



APRIL 2022

# THE STUDENTS CHRONICLES

## CHANGING PERSPECTIVE OF FIELDWORK DURING PANDEMIC

### Highlights

NAPSWI's Students Forum

World Social Work Day

Digitalization of Social Work

Evolving fieldwork during the Pandemic

Securing Social Justice During Pandemic

Social Work & Good Governance



## THE PLEDGE

I pledge to step out of my area of comfort so I may meet people, listen to their lives, grow and remain open to their full humanity

I pledge to be critical and ask questions in order to cast doubt, inquire and prompt social change and transformation.

I shall self-reflect to examine my own biases, clarify my beliefs and take stances.

I shall strive continuously to advance knowledge about people, issues, and social work profession.

I pledge to contribute towards turning our institutions into genuinely transparent, accountable and fair communities of action.

I promise to defend freedom of expression, to being open always to dialogue and listening.

I shall be consciously inclusive towards all people and act to promote diversity, equality, mutual respect, justice and reconciliation.

I give a promise to walk with marginalized voiceless, and people who have been forced to silence.

I promise to myself to engage people and structures to address life challenges and enhance their wellbeing.

From this day I am aware that I am part of a community of change agents. I, thus, pledge to act ethically, in compassion, with thoughtfulness, conviction, passion, honesty, perseverance and humility.

That is the least I pledge for.....

(Adopted by NAPSWI at the 1st Indian Social Work Congress 2013)

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Students,

It gives me immense pleasure to know that the NAPSWI Students' Forum is going to release its second issue of student's chronicle. NAPSWI is a platform which is dedicated for providing space to the young trainees of social work for exchanging their ideas, sharing experiences and more importantly, growing as a community of professional social workers and this student chronicle is another step in that direction.



I congratulate the entire publishing team of the student chronicle for all the hard work put into this and extend my good wishes to all, hoping that this will continue without any hurdle in future for the benefit of the young social work fraternity.

Prof. R.P Dwivedi

President NAPSWI

## VICE-PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Students,

It is a great pleasure to know that the NAPSWI Students' Forum is publishing its Second edition of the Newsletter. The forum has come out as a dedicated and responsible organ of NAPSWI and has attracted appreciation and accolades from the Social work educators and students not only from India but also from Asia- the Pacific region, owing to the forum's active engagement throughout the year, with the student fraternity.



I am sure this new endeavour will add new parameters to the repute. I am hopeful that this newsletter will be received as a great platform for the students of social work discipline throughout the country for the sharing of events, experiences and visions, which is an essential prerequisite for both: the development and evolution of this field and the progress in this field individually. I'm also very hopeful that, the content, and experience shared by the students will be used as a reference by the readers, for their work in the field of social work.

Wishing my very best to all the students who have contributed and worked hard for the publishing of this newsletter and sincerely hoping for the success of this endeavour.

Prof. Sanjoy Roy

Vice- President, NAPSWI

## SECRETARY'S MESSAGE

Dear Students,

I am delighted to bring greetings in this Annual Newsletter of the NAPSWI students' Forum. I am confident that the second issue of the NAPSWI Students' Forum newsletter will send a positive signal to the students of social work and social work fraternity. A newsletter is like a mirror which reflects the clear picture of all sorts of activities undertaken by a students' forum.



I appreciate the efforts of the team of this NAPSWI Students' Forum newsletter who have done an excellent job in compiling all the activities over the year and disseminate them through this newsletter. I congratulate the publishing team for accomplishing the task in record time. I am optimistically excited about the future prospects of what young student ambassadors will achieve in the coming years. Wishing you all the best in your future endeavours.

Prof. Ankur Saxena,

Secretary, NAPSWI

## MESSAGE FROM THE PENS

### STUDENTS' FORUM ORGANISERS

The journey of taking forward the legacy of the Students' Forum, NAPSWI, for preparing this newsletter has been an exciting and learning experience. It would not have been possible without the continued support and guidance extended by Prof. Sanjai Bhatt, former president, NAPSWI, and all other distinguished office bearers and officials of NAPSWI.

This new mode of the online platform has been a mix of both learnings as well as challenges at times in organizing the events. This has eventually given impetus to the Digital India initiative of the government encompassing the students, academicians and professionals from the far-flung areas of the country.

This newsletter is a combined effort of the NAPSWI Student Ambassadors along with the organizers of the students' forum to showcase the experience of different social work academicians and students spread across the country. Different articles on the theme '*Changing Perspective of Fieldwork During Pandemic*' has been incorporated in this edition which will give a way forward to the young professionals.

Working with the Student Ambassadors from various parts of the country has been memorable. A lot of Ambassadors from various parts of the country have stretched our horizons of learning and understanding the nature of our work as professionals. They have not only acted as a bridge between their prestigious institutions and this Students' forum platform but also have been there for all-around support to facilitate every possibility in making the efforts a grand success.

We hope the continuation of this initiative will foster the inclusivity, platform and reach to a larger audience.

Thank you.

Regards

Sidhant Kumar & Himanshu Kulshrestha,  
M.A Final Year, DSSW

## ABOUT NAPSWI STUDENTS' FORUM

NAPSWI Students' Forum was formed by the students of social work working under the leadership and the guidance of Professor Sanjai Bhatt, immediate Past President, NAPSWI. A platform for the students of social work across the country, for giving them a chance to develop their professional, management, technical and social development skills as professionals and individuals by being the planners as well the participants via different events designed specifically for the social work students, as well as raising concern related to the field of social work.

NAPSWI Students' Forum for the first time was organised as part of the 8th Indian Social Work Congress, at Visva-Bharati University, Shanti Niketan, West Bengal, for social work students pursuing Bachelor's & Masters in social work across Asia-Pacific, and continuing it, the 2nd edition of Students Forum was organised for the 9th Indian Social work congress, at Matru Sewa Sangh Institute of Social Work (MSSISW), Maharashtra, in the online mode, with numbers of events, for the engagement with the Social work students spread across the Indian Subcontinent.

