



THE VOYAGE

THEORY TO PRACTICE
VOLUNTEERISM TO PROFESSIONALISM

Association of Professional Social Workers and Development Practitioners (APSWDP)
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PROMOTING SOCIAL WORK EDUCATION FOR
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

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APSWDP Annual General Meeting and Sworn-in ceremony of 3rd Governing Body on 12th December, 2020, Chandigarh.

MESSAGE FROM EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

DR. SUMIT ARORA

I am delighted to release the ninth issue of our monthly newsletter. It is anticipated that the information and contents given in this newsletter will provide a comprehensive understanding about the activities/ tasks undertaken by APSWDP during the month of December. This issue of our news letter is dedicated to 6th Anniversary of the APSWDP.

In this issue, we will have a chance to read about the APSWDP's Virtual National Dialogue on 'Disability Inclusion'; APSWDP's representation in Global events hosted by the UN agencies and an article on "Tobacco USE and COVID-19: An Urgent Need to Quit Tobacco".

I take this opportunity to invite short write-ups from the esteemed members of APSWDP which shall be published in our forthcoming issues.

APSWDP NEWSLETTER

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APSWDP VIRTUAL NATIONAL DIALOGUE ON DISABILITY INCLUSION

A virtual national dialogue on the theme "Disability Inclusion" on the occasion of International Day of Persons with Disabilities was organized in partnership with State Legal Services Authority (SLSA), Chandigarh and Wheelchair Cricket Federation of India on 3rd December 2020.

The UNESCO has mark International Day of Persons with Disabilities from 25 November 2020 to 3 December 2020 under the theme: **"Building Back Better: Towards an Inclusive, Accessible and Sustainable Post COVID-19 World by, for and with Persons with Disabilities"**. UNESCO also aims at organizing a Global Awareness Raising Campaign "Tell Our Stories, Enable Our Rights" on its official social media channels, focusing on the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on people living with disabilities and on the immediate response to the crisis through open, inclusive and innovative use of digital solutions, tools and resources.

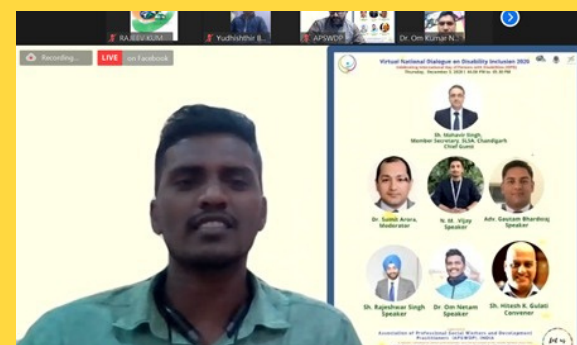
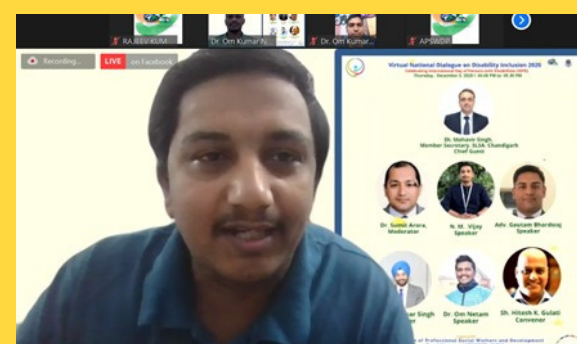
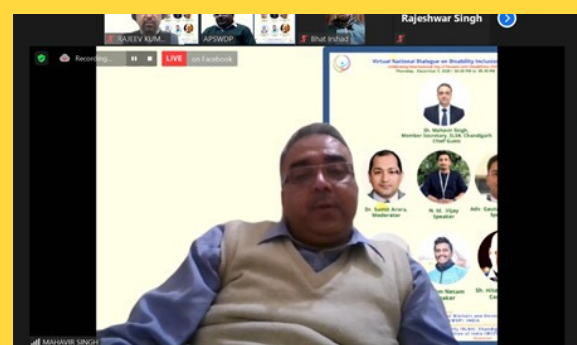
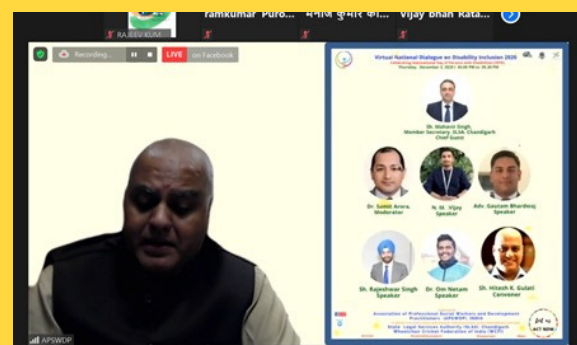
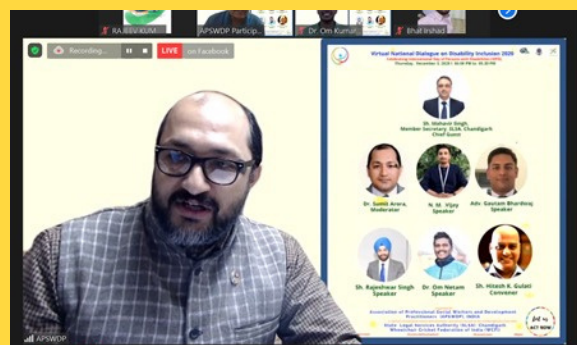
The purpose of planning the Virtual National Dialogue on Disability Inclusion 2020 dialogue was to reduce the gaps created due to the global crisis of COVID-19 which has deepened the pre-existing inequalities and exposing the extent of exclusion.

