MESSAGE FROM FOUNDER

I feel delighted in introducing The Voyage, first news letter of the Association of Professional Social Workers and Development Practitioners (APSWDP), with a mandate to encompass periodic events and activities of the association. The newsletter will have key sections including Know Your Members (KYM), Past and Upcoming Events, Case Studies and invited articles from members.

With the contribution of our esteemed members from different walks of profession & life, The Voyage will go a long way in becoming the mirror of association & strengthening the key objectives of APSWDP.

Heartfelt thanks to the Editorial Board of The Voyage (e-Newsletter), comprising of Dr. Sumit Arora (Editor-in-Chief), Mr. Rajeev Choudhary (Associate Editor), Mr. Hitesh Kumar Gulati (Copy Editor) and Dr. Deepika Gupta (Content Editor).
Association of Professional Social Workers & Development Practitioners (APSWDP) is a registered not for profit organization of professional social workers and development practitioners working in various social welfare domain across the country. Social issues like poverty, livelihood, health, education, water & sanitation, unemployment, disease control programme, urbanisation, youth issues of de-addiction and others have covered the whole gamut government, development agencies and academic institutions. Since, the influx of specialization and expertise has increased over the current decade in the country among implementation agencies, then requirement of trained social work professionals and practitioners is indeed a factual requirement. The association focuses on creating a country wide and global network of dedicated social work professionals and development practitioners from remote geographical rural areas, to discuss, debate and develop key framework on evidence & practice based interventions, methods. Focus will be to enable social workers and development practitioners all around the globe to share their ideas and working on various development issues. APSWDP will also offer a platform to youth leaders, scholars/researchers with striving passion to participate in bringing reformation through correctional measures in existing policies.

APSWDP was founded initially by a group of professional social workers working in development sectors led by Mr. Vivek Trivedi, development practitioner and a global youth leader. It primarily started with a popular online social forum ‘Alliance of Social Work & Development Practitioners’ on the occasion of 65th Republic Day 2014 i.e. 26th January, 2014. The forum productively stretched to BSW and MSW learners of Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU) with support from Regional Centre Chandigarh. An orientation programme-cum-workshop was organized jointly by the Forum of Professional Social Workers coinciding World Social Work Day and Month for the first time at Chandigarh involving research scholars, learners, civil society and line departments on 29th March, 2014. It was felt during the workshop at regional centre that the forum must be taken on a next higher level by attaining a legal status. On 1st December, 2014, the World AIDS Day, the online forum received its legal status as an association under the Society Registration Act 1860 as ‘Association of Professional Social Workers & Development Practitioners (APSWDP).’

Mr. Anshu Kumar

FORMER TECHNICAL ADVISER (UNDP & UNEP), UNESCAP

Mr. Kumar has 35 years of rich experience in Refrigeration & Air conditioning out of which 20 years of experience is with Montreal Protocol activities, with focus on Project Management, Implementation and Monitoring. From 2000 onwards, he has closely worked with UNEP, UNICEF, UNDP, UNIDO, Ozone Cell India, INFRAS and GIZ Proklima for the implementation of Montreal Protocol. He has served as Technical Advisor Montreal Protocol, UNDP, Bangkok Regional Hub looking after Asia & Pacific.