The Students' Forum is growing significantly every year with the constant support and participation of all the stakeholders with the clear motive to strengthen the social workers around the globe while creating the presence of the noble profession and engaging all the major stakeholders and interested audiences in general. The students are unveiling a new prospect of learning and engaging with the Social Work Community with the collective effort under the platform of the NAPSWI Students' Forum.

## Objectives of Students' Forum

- To actively engage the student community.
- To educate, guide, understand, motivate, and start a discussion amongst the students by providing a platform for their academic and professional development.
- To develop technical and professional skills and develop a perspective for coping with the situations related to the profession inflicted by the COVID-19 pandemic and the post-pandemic scenario.
- To promote social work education and professional content online.
- To provide a platform to social work students to discuss and deliberate on the issues related to social cohesion, social responsibility and social work during the changing scenario and delve into the innovative research and practice.
- To strengthen the social work student base and unify them under the same platform.
- To make the stakeholder relationship easier and better.



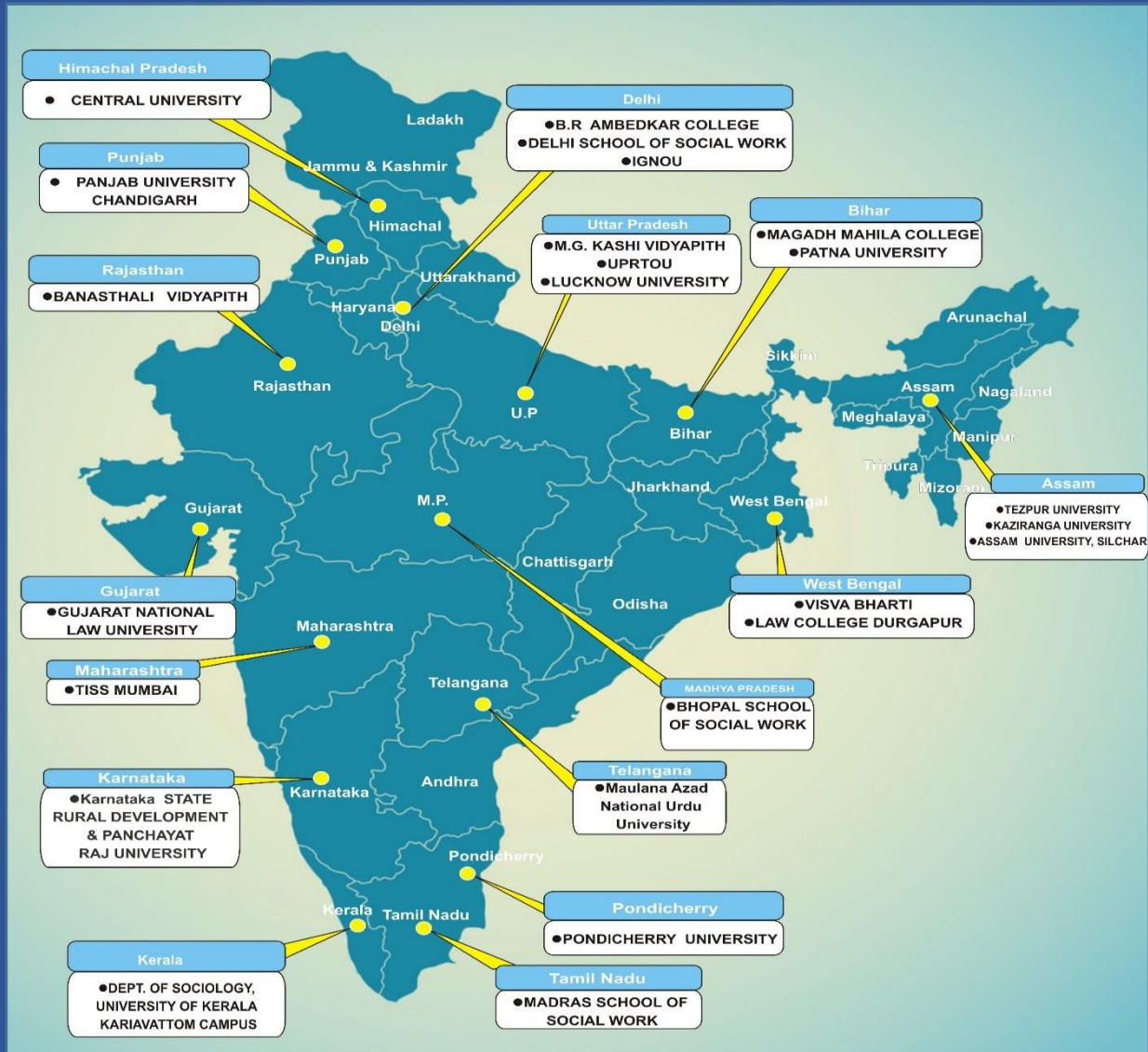
## **NAPSWI STUDENTS' FORUM INITIATIVES**

Throughout the year and since its inception, NAPSWI Students Forum has taken different initiatives for the holistic development of social work students through this platform. A small glimpse of a few of them is given below.

### **STUDENT AMBASSADORSHIP PROGRAM**

To strengthen its presence in the student base and objectives of NAPSWI, in the field of social work student across India, NAPSWI Students Forum, launched the student ambassadorship program, for the first time at the 8th ISWC, and continuing the same, for the 2nd batch of our student ambassador for the 9th ISWC held at Matru Sewa Sangh Institute of Social Work (MSSISW), Maharashtra, we received representations from social work schools across the country. And after a selection procedure, in which candidates were evaluated on their will and determination to work in order to increase the presence of NAPSWI among social work students, and in the second batch, we are currently hosting 24 students from social work institutes across India through its Student Ambassador Program.

The student ambassadors have been exposed to various opportunities, from engaging with the social work students in their institutions, to actively participating in various activities of the student's forum activities, which provides them with a chance to develop their professional, management, technical, and social development skills as professionals, and individuals by being the planners as well the participants via different events, and making professional interactions with eminent personalities in the field of social work.



Map showing the institutional representation of NPSWI students' representation.

## APPLICATION OPEN!!

NPSWI cordially invites the students of BSW & MSW from across the country, to be part of its **STUDENT AMBASSADORSHIP PROGRAM 2022-2023**.

