

Delhi School of Social Work Alumni Association Newsletter



ISSUE 9

JULY 2024 !

Editorial

Dear Readers,

Welcome to the July 2024 edition of our newsletter. With hope and possibilities, I am excited to share the stories, achievements, and contributions from our distinguished alumni, esteemed faculty, and dedicated students. We present an update from Prof. Sanjoy Roy, who has been actively engaging with the global academic community. His participation in international conferences underscores the importance of our work in social sciences and its global relevance. The Department continues to enhance its facilities and academic rigor. Our "Students Corner" brings fresh perspectives with contributions. Their voices add a vibrant dimension to our newsletter, showcasing the intellectual curiosity and creative spirit of our students.

The Alumni Association, since its inception, is extending support the Department in its efforts. Initiating the DSSW Alumni Association Scholarship has been a step in this direction. This year 6 students have been recipients of the scholarship. There is a compelling piece by Prof. Sushma Batra, recounting the historical legacy behind the formulation of the Delhi School of Social Work pledge, which fills us with nostalgia. Anjana Anand's session on "Navigating Career Goals and Aspirations" provided our MSW students with much-needed clarity and tools to chart their professional paths.

Our alumni have always been a pillar of strength. The "Meet the Alumni" section features a piece by Madan Mohan Neekhara on the crucial role of HR in social work education, emphasizing the integration of organizational dynamics and ethical practices into the curriculum. This article reinforces the importance of a well-rounded education for social work professionals. This edition celebrates Dr. Uma Agarwal's inspiring career in social service, highlighting her contributions and achievements. We also feature an insightful piece by Abhijit Hazarika on the challenges and resilience of small tea growers in Assam, detailing initiatives to improve tea quality and economic welfare.

As we continue our journey in 2024, let this newsletter be a source of inspiration and a testament to the collaborative spirit that defines our community. We look forward to another year of learning, growth, and shared accomplishments.

Anjana Anand, Editor
(1992-94)

***"A small body of determined spirits fired by an unquenchable faith in their mission
can alter the course of history."***

Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi

UPDATE FROM THE DEPARTMENT

Exciting Times and Global Engagements

Prof. Sanjoy Roy

I wanted to share some thrilling updates from the past few months that have kept me busy and deeply engaged in enriching conversations and collaborations on the global stage.

Centenary Celebration of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar's PhD at LSE

First up, I'm honored to have been invited as a panelist at the London School of Economics (LSE) for the centenary celebration of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar's seminal PhD thesis, "The Problem of Indian Rupees: Its Origin and Solution." The event, held from June 7th to 10th, 2024, was a profound experience, offering a deep dive into Dr. Ambedkar's enduring legacy and its relevance in today's economic landscape.

International Conference in Panama

In April, I had the privilege of presenting a paper at the international conference on "Social Work Education and Social Development" in Panama, Central America. This event, organized by the Association of Social Workers of Panama in collaboration with several esteemed international bodies, took place from April 4-7, 2024. My paper, titled "Reconnoitering Social Work as a Human Rights and Anti-Oppressive Profession in India," sparked vibrant discussions on the transformative role of social work in championing human rights and combating oppression.

29th DGfE International Congress in Germany

March brought an equally exciting opportunity as I presented at the 29th DGfE International Congress at Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg in Germany. Held from March 10-13, 2024, this Congress was a melting pot of ideas and perspectives. My presentation on "The Human-Rightization of International Social Work: Reconnoitering Social Work as a Human Rights Profession in India" delved into the critical intersection of social work and human rights, emphasizing the profession's pivotal role in fostering global social justice.

15th Eurasia International Forum of Social Workers in Thailand

Continuing the journey, I attended the 15th Eurasia International Forum of Social Workers in Chonburi Province, Thailand, from March 20-22, 2024. This forum, hosted at the Learning and Training Center on Older Persons, was a fantastic gathering of passionate social workers and educators. I presented on "Social Work in Promoting Diversity and Inclusivity for Transformational Change," highlighting how social work practices can drive meaningful societal changes towards inclusivity and diversity.



