

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 (UNEP) and Observer Status under UN Environment Assembly (UNEA) and United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)

Affiliate Member UNESCO MIL Alliance

PROMOTING SOCIAL WORK EDUCATION FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

VOLUME: IV

ISSUE: 21

APR-JUN 2023



Established: 2014



PICTURE: APSWDP BEING REPRESENTED BY MR. RAJEEV KUMAR IN RESPONSIBLE BUSINESS AND HUMAN RIGHTS FORUM (RBHRF)-2023 AT UNITED NATIONS ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR ASIA AND PACIFIC (UNESCAP), BANGKOK, THAILAND

He, who lives in the social group, must have no aversion to social work, that is, collective prayer. He who loses himself in God sees the whole world as God.

— Mahatma Gandhi

APSWDP NEWSLETTER

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Editor-in-Chief Message • P. 1

Expert Speaks • P. 1

An Introduction to United Nations Sustainable Development Goals: Decent Work and Economic Growth (UN-SDG-8) • P. 2-5

APSWDP Program & Project updates • P. 6

Participation of APSWDP Members and Staff in forums • P. 7

Know Your Members • P. 7

APSWDP Reporter - Social Work and Development News • P. 8

Global Definition of Social Work Profession • P. 8

Job Opportunities • P. 8

FROM THE DESK OF EDITOR IN CHIEF

RAJEEV KUMAR

We are delighted to announce the release of Volume IV, Issue 21 of our Quarterly Newsletter, "The Voyage." This edition provides a comprehensive overview of our wide-ranging programs and activities. It encompasses workshops, webinars, global events, as well as various learning and networking opportunities tailored for professionals. Furthermore, we highlight recent partnerships aimed at capacity building and mainstreaming. The newsletter incorporates expert commentary and practitioner perspectives, along with a series dedicated to Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), specifically SDG 8, which emphasizes Decent Work and Economic Growth. In addition, we have included a "Know Your Members" section to introduce our esteemed members.

EXPERT'S SPEAK

Mr. Ravi Solanki, Project Analyst E-governance & Research, UNDP India.



I am thrilled to share that I have been a part of the APSWDP family for the past 6 years. It has been an incredible journey filled with numerous learning experiences and exciting opportunities. As a member of this remarkable organization, I have witnessed first-hand the dedication and commitment of every member of our team towards making a positive impact on the lives of our community. We took baby steps in our journey and achieved many prominent accolades, it has been possible only by effortless and unstoppable moves. I am honoured to be associated with APSWDP and look forward to many more years of growth and collaboration. I wish my best wishes to the organization and feel proud to be part of the esteemed family for change.

Mr. Deepak Yadav, Special Correspondent, Times of India.

I have been associated with APSWDP for a couple of years, when I participated in one of the programme organized on the occasion of World Social Work Day 2019 at Chandigarh. I found APSWDP a high-spirited, value oriented organization which is disseminating Social Work Education for Sustainable Development and working on capacity building & training of educators and youth on sustainable development, climate change adaptation and mitigation. I wish APSWDP a great future ahead in the development sector.



AN INTRODUCTION TO UNITED NATIONS SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS - 7 (UN- SDG 8): DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH

- *DR. PRIYANKA KHANNA,

Introduction

Goal 8 of the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda is about “decent work and economic growth”. This goal seeks to “Foster sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all.”

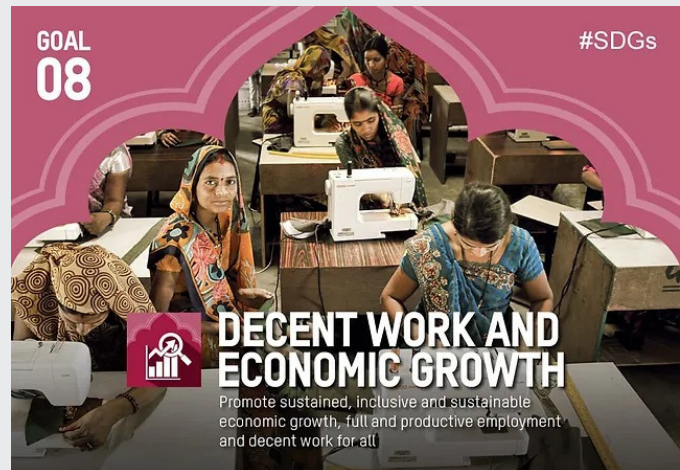
Why it Matters?

