

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

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We are not social
workers. We are
contemplatives in
the heart of the
world.

Mother Teresa



PICTURE: PANEL DISCUSSION DURING COMMEMORATION OF INTERNATIONAL YOUTH DAY 2024.

APSWDP NEWSLETTER

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FROM THE DESK OF EDITOR IN CHIEF

RAJEEV KUMAR

We are pleased to share the release of Volume-V, Issue-26 of our Quarterly Newsletter 'The Voyage'. This edition provides comprehensive coverage of our diverse programs and activities, including workshops, events, learning, and networking opportunities for professionals, as well as recent partnerships for the IYD 2024 commemoration. Additionally, expert comments and practitioner views are featured, along with a series on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 13, which focuses on Climate Action. We have also included a 'Know Your Member's section' to introduce our esteemed members.

EXPERT'S SPEAK

Dr. Joginder Kumar Yadav, Regional Director, IGNOU Regional Center, Shima, H.P.



I feel immense pleasure to share the experience of the journey of the Association of Professional Social Workers and Development Practitioners (APSWDP) conceived in the year 2014. It was really a nice experience to represent IGNOU as a partner of the very first event, i.e., an orientation program-cum-workshop organized jointly by the Forum of Professional Social Workers. Within a span of a decade, the association has achieved heights that are beyond expectations. The small tree planted as 'APSWDP' in 2014 has now built its strong network like 'Vat-Vriksh' across the country and abroad, also having strong ties with UN agencies.

Dr. Rakesh Gupta, Director, Strategic Institute for Public Health Education & Research (SIPHER), Former-Director Health Services and Director of Chemical Examiner Lab, Govt. of Punjab, Chandigarh

It gives me great pleasure to acknowledge the Association of Professional Social Workers & Development Practitioners (APSWDP) as a vibrant and active group of experts from various fields, dedicated to social advancement. I have been associated with this association for the past few years and have observed its dynamic presence at both national and international levels. I am proud to note that the association holds Consultative Status with the United Nations (UN). I wish the association continued success in all its future endeavors.



AN INTRODUCTION TO UNITED NATIONS SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS - 13 (UN- SDG 13): CLIMATE ACTION

- MS. AANCHAL

Introduction:

Goal 13 of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) calls for urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts. This goal is crucial for sustaining the livelihoods of current and future generations. Climate change is a real and undeniable threat to our civilization, with effects already visible. These effects will become catastrophic unless immediate action is taken. By investing in



education, fostering innovation, and adhering to climate commitments, we can implement the necessary changes to protect the planet. These changes also present significant opportunities to modernize infrastructure, create new jobs, and promote greater prosperity globally.

What Needs to Change?

To effectively address climate change, a significant increase in ambition is required at all levels. While there has been notable progress, such as the surge in investments in renewable energy, more decisive action is needed. Fossil fuels—coal, oil, and gas—remain the largest contributors to global climate change, accounting for over 75% of global greenhouse gas emissions and nearly 90% of all carbon dioxide emissions.

The manufacturing industry is one of the largest contributors to greenhouse gas emissions worldwide. Transport accounts for nearly one-quarter of global energy-related carbon dioxide emissions, and trends point to a significant increase in energy use for transport in the coming years. The wealthiest bear the greatest responsibility: the richest 1% of the global population account for more greenhouse gas emissions than the poorest 50%.

To limit the global temperature rise to well below 2°C, and ideally to 1.5°C, the global community must transform energy, industry, transport, food, agriculture, and forestry systems. Without these changes, the impacts of climate change—such as heat stress diminishing water resources and grasslands, declining crop yields, and threats to livestock—will become increasingly severe. Many people already face the threat of water scarcity on a regular basis.

The Paris Agreement is a landmark in the multilateral climate change process because it unites all nations in the fight against climate change and the effort to adapt to its effects. Its overarching goal is to keep the increase in global average temperature to well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels, while also pursuing efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5°C. The adoption of the Paris Agreement in December 2015 was a critical first step, as all countries committed to taking action on climate change.

However, achieving these targets requires more substantial efforts. Businesses and investors must work to lower emissions, not just because it is ethically right, but because it also makes economic and business sense.

How Can I Help as a Business?