Prof Sanjoy Roy participating in different global fora for professional social workers

These engagements have not only broadened my horizons but have also reinforced the importance of our work in social sciences. I look forward to bringing these global insights back to our community and continuing our shared mission of fostering inclusive, equitable, and transformative social change. Since the beginning of 2024, the department has made remarkable strides, thanks to the unwavering support of our Honorable Vice Chancellor, Prof. Yogesh Singh. Here's a glimpse into our journey of growth and transformation:

Infrastructural Development

1.Repurposing the Principal's Bungalow: With the backing of Prof. Yogesh Singh, we successfully repurposed the Principal's Bungalow for academic and administrative purposes, enhancing our department's facilities.

2.Renovations:

o Footpath Reconstruction: We rebuilt the footpath connecting the department to the hostel, making the walk safer and more pleasant.

o Lawn Beautification: Our lawn now boasts new plantations, adding to the campus's charm. We trimmed the trees, ensuring a cleaner and more organized environment

o Badminton Court: We reconstructed the badminton court, providing a refreshed recreational space for everyone.

o LED Lights and Entry gate lamps : New LED lights now illuminate our department premises, enhancing both beauty and safety. Elegant lamps now adorn our entry gate, welcoming all with a warm glow.

Academic Achievements

1. Journal Publication: The second issue of our journal, "The Indian Journal of Social Work Education and Practices," was published, showcasing our academic rigor.

2. Inter-Agency Meet 2024: We re-established relations with our sister organizations, fostering collaboration and shared growth.

3. Foreign Collaborations: Our institution formed multiple collaborations with eminent universities worldwide, broadening our academic horizons.

4. Social Audit Training Program: In partnership with Northern Michigan University, USA, we conducted a week-long Social Audit Training Program.

5. Faculty Development Program: A 14-day UGC-recognized Faculty Development Program was organized in collaboration with CPDHE, DU.

Other Achievements

- Revival of Departmental Agencies: Under the leadership of Dr. Shashi Rani Dev and Dr. Sudhir Keshav Maske, we revived Centre for Child and Adolescent Wellbeing (CCAW) and Centre for Community Development and Action (CCDA), placing students in fieldwork and community-based interventions.

- Scholarships: With the support of the DSSW Alumni Association, we initiated six need-cum-merit-based scholarships for master's students.

- Honoring Ex-Professors: We installed photographs of our former professors who served as Heads of the department, honoring their legacy.

- Official Logo Launch: Thanks to the collaborative efforts of teachers and students, we launched our official department logo.

- Preamble Stone: With the help of the Dr. Ambedkar Memorial Lecture Committee, we installed a preamble stone and inaugurated it on April 14, 2024, in honor of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar's birth anniversary.

- Classroom Naming: Our classrooms now bear the names of our esteemed ex-faculty, preserving their contributions in our daily learning environment.

- Social Work Pledge: With the beloved alumni association's support, we installed the Social Work Pledge in our premises, inaugurated on May 13, 2024, during the annual day celebrations.

We express our heartfelt gratitude to all the teaching and non-teaching staff, students, scholars, and university administration for their unwavering support. Together, we are progressing each day with boundless energy and capacity, and we promise to continue this journey of growth and excellence in the future.

STUDENTS' CORNER

Future of Education After Covid-19

Priya Kumari | Semester 3



"Education is not the learning of facts, but the training of the mind to think."

The COVID-19 pandemic has led us to rethink and review existing education infrastructure. It revealed the weaknesses of the values we claimed to preserve and the shortcomings of the routines we followed in our daily social and personal lives. In response to the pandemic, most governments around the world temporarily closed educational institutions. Billions of students and youths across the planet were affected by these closures, which impacted over seventy-two percent of the world's student population. Governments globally are making efforts to reduce the immediate impact of school closures, especially for more vulnerable and underprivileged communities.

