

Contacts: Julia Ann Easley
WLU Information Officer
(519) 884-1970 ext. 2070

Dr. Shankar Yelaja
Dean, Faculty of Social Work
(519) 884-1970 ext. 2205

Jan. 17, 1990
02-1990

Schools of social work and multiculturalism subject of study

How schools of social work can better prepare students to serve the province's multicultural population is the subject of a study by the dean of social work at Wilfrid Laurier University.

Shankar Yelaja has received a \$29,600 grant from the Ministry of Colleges and Universities for a one-year project entitled Multiculturalism and Social Work Education: The Process of Change.

The project is one of six approved under a ministry program designed to examine how professional schools can respond to Ontario's changing and diverse population mix. The other disciplines receiving funding are family medicine, law, nursing, teacher education and occupational therapy.

Yelaja said minority groups often experience cultural and professional barriers in using social services. "Social workers must be broadly educated to be aware of and sensitive to the needs of minority groups."

At the conclusion of his study, Yelaja will make recommendations for changes in educational policy and curricula.