



DELHI SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

NEWSLETTER ISSUE NO.5 | OCTOBER 2022



Editorial Note



Anjana Anand (Editor)
(Batch 1992-94)

Your encouraging feedback motivates us and we are here again with another exciting issue of the newsletter. As more and more alumni join the DSSW alumni association, the bond continues to strengthen and our distinguished alumni bring to us interesting stories from across the globe. Aditi Sabbarwal talks about the ILHAM, a livelihood initiative of UNHCR for the Afghani women refugees. ILHAM is testimony to the heart touching stories of single women offering heartwarming Afghani dishes as part of the initiative. Last month, I attended the annual day function of our alma mater and extremely happy and proud to share a glimpse of the history of evolution of DSSW as shared by Dr. Shakuntala David, President, YWCA at the Annual Day celebrations, which I am sure all of you will cherish as you remember your days at DSSW. Once again, thank you to the Alumni Association for the all the support with the activities of the association and the publication of this newsletter.

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“When we consciously contribute, we are converting an immediate emotional response to rational implementation.” — Suzanne F. Stevens

Happenings at the Department



On August 6th, 2022, DSSW celebrated 76th Annual Day with a number of distinguished guests: Chief Guest, Honorable Director, South Campus, University of Delhi, Dr. Shri Prakash Singh. Prof. Ratna Boli, Dean of Academics, University of Delhi. There was a strong presence of alumni in the celebrations. The Guests of Honour were all our alumni. Ms. Anita Paul, Director, and Mr Kalyan Paul Executive Director, Pan Himalayan Grassroots Development Foundation, Uttarakhand. Ms. Ashita Mittal, Regional Representative, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, Central Asia also graced the occasion.

The celebrations coincide with India's 76th year of Independence making it even more special. Professor Pamela Singla welcomed the guests, faculty, students and alumni on the momentous occasion. Ms. Anita Paul and Ms. Ashita Mittal, also the alumni of DSSW shared their rich experiences while reminiscing their DSSW days. Listening to them was inspiring. How some simple activities they engaged with

helped them in treading a totally unknown area. An audio-visual of the Department of Social Work offered a virtual tour of the department highlighting the initiatives and achievements of the year gone by. Professor Singla unveiled and presented the Annual Report for the period April, 2021- March, 2022. Chief Guest Dr. Shri Prakash Singh highlighted the spirit of welfare as outlined in the Vedas and said, “Nothing is impossible for the students of Social Work because they come with a strong sense of service”. Dr. Shakuntala David enlightened the August gathering with the history of DSSW starting in 1947 under the aegis of YWCA and how it came to be established as an institution contributing towards the social change in the society.

Listening to her was very nostalgic as was meeting with the son and daughter-in-law of Prof. Gangrade who has taught many of us.

