

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

United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA) and UNFCCC

Affiliate Member UNESCO MIL Alliance

PROMOTING SOCIAL WORK EDUCATION FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

ISSUE: 23

OCT-DEC 2023



Established: 2014

VOLUME: IV

It's a privilege to be
able to bear witness
to someone's story
when they may not
have had the chance
to tell it before.

-Lindy Alexander



PICTURE: APSWDP BEING REPRESENTED AT COP 28 UNFCCC AT DUBAI

APSWDP NEWSLETTER

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FROM THE DESK OF EDITOR IN CHIEF

RAJEEV KUMAR

We are pleased to share the release of Volume-IV, Issue-23 of our Quarterly Newsletter 'The Voyage'. This edition offers comprehensive coverage of our diverse programs and activities, including workshops, webinars, global events, learning and networking opportunities for professionals, and recent partnerships for capacity building and mainstreaming. Additionally, expert comments and practitioner views are featured, along with a series on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 10, which focuses on reduced inequalities. We have also included a 'know your member's section' to introduce our esteemed members.

EXPERT'S SPEAK

Sh. Baldip Singh, Technical Director, SUDA, Punjab



It gives me immense pleasure to share that the Association of Professional Social Workers and Development Practitioners (APSWDP) is among the renowned associations in the country. I have been associated with this organization for the last few years and witnessed the amount of energy that is put into every event to make it a grand success. Effective teamwork with a blend of experts topped by effective leadership has been a key instrument in making this organization impeccable. APSWDP has been extending enormous support to the members which is a matter of great appreciation. I wish APSWDP and all the members great success in all future endeavors.

Sh. Bhupinder Singh, Executive Officer, Punjab

Social work is a profession that promotes social change, development, cohesion, and the empowerment of people and communities. The Association of Professional Social Workers and Development Practitioners (APSWDP) has been fostering these principles by indulging in activities that are directly focused on the empowerment of marginalized sections of society. This greatly transpires about the aims and ambitions of the association that are truly devoted to community development. Raising the standards of living by providing livelihood, introducing financial independence, and upskilling the downtrodden segment of society is mission readiness. I am very sure that the association is going to modify more lives in the future and inspire them to become a better and responsible citizen.



AN INTRODUCTION TO UNITED NATIONS SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS - 10 (UN- SDG 10): REDUCED INEQUALITIES

- *DR. SUMIT ARORA,

Introduction:

Inequality threatens long-term social and economic development, harms poverty reduction, and destroys people's sense of fulfillment and self-worth. The incomes of the poorest 40 percent of the population had been growing faster than the national average in most countries. But emerging yet inconclusive evidence suggests that COVID-19 may have put a dent in this positive trend of falling within-country inequality.



The pandemic has caused the largest rise in between-country inequality in three decades. Reducing both within- and between-country inequality requires equitable resource distribution, investing in education and skills development, implementing social protection measures, combating discrimination, supporting marginalized groups and fostering international cooperation for fair trade and financial systems.

Why do we need to reduce inequalities?

Inequalities based on income, sex, age, disability, sexual orientation, race, class, ethnicity, religion and opportunity continue to persist across the world. Inequality threatens long-term social and economic development, harms poverty reduction and destroys people's sense of fulfillment and self-worth. This, in turn, can breed crime, disease and environmental degradation. We cannot achieve sustainable development and make the planet better for all if people are excluded from the chance for a better life.

What are some examples of inequality?

Women and children with lack of access to healthcare die each day from preventable diseases such as measles and tuberculosis or in childbirth. Older persons, migrants and refugees face lack of opportunities and discrimination - an issue that affects every country in the world. One in five persons reported being discriminated on at least one ground of discrimination prohibited by international human rights law.

One in six people worldwide has experienced discrimination in some form, with women and people with disabilities disproportionately affected.

Discrimination has many intersecting forms, from religion, ethnicity to gender and sexual preference, pointing to the urgent need for measures to tackle any kind of discriminatory practices and hate speech.

How do we tackle discrimination?

In today's world, we are all interconnected. Problems and challenges like poverty, climate change, migration or economic crises are never just confined to one country or region. Even the richest countries still have communities living in abject poverty. The oldest democracies still wrestle with racism, homophobia and transphobia, and religious intolerance. Global inequality affects us all, no matter who we are or where we are from.

Can we achieve equality for everyone?

It can – and should be – achieved to ensure a life of dignity for all. Political, economic and social policies need to be universal and pay particular attention to the needs of disadvantaged and marginalized communities.

What can we do?

Reducing inequality requires transformative change. Greater efforts are needed to eradicate extreme poverty and hunger, and invest more in health, education, social protection and decent jobs especially for young people, migrants and refugees and other vulnerable communities. Within countries, it is important to empower and promote inclusive social and economic growth. We can ensure equal opportunity and reduce inequalities of income if we eliminate discriminatory laws, policies and practices.

