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***International Journal of
Social Work and
Human Services Practice***

Special Edition on Poverty and Human Rights in Asia
Editors: Venkat Pulla and Azlinda Azman



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This journal will resonate the themes of resilience and hope. Practitioners and academia will take the opportunity to present reflective thinking, innovations and advance a community of practice that features strengths based practices and narratives and research that informs, educates and celebrates the infinitesimal capacity of human coping, resilience and hope. Writings that are refreshingly new that celebrate ethical conduct, practice of human values, eco-social justice international security and peace and those that advance nonviolent development alternatives in governance of our societies will be welcomed. All submissions to the International Journal of Social Work and Human Services must follow APA 6 guidelines. Articles that are submitted in any other form other than APA 6 guidelines will be summarily rejected and will not be acknowledged. All articles are double blind peer reviewed.

Editorial correspondence including all articles / announcements/ reviews subject to editing may be sent to the attention of Kevin Nelson, Research Assistant at review.hrpub@gmail.com

Special issues and expressions of interests may be sent to the Editor in Chief

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Editor's Note

On behalf of the nearly fully constituted editorial committee I have great pleasure in forwarding this first printed special issue of the Journal. This has been possible due to the unstinted cooperation from the back office of the Journal particularly Kevin Nelson and the number of editorial colleagues on the committee. This maiden special issue of the International Journal of Social Work and Human Services Practice is devoted to a range of papers that relate to poverty human rights, and building resilience. These pre-selected papers were invited from a previous Asia Pacific Colloquium on Poverty as a Human Rights Violation, jointly organized by Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM) and Charles Sturt University (CSU), Wagga Wagga, NSW Australia held in Penang, in 2013, under the leadership of Dr. Ndungi wa Mungai and Dr Azlinda Azman. The special editors Dr. Venkat Pulla and Dr. Azlinda Azam have been heavily assisted by another editorial body member Dr. Kanchana Lanzet, who did excellent proofing and gave several suggestions to the writers of these articles.

Venkat Pulla
Editor in Chief
International Journal of Social Work and Human Services Practice
University of the Sunshine Coast, Australia
30, April, 2014

International Conference Announcements:

International Conference on Community Empowerment, Coping, Resilience and Hope

14th to 16th December 2014

Hyderabad, India

Organized by: Centre for Action Research and People's Development, Hyderabad, India, International Resilience Institute Sydney, Australia, and Brisbane Institute of Strengths Based Practice

Deadline for abstracts/proposals: 15, August, 2014

bharath.sbp2014@gmail.com

<http://www.carped.org/pdfs/International%20Conference%20on%20Community%20Empowerment.%20%20Coping.%20Resilience%20and%20%20Hope.pdf>

1st International Conference on Social Work Practice in Mental Health

10-12 December 2014.

Organised by The De Paul International Centre for Well-being, Kerala, the Social Work Department at De Paul Institute of Science & Technology (DiST), Department of Social Work and Human Services at James Cook University, Australia (JCU) and Centacare, Australia.

Submission of Abstracts - June 05, 2014.

<http://depaulextension.org/Conference-Details.html#6>

Joint World Conference on Social Work, Education and Social Development 2014

Held at the Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre, 09-12 July 2014.

The official Joint World Conference on Social Work, Education and Social Development 2014 full programme is now available at

