



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

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UN75 SHAPING OUR FUTURE TOGETHER
2020 AND BEYOND

The UN Charter being signed by a delegation on 26 June, 1945. Courtesy: www.un.org

MESSAGE FROM EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

DR. SUMIT ARORA

I am delighted to release the eighth 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 November. This issue of our newsletter is dedicated to the 75th Anniversary of the United Nations.

In this issue, we will have a chance to read about the APSWDP's Virtual Dialogue on 'Learning in the COVID-19 Era: Issues and Challenges'; APSWDP's representation in Global events hosted by the UN agencies and an article on "Social Dimensions of Injecting Drug Use".

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 DIALOGUE LEARNING IN THE COVID-19 ERA: ISSUES AND CHALLENGES

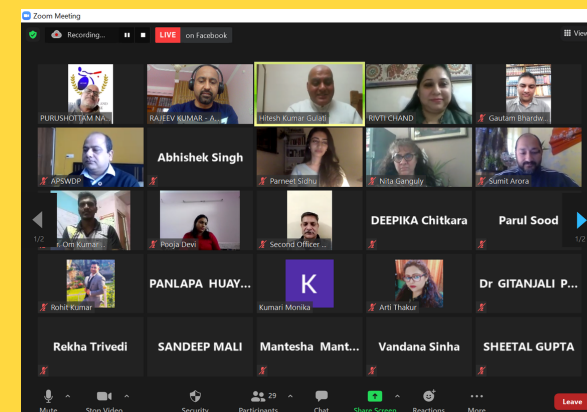
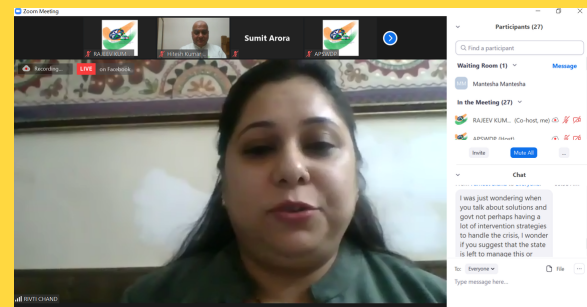
A virtual dialogue on the theme “Learning in COVID-19 Era: Issues and Challenges” was organized as a part of a dialogue series initiated by APSWDP on 29th November 2020 (Sunday). The dialogue was based on the fact that COVID-19 pandemic has challenged us with the true ambiguity of human existence and the true vulnerability of human life on one side and on the other side it has made us realize the value of independence – the independence to move, to be with those we adore, to live in self-respect and safety – for ourselves and for our loved ones. In pursuit of understanding the issues and challenges COVID-19 pandemic has given rise to in 2020, it is 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 dialogue was also conceived in alignment to the SDG 3 – Good Health and Well-Being and SDG 11 – Sustainable Cities and Communities.

The aim of the Virtual Dialogue was to discuss the issues of forced migration due to conflicts, manage change in volatility, uncertainty, complexity, and ambiguity (VUCA) World and an access to humanity. The outcomes of the Dialogue enabled the participants and panelists to document their ideas and solutions for framing an inclusive global plan of the future that we want. The key objectives of the Dialogue were:

- Firstly to develop an understanding on the Role of Civil Society under the ambit of Sustainable Development Goals with special focus on Health and Well-being.
- Secondly to discuss various migration patterns evolving due to climate crisis, conflict, and pandemic.
- Thirdly to understand the change and prepare our-self for a better future.
- Fourthly to initiate a dialogue on building community networks for addressing the issues of marginalized communities, prevention & preparedness for future.
- And lastly to give exposure on various issues and solutions for building a sustainable future; sensitize and adopt the principles of 'Think Global and Act Local'.

The deliberations were made by eminent panelists Dr. Sumit Arora, Ms. Rivti Chand and Adv. Gautam Bhardwaj whereas the dialogue was moderated by Mr. Hitesh Kumar Gulati. The virtual dialogue was convened and co-convened by Mr. Vivek Trivedi and Mr. Rajeev Chaudhary, respectively.

Glimpses of Virtual Dialogue and Webinars



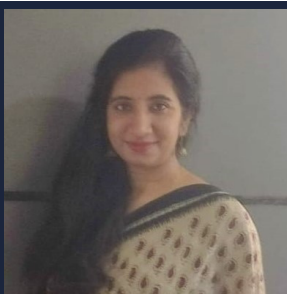
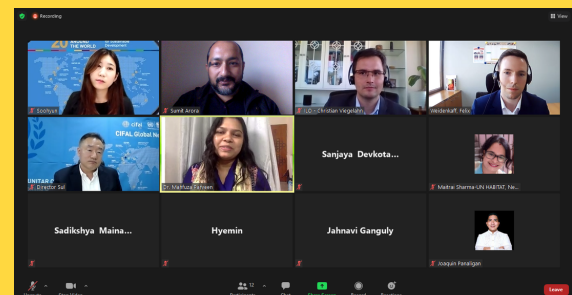
APSWDP's REPRESENTATION IN GLOBAL WEBINARS/CONFERENCES

Mr. Vivek Trivedi, Founder and Convener APSWDP had participated in the following webinars organized by the UN agencies:

- Columbia Law School Series: Conflict Resolution in the Era of Political Polarization, organized by UNITAR on 18th November, 2020.
- Participated in Centre for Liveable Cities Webinar on "UN-Habitat: Supporting Cities Through COVID-19" on 6th November, 2020.
- Participated in National Coordinator Meet organized by The Climate Project India on 6th November, 2020.
- Participated in a webinar on Supporting Enterprises at Scale: Adapting Business Training Programmes under the COVID-19 organized by International Labour Organization on 4th November, 2020.

