



e-Journal

A publication of NAPSWI

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EDITORIAL

This is the first issue of the e-journal of NAPSWI. Although we made several resolutions in the past, particularly during our annual meet, we could not get the things moving for one or the other reason. The present volume is a modest beginning and I am sure our beloved members will make meaningful contribution for future volumes of this e-journal. In this volume, we have covered two topics namely (i) professional associations of social workers in India with a special focus on NAPSWI and (ii) 5th Annual National Seminar on Social work Response to HIV/AIDS being held in Bangalore during August 28-31, 2008.

Readers of this e-journal are most welcome to suggest topics to be covered in our future volumes. I take this opportunity to thank each member of the editorial team for their consent to be members of the Editorial Board and for their valuable support. We hope you find this issue useful and shall appreciate your comments and suggestions on the coverage.

(Prof Gracious Thomas)

Chief Editor

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS OF SOCIAL WORK IN INDIA

Professional training in social work in India was initiated by Dr. Clifford Manshardt, an American Protestant missionary. He came to India in 1925 through the American Marathi mission, a Protestant Christian organization. This organization worked in slum communities of Bombay and founded the Nagapada Neighborhood House in 1926, headed by Dr. Clifford Manshardt as its first Director. The agency was similar to Settlement House in its objective and activities. It was located in an area, which had many social problems including poverty, gambling and prostitution. Such problems were the result of the fast changing social structure, which had weakened the family bond and community togetherness.

Manshardt mooted the idea of developing a school of social work to meet the need for trained manpower to work in Indian conditions. With financing from the Sir Dorabji Tata Trust, the first school founded in 1936 was known as Sir Dorabji Graduate School of Social Work later renamed as Tata Institute of Social Sciences in 1944. Since then, Social work education in India has spawned 7 decades during which it has attracted a large number of youth to pursue a formal degree in Social Work, develop human service values and work for the betterment of society. The journey has not been without its fair share of bumps and jerks, but challenging and exciting, nevertheless. The problems these trained social

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workers confront are common in Indian sub-continent. In order to ensure excellence in education, training and practice of professional social work, we need very active professional associations. Though India has fairly a long history of social work education as compared to other South Asian countries, professional associations were formed much later in order to play huge proactive roles. Our existing associations are yet to get permanent affiliation or

membership in International Federation of Social Workers (IFSW). As professionals we have a responsibility for making professional organizations vibrant. In past, we had several associations such as Labour Welfare Officers' Association, Probation Officers' Association, Association of Alumni of Schools of Social Work in India, etc. There are few regional level associations as well, such as, Bombay Association of Trained Social Workers (BATSW), Maharashtra Association of Social Work Educators (MATSW), Karnataka Association of Professional Social Workers (KAPSW), Professional Social Workers Forum, Chennai (PSWFC), etc. The ambit of their activities rarely reaches beyond local level meetings, seminars and they do not have much say or authority at the national level. The professional bodies of social workers that function at the national level are mainly three, namely, ASSWI, ISPSW and NAPSWI.

Associations of Schools of Social Work in India (ASSWI)

ASSWI was established in 1959 at Baroda. It is a professional organization engaged in the promotion of standards of social work education in the country. It has represented the profession by taking up social issues and concerns related to social work education at the national level since the early sixties. This association is functioning through its elected executive committee. Most of the members of ASSWI are from Schools of Social Work/Departments of Social Work which were established during the second half of the 20th century.

The Indian Society of Professional Social Work (ISPSW)

The Indian Society of Professional Social Work (ISPSW) is the oldest association of

professional social workers in India. It has been geared towards the goal of Empowering Society for Social Development. The Society was formerly known as Indian Society of Psychiatric Social Work. It was established in the year 1970 by Dr. R.K. Upadhyaya and his staff of the Dept of Psychiatric Social Work, Central Institute of Psychiatry, Ranchi. The present name of the Society was considered in the year 1988, because of an increased representation of the trainers, practitioners and researchers of all specialization of Social Work. The association primarily focuses on uniting the professional social workers to debate, discuss and develop conceptual frameworks and feasible indigenous interventions of social work for practice in India. In order to facilitate this purpose, the Society has conducted many annual Conferences seminars and symposia on various social issues, all over India. Many of the life members of this Society are representing various reputed National and International organizations, Universities and other agencies all over the World. The Society regularly identifies and felicitates esteemed personalities from the Social Work and its related fields.