**HURRY UP!! DON'T THINK MUCH**

The last date of Application: 30th April 2022

For Registration, Click here:

<https://forms.gle/YXgTdKBnAuFrXWL29>

## STUDENT'S FORUM AT THE 9<sup>TH</sup> ISWC

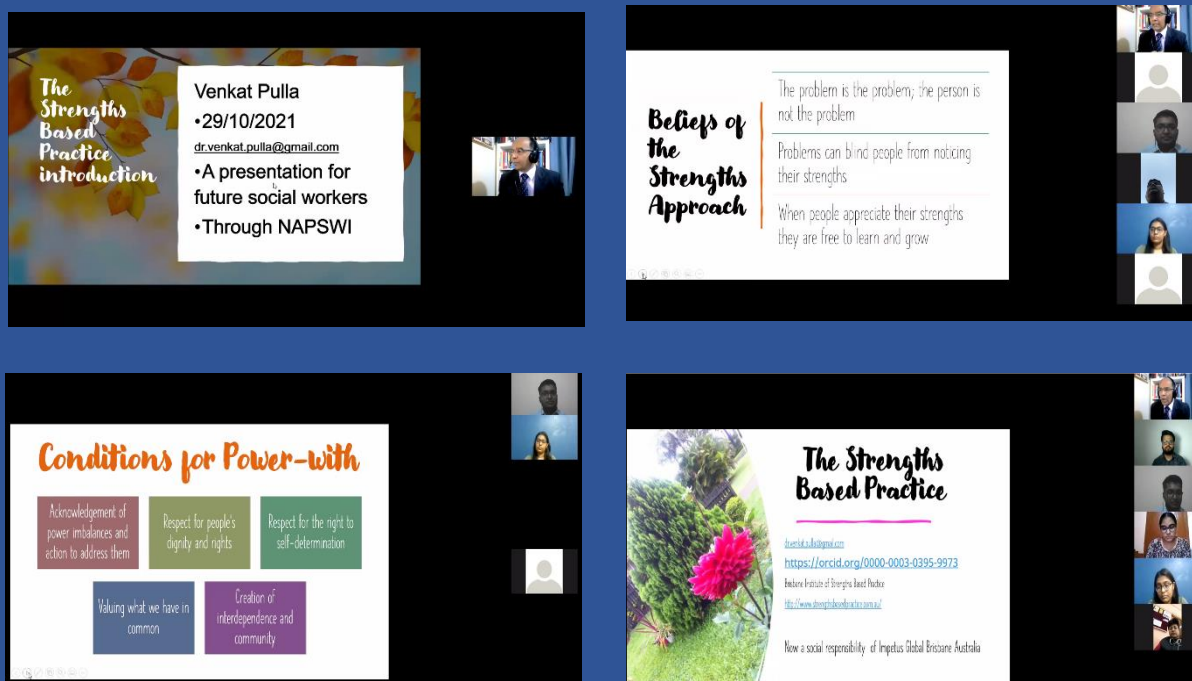
The 9th Indian Social work congress, which was held at Matru Sewa Sangh Institute of Social Work (MSSISW), from 28th October to 30th October 2021, by NAPSWI, and Maharashtra Association of Social Work Educators (MASWE), Student Forum NAPSWI organized several events in the online mode to give representation and a forum to showcase their skill, and also learn new dimensions in the field of social work, while engaging with the students of social work from different institutions.

A small glimpse of some of the events organised at the 9th ISWC.

### WORKSHOP ON “STRENGTHS- BASED PRACTICES IN SOCIAL WORK”, BY PROF. VENKAT PULLA

An online workshop on “Strengths-Based Practise in Social work”, by Professor Venkat Pulla, from Brisbane Institute of Strengths-based Practice, Brisbane, Australia, was organised by the NAPSWI students' forum, was attended by 365 participants across the Asia Pacific, who were social work students and professionals. The workshop strengthened the participants in this post-pandemic era to consolidate their strengths and achieve their targets towards their goals. These Strengths-Based Practices (SBPs) concentrate on the inherent strengths of individuals, families, groups, and organisations deploying people, personal strengths to aid their recovery and empowerment. SBPs are empowering alternatives to traditional methods with individuals, groups, or organizational work. It will build and foster hope from within by focusing and working with precedent successes. SBPs strategies would facilitate change by assisting to look at: what has worked, what does not work and what might work, making it

important for facilitators and those desiring change to be an integral part of the process.



## **NAPSWI** **POSTER COMPETITION**

A poster competition on the theme “Social Workers in COVID-19” was organised as poster sessions enable people to seek information with convenience and freedom in a short period of time. The event aimed:

- To increase the awareness among students about the ongoing efforts and significant roles taken up by the social workers during the pandemic.
- To enable the students to develop an appreciation of the contribution made by social workers in society.
- To make the students ponder upon the strategic and significant positions they can hold and serve in society.
- To enable the students to develop an understanding of the significance of the social workers in the enhancement of the well-being of the society.

In total 54 students, from different social work institutions, across India showed their creative side in this competition. Two best posters were:-

1<sup>st</sup> Prize

ADITYA TEJASWI (BSW)

Dr. Bhim Rao Ambedkar College, University of Delhi



# SOCIAL WORKERS COVID-19

Social Workers were successful in providing mental health supporting strategies required in pandemic areas to facilitate the lifestyle changes and re-adaptation activities required after the occurrence of outbreaks

**Social Workers helped in:**

- Staying informed and keeping informed
- Conducting self-check to their clients
- Maintaining regular contact
- Providing resources
- Developing a plan (post-pandemic)

Social workers played an important and fundamental role in disaster response, recovery and disaster preparedness planning for future occurrences. Appropriate professional social work services becomes mandatory in the outbreak of emergencies and pandemics and social workers provide the public with the support which was required.

THE INCREASED DEMAND FOR TRAINED SOCIAL WORK AND MENTAL HEALTH PROFESSIONALS IS NECESSITATED BY THE DISASTER-PRONE AND FAST-CHANGING WORLD

Social Workers!!!  
Social Workers  
THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING OUR COMMUNITY!