http://www.swsd2014.org/wp-content/uploads/SWESD_Program-Grid.pdf

Revisiting Asian Poverty and Human Rights

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Poverty is an old issue but still unsettling phenomenon in many parts of the developing world. It is classified as a disease by the WHO and is given the code Z59.5. Poverty violates basic human rights. This marginalised population is deprived of many basic needs for the mere daily survival in their environment. They live in the world of plenty with resources that is not equally distributed. The plight of this bottom billion is overwhelming. Global environment has changed the ways of peoples' lives. It is now a borderless world and wall-less homes where diseases, information and people crisscross physical and political boundaries at unparalleled speeds. Poverty is no longer about basic needs. Fighting poverty is now fighting alongside the threats of urbanisation, deteriorating environment due to pollution, new and old incurable diseases and depleting resources. While poverty was just an issue of putting food on the table and roof over the heads, globalisation and other challenges in fighting poverty have evolved into new dimensions. This new dimensions now ranging from rural-urban poverty, lack of information, access to health care services, limited opportunities for education and issues of vulnerability are becoming more apparent. In fact, vulnerability is the new dimension of poverty and needs more researches or deliberations. Microfinance institutions for example have helped solve some of the poverty challenges in some countries. Women has potential roles in fighting poverty although in some countries women are treated as marginalized population that do not seems to contribute to the country's economic development. In fighting poverty, some other countries use policy driven approaches while implementing pro-poor programmes. These successful countries have used clear policy directions with adequate resources budgeted in fighting poverty. With new dimensions of poverty emerging, there is a strong need to re-think or come out with other creative approaches in combating poverty. Existing policies makes some groups of population invisible thus remain unseen or marginalized. It is hoped that the outcome of this intellectual discourse presented in this special issue is seen as a sharing of ideas and suggestions towards improving the wellbeing of the bottom billion.

Bala Raju Nikku and Azlinda Azman reflect on 'Politics, Policy and Poverty in Nepal' and successive development plans in Nepal that continue to focus on poverty alleviation for decades and yet , Nepalese today are no less poor than

they were a decade ago. The authors suggest a pro-poor growth model stimulates employment and other economic opportunities, and generates revenues, which can be directed, through good governance, at providing services needed by the poor and vulnerable groups. A second nation in transition within South Asia is Myanmar or the erstwhile Burma. The country has been rendered poor due to ethnic strife and lack of democratic processes for a long time. In a paper titled 'What Constitutes Poverty in Myanmar? The Social work Appraisal', Henry Ngun Ceu Thang, Nguyen Thi Tung Uyen, Ndungi wa Mungai present broad areas that urgently need to be addressed in the context of Myanmar namely the religious and political, social justice, and the rights and the freedom for the people to make their own choice for their future. The challenge facing the country in the light of recent political changes is whether this will translate into tangible changes in a positive way in terms of income, wellbeing and human rights.

Human rights particularly in the western countries refer to civil and political rights nearer to those enshrined in the international covenants and are often referred to as first generation rights. In the Asian version, successful economic and social reformations such as in Singapore seems to garner some support towards what seems to be more of economic model that sans or neglects the first generation human rights. There is an argument within this trend human dignity and good governance the twin goals are optimally achieved by political systems that are geared towards a social order and rapid economic growth. 'The uneasy co-existence of the western model of human rights and the emerging notions of a viable human rights approach suitable for the Asian continent, presents theoretical challenges that are necessary for understanding the growing linkages between democratic processes and human rights values in the Asian continent' (Pasupuliti, Pulla, Ealdama, 2013, pxi). We have India in Asia, perhaps the largest democracy, but a paradox. On one hand a high growth rate that leads to international profiling reaching heights and abysmally a third of its population below the poverty line. Tragic child malnutrition rates that is perhaps extraordinary highest in the world with no correlation to family's income. Radha chada and Venkat Pulla present on the issue of stunting, nutrition and poverty in the Indian context and suggest that poverty and lack of resources may predispose a child to maladjustment in the grown-up society, lacking in resiliency. Their paper

examines the relationship between poverty, marginalization and health in the context of stunting, underweight and wasting among children and malnutrition among women and adolescent girls lacking in resilience. Asian poverty is tragically enigmatic. The factor of gender adds rather serious dimensions. Take for instance in Pakistan, they constitute over fifty three percent of national population and a great majority of them live below the poverty line (Saeed, 2013). Maliha Tarar and Venkat Pulla 's paper is based on an empirical study of women living in shelters examines how poverty contributes to violent gender-power relations in Pakistani society and how patriarchal structure utilizes violence as a tool to control women and their sexuality, particularly in low income families. Pakistan and its immediate neighbour Afghanistan also have other serious issues: internal displacement and the refugee issue. Internal displacements stand out as a major human rights issue in South Asia. The article titled 'Scourge of Internal Displacement of Afghan Refugees: Compromised Resiliency' by Mussarat Jabeen, Venkat Pulla comment on the difficulties of people not having enough skills to compete with the local populations marking their sagas of coping with exploitation with compromised resiliency. While life does not cease but becomes vulnerable evidently letting the people to remain in abject poverty. A related paper on Pakistan examines 'Visible Work, Invisible Workers: A Study of Women Home Based Workers in Pakistan', by Syeda Mahnaz Hassan and Azlinda Azman. The authors examine the various socioeconomic and sociocultural factors that adversely affecting women home based workers in Pakistan. It emphasizes on the issues related to invisibility, vulnerability, social exclusion, gender disparity and vicious cycle of poverty experienced by the women home based workers. Jamalludin Sulaiman, Azlinda Azman and Abdelhak Senadjki in their paper 'Comparing Vulnerability to Poverty: A Case Study in the Northern Region of Malaysia' discuss the wide variety of risks and factors that contribute farmers' vulnerability to poverty in Malaysia. They argue that it is crucial to focus on the ex-ante programmes that may prevent farmers to be out of poverty cycle.

