

# 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

Accreditation under United Nations Environment Programme and UN Environment Assembly since 2022

Affiliate Member UNESCO MIL Alliance and International Association of Schools of Social Work (IASSW)

PROMOTING SOCIAL WORK EDUCATION FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT



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## Noble Thought

“There is no greater joy nor greater reward than to make a fundamental difference in someone’s life.”

– Mary Rose McGeady



PICTURE: CAPACITY BUILDING ON DECENT LIVELIHOOD GENERATION THROUGH SHGS AND COOPERATIVES AMONG MARGINALIZED COMMUNITIES AT RICM CHANDIGARH.

## APSWDP NEWSLETTER

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## FROM THE DESK OF EDITOR IN CHIEF

### RAJEEV KUMAR

We are delighted to release Volume-III, Issue-17 of our Quarterly Newsletter 'The Voyage', which includes a wide coverage on our multifarious diverse programmes and activities including webinars, global happenings, learning, networking opportunities for professionals, recently signed MOUs & partnership building, expert comments, views from practitioners; and a series on Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) 4: Quality Education. We have also created a 'know your member's section' to introduce our esteemed members.

## EXPERT'S SPEAK

**Dr. Prafulla Dhal, National Coordinator, TCRP India, and GM-cum-State Head, JK Paper Mills Ltd. Odisha.**



I am personally very satisfied and delighted to be a part of the International Virtual Conference organized by APSWDP on the occasion of World Environment Day (WED) 2022, to which I have participated for the first time. The theme of WED-2022 'Only One Earth', has drawn our attention towards playing our role effectively while living in perfect harmony with nature without proving a burden on it. The event was a thoughtful decision by the organizing team of APSWDP which was well planned and executed. 'The Voyage' being a widely circulated newsletter should focus more on case studies on Climate Change and associated issues and challenges for connecting youth to foster knowledge, skills and practice to combat climate change.

**Dr. R. K. Sharma, Director, Regional Institute of Cooperative Management (RICM), Chandigarh.**

I feel elated in sharing that partnership with APSWDP in organizing webinars and conclaves on diversity of subjects linked to cooperatives is significant and commendable. To my surprise, how beautifully the association is managing its social development affairs in voluntary capacity and have grown into a multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary global network of professionals engaged in social development. I am sure, the spirit of APSWDP team will go a long way in building the capacity of trainers, youth and other stakeholders in achieving 2030 sustainable agenda.



# AN INTRODUCTION TO UNITED NATIONS SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS 4 (UN-SDG 4): QUALITY EDUCATION

- \*DR. SUMIT ARORA

## Introduction:

Sustainable Development Goal 4, also known as SDG 4 or Global Goal 4 is about quality education and is among the 17 Sustainable Development Goals established by the United Nations in September 2015. The full title of SDG 4 is "Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all".

SDG 4 has ten targets which are measured by 11 indicators. The seven "outcome-oriented targets"

are: free primary and secondary education; equal access to quality pre-primary education; affordable technical, vocational and higher education; increased number of people with relevant skills for financial success; elimination of all discrimination in education; universal literacy and numeracy; and education for sustainable development and global citizenship. The three "means of achieving targets" are: build and upgrade inclusive and safe schools; expand higher education scholarships for developing countries; and increase the supply of qualified teachers in developing countries.

SDG 4 aims to provide children and young people with quality and easily accessible education plus other learning opportunities. One of its targets is to achieve universal literacy and numeracy. A major component in acquiring knowledge and valuable skills in the learning environment. Hence, the urgent need to build more educational facilities and also upgrade the present ones to provide safe, inclusive, and effective learning environments for all.

## Background:

The prevalence of extreme poverty, insurgency, communal conflicts, and other factors has significantly reduced the progress in many developing countries. Children from poor households have a higher probability of dropping out of school than their counterparts from rich backgrounds. Disparities between rural and urban areas remain high.

"Education for All" has been a popular slogan and has been given attention through different international development courses ever since 1990. It was considered critical at the inception of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and tagged SDG 4. Education is seen as a force for sustainable development, nation-building and peace. Children and young people who gain certain skills such as reading, writing, or counting are more likely to have a better future than their peers who lack these skills. The world is changing, and globalization requires the world population to quickly adapt and learn to work with newer technologies. The role of education in ensuring sustainable development is not limited to developing regions; but the whole world at large. The major aim of Sustainable Development Goal 4 (SDG 4) is to provide an inclusive and high-quality education that will improve the learner's standard of living and the community's future.