Businesses play a pivotal role in managing financial, regulatory, and reputational risks from the impacts of climate change on their operations and supply chains. Leading companies are developing and implementing innovative, far-reaching solutions to reduce emissions in their operations and value chains, contributing to climate resilience and raising awareness about climate change. Alongside governments, businesses must act urgently and decisively to fundamentally reduce the greenhouse gas emissions associated with their products and processes to achieve global net zero emissions by the second half of this century. Moreover, businesses are essential in anticipating, building resilience, and adapting to the current and expected impacts of climate change.

How Can I Help as a Consumer?

As a consumer, you can make a difference by reducing food waste and cutting down on plastic use—one of the primary pollutants of our oceans. Simple actions like carrying a reusable bag, refusing plastic straws, and recycling plastic bottles contribute to daily efforts. Additionally, making informed purchases and supporting companies with sustainable practices can amplify your impact.

Facts and Figures:

- From 1880 to 2012, the average global temperature increased by 0.85°C.
- Oceans have warmed, snow and ice have diminished, and sea levels have risen. From 1901 to 2010, the global average sea level rose by 19 cm due to ocean expansion. The Arctic's Sea ice extent has decreased in every successive decade since 1979.
- Global carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions have increased by nearly 50% since 1990.
- Emissions grew more rapidly between 2000 and 2010 than in any of the three previous decades.

Goals and Targets:

1. Target 13.1: Strengthen Resilience and Adaptive Capacity to Climate-Related Disasters:
 - Enhance resilience and adaptive capacity to climate-related hazards and natural disasters across all countries.
2. Target 13.2: Integrate Climate Change Measures into Policies and Planning:
 - Embed climate change measures into national policies, strategies, and planning processes.
3. Target 13.3: Build Knowledge and Capacity to Address Climate Change:
 - Improve education, raise awareness, and strengthen human and institutional capacity for climate change mitigation, adaptation, impact reduction, and early warning systems.
4. Target 13.4: Implement the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change:
 - Fulfil the commitment made by developed countries under the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change to mobilize \$100 billion annually by 2020 to support developing countries in meaningful mitigation actions. Fully operationalize the Green Climate Fund through its capitalization as soon as possible.
5. Target 13.5: Promote Mechanisms to Raise Capacity for Planning and Management:
 - Foster mechanisms to build capacity for effective climate change-related planning and management in least developed countries and small island developing states, with a focus on women, youth, and local and marginalized communities.

Role of UN Environment Programme towards climate change:

- encouraging the transition to low- and zero-carbon emissions in key sectors such as energy, agriculture, buildings, forestry, industry and transport
- working with governments, civil society and the private sector to improve air quality and reduce emissions of short-lived climate pollutants
- protecting and restoring natural ecosystems such as forests, coral reefs and peatlands while combating the sources of degradation
- empowering communities to adapt to changing conditions by building resilient ecological foundations
- supporting public engagement and behaviour change through global campaigns and education programmes

Role of Social Workers:

Social workers have a critical role in advocating for policies and practices that mitigate the adverse impacts of climate change on the environment and communities.

They can:

- Collaborate with community members to secure funding for infrastructure improvements that protect against climate change-related damage.
- Identify opportunities to enhance the environment, such as planting trees.
- Support research to uncover the effects of climate change and develop policies to address these concerns.
- Help communities, especially those at the greatest risk, become involved in the environmental justice movement.
- Educate future social workers on how they can contribute to environmental justice.

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***Ms. Aanchal is working as Junior Consultant in RCTC Cell, School of Public Health, Post Graduate Institute of Medical Education & Research, Chandigarh.**

"The warnings about global warming have been extremely clear for a long time. We are facing a global climate crisis. It is deepening. We are entering a period of consequences."

-Al Gore



APSWDP PROGRAM & PROJECT ACTIVITY UPDATES

Talk on Tobacco Control among HRG community

APSWDP organized a session on Tobacco Control among Transgender and other HRG Communities on 17th July 2024 at TI Project Office. Dr. Rajeev Kumar, RCTC, PGIMER Chandigarh in his talk, highlighted the harmful effects of tobacco consumption, leading to cancer and other lung diseases. Many HRGs present raised their query regarding quitting tobacco and improving their life style. It was also decided by the counsellor under TI to talk and counsel on quitting tobacco in future.

Commemoration of International Youth Day 2024.

