



**Institutionalised Children
Explorations and Beyond**

An International Journal on Alternative Care



**hope and homes
for children**

Guest Editorship

CALL FOR PAPER

ICEB MARCH 2020 ISSUE WITH A SPECIAL FOCUS ON

Deinstitutionalisation: Policies, Strategies, Practices and Implications for South Asia



ICEB is an international, multi-disciplinary, peer-reviewed academic journal on **Alternative Care for out-of-home-care (OHC) children and young persons, focused on the South Asia region**. Along with addressing issues that can influence policy reforms, decision-making and improve practices and standards of care, the content of ICEB also addresses limitations in research, knowledge and counselling practices currently prevalent in the region. In essence, ICEB serves as a forum for studies, discussions, debates and research on issues that would lead to better practices of care, improving mental health issues, and encourage the integration of OHC children and young persons, including the differently-abled, into the mainstream and thus to their inclusion in civil society. The scope includes encouraging studies on these issues by universities and hospitals, together with clinics, young professionals and those in the field of care giving, especially in the non-governmental not-for-profit-sector. The belief is that such education and sharing of knowledge and experiences would lead to more dynamic prevention models as well as rehabilitation models.

Published electronically and in print version, twice a year (**March and September**), every issue of ICEB presents the following: original research papers and good models of care practices, comprehensive desk review papers, editorial and foreword, expert opinions, interviews, and book and movie reviews. Previews to previous issues can be found at <https://www.udayancare.org/research-and-publication/journal>.

We are presently receiving manuscripts for our March 2020 issue, which has a focus on 'Deinstitutionalisation: Policies, Strategies, Practices and Implications for South Asia'.

Deinstitutionalisation, specific to the context of Alternative Care for children, refers to policy-driven mechanisms to bring about reduced reliance on institutional and residential care for children, with a simultaneous increase in family and community-based care and services, prevent separation of children from their biological parents and families through adequate support to children, families and communities, and prepare the process of leaving care, ensuring social inclusion for care leavers and a smooth transition towards independent living.

Deinstitutionalisation reforms aim to prevent unnecessary separation of children from families by intervening with the root causes of separation, which can include neglect, abuse, poverty, child abandonment etc. The strategy of deinstitutionalisation is to shift children out of institutions and at the same time, avoid new placements. Appropriate alternative care for each child, based on their 'necessity' and 'suitability', are derived at by a thorough assessment of their needs, where all solutions and systems comply with the best interest of the child.

Awareness on the incompatibility of institutional care with a human rights approach is growing, where large-scale support systems typical of institutional care are found to be inadequate in recognizing the individual requirements of children and youth. Among the issues impacting the growth and development of children in institutional care, the lack of a stable attachment to caregivers and frequent changes among care staff, limited support from qualified child care professionals, rigidity in routine, impersonal nature of care received, inadequate child-staff ratio, and deficient or basic facilities of care, have been implicated. On the other hand, the unpreparedness of communities to take care of children who are without parental care means small group homes that provide quality residential and individualized care and protection to such children is something that cannot be done away with. South Asian countries, face particular challenges and dilemmas in this area of child protection.

Several countries across the world have begun to gradually revisit their Alternative care systems by closing down all institutions and re-integrating children back to families and communities. Learning from them to explore what can be incorporated in South Asia is important.

This issue aims to include research contributions along the following sub-themes, among other such relevant subjects, under the main topic of Deinstitutionalisation in Alternative Care in South Asia;

- Mechanisms and models to prevent family separation
- Gatekeeping strategies (legal, economic and social) as measures specifically aimed at reducing the number of children entering institutions
- Benefits of deinstitutionalisation - a biopsychosocial perspective
- Promising practices on deinstitutionalisation
- Essential legislative and policy reforms to promote deinstitutionalisation in the South Asian region
- Evidence and study reports on development of children in institutional care, as an argument in support of deinstitutionalisation
- Successful models of reintegration of children and youth, from residential care to families and communities or independent living - including after care
- Present challenges and perspectives to deinstitutionalisation as a viable option in the South Asian context
- Social workforce and the role it plays in gatekeeping and alternative care
- The influence of funding streams and finances on alternative care, including voluntourism

The Guest Editor for this issue is **Dr. Delia Pop**, the Director of Programmes and Global Advocacy, Hope and Homes for Children, UK. Dr. Delia is a medical doctor who has committed the last 18 years to working with children in the institutional care system and families at risk of separation.

YOU can contribute!

We invite research studies, legal and human rights-based perspectives, psychosocial frameworks, and innovative practices that consider deinstitutionalisation in child care, as well as good practices/models in the South Asian region. Submissions should critically examine and analyse the context of deinstitutionalisation in alternative care as well as reflect on the social norms and practices prevalent in different nations. Contributions should document the current debates around this issue of child and youth care, be reflective in nature and cover the key dilemmas that protect or fail to protect and uphold rights of children in Alternative Care.

Important Dates

Submission of Abstract (500 words)	31st July 2019
Full Paper Submission	10th September 2019
Final approval post Peer Review	15th October 2019

We welcome **original research articles**, as long as their research questions are important, new, and relevant to our reader-base consisting of academics, researchers, practitioners, social workers, policy-makers, mental health experts, managers, activists, students working in the field of alternative care of out-of-home children. We also invite **legal and human rights-based perspectives, policy frameworks, opinion pieces and book and movie reviews** as well as **good practices/models**.

The issue will be sub-categorized along the three dimensions of **policy, mental health, and development**, and we welcome articles that represent the subject matter within these realms of research and practice.

We invite all academics from social science, child and youth development experts, practitioners, managers, researchers, policy makers, students, research scholars and activists having experience of child and youth care systems.

Please follow the below **Contributor Guidelines** closely before submitting abstracts and full papers:

- Abstracts must be original, without any prior publication
- All contributions should be in English only
- All contributions should be in the best interest of child rights and show respect for their rights
- All contributions must follow the APA guidelines (see at <http://www.apastyle.org/>)
- Spelling must be consistent within an article and use British English whereas spelling in references should follow the original
- All contributions should be carefully proof-read before submission
- The Editorial Board reserve the right to reject without review poorly proofed articles with errors
- The Editorial Board takes the final decision on publications and edit the final manuscript
- All contributions based on research should comply with ethical principles and appropriate ethical procedures
- Contributions must be word processed, preferably using Microsoft Word.
- All contributions should be submitted in word format, using times roman font size 12 and mention title of article / paper, authors' names and affiliations, brief biographical details, corresponding author's contact details, four keywords and an abstract

Authors are invited to **submit papers** online at <http://www.indianjournals.com/ArticleSubmissionOnline1.aspx>

For queries, you may write to iceb@udayancare.org

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