studies as well as the Criminology Major Coordinator for the Bachelor of Arts programme at the College of Arts, Society and Education, James Cook University (JCU), Australia. He was also formerly the Director of Research Education for the School of Arts and Social Sciences, JCU, from 2012 to January 2015. In 2015, he was recognised for his 'exceptional support for students with a disability' through the university's Inclusive Practice Award. He was thereafter invited by the Vice Chancellor and the Students Association to deliver JCU's annual public 'Last Lecture for 2015', entitled 'A Humanistic Approach to Educating our Next Generation of Crime Fighters'. He is also an external assessor (grant applications) for the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada.

He graduated with a PhD in law from the University of Sydney, where he received his Law School's Longworth Scholarship (2003), the Cooke, Cooke, Coghlan, Godfrey and Littlejohn Scholarship (2004), the Longworth Scholarship for Academic Merit (2006) and the Longworth Scholarship once again in 2007. He was initially trained as a criminal defence lawyer and later secured an LLM (Merit) in Criminology and Criminal Justice from Queen Mary, University of London. Thereafter, he was appointed as a Judicial Referee by the President of the Republic of Singapore on the recommendation of the Chief Justice to the Small Claims Tribunals' bench. However, given his deep interest

in criminal justice issues, Mark subsequently taught the Singapore Police Force and the Central Narcotics Bureau at Temasek Polytechnic, Singapore, under a joint academic programme with Queensland University of Technology, Australia. He was also an adjunct lecturer and tutor at SIM University, Singapore, where he designed a criminology subject specifically for students from the Singapore Police Force. Of late, Mark has begun to develop expertise in converging criminology and social work through the specialisation of criminal justice social work in India. In this regard, he has published works that pertain to human rights, mental illness and strengths-based practice.

Abraham P. Francis is an Associate Professor in Social Work and Human Services at the College of Arts, Society and Education, JCU. With international exposure and extensive experience in community development and mental health, he taught social work at the University of Delhi in India and also worked as a senior mental health social worker with Country Health in South Australia, before moving to Townsville to join JCU. He held a stint in Queensland Health as Assistant Director of Social Work. He is associated with many voluntary organisations, associations, professional bodies and developmental projects, both in Australia and India. He has established international partnerships and research collaborations with universities and non-governmental organisations (NGOs) in Asia. He is passionate about working and researching in strengths-based practice in mental health. His other research interests are in the field of communities, criminal justice, international social work and gerontological social work.

His excellence in teaching has likewise been recognised on a number of occasions. For example, in 2010, he was a recipient of JCU's Inclusive Practice Award for his 'exceptional support for students with a disability'. More recently, in 2016, he received the university's 'Citation for Outstanding Contributions to Student Learning' for his 'leadership and expertise in social work education in mental health that inspires and nurtures students to be competent, confident and compassionate practitioners'.

Contributors

Sanjai Bhatt is presently the senior most Professor at Department of Social Work, University of Delhi and President of National Association of Professional Social Workers in India. He joined the University of Delhi after serving the University of Lucknow; Kashi Vidyapeeth, Varanasi; Kurukshetra University and Chitrakoot Gramodaya Vishwavidyalaya.