Preserving the environment is key to support sustainable and economic growth as the natural environment plays an important role in supporting economic activities. It contributes directly, by providing resources and raw materials such as water, minerals and timber apart from other things, that are required as inputs for the production of goods and services; and indirectly, through services provided by ecosystems including carbon sequestration, water purification, managing flood risks, and nutrient cycling.

Natural disasters directly affect economic activities leading to very high economic losses throwing many households into poverty. Therefore, maintaining ecosystems and mitigating climate change can have a great positive impact on countries' economic and employment sectors.

Sustained and inclusive economic growth is a prerequisite for sustainable development, which can contribute to improved livelihoods for people around the world. Economic growth can lead to new and better employment opportunities and also provide greater economic security for all. Moreover, rapid growth, among nations, can help reduce the wage gap relative to developed countries, thereby diminishing glaring inequalities between the rich and poor.

The Goal 8 is connected to others goals too. Action taken toward one Goal can support or hinder the achievement of others. Economic growth coupled with the creation of decent work contributes to all Global Goals. In particular, it contributes to poverty reduction (Goal 1) and reducing inequalities (Goals 5 and 10) by promoting decent work and reducing unemployment. This in turn leads to better health, nutritional, and educational outcomes (Goals 3, 4 and 2). Finally, ensuring all-round prosperity and continual growth helps create the foundations for a more peaceful society (Goal 16).



Background

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development provides a global blueprint for dignity, peace and prosperity for people and the planet, now and in the future.

Even before the outbreak of COVID-19, one in five countries – home to billions of people living in poverty – were likely to see per capita incomes decline in 2020. Now, the economic and financial shocks associated with the pandemic—such as disruptions to industrial production, financial market volatility, and rising insecurity—are derailing the already tepid economic growth and compounding heightened risks from other factors. More than one in six young people have stopped working since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic while those who remain employed have seen their working hours cut by 23 per cent. Tourism too is one of the economic sectors most affected by the COVID-19 pandemic due to the closure of borders, travel bans and lockdown measures. 600 million new jobs need to be created by 2030, just to keep pace with the growth of the working age population.

Targets of SDG 8

The "outcome-oriented targets" include:

1. Sustain per capita economic growth in accordance with national circumstances and at least 7 percent gross domestic product growth per annum in east developed countries;
2. Achieve higher levels of economic productivity;
3. Promote development-oriented policies & support job creation, innovation and entrepreneurship activities;
4. Improve progressively, through 2030, global resource efficiency in consumption and production;
5. Achieve full and productive employment and decent work for all women and men, including for young people and persons with disabilities, and equal pay for work of equal value;
6. Reduce youth unemployment;
7. Eradicate forced labour, slavery, child labour and human trafficking;

8. Protect labour rights and promote safe and secure working environments for all workers;
9. Devise and implement policies to promote sustainable tourism that creates jobs and promotes local culture and products;
10. Strengthen the capacity of domestic financial institutions to encourage and expand access to banking, insurance and financial services for all

What can we do?

In the fast-moving world, we are so inundated with responsibilities in our personal and professional lives that we don't think of the world around us. The time is now. Earth is 4.51 billion years old and it's ageing – much quicker than before. The resources are being replenished and exhausted. We need change makers who can not only think but also work towards creating a better world – a sustainable world.

Goal 8 aims to end all forms of child labour by 2025. Currently, it is estimated that 152 million children are engaged in child labour, with almost half, 72 million, working in hazardous child labour. The last two decades have seen a decline in child labour by 94 million. We as citizens, social workers should not engage child labour rather promote education and generate awareness.

Today's global youth unemployment rate is 14 per cent – three times higher than the adult rate. Without urgent investment in education and skills training, the rapidly growing population of young people, that is expected to reach nearly 2 billion by 2030, will be largely unprepared for the workforce. Work is needed to create more safe and secure opportunities for young people and to address labour market inequalities.