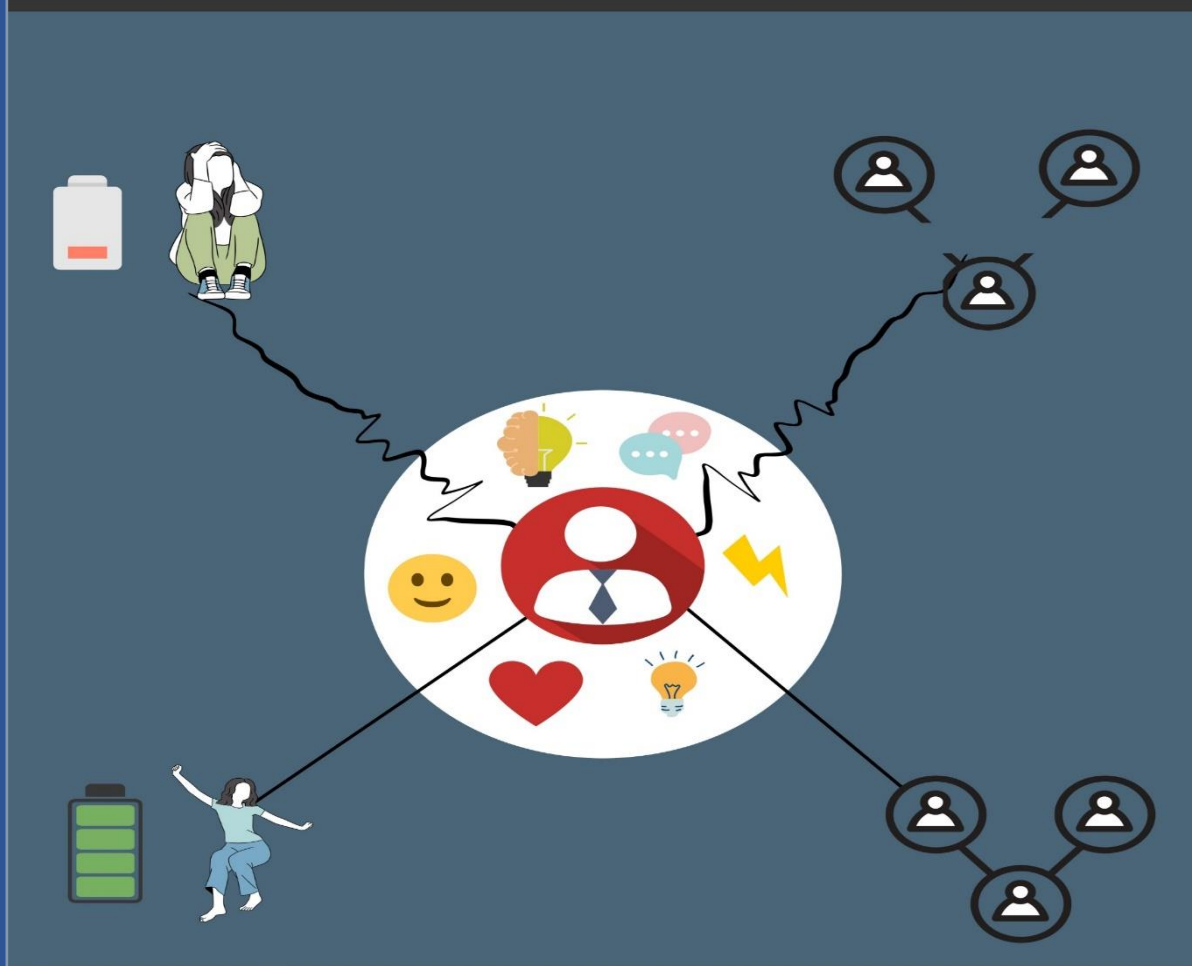
2<sup>nd</sup> Prize

SAMSON RAJA S (MSW)

MADRAS SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK, CHENNAI



## SOCIAL WORKERS' AID DURING COVID-19 PANDEMIC



A Social Worker comes to the aid of the common people who are in need during the Pandemic. Social Workers interventions did make progress and change in the lives of the common people.

## QUIZ COMPETITION

One of the most engaging initiatives of the Forum, an Online quiz competition revolving around India and the social work profession was organized. It gave an opportunity to the participants to develop an all-around knowledge base of the profession, covering every aspect of the domain. It pressed the need for looking into the historical and present era of the profession, as well as from theoretical, academics to field-based practise of the profession in our country. This event was unique as it also involved the audience in the house to answer questions that were not attempted by the contestants and in doing so became a part of the event. The quiz competition saw the participation of 140 students, not only from India but students from the entire Indian Sub-continent, which was quite overwhelming. The medium of the questions was only English and it was played in 3 rounds. The top 2 winners were announced at the closing ceremony of the congress.

# NAPSWI



1<sup>st</sup>

**Tripti Pandey**

(MSW)

**Banasthali Vidyapith**



2<sup>nd</sup>

**OLIVIA ILAVARASIA**

(MSW)

**Madras School of Social Work**

## **DEBATE COMPETITION**

This was for the first time that NAPSWI Students' Forum provided the budding social work professionals with a platform to present their views regarding the social work practice in our society, through a debate competition. The topic was “**Is social work practise a political in our society?**”, made the participants explore various components of the social work practise in and around them. It served as a check to the biases and ill-intention of the practitioners in this domain. Also, it further fostered professionalism amongst the participants, strengthened as well as deepened the ‘Code of Ethics of social work in society. A total of 80 students enrolled in a full time/ distance undergraduate or graduate program of social work participated in the competition, and the participants were judged by the most reputed and distinguished social work educators in India, Prof. Seema Sharma, Delhi School of Social Work, Delhi University, Prof. Pratibha J. Mishra, Central university of Chhattisgarh, and Prof. Gaurav Garg, Panjab University. The bilingual debate competition was conducted online on zoom. The top 3 winners were announced at the closing ceremony of the congress.



