

DSSW Newsletter

ISSUE 8

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Editorial

Wish you a wonderful start to another year. As we step into the new year with optimism and enthusiasm, this issue of the newsletter is a testament to the collaborative spirit of our alumni community.

In this edition, we are proud to feature the efforts of our distinguished alumni who have generously shared their expertise and experiences with current students through supportive learning sessions. Mr. K. K. Seth, Mr. Rajeev Verma, and Mr. Sumit Chaudhuri, each a trailblazer in their respective fields, conducted engaging sessions aimed at building and enhancing students' skills in effective communication, crafting winning resumes, and successfully navigating interviews for employment.

In our alumni spotlight, Mr. Rakesh Khanna shares the impactful stories of two distinguished alumni who have left a lasting legacy in adoption and child care through their extensive work. The launch of our new "Students Corner" adds an exciting dimension to this issue. In this section, students candidly share their insights from the recently held alumni meet, providing a first-hand account of the inspiration and knowledge gained from interacting with esteemed graduates of our institution.

Additionally, Professor Sanjoy Roy contributes to this issue by sharing the highlights and accomplishments of the department. From noteworthy initiatives to our ongoing commitment to social work education, Professor Roy sheds light on the impactful contributions made by the department to the broader world of social work.

As we move forward into 2024, let this newsletter serve as a source of inspiration and a reflection of the collaborative spirit that defines our community. We look forward to another year of learning, growth, and shared accomplishments.

Anjana Anand, Editor
(1992-94)

“Change will not come if we wait for some other person or some other time. We are the ones we’ve been waiting for. We are the change that we seek”.

President Barack Obama

Update from DSSW

DSSW has recently inaugurated a new international journal titled "Indian Journal of Social Work Education and Practice" (IJSWEP). The inaugural edition was released in October, with the second issue scheduled for launch in January 2024. Additionally, the journal is in the process of obtaining its ISSN. Professor Sanjoy Roy serves as the Editor in Chief for this publication (<https://ijswep.ronakpublication.com>).



The department spearheads two pivotal projects that significantly contribute to the university's recognition for best practices. In 2023, we revitalized both initiatives: the Centre for Child and Adolescents Well-being (CCAW) and the Centre for Community Development and Action (CCDA). Notably, the CCDA office has been relocated from Burari Village to the Administrative Block within the DSSW campus. The CCAW effectively conducted a Summer Camp for children from underprivileged families, with over 60 participants benefiting from valuable learning opportunities during the programme.

The Department successfully organized a UGC-approved two-week Faculty Development Programme on Inter-disciplinary (IDC) Social Work and Social Sciences in collaboration with CPDHE, University of Delhi, held from August 22nd to September 4th, 2023.

After a long gap, the Department successfully hosted the Inter-Agency Meet-2023 in collaboration with VISHWA YUVAK KENDRA (VYK), a youth-led organization in Delhi, on December 21, 2023. The event aimed to enhance social work practices by fostering partnerships with various NGOs, CSR initiatives, and international organizations. It also generated the concept of establishing a network for Delhi-based Civil Society Organizations. Highlights of the event can be found on <https://youtu.be/UqfoZArvvT8?si=ptCAzbzWiljflGOf>.

Prof. Sanjoy Roy, Professor and Head, along with Dr. Sudhir K. Maske, Assistant Professor, secured funding from ICSSR for a Major Research Project in Social Work and Social Sciences in December 2023.

The university has initiated infrastructure development in the department, focusing on campus beautification and the concretization of the drainage system. The old Principal Bungalow in the department's campus has been officially turned over to the department for administrative use.

Alumni Meet

The third Alumni Meet was organised on December 9, 2023 at the Department premises. It was jointly organised by the Alumni Association and the Department with very active participation of the students. The meet was attended by over 200 people which included the students as well as alumni. Some of our alumni had travelled from other cities to be part of this occasion. There was nostalgia combined with energy of youngsters.