To ensure education continuity, most countries quickly transitioned to online distance education using digital platforms. This unplanned and rapid shift in the education sector opened many opportunities but also presented several challenges. Certain groups of students, particularly those from low-income families, ethnic or religious minorities, migrants, and remote rural areas, require particular consideration and specific strategies for distance learning during the pandemic. The problems were not only faced by students but also by teachers. Many teachers around the world were forced to deliver online learning without proper training due to the abrupt shift caused by school closures.

While COVID-19 has had negative impacts on education, it has also shown positive effects, such as:

- Increased awareness and appreciation for distance learning systems.
- Establishing regional and international partnerships in the field of technology.
- Growing appreciation and understanding of teachers.
- Expanding the scope and reach of education to all segments of society.
- Developing innovative models for higher education and preparing students for new jobs.
- Increasing research and entrepreneurship.

The pandemic is also an opportunity to remind ourselves of the skills students need in this unpredictable world, such as informed decision-making, creative problem-solving, and, most importantly, adaptability. To ensure these skills remain a priority for all students, resilience must be built into our educational system. Learning is no longer an activity limited to a closed classroom and specific time but rather an activity that can be carried out irrespective of time and place.

The pandemic has proven that traditional forms of education are no longer effective in times of economic crisis, wars, immigration, pandemics, and in the modern world. Learning networks, once provided by schools, are now available online. Distance learning, open education, and e-learning have replaced traditional education structures, providing equal educational opportunities and making learning accessible to all. Smart education is not an option but rather a strategic choice that must be integrated into education systems.

Bon Appetite

Don't worry
Our commune
As long as it fills
Our hungry stomachs
What does it matter
If we puke after
Unable to digest
The product of our actions
We were satiated
For at least a few moments,
Weren't we
Weren't we?!

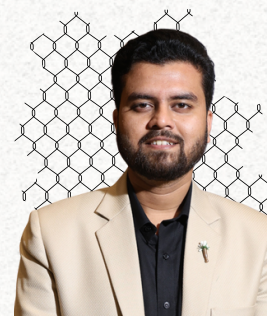
The bowl is big enough
To hold all our pretenses
Our half-baked, full naked
Truths and lies
Are accepted in their entirety
We will make a soup
Of our self-righteousness
Consume it together
Maybe even say grace
beforehand
Thanking our God(s)
For our goodness
Their Goodness



Varnika Tyagi | Semester 3

Writing is the Ultimate Recourse for Those who have Betrayed

Aman Kaushik | Semester 3



फ्रेंच नॉवेलिस्ट जीन जेनेट लिखते हैं कि लेखन उन लोगों के लिए एक मात्र सहारा है जिन्होंने धोखा दिया है। जब मैंने पहली बार यह बात अपने सबसे अजीज़ लेखक मानव भाई के किताब "कतरन" की बिल्कुल शुरुआती पन्ने पर पढ़ी तो मानो ऐसा लगा कि जीन हम जैसे को एक आईना दिखा रहे हैं, हम संवेदनाओं से भरे वे मूर्ख जिनके फितरत में ही धोखा है। जी हाँ..सही पढ़ रहे हैं आप। हमारी कौम की कहानी ही धोखों से लदी और त्रासदियों से भरी हुई है।