At the end of 2019, there were still millions of children out of school. The closure of schools in 2020 as part of the measures taken to slow the spread of COVID-19 is having an adverse impact on the learning outcome. It has affected more than 90 percent of the world's student population, with an estimated 1.5 billion children and young people having disrupted access to education. Across the world, limited access to the internet has also adversely impacted students' ability to engage in learning opportunities.



PICTURE: SUB TARGETS OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOAL 4: QUALITY EDUCATION  
SOURCE: [HTTPS://WWW.GIVINGHUB.ASIA/USERS/17610/FUNDRAISERS/1112](https://www.givinghub.asia/users/17610/fundraisers/1112)

It is estimated that at least a third of the world's children do not have the technology they need to participate in remote learning during the COVID-19 pandemic and the resulting widespread school closures. The pandemic has also resulted in an increase in educational inequalities, with a completion rate of 79% for the well off and 34% for the poor households.

For instance, at the onset of COVID-19, the education system across the World was completely shaken. To facilitate the continuous education as part of the curriculum, online system/ virtual platforms were introduced. This new approach toward education came with various challenges not only for the students and teachers, but also for the entire family members. Firstly, affording individual electronic gadgets for the children followed by regular internet connection was a big constraint. Secondly, children from lower middle income group were completely dependent on their schools for online classes to which their education had suffered the most. Thirdly, the new teaching methodology completely changed the teacher student relationship. Now a days, children are not paying respect and regards to their teachers after re-opening of schools.

### SDG-4 and Social Work:

Social work profession aims to foster partnerships within communities and between various partners, at local, national and international levels. The purpose is to translate UN SDGs in different ways and designing together a new knowledge of sustainable solutions for the implementation action.

Social work provides the communities with information and education for transparency participation. It underlines that everyone should contribute and strive to influence decisions at a policy level with regard to infrastructure, systems and services. Further, it influences transition thereby impacting the communities to enable transformation to a just, fair, solidary and eco-friendly world.

Association of Professional Social Workers and Development Practitioners (APSWDP) is committed to strive into the field of education. In order to stride on the path of Sustainable Development Goals - Agenda 2030 of the United Nations, an endeavour has been made to empower the marginalized and vulnerable section of society namely sexual minorities, by imparting education for enabling their better future.

### **Conclusion**

The social work education remains a crucial component in achieving the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). It aims at escalating the socio-economic development and enables communities to attain progress. Therefore, social work as education plays a significant requirements in the pathway of achieving SDGs through inclusive and equitable quality education, and lifelong learning opportunities for all.

Besides, social work profession also known as development practice focus on enabling communities to understand the prespective of the SDG-4. As well know that education plays vital role in brining social transformation in societies thereby triggering them to engage in this process. While we move ahead with this notion, it is believed that communities across the World are in dire need of support which can be attained through social work interventions.

Education is seen as a force for sustainable development, nation-building and peace. Children and young people who gain certain skills are more likely to have a better future than their peers who lack these skills. The world is changing and globalization requires the world population to quickly adapt and learn to work with newer technologies.

Therefore, the role of social work profession in ensuring sustainable development is not limited to particular regions but to the entire World at large. Social work education and SDG-4 aims to provide an inclusive and high-quality education to the children and youth by motivating them to adopt education as part of key reformation process.

**Knowledge is power. Information is liberating. Education is the premise of progress, in every society, in every family.**

**- Kofi Annan, Former UN Secretary General**



**\*Dr. Sumit Arora is an Urban Sociologist & Development Practitioner. He is the President of Association of Professional Social Workers and Development Practitioners (APSWDP).**

## APSWDP PROGRAM & EVENTS

### APSWDP Joined Hands with Alliance Francaise, Chandigarh in Bonjour India 2022

The City Beautiful Chandigarh witnessed an event named Bonjour India 2022 with a theme 'City for All - Public art festival questioning the role of gender in our cities' which was conceptualized by Alliance Francaise, Chandigarh and Social Design Collaborative. Among various local partners, Association of Professional Social Workers and Development Practitioners (APSWDP) supported the event by facilitating the stakeholders and TG and other marginalized community engagement at Bapudham, Manimajra and in Sector 17 concluding event on 10th April, 2022.