**1<sup>ST</sup>**

**Shivangi Trivedi**

**(MSW)**

**University of Lucknow**

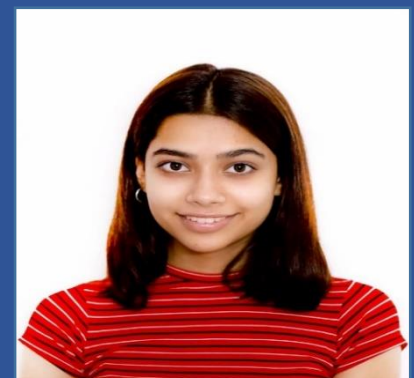


**2nd**

**Tanu Dabral**

**(MSW)**

**Delhi School of Social  
Work**



**3rd**

**Pakshalika Mansingh**

**(BSW)**

**University of Lucknow**



## 2<sup>nd</sup> NATIONAL SOCIAL WORK WEEK 2021: A BRIEF REPORT

Dr. Atul Pratap Singh  
Coordinator, 2<sup>nd</sup> NSWW



The idea of celebrating **NATIONAL SOCIAL WORK WEEK (NSSW)** every year was initiated by the National Association of Professional Social Workers in India (NAPSWI) to mark 75 years of social work education and profession in independent India as the first department of social work came on 15<sup>th</sup> August 1947 at Kashi Vidyapeeth, Varanasi. Fortunately, this was also the centenary year of Kashi Vidyapeeth. To mark the occasion, NAPSWI has given a call to undertake, organize and facilitate academic and professional interaction through various activities and programmes throughout the country by social work educational Institutions, social work associations, social work agencies, professionals, students, and everyone belonging or connected with this noble profession. 1<sup>st</sup> NSSW was coordinated by Prof Sanjay, Dean, Faculty of Social work, Kashi Vidyapeeth.

This year, 2<sup>nd</sup> NATIONAL SOCIAL WORK WEEK was organized from 15<sup>th</sup> August to 21<sup>st</sup> August 2021 and made it a part of 75 years of *Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav*. As its partnership philosophy, NAPSWI invited social work education institutions and other organizations i.e. university departments & affiliated colleges, exclusive schools of social work to join hands with us in this a week's long national-level event to promote social work education and profession. NAPSWI has also been part of the advocacy campaign to establish a National Council of Social Work Education in India. On behalf of NAPSWI, Dr. Atul Pratap Singh, Associate Professor, Dr. B.R. Ambedkar College, University

of Delhi has accepted the responsibility of National Coordinator of the program; and Dr. Bansi Dhar Pandey, Associate Professor, MG Kashi Vidyapeeth has joined him as his associate.

Throughout the seven days, this NSSW programme had 2578 registered participants, which was telecasted through the ZOOM platform, Facebook and YouTube Live. During these seven days, 11 different activities were organized. Despite the disruption created by the COVID-19 pandemic, we organized activities like Master Class, e-Workshop, e-Symposium, Experience Sharing Session/Good Practices Illustration during Covid-19 Pandemic, Panel Discussion, Session on Students' Experience Sharing, Award/Appreciation/Special Recognition Ceremony. Of course, it has Inaugural and Valedictory Functions.

The inaugural session was attended by Dr. Dev Swaroop Vice-Chancellor, Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar Law University, Jaipur; Former Vice-Chancellor, University of Rajasthan, Jaipur & Former Additional Secretary, UGC, Mr. Amod K. Kanth, IPS, Former Commissioner of Police & Member, NITI Ayog-CSO Standing Committee, GoI.; Prof. A.K. Tyagi, Vice-Chancellor, Kashi Vidyapeeth, as our distinguished Guests. Prof. Sanjai Bhatt, Professor & Former Head, DSSW, Delhi; Immediate Past President, NAPSWI had given the opening remarks. Prof. R.P. Dwivedi Former Dean, Faculty of Social Work & Former Director of Gandhi Adhayanpeeth, Mahatma Gandhi Kashi Vidyapeeth, Varanasi & President, NAPSWI, had given presidential remarks. Prof. Manoj K. Jha, MP (Rajya Sabha) & Professor & Former Head, Department of Social Work, University of Delhi was the Chief Guest of the valedictory function.

There was a brilliant combination of educational administrators, eminent social work educators, and development practitioners in our Resource Person's panel from all over the country. The Resource Persons mainly were:

- Mr. Amod K. Kanth, IPS, Former Joint Commissioner of Police. & Member, NITI Ayog-CSO Standing Committee, GoI.
- Dr. Dev Swarup, Vice-Chancellor, Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar Law University, Jaipur; Former Vice-Chancellor, University of Rajasthan, Jaipur & Former Additional Secretary, UGC.
- Prof. A.K. Tyagi, Vice-Chancellor, Kashi Vidyapeeth, varanasi.
- Dr. Rajesh Tandon, Founder-President, PRIA & Co-Chair of UNESCO Chair.
- Prof. Venkat Pulla, BISBP, Australia.
- Ms. Ida D Souza K, Assistant Professor, Department of Global Health, Manipal Academy of Higher Education Manipal.
- Ms. Rita Panicker, Founder & Director, Butterflies India, New Delhi.
- Dr. A.K. Singh, Assistant Director, Regional Centre for Urban and Environmental Studies (RCUES), Lucknow.
- Prof. Suresh Pathare, Director, CSRD, Ahmednagar, Maharashtra.
- Prof. Bhawna Mehta, Head, Faculty of Social Work, MSU, Baroda.
- Dr. Sanjay Kumar, Director & Co-Founder, Aasharay Aadhikar Abhiyan (AAA), Delhi.
- Prof. Murli Desai, Former Professor & Head, Social Work Education and Practice Cell, TISS, Mumbai.
- Prof. Surinder Jaswal, Former Dean (Research), Centre for Health and Mental Health, School of Social Work, TISS, Mumbai.
- Prof. G.K. Arora, Principal, Dr. B.R. Ambedkar College, University of Delhi.
- Dr. Krishna Dutt, Clinical Psychologist, King George's Medical University, Lucknow & Founder, Asmita' - A Centre for Slow Learners.