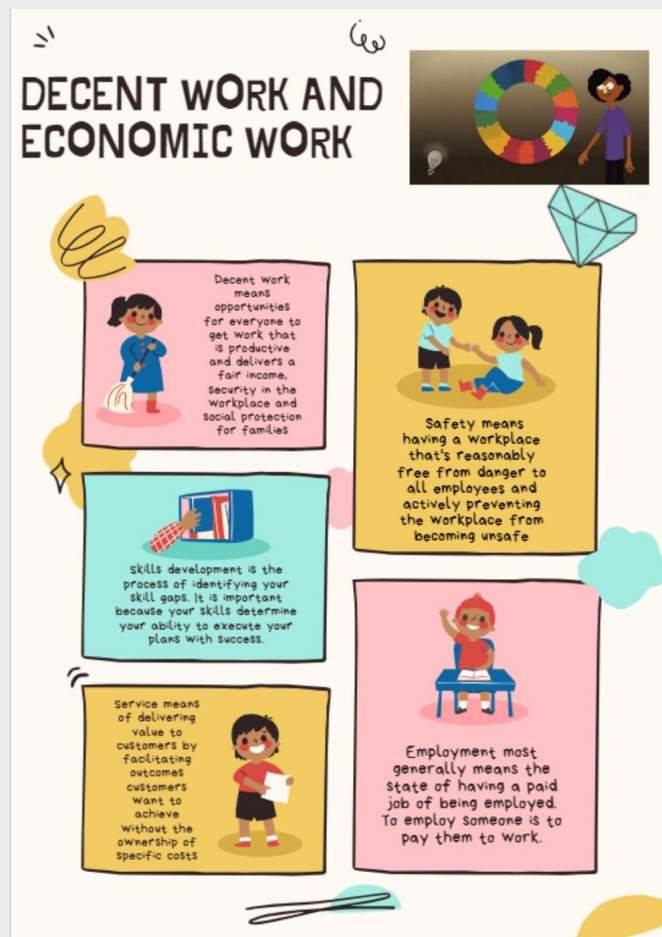
Vocational Education should be promoted and skill trainings can be provided in school and to youth to be able to work and earn a decent living. Providing youth the best opportunity to transition to a decent job calls for investing in education and training of the highest possible quality, providing youth with skills that match labour market demands, giving them access to social protection. Putting job creation at the heart of economic policy-making and development plans, will not only generate decent work opportunities but also more robust, inclusive and poverty-reducing growth. It is a virtuous circle that is as good for the economy as it is for people and one that drives sustainable development.

Conclusion

Sustainable and equitable economic growth, coupled with low unemployment and decent work, is at the top of the agenda for most, if not all, countries. However, growth has not reached full potential in many economies in the developed and developing world. At the same time, exploitation and labour rights violations are still endemic around the world. An estimated 168 million children are victims of child labour. There are major forces that are changing labour market dynamics such as automation, globalisation, and demographic changes. The impact of these forces must be reconciled with the need to create 600 million new jobs by 2030, mostly in developing countries, to sustain economic growth and maintain social stability.

References

- UN Environment Programme- <https://www.unep.org/explore-topics/sustainable-development-goals/why-do-sustainable-development-goals-matter/goal-8>
- <https://www.unglobalcompact.org/library/3101>
- <https://www.unglobalcompact.org/library/3111>
- <https://www.ilo.org/global/topics/sdg-2030/goal-8/lang--en/index.htm>



"A sustainable world is one where people can escape poverty and enjoy decent work without harming the earth's essential ecosystems and resources; where people can stay healthy and get the food and water they need; where everyone can access clean energy that doesn't contribute to climate change; where women and girls are afforded equal rights and equal opportunities."

Ban-Ki Moon
Former UN Secretary-General



***Dr. Priyanaka Khanna is working as Social Work Practitioner in Punjab and also a Key Board Member in the Association of Professional Social Workers and Development Practitioners (APSWDP).**