आप जानते हैं कि हम जैसे लोग जो कभी भी किसी को छोड़ नहीं पाते, वो लगातार किसे धोखा दे रहे होते हैं..? हम लगातार भागते इस तमाशबीन दुनिया में खुद को धोखा दे रहे होते हैं। कुछ भी ना छोड़ने की जिद्द हमें रोज़ तिल तिल कर के मार रही होती है, रोज़ इस दुनिया के व्यापार से भरे नियमों के सामने हम खुद को हारता हुआ देखते होते हैं, जहाँ ज़िदा रहने की पहली शर्त ही नफ़े नुकसान के तराजू तले लेन देन पर टिकी हुई होती है। दुनिया बदल ना पाने की कुढ़ ही हमें लगातार लिखते रहने पर मजबूर करती है, जहाँ हम अपनी त्रासदियों से भरी कहानियों को एक श्रृंगर से ढक देना चाहते हैं। श्रृंगार जहाँ भावनाएं भरे मवाद की तरह मन के घाव से रिसने लग जाती है। ये वो छण होता है जब हम अपने वादा-खिलाफ़ी के शिखर पर होते हैं, जहाँ सच सींचने की पागलपन इस कदर सर पर हावी होती है कि कुछ झूठ कह कर जिन रिश्तों को बचाया जा सकता था, जिन्हें इस रिश्तों के बाजार में एक फैंसी नाम दिया जा सकता था, एक समझौता किया जा सकता था, वो हमारी आँखों के सामने हमारे गुरु के आगे से रिसता हुआ हमारी दुनिया से अलविदा ले रहा होता है। एक अजीब-ओ-गरीब असमंजस लगातार हमें घेरे हुए होती है, जहाँ हमें सब कुछ संजोए रख लगातार तिल तिल कर मरने या झूठ कह कर खुद को झूठी तसल्ली दिए जाने में से किसी एक को चुनना होता है, जहाँ हमारी भावनाओं को व्यापार समझ कर हमारे ही सामने ऐसे पेश कर दिया जाता है कि जैसे कि हमारा सारा लिखा एक झूठ था, किसी के लिए एक मज़ाक भर था..? त्रासदी की इस कड़ी पर हम एक बार फिर खुद को धोखा देते हैं और अपने अंदर का सारा सच जब क़रीने से कोरे पन्ने पर पिरो जाते हैं, तो बाहर आकर इस दुनिया से कहते हैं कि यह सब तो एक फिक्शन भर है...

अमन कौशिक

ACTIVITIES OF ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

First Alumni Association Scholarship for students initiated

We are happy to share that the Alumni Association has introduced a scholarship scheme for the students of the Department. The scholarship is based on need cum merit. The scholarship was possible because of the support received from three of our alumni – Ashita Mittal, T Nagender Swamy and Yogesh Chandra. We thank them for the same. This year 6 students were selected out of the 22 students who had applied for the scholarship. They were given the scholarships during the Annual Day celebrations. We would also like to thank our faculty members (Prof Neena Pandey and Prof Seema Sharma) and our members (Mr KK Seth and Mr Rajeev Verma) for leading the selection process meticulously. We hope to receive support from our alumni to enable us to continue to offer scholarship to the students.

Supportive Learning series of Talks at Department of Social Work

On February 2nd, 2024, Anjana Anand, a certified career counsellor from UCLA and an expert in communications and the social sector, conducted an inspiring session for MSW students at DSSW. The workshop, titled "Navigating Career Goals and Aspirations," was met with overwhelming appreciation from the students. Before the session, many students expressed uncertainty about their career paths, feeling lost and unclear about their future directions. Anjana's session provided them with valuable tools and strategies to navigate their career paths effectively.

Through interactive discussions, personal reflection exercises, and practical advice on setting SMART goals, Anjana helped the students gain clarity and confidence. They learned to define their career goals, assess their strengths and passions, and create actionable plans for their future in social work. The session's success was evident in the students' feedback, with many highlighting how it provided them with a clear roadmap to achieve their professional aspirations and renewed their motivation to pursue their dreams in social work.



Session with the Students by Anjana Anand

Crowd funding to install the Pledge on the walls of the Department

Many of you maybe familiar with the pledge for social work students. The pledge was engraved on a black granite slab in golden words. Prof Sanjoy Roy reached out to the Association to support the Department to make the pledge a part of the infrastructure and provide visibility to it. Some members of the Association came forward to raise 25,000/- which helped to do the necessary civil work. The pledge is prominently placed in the front part of the building. It was inaugurated during the 78th Annual Day which was held on May 13m 2024 in the Department premises.

