



DSSW Newsletter

September 2021



Editorial Note



Anjana Anand (Editor)
(Batch 1992-94)

Our first issue in March, 2021 received an extremely encouraging response from our readers. Thank you Dear members for your kind words of encouragement!

With great pleasure, we bring to you our next issue. Amidst the second wave and the gloom and challenges that it brought along; our esteemed alumni have been working relentlessly through their multiple initiatives for the cause of humanity in their chosen field of professional social work. We are extremely proud to highlight a few such initiatives where professional social work has made a mark.

Mr. B. R. Shekhar (DSSW class of 1988-1990) played a key role in inclusion of Medical Social Work Profession in the National Commission for Allied And Healthcare Professional Bill recently approved by the Parliament. We had a chance to interview Mr. B.R. Shekhar and he answers the implications of the said bill in this issue.

Shailja Sharma (DSSW class of 1992-94) shares her own journey with 'Vihaan': her initiative for the differently abled in Pune.

School Social Work sees its scope expanded in the New Education Policy and we have Prof. Sanjai Bhatt sharing his views with us.

Umang Pathak, Imad Ul Riyaz, Niraj Seth from DSSW alumni association joined volunteers from law school and independent researchers to respond to the paper on social stock exchange by SEBI. Niraj Seth shares her valuable insights from this contribution.

Our alma mater continues to stride as it marks its 75 years of affiliation with the University of Delhi. The department of Social work consistently adapted to the changing environment with celebrations and multiple initiatives for scholarly enrichment and partnerships in the field of Social Work.

Feedback



Sushma Batra · 22 w

Heartiest congratulations to the team. Best wishes for many more similar successes.

Like Reply



Monisha Mohindru · 22 w

Great initiative 🙌

Like Reply



Poonam Gulalia · 22 w

Would love to work in collaboration

Like Reply



Anup Kumar Biruly · 14 w



Like Reply



Shourya Roy · 2nd

5mon ...

PhD Scholar at University of Delhi ; Founde...

Congratulations Ma'am, certainly a commendable effort by everyone involved in bringing out this newsletter. Thank you so much for featuring the work being done through [JANMAN PEOPLE'S FOUNDATION](#) !

Like 1 Reply 1 reply



Dr Urooj Sayeda · 2nd

5mon ...

English language Trainer/ Admission couns...

Lovely effort 🙌 did u invite the articles from alumni or chosen by the editors?

Like 1 Reply 1 reply



Niraj Seth **Author**

Self employed

5mon ...

We invited our alumni to contribute once we decided on the t [...see more](#)

Like 1 Reply



Sanjay B. · 2nd

5mon ...

Project Management Consultant at PRAXIS...

Wow... something much awaited for long. Great initiative. Congrats to our DSSW Department to get in touch with our alumni. Best wishes 🙌 to keep this continue!

Like 1 Reply



JANMAN PEOPLE'S FOUNDAT... 5mon ...

182 followers

Thank you DSSW Alumni Association for featuring us and we look forward to working together in near future.

Like 1 Reply



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Like 2 Reply



Narender Kumar · 2nd

5mon ...

India State Policy Director at Campaign for...

A great initiative. Many congratulations to everyone who worked on this.

Like 1 Reply



Sun Kot · 22 w

Well done what a great initiative. I just hope we can have an Indian Association of Social Workers.

Like Reply



Pooja Gianchandani · 22 w

Excellent attempt and very vibrant. Well done!

Like Reply



Neena Pandey · 22 w

Great....this will help to connect with DSSW family....🙌

“ Coming together is a beginning.
Keeping together is progress.
Working together is success „
Henry Ford

We invite our seniors, juniors and contemporaries to make this alumni association of our alma mater even stronger. Each one of us are making a difference and have a story to share. Register at <http://www.dsswalumni.com/> join us and share with us your marvellous change maker stories of social work.

Life Member

INR 2,000

Associate Member

INR 1,000

Student Member

INR 500

PAYMENT DETAILS : Payment to be made in the name of 'Delhi School of Social Work Society'
Account Number: 0991000100488446
IFSC Code: PUNB0099100

Activities undertaken by the Department of Social Work

75 years of affiliation

The Department marks yet another important milestone this year, a glorious 75 years of its affiliation to the University of Delhi. The celebration began with a series of webinars with eminent speakers from diverse fields sharing their expertise across a range of relevant themes. During Jan-June, 2021, four webinars and a research colloquium were organised by the Department covering Disability Rights, Empowerment of the Marginalised, Women's issues, Health and Livelihood. The speakers included experts from academia, activists, and field practitioners such as Prof. Walter Fernandes, Prof. Virginius Xaxa, Dr. Sanjay Jain (Principal, ILS Law College), Dr. Rajive Raturi (Special Monitor, NHRC Govt. of India) and Mr. B R Shekhar.