Among countries, we need to ensure that developing countries are better represented in decision-making on global issues so that solutions can be more effective, credible and accountable.

Governments and other stakeholders can also promote safe, regular and responsible migration, including through planned and well-managed policies, for the millions of people who have left their homes seeking better lives due to war, discrimination, poverty, lack of opportunity and other drivers of migration.



Conclusion:

ASPWDP has been engaged in various projects with beneficiaries coming from the marginalized and vulnerable sections of society. In other words, they are the victim of social inequality and remain at the edge of ignorance and alienation. However, the project has accorded its support to them in terms of their empowerment, mainstreaming, generating livelihood, upskilling, and generating awareness on various dimensions such as Health, Gender, Income Generation, Social Welfare Schemes, etc. Also, it has been deliberated to focus on the education of these beneficiaries including their children, and making them financially independent through the formation of Self Help Groups. APSWDP remains committed to its inscription of Volunteerism to Professionalism and the United Nation's theme of 'Leave No One Behind'.

References:

- <https://sdgs.un.org/goals/goal10>
- <https://www.globalgoals.org/goals/10-reduced-inequalities/>
- <https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/inequality/>
- <https://www.unwomen.org/en/news/in-focus/women-and-the-sdgs/sdg-10-reduced-inequalities>

***Dr. Sumit Arora is working as Development Practitioner/Consultant in Punjab and also serving as Hon. President of the Association of Professional Social Workers and Development Practitioners (APSWDP).**

"Massive poverty and obscene inequality are such terrible scourges of our times – times in which the world boasts breathtaking advances in science, technology, industry, and wealth accumulation – that they have to rank alongside slavery and apartheid as social evils."

Nelson Mandela



APSWDP PROGRAM & PROJECT ACTIVITY UPDATES

Capacity Building and Training Workshop on Empowerment of High Risk Groups in collaboration with CSACS and RGNIYD, Chandigarh

A Capacity Building and Training Programme Workshop on Empowerment of High-Risk Groups (HRGs) for Inclusive Development and Mainstreaming of Sexual Minorities was organized on 28th October 2023 coinciding with the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty. The community engagement cum advocacy event was organized in collaboration with Chandigarh State AIDS Control Society and Rajiv Gandhi National Institute of Youth Development (RGNIYD), RC Chandigarh.

The Programme witnessed the participation of Mr. Amit Sharma, Secretary, High Court Legal Service Committee as Chief Guest, Mr. Sandeep Mittal, Deputy Director, CSACS as Guest of Honor, Prof. Inderjeet Singh Sodhi, Prof. T. Gopinath as special guest, Adv. Gautam Bhardwaj, Dr. Vishal Dhiman, and Dr. Vivek Trivedi as Experts.

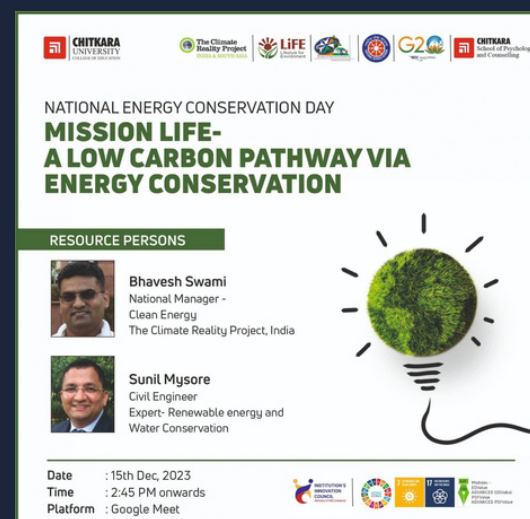
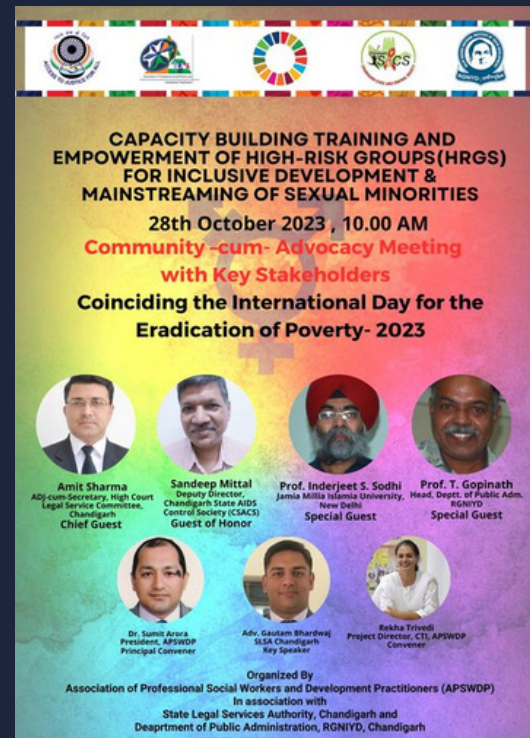
In the training program, a workshop was convened and moderated by Dr. Sumit Arora and Mr. Rajeev Choudhury on Resource Mapping and Mobilization, which was participated by the staff of CTI, Peers and Students from RGNIYD.