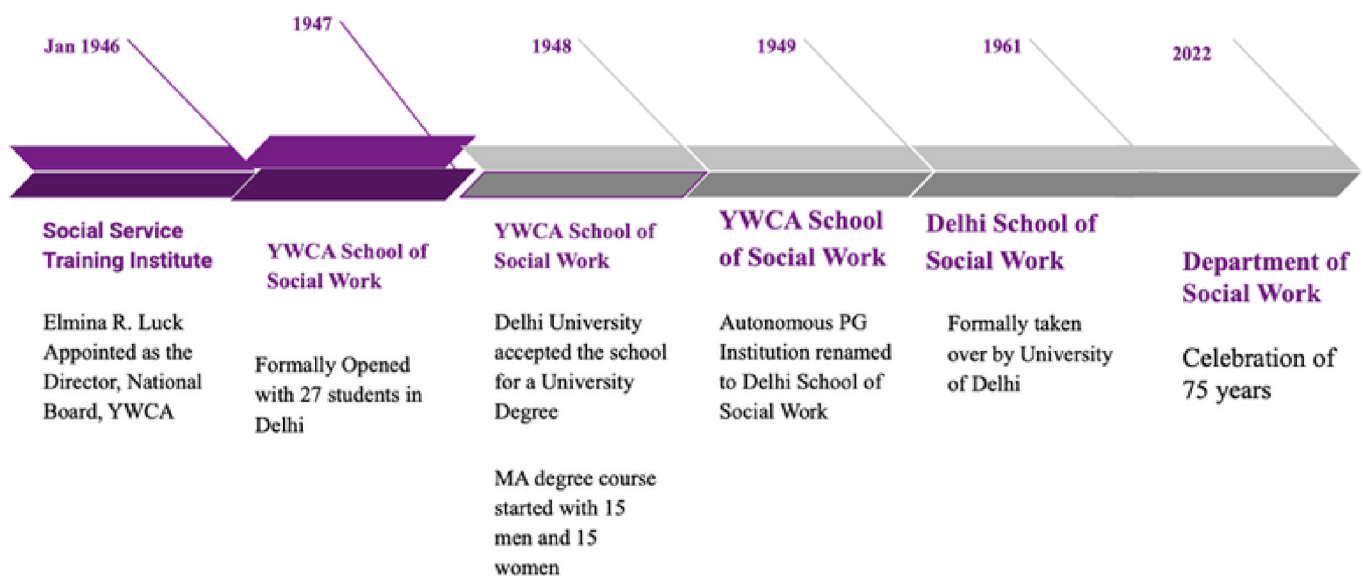
The Newsletter of the Alumni association was also released on the occasion. We are thankful to the Department for including the alumni in this very important event. Many alumni came in person to participate in the function.

Evolution of DSSW as an Institution - Anjana Anand 1992-94 Batch

At the Annual Day Celebrations of DSSW, special guest Dr. Shakuntala David, President, YWCA of India shared the journey of the formation of DSSW, how it started with the vision of two ladies at YWCA, London. Training wing established as Social Services training institute under the headship of Elmina R. Lucke, evolved into YWCA School of Social Work in Lucknow with just two students and donated equipment by the Murree club of Lucknow, journeyed to Ooty before it opened its doors to 27 students in Delhi in September 1947 as the second school of Social Work in India after TISS

During the partition, the students from this school were involved in the relief work for the refugees from across the border (now Pakistan). Some students were sent to East Punjab to assist in the government of India and Pakistan to conduct interview investigations in conducting survey. While expressing gratitude and profound appreciation, Dr. David said, "the vision of the national committee members of YWCA who envisaged an all-India Institute which would provide social work trainings that is today the Delhi school of social work/Department of social work has reached the zenith of its work in these 75 years. Today, we feel a sense of achievement that the Department continues with its legacy and is proactively responding to the challenges faced by the communities at the time of disasters, both natural and man-made and has been initiating innovative programmes across the countries.

History of DSSW



Activities of the Alumni Association

Strategy Meeting

The Alumni Association organised its first face to face meeting in the last 3 years on September 10, 2022 at CSOI, Delhi. The membership drive has picked up after it got registered in January 2022. With the membership touching about 100, we have reached a stage where there is greater participation and collective thinking to discuss the future direction and way forward for the Association. We all have a connect with our Alma mater but there is a need to make this connect stronger and meaningful and to create a DSSW Community. This would encourage Alumni engage not only with the Department but also with each other for their Professional Development

The purpose of the meeting was to explore ways to make the Association relevant for the Department as well as all the Alumni whether they are members of the Association or not. Therefore, an invite was sent out to everyone to participate in a discussion. In all, we had 34 people present. This included alumni from 1972 batch as well as 2022 batch. This good mix of senior and young alumni helped in getting some understanding of what is the expectation from the Alumni Association. Highlight of this meeting was participation of three of our senior alumni who had travelled from as far as Hyderabad, Solan and Korba to be part of the discussions. A number of suggestions were given by the participants such as formation of smaller discussion groups, offering short term courses, mentoring of students as well as young professionals by the senior alumni.