Celebration of Key global/national events

The International Women's Day was celebrated in the Department by organizing a One-Day Seminar on the theme 'Global Crisis and Women: Celebrating their Existence'. Prof. Singla was the Convenor and Prof. Neena Pandey was the Co-Convenor of the Seminar. The speakers were eminent scholars in their specific field of Gender. Dr. Rashmi Singh, IAS, Director, Department of Women and Child Development, Delhi, was the keynote speaker and other speakers include Surendra Jaswal, Deputy Director, TISS Mumbai, Ms. Ashita Mittal, Regional Representative, UNODC, Prof. Simrit Kaur, Mr. Khadka, Ms. Kiran Modi, Prof. Krishna Menon, Prof. Bhavana Mehta, Dr. Trupti Panchal and Ms. Priyanjana Ghosh. The validating session was graced by eminent politician and academics namely Prof. Manoj K. Jha, Member of Parliament, Rajya Sabha, Prof. Suman Kundu, Director, South Campus, University and Dr. Geeta Sahare, President, DUWA.



The 75 years of India's Independence- 'Azadi Ka Amrut Mahotsav'

was observed by organising a webinar titled "Capturing the Contribution of Women in India's Freedom Movement". The lecture was delivered by Dr. Bijaylaxmi Nanda, Principal, Miranda House, University of Delhi.

Distancing the Social: The Social Sciences in Times of Pandemic

Without deterring its commitment to educate and train future social work professionals, the department continued its academic programme and engagements amidst the 2nd wave of the COVID-19 pandemic. The classes continued in the virtual/online mode to impart classroom education. The fieldwork programme and classroom teaching have adapted well and have been structured to fit into the virtual mode. In continuation with its past practice of organising talks and colloquium for its research scholars and enriching the Faculty, the Department organised a very relevant talk by Prof. Satish Deshpande, University of Delhi on "Distancing the Social: The Social Sciences in Times of Pandemic". Many workshops and supportive field work instruction were organised for the students by the fieldwork unit with resource persons from various fields so that the learnings of the students do not get affected due to pandemic associated containment measures.

Response to the Pandemic: COVID Helpline

Continuing its past tradition of responding to disasters affected communities, the Department carried out two initiatives namely a COVID Helpline for the visually challenged people in partnership with Blind Relief Association. The helpline provides assistance to the visually challenged to access medical services and ration supplies. The contribution of the COVID Helpline was acknowledged and appreciated by the Ministry of Education, Govt. of India in one of the tweets of the Ministry. The Department conceived a nodal center in response to the pandemic. The other was a pan India people's led Campaign - All Hands Meet. The Department supported the campaign by nominating few volunteers. The alumni of the Department were involved in conceptualisation and coordination of the campaign in the initial stages.

Scholars at the department

The Department got enriched with the career advancement of eleven faculty members. Five faculty members were promoted as Professors, two faculty from Stage 2 to 3 of Assistant Professor and four faculty from Stage 1 to 2 of Assistant professor. Eleven Ph.D scholars of the Department were conferred in the 97th Annual Convocation, 2020. Some of the faculty members namely Prof Neena Pandey, Prof Sanjoy Roy and Dr Meenu Anand have published their books and shared with the Department.



Campus Placement

Under the able leadership of **Prof. Archana Kaushik**, 85% of the recently graduated students have received job offers from reputed organisations and action groups. More than 30 organisation visited campus for placement, virtually/physically and offers were extended to the students. **The Highest Package offered remained 15 LPA while 8+ students bagged a package of more than 7 LPA.**

An improved space for learning: Infrastructure Development

The Department continued augmenting its infrastructure. The classrooms were renovated, and SMART boards were installed in the classrooms. New chairs have been placed in the classrooms which provide support to left-handed students as well. To enrich teaching, learning and research and to continue the teaching activities unabated during the pandemic, SMART equipment has been added to address the physical distancing measures. The audio and acoustics have been upgraded with the installation of advanced audio technology.