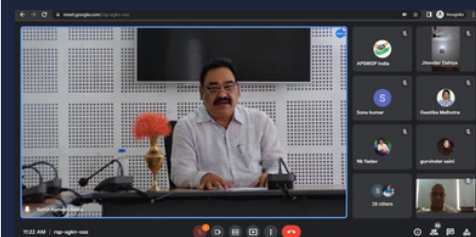
### Virtual Conclave on the Transgender Community in India

A Virtual Conclave on the Transgender Community in India was organized on 28th May 2022 by Virtual Center for Excellence for Social Welfare Administration (VCOE-SWA) under the aegis of Association of Professional Social Workers and Development Practitioners (APSWDP) with focus on United Nations Sustainable Development Goals 3, 5, 10, 16 and 17. It was deliberated during the conclave that the Transgender community in India are among the most marginalized and vulnerable. They are subjected to a variety of social discrimination and exclusion from mainstream society. In its landmark judgment dated 15th April 2014 in the case of National Legal Services Authority vs Union of India, the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India directed the Central Government and State Governments to take steps for the welfare of the transgender community. Roughly, India has a population of 4.8 million transgender persons as per Census 2011. The conclave witnessed eminent speakers from Hum Safar Trust, IAMBSS, Lovely Professional University, DLSA Chandigarh.

### International Youth Sustainable Development Virtual Dialogue (IYSVDV-2022)

APSWDP celebrated the World Environment Day (WED) 2022 with a theme #OnlyOneEarth that calls for transformative changes to policies and choices to enable cleaner, greener, and sustainable living in harmony with nature. It WED-2022 focused on the need to live sustainably in harmony with nature, and our possibilities for shifting to a greener lifestyle through both policies and individual choices. "Only One Earth" was the motto for the 1972 Stockholm Conference. Even after 50 years on, the motto is as pertinent as ever - this planet is our only home, and humanity must safeguard its finite resources. The year 2022 is a historic milestone for the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the global environmental community. It marks the 50th anniversary of the establishment of UNEP as an outcome of the Stockholm Conference. It also coincides with the high-level Stockholm+50 international meeting. These emblematic events serve as an opportunity for the international community to strengthen cooperation and show leadership in the transformation towards a more sustainable society.

Since 2015, APSWDP has been commemorating this day as a commitment toward protecting the Environment by collaborating with 'The Climate Reality Project India' at Chandigarh by way of organizing various advocacy events, campaigns, capacity building programs, and virtual dialogues, etc. Aligned to the United Nations theme of the year on World Environment Day and UN SDGs, the Virtual Centre of Excellence for Social Welfare Administration (VCoE-SWA) under the aegis of APSWDP has organized an International Youth Sustainable Development Virtual Dialogue -2022 in partnership with The Climate Reality Project-India and South Asia, Asia Climate Change Education Center (ACCEC), Jeju, South Korea, Chitkara University, Punjab, Regional Institute of Cooperative Management (RICM), Chandigarh Integrated Association of Medical, Basic, and Social Scientists (IAMBSS), Graha Kirana Foundation, Indonesia and Sanrakshad (The Conservation), India with an aim to address the issues of Conserving Biodiversity, Restoring Ecosystems and Communicating Climate Change on 5th June 2022 (Sunday). In addition, this dialogue was intended to develop understanding & exploring indigenous knowledge on Bio-diversity conservation and Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation. The dialogue was inaugurated by Senator Dr. PKC Bose, Chief Guest with his inaugural address and Key Note Address and Special Address by Dr Die- Yeun Jeong, Guest of Honor and Ms. Geethanjali M. I.F.S. Special Guest in the inaugural session.



Picture: Dr. R. K. Sharma giving opening remarks in the virtual conclave on the Transgender Community in India.



Picture: Senator Dr. PKC Bose, Senator of Economy, Germany, Chief Guest and Dr. Die-Yeun Jeong, Guest of Honor speaking during inaugura.

## APSWDP Signs MOU's with leading local, national; and international institutions/organizations

**Association of Professional Social Workers and Development Practitioners (APSWDP) Chandigarh signed Memorandum of Understanding (MOUs) in the present quarter with leading and legendary local, national and international institutions:**

Aligned to the key motto and SDG 17, which promotes partnership for the goals, Association of Professional Social Workers and Development Practitioners (APSWDP) signed Memorandum of Understanding (MOUs) with the following eminent organizations and institutions:-