National Association of Professional Social Workers in India (NAPSWI)

NAPSWI is a non profit, non- political, national level organization dedicated to the promotion of standard and status of social work profession in India. The association received legal status as a society under the Society Registration Act XXI of 1860 on

9th September 2005. This national association comprises social work institutions, schools and departments, educators, practitioners as well as students from every state in the country. Senior citizens are also provided membership. NAPSWI intends to fulfil the twin purpose of promoting the social work profession across the country with the aim of improving the quality of services in the social welfare and social development sectors on one hand and to protect interests of social work professionals on the other hand.

NAPSWI aims to advance excellence in education, training and practice of professional social work through - Education, Research, Training, Networking, Advocacy and Resource Development. *Objectives of NAPSWI are as follows:*

- Increase awareness about social work profession at various levels;
- Promote the highest professional standards and ethics in the practice of professional social work;
- 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;
- Faster communication and support among professional social workers;
- Promote social change, empowerment and liberation of people to enhance their well being adhering to the principles of human rights and social justice;

- Promote research, action and other forms of continuing education for knowledge up-gradation of members; and
- Advocate for programmes and policies to meet the needs of social work fraternity and its various clientele groups.

NAPSWI emerged from the discussion of the participants who assembled for the first national seminar at PHD house in New Delhi during May 2004. Now, NAPSWI is a big collaborator in terms of participation of its members in the Annual National Seminar.

ANNUAL NATIONAL SEMINAR OF SOCIAL WORKERS

With the launching of social work programme by dint of Open and Distance Learning in India through IGNOU, a new chapter has been opened for professional social workers in the Indian sub-continent since 2004. This initiative of IGNOU has taken social work education to the door steps of the un-reached in far flung areas i.e. from Kashmir to Campbell Bay in Andaman and Nicobar Islands and all the states in the North-East. There is flexible admission procedures adopted by IGNOU: any one having the required entry qualification can pursue social work education at Bachelors, Masters and Doctoral level without restrictions on age, place of residence and occupational status. The Annual National Seminar being organized by IGNOU in collaboration with NAPSWI is a meeting place for professional social work educators, practitioners and students from any state and union territory in the country. This annual event is gaining momentum with the support of ASSWI, several universities and international organizations.

The 1st Annual National Seminar on Social Work Response to HIV/AIDS was held on the theme 'Social Work, Gender and HIV/AIDS' during May 17-19, 2004 and was jointly organized by Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU) and National Institute of Public Co-operation and Child Development (NIPCCD) at Raunaq Hall, PHD House, New Delhi.

The 2nd Seminar was held on the theme 'Towards Preparing a Compassionate Fraternity of Professionals' during September 16-18, 2005 and was jointly organized by IGNOU and the American Embassy at American Centre New Delhi.

The 3rd Seminar was held on the theme 'Social Work, Women and HIV/AIDS' during October 12-14, 2006 and was jointly organized by IGNOU and the American Embassy at American Centre New Delhi.

The 4th Seminar was held on the theme 'Best Practices: Reaching the Un-reached' during November 16-19, 2007 and was jointly organized by IGNOU and Don Bosco Institute, Guwahati, Assam.

The 5th Annual National Seminar is being held on the theme 'Involvement of Faith Based Organizations in Social Work and HIV/AIDS' during August 28-31, 2008 and is being jointly organized by IGNOU and Indian Social Institute, Bangalore. Other collaborators of this seminar include the Christ University Bangalore, the Bangalore University, CBCI chair at IGNOU and the ASSWI.

5TH ANNUAL NATIONAL SEMINAR ON SOCIAL WORK RESPONSE TO HIV/AIDS

The Annual National Seminar is a unique opportunity for social work teachers, practitioners and students from across the country to meet share and learn from one another. Apart from meaningful involvement in academic activities, the seminar also provides opportunity for the much needed relaxation and enrichment through networking with people and institutions that matter.

Seminar Theme

Involvement of Faith Based Organizations

Two sub - themes of the seminar are: Involvement of faith based organization in the area of social work profession including social work education and practice, and Involvement of faith based organization in the area of HIV/AIDS including awareness, education, training, care and support, stigma and discrimination, targeted intervention, etc.