His areas of interest are social work education, social development, social security, occupational social work, climate change and corporate social responsibility (CSR). He has authored/edited eight books, namely *Social Work Education in India: A Resource Book*; *Social Work Practice: The Changing Context*; *Social Justice and Social Work Profession in India: Challenging Responses and Responding Challenges*; *Social Work Education and Practice Engagement*; *Social Work Response to Environment and Disasters*; *Social Work Response to Social Realities*; *Patterns of Mobility, Migration and HIV Risk in India*; and *Democracy in Trade Unions*. He has contributed a dozen book chapters and around 80 research papers on various themes. His thesis '4 W's (Water, Work, Waste and Women) in Development Paradigm' is widely accepted in academic fraternity. He has conducted varied research/consultancy work which includes benchmark survey, social assessment, need assessment, desk review, organisational review, programme evaluation, capacity building, programme designing, human resource management, manpower planning, team building, participatory research and so on. He has initiated many innovative projects such as the University for Development Action and Integrated Learning (UDAI-I) for rehabilitation of earthquake-affected persons in Bhuj, Gujarat (2001), and UDAI-II for relief and rehabilitation of flood-affected people in Supaul, Bihar (2008). He is a member of various government committees, including Bureau of Police Research and Development, Ministry of Home Affairs, Delhi Urban Slum Improvement Board, Juvenile Justice Board, 12th Five-Year Plan for Social Justice and so on, and is in Board of many NGOs and CSR Foundations. He has been part of campaigns such as Chipko Movement, Voters' Education Movement, Child Right, Reform in International Financial Institutions, and has founded an advocacy group PAIRVI.

Jamie Fellows is currently a Lecturer of Law at JCU (2009–present). He lectures and researches in the areas of public law, including public international law, administrative law, legal ethics, criminal law, Australian legal history, governance, sovereignty and colonialism. He has had extensive industry and professional experience in Australia and North East Asia, where he held several roles in finance and commercial property. Prior to entering academia, he worked as a Compliance Analyst with the Australian Securities and Investments Commission in Sydney and later as a Director with CB Richard Ellis in Tokyo, where he was responsible for corporate compliance, acquisition/disposition of foreign assets and commercial leasing. He holds undergraduate and postgraduate degrees from James Cook University (LLB Hons, BA), University of Sydney (MA), Australian National University (Graduate Diploma of Legal Practice) and University of New South Wales (Graduate Diploma in Education). He is currently pursuing a PhD from JCU.

Debarati Halder is an advocate by profession and the Honorary Managing Director of Centre for Cyber Victim Counselling (CCVC), an online non-profit organisation meant for helping and counselling the victims of internet and digital communication crime victims. Currently, she is Research Officer at Unitedworld School of Law, Ahmedabad, Gujarat. She has served as a lawyer in Madras High Court and Tirunelveli District courts. She is also the founding secretary of the South Asian Society of Criminology and Victimology (SASCV). She received her PhD degree in Law from the National Law School of India University, Bengaluru, ML degree from the University of Madras and LLB degree from the University of Calcutta. She is also an independent legal researcher and author. She has authored three books and published many scholarly articles on online victimisation of women, children and laws, therapeutic jurisprudence, human rights, prison rights of women and so on in many national as well as international peer-reviewed journals including the *British Journal of Criminology*, *International Annals of Criminology* and *Journal of Law and Religion*. She has also been an invited speaker in the Stockholm Criminology Symposium, 2012, and International Conference on Social Media, 2015, Istanbul, Turkey.

Margaret Henni is a graduate of the College of Arts, Society and Education at JCU. She majored in Criminology and Psychology, and received the prestigious University Academic Medal (Bachelor Coursework) '[f]or excellent academic achievement in coursework studies undertaken at undergraduate level'. She was later awarded a Class One Honours degree for her thesis 'Youth Crime in Townsville: Moral Panic or Regional Crisis', which examined the response to youth crime by the media and the subsequent legislative changes to the youth justice system. She has worked in a variety of research and support roles across the disciplines of criminology, sociology, social work, and political science; tutors first-year criminology students, and holds the position of Student Support Officer at the university.

Katherine Hoffensetz was selected as the inaugural JCU-Queensland Victim Assist Intern in 2014 and graduated from JCU with a Bachelor of Psychosocial Science in 2015, with a heavy focus on criminology and the plight of victims. Currently, she is working in the domestic violence sector, whereby she helps empower victims of domestic violence to build new lives with security and support. Through the work at Sera's, women are provided with counselling, guidance, information as well as emotional and practical support to engender opportunities to break the cycle of domestic violence.