Virtual Dialogue on Mission Life-A Low Carbon Pathway VIA Energy Conservation in collaboration with TCP India and Chitkara University.

APSWDP commemorated "National Energy Conservation Day" under the theme "MISSION LIFE- A LOW CARBON PATHWAY VIA ENERGY CONSERVATION" on 15th December 2023, in collaboration with Chitkara College of Education (CCE), The Climate Reality Project, India (TCPI), Lifestyle for Environment, and Chitkara College of Psychology and Counselling.

The virtual program aimed 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.

The resource persons Mr. Bhavesh Swami, National Manager-Clean Energy Policy and Engagements, The Climate Reality Project, India and Mr. Sunil Mysore, Civil Engineer, Expert-Renewable Energy and Water conservation, Lifestyle for Environment, enlightened about the mass awareness regarding the importance of energy efficiency and conservation in India, present and future trends as well as related relevant subject. The program was of immense learning, highly informative, and illuminating.



APSWDP'S OBSERVER DELEGATION AT COP 28 ORGANIZED BY UNFCCC AT DUBAI EXPO CITY IN UAE FROM 30 NOV TO 12 DEC 2023

The Association of Professional Social Workers and Development Practitioners (APSWDP) was led by a five-member delegation comprising APSWDP COP 28 Observers Ms. Elsie Gabriel, Mr. Mark Rausch, Mr. Karamveer Singh, Mr. Rajeev Choudhary, and Dr. Vivek Trivedi participated in the 28th Conference of the Parties (COP28) organized by UNFCCC in Dubai. COP28 served as a pivotal platform for our civil society representatives to participate in meaningful discussions, attend diverse sessions, connect with stakeholders, and explore potential collaborations for future endeavors in climate advocacy and ESD.

The APSWDP delegation actively participated in a panel discussion on Gender and Climate Change organized by the Danish Industry, workshops at the Capacity Building Hub, and talks at Faith Pavilion engaged in discussions led by different UN bodies, and interacted at various country-specific zones viz.-a-viz. Bhutan, Palao, UK, Ethiopia, Singapore, Bangladesh, India, Sri Lanka, UAE, China, Iraq, Palestine, Israel, USA and Saudi Arabia during COP28. They observed the progress of different countries in addressing climate change, reviewing roadmaps and plans for the same.

The delegation members attended sessions addressing pressing global issues, demonstrating a commitment to contributing to the international discourse on climate change and sustainable development. Their presence was not only symbolic but also substantiated by active involvement in various country pavilions, enriching their understanding of diverse perspectives on climate-related challenges. COP28 presented a unique opportunity for our delegation to establish valuable connections with representatives from around the world. Engagements at different sessions, side events, and informal gatherings facilitated the exchange of ideas, best practices, and insights. Networking with individuals and organizations working towards similar goals expanded the horizon of possibilities for collaborative efforts in the future.

The APSWDP delegation gained invaluable insights into the latest developments in climate science, policy, and technology. Exposure to different country pavilions allowed members to grasp the varying challenges and innovations across the globe. The firsthand experience of witnessing negotiations and deliberations at COP28 provided a deeper understanding of the complexities involved in achieving global consensus on climate action. The networking opportunities created during COP28 lay the foundation for potential future partnerships and collaborations. APSWDP is well-positioned to leverage the connections made to enhance its impact on climate-related initiatives.

The insights gained from COP28 will contribute to shaping the delegation's strategy for COP29, ensuring a more informed and targeted approach towards forging partnerships that align with our organization's goals. The APSWDP delegation's attendance at COP28 was a resounding success, marked by active participation, fruitful networking, and a commitment to global cooperation. The experiences gained and connections established position APSWDP as a key player in the ongoing efforts to address climate change. The delegation looks forward to building on these achievements, harnessing the gained knowledge and networks for impactful contributions at COP29 at Baku and beyond.



BLANKET DISTRIBUTION WITH CSR SUPPORT TO URBAN POOR



The Association of Professional Social Workers and Development Practitioners (APSWDP) volunteers with support from Bebo Technologies under CSR; distributed blankets to homeless persons and poor living in slums and streets in various parts of the city.