In a pursuit towards understanding the issues and challenges COVID-19 pandemic, the event created an opportunity to re-think and re-create the ways we live, we work, we celebrate and we learn, which will eventually help us in building the future we want.

The Virtual Dialogue was also in alignment to the SDG 3 – Good Health and Well-Being, SDG 10 – Reduced Inequalities and SDG 16 – Peace, Justice & Strong Institutions. As a UN recognized day, the dialogue was aimed at increasing public awareness, understanding and accepting people with disability and celebrating their achievements and contributions to society.

The deliberations were made by Chief Guest Shri Mahavir Singh Ahlawat and distinguished panelists Shri Rajeshwar Singh and Adv. Gautam Bhardwaj from Legal Sector. Contributions were also made by Dr. Om Kumar Netam and Shri Vijay M. Manjunathan from Wheelchair Cricket Federation of India, whereas the dialogue was moderated by Dr. Sumit Arora and convened and co-convened by Mr. Hitesh Kumar Gulati and Mr. Rajeev Chaudhary, respectively. The Virtual Dialogue was participated by 67 participants from the country and abroad as well from diverse domain of social welfare.

Glimpses of Virtual National Dialogue



6th Anniversary Celebration of APSWDP

APSWDP observed and celebrated its sixth anniversary on 12th December, 2020 at RGNIYD Conference Hall, PEC Campus Sector 12, Chandigarh. On this occasion, a comprehensive review was made by the Governing Body in presence of Founder, APSWDP, Emeritus Member. During the meeting, a documentary on the completion of six years journey of the APSWDP was screened.

An Annual General-cum-Governing Body Meeting (AGM/GBM) was also organized on the same occasion to take decision on the development agendas of the association including key agenda of nomination of 3rd Governing Body and adieu to office bearers of 2nd Governing Body. The office bearers of 3rd Governing Body were elected anonymously namely, Dr. Sumit Arora (President), Sh. Amitoz Dogra (Vice-President), Mrs. Rekha Trivedi (Secretary General), Sh. Sharad Kumar Singh (Joint Secretary) and Mr. Karamveer Singh (Treasurer). During the sworn-in ceremony, the out-going President Dr. Monica Singh, welcomed all the new Governing Body Members and assured them of all support and guidance in future.

The General Body also nominated out-going President Dr. Monica Singh and Vice President Dr. J K. Yadav as Chief Patrons and Mr. Vivek Trivedi as Principal Advisor of the association under the Board of Mentors (BOM). In addition, an Executive Body was also constituted of 15 members panel for Board of Directors and Zonal Representatives under the esteemed leadership of Sh. Hitesh Kumar Gulati, Hon. Director General.

On this occasion, a six years report of APSWDP along with other reports of programme/events were released by the Dr. Monica Singh. The virtual and physical mode meeting was attended by more than 40 members spread over the entire country and other parts of the world.



AKASH YADAV

LEGAL PRACTITIONER

Mr. Akash Yadav did his studies in Law from Panjab University Chandigarh and is practicing in Hon. Punjab and Haryana High Court Chandigarh. In addition he has expertise and interest in handling Public Interest Litigation (PIL) and legal instruments pertaining to human rights, women rights and rights of persons with disabilities. He has instilled passion for social work and welfare of marginalized communities and youth development.