The camaraderie between the two sides was palpable when the years melted and there was free flow interaction including some fun games. What does not change over the years are the pranks played by students remembering which brings instant laughter. The students very cleverly brought it to the fore by asking 'innocent' questions as part of the game they had organised.



Highlight of the event, however, was release of a Compendium with the title **Dishayen** which includes 19 stories of our alumni which documented the journey taken by them towards the Development Initiatives taken by them and their friends/batchmates. A few contributors to the compendium participated in an interaction anchored by the students. We thank them for their participation. Their stories of struggle, perseverance and hope fill us with pride. We hope that **Dishayen** helps to inspire students and the alumni. We will continue to document and bring visibility to the work done by our alumni through the activities we take up. We also hope that more alumni will join us in our efforts to strengthen our network.

Making Memories



Students Corner

ALUMNI MEET REFLECTIONS

The event on December 9, 2023, at the department lawn was a remarkable gathering filled with nostalgia, camaraderie, and intellectual exchange. Diverse alumni from various batches celebrated our institution's legacy, creating a heartening atmosphere. The serene setting facilitated networking, sharing experiences, and reflecting on moments spent at the Delhi School of Social Work.

Decorations added elegance, enhancing the overall experience. Enthusiasm and eagerness to engage were palpable, reflecting the alumni community's commitment to positive social change. Keynote speeches and interactive sessions showcased alumni expertise on relevant social work practices and challenges.

The event highlighted collaboration and solidarity among alumni, providing valuable mentorship opportunities for current students. The success of the Alumni Meet underscores the enduring impact of the Delhi School of Social Work in nurturing passionate individuals dedicated to social welfare. It fosters a sense of belonging, pride, and inspires current students to continue the legacy of excellence and service.

Kailash Kumar | M. A. Final (2022-2024)



The alumni meet, featuring participants from the 1980s batch, was a nostalgic event filled with shared stories and reminiscences. The diverse accomplishments of our esteemed alumni highlighted the lasting impact of our institution and provided valuable insights, guidance, and inspiration for current students, emphasizing the enduring sense of community within our college. Passionate discussions during the event focused on an NGO collectively initiated by the alumni, showcasing the transformative power of collaboration and shared vision. Expressing deep gratitude and admiration for their professors, the alumni's reflections resonated with respect and fond memories. One alumna shared a memorable experience of initially skipping fieldwork, expressing gratitude for a supportive supervisor who not only addressed the issue but also provided guidance and reinstated him into the field. This anecdote underscored the significance of mentorship in shaping professional journeys.

Priyanka Kiran | M.A Previous (2023-25)

Genuine smiles, warm hugs, and shared laughter—these moments define the joy of reuniting with people after a long time. The visible happiness on faces during the third DSSW Alumni meet spoke volumes. Human relationships, marked by understanding subtle cues and shared experiences, create the fabric of life. Finding a tribe to share life with is a precious gift, and these moments of joy become the real temples of humanity. Here's to hoping for similar joy and countless memories in future reunions with friends and batchmates.

I cherish human relationships and the excuses we create to strengthen our belief in them. The anticipation of shared jokes, the understanding of speech patterns and emotions—these subtle, intangible elements weave the fabric of life. It's not magic, but immense understanding, perhaps a form of telepathy. I hope for the same joy for my batchmates and friends. May we meet after years, share laughter, create our temples of humanity, and have a flood of memories when we reunite.

Anushka Saraswat | M.A. Previous, (2023-25)



Update on the Alumni Association

Supportive Learning series of Talks at Department of Social Work

The campus selection process for the MA Social Work 2022-24 batch is currently underway, with employers conducting interviews at the department. This transition from student life to a professional career signifies a paradigm shift from learning to applying knowledge in real-world situations. It necessitates a change in attitude, increased responsibilities, and heightened accountability as students embark on their journey from the realm of books to the world of work.