- Prof. Kalpana Sarathy, Deputy Director, Guwahati Campus & former Dean of School of Social Work, TISS, Guwahati Campus.
- Prof. Neera Agnimitra, Professor & Former Head, Department of Social Work, University of Delhi.
- Prof. S. M. Sajid, Professor, Department of Social Work, Former Officiating Vice-Chancellor, Pro-Vice-Chancellor & Registrar, JMI, New Delhi.
- Prof. L.S. Gandhi Doss, President, INPSWA & Former Professor, Bangalore University.
- Prof. Manish Jha, Dean, School of Social Work & Chairperson, Centre for Community Organisation and Development Practice, TISS Mumbai.
- Prof. Sanjai Bhatt, Professor & Former Head, DSSW, Delhi; Immediate Past President, NAPSWI & Convener, NCC for NCSWE.
- Prof. R.P. Dwivedi, Former Dean, Faculty of Social Work & Former Director of Gandhi Adhayanpeeth, Mahatma Gandhi Kashi Vidyapeeth, Varanasi & President, NAPSWI.

On the last day of the program, NAPSWI conferred awards to three institutions for their significant contribution and to eight students for their remarkable fieldwork during the Covid-19 pandemic. The institutional awards were received by

- Prof. Suresh Pathare, CSRD, Ahmednagar, Maharashtra
- Prof. Bhawna Mehta, MSU, Baroda
- Dr. Sanjay Kumar, Aasharay Adhikar Abhiyan (AAA), Delhi;

Individual student's awards were received by Ms. Abhilasha (DSSW); Mr. Mridul Jain (DSSW), Mr. Aditya Pandey (BRAC), Ms. Zehra Naqvi (BRAC); Ms. Shivani Kumari (BRAC); Ms. Nupur Miglani (Aditi Mahavidyalaya); Akshay Tiwari (Vishva Bharti); Ms. Sanjoli Banerjee (Christ University).

Many social work education institutions (SWEIs) were also invited to join hands with us to observe and celebrate this one-week National level event as NAPSWI believes in shaking hands with all the SWEIs so that it can promote and protect the interest of the social work profession and professionals in India. Around twenty-five, SWEIs observed and celebrated this National Social Work Week in collaboration with NAPSWI simultaneously with the National level programme. These SWEIs mainly were:

- Aditi Mahavidyala, University of Delhi
- Dr. Bhim Rao Ambedkar College, University of Delhi
- Punjab University, Chandigarh
- Jain Vishva Bharti University, Ladnun, Rajasthan
- University of Lucknow
- Guru Ghasidas Vishvavidyala, Bilaspur, Chhattisgarh
- Nazareth College of Arts and Sciences, Chennai
- Navrachna University, Vadodara, Gujrat
- Centre for Studies in Rural Development (CSR D), Ahmednagar
- Maulana Azad National Urdu University (MANUU), Hyderabad
- Salesian College, Siliguri
- Rabindra Bharati University, West Bengal
- Visva Bharati, Shanti Niketan, West Bengal
- Bankura University, West Bengal
- Indian Institute of Social Welfare and Business Management, Kolkata
- Netaji Subhas Open University
- St. Xavier's University, Kolkata.
- NADA India
- MSS Institute of Social Work, Nagpur

In a nutshell, the '2<sup>nd</sup> National Social Work Week' programme proved to be an enthusiastic forum to discuss and deliberate upon the issues related to social work education, training, practice, and research in India, with special reference to present COVID-19 pandemic.

**3<sup>RD</sup> NATIONAL SOCIAL WORK  
WEEK 2022**

**15<sup>th</sup> August 2022 to 21<sup>st</sup> August 2022**

**Join us for celebrating this week as  
volunteer.**

**You are invited  
to share ideas, suggestions and action  
points.**

**Please write to us:**

**[napswi@gmail.com](mailto:napswi@gmail.com)**

## DIGITAL ERA: HOW IT'S CHANGING THE PROCESS OF PERSON'S INTERACTION IN FIELD WORK PRACTICE

**Prof. Sanjoy Roy**

**DSSW – DU**

**Vice President- NAPSWI**



Multiculturalism in the 1960s or ongoing ethical training in the late twentieth century, technical literacy has been a cultural competency and even now. Technology is woven into the lives of the population that we serve, like a thread in a fabric. The technology is just one of the colors of thread in their lives. When we refrain from taking into account the impact of technology on our client populations, we may disservice our profession. Some of you may not agree, but this is the reality. We have populations that *'flourish with technology'* (haves), and others in *'technology deserts'* (haves not), which may not be able to recover as they become further separated by the digital divide. Though, technology standards of practice were created by the National Association for Social Workers and Association of Social Work Boards in 2005. These standards encompass cultural competency in general codes of ethics. Our global cultural shift is influenced by technological advances, but it varies according to where we are. In relation to technological advances in society, the NASW and ASWB technology standards outline the changing role of the social worker. Social workers who understand technology should educate others on how to integrate it into their practice until social work education is updated to include current technological training.

In the integration of technology into social work practice, there are three approaches - **proactive, reactive, and rejecting**, which are adding in the purview of practice. In many of these areas, the pace of change has made it impossible for a person to live fully. When addressing percentages, we would like to act most of the time in a proactive fashion, be constructive in our response to new knowledge, and reject those areas that are destructive or inadequate. However, rejections are rare. Most often, rejection is the result of insufficient resources or the usage of an untechnical tool. Social workers are increasingly feeling the digital divide. Digital literacy, technology integration, and access advocacy are essential now. All of these factors point toward a change for social workers, whether it is the NASW ethics or cultural competency. (Belluomini, 2013)

Prior to COVID-19, social workers had begun to consider the impact of digitalization on society and specific platforms including Facebook, Instagram, skype, Twitter. Rather than using digital platforms to directly communicate with service users or to convene meetings for professional purposes, which rarely occurred, the focus was on 'e-professionalism' and the ethics of using social media. It was therefore a rapid and sometimes difficult transition to digital social work during the pandemic.