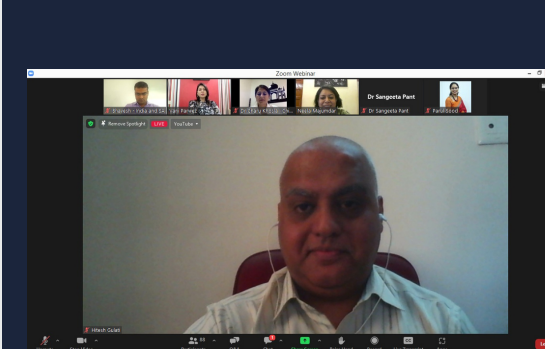
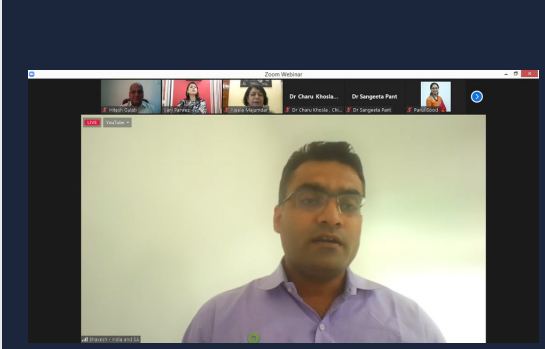
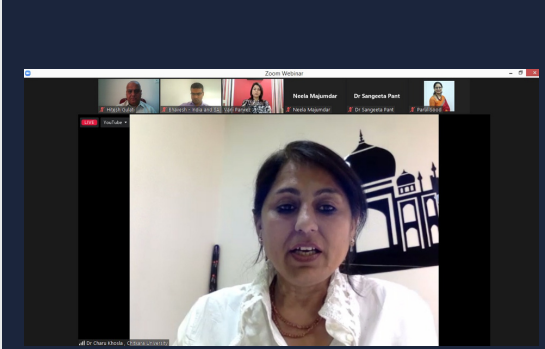
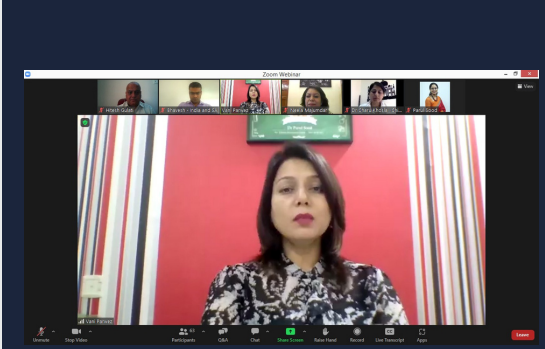
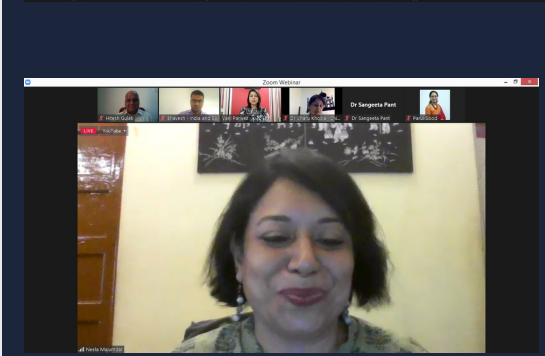
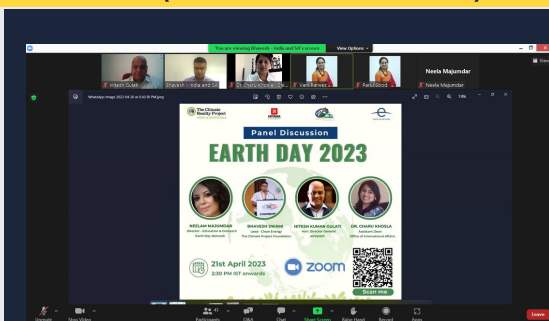
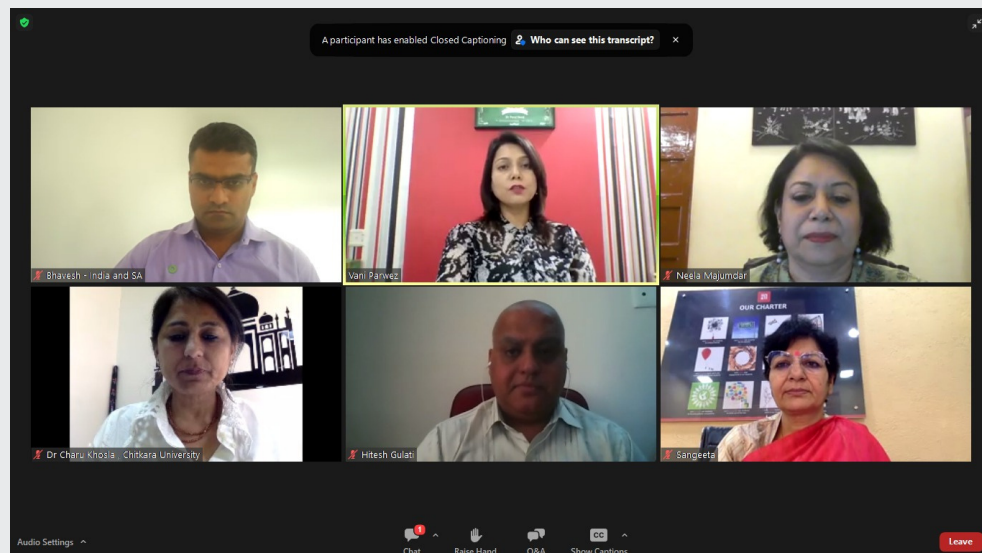
APSWDP PROGRAM & PROJECT UPDATES