SPECIAL FEATURE



The Formulation of the Delhi School of Social Work Pledge: A Historical Legacy

Prof. Sushma Batra

There is a very special and overwhelming history behind the formulation of the pledge of Delhi School of Social Work. It is worthwhile sharing it with all the alumni of the School. The story goes back to partition time in 1947 when the first batch of students had just joined the school. They were faced with the task of taking care of large influx of refugees and extending necessary help. DSSW became known to the refugees as well as to government officials as a symbol of social service in the time of crises. It is quite heartening to note that one of our students (from Ceylon) became a devoted and tireless driver. Even during curfew our jeep was mobile and in the social service of the refugees

Every student in the school gave service of one kind or the other to the 'refugees' pouring into Delhi. Thousands of muslims left for Pakistan each day and thousands of hindus and sikhs came in from Pakistan to make a new life in the new India. Our students, along with Ms. Lucke, had the opportunity to meet Gandhiji at a civilian hospital while in the process of transporting muslim to Pakistan. Gandhiji observed our students working as volunteers day and night in providing social service to the refugees and expressed his appreciation. The students too were impressed by the simplicity of Gandhiji. They realized that his birthday was approaching and unanimously decided to give him a gift on this occasion.

They came up with many ideas about giving him material gifts. It was at that junction that Ms. Lucke who was acting like their leader, reminded them that Gandhiji was not the kind of person who would appreciate material gifts. She also reminded them that one thing that pleased him was the social service they were already providing to the refugees. Suddenly an idea came in her mind and she suggested to them why not they make him aware of the work being done by them in this hour of crises. Now the question was how to tell him? After contemplating a lot it was suggested that each one should write what he/she was absolutely committed to social work by writing their convictions which they found fit. Ms Lucke offered to work on the statements and reduce them to one each for the students and send it to Gandhiji birthday greetings. They all sat down and wrote at least three convictions. Ms. Lucke finalized the pledge which was penned down on khadi paper and presented to Gandhiji.

Gandhiji responded to his birthday gift with an invitation to the students to visit him at his headquarters at the Birla House. He was friendly – a grandfather type of person as he greeted them. His final advice to the students was "social service" should be of the heart and he blessed our school. When the Delhi School of Social Work started its 2 year program in 1948, the pledge submitted to Gandhiji was further shortened. It was printed on khadi paper and as a general practice it was given to all the students at the time of their passing masters program. All the students were required to take an oath at the time of leaving the school as professionally they felt committed to the value taught to them in their degree course.

This pledge was modified in the early nineties under the headship of Prof KK Mukhopadhyay as the teachers teaching at that time felt it necessary, owing to the changing paradigm of professionalism required to be understood by the society. The relevance and sanctity of the pledge continues to inspire us.



Social Work Pledge
now part of the building

MEET OUR ALUMNI



The Crucial Role of HR in Social Work Education

Madan Mohan Neekhra (1973–75 batch)

(Mr Neekhra has worked in the Pharma marketing sector for decades. He presents the following articles based on his experience of working in this space where he highlights the strong connect between HR and social work principles. Mr Neekhra has authored several books)

Introduction: In today's complex social landscape, the role of social workers is more critical than ever. However, the success of these professionals doesn't solely depend on their empathy and dedication; it also hinges on their understanding of organizational dynamics, workforce management, and ethical practices. This is where Human Resources (HR) principles come into play. Integrating HR into social work education is essential for developing competent, ethical, and well-prepared professionals.

Enhancing Organizational Understanding: Social workers frequently operate within diverse organizational settings, from non-profits to government agencies. Understanding HR concepts such as organizational behavior and culture helps social work students navigate these environments effectively. For instance, a social worker in a community health organization who comprehends HR dynamics can better advocate for systemic changes that benefit clients.

Strengthening Workforce Management Skills :HR education equips future social workers with vital skills in recruitment, selection, training, and performance management. Consider a social worker managing a team of volunteers in a disaster relief effort. Knowledge of HR practices ensures they can create a supportive and productive work environment, crucial for the success of their mission.

Promoting Ethical Practices :Ethics are the backbone of both HR and social work. Integrating HR's emphasis on confidentiality, fairness, and equity into social work education reinforces the profession's ethical standards. For example, a social worker adhering to ethical HR principles can better navigate complex client relationships, maintaining trust and integrity.

Enhancing Conflict Resolution Skills :Conflict is an inevitable part of social work. HR training in conflict management provides social work students with tools to address disputes effectively. Imagine a social worker mediating between a landlord and tenant; equipped with HR conflict resolution strategies, they can facilitate a more amicable and sustainable resolution.

