

THE VOYAGE

THEORY TO PRACTICE VOLUNTEERISM TO PROFESSIONALISM

Association of Professional Social Workers and Development Practitioners (APSWDP)
In Special Consultative Status with Economic and Social Council of the United Nations since 2019
Affiliated with Department of Global Communications (DGC) of the United Nations

PROMOTING SOCIAL WORK EDUCATION FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

VOLUME: I

ISSUE: 07 OCTOBER 2020



MESSAGE FROM EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

DR. SUMIT ARORA

It gives me immense pleasure to release the seventh issue of our monthly newsletter. I hope the information and contents given in this newsletter will provide a comprehensive understanding about the activities/ tasks undertaken by APSWDP during the October month.

In this issue, we will have a chance to read about the APSWDP's Virtual Dialogue Series V, VI, VII and VIII on 'UN75 2020 and Beyond Shaping Our Future Together: What Future We Want' organized in October; APSWDP Virtual Chandigarh Climate Dialogue 2020 coinciding 24 Hours of Reality and an article on "Community Service" contributed by Mr. Gautam Bhardwaj.

I congratulate all the team members for putting up their ideas in this edition. With these words, I further take this opportunity to invite short write-ups from our esteemed members which shall be published in our forthcoming issues.

APSWDP NEWSLETTER

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IN SUPPORT OF



APSWDP VIRTUAL DIALOGUE SERIES V Women and Girls-Closing the Gender Gap

A virtual dialogue on the theme 'Women and Girls-Closing the Gender Gap' was organized as a part of a dialogue series initiated by APSWDP on 27th September 2020 (Saturday). Dr. Monica Singh, Chairperson, Center for Social Work, Panjab University, Chandigarh was the chief guest and inaugurated the dialogue, whereas Ms. Manjula Thakur, Director Prasanchetas Foundation, Ms. Ritika Singh, CEO & Founder Kontent Factory, Prof. Priyadharsini R. SRCAS, Coimbatore and Ms. Priyanka Sud, Advocate, Hon. High Court Punjab and Haryana shared their deliberations, case studies and social action based motivating stories with respect to Women and Girls - Unbarring the Disparity Barriers, We are Women and not Superwomen- Maybe We Don't Want it All, Gender Equality in India- A Way Forward and Gender Equality- Most Neglected and Much Awaited. The key objective of the dialogue was to ignite vibrancy in thoughts and creating synergy among diverse audience across the country. The virtual dialogue was attended by 84 participants from various professional background including researchers, educators, post graduate students, environmental activists, government and CSO representatives from development sector, etc.

APSWDP VIRTUAL DIALOGUE SERIES VI Investing in Health for an Equitable Future

APSWDP had organized a virtual dialogue on the theme 'Investing in Health for an Equitable Future' on 3rd October 2020 (Saturday). Prof. Amarjeet Singh, Head Department of Community Medicine and School of Public Health, PGIMER was the chief guest and inaugurated the dialogue. The main objectives of the dialogue were to unveil the social impacts and role of community participation, ensure universal health coverage for the masses, discussing various disease pattern, evolving with ongoing change in the climate pattern, conflict, economic depression, digital technologies, demographic shift and rampant urbanization. The key panellists were Dr. Rakesh Gupta, President Rajasthan Cancer Foundation, Dr Shet Masih, Consultant Genomics & Technical Lead, Dr. Sanjiv Kumar, Former Regional Advisor, UNICEF and Chair Indian Academy of Public Health, Dr. Kumar Pushkar (Lt. Col), Faculty AFMC Pune. In the dialogue, the panelist discussed the current situation of health infrastructure, private sector investment, universal coverage to all, affordability in diagnosis and treatment. The virtual dialogue was attended by 123 participants from various background including professional medical practitioners, researchers, post graduate students, lawyers, government employees in social sector, etc.







APSWDP VIRTUAL DIALOGUE

SERIES VII - Shifting Demographics & VIII - A New Era of Conflict and Violence

A virtual dialogue Series VII & VIII on the theme 'Shifting Demographics' and 'A New Era of Conflict and Violence' was organized as a part of a dialogue series initiated by APSWDP on 4th October 2020 (Sunday). Professor Ashwani Kumar Nanda, Head, Population Research Center (PRC), CRRID Chandigarh was the chief guest and inaugurated both the dialogues.

In the dialogue VII, Dr. Harihar Sahoo, Assistant Professor, International Institute of Population Sciences (IIPS), Mumbai, Dr. Debdulal Saha, Assistant Professor and Chairperson, Center for Labour Studies and Social Protection, TISS Guwahati and Dr. Sumit Arora, Sociologist and Development Expert, Chandigarh shared their deliberation, case studies on population, migration patterns in India with respect to increasing labour demand, unemployment and impact of COVID-19 Pandemic.