K. Jaishankar is presently the Head of the Department of Criminology at the Raksha Shakti University, Gujarat. Earlier to the present position, he was a faculty member at the Department of Criminology and a Professor in Criminology and Criminal Justice, Manonmaniam Sundaranar University, Tamil Nadu. He has published more than a hundred publications, including peer-reviewed articles in journals such as *British Journal of Criminology*, editorials, book chapters and books. He is the recipient of the prestigious 'National Academy of Sciences, India (NASI)-SCOPUS Young Scientist Award (2012)-Social Sciences' and ISC-S. S. Srivastava Award for Excellence in Teaching and Research in Criminology (2013). He is the founding Editor-in-Chief of the *International Journal of Cyber Criminology* and Editor-in-Chief of *International Journal of Criminal Justice Sciences*. He is also the

founder President of SASCV and the founder Executive Director of CCVC. He was a Keynote Speaker at the 15th World Society of Victimology Symposium held during 5–9 July 2015, Perth, Western Australia. He is recently appointed as an International Ambassador of the British Society of Criminology.

Sonny Jose is the Head of Social Work, Loyola College of Social Sciences, Thiruvananthapuram. He is a Linneus-Palme Scholar, Ersta Skondal University. He did his undergraduation in Mathematics (1989), Masters in Social Work (1991) and Masters in Psychology (1997). He started his career as a business manager (1991), later trained and practised as psychotherapist-cum-counsellor prior to venturing into teaching at Loyola College of Social Sciences in 1999. He is a popular academic trainer, engages in research and has 34 publications in peer-reviewed journals—national and international—to his credit. He has authored two books, *Perspectives on Mental Health* and *Women in Tourism*, and 24 chapters in other books. He is on the Editorial Board of peer-reviewed journals such as *IJSWHR (USA)*, *Adelaide Journal Educere*, *Teens and the Loyola Journal of Social Sciences*, and is a consultant for World Bank, Kerala Women Development Corportaion, Kerala Public Service Commision, Child Development Center (CDC) research projects, and State Council of Educational Research and Training (SCERT) as well as Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU) for academics. He is a Member of Board of Studies for various universities—Manipal University, Mangalore University, Mahatma Gandhi University, Calicut University and the University of Kerala—and a Member of the Research Review Committee for Sree Sankaracharya University and M.G. University. He is the Founder Director of LiveLab, a self-sustaining NGO propagating Life Skills Education. He is the life member of Indian Association of Schools of Social Work, Indian Council of Social Welfare, Indian Association of Life Skill Educators, Kerala Association of Professional Social Work and National Association of Professional Social Workers in India. His innovations for quality assurance include STeF-04, MFS07 and SAPv.4.

Jyoti P. Khandpasole is working as a Project Manager in Resource Cell for Juvenile Justice (RCJJ). It is a field action project

(FAP) of the Centre for Criminology and Justice (CCJ), Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS), Mumbai. The RCJJ introduced the concept of a 'Help Desk' on the lines of a 'May I Help You'/'enquiry' desk in 2010. The Help Desk functions from Observation Homes on all days to impart information, guidance on juvenile justice issues and assisting juveniles, parents on case-related matters. Prior to this, she has served as a Research Officer in the CCJ, TISS, Mumbai, for one year. She started her career by helping to rehabilitate prisoners in central prisons of Maharashtra.

Pravin S. Khandpasole is the Director of DISHA since 2009. DISHA is a registered NGO working for the rights and restoration of victims of violent crimes such as murder, sexual offences in Maharashtra. A 24-hour telephone helpline (07666102103) is being run to provide free information, socio-legal guidance and outreach support services to needy and poor people interfacing with criminal justice system (CJS). DISHA has been instrumental in focusing the government attention on the victim's plight and the furnishing of the Victim Compensation Scheme (Section 357A of Criminal Procedure Code) with budgetary provisions through Public Interest Litigation in Maharashtra. Prior to this work, he has served as a Research Officer in the CCJ, TISS, Mumbai, for one and a half years. He started his career by helping to rehabilitate prisoners in central prisons of Maharashtra for six years.