Bangladesh has gained substantial experience in using micro credit for reducing poverty since 1980s. NGOs first adopted micro credit approach basically to empower the women attempting at generating self-employment and self-reliance. Of value and importance is a paper included in this section by Tulshi Kumar Das and Venkat Pulla on microcredit experience of Bangladesh. Mohammad Abdul Hannan Pradhan and Jamalludin Sulaiman in their paper titles 'A Review of the Vulnerable Group Development (VGD) Program for Protection and Promotion of Poor Households in Bangladesh' evaluate the effectiveness of the Vulnerable Group Development (VGD) program in helping to improve the wellbeing of selected poor women-headed families in Bangladesh. Jamalludin Sulaiman, Azlinda Azman and Zahoor Khan, present a 'Remodelling Urban Poverty: A Multidimensional Approach'. Their paper aims to re-evaluate the measurement of urban poverty on a wider

socio-economic scale. The dimensions including economic, socioeconomic, financial accessibility, living conditions and social fragmentation were some of the indicators reviewed and discussed in order to come up with a more comprehensive multidimensional approach of urban poverty measurement.

Poverty is still a persistent issue in Asia. Be it SAARC nations or whole of Asia. A summary of the papers included in this section in a way describe the maintainers and interrupters and certainly the drivers of poverty in Asian countries.

Drivers	Maintainers	Interrupters
Health Expenditure	Poverty	Income diversification
High interest Borrowing	Indebtedness	Asset accumulation
Crop Failures	Poor healthcare	Marketable skills/ linkages
Natural disasters	Loss of productive assets	Access to credit
Loss of productive assets	Governance failure	Wage increase
Source: (Pulla, 2013)		

Most papers here have also argued that mismanagement of resources, inefficiency in governance, corruption and abuse of human rights constitute the fundamental problems (Thang, Uyen, Ndungi Mungai, 2014). How would Asia's postcard on the Millennium development goals (MDGs) implementation look like? Will it focus on self-reliance, prioritising the goals? From a social work point of view doing MDGs right is actually another way of meeting and strengthening human rights in Asia. A need to link the agenda of development, human rights and extreme poverty, as well as efforts to empower people living in poverty to participate in decision-making processes on policies that affect them together are certainly required. Several Asian Nations aim to become wealthy without uplifting its citizenry at the bottom. This by itself is a standing form of injustice and human rights abuse in these nations. As special editors of this section we believe that sustainable interventions in social work require critical understanding of the structural maintainers to begin with.

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Community Work:

Theories, Experiences & Challenges

Kalpana Goel, Venkat Pulla, Abraham P. Francis (Eds.). (2014).

NIRUTA, Publications, Bangalore

The book 'Community Work: Theories, Experiences & Challenges' edited by K. Goel, V. Pulla and A. P. Francis published by NIRUTA Publications, Bangalore in 2014 consists of fifteen chapters which have mostly discussed the potentials, limitations and challenges of community development practice in different contexts, especially in India, Africa and Australia. The authors have discovered and explained the applicability of community development approach on the basis of their practical experiences they gained at field level as well as in teaching social work or community development or related discipline. The book is therefore a combination of applied and theoretical knowledge of community development. It could be a useful literature for the students, academics, NGO and GO workers who intend to understand the theoretical background of community development and its application in different disadvantaged communities. The efforts made by the authors to bring out such a book can be described a timely produce which will benefit all the stakeholders in developing and developed societies.

