FROM THE DESK OF EDITOR IN CHIEF

RAJEEV KUMAR

We are delighted to release Volume II, Issue III of our Quarterly Newsletter ‘The Voyage’, which includes a wide coverage and series of Sustainable Development Goals, our multifarious diverse activities, global happenings, learning networking opportunities for professionals, partnership building, expert comments, views from practitioners. We have also created a ‘know your member’s section’ to introduce our esteemed members.

EXPERT’S SPEAK

Mr. Harit Mohan, Founder & CEO, Signicent LLP (India and USA).

Great Associations bring fortune! The signatory MOU between Signicent Information Solutions LLP and Association of Professional Social Workers & Development Practitioners (APSWDP) has been highly fruitful. It’s been a great journey so far. I would sincerely like to extend my gratitude for having great sensitizing sessions together. We look forward to more such enlightening events to create an impact. Let us keep working together to bring the change. At end, I am thankful to all the esteemed members for sharing their thoughts and valuable time.

Ms. Komal Chawla, Sr. Learning Experience Designer, College of Business and Law, RMIT University, Melbourne, Australia.

I would like to convey my sincere gratitude and thanks to the APSWDP team for providing me with an extremely useful and enlightening opportunity to be a panelist for Virtual Dialogue on “Women Empowerment and Social Cohesion” and also feel privileged to meet and share with so many distinguished scholars. I enjoyed, learnt, and liked every session and the whole gamut of the Virtual Dialogue. It was indeed a successful conference of such an international standard! I’m looking forward to collaborating again soon.
**Introduction**

Goal 2 of the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda seeks to end hunger and all forms of malnutrition and double agricultural productivity in the next 10 years. Ensuring this sustainable access to nutritious food universally will require sustainable food production and agricultural practices. This goal is of prime importance as extreme hunger and malnutrition remains a barrier to sustainable development and creates a trap from which people cannot easily escape.

Hunger and malnutrition mean less productive individuals, who are more prone to disease and have poor health and thus often are unable to earn more and improve their livelihoods. Hunger can be viewed as a dimension of extreme poverty. It is often called the most severe and critical manifestation of poverty.

**Background**

According to the 2018 Global Hunger Index, despite the global hunger levels falling, one in nine people worldwide go hungry. Of the 690 million people suffering from chronic hunger globally, 98 per cent live in the developing world. World Hunger is still a major problem and a global issue. The main cause of hunger worldwide is poverty. Millions of people around the world are unable to buy food as they also lack resources like arable land and means to grow their own food, process, and store foodstuff. In order to address these risks, the Food and Agriculture Organization urges countries to:

- meet the immediate food needs of their vulnerable populations,
- boost social protection programmes,
- keep global food trade going,
- keep the domestic supply chain gears moving and
- support smallholder farmers’ ability to increase food production.

The Aid and International Development Forum adopted the UN’s SDGs and highlight that 650 million people worldwide will remain hungry by 2030 and malnutrition will continue to be a huge burden on the poorest countries if we continue on this trajectory path. The forum had consulted leading nutritionists on what needs to be done to achieve the goal by 2030. This is what the experts say, that if dietary diversity is too expensive, the cheapest and most effective way would be food fortification. They further highlight the micronutrient deficiencies, what is often called “hidden hunger”. This deficiency then leads to global disease.

Collective and individual efforts at the local, national and international levels are necessary. This is where the role of Civil Society Organizations, Non-Governmental Organizations, International and National Agencies, and Donor Organizations comes into play.
Development Goal 2 (SDG 2): End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture. Also, Civil Society Organizations, Governmental Agencies, and the Private Sector including Corporate Houses need to create sound partnerships to share and learn and develop adequate policies.

Nutrition, Health, and WASH
The SDGs bear the opportunity for civil society to engage in the formulation of nutrition-sensitive policies and plans and to translate them into action. Sound policies have to take in account that SDG targets may provoke trade-offs, e.g. production vs. ecosystems. The promotion of a multi-sector engagement with a focus on nutrition will be crucial. More investment as well as regional networking and cross-learning are major driving factors to success. Northern Governments and international corporates should not influence food sovereignty in the South.

Agriculture and Employment
There is a disproportionate growth in the service sector that is creating a new wave of joblessness for a vast majority of unskilled youth. This, coupled with the deepening agrarian crisis across Asia, needs an innovative response: One that creates jobs within the agriculture sector, that is centered around better terms of trade and sustainability.