Collaboration with RISHII (European Commission)

The Department of Social Work is one of the partners in the project RISHII (Resources for Internationalisation of Higher Education Institutions in India), supported by the European Commission. The objective of RISHII is to contribute to modernisation of Indian Higher Education through equipping procedures, tools, human resources and continuous professional development mechanisms necessary for Curriculum Internationalisation and creating institution-wide thriving cultures of Internationalisation-FOR-ALL.

Meet our Alumni

A Happy Place for Special Children in Pune Shailja Sharma (DSSW, 1992-1994)

Vihaan (A Centre for Differently Abled) is an initiative started by Shailja Sharma (DSSW, 1992-1994), a mother of a 24-year-old handsome non-verbal autistic boy Tanay and a neurotypical girl Tanvi. Tanay went to special school till the age of 9. She realized that going to this school was not helping Tanay. There was sudden change in his behaviour which required a different approach. After exploring a number of institutions she realized that there is very little awareness about autism in India and there were hardly any institutions for training and development of individuals with autism. Shailja then attended various workshops, worked with Kamayani (School and sheltered workshop for mentally challenged), Pune and also got herself trained on the job under the guidance of Mrs. Sunita Lele (renowned special educator in Pune) to know about autism and its management.

Autism is a neurobiological spectrum disorder which affects communication and social behavior. Individuals with autism tend to engage in repetitive behavior like spinning, flapping hands etc. Autism can occur alone or can be associated with other difficulties like mental retardation, cerebral palsy, epilepsy or learning difficulties. Globally, one child among 64 suffers from autism. While getting trained, Shailja also acquired license as Rehabilitation Social Worker so that she could work with differently abled as a professional.



In 2011, Shailja established Vihaan (A Centre for Differently Abled). The core objective of Vihaan is to help individuals with special abilities, to have a happy, independent, productive and inclusive life through focused training. Many parents joined the initiative soon to achieve similar objective for their wards. Functioning under the guidance of TALENT-PAD Trust, an organization helping differently abled individuals in and around Pune, Vihaan has touched the lives of around 100 families through its various programs like: Full day independent living, vocational training, weekend skill building, family counselling and online sessions for Differently Abled.

Main focus areas of training at Vihaan are:

ADLS (Acquiring Daily Living Skills): Members are trained to perform routine activities independently like personal grooming, housekeeping, shopping, walking on road etc. to acquire independent daily living skills.

Functional Education: Members are trained for functional education as per their abilities following individual I.E.P.'s (Individual Education Program) for Communication, Math, Science and Music. This is accustomed to help them acquire independent level for ADLS and Vocation.

Vocation: Differently Abled Individuals have to be trained to work in a sheltered environment according to their area of interest and ability to be meaningfully occupied and to be able to earn their living, if possible, later in life. “

“We train our members to create seasonal products like Rakhis for Raksha Bandhan, Tohran, Rangoli's, Floating Diya's, Haldi-Kumkum boxes etc. for Diwali, Hand bound diaries for New-year and Organic Holi Colors for Holi. Envelopes, key-chains, anklets and paper bags are produced regularly. All activities including shopping for raw material, creating products and packaging of products are carried out by members under supervision of adult trainers. Products made are then displayed and sold through exhibitions at various Schools, Institutions and Societies. These events not only showcase talent of our members but also help create awareness and garner social support. Successful vocational training further helps in minimizing associated behavioral issues and boost self-esteem of these Differently Abled individuals. During current pandemic Vihaan team has been conducting online sessions for its members for their meaningful engagement and happiness and also helping members to sell products made by them through online portals”.

- Inclusive, independent living: Individuals in Vihaan learn to work in group under supervision of trainers so that they can have an independent inclusive life later. Parents support only in structuring the module for training. This is a preparation for our members to lead lives without their parents later in life.



Future Plans of Vihaan:

- To have a day boarding facility for training and development of differently abled individuals.
- To conduct training programs for parents and professionals in and around Pune.
- To create sheltered workshop for differently abled.
- To create respite facility for differently abled.
- To conduct various awareness programs so that people know more about autism and other disabilities.
- To generate resources and funds for the needy.