The concept of 'community' has rightly been redefined in the book as traditional 'we feeling' based and face to face interactive community has rapidly undergoing change due to various processes of globalization. Globalisation not only started changing the very nature of community but also the entire life style of the people living in any community. Communities now are becoming technology-driven and virtual with diminished face to face interaction among its members. This has gradually decreased in the industrially developed countries and is now extensively penetrating into the urban areas of developing countries.

The authors have shown the effectiveness of community development approach in addressing the needs and problems of ever changing communities based on their extensive global research, practice and teaching experience in the community development fields in South Asian countries, Australia and elsewhere in the world. Community development workers are expected to work with vulnerable communities and important aims of the workers are to preserve and promote the conditions of human rights and ensure justice for all living in the community. The book has presented theoretical understandings of community and community development approach and has also shown the applicability of the approach through safety net, micro-finance, self-help and Ubuntu models in many sectors like education, health, economy and immigrants' settlement. The authors of the book have diverse experiences of working with numerous disadvantaged and destitute communities across the globe have definitely enriched their practical as well as theoretical knowledge about community development that has been appropriately reflected in different chapters with clear and rigorous understanding. The authors have emphatically explained as to how community development method can bring about a positive change in any community.

Kalpana Goel in her article shows how community-based organizations can help grow an inclusive society under the principles of community development. She truly finds community development strategy of social work effective while working with immigrants' community. Abraham Francis in his article applies safety net groups as a tool under community development approach successfully for community building and community support to address the mental health problems of the people. Bala Raju Nikku identifies the challenges before the social workers that have been posed because of the process of globalization. He has discussed the role of community development in a turbulent society, and also underlines the ways through which social workers could be fully equipped with required knowledge and skills so that they can effectively work with communities which have been going through rapid changes in a globalized world. James Mugisha et al explain the changes taking place in the very structure of extended families due to the process of rapid modernization and urbanization which is obviously the result of globalization, causing extended families break into nuclear families in Ugandan society in particular and Africa in general. It appears that the social and family support that the people with problems of mental health earlier received from extended families, the emerging trends of nuclear families virtually fail to provide with. The authors claim that micro finance strategy may help the people with problems of mental health as micro credit may provide social

support substituting the extended families which has eroded overtime as a result of globalization. Narayan Gopalkrishnan discusses in his article as to how the community development practitioners can effectively handle the negative effects of globalization in different communities.

Fredrik Velander and Andreia talk about a culturally secure community development practice that seems to be befitting while working with indigenous communities. The authors try to imply as to how 'wise practice' and 'culturally secure community development practice' can bring about better results in a community through a case study conducted in Norseman Aboriginal Community in Australia. Heather Percey and Peter Orpin in their article have explored theoretical insights embedded in community development practice through the study of ground theory and examine the possibility of effective practice of community development in a rural setting. 'Ubuntu' approach in community development practice has been emphasized by Ndungi Wa Mungai in his article as the approach deals with the goals of people both collective and individuals goals. The very approach treats individuals as actors, agents and participants to set their destiny which helps understand the significance of extended families in diaspora communities settled in Australia while encountering multifarious problems as immigrant communities living in a society which is based on individualistic philosophy. Bharath Bhushan Mamidi and Radha R. Chada put emphasis on utilizing community organization method as well as different pieces of social work knowledge and skills to organize the street vendors so that they themselves can establish their rights. Subhasis Bhadra and Venkat Pulla demonstrate the efficacy of community development perspectives to deal with different phases of disaster management in terms of providing relief and rehabilitation, building hopes and making them prepared to face disasters which in turn strengthen resilience of affected individuals and communities. Abraham Francis, Venkat Pulla and Kalpana Goel in their paper reveal that strength-based community development practice assists to address the problems of mental health and also makes way for an integrating sustainable community spirit and robust resilience that can successfully handle complexities of mental health. Joy Penman in her paper discusses the importance of health education to strengthen community capacity at the locality. She confirms that community engagements facilitate self-management capacity that results in building human capital in a community. In the last chapter, Abraham Francis and Venkat Pulla explain and analyze the challenges of globalization and uncertainties that throw the modern communities into situations of helplessness, and they have suggested adopting community development activities which can help overcome the uncertainties. The authors truly echo Jim Ife (Ife, 2013, p. 392) that community practice needs to be undertaken with 'passion, vision and hope'.