Recognizing the need to prepare students for the transition into the professional realm and excel in the selection process, the Department, in collaboration with the Placement Cell, identified the following specific areas for targeted sessions through alumni engagement.

1. Crafting a Winning Curriculum Vitae (CV) or Resume
2. Effective Communication
3. Preparing for the Job Interview
4. How to participate effectively in Group Discussions
5. Career Goals and Aspirations

The Department, in collaboration with the Alumni Association, is organizing a series of lectures on various topics. Sessions on the first three topics have been completed, while the remaining two will be conducted after the ongoing exams.

Campus to Career : Dreams and Realities

In the selection process, organisations assess candidates based on specific knowledge, skills, competencies, and attitude to determine their fit for the job and organizational culture. It is crucial to prepare and orient students to these aspects that employers prioritize during selection.

Importance and technique of creating a winning CV/Resume

Conducted by Mr. Sumit Chaudhuri (Batch 1978-80), a renowned trainer and management expert with over 40 years of experience in HR and Learning and Development, the session aimed to prepare students for building a "career-ready" personality. Through self-evaluation tests, he highlighted challenges in a successful career and provided valuable feedback. Mr. Chaudhuri guided participants through the crucial steps to shape their success stories and navigate the organizational selection process:

- I. Preparing for the Hiring Process
 - a) Crafting a Winning Curriculum Vitae (CV) or Resume
 - b) Preparation by focusing on Attitude, Knowledge and Skill
- II. During the Hiring Process
 - a) Practical Tips on "Do's and Don'ts" of Acceptable Behaviour
- III. Post hiring
 - a) Identify Learning Points and Follow-up action
 - b) Developing a "Self-improvement Plan"

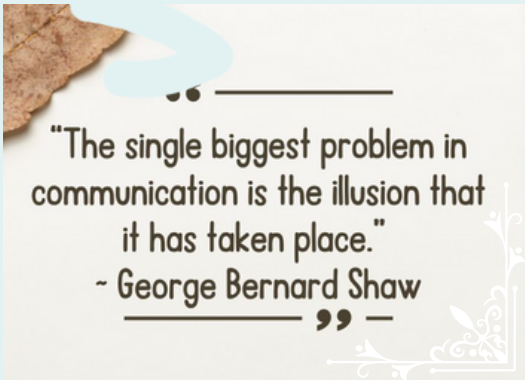


Effective Communication

This session was conducted by Mr. Rajeev Varma, (Batch 1978-80), an independent Communication Consultant. He is an expert in the field of Corporate and Development Communication, having worked for over 40 years in this field, with reputed organizations across different sectors, including World Bank projects.

Lee Iacocca's words ring true: "Brilliant ideas alone won't take you far if you can't articulate them." Effective communication is not just a key to professional success; it is equally crucial in our personal relationships. For students entering the professional world, communication stands out as a paramount skill. Whether navigating job interviews or thriving in the workplace, effective communication is indispensable at every life stage.

The session centered on mastering communication for success in both work and life. It emphasized the significance of communication and delved into its processes and principles. Following these insights, students collaborated in groups to craft action plans aimed at enhancing their communication effectiveness. Students found this session quite informative and useful.



“The single biggest problem in communication is the illusion that it has taken place.”
~ George Bernard Shaw

Preparing for the Job Interview

Conducted by Mr. K K Seth (Batch 1975-77), a seasoned HR professional with over 40 years of experience, this session emphasised the crucial dynamics of interviews. It highlighted the chance for students to showcase their abilities and leave a positive impression on prospective employers. Interviewers assess candidates based on their subject knowledge, experience, and potential to meet job requirements, while also evaluating their alignment with the organization's values. In this session, students learned about the interview structure, preparation strategies for each session, and specific behavioral competencies such as teamwork, learning agility, strategic thinking, empathy, and communication skills. The session highlighted do's and don'ts and covered the importance of non-verbal cues and body language in the interview process. Two mock interview sessions were held, simulating real-life scenarios based on job descriptions from potential employers. Candidates received detailed feedback from the panel, focusing on their strengths and areas for improvement. Encouraging active participation, other students observed and shared feedback for collective learning.