Venue

The seminar will be held at the Union Theological College (UTC), Bangalore. Bangalore is well connected by train and air from all major cities in the country. Bus services may be an option for several of the participants from the states of Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Andhra Pradesh and Goa. Those interested in availing discounted tickets offered by various airlines may reserve their booking well in advance.

Address of ISI is:

Indian Social Institute
24, Benson Road, Bangalore -560046.

For any assistance you may contact Dr (Fr) Joseph Xavier (Fr Jyoti) at ISI.

Facilities for Registered Participants

- Participation in all seminar sessions
- Breakfast (for outstation participants)
- Morning and evening tea
- Lunch
- Dinner (for out-station participants)
- Institutional visits (to be confirmed on arrival).

Other Facilities

Upto 3rd A.C/ bus fare (to and fro): to all NAPSWI life members, paper presenters and special invitees.

Sleeper class: (second class: Non A/C): NAPSWI students only.

Moderate boarding/ lodging (for only out-station participants on first come, first served basis).

Local participants will be provided Rs. 100/- per day towards T.A for not more than three days.

Launch of MSW through ODL

IGNOU will be officially launching its MSW programme through ODL during the inaugural session of the seminar. The School of Social Work, IGNOU has published several volumes for MSW (1st years) which will be released in this seminar. These books have been prepared by the best of experts in the country and abroad over a period of three years.

Special Session for Students

Students of Social Work will have opportunity to interact with senior social work educators and practitioners from across the country. In all the national seminars, the organizers ensure the participation of the best of experts from practically every state in the country. Annual seminar is a forum for continuing education for both the professionals and Paraprofessionals.

Panel discussions/interactions and special lectures by social work teachers and practitioners will be available exclusively for the students. Students of social work will have face to face interaction with subject specialists as well as social work authors and practitioners who have made significant contribution to the profession.

Expert Committee Meetings

Best of experts in Social Work from across the country will be participating in the proposed seminar at Bangalore. During this meet, a series of expert committee meetings on curriculum for M.Phil in social work, meetings of NAPSWI, ASSWI, state associations and meetings on the proposed Social Work Council will be held.

Exposure Visit to Mysore

The educational cum cultural exposure visit to Mysore is scheduled for August 31, 2008 only for those interested and have applied for the same along with a Demand Draft of Rs. 600/- (per person) in favour of "5th National Seminar on HIV/AIDS" payable at Bangalore. The tour to this beautiful city of Karnataka, will start early morning at 5:30 AM. The distance between Bangalore and Mysore is less than 150 Km. to be covered in about three hours. Participants will be back at Bangalore for dinner on the same night. Places we propose to visit include Tipu Sultan's Summer Palace, Gumbaz, Brindavan Gardens, Mysore Palace, Ranganathaswamy Temple and St Philomena's Church. Alternatively participants may like to visit the following places in Bangalore: Vidhana Soudha, Lalbagh, Palace of Tipu Sultan, Bull Temple and the Museum apart from shopping for the family.

Institutional Visits

Participants will have the opportunity for field visits to some of the social and welfare institutions in and around Bangalore on August 27th and 28th. Efforts shall also be made for local sightseeing at Bangalore. Cultural programme during the inaugural session and a Cultural evening by social work students are other events on the schedule. Kindly note that registration for the seminar as well as acceptance of papers for presentation will be as per first come first served basis. The Editorial Board of NAPSWI e-journal hereby conveys its good wishes to the organizers of the 5th Annual National Seminar.

NEWS UPDATE

Laminated certificate & new address

NAPSWI is issuing laminated certificate to all the applicants. Those who are issued non-laminated certificates earlier, if interested in having a laminated one, may kindly make a DD of Rs 150/- in favour of NAPSWI payable at Delhi and mail the same along with the original non-laminated copy to: Prof Sanjai Bhatt, Deptt of Social Work, 3 University Road, University of Delhi, Delhi-110007. Any kind of correspondence with NAPSWI can also be made to the same above mentioned address since the earlier address has been changed.

Announcement for next issue

Articles within 1000 words/news/ topics or themes for future volume, etc. are most welcome and should be sent to the Associate Editor at: asoksarkar2001@yahoo.co.uk

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