What I feel is that the book is very useful one, particularly for the students and scholars of applied social sciences across SAARC countries, and the book will equally be demanding in the pacific regions as the chapters written here are robust in their description and theoretically and practically invaluable. It may however be suggested that adding chapters on 'indigenous community development' in the Asian and pacific contexts and at least two articles on theoretical aspects and practice frameworks of community development in the next edition of the book would be appreciable.

Although applicability of Gandhian model and strength-based perspectives of community development has been discussed in some of the chapters, the discussions and analysis is the treatment is not adequate. More chapters on Gandhian and strength-based perspectives are highly desirable in the next volume. A novel idea has been developed by Anne Riggs and Venkat Pulla reflecting on arts and the practice of social work aiming at presenting some of the common concerns relating to development options both for individual and communities. The authors show that arts and the practice of social work in the areas of community development practice may complement each other to achieve the common goals that can ensure the entitlements of welfare for the service recipients. I found this an entirely a novel thinking that can better our practice with disadvantaged communities. On the whole, I would like to congratulate all the authors for their chosen themes and for the discussions and analysis that have been made in each chapter of the book which, I'm sure, will be a precious literature for those who teach and practice community development across the nations. The price of the book is very affordable.

Reviewed by:

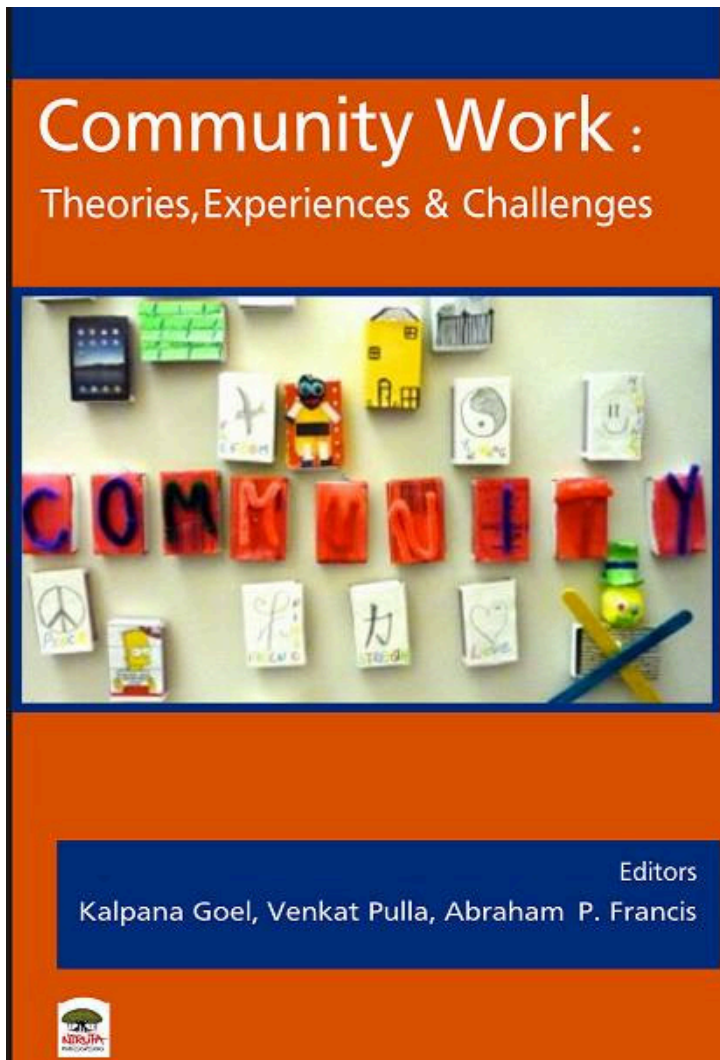
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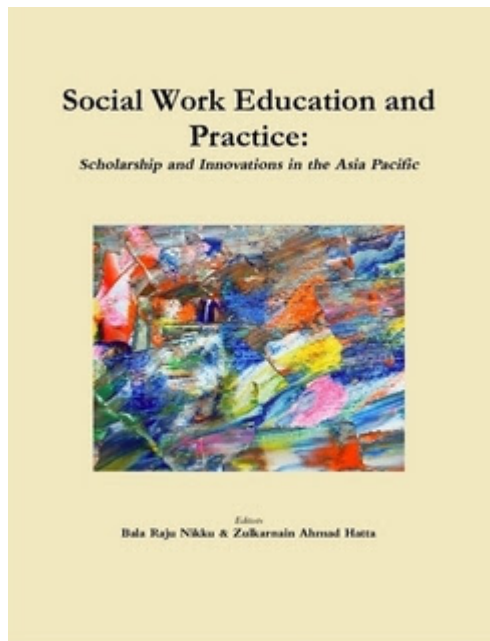
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Social Work Education and Practice: Scholarship and Innovations in the Asia Pacific