ABHANDHER SINGH CHAUDHARY

ICT EXPERT

Mr. Abhandher Chaudhary did his studies in Computer Science and completed M.Tech in Computer Science Engineering from National Institute of Technical Teachers Training (NITTTR), Chandigarh. He is presently working with Municipal Corporation Chandigarh in IT Branch as System Manager. He has experience in developing applications and tool for monitoring and evaluation of social sector schemes. He is instrumental in development of COVID-19 Command Control Centre in Chandigarh.

Tobacco USE and COVID-19: An Urgent Need to Quit Tobacco.

-Rajeev Chaudhary

The health risks of consuming tobacco are well-known. As per WHO report, every year more than 8 million people globally die due to tobacco consumption. More than 7 million of these deaths are from direct tobacco use and around 1.2 million happen when non-smokers get exposed to secondhand smoke, also known as passive smoking.

Tobacco smoking is a known cause of many respiratory infections ranging from cardiovascular diseases, lung disorders, cancers, diabetes to hypertension which further increases the severity of respiratory diseases. COVID-19 is an infectious disease that primarily attacks the lungs. Smoking impairs functioning of lungs making it harder for the body to fight off corona virus and other such diseases. These diseases further increase the risk of severe illness in case a person gets affected by COVID-19. Research at hand suggests that smokers are at higher risk of developing severe diseases and dying as compared to non-smokers.

As per the 2016-17 report of Global Adult Tobacco Survey (GATS) India, nearly 267 million or 28.6 % Indians aged 15 and above currently use tobacco in some form or the other. As per available data, up to 199 million tobacco users in India either chew it or apply it on their gums and teeth in various forms and half of that number i.e. 99 million smoke it. During the pandemic, a government directive asked for a "strict ban" on the sale of liquor, gutka, tobacco etc for health reasons, two of which are critical. Another measure taken to curb the use of tobacco was to increase the tobacco tax which was proven effective. According to the health experts of World Health Organization; Since COVID-19 primarily affects lungs' functions; patients who are smokers may require intensive care and ventilation as compared to the non-smokers. Fatality rates were also higher among patients with comorbidities such as cardiovascular disease, diabetes, hypertension, chronic respiratory disease or cancer, some of which are directly related to smoking. In India, out of the 480 deceased on April 18, 400 had such comorbidities.

The consumption of chewable tobacco leads to increased production of saliva and thus the urge to spit also increases. An appeal from the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) stated, "Spitting in public places could enhance the spread of the COVID-19 virus." Spitting in public places has also been banned by the government and made to a punishable offence under the Disaster Management Act. According to the WHO,

"Quitting tobacco is essential at this time to reduce the harm caused by COVID-19." It was also stated that those who manage to quit tobacco would almost immediately have improved lung and cardiovascular functioning and be better placed to manage comorbid conditions, if infected. Those who try to quit smoking have experienced unpleasant withdrawal symptoms. Smokers who feel the need to quit their habit should work tirelessly towards their goal. Quitting smoking can be achieved with the help of Nicotine Replacement Therapy (NRT) which is the first pharmacological treatment for smoking cessation that was approved by the World Health Organization (WHO), and US Food and Drug Administration (FDA). The lockdown has thrown up with an opportunity for quitting smoking with the methods that are clinically proven.

Chief Executive Officer of the ICMR (India Cancer Research Consortium) said, "This is an ideal opportunity to make people aware of the harmful effects of tobacco consumption as they are scared and listen to you at such moments,". It was also said "With the ban in place, if people can manage 2-3 weeks without it, then why not forever?"

PARTICIPATION



- Mr. Vivek Trivedi, Principal Adviser APSWDP represented in 'Advancing Equitable Livelihoods in Food Systems: A UN DESA Global Policy Dialogue' on 16th Decemebr, 2020.

- Dr. Sumit Arora represented APSWDP in a virtual workshop on 'Sustainable and Inclusive Economic Growth for Shared Prosperity' organized by UNITAR CIFAL Jeju, South Korea on 16th December 2020.

3rd Governing Body Members of APSWDP



Dr. Sumit Arora
President



Mr. Amitoz Dogra
Vice-President



Ms. Rekha Trivedi
Secretary General



Mr. Sharad Singh
Joint Secretary



Mr. Karamveer Singh,
Treasurer



Mr. Hitesh Kumar Gulati
Hon. Director General



APSWDP Supports Sustainable Development Goals

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