Improving Employee Well-being and Retention :Social workers often advocate for employee rights and well-being. HR knowledge enables them to implement policies that promote work-life balance, address workplace stress, and improve job satisfaction. For instance, by advocating for mental health support in the workplace, social workers can help reduce burnout and turnover.

Facilitating Professional Development :Continuous professional development is crucial in social work. HR education highlights the importance of lifelong learning, providing strategies for career advancement. This ensures social workers stay current with best practices and emerging trends, enhancing their effectiveness in the field.

Supporting Diversity and Inclusion :Promoting diversity and inclusion is a key HR function. Social work education that includes HR principles enhances students' understanding of creating inclusive environments. For example, a social worker trained in HR can better advocate for marginalized communities, ensuring their voices are heard and respected.

Conclusion :Incorporating HR principles into social work education is essential for developing well-rounded professionals. By understanding organizational dynamics, managing workforces effectively, promoting ethical practices, resolving conflicts, enhancing well-being, facilitating development, and supporting diversity, social workers can significantly improve their impact. As we continue to face social challenges, the integration of HR in social work education will ensure that professionals are not only compassionate but also equipped with the necessary skills to drive positive change.

Call to Action :Educators, policymakers, and social work professionals must prioritize the integration of HR principles into social work curricula. Doing so will prepare future social workers to meet the evolving demands of their profession, ultimately leading to more effective and sustainable social interventions.

Small Tea Growers in Assam

Abhijeet Hazarika (Batch 1980-82)

(Abhijeet Hazarika comes with several years of experience of working in the Tea industry. Post his retirement he now works as a consultant with a start up which is working with small tea growers. The following account is based on his experience of working closely with the tea growers in Assam)

Assam, renowned for its tea production, has 1,222,415 small tea growers cultivating 114,847 hectares of land (Tea Board of India figures). In 2023 (January to December), these small tea growers contributed approximately 329 million kg of tea, representing 49% of Assam's total production of 688 million kg. However, these small tea growers face significant challenges:

1. Lack of access to good agronomy practices.
2. Insufficient knowledge of pesticides permitted by FSSAI and international standards.

These challenges result in the production of lower-quality, non-compliant tea leaves by the majority of small tea growers.

To address these issues, Fast Track Agro Tech LLP conducted a pilot project at the Bor-Noi factory in 2022 and 2023, implementing several strategies:

1. Providing agronomy support to small tea growers.
2. Offering prices above industry standards to improve leaf quality.
3. Introducing standard operating procedures (SOPs) in both field and factory operations.
4. Utilizing technology in both cultivation and processing.
5. Manufacturing custom-ordered teas to enhance market prices.

In the first year, the model faced numerous obstacles. The teas produced did not match the premium prices paid for the leaves. However, in 2023, the adoption of good agricultural practices led to a significant improvement in tea quality, resulting in prices above industry standards. This success prompted other factories to adopt similar models.

The project also extended support to the families of small tea growers. A medical camp providing free medicines was organized with assistance from a Tata company. Additionally, a drawing competition was held during International Tea Day in 2022 and 2023.

Living among the small tea growers for nearly two years was a profound learning experience. The challenges of integrating new technology in remote areas were apparent, yet the resilience and determination of the farmers to secure a better future were inspiring. Their willingness to improve quality through better field practices and plucking standards demonstrated their adaptability when given proper guidance.

Unfortunately, due to financial constraints, the project could not continue in 2024. Nonetheless, similar models are now being adopted by other factories in the region, leading to improved economic welfare for the small tea growers. We remain hopeful that this positive trend will spread to other parts of Assam, particularly where tea quality still needs enhancement.

However, it is my pleasure to share that the tea is now available on Amazon under the brand name Pristine. It has been decided to share 20% of the profits with the tea growers.