Agricultural development has to factor questions of crop diversity and the equitable distribution of land and water. Due to the increasing outmigration of men, access and control over land and other natural resources by women is critical. There is a need to create urban jobs in the primary and secondary sectors to absorb hundreds of millions of rural migrants. Job creation needs to happen in the formal sector with social protection measures for all labor - including the agricultural sector.

Social Protection and Inclusion
Social protection is a fundamental part of the SDGs and at the same time decisive for the fulfillment of the Right to Food. In countries with social security systems: (i) civil society should advocate to maintain social security systems and (ii) for transparent and accountable systems.
In countries with insufficient social security systems, we should advocate for legal enforcement of social security systems. Civil society should engage in the formulation and implementation of minimum standards to guarantee social security and inclusion.

**Mobile Technology**

Apart from these programmes, there are great possibilities for mobile technology for nutrition (mNutrition) or the use of mobile education tools, especially in education and changing behaviors. Initiatives like StartSmart focused on Maternal and child health care, where they draw up stakeholders to develop mobile nutrition services. Other initiatives are where organizations provide for nutrition advice for a child’s first thousand days including the period just prior to pregnancy. Therefore, more can be achieved if malnutrition as a root cause of disease and deprivation is acknowledged.

**Conclusion**

The signs of increasing hunger and food insecurity are a warning that there is considerable work to be done to make sure the world "leaves no one behind" on the road towards a world with zero hunger. In short, if the underlying malnutrition issues are prioritized, SDG 2 would indeed be within our reach.

**Reference**

- https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/hunger/
- https://sdgs.un.org/goals/goal2

Conflict drives hunger, and when that turns to famine, that then drives conflict. And if you don’t feed people, you feed conflict.

- António Guterres, UN Secretary-General

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APSWDP PROGRAM & EVENTS

Virtual Dialogue on “24 Hours of Reality: Let’s Get Real”

Aligned to the initiatives of The Climate Reality Project India, to demand real climate action, the Virtual Center of Excellence for Social Welfare Administration (VCoE-SWA), under the aegis of Association of Professional Social Workers & Development Practitioners (APSWDP) has conceived a Virtual Program/Dialogue on “24 Hours of Reality: Let’s Get Real”, in partnership with Chitkara College of Education, Chitkara University (Punjab). Signinent LLP, University Business School, Panjab University, Chandigarh, and The Climate Reality Project India (TCPI) on 29th and 30th October, 2021, with an aim to work together with academic institutions and organizations, government and communities, the private sector and all relevant stakeholders, for creating sustainable, carbon-neutral, inclusive cities and towns.

Virtual Conference on “Accelerating urban action for a carbon-free world”

Aligned to the initiatives of urban sustainability, the Virtual Center of Excellence for Social Welfare Administration (VCoE-SWA), under the aegis of Association of Professional Social Workers and Development Practitioners (APSWDP) organized a Virtual Conference on “Accelerating urban action for a carbon-free world”, in line with the theme of the United Nations on “World Habitat Day 2021”, in partnership with Chitkara College of Education, Chitkara University and The Climate Reality Project India (TCPI), with an aim to work together with local governments and organizations, communities, academic institutions, the private sector and all relevant stakeholders, for creating sustainable, carbon-neutral, inclusive cities and towns.

APSWDP being felicitated by Women’s Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (WICCI) at CII, Chandigarh

Association of Professional Social Workers & Development Practitioners (APSWDP) was felicitated by the Women’s Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industry: WICCI UT Chandigarh at CII, Chandigarh on 26th November 2021. Ms. Deepika Bahri, U.T. President for WICCI, at the Annual Conclave of WICCI, Chandigarh honored the APSWDP for their exemplary work in the area of Women Empowerment represented by Ms. Rekha Trivedi, Secretary-General and Mr. Hitesh Kumar Gulati, Hon. Director-General in the auspicious presence of Mr. Vivek Trivedi, Mentor, and Hon Principal Adviser to APSWDP.

Capacity Building & Empowerment of High-Risk Groups (HRGs)

Aligned with the objectives of celebrating World AIDS Day and Human Rights Day 2021, the Association of Professional Social Workers & Development Practitioners (APSWDP) organized a Community Event-cum-Advocacy Meeting with the Stakeholders on 04th December 2021 at RGNIYD, Chandigarh, followed by a workshop on “Capacity Building & Empowerment of High-Risk Groups (HRGs)”—also categorized as a vulnerable and marginalized minority community, under Composite Targeted Intervention (CTI) HIV/AIDS Project.

HRG’s shared the hurdles and never-ending challenges faced by them in society, and the house witnessed thought-provoking discussions on HRG’s through their ‘my story’ sessions. The way forward plan was discussed by involving policy changes and mass sensitization programs in various parts of the city and state.