In the dialogue VIII, Dr. Devraj Tyagi, Director Gandhi Smarak Bhawan, Chandigarh, Dr. Manish Sharma, Chairperson, Department of Gandhian Studies, Panjab University, Chandigarh have delivered their talk on rising conflict and unrest among youth and establishing peace in context of SDGs respectively.

The key objective of both the dialogues were to discuss the social impacts of rising population, migration due to climate change and conflicts and impacts of rising conflicts and violence in the society in the context of SDG-16, advocating universal brotherhood and global peace respectively. The virtual dialogues were attended by 95 and 89 participants respectively from various professional background including researchers, educators, post graduate students, environmental activists, Government and CSO representatives from development sector, etc.





Know Your Member



DR. SANDEEP MEHARWAL PUBLIC HEALTH EXPERT

Dr. Sandeep Meharwal is a global development expert in public health having more than 14 years of experience in teaching, capacity building & training. He is Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) from one of the premier institution PGIMER, Chandigarh. He has worked as Assistant Professor in American Medical University in the Caribbean, public health expert in Vietnam, Indonesia, Thailand. Presently, he is a Regional Advisor Diagnostic Asia Pacific in FHI

DR. (LT. COL.) KUMAR PUSHKAR PUBLIC HEALTH EXPERT

Dr. Kumar Pushkar is a serving Medical Officer in Indian Armed Forces. He is a Community Medicine specialist and has done Ph.D. from Department of Community Medicine and School of Public Health, PGIMER Chandigarh. Presently, he is a faculty in the Department of Community Medicine at Armed Forces Medical College, Pune.

CHANDIGARH VIRTUAL CLIMATE DIALOGUE 2020 Coinciding 24 Hours of Reality

In context of celebrating 24 Hours of Reality, a global campaign launched by Al Gore, founder of The Climate Reality Project was observed by the APSWDP on 11th October 2020 by way of organizing a Virtual Chandigarh Climate Dialogue 2020 with support from the Climate Leaders at Chandigarh. The dialogue was inaugurated by Dr. Mushtaq Ahmad Memon, Regional Coordinator, UNEP, Thailand. Dr. Ravinder Khaiwal, Professor, DCH & SPH, PGIMER and Shri. Anshu Kumar, Former UNDP Senior Technical Adviser gave a keynote address on Climate Change and a special address on Ozone respectively in the dialogue. Mr. Navneet Trivedi, Dr. Sumit Arora, Mr. Rajeev Chaudhary, Ms. Ishita Wadhawan, Mr. Hitesh Gulati shared their presentation on the science of climate change, climate change with respect to behaviour modification and lifestyle change, public health, education, etc. In the dialogue, a total of 156 participants across the country have participated actively.

ECSTASY OF PERFORMING COMMUNITY SERVICES -Advocate Gautam Bhardwaj

A nation is built by the members of society, a society comprising different features and characteristics, a fusion of citizens who not only work for themselves but also for Nation Building. As part of our moral responsibilities to nurture the society and to provide with all basic amenities to everyone including persons from different strata. It is the intent to secure the inherent right of individuals so as to enjoy a life of prosperity and dignity. The root cause that negates the healthy growth and development of the vulnerable, marginalized and downtrodden is because of crisis and predicaments, restlessness in youth and related problems. It is the need of the hour to awaken the conscience of the community in a wider social context to protect from all forms of abuse. In order to strengthen the family, society and the Nation following Principles are required to be adhered:

- 1. Survival, life and liberty
- 2. Protection from economic exploitation and all forms of abuse
- Protection and welfare of children
- 4. Care of marginalized and disadvantaged communities

Therefore, looking to such ground realities and experiencing the hardships faced by the individuals, the best way to support them is through valuing them, to analyze and secure their interests at the community level. In order to streamline the process, representatives from front-line service providers, supervisors, program managers, and senior policy makers could be involved to provide community services. This approach is quite useful, that an individual in need is looked after by the social services providers. Being a front line social service provider, it is not only about the satisfaction but also an ecstasy by rendering community services. It is indeed an access towards humanity which not only brings a ray of hope for the needy but also a step ahead towards building a sustainable nation.



Release of UN75 Dialogue Series Comprehensive Report



A comprehensive report of UN75 Dialogue Series I-VIII was released on the ocassion of United Nations Day, 24th October, 2020 by Dr. Anshu Kumar former UNDP Senior Technical Adviser in presence of Mr. Vivek Trivedi founder APSWDP and Principal Convener UN75 Dialogue Series. Mr. Hitesh Kumar Gulati. Hon. Director P&A and Dr. Sumit Arora, Hon. Director CBT, APSWDP were also present.



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