Testimonial from Parents about Vihaan

"Vihaan means sunrise, and so was the new beginning of our association with Vihaan and Shailja since 2015. It has been an incredible journey of hope, love and care with great learning"

"Vihaan has provided a safe nurturing place for our children with a dedicated, sensitive and caring team of teachers under expert guidance of Shailja. It is helping develop social, vocational and life skills. It is not just a Centre but a Happy Place for our children. Do visit Vihaan page on Facebook for further insight"



Recently the ***National Commission for Allied And Healthcare Bill (2020) was passed. Mr. B. R. Shekhar (Batch 1988-90)*** who played a key role in the inclusion of medical and psychiatric social workers in the Bill through his advocacy efforts was invited to deliver the third Alumni Lecture to the students. Some key features related to the Bill are shared in the interview.

B. R. Shekhar

- Chief Medical Social Service Officer, AIIMS, New Delhi

- President – All India Association of Medical Social Work Professionals (AIAMSWP)

1. What has been the trend of appointments of medical and psychiatric social workers in India?

There is irregular ratio of hospital strength vs number of appointments of the professionals. Despite recommendation by various committees and experts, the number of Medical Social Workers has not increased as expected. Recruitment Rules not uniform and standardised in all hospitals. Besides, the recruitment process and creation of new posts is not systematic. AIIMS – Delhi has been a leading institute on many parameters. It has more than 50 medical and psychiatric social workers across different Departments.

All India Association for Medical Social Worker Professionals (AIAMSWP) played an important role in setting standard appointment practices. A new trend of temporary posts in government hospitals has been seen. Medical Social Workers under private hospitals are also being appointed more frequently now

2. Why was there a need for this Bill?

The Bill was essential to streamline Medical Social Work profession in India. The Bill will be helpful in many ways:

- To give more focus and recognition to the Medical Social Work profession in India.
- To protect the professional identity of Social Work.
- To ensure that the appointment of Medical Social Workers is done as per the set standards and uniform work-profile is created for them
- To standardise and bring uniformity in teaching & practice.
- To get qualified and sufficient workforce in Medical Social Work settings.
- To maintain the minimum working standards in the job.
- To create a grievance redressal mechanism.
- To get global recognition for Social Work profession.
- To make sure that each healthcare setting has a minimum number of Social Workers as per the number of beneficiaries.
- To stop malpractices and create a mechanism for penalties

3. What are the key features of this Bill which will help professional medical and psychiatric social workers to develop this area of social work?

- It will frame policies and standards of education and practice
- It will make it possible for mandatory registration of Medical Social Work Professionals in India (Central & State wise) similar to medical and legal professionals.
- The nomenclature of the job titles will be more standardised
- The Pay-scale parity will be achieved across the country for professionals irrespective of the location
- Regulation of the professional conduct and ethics at all workplaces will be possible.
- Recognition of foreign degrees and reciprocity which will help the movement of professionals globally.
- Permission for the opening of new Institutions will be with State Councils which will bring major changes in the education and practice.

Campaign to Establish School Complex and Appointment of School Social Workers in Schools

Established in 2005, National Association of Professional Social Workers in India (NAPSWI) is the largest association of Professional Social Workers in India. The organisation is committed to advance excellence in education, training and practice of professional social work in India. With members drawn from across the country, NAPSWI aims to advance the knowledge and practice base of social work interventions that enhance quality of life and standard of living of persons, their family and environment. School social work has been an important area of social work which needs to be developed further. The recent policy documents indicate that there is space to do so.

A school social worker provides psycho-social services and support, counselling to children and adolescents in schools at both micro and macro levels. School social workers are addressing students' issues, concerns and problems on one hand and they align with peers, teachers, school, and community especially with parents on the other. These professionals are working on the crisis intervention, problem solving, developmental needs, mental health issues, they take care of social and emotional development and well-being of the school children, school community, family-school liaisons, and programme development. In already prevailing situation as depicted by the content analysis of media reports on schools and school children in the last few years reveals a sharp increase in the number of cases of child abuse, stress and anxiety related disorders, violence, and even suicide among these children. Interestingly, these changes are not restricted to only urban spaces but have also been reported from rural areas. Information and Telecommunication (IT) revolution has made the situation even grimmer. The weakening of the traditional family system which was a major support system for these children has further exacerbated the situation by increasing their vulnerabilities and reducing their ability to cope with the stressors.