Participants also shared that we need to form more committees and involve more alumni to support the functions. Mr DS Kohli, the senior most participant highlighted the need to do fund raising for the Association, without which it would be difficult to plan anything. These initial thoughts will be tested through a survey that will be extended to all members of the Association. Based on the findings a Strategy note will be developed which be the guiding document for the Association going forward.



A Visit to the Department

We had a small get together at DSSW on 12th September, for some Alumni who were visiting Delhi from other places and wanted to visit the School. Some others from Delhi NCR also joined. In all we had 10 alumni from different batches of the seventies. After a brief meeting with the some of the faculty members the group went around the premises visiting the classrooms, canteen, Office, Hostels, etc. to relive their old memories. It was a pleasure to see how the alumni enjoyed themselves remembering the rooms where they stayed in the hostel, their wardens. Some members of the next generation were now working in the hostel. They pointed out at the changes that had taken place. For instance, installation of cameras in the dining room, a wall between the lawns and the hostel, airconditioned classrooms. Other things had not changed such as the reception area, the chairs in classrooms which, surprisingly, were still in good shape. Once common thought was *'what was this mini bus still doing at the Department'*.

Everyone will agree that canteen is the most visited spot in the Department. The group spent some time enjoying a cup of tea in the canteen and remembering their time. Sardarji who used to run it in the 1970s and made the world's best parathas. The canteen has become fancier now. They all visited the room which has been given to the Alumni Association to keep their records and hold meetings independently in that room. A day well spent at the Department. We thank Prof Sanjoy Roy, Dr Veda Yumnam, Prof Neera Agnimitra and other faculty members who spared time to interact with the alumni so warmly. Big thanks to Prof. Pamela Singla for facilitating this visit although she could not be with us because of a family emergency.



Reflections

Gender Responsive Budgeting - Niraj Seth (1980-82 Batch)



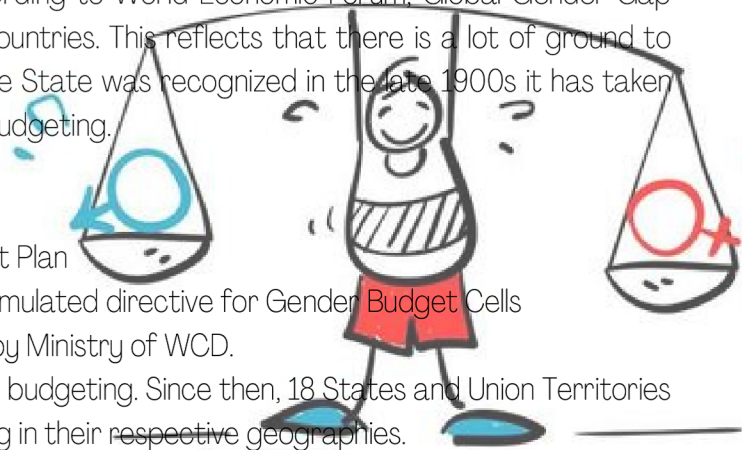
For a very long time, to me annual budget was limited to the speech that the Finance Minister made while releasing it on February 1. It was only after I attended a training on budget analysis that I became familiar with the basic terms like Major Heads, Minor Heads, Demand for Grants and the relevance of these. Moreover, the importance of budget tracking also became clear to me. A number of civil society organisations have started tracking budgets and bringing out shadow reports. Haq for Child Rights was the first organization to do budget analysis from the perspective of children. Centre for Budget and Governance Accountability have been analysing the Union budget for the social sector for many years now. Civil society engagement with the budgeting process is important. As social workers we need to be aware of its implications because it is the budget which reflects the intent of the Government to implement the stated policies.

More recently there has been a move towards looking at the budget from a gender lens. Gender-responsive budgeting refers to a variety of mechanisms and tools that assist in evaluating the impact of government budgets on gender; the ultimate goal is to achieve gender equality. The Global Movement over the years to focus on gender equality and make concerted efforts to deal with discriminatory practices has propelled countries to undertake look at gender quality in a more focused way. Gender Responsive Budgeting is an outcome of that.