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<tr>
<th>S. No.</th>
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<th>Organizers/ Collaborative Partners</th>
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<td>1</td>
<td>Participation of Mr. Anshu Kumar in Green Campus And Teachers Training Programme</td>
<td>January 22-24, 2020</td>
<td>The Climate Reality Project (TCRP) India</td>
<td>The Climate Reality Project (TCRP) India, 513-516, 5th Floor, Narain Manzil, Barakhamba Road, New Delhi - 110001</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>Awareness and Capacity Building Program on E-Waste and Circular Economy</td>
<td>February 04, 2020</td>
<td>National Institute of Technical Teachers Training and Research (NITTR), Chandigarh</td>
<td>Conference Hall, National Institute of Technical Teachers Training and Research (NITTR), Chandigarh</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>APSWDP awarded as a Best Practice under E-NGO Challenge Award 2019 and Exhibited APSWDP initiative in the Digital Innovation Summit</td>
<td>February 01, 2020</td>
<td>Digital Empowerment Foundation (DEF), India</td>
<td>EROS Hotel, Nehru Place, American Plaza, New Delhi, Delhi 110019</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>Capacity Building and Training Programme on Professional Social Work, Methods and Social Work Ethics on the occasion of World Social Work Day 2020 and</td>
<td>March 16, 2020</td>
<td>All India Pingalwara Association, Chandigarh Branch, State Legal Services Authority (SLSA)</td>
<td>Conference Hall, All India Pingalwara Association, Chandigarh Branch</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>Theoretical Connotation of the Importance of Human Relationships in Managing Substance Abuse on the occasion of World Social Work Day (WSWD) 2020</td>
<td>March 17, 2020</td>
<td>School of Public Health, NCTOH-2020, IAMBSS, SIPHER, Chandigarh</td>
<td>School of Public Health (SPH), Post Graduate Institute of Medical Education and Research (PGIMER), Chandigarh</td>
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PROGRAMES AND EVENTS (JAN-MARCH 2020)
COVID-19: A Journey from Social Distancing to Rising Propinquity

- Dr. Sumit Arora

Amid emergency lockdown around the world, governments are putting up their sincere efforts in order to protect their countrymen from contracting COVID-19. Since Public Health is at stake, each one of them are directed to stay at home by ensure social distancing which may reduce the rate of transmission.

It is a well-known fact that every health predicament leaves a social aftershock and COVID-19 is no exception. It has already led to a paradigm shift reflecting its social dimensions to the World. Stemming from the fear of contraction, this serious outbreak of 21st century has reported few instance of discrimination and stigma against those who are religiously engaged in providing health-care and sanitation. While we glance the India scenario, one can visualize the gravity of stigma and discrimination.

Moreover, this compulsive lock down has also introduced various challenges at the domestic front. On one side it has resulted in strong bondage between the family members, whereas on the other side it is anticipated that the lock down may also result in disruption of family planning due to increased propinquity. With total cut-down from the outer world, it is anticipated that the tendency to indulge into intimate relation may have rise.

This comes from the APSWDP’s COVID-19 Humanitarian Solidarity Response Relief campaign which led the team of volunteers to visit few areas in the vicinity of Chandigarh. Certain areas with migrants reflected the trajectory of extreme poverty and having no basic facilities available with them. Contained in an average bathroom size rooms with little or no clothes to wear, 4-5 children were spotted in each shanties/ slums. Over and above, many women were spotted to be pregnant while they have an infant in their lap.

In order to retain the efforts laid down by the government, it is expected that targeted intervention projects for migrants under the aegis of State AIDS Control Societies may be involved during lock down period to provide contraception and family counselling. Moreover, the Family Planning Departments shall also continue to strive for better outcomes during this period.

APSWDP has taken an initiative to launch COVID-19 Humanitarian Solidarity Response Relief Campaign at Chandigarh devising a partnership, following the principles of SDG-17 i.e. partnership for the goals. APSWDP has roped in civil society organizations including The Climate Reality Project-India, Swarmani Youth Welfare Association, Indian Federation of United Nations Associations (IFUNA)-Chandigarh Chapter, Corporate and Industries under CSR including Dabur India Ltd., Marico Ltd under FICCI network under the patronage of DAY-NULM Chandigarh, Municipal Corporation Chandigarh and Chandigarh SMART City Ltd. The first relief campaign was launched on 31st March 2020 by Smt. Raj Bala Malik, Mayor and Shri. K. K. Yadav, I.A.S. Commissioner Municipal Corporation Chandigarh. The Relief Campaign has provided Dry ration, Ready to Eat Oats, Beverages, nutritional supplements, Dettol soap bars, Savlon liquid, essentials oils, Cerelac for children and Sanitary pads etc. to Maloya EWS colony adopted for more than a month. In addition, APSWDP has also extended relief support to other colonies as well including Dhanas, Kaimbala, Manimajra, Khajeri, Kumhar Colony, Zirakpur etc. during lockdown and curfew.

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