Virtual Dialogue on “National Energy Conservation Day 2021”

Aligned to the objective of the National Energy Conservation Day 2021 to spread mass awareness among people about the importance and necessity of energy efficiency and conservation, the Virtual Center of Excellence for Social Welfare Administration (VCoE-SWA), under the aegis of the Association of Professional Social Workers and Development Practitioners (APSWDP) conceived a Virtual Program/Dialogue on “National Energy Conservation Day 2021”, in partnership with Chitkara College of Education, Chitkara University and The Climate Reality Project India (TCPI), with an aim to work together with academic institutions and organizations, government and communities.
APSWDP PARTICIPATION IN GLOBAL TRAININGS

MSMEs Enhancing Innovation and Resilience for an Inclusive and Sustainable Recovery - December 1 to 3 2021.

Dr. Sumit Arora and Mr. Rajeev Kumar, Members of APSWDP were selected by UNITAR/CIFAL Jeju Training Workshop on MSMEs Enhancing Innovation and Resilience for an Inclusive and Sustainable Recovery from December 1 to 3 2021. The workshop explored how MSMEs can be equipped to ensure a resilient and sustainable recovery in the post-COVID-19 era. The key objectives of the workshop were raising awareness of the challenges and opportunities for the inclusive & sustainable recovery of MSMEs and developing an understanding of business models to enhance digital innovation, and skills: capacity development, and furthermore policies and strategies to support access to finance, market and human capital. The purpose of the workshop was to share knowledge and good practices on enhancing the capacity of entrepreneurship and MSMEs, with a special focus on digital innovation to improve their resilience and competitiveness. Although the crisis has put a strain on MSMEs and slowed down progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals, the collective endeavors will create longstanding impacts on MSMEs from surviving to thriving towards inclusive and sustainable business for the post-COVID19 recovery.

Accelerating Multi-stakeholder Partnerships for the SDGs - 28 October, 3 & 4 November 2021.

Dr. Vivek Trivedi, a Member of APSWDP was selected by UNITAR/CIFAL Jeju Training Workshop on Accelerating Multi-stakeholder Partnerships for the SDGs from 28 October to 3 & 4 November 2021.

The key objectives of the workshop were to provide a platform for sharing good practices and lessons learned on partnerships, explore how to design and implement high impact multi-stakeholder partnerships to tackle the challenges facing the global community in achieving the SDGs, analyze stakeholder engagement platforms in practice to gain professional insights for better designing and implementing a multi-stakeholder partnership towards sustainable, resilient and inclusive societies. In addition, the expected outcomes of the workshop were a better understanding of the potential stakeholders with different resources, competencies and aspirations that can be brought around a common vision, sharing different approaches to building high impact multi-stakeholder partnerships among all sectors at the global, regional, national, and local level, and getting familiarized with various tools to build the partnering skills and competencies for the creation of more effective partnerships.

APSWDP CAPACITY BUILDING PROGRAMME FOR MARGINALIZED SEX WORKERS

A one-day training programme for Peer Educators was organised by APSWDP-CTIP at the project office on 15th December 2021. Twelve Peer Educators from all three HRGs communities and CTI Project Staff participated in the training programme. Smt. Rekha Trivedi, Secretary-General cum Project Director was also present during the training to boost the morale of all the peer educators and to discuss their crucial role in the project.

During the training, issues such as need, role and importance of peer educators were discussed. In addition, how they can act as a catalyst for the project by generating awareness and bringing reforms within their community. Similarly, they were also told about the peer educator diary which they have to fill on a daily basis after meeting with their community members thereby providing them with the project services.

Outreach tools such as weekly micro plan, hotspot maps, quarterly risk assessment, etc. were also taken into consideration during the training programme. Besides, referral and linkages were also discussed keeping in view their importance in the project. For instance, ICTCs, Suraksha clinics, DOTS clinics, ART centres, etc. were deeply discussed.

Mr Jeevan Deep Singh, Programme Officer-TI, TSU also briefed regarding the Revamp Strategies for improving the project services. He emphasized PMPSE, Strengthening Outreach Activities (SOA), Community Based Screening (CBS), etc. and how it can strengthen the TI project.
MOU SIGNING WITH ALLIANCE FRANCAISE CHANDIGARH

Association of Professional Social Workers and Development Practitioners (APSWDP) Chandigarh signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Alliance Francaise Chandigarh with an aim to promote objectives of both the organizations in terms of Education for Sustainable Development. Also, APSWDP and Alliance Francaise Chandigarh decided to work towards Gender space in the urban scenario and develop an Indo-French bridge between both side social workers and social work organizations with an aim to learn and understand culturally deep-rooted social aspects from both sides.