Virtual Panel Discussion on World Earth Day 2023.

For commemorating World Earth Day 2023, the Virtual Centre of Excellence for Social Welfare Administration (VCoE-SWA), under the aegis of Association of Professional Social Workers and Development Practitioners (APSWDP) organised a virtual panel discussion on 21st April, 2023 (Friday) from 02:30 pm onwards (IST) in partnership with Chitkara College of Education, Chitkara University; Chitkara School of Psychology and Counselling, Chitkara University and The Climate Reality Project India.

The eminent panelists Neelam Majumdar, Bhavesh Swami, Dr. Charu Khosla and Hitesh Kumar Gulati sensitized the participants to rethink as an economy to invest in climate conservation, renew the social contract between Governments, their people and within societies, so as to rebuild trust and embrace a shared and comprehensive vision on the road to sustainable development.

The panel discussion was organized in the background of World Earth Day 2023 on the global theme for this year "Invest in our Planet with an aim to raise awareness related to the environmental problems around the world and encourage actions that safeguard the planet and also to promote Education for Sustainable Development with exclusive support from The Climate Reality Project, India & South Asia.



PARTICIPATION OF APSWDP MEMBER IN UN RBHRF-2023 AT UNESCAP, BANGKOK, THAILAND.

Mr. Rajeev Kumar had an incredible learning experience of participating in the United Nations Responsible Business and Human Rights Forum 2023, held at the United Nations Conference Centre (UNCC) in Bangkok, Thailand, from 6th to 9th June 2023. Over the course of four days, he had the privilege of delving deeper into the crucial topic of how certain business practices violate human rights and the importance of human rights due diligence. It was truly enlightening for him to engage in one-on-one networking sessions with esteemed global leaders in this field.

During the forum, he had thought-provoking discussions with government officials, representatives from the Human Rights Commission, and civil society advocates from Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Pakistan, the Philippines, Thailand, and Kyrgyzstan. These exchanges provided valuable insights into the challenges faced by different regions and the efforts being made to address human rights violations. One critical issue, he raised during these discussions, was the violation of basic human rights by the Tobacco Industry. He highlighted that how smoking not only poses a significant threat to the right to health but also disproportionately affects women, especially during pregnancy.



Know Your Members



YOGESH SHARMA

DEVELOPMENT PRACTITIONER

Mr. Yogesh Sharma is a Social Work professional for more than 7 years of experience in diverse roles and capacities. He is Masters in Social Work from the Center for Social Work, Panjab University, Chandigarh, and is presently working with SOS Village, India at Rajpura. Earlier, he has worked with Technical Support (TSU), SPYM, Punjab under NACO and Rajiv Gandhi National Institute of Youth Development (RGNIYD), Regional Center at Chandigarh.



DR. YODHVIR SINGH

ACADEMICIAN

Dr. Youdhvir Singh is an academician in a degree college at Panipat in Haryana. He is a Doctorate in History from Panjab University, Chandigarh. He has conducted various research projects at his level with CCPCR, Chandigarh. He is also associated with The Climate Reality Project India as Climate Reality Leader trained by Nobel Laureate Al Gore. He is also an alumnus of Jeju International Training Center (JITC), CIFAL/UNITAR, Jeju, South Korea.