By Nikku Bala Raju, Hatta Zulkarnain Ahmad



Social work as a body of knowledge is and should be in a constant state of dynamism. No region, theory or model should claim exclusivity to the profession and new ideas viz-a-viz ‘innovations’ have to be viewed as adding to the richness of that body. In writing this book the authors aim to highlight how important it is, across the globe, to advance society via the classroom. The book’s editors argue that one has only to summon the courage to challenge existing and dominant paradigms and models to begin to enhance the field of social work. This book shares a range of innovations that are taking place in schools of social work in universities in the Asia Pacific region. The book focuses on exemplifying innovation in social work and its associated scholarship.

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Call for Papers for Special Issue December, 2014 With focus on

Subjects Coverage

- How do collaborations and advocacy strategies effectively engage varied stakeholders to enlarge the scope of entitlements for inclusive governance and improve forms of self help approaches?
- How would growing interface of state and non state players look like while addressing the challenges of equity and development with social justice?
- What would it mean to us when we use phrases like greening of academics, integrating spirituality with social animation, and use of indigenous knowledge in conflict resolution and peace building?
- What growing hope in strengthening social work and human services in our societies comprise of?
- What are some of the best practices of collective action and participatory governance structures based on enabling environments for people from diverse cultural backgrounds that provide new source of learning and building social work?

Submission Requirements

Abstracts need to be sent for this special issue: before 15 August, 2014. and the Chief Editor will then advise the acceptance of the abstracts by 5th of September, 2014.

Articles must be submitted by 30th September, and we expect finalization of all articles by October 30th 2014.

The Journal reserves the right to publish the articles in either the special or subsequent editions.

December, 2014 Special Issue will deal with Community Empowerment, Coping, Resilience and Hope.

This issue will be edited by Pallsanna Balgopal, Venkat Pulla, Ilango Ponnuswami, Vinita Pandey.

This global conversation on coping, resilience and hope, community empowerment and strengths based practice began in Hyderabad in India in the year 2006 and returns in 2014 to the same city. To commemorate this, the International Journal of Social Work and Human Services Practice will bring out a special edition.

If you wish to write a special article and wish to discuss participation in the conference please write to the Chief Editor Dr Venkat Pulla.

The human creativity incessantly working out solutions ought to be acknowledged, celebrated. We aim recognizing every innovation that occurs. We recognize that there are coping solutions just as there are resilience building strategies. For some, the will to never give up and the will to bounce back might be considered as resilience. We want to see the concepts of resilience explained in a fresh perspective.

Resilience and coping efforts that enable people in crisis need focus to build knowledge and skills to empower society as a whole and at an individual level to redefine their individual and collective future. This is also necessary for revisiting their identities and ensuring state responses for protection of human rights and to create a social order that will curb the current crisis.

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The International Journal of Social Work and Human Services Practice is published six times a year both in print and online forms. For Print form please enquire the costs for single copy as well as annual subscriptions. Academic institutions, libraries, researchers and non Government and government agencies may indicate the number of printed copies required to save on their postage and handling costs.

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