A Fulfilling Journey

Dr Uma Agarwal (Batch 1979–81)



(This is a testimonial given to Uma Agarwal(Batch 1979–81) by the Department from where she superannuated a few months ago. This write up is being included in the newsletter for two reasons. We are yet to find an alumna who has worked so consistently in the area of school social work almost throughout her career – not only in India but in other countries. It is so heartening to see a Department making efforts to celebrate the entire journey of one of their staff members. We thought of sharing with everyone)

Dr. Uma Agarwal started her professional career as a Social Worker in 1981. Born into a service family, with her father being a Lt. General in the Indian Army and her mother being a teacher, she was exposed to the needs of her community from a very young age. She embarked on her journey of social service at the age of 14 years, when she began volunteering in Mother Teresa's homes and the slums of New Delhi, India. She later volunteered with hospitals, schools for the visually impaired, centres for the enhancement of tribal woman to name a few. She also supported the rehabilitation of riot victims and numerous fundraising initiatives, and was actively involved in the launch of the National Literacy Mission Program in India.

Uma had the fortune of meeting Mother Teresa during her school and university years, which she believes shaped her professional identity and career. After being inspired to undertake her bachelor's degree in Sociology, she completed a Master's and Ph.D. in Social Work. Since then, she has primarily worked as a School Social Worker, with her career encompassing 12 years in India, 5 years in Dubai, and the past 21 years with Dufferin Peel Catholic District School Board (DPCDSB) in Canada. In addition, she has led community development programs in villages in India in her role as the Executive Director of PRERANA for 3 years and worked with the Toronto Catholic CAS (Children's Aid Society) for 1 year before she joined DPCDSB.

Uma has been bestowed with several awards and honours during her career. She was granted the Fullbright Award (U.S. Educational Foundation of India) for her participation in the Council for International Programs (U.S.A.) and received the Honorary Citizen Award in the City of Minneapolis, USA. She received Certificates of Merit from the National Progressive Schools Conference of India for her commendable contribution to the field of literacy. Among other rewards Uma has been the recipient of the OASW School Social Work Achievement Award during her career at the DPCDSB.

After an incredible and fulfilling career of 43 years, Uma has decided to retire and start a new journey with her beautiful family, which includes her husband, daughter, son, and daughter-in-law, who are all in healthcare. Uma's accomplishments along with her rich and diverse experiences are a testament to her strong and multifaceted skill set. She has proven to be an extremely dedicated, humble, sensitive, sincere, and hardworking colleague, who has taken on and done full justice to whatever has come her way. She has served on a number of department committees, including the Standards of Practice Committee, Brampton Northeast Family of Schools, Christmas Outreach Committee, and Social Committee, among others. She has not only contributed immensely to the growth of our department, but has also demonstrated her leadership on many occasions. Moreover, she has mentored a number of our staff over the years. Uma has always been appreciated and loved by the teams she has worked with, and the students and families she has supported. She says Social Work is her passion and will always be.

An Appeal to all Alumni

The Alumni Association has been trying hard to develop an active database of all the alumni who have completed their Masters in Social Work and other courses from the Department. We have managed to create a list of over 500 alumni. We need your help to develop it further. Please get in touch with other alumni and your batchmates to make sure that they reach out to us. A Google Form has been created for this purpose. We request you to please get in touch with Anuja Rani (7004037487) Renisa Patra (8287130425) or Niraj Seth (9818340571) if you need any help.

As mentioned, the Alumni Association has instituted a scholarship scheme for the students of the Department. We need your generous support to help us continue with the scholarship. Any amount donated will get tax exemption since we have 80 G registration.

78th Annual Day Celebrations at the Department



Chief Guest Dr Amod Kanth and Guest of Honor Mr Uday Shankar Singh gracing the occasion



It is always great to meet our teachers

Our website <http://dsswalumni.in>

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

**Mode of payment NEFT/Cheque in favour of
'Delhi School of Social Work Alumni Association'**

ICICI Bank a/c number 022701004861

IFSC Code: ICIC000027

Do remain in touch with us –

Alumni.dssw@gmail.com

We are also on –

Facebook : Delhi School of Social Work Alumni Association

Instagram : @DSSWAlumniAssoc dssw_alumniassoc