Sashwati Mishra has completed her MA in Social Work with specialisation in Criminology and Justice from TISS, Mumbai. She holds another degree, Joint European Masters in International Humanitarian Action-NOHA, from Univeriste Paul Cezanne Aix-Marseille III, Aix-en-Provence, France, and University of Deusto, Bilbao, Spain. She is a researcher and a trainer. Her areas of interest include governance, accountability, nomadic and denotified tribes, feminism and social justice.

K. P. Asha Mukundan did MA in Social Work with specialisation in Criminology and Correctional Administration from TISS (1998) and PhD from Mumbai University (2011).

She specialises on working with issues related to child rights and juvenile justice. She has headed the Child Rights Cell at state

level and was on the panel of trainers to train juvenile justice functionaries by National Institute of Social Defence (GOI). She has been a part of several national and state-level studies. A founder Member and Project Director of RCJJ, based in Maharashtra, the project was able to create policy level impact on the juvenile justice system (JJS). She works closely with judiciary and was a part of state-level subcommittees set to monitor working of the JJS, draft standard operating procedures for Juvenile Justice Boards, amendment of Maharashtra Juvenile Justice Rules, Maharashtra Probation of Offenders Rules. She was on the Editorial Board of newsletters *Ujjwal* and *Prabodan* which published articles on children. She has published articles in journals, including *Journal of School of Social Work* and *Economic and Political Weekly*. Recipient of Endeavour Fellowship (Government of Australia, 2007), she did a study to understand the working of the JJS in New South Wales. She was also selected under Exchange Teacher Programme by the University of Gavle, under the Linnaeus Palme Programme in 2013.

Roshni Nair is an Assistant Professor and Chairperson of the CCJ, School of Social Work at TISS, Mumbai. She is presently involved in teaching, research, fieldwork and research guidance in the postgraduate degree programme, Social Work in Criminology and Justice. Her past areas of work have been with child and youth rights with an emphasis on rehabilitation of children of prisoners, youth living on the streets and runaway girls. She recently completed her PhD at TISS in social work education with a focus on fieldwork. She supervises student fieldwork in prisons, women and children's institutions and in rehabilitation settings. She teaches courses in social work methods, victimology and crime prevention, rural crimes and an online skill-based course for social work practitioners. Over 23 years of a career connected with social work, she has spent equal time being a social work, practitioner and educator. She is now keen on consolidating her experiences to work on strengthening curriculum, advocacy and research in the field of social work practice of criminology and justice. She heads a field action project of the Centre that offers individual fellowship to alumni to explore work in criminal justice themes.

Digvijoy Phukan has completed his Masters in Social Work and PhD in Social Work from the University of Delhi. He is presently working as Assistant Professor (Social Work) with Mahatma Gandhi Central University of Bihar, Motihari. Prior to this, he was a Consultant in the Advisory Team of Ernst and Young LLP. He also taught social work at the Central University of Jammu in the capacity of an Assistant Professor. He has also taught in School of Planning and Architecture. His areas of interest are community organisation, development research and criminal justice social work. He is also a University Gold Medalist and has worked extensively with the Salt Workers of Gujarat for his thesis on 'Conservation and Livelihood'. He has explored the criminalisation of communities in his thesis. He also has the experience of teaching criminal justice social work to postgraduate students. He has co-authored *Social Work Education in India: A Resource Book*.

