



Call for Papers: Special Issue on “Urbanisation, Sanitation, and Social Justice in South Asia: Addressing Inequities Through Social Work and Policy Interventions”

[4th of April 2025]

Rapid urbanisation in South Asia has led to a significant transformation in socio-economic structures, yet it has also exacerbated sanitation, labour precarity, and social exclusion issues. Sanitation Workers engaged in hazardous and filthy work, i.e., Manual Scavenging, still face many socio-economic, Psychosocial, and Health hazards despite legal frameworks and Public Policies. Hence, the special issues focus on disparagingly introspecting the intersections of urbanization, sanitation labour, and social justice, engaging with social work and policy interventions to address systemic inequities and structural violence with impunity from the State. However, with the convergence of critical outlooks on social policy, welfare states, the rule of law, and economic forces, the issue explores how social work can endorse transformation and social solidarity among sanitation labourers. Therefore, the proposed Special Issue deals with *“Urbanisation, Sanitation, and Social Justice in South Asia: Addressing Inequities Through Social Work and Policy Interventions”*.

We kindly invite all interested scholars to submit contributions to the SW&S Special Issue. Possible topics could be:

- Manual Scavenging: Challenges and Struggles of Sanitation Workers
- Legal Frameworks and Policy Discourses: Addressing Systemic Gaps in Implementation
- Migration, Informal Labor, and the Precarity of Sanitation Work Health Hazards and Occupational Risks in Sewerage and Septic Tank Work
- Intersections of Religion, Gender, and Caste in Sanitation Labor
- Septic Tank Deaths and Municipal Governance: Structural Failures and Accountability
- Rehabilitation, Welfare Schemes, and Social Work Interventions for Sanitation Workers
- Urban Spaces, Social Exclusion, and the Marginalization of Sanitation Workers
- Public Policy, Advocacy, and the Role of Social Work in Structural Transformation
- Subaltern Narratives: History, Literature, and the Legacy of Manual Scavenging
- Sanitation, Society and Social Equity in Management Perspective

Submission details

We invite you to submit articles for consideration. The deadline for submissions

Deadline for Abstract Submissions – April 30th 2025

Abstract Review and Selection Notification – May 25th, 2025

Full Paper Submission Deadline – July 30th, 2025

Publication (Online) – December 30th 2025

The SW&S-Journal is a peer-reviewed journal (double-blind). Submissions will be read by at least 2 external reviewers in the first instance. All papers finally accepted will be published in the special issue on 12/2025.

Technical information:

Special Issue-Articles (5000 - 8000 words) should follow our basic style sheet (compatible with Li-bre/Open Office and Microsoft Word). Please use the template from our homepage:

<https://ejournals.bib.uniwuppertal.de/index.php/sws/about/submissions>

Contributions can be submitted via email (vikramrcmswigtu@gmail.com and cc to office@socwork.net)

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