- 1979 - The United Nations Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) was adopted by the UN General Assembly in 1979
- 1984- Australia became the first country to introduce a gender sensitive budget. Overtime all G-7 countries, South Africa, Austria, Belgium, Spain, South Korea, Brazil have introduced gender budgeting in their respective countries.
- 1995 - The GDI and the GEM were estimated and presented by the UN along with HDI. Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing laid out a vision of achieving gender equality.
- 2000/2015 - The Millennium Development Goals constituted in 2000 gave way to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The 3rd goal was to 'promote gender equality and empower women' and the 5th was to 'improve maternal health.'

Different countries have adopted different models to introduce gender budgeting. Some countries have a top-down approach. Others are working towards a bottom-up approach especially some African countries. In UK the academicians are involved more actively in the process. According to World Economic Forum, Global Gender Gap Report, 2021 India ranks at number 6 among 8 South Asian countries. This reflects that there is a lot of ground to cover. While the recognition about the status of women by the State was recognized in the late 1900s it has taken more than 2 decades to take specific action towards gender budgeting.

- 1974- report by Committee on the Status of Women
- 1997- the 9th Five Year Plan adopted a Women Component Plan
- 2003- Expert Group constituted by Ministry of Finance formulated directive for Gender Budget Cells
- 2005/06- the Gender Budget Statement was introduced by Ministry of WCD.
- Odisha was the first State to introduce gender responsive budgeting. Since then, 18 States and Union Territories have taken steps to introduce gender responsive budgeting in their respective geographies.



The gender budgeting exercise is about mainstreaming gender issues. It helps assess whether the government's commitments towards gender equality are translating into measurable outputs in the form of actual budgetary allocations. Gender Budgeting Cells have been created in different Departments – which is an institutional mechanism to facilitate the integration of gender analysis into the Government budget, to promote gender equality. A Handbook on Gender Responsive Budgeting (2015) is available on the website of Ministry of WCD for more details. We need to familiarize ourselves with the approach, different steps, tools for gender budgeting so that we are able to play a meaningful role in the discourse and find space to get involved in a more informed way and look at the trends. Gender budget was increased from 27 percent (2021-22) to 34 percent (2022-23) which is a welcome trend. But it is also important to see whether the amount is being spent to meet the stated objectives and the priorities identified to bridge the gender gap.

Remembering Chetana Kohli (1970-72 Batch)



We fondly remember Chetana Kohli. Her journey as a student counsellor at Carmel Convent to Education Specialist at Unicef has been phenomenal. Chetana worked with Unicef for more than 3 decades. She was part of the Unicef and NUEPA team that worked relentlessly with the Ministry of HRD to develop the most effective MIS for education that we have in our country. Everyone associated with the education sector would have referred to U-DISE which brings out report cards at the school, district and national levels on 4 parameters – infrastructure, enrollment of students, teachers and academic achievement. It makes us proud that you were part of this great initiative.

We were very keen to invite her as part of Alumni Lecture and share about her experience with the students as well as the alumni. It is our biggest regret that we got late in doing so. She told us that she was traveling and on her return in August she would very much like to become a member of our Alumni Association. But we heard in September that she was gone. She will continue to inspire us.

“Jo bhi karna Junoon se karna. Warna mat karna” Triveni Mehta (1980-82 batch) recalls the words of her teacher Chetana. Triveni was her students at Carmel Convent.