MEETING OF FOUNDER APSWDP WITH SECRETARY GENERAL THE COMMONWEALTH

The founder of The Association of Professional Social Workers and Development Practitioners (APSWDP) Dr. Vivek Trivedi visited the Commonwealth Pavilion at COP 28, Expo City Dubai, and interacted with Mr. Unnikrishnan Divakaran Nair, Head of Climate Change, Economic, Youth & Sustainable Development Directorate, and Mr. Sushil Ram, Adviser, Youth Development, Social Policy Development, Secretary General's Office. In addition, he participated in the launch of the E-course "Commonwealth Climate Finance Essential Course" on the invitation. The officials made him have a fruitful discussion with Ms. Patricia Scotland, Secretary-General of The Commonwealth on varied youth and climate issues.



Know Your Members



GURMEET SINGH

ARTIST AND DIGITAL CREATOR

Gurmeet Singh alias Meet Niman is a passionate Fine Artist, Singer and Writer. He graduated from Government Fine Arts College, Chandigarh. Presently, he is working in Bhavan School, Chandigarh as an Art Teacher. He remained Brand Ambassador for SBM Chandigarh in 2018 and his art work was selected by Government of India on Women Empowerment, which got published in the form Postal Stamp in 2015.



SANJEET GAUTAM

DOCUMENTARY AND FILM MAKER

Sanjeet Gautam, is an accomplished independent documentary and filmmaker with nearly 16 years of experience in the media and film industry. Film making is not just his profession but a passion. He has worked for a number of media companies and contributed work for National Geographic as well. He is driven to contribute back to nature by working voluntarily on various aspects of SDGs specially Climate Action.



RIPU DAMAN CHOPRA

CORPORATE PROFESSIONAL

Ripu Daman Chopra has two decades of multifaceted experience, spanning across industries in India and Europe. He honed expertise, particularly in Education and Health Care. As a seasoned marketing manager and adept team leader, he excelled in Social Marketing, Operations, Project Management and Technology Intervention. He is well recognized for creativity, and goal-oriented approach. He foster contributive collaborations among key stakeholders. Furthermore, he actively contributes to Social Work and Corporate Social Responsibility initiatives.



DR. T. GOPINATH

ACADEMICIAN

Dr. Gopinath is Ph.D. and M. Phil (Public Affairs) from University of Madras, and published research papers and articles in national, international journals and books. He conducted several research studies in the field of Youth Development. He developed training manuals, conducted number of Training Programmes across the country for youth and youth functionaries for a decade. He specializes in Youth Development, Gender and Development, Youth and Media, Youth and Health, Youth and Volunteerism, Leadership and Personality Development, Adolescent Development, Human Resource Development, Life Skills etc.

APSWDP HYBRID GENERAL BODY MEETING AND CONSTITUTION OF 4TH GOVERNING BODY



A 4th General Body Meeting (GBM) was convened on 25th December, 2023 at RGNIYD Conference Hall, PEC, Chandigarh, which was attended in person and virtually by members of the APSWDP in hybrid format. In the meeting, Three Years Report of APSWDP (2020-23), CTI Project Report 2023 and First Copy of IJSWSD was released by Chief Patron Dr. J K Yadav, President APSWDP Dr. Sumit Arora and Project Director, CTIP Rekha Trivedi in presence of august gathering. Also, the third governing body members have been entrusted to continue working in 4th Governing Body till 31st Dec, 2026. In addition, a team of Board of Directors, Mentors, Executive Office team was also constituted along with a committee to prepare a three year Road Map and Strategic Document of APSWDP.

APSWDP REPORTER - SOCIAL WORK AND DEVELOPMENT NEWS/OPPORTUNITIES

Sixth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA-6) from 26 February to 1 March 2024 at the UNEP headquarters in Nairobi, Kenya

The sixth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA-6) will be held from 26 February to 1 March 2024 at the UNEP headquarters in Nairobi, Kenya, under the theme: Effective, inclusive and sustainable multilateral actions to tackle climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution. Participants to UNEA-6 must be at least 18 years of age. Participants registering for UNEA-6 can also register for the OECPR (19 - 23 February 2024) through the same link. All registrations must be submitted online via the INDICO registration system.

For more details:

<https://www.unep.org/environmentassembly/unea6/registration>

Job Opportunities

Multiple Vacancies

Senior Programme Manager (Cities)
Shakti Sustainable Energy Foundation
Location: Delhi, India
Apply by: 21 Jan, 2024

Link:

https://www.devnetjobsindia.org/JobDescription.aspx?Job_Id=234456

Finance, Project and HR Manager
Global Call to Action Against Poverty (GCAP)

Location: India

Apply by: 15 Jan, 2024

Link:

https://www.devnetjobsindia.org/JobDescription.aspx?Job_Id=234453

Senior Project Assistant
IOM India

Location: New Delhi, India

Apply by: 11 Jan, 2024

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



SCAN ME

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