APSWDP in collaboration with Chitkara University, H.P., and Global Youth Federation, Chandigarh commemorated International Youth Day 2024 on 10th August 2024. While commemorating IYD 2024, a panel discussion was organized on the theme of IYD 2024 i.e. From Clicks to Progress: Youth Digital Pathways for Sustainable Development. On this occasion, Dr. Vivek Trivedi, Chief Guest quoted a saying that youth are not the future of tomorrow but assets of today and they are the agents of change best suited for leading the global agenda. Dr. T. Gopinath (RGNIYD), Dr. Gurpreet Singh (RGNIYD), Dr. Srivastav (Chitkara University), Mr. Rohit Kumar (GYF) and Mr. Karamveer Singh (APSWDP) shared their views in the panel discussion. In the programme, more than 100 youth from diverse streams participated actively in addition to university NCC unit.

Commemoration of 78th Independence Day -2024

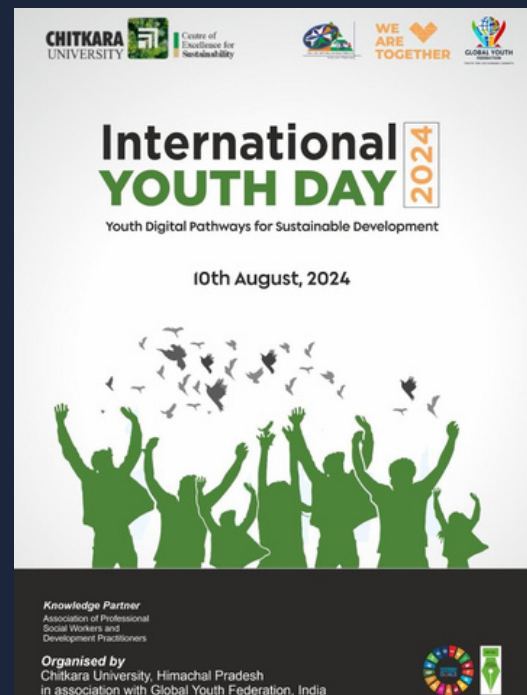
APSWDP commemorated 78th Independence Day on 15th August 2024 at TI Project Office with project staff and members of organization. On this occasion, the national flag was unfurled by Mr. Karamveer Singh and distributed tri color to staff members.

Teej Celebration under Link Worker Scheme Project

APSWDP with support from Cluster Link Workers under Link Workers Scheme (LWS) Project organized Teej celebration on 17th August, 2024 at Ludhiana. The event was attended by local NGOs working on HIV/AIDS prevention. In the event, mehndi art and design competition was organized among HRGs along with a Nukkar Natak. Cultural performances were also organized during the celebration.

Capacity Building and Training of APSWDP Team members

During the present quarter, APSWDP team members have participated in capacity building training programme organized by MGSIPA, Chandigarh, SETU SPYM and National Institute of Social Defence (NISD), New Delhi on Disaster Management, Master Soch Trainer Child Beggary, TG Act and Social Work. Mr. Narender Kumar PM TI, Mr. Lucky Jishtu, DRP LWS, Mr. Laxman Yadav, M&EA, Ms. Jasvir Kaur Counselor, Dr. Sumit Arora, and Mr. Balbir Singh, Hon. members of APSWDP have undergone training from July to Sept 2024.



VIRTUAL PANEL DISCUSSION ON IMPACT OF GENDER BIAS AND STEREOTYPE

Virtual Panel Discussion on Planet vs Plastic on the occasion of Commemoration of World Earth Day 2024.

WICCI CSR Council Chandigarh in collaboration with the APSWDP has organized a virtual session on "Impact of Gender Bias and Stereotype" on 30th August 2024. Dr. Ruchi Gupta, a Senior Clinical Psychologist & Psychotherapist spoke about various aspects and dimensions of Gender in the corporate sector.

Advisor, Public Diplomacy, Embassy of USA in India interacted with APSWDP team.

Ms. Suparna Mukherji, Advisor, Public Diplomacy, Embassy of the USA (Economic, Environment, Science, Technology and Health) visited APSWDP office on 20th sept, 2024 and interacted with the team on developing relations and partnership on social innovation, Indo-US Exchange for learning and organizing conferences and workshops.