Meet our Alumni

The story of ILHAM: An Afghan Cuisine & Catering group

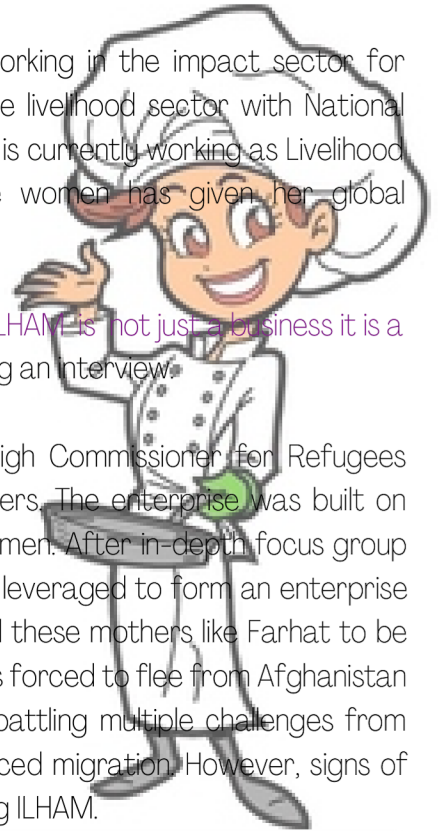


Aditi Sabbarwal (2009-2011 Batch of DSSW) has been working in the impact sector for almost a decade. Aditi's vast experiences of working in the livelihood sector with National NGOs in India, managing CSR projects of multinationals. She is currently working as Livelihood Associate at UNHCR. Aditi's work with Afghan refugee women has given her global recognition by national and international media houses.

The story of ILHAM, an Afghan Cuisine & Catering group "ILHAM is not just a business it is a medicine that saved my life", said the teary-eyed refugee single mother, Farhat, during an interview.

Established in 2015, by Aditi Sabbarwal, Livelihood Associate at United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), ILHAM is a catering enterprise currently run by two refugee single mothers. The enterprise was built on human-centered design approach that leverages the existing skill set of refugee women. After in-depth focus group discussions, the pain-points of refugees were identified, and their culinary skills were leveraged to form an enterprise serving authentic Afghan cuisine. In addition to economic sustainability, ILHAM helped these mothers like Farhat to be self-reliant in more ways than one. In 2014 after the death of her husband, Farhat was forced to flee from Afghanistan with her then 3-year-old son. Like other refugee members of ILHAM, Farhat was battling multiple challenges from managing her family to settling in a new culture and coping with the trauma of forced migration. However, signs of economic as well as social empowerment were visible in the initial period of establishing ILHAM.

The group began with four Afghan refugee women who were chosen after careful consideration. The enterprise was established in a way to involve the refugees at every step, making refugee participation as the cornerstone and unique aspect of the enterprise. From deciding the menu to the brand name ILHAM, the women were key decision makers. The increased engagement of refugee women empowered them. This was furthered by the entrepreneurship trainings that were organized with various industry experts to teach the basics of customer service, marketing, accounting, and costing/pricing. While in the initial years, the women were able to independently manage exhibitions, today they can approach new exhibition clients, analyse customer segments/markets, and decide their participation at different avenues across the city.



Loved by customers and media, ILHAM has received huge amount of positive feedback. The customers constantly encourage the refugee enterprise to expand their market. The various market linkages – such as exhibitions, corporate orders, embassy partnerships, and online food delivery services – have ensured economic sustainability of the women. However, COVID 19 impacted the sales adversely. Despite the challenges, ILHAM made an approximate earning of 2 lakhs INR in 2021.



ILHAM, means ray of hope in Dari, the enterprise has provided the much- needed socio-economic support to the refugees to settle in India and overcome their trauma. In addition to the economic impact, ILHAM made the women self-reliant. So next time you wish to order authentic afghani cuisine - **Wraps, Bolanis, Manthu; Quormi e Murgh; Chapali Kebab; Kabuli Pulao, Borani Banjan, Phirni, Khajur ...- think of ILHAM. It is also available on the 'Foodcloud' app!**

This is our fifth issue of the Newsletter. In each of these issues we have tried to share stories of our alumni. These friends are doing wonderful work in their respective areas - winning accolades from their colleagues and many others - but have remained hidden from their fellow alumni. Each story has been so inspiring. We request you to let us know about your friends from the Department, batchmates who have something interesting to share and help us give visibility to them.

We encourage you to write to us on our email address - alumni.dsw@gmail.com

Register here to join us in our efforts to extend support to the Department as well as young professionals.

Membership link: <https://dsswalumni.in/Membership>

**Mode of payment NEFT/Cheque in favour of
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