- Regional Institute of Cooperative Management (RICM) Chandigarh:** RICM is a regional level training institution under National Council of Co-operative Management, an Autonomous Society promoted by Ministry of Cooperation, Government of India based at Chandigarh with the key objectives including evaluation of various courses in cooperative training and suggest measures for improvements; consultancy services to cooperatives, particularly on problems of management; training for small scale entrepreneurs, particularly in rural areas to encourage cooperation amongst them and adopt cooperative methods to enhance their business; to do continuous research on cooperative so that it could be developed in tandem with the changing technology, environment and requirements in the sector etc.
- Bule Hora University, Ethiopia:** It is a pioneer government educational institution officially organized by Ministry of Education of Ethiopia. The university was officially established by proclamation No 213/2011 (213/2003 E.C) as one of the Ethiopian government higher education institutions.
- Integrated Association of Medical, Basic and Social Scientists (IAMBSS):** It was founded with an aim to ameliorate the health research primarily through amalgamation of various disciplines. Registered under Societies Registration Act 1860, this organization is a global rostrum that has enthralled huge interest for its exclusive inventiveness to consort academicians, researchers, clinicians and social scientists from different disciplines on a common platform with an aim to integrate and strengthen scientific acquaintance. IAMBSS believes that exchange and networking among the medical, social and basic scientists in India and abroad can be instrumental in attaining sustainable development in the field of health research. This organization also focuses on policy research and its implementation through fostering the convergence in multidisciplinary science.
- Sanrakshad:** It is a civil society, think tank working on the preservation, conservation of bio diversity, environment, climate change advocacy and water harvesting for more than a decade in Uttar Pradesh based at Kanpur.
- Asia Climate Change Education Center (ACCEC), Jeju, South Korea:** It is a global training center jointly established by Ministry of Environment of the Republic of Korea and Jeju Self Government Province in 2009. The main goal of the ACCEC is to establish a collaborative system of domestic and international climate change education through professional courses and promoting a world class hub of climate change education institute in Asia being accredited by United Nations (UNESCO).
- Yayasan Pendidikan Graha Kirana, Indonesia:** It is a social foundation duly established pursuant to the laws of the Republic of Indonesia, and is engaged in education field and other development sector through thier other associated institutions referred as Sekolah Tinggi Ilmu Hukum Graha Kirana (A Law University) and Sekolah Tinggi Ilmu Ekonomi Graha Kirana (An University of Economy).

### MOU's Signing



Picture: Mr. Hitesh Kumar Gulati, Hon. Director General, APSWDP and Dr. R. K. Sharma, Director, Regional Institute of Cooperative Management (RICM), Chandigarh are signing MOU at RICM Chandigarh.



Picture: Mr. Hitesh Kumar Gulati, Hon. Director General, APSWDP and Mrs. Manjula Sularia, Director Prsanchetas signing MOU at Chandigarh.



Picture: Dr. Sumit Arora, President, APSWDP and Dr. Ujjwal, President, IAMBSS signing MOU in presence of Mr. Hitesh Kumar Gulati, Hon. Director General, APSWDP, and Mr. Rajeev Chaudhary, Hon. Director Capacity Building and Training, APSWDP and Council Member, IAMBSS.

## GLOBAL RECOGNITION: APSWDP CONFERRED ACCREDITATION UNDER UNEP, OBSERVER STATUS IN UNEA AND MEMBERSHIP IN UNESCO MIL ALLIANCE.

Association of Professional Social Workers and Development Practitioners (APSWDP) Chandigarh has been conferred accreditation under United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and Observer Status in United Nations General Assembly in May 2022. The United Nations Environment Assembly is the world's highest-level decision-making body on the environment. It addresses the critical environmental challenges facing the world today. Understanding these challenges and preserving and rehabilitating our environment is at the heart of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Also, UNESCO MIL Alliance has awarded its membership to Association of Professional Social Workers and Development Practitioners (APSWDP). The UNESCO MIL Alliance, formerly known as Global Alliance for Partnerships on Media and Information Literacy (GAPMIL), is a ground-breaking effort to promote international cooperation in ensuring that all citizens have access to media and information competencies. Yet, organizations and individuals from over a hundred countries have agreed to join forces and stand together for change.



### Know Your Members



**ISHITA WADHAWAN**  
ENVIRONMENT SPECIALIST

Ms. Ishita Wadhawan is an Environment specialist. She did her M.Sc in Environmental Science from Panjab University, Chandigarh. She is presently working as Monitoring and Evaluation Specialist (SWM) with PMDC, Department of Local Government, Punjab. Prior to that, she had worked as Project Officer for Chandigarh Municipal Corporation where she handled arrays of responsibilities which helped in gaining solid research, analytical and problem-solving skills. Her background in volunteering helped her in creating successful collaborations between the private and public sectors under Corporate Social Responsibility and Public Private Partnerships.