Ilango Ponnuswami is currently Professor at the Department of Social Work and Dean of Faculty of Arts, Bharathidasan University, Tamil Nadu. With a Fellowship from the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and the International Institute on Ageing, United Nations, Malta (INIA), he successfully pursued a Postgraduate Diploma in Gerontology and Geriatrics at the Institute of Gerontology, University of Malta. He also attended a short-term training course in Income Security for the Elderly in Developing Countries conducted by the INIA with a UNFPA Fellowship during May–June 1995. He was a Cairns Institute Visiting Scholar at JCU during March–May 2012. He is also a member of the Editorial Board of the *Journal of Transformative Education* published by SAGE. He has published research articles in reputed journals such as *Indian Journal of Social Work*, *BOLD*, *Indian Journal of Social Psychiatry*, *Indian Journal of Criminology and Criminalistics* and a few chapters in books and quite a few articles in *Social Welfare* and *Kurukshetra*—official journals published by Central Social Welfare Board and Ministry of Rural Development, respectively, Government of India. He has also published seven edited volumes. Besides, he has participated in several international ageing and social work conferences and, more recently, represented India at the BRICS Forum on Ageing in Seoul. He also attended with Full Scholarship and presented scientific papers at

the International Ageing and Social Work Conferences organised by the INIA in Malta (1996), Hong Kong Council of Social Services in Hong Kong (1999), International Federation on Ageing in Montreal, Canada (1999), Asian South Pacific Bureau of Adult Education in Singapore (1999), International Association of Homes and Services for Ageing in Sydney, Australia (2003), Haggai Institute for Advanced Leadership Training in Maui, Hawaii, USA (2004), Episcopal Relief and Rehabilitation Division of the Churches in Bangkok, Thailand (2005), International Conference of ISTR, Bangkok, Thailand (2006), University of Malaya, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia (2011), International Conference on Strength Based Social Work Practice in Social Work and Human Services, Kathmandu, Nepal (2012), and more recently, the 20th World Congress of Gerontology and Geriatrics (IAGG, 2013) and BRICS Forum on Ageing, Seoul, Republic of Korea (2013).

Venkat Pulla is a TISS alumnus and a Tata Dorabji Scholar, 1976–77. He has been the founding Head of the Social Work Discipline in the Northern Territory University (1992–95) and is currently the coordinator of Social Work Discipline at the Australian Catholic University, Brisbane. He has previously taught at the Charles Sturt and the Sunshine Coast universities in Australia. In India, he taught at the College of Social Work, Hyderabad, and offered urban development training through British aid (DFID)-funded projects for metropolitan cities in India through the Regional Centre for Urban and Environmental Studies (RCUES), Osmania University. In India, he founded the Centre for Environment Concerns in Hyderabad, as a reflective sequel to the Bhopal tragedy and initiated the first-ever written Citizen's Report on the City of Hyderabad and Its Physical Environment. In Australia, he founded the Brisbane Institute of Strengths Based Practice and the Impetus Global, Brisbane, that offer training in strengths-based strategies for human services and the corporate sector. He writes on green social work, spirituality, coping resilience and building hope. His research interests include poverty interventions, health rights and transition countries.

Vijay Raghavan has done MA in Social Work with specialisation in Criminology and Correctional Administration and PhD in Social

Work from TISS. He is associated with the CCJ, School of Social Work, TISS, since 2005. Prior to 2005, he was the Project Director (since 1993), Prayas: Social Work in Criminal Justice, an FAP of the CCJ, engaging with issues of protection of legal rights and social re-entry of criminal justice clients, with a special focus on women, children and youth. He has been involved in training of police, prison and judicial officers on issues around gender, prisoners' rights, correctional laws, anti-trafficking, and re-entry of crime-affected persons. His research interests include custodial justice and prison reforms in post-colonial societies, social work practice in criminal justice regimes, anti-human trafficking and, more recently, youth involvement in organised crime in post-industrial cities. He is associated with two other FAPs of TISS: Koshish, working on rights and social inclusion of the homeless and destitute populations since 2006, and TANDA, (Towards Advocacy, Networking and Developmental Action), working on rights and entitlements of nomadic and de-notified tribes since 2011.