APSWDP’S ADVOCACY MEETING WITH STAKEHOLDERS

Association of Professional Social Workers and Development Practitioners (APSWDP) Chandigarh conducted five Advocacy Meetings with Bebo Technologies Pvt. Ltd. Chandigarh, General Manager, SIDBI, Regional Office, Chandigarh, Head Transgender Community North Punjab, District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) and State Legal Service Authority (SLSA), Chandigarh with an aim to seek corporate support for funding Social Work Education and also support Marginal Rights campaigns and community level projects.

Know Your Members

AMIT JOSHI
DEVELOPMENT PRACTITIONER

Mr. Amit Joshi is a development practitioner by profession and possesses a Masters Degree in Social Work from Madhya Pradesh Bhopal Open University. Bhopal. His areas of expertise are in TB-HIV/AIDS, Women Empowerment, Youth Development, Rural Development, Human Rights and Social Justice. He has worked in reputed social organizations including UNDP Project on Urban Development in Himachal Pradesh, Ministry of Social Justice and Women Empowerment, Government of India. Presently, he is serving in the Technical Support Unit under NACO in Haryana/Punjab as Programme Officer.

DR. SINGARAYAR BRITTO
ACADAMECIAN

Dr. Singarayar Britto is an academician by profession and a die-hard researcher in diverse development domains including wo development, poverty, migration, women development rights, etc. Dr. Britto possesses Masters of Philosophy in Sociology from MSS, India and Ph.D. from Madurai Kamraj University, Tamil Nadu. He is expert in Applied Research, Relationship Building, Conflict Resolution etc. with more than two decade academic global experience. Presently, he is an Associate Professor Sociology and Social Work, School of Social Sciences, Bule Hora University, Ethiopia, Africa since 2020.

RAJEEV KUMAR
SOCIAL WORK & DEVELOPMENT PRACTITIONER

Mr. Rajeev Kumar is a development practitioner by profession and possesses a Masters Degree in Social Work from Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU), New Delhi. His areas of expertise are in Tobacco Control, Community Development, Rural Development, Women & Youth Development. Resource Mapping and Mobilization, Presently, he is working as Project Coordinator in Department of Community Medicine and School of Public Health, PCIMER, Chandigarh.

ANKUSH RANA
DEVELOPMENT PRACTITIONER

Mr. Ankush Rana is a development professional in corporate sector with more than 6 years of experience in Community Development, Resource Mobilisation & Mapping, Project Management, CSR, M&E, PRI and NGO Management. He holds Masters in MBA in Rural Development from Integrated Institute of Himalayan Studies, Center of Excellence, Himachal Pradesh University, Shimla. Presently, he is working as Associate Manager CSR in Dabur India Ltd. in Uttarakhand region.
APSWDP REPORTER - SOCIAL WORK AND DEVELOPMENT NEWS


International Association of Schools of Social Work (IASSW) launched 25th volume of Social Dialogue, on the theme “The Pandemic that Shook Social Work Education” It is a collaborative effort from academics, students, practice teachers, and service users from across the globe exploring social work’s educational response to the current COVID-19 pandemic, focusing specifically on how they have responded to the many issues and challenges that emerged.

Access at https://socialdialogue.online/sd25

APSWDP REPORTER - SOCIAL WORK AND DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUTH

High-Level Global Conference on Youth-Inclusive Peace Processes Dates: 20 - 21 January 2022

The High-Level Global Conference on Youth-Inclusive Peace Process will be held virtually on 20-21 January 2022, co-hosted by the State of Qatar, Governments of Finland and Colombia and co-organized with civil society and UN partners. The event is co-organized by the Office of the Secretary General’s Envoy on Youth (OSCEY) and Search for Common Ground (SFCC) in collaboration with the United Nations Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs (DPPA/PBSO), the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), Education Above All (EAA), and the United Network of Young Peacebuilders (UNOY). For more details: Follow at https://www.un.org/youthenvoy/doha2022/

Call for Volunteers and Partnerships - Center for Public Health

civil society organization associated with UN DGC.

Centre for Public Health is not partisan nor with any religious inclination. There are no racial or gender discriminations. It is registered in Nigeria and the United States of America. The accepted volunteers will benefit from numerous training, capacity building, traveling to United Nations organized conferences in different parts of the world. Register your interest by sending emails:
info@centreforpublichealth.org, centerforpublichealth@gmail.com.