Our important policy documents on education including the National Curriculum Framework (NCF, 2005) and the Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan (RMSA, 2012) have laid emphasis on guidance and counselling at school level. The proposed Draft New Education Policy 2019, has recommended for hiring school social workers in the context of urban poor. It commits to the introduction of counsellors and social workers into the schooling system; Adequate numbers of social workers will be appointed to the school complexes depending on the student population and the population of adult learners in that geography; School and school complex counsellors and social workers will be trained to confidentially advise parents and teachers on adolescent problems faced by growing boys and girls and the Draft Policy puts emphasis on the role of social workers.

The New Education Policy 2020 states that "Trained and qualified social workers from civil society organizations/departments of Social Justices and Empowerment could be connected to the schools through various innovative mechanisms to be adopted by State/UT Governments. . In the light of the above and available researches, the need of school social workers in schools is undisputedly accepted in favour of the children, families, school and society. The Professional social workers as School Social Workers are and will be an effective institution of preventing student related problems and promoting most student related issues in the schools. Trained with methods of working with individuals, groups and communities; professional social workers (PSW) will be an integral link between school, home, and community.

Having appreciation for policy makers to recognise the potential of trained and qualified professional social workers, we at NAPSWI wish to engage all possible stakeholders and urge upon State/Central government to establish school complex and initiating the process of appointment of the School Social Workers as envisaged in National Education Policy. We shall be glad to share our knowledge and concerns for the goal of this campaign. We invite you to be part of this advocacy campaign and work together. Please communicate your ideas, suggestions on napswi@gmail.com. and can visit our website www.napswi.org

***Prof Sanjai Bhatt, Department of Social Work, Delhi University
Immediate and Past President – National Association of Professional Social Workers***

Engaging with the discourse on Social Stock Exchange in India

When United Nations mooted the idea of a Sustainability Stock Exchange (SSE) in 2014. It was uncertain that the idea would generate so much interest. Within this short span there are 104 partner stock exchanges working towards a common goal. "The SSE's mission is to provide a global platform for exploring how exchanges, in collaboration with investors, companies (issuers), regulators, policymakers and relevant international organizations, can enhance performance on ESG (environmental, social and corporate governance) issues and encourage sustainable investment, including the financing of the UN Sustainable Development Goals".

Along similar lines Social Stock Exchanges have been set up in several countries including Brazil, Kenya, Portugal, South Africa, Jamaica, the UK, Singapore and Canada. India too is taking its initial steps towards it. The Finance Minister as part of the Budget Speech for FY 2019-20 announced "It is time to take our capital markets closer to the masses and meet various social welfare objectives related to inclusive growth and financial inclusion. I propose to initiate steps towards creating an electronic fund-raising platform- a social stock exchange-under the regulatory ambit of Securities and Exchange Board of India for listing social enterprises and voluntary organizations working for the realization of a social welfare objective so that they can raise capital as equity, debt or as units like a mutual fund."

On 21 September 2020, the Securities Exchange Board of India ("SEBI") constituted a Technical Group (TG) under the chairmanship of Dr. Harsh Kumar Bhanwala (ex-Chairman, NABARD) which deliberated on various aspects of the Social Stock Exchange and brought out a concept paper defining the broad contours of the Exchange and invited comments from everyone. DSSW Alumni Association and ESG Consulting formed a small group of volunteers to respond to this document. The Exchange covers Not for Profit organisations (NPOs) as well as For Profit Enterprises (FPEs) and offers a roadmap for listing/registering them. It also offers a range of instruments that could be offered to the listed/registered NPOs and FPEs. There is significant emphasis on social audit as a tool to measure social returns on investment.

A response to this document by the Technical Group has been submitted to SEBI. This is a discourse that may be significant and offer resource mobilization options to NPOs and FPEs in future. The An initiative to respond to this document was taken by Umang Pathak, a DSSW alumna and the founder of ESG consulting. She was supported by Imad ul Riaz and Niraj Seth and other volunteers who had experience in CSR, ESG and Social Research. In addition, the group consulted Tax experts who could share their perspective on tax implications and also experts in the area of climate change to share insights about carbon credits to see if the principles could be applied to give social credits. We hope this will inspire those working in the social development sector to engage with this process, create awareness and provide inputs to make the Social Stock Exchanges useful for the organisations.

Niraj Seth

We look forward to your feedback on dssw.alumni@gmail.com
Website: <http://www.dsswalumni.com/>



Thank you!