MESSAGE FROM EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

DR. SUMIT ARORA

I am delighted to release the twelfth issue of our monthly newsletter. It is anticipated that the information and contents given in this newsletter will provide a comprehensive understanding of the activities/tasks undertaken by APSWDP during the month of March-the Social Work Month.

In this issue, we will have a chance to read about the commemoration of World Social Work Day -2021 events in the Chandigarh and Haryana, with SLSA, MCC, and CBLU; representation of association in global events hosted by the UN agencies; and signing of MOU with CBLU.

I take this opportunity to invite short write-ups from the esteemed members of APSWDP which shall be published in our forthcoming issues.
Association of Professional Social Workers and Development Practitioners (APSWDP) Chandigarh in partnership with the State Legal Services Authority (SLSA), Chandigarh, Department of Social Work, CBLU, Haryana, and TCRP-India has conceived and organized World Social Work Day (WSWD) 2021, Social Work Month and International Day of Happiness (IDH) 2021 followed by various training workshops for diverse stakeholders on Community Driven Development through convergence under the ambit of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

APSWDP has pioneered in commemorating WSWD for the 6th consecutive year and introducing its first commemoration of IDH in the North region. The main aim was to promote the values of Theory to Practice and Volunteerism to Professionalism.

WSWD is celebrated on the 3rd Tuesday every year and has become a focal point in the social work calendar with social workers all over the world celebrating and promoting the contributions of the profession towards individuals, families, communities, and wider society. This year, the 2021 World Social Day highlights Ubuntu: I am Because We Are. This is the first theme of 2020 to 2030 Global Agenda for Social Work and Social Development. Ubuntu: I am Because We are – Strengthening Social Solidarity and Global Connectedness.

The IDH is a way to recognize the importance of happiness in the lives of people around the world. In 2015, the UN launched the 17 SDGs, which seek to end poverty, reduce inequality, and protect our planet – three key aspects that lead to well-being and happiness. The resolution was initiated by Bhutan, a country that recognized the value of national happiness over national income since the early 1970s and famously adopted the goal of Gross National Happiness over Gross National Product.

The Social Work Month has been kicked off at Chandigarh under the auspices of SLSA, U.T., Chandigarh, and TCRP-India on 13th March 2021 at Judicial Academy, Chandigarh.

During the inaugural, Shri Mahavir Singh, Member Secretary, SLSA, said that there is a great need to network and develop linkages with Stakeholders in order to ensure Community-Driven Development.

Shri Vikas Verma, Regional Head, SDGCC, UNDP in his address elucidated that universality of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals through convergence is required at the community level so as to understand the theme ‘Leave no one behind.

In the second event in the Social Work month, two days training workshop on “Community Driven Development through Effective Management of Area Level Federation (ALFs)/City Level Federation (CLF) and Sustainable Development Goals” was organized by the APSWDP in partnership with Development Cell of the Municipal Corporation Chandigarh on 16th-17th March 2021 at Rajiv Gandhi National Institute of Youth Development, Sector 12-A, Chandigarh under the aegis of Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana-National Urban Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NULM), Municipal Corporation, Chandigarh.
The two-day training workshop was inaugurated by Sh. Ravi Kant Sharma, Mayor, Municipal Corporation, Chandigarh as Chief Guest and Sh. Rahul Priyadarshi, General Manager and Regional In-charge, SIDBI as Guest of Honour.

In the event, representatives of Area Level Federations (ALFs)/City Level Federation (CLF), and staff of DAY NULM and Street Vendors Project have participated. The Two Day Training Workshop was comprised of the following sessions:

1. Community-Driven Development
2. Localization of Sustainable Development Goals
3. Role of Area Level Federation (ALF)/City Level Federation (CLF)
4. Effective Management & Administration of Area Level Federation (ALF)/City Level Federation (CLF)

In the last event conceived in Social Work month, a one-day training workshop on Community Driven Development and SDGs was organized in institutional partnership with the Department of Social Work, Chaudhary Bansi Lal University (CBLU), Bhiwani, Haryana on 20th March 2021, which was inaugurated by Chief Guest Prof. R. K. Mittal Vice-Chancellor CBLU, Bhiwani and Guest of Honor Sh. Aditya Pundir, Head South Asia, The Climate Reality India in presence of Prof. Vikas Kumar Head Social Work Department.

The key objectives of these events was to strengthen cooperation and partnership with diverse organizations and stakeholders, to spread knowledge about social work, its values, principles and methods in practice and theory among organizations and departments, to highlight social work actions, policies and achievements in the pursuit of common goals and finally to disseminate the knowledge about SDGs, community workers and social work organizations, institutions, etc.

The futuristic goals are to converge and develop linkages with Social Work Professionals to work in coherence for resolving human conflicts in the communities, promoting Community Driven Development on the principles of participation, local empowerment, demand-responsiveness, greater accountability, and enhance local capacity through transparency, mainstreaming of various CSOs and NGOs to lead the local chapter in the region, and emphasizing on sustainable lifestyle for bringing happiness in the community.
A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was signed between the Association of Professional Social Workers and Development Practitioners (APSWDP) Chandigarh, India, and Chaudhary Bansi Lal University, Bhiwani, Haryana on 20th March 2021 for the Promotion of Social Work Education for Sustainable Development and organizing various collaborative programs in Social Welfare, Management, and Social Work domain.

The MOU was signed by Dr. Sumit Arora, President, APSWDP, Sh. Hitesh Kumar Gulati, Hon. Director-General, APSWDP, and Prof. Jitender Kumar Bhardwaj, Registrar CBLU, Bhiwani and Prof. Vikas Kumar, Head Department of Social Work, CBLU, Bhiwani under the guidance, patronage, and visionary leadership of Prof. R. K. Mittal Vice-Chancellor, CBLU, Bhiwani, Haryana and Mr. Vivek Trivedi, Founder, APSWDP.

The signing of the MOU was put forward by Dr. Mool Raj Verma, Dr. Geetika Malhotra, and Sh. Jitender Kumar Lohia immediately after successful completion of Virtual Internship program and participation of founder APSWDP in various programs of CBLU organized by Department of Social Work during COVID-19 Pandemic.

The signing of MOU was felicitated by Prof. Vikas Kumar, Head, Department of Social Work, CBLU, Bhiwani on behalf of Registrar, CBLU, Bhiwani in a meeting held with Sh. R. K. Mittal, Hon. Vice-Chancellor on the occasion of commemorating World Social Work Day 2021 on 20th March, 2021.

Ms. Rekha Trivedi, Secretary General APSWDP, participated in the Virtual Townhall Meeting of Civil Society and United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres on the occasion of the sixty-fifth session of the Commission on the Status of Women on 16th March, 2021.