When field placements were required to switch to a virtual service delivery model at the beginning of March 2020, COVID-19 pushed social work field education into an existential crisis. As a result, agencies, students, and field education programs explored new territory. Since the peak of the pandemic, it remains unclear when in-person, agency-based training will resume. Due to a catastrophe of this magnitude and duration, field education curricula and infrastructure had to be immediately redesigned, utilizing practices that had not been previously considered, such as agency-supported, fully remote practice, and school of social work-supported alternative trainings and learning activities. In order for schools of social work to successfully respond to the pandemic, field education programs



have had to work cooperatively with community agencies to develop and implement new teaching and learning models. COVID-19 provided a catalyst for social work educators to develop new curricula and educational infrastructures to support student learning and, most importantly, enable them to perform their role as social justice practitioners in community-responsive settings. Collaboration between field educators and community partners redirected practicum activities in order for students to develop the knowledge, values, skills, as well as cognitive and affective processes necessary to appropriately respond to extended crises. An emphasis on social justice practice within the context of field education curricula should be centered on the disproportionate impact on minority communities, impoverished communities, and other marginalized populations. As a result of the changes necessary to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic, there have likely been permanent modifications to the infrastructure and methodology of social work field education. Say for example schools of social work doing ‘Virtual Observation Visits, Rural Camps and so on. Therefore, the experience provided field educators with unexpected insights into innovation, flexibility, and collaborative approaches should be incorporated now to meet the needs of our students and communities in the future as well.

Using our new understanding of the critical responsibility of social work programs, which is to prepare students to respond to unprecedented crisis situations and to sustain student learning through collaboration with community partners and regional colleagues, can serve the traditional models of field education curriculum design. (Fries, S.D., Kates, J., Brower, J., Wrenn, R., 2021). But somewhere, technology does not take into account of feeling, emotional freedom, human relation when we intervene with clientele in practice.

**\*Note**

**The views expressed are personal and does not endorse or relate to NAPSWI**

## EXPERIMENTS AND INNOVATIONS IN FIELD WORK DURING COVID-19 PANDEMIC

Dr. Atul Pratap Singh  
Associate Prof., Dept. of Social Work  
Dr. Bhim Rao Ambedkar College  
(University of Delhi), Delhi



Covid-19 pandemic has stolen almost two years from our lives as we entered into the first phase of the nationwide lockdown on 25<sup>th</sup> March, 2020, followed by a series of unlocks to prevent the transmission of Covid-19 pandemic. Public spaces were closed as per the advisory issued by the Government of India and efforts were made to avoid overcrowding. The Government asked all the agencies, institutions, organizations etc. to allow their employees to ‘work from home’, so as to minimize the risk of direct contact with co-employees. Accordingly, all the universities, colleges, and schools were closed across the country in order to protect the health, safety, and wellbeing of students, faculty, non-teaching staff and their families.

Since, this lockdown was imposed during the mid-point of time of even semesters; I immediately assumed the loss of the students under my supervision about their field work. Undoubtedly, field work is an integral part of social work education. Accordingly, I had prepared some assignments for lockdown period and shared with them. I continuously guided the students under my supervision to prepare and submit their e-files of field work records during this time; however, it was relatively tough task for the students as they were going to do it for the first time due to lockdown. Finally, I managed to complete end semester assessment of field work. It was first step towards experimenting and innovating in this area

blended with ICT based teaching-learning. Meanwhile, I was continuously planning and preparing about online or virtual field work tasks for the next session as situation remained the same and there was no signal for reopening of the educational institutions in the near future.

In view of the measures taken by the University of Delhi to prevent the pandemic condition, at the commencement of the session 2020-21, I had explored couple of like-minded organizations and placed the students to perform their field work in virtual mode. Simultaneously, I had prepared a list of field work tasks as an alternative plan for them, in case they are not able to get connected with the agency supervisor on any field work day. In such a situation, they could do their field work according to the alternative plan.

It was also suggested by me that each field work task requires proper learning plan, observation & analysis, self-assessment in terms of application of social work knowledge base and learning exposure. Besides, it was also told that during this pandemic, field work (including individual and/or group conferences and submission of field work reports & log-sheets) shall be performed through online mode (GOOGLE MEET, GOOGLE CLASSROOM, e-mail, WhatsApp or simple Text Messaging) till Covid-19 effect.

On each field work day, I was conducting an online session with all the students besides conducting individual conferences (ICs) as per the scheduled time table. Then after, these students were meeting virtually or interacting telephonically with respective agency supervisors with regard to their field work tasks. Although, engaging myself with the students on each field work day & IC sessions and collecting & checking all their field work reports via e-mail or GOOGLE CLASSROOM was not an easy task as it requires sitting on computer

for a long time. But, it was definitely an amazing experience to inspire the young minds during this tough time which is not less than any award for me.

During April-May, 2021, the second wave of the Covid-19 pandemic was more shocking than the first in India. It was quite evident that entire families were suffering from Covid-19 infection and many young people were getting positive. The infection was spreading at a faster pace in every age group. The prevalence of deaths in the second wave was higher than the first wave. This was the time to review the existing new normal situation i.e. online field work. Therefore, at the end of the session 2020-21 after collecting feedback from the students it was found that it is very difficult to find suitable agencies for concurrent field work and like-minded trained social workers as agency supervisor who are able to impart field work training as per the learning objectives and expectations, especially through virtual or blended mode.

Keeping in view this fact at the commencement of the field work of the session 2021-22, I had placed students under my supervision directly at their own current locations (urban or rural) without any agency based programme to perform their field work. However, my role as faculty supervisor was critical as I had to supervise the students single handedly in absence of any agency supervisor.

At this moment, exploration and innovation of new setting in the field work practice learning was the need of hour because the students had to continue their learning through their initiatives even during pandemic situation. Hence, keeping in view the Covid-19 appropriate behaviour, student's own neighbourhood as open community (Urban or rural) was suggested to perform their field work under which nearby doctors, clinics, hospitals, health workers, etc.; resident welfare associations (RWAs) in urban areas; Panchayats & Gram Sabhas in the rural areas; Block Development Offices (BDOs); local

Corporators/Counsellors/Sabhasads in urban areas; Sarpanchs/Ward members in rural areas; any nearby NGO(s); and direct/online/telephonic interaction with the individuals in the neighbourhood could be approached as per the need. Further, a list of field work tasks was given to the students. Each student was expected to perform the field work tasks through virtual or bended mode as the situation may be. It was also told that field work sessions including individual and/or group conferences shall be attended through online mode till further instructions by the appropriate authority.