**KIRANJEET SANDHU**  
SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT SPECIALIST

Ms. Kiranjeet Sandhu is a Social Development Specialist and a Gender Specialist. She did her Masters in Social Work from Jain Vishva Bharti University, Rajasthan in the year 2005. She is an independent consultant in the domain of Social Development and Gender concerns. She has been engaged in various project funded by bilateral and multilateral agencies. Ms. Sandhu is also a certified trainer in the sector of Community Development Support & Skill Development. In the past, she has been actively engaged in the field of HIV/AIDS.



**BALBIR SINGH**  
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PRACTITIONER

Mr. Balbir Singh is a community development organizer for more than a decade in Municipal Corporation Chandigarh under National Urban Livelihood Mission (NULM) formerly SJSRY, a mission of Ministry of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation. He has studied Bachelor in Social Work (BSW) from IGNOU, New Delhi. His expertise lies in liaison, community & event management, resource mapping & mobilization. He has participated in Asia Pacific Climate Week in 2019 at United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific at Bangkok in Thailand.



**RAJEEV KUMAR**  
SOCIAL WORKER AND VOLUNTEER

Mr. Rajeev Kumar is a Bachelor in Social Work (BSW) from Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU), New Delhi. He has a passion for philanthropy social work, charity, and volunteerism. He has professional skills in event management, resource mobilization and grass root networking with community based organization. He has been associated and a pillar for promoting wheelchair cricket in India for empowerment of persons with disabilities.

**APSWDP REPORTER - SOCIAL WORK AND DEVELOPMENT NEWS****World Social Protection Report 2020-22: Social protection at the crossroads – in pursuit of a better.**

The report published by ILO, gives a global overview of recent developments in social protection systems, including social protection floors, and covers the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. The report identifies protection gaps and sets out key policy recommendations, including in relation to the targets of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. It finds that the pandemic response was uneven and insufficient, deepening the gap between countries with high and low income levels and failing to afford the much-needed social protection that all human beings deserve.

Access full report at [https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---ed\\_protect/---soc\\_sec/documents/publication/wcms\\_817574.pdf](https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---ed_protect/---soc_sec/documents/publication/wcms_817574.pdf)

**APSWDP REPORTER - SOCIAL WORK AND DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUTH****Call for Interns: Civil Society Unit | Department of Global Communications | United Nations**

The Civil Society Unit, Department of Global Communications, is hiring full-time interns for 4-6 months in three (3) different work areas. The Civil Society Unit advocates for UN priority issues. It raises awareness of the role of the UN among the general public and key constituencies through relations with non-governmental organizations and other civil society stakeholders. The incumbent reports to the Chief of the Civil Society Unit. This internship can be done hybrid or remotely, depending on the circumstances.

For more details: <https://mailchi.mp/un/callforinternscsu-updated?e=3418853c2b>

**Joint World Conference On Social Work Education and Social Development 2022 (October 26-28, 2022)**

**Theme:** Redefining Social Policy and Social Work Practice in A Post-Pandemic Society: Social Welfare Programs and Social Work Education at A Crossroads.

**Method:** Largely Online with Partial Offline Events for Opening and Closing Ceremonies.

**Official Language:** English

**Organized by:** ICSW, IASSW and KNCSW

**Register:** <http://www.swesd2022.com/>

**Job Opportunities**

**Research Intern  
United Nations Development  
Programme**

**Location- Delhi, India**

**Apply by: 13 Jul 2022**

**Link:**

[https://jobs.undp.org/cj\\_view\\_job.cfm?cur\\_job\\_id=106906](https://jobs.undp.org/cj_view_job.cfm?cur_job_id=106906)

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**Gender in Wash Consultant  
UNICEF**

**Location: Hyderabad, Telangana**

**Apply by: 04 Jul 2022**

**Link:**

[https://www.devnetjobsindia.org/jobDescription.aspx?Job\\_Id=201464](https://www.devnetjobsindia.org/jobDescription.aspx?Job_Id=201464)

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**National UN Volunteer – Sanitation  
UNICEF**

**Location: New Delhi, India**

**Apply by: 11 Jul 2022**

**Link:**

<https://app.unv.org/opportunities/1694831311874304>

**APSWDP Membership**

Join APSWDP as Life Associate/ Annual member/ Student member for knowledge networking (terms and conditions applied).

Write your intent to join at [apswdp@gmail.com](mailto:apswdp@gmail.com)



SCAN ME

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