Know Your Members



NITIKA SINGLA

DISASTER MANAGEMENT PROFESSIONAL

Nitika Singla is a Disaster Management Specialist with a Master's in Disaster Management from Panjab University, where she graduated as a Gold Medallist. She has extensive experience in disaster risk reduction, having coordinated the & Upscaling of Aapda Mitra Scheme; and is serving as Disaster Management Professional at MGSIPA, Chandigarh, India. With numerous professional trainings and international exposure, she excels in disaster management, risk assessment, and climate change adaptation.



GURPREET CHOUDHARY

ACADEMICIAN

Gurpreet Choudhary holds a Bachelor of Technology in Mechanical Engineering from National Institute of Technology, Jalandhar (2014-18), and later worked as a Manager with Tata Motors Limited. Shifting focus to public administration, Gurpreet completed a Master's in Public Administration from Panjab University, Chandigarh, and is now pursuing Ph.D. Presently, Gurpreet is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Public Administration at Rajiv Gandhi National Institute of Youth Development, Chandigarh.



TANYA GABRIELLE SATISH

ENVIRONMENTAL ENTREPRENEUR

Tanya Gabrielle Satish is the CEO and Youth Ambassador of the Young Environmentalists Programme Trust. She is the project lead for the ocean, climate and environment education assessments that are conducted in academic institutions, and is responsible for overseeing policy development for processes and requirements. Tanya is also a member of the United Nations YOUNGO and Board Member of Ocean School India, having participated at various international conferences. She is trained and certified by former Vice President of USA Al Gore in Rio Brazil in 2014 and is a Climate Reality Leader.



AIZAQ P DAVIS

MEDICAL AND PSYCHIATRIC SOCIAL WORKER

Aizaq P Davis is a Medical and Psychiatric Social Worker. He studied Masters in Social Workers from Central University, Tamil Nadu. He possesses professional skills in Psychosocial Support, Management, Technical and Problem-Solving Skills. Previously, he has served in Department Of Medical and Rural Health Services under District Mental Health Program, Thiruvavur as Psychiatric Social Workers. Presently, he is working as Medical Social Worker in Department of Critical Care Medicine at Rajagiri Hospital, Ernakulam.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT REPORT 2024 - REPORT BY UNITED NATIONS

The Sustainable Development Report (SDR) reviews progress made each year on the Sustainable Development Goals since their adoption by the 193 UN Member States in 2015. Published on the eve of the UN Summit of the Future, the Sustainable Development Report 2024 recommends a set of key reforms to the UN system to meet the challenges of the 21st century. This year's edition also presents a new index of countries' support to UN-based multilateralism and discusses long-term pathways to attain sustainable food and land systems.

For more details, please log on to: <https://s3.amazonaws.com/sustainabledevelopment.report/2024/sustainable-development-report-2024.pdf>

**CALL FOR APSWDP OBSERVERS - COP 29 HOSTED BY UNFCCC AT BAKU**

APSWDP invites application from members, academicians, activists, youth, practitioners to get nomination as APSWDP NGO Observers int COP 29 hosted by UNFCCC from 11-22 November 2024 at Baku in Azerbaijan. Interested persons are requested to write a proposal to us at apswdp@gmail.com by 5th Oct. 2024.

**UPCOMING EVENT- APSWDP INTERNATIONAL ECO-VISIONARY DIALOGUE ON ADVANCING SUSTAINABLE URBAN FUTURES: PAVING THE WAY TO COP29**

APSWDP invites registration for participation from members, academicians, activists, youth, practitioners in hybrid conference on 7th October, 2024 at Chitkara Campus, Punjab and on Zoom Platform .Interested persons are requested to register at <https://shorturl.at/7iuNe> or write to apswdp@gmail.com by 5th Oct. 2024.

**REGISTER****Job Opportunities****Multiple Vacancies**

**Block Programme Officer
Care Foundation**

**Location: Malegaon Jhangir,
Washim, Maharashtra
Apply by: 20 Oct 2024**

Link:

https://www.devnetjobsindia.org/jobDescription.aspx?Job_Id=248934

**Project Lead/ Senior Project Lead
Central Square Foundation (CSF)**

**Location: Gandhinagar, Gujarat
Apply by: 03 Oct 2024**

Link:

https://www.devnetjobsindia.org/jobDescription.aspx?Job_Id=248753

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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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