ER. PRASOON SHUKLA

ACADEMICIAN

Er. Prason Shukla is an academician in a Degree College at Kanpur in Uttar Pradesh and imparting formal environmental education. He is M. Tech in Energy Management. He is also a founder of a NGO called Sanrakshad, which is working on installing Rain Water Harvesting structures in residential, commercial and community settings in Kanpur and sensitising society about environment issues and local solutions. He was associated with A2Z Infrastructure Waste Management, Kanpur. He is also a member of Impartial Committee PECF, NCCF Accreditation for Forest Management in India.



DR. MANOJ KUMAR

ACADEMICIAN

Dr. Manoj Kumar is an Assistant Professor of English and is in charge Youth Red Cross at DAV College Pehowa Kurukshetra. He has twenty years of Teaching Experience and played a key role in organizing the South Asian Universities Youth Festival (SAUFEST) held at Kurukshetra University in February 2020. He is a regular blood donor and was felicitated by the NSS cell at Kurukshetra University for his outstanding contribution as an NSS Programme officer. He has presented papers in several international and national seminars/conferences.

APSWDP REPORTER - SOCIAL WORK AND DEVELOPMENT NEWS/OPPORTUNITIES**Climate Change 2023: Synthesis Report:**

The much-anticipated Climate Change 2023: Synthesis Report is based on years of work by hundreds of scientists during the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's (IPCC) sixth assessment cycle which began in 2015. The report provides the main scientific input to COP28 and the Global Stocktake at the end of this year, when countries will review progress towards the Paris Agreement goals.

The report reiterates that humans are responsible for all global heating over the past 200 years leading to a current temperature rise of 1.1°C above pre-industrial levels, which has led to more frequent and hazardous weather events that have caused increasing destruction to people and the planet. The report reminds us that every increment of warming will come with more extreme weather events.

The report outlines that the 1.5°C limit is still achievable and outlines the critical action required across sectors and by everyone at all levels. The report focuses on the critical need for action that considers climate justice and focuses on climate resilient development. It outlines that by sharing best practices, technology, effective policy measures, and mobilising sufficient finance, any community can decrease or prevent the usage of carbon-intensive consumption methods. The biggest gains in well-being can be achieved by prioritizing climate risk reduction for low-income and marginalized communities.

For more details: <https://www.news18.com/opinion/why-india-needs-mid-course-corrections-to-help-achieve-sustainable-development-goals-7252375.html>

Global Definition of Social Work

The following definition was approved by the IASSW General Assembly and IFSW General Meeting in July 2014: ***“Social work is a practice-based profession and an academic discipline that promotes social change and development, social cohesion, and the empowerment and liberation of people. Principles of social justice, human rights, collective responsibility and respect for diversities are central to social work. Underpinned by theories of social work, social sciences, humanities and indigenous knowledges, social work engages people and structures to address life challenges and enhance wellbeing”.***

Job Opportunities**Multiple Vacancies****Program Specialist****Jal Bhagirathi Foundation****Location: Jaipur, Rajasthan****Apply by: 20 Jul 2023****Link:**https://www.devnetjobsindia.org/JobDescription.aspx?Job_Id=217517**Monitoring and Evaluation Assistant****LWS Project, APSWDP****Location: Samrala, Ludhiana****Apply by: 10 July, 2023****Link:**https://apswdp.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/06/Advt_application.pdf**Qualitative Researcher****Young Lives India****Location: India – New Delhi****Apply by: 10 July, 2023****Link:**https://www.devnetjobsindia.org/JobDescription.aspx?Job_Id=216282**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

**Editorial Team****Editor In Chief****Rajeev Kumar Choudhary****Principal Adviser****Deepak Yadav****Editors****Dr. Priyanka Khanna Kaushik****Dr. Sumit Arora****Creative Editor****Hitesh Kumar Gulati****Co-Editors****Dr. Mool Raj Varma****Purnima Bhardwaj****Logistic Support Team****Balbir Singh****Rajeev Kumar****Association of Professional Social Workers and Development Practitioners (APSWDP)****Post Box. 324, Post Office, Sec-11.D, Chandigarh-160011****Website: www.apswdp.org****E-mail: apswdp@gmail.com, Phone: +91 7087060356****@apswdp-india****@apswdp****@apswdp_india****@apswdp_india**