Dr. Sumit Arora, Hon. Director, CBT, APSWDP had participated in the following webinars organized by the UN agencies:

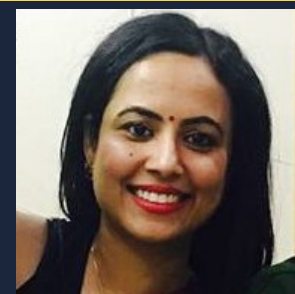
- Socio-economic Response to COVID-19 towards Economic Recovery - Focusing on Employment organized by UNITAR CIFAL Jeju on 19th November 2020.
- Empowering Youth Population for a Stronger Post COVID World organized by UNITAR CIFAL Jeju on 12th November 2020.
- Overcoming Global Challenges through the Rule of Law organized by UNITAR on 16th & 17th November 2020.



MS. POONAM RAWAL
MIS EXPERT

Ms. Poonam Rawal did her M.Tech in Computer Science Engineering from Graphic Era University, Dehradun in 2014. She is presently working with Punjab Municipal Infrastructure Development Company, Department of Local Government, Punjab as Management Information System (MIS) Expert. Her areas of expertise include QA, Trainings, Implementations, Requirement gatherings. She has a great inclination and passion to volunteer for various social causes.

Know Your Member



MS. SUNITA SHARMA
MIS EXPERT

Ms. Sunita Sharma did her M.Tech in Computer Science Engineering from SVIET, Banur in 2019. She is presently working with Punjab Municipal Infrastructure Development Company, Department of Local Government, Punjab as Management Information System (MIS) Expert. Her areas of expertise include Software Testing, Test Planning, Data Migration, Coordination, Implementation, Issue resolution of State level Software Applications. She has a strong belief in volunteerism and aids various social work activities.

SOCIAL DIMENSIONS OF INJECTING DRUG USE

Dr. Sumit Arora

Drug Addiction is not a new issue but has been in debate for decades. The matter has already diverted the attention of individuals of almost all the age groups as the entire society is getting restless due to increased vulnerability towards drugs that can be availed at the door steps. However, over the period of time the pattern of drugs addiction has been changed from non-injecting drugs to injecting drugs leading to blood borne infections namely HIV/AIDS, HBV, HCV and serious health hazards like gangrene, amputation and overdose. Among the injecting drugs that were purely pharmaceutical in nature, the craze for synthetic drugs like heroine also known as 'Chitta' has overruled the minds of addicts.

Though, it is difficult to assess the reason for increase in injecting drug use, stressful and fictitious life style can be taken as the leading but hidden factors. In addition, peer pressure, experimentation, easy availability of drugs, lack of awareness about the nature of drugs and its serious repercussions, lack of family support, etc. can be seen as the other major contributing and aggravating factors. Be it school and college going students, youth, professionals or working class people, it has transcend the boundaries of gender where young girls and women are also into injecting drug use.

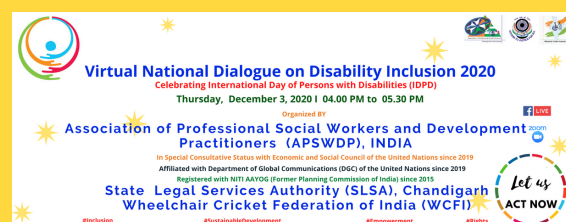
Gained fame for rising number of drug addicts, especially Injecting drug users and drug traffickers, many State are now rendering most of its youth including men and women and their family members to live a life of misery and penury. It has not only raised psychological issues but manifold social issues like family disputes, broken marriages, divorces, debt on families, loss of lives, etc. Many youngsters are losing their lives to the horrors of overdose. The left over family members including elder parents, wives and children are forced to live the life full of hardships and social deprivation. Women are the prime victims who are forced to live at the edge of dual marginality. On one side bearing the burden of heavy expenditure on the drugs and a compelling circumstances to sell each and every single household item whereas on the other side, a stigma of being the family member of a drug addict.

Therefore, it becomes vital that the family members of young children must take a lead by instigating them to have a better and selective peers and seek professional counselling, when required. Interventions in marriages and relationships must be based on trust and integrity between the partners and families thereby avoiding dishonesty and deceit of being into drug addiction. Besides, taking an HIV test before marriage would be most commendable task in a hope to have a better future. Lastly, it would be significant to put necessary checks on illicit drug trafficking across the borders through the Government channels.

ANNOUNCEMENTS



Mr. Vivek Trivedi, Founder and Convener APSWDP has been nominated as Honorary National Coordinator Climate Disaster Management, Poverty and Livelihoods by the Climate Reality Project, India for a term of two years.



Virtual Conference on Socio-economic Empowerment and Rights of Persons with Disabilities (PwDs) for Persons with Disabilities on the occasion of International Day of Persons with Disabilities on 3rd Decemebr, 2020 at 4.00 PM.



6th Anniversary Celebration of APSWDP and Annual General Body Meeting on 12th December, 2020 at 3.00 PM.



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