Atul Pratap Singh is presently working as Assistant Professor (Senior Scale) at the Department of Social Work, Dr Bhim Rao Ambedkar College, University of Delhi. He has 20 authored/co-authored/edited/co-edited books, about 60 research papers/articles/book chapters/columns to his credit including third *Encyclopedia of Social Work in India*, journals of international and national repute/books/newspapers/magazines. He has presented more than two dozen papers in international and national seminar/conferences which have been widely appreciated for their contents and analysis. He has also acted as Convener and Co-convener in two national seminars, respectively. He has served various positions in 20 different international, national and state-level research/consultancy/quality evaluation projects which include programme evaluation, social assessment, need assessment, KAP (Knowledge, Attitude and Practices) analysis and so on. Besides, he was invited as resource person/guest speaker/visiting faculty on more than 50 occasions. He is a committed and devoted teacher as well as a researcher. He received 'Best/Meritorious Teacher Award' from Government of NCT of Delhi in 2012 and prestigious 'Jan Jagriti Samman' from renowned freelance journalists and writer's organisation 'Akhil Bhartiya

Swatantra Lekhak Manch', New Delhi, in 2013. He has also been associated with several academic, professional and social welfare and development organisations. His areas of interest include social work education and fieldwork practicum, social welfare administration, community development and social research.

Ruchi Sinha is the Associate Professor with the CCJ in the School of Social Work, TISS. She completed her MA in Social Work from TISS, Mumbai, and her MPhil/PhD from Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU), New Delhi. She has over two decades of experience on issues of violence, conflict and peace processes, policing, corrections and correctional laws, criminology, crime and development, criminal justice policy, criminal justice social work, trafficking, child rights and protection, and juvenile justice as well as human rights. She has actively advocated at the policy level on all the issues mentioned above. She is currently focusing on effect of public policies on policing, crime and the response of the CJS to the public policy shifts. She, along with her centre colleagues, is involved with the National Research on Human Trafficking in India. She has been engaged with many initiatives including the Prime Ministers Rural Development Fellowship Scheme and RCJJ. Currently she is a member of Chhattisgarh State Planning Commission. She constituted a sub-group on 'Children, Adolescent and Youth'. She is also part of the team involved in drafting the Maharashtra State Children's Homes Policy.

Amit Gopal Thakre is presently working as a Trained Criminologist (Consultant) in the Department of Criminology, Raksha Shakti University, Ahmedabad, Gujarat, and providing consultancy services to the Ahmedabad City Police. Prior to the present position, he served as Research Consultant at the National Human Rights Commission of India, New Delhi. He was a UGC-Junior Research Fellow at the Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice, Manonmaniam Sundaranar University (MSU), Tamil Nadu, and he is awaiting thesis defense for his research on Community Policing. He is an alumna of LNjN National Institute of Criminology and Forensic Science, New Delhi. Earlier to joining Doctoral Program as JRF in MSU, he was lecturer in Institute of Forensic Science, Nagpur University, and Guest Faculty in Bihar

Judicial Academy. His research interests are crime prevention and innovative interventions.

Praveen Varghese Thomas, a Commonwealth Young Professional Fellow (2013, Chandigarh), nurtured as a Social worker (MSW) from Pondicherry Central University while holding a Bachelor's degree in English Literature. His research concerns encompass counter-culturalism, multi-dimensional exclusion faced by youth, youth development and community health. His operational area includes research, consultancy, creative writing and integration of theatre (arts) in social work and facilitation. He identifies himself as a qualitative researcher and is passionate about capturing the reality and lived experiences of young persons in urban slums, victimised by multidimensional exclusion.

Kelly-Ann Williams completed her Bachelor of Psychology (Hons) in 2014. Her honours thesis explored community attitudes towards the management of sexual offenders. She has worked with children in foster care, supporting individual challenging behaviours related to early trauma and neglect. She also worked as a Probation and Parole Case Manager for Queensland Corrective Services. She is currently pursuing her Master of Psychology (Clinical), and is conducting research on the role of social capital on mental health and well-being in North Queensland (Australia) communities.