Meet the Alumni

We have been featuring work of one alumna in each issue of the newsletter. This feature is very special because it has been written by an alumna in remembrance of two very eminent alumni who founded an organisation about which very few of us know. We remember them fondly and thank Mr Khanna for sharing the story with us)

Children of the World Delhi : A Success Story of Two Delhi School of Social Work Alumni

Rakesh Khanna : Batch of 1978

Mohini Raghunath

Mrs. Mohini Raghunath, founder and secretary of Children of the World Delhi (CWD), passed away on August 31, 2022, at the age of 91, following a brief illness. A stalwart in child welfare, her visionary leadership led to significant policy advancements and groundbreaking legislation, particularly in adoption and sponsorship, shaping the landscape since the 1970s. Her legacy is marked by an enduring commitment to the cause of the disadvantaged child.

A Delhi School of Social Work post-graduate from the class of 1952, Mrs. Mohini Raghunath began her career at a Maharashtra Government-run beggar's home in Mumbai. In 1976, she joined the Indian Council of Social Welfare (ICSW) as an advisor, where, guided by Ms. Simone Tata, she authored ground-breaking guidelines for inter-country adoption. Her paper, presented at the UN International Study Group on Adoption in Geneva, identified issues in the prevailing system and proposed a comprehensive solution. Ratified by the Supreme Court of India, her plan became a reference for subsequent legislation on inter-country adoption.

In the 1970s, when adoption in India was rare and stigmatized, Mrs. Raghunath emerged as a vocal advocate. She formulated guidelines for identifying suitable surrogate parents, caring for abandoned children, and counseling parents, earning respect from contemporary courts. Additionally, she played a pioneering role in sponsorship, developing guidelines for selecting distressed communities, targeting vulnerable families, and implementing benefit programs for children.

Children of the World Bombay (CWB) Established in 1982

In 1982, responding to Children of the World Norway's encouragement, Mrs. Mohini Raghunath founded Children of the World Bombay. Initially, her living room served as the NGO's first office, with Ms. Simone Tata serving as its inaugural President.

Children of the World Delhi (CWD) Established in 1991

Mrs. Mohini Raghunath later moved to Delhi, establishing CWD in 1991. Initially, her Vasant Vihar house served as the first CWD office, and her Vasant Kunj flat became the Mamta child care center. In 2007, CWD relocated both the office and child care center to Dwarka, constructing its own building with support from Norwegian donors.



B S Kumedan Joins CWD

Mr. B S Kumedan, a Delhi School of Social Work alumnus, joined the CWD Board as a founding member. Renowned for professionalizing library and information services at the Delhi School of Social Work, his intellectual gravitas, vision, and commitment greatly influenced CWD's early years. Later appointed Vice-President, Mr. Kumedan earned the reputation of being CWD's reliable go-to person in crisis situations. He remained actively involved with CWD until his passing in 2013.

Mrs. Raghunath and Mr. Kumedan collaboratively established and nurtured CWD into a respected agency for adoption, sponsorship, and child welfare in Delhi. Mrs. Raghunath, dedicated to CWD until her last days, was remembered for her compassion and service by generations of adopted children and parents. She served as both an inspirational leader and motherly figure for CWD. Their collective legacy in adoption, child welfare, and sponsorship serves as an inspiration for Delhi School of Social Work students, alumni, and the broader child welfare community in India.

<https://childrenoftheworlddelhi.org>



**For those who would like to play a more active role please become a member with the Association.
Our membership is close to 125 now.**

Membership Link - <https://dsswalumni.in/Membership>

**Mode of payment NEFT/Cheque in favour of
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Do remain in touch with us -

Alumni.dssw@gmail.com

Our Website

<http://dsswalumni.in>