Undoubtedly, such field work tasks ensured the continuity of learning of the students during this pandemic time without compromising upon minimum standards as per the UGC norms.

After reopening of the universities and colleges, the agency allotment for field work has been done accordingly and only offline agency based physical field work is being taking place.

Thus, it is clear that field work through virtual or online mode will no longer considered as useful device because it requires scientific knowledge and skilled competencies in dealing with human relations & emotions and problems. However, integrating ICT in field work practice learning has accelerated the transmission of information by making communication more efficient than ever before and it may be useful as a supplementary device in future.

**Note**

This write-up is based on my own actual teaching-learning instruction based experimentations and innovations for last couple of years and paper published on 'Field Work during Covid-19 Pandemic: A Practice Model Based on Actual Experimentations', by Published India Group-Delhi, published in Social Work Chronicle, Volume 10 Issue 1, 2021.

# WORLD SOCIAL WORK DAY

Bhawna Rai,  
MSW, UPRTOU



World Social Work Day is a celebration that aims to highlight the achievements of social work to raise the visibility of social services for the future of societies and to defend social justice and human rights. Every year, World Social Work Day is celebrated on the third Tuesday of March, it is a celebration that has become a high point in the social work calendar with social workers all over the world celebrating and promoting the contributions of the profession to individuals, families, communities and wider society.

In 1983, the International Federation of Social Workers (IFSW) United Nations Representatives in New York, led by Jack A. Kamaiko, proposed a project to bring social workers of the area into the UN Headquarters in New York. This was the beginning of an annual celebration called Social Work Day at the United Nations. Following the spirit of Social Work Day at the UN, the question of an international focused Global Social Work Day was part of the IFSW General Meeting agenda for a number of years. In 1997, IFSW members' organizations in Europe launched a pan-European Social Work Action Day, which arose from the EU funded Social Inclusion Project. This initiative that was widely supported across Europe led to a global proposal about celebrating a World Social Work Day. IFSW members debated about how to link to the Social Work Day at the UN and the European Social Work Action Day. At the IFSW General Meeting 2004 in Adelaide, member organizations voted to establish an International Social Work Day. The first World Social Work Day was celebrated worldwide in 2007

under the theme “Social Work -Making a World of Difference”, and on April 15, 2008, IFSW members organized the second World Social Work Day and continued the theme “Social Work – Making a World of Difference”.

This year, the World Social Work Day took place on 15th March 2022. The theme: ‘Co-building a New Eco-Social World: Leaving No One Behind’ coincides with the theme of the people’s summit that will take place from the 29th June to the 2nd July. The theme presents a vision and action plan to create new global values, policies and practices that develop trust, security and confidence for all people and the sustainability of the planet. World Social Work Day 2022 highlights an opportunity for the social work profession to engage all social work networks and the community they work within to make contributions to the values and principles which enable all people to have their dignity respected through shared futures.

IFSW President Silvana Martinez said, ‘The Co-building a New Eco-Social World peoples’ summit has brought large and diverse groups together with a common vision and shared starting principles. Collectively we are the largest civil-society organisation comprising the world’s trade unions, health sectors, Faith Invest network, global student bodies, international social work, United Nation’s agencies, social movements, academic networks and many others. The 2022 World Social Work Day will act as a platform for this initiative, to engage all communities so they can have their say in what kind of collective world they want to live in, and urge all social workers to involve in this global mass movement for change



## TIMES THEY ARE CHANGING

Lama Abbas

MSW, Bhopal School of Social Sciences



Social Workers take up an array of roles: from advocacy to safeguarding human rights, counselling to working in correctional homes, providing prenatal care to working in geriatric centres —from cradle to grave; they are everywhere, to support and enable. It's no wonder then, that a profession so deftly interwoven with the strands of day-to-day existence bore the brunt of pandemic the hardest. For social distancing, challenged to take “social” away from social work.

Catapulted in terrains unfamiliar, the pandemic positioned us precariously on a tightrope. Slippery and ever-fraying, under the slightest strain, navigating this new normal has been a balancing act at best. But what stands out amidst this chaos and uncertainty is our will to carry on. We've pressed on with remarkable resolve to adapt to and withstand this crisis. Stretching on indefinitely, it has forced us to invent and innovate in ways unthought of before.

Engaging and meeting people where they are, going into community and homes, is the whole idea behind fieldwork. For a social worker the bigger picture lends invaluable perspective. Situations are units of study and various aspects of the unit are inter-linked, making individual problems to be studied in totality the key, for coming up with interventions that work. And that's where our biggest challenge lies.

To counter these challenges, we've used technology in meaningful and creative ways. Online counselling, self-guided web-based interventions, electronic social networks, mobile apps, automated tutorials and a host of other services are being



used by the social workers to interact and facilitate communities. But that has raised new challenges that social workers are grappling with.

Face-to-face human interactions are the gold standard for building human relationships, and that seems to be missing. The nuances that fieldwork notes provided, broader contexts and non-verbal cues like the restless leg, darting eyes or that vacant stare punctuated with myriad stories, are lost in the mechanical push-button, high-efficiency operating systems. Furthermore, technology cannot be solely relied on, unless the ever-deepening digital divide is bridged. Without making sure that everyone is in the digital space first, we can't go digital all the way!

Community engagement, be it to improve the psychosocial wellbeing of individuals and families or to address socio-economic problems on a larger scale, has encountered many roadblocks too. Without activity-based learning and games, it requires a continuous effort, meticulous planning and grit on the part of community organizers to reinvent rules of intervention, that are both effective and practical in these uncertain times.

Pandemic has changed the fieldwork rapidly, no denying that. But the way forward is not the way back. Social Work as a profession is a resilient one. We have trudged before on the weather-beaten path, traversed cul-de-sacs with admirable tenacity, and we can do that again. Maybe while singing in our hearts, Dylan's timeless classic: "Your old road is rapidly aging', please get out of the new one, if you can't lend your hand, for the times they are a-changing'."

## FIELDWORK AT JHARCONNECT IN PANDEMIC

Rupam Sarkar  
MSW, DSSW, D.U



Raja taratari khete bos, are wait karbo na (Raja come to the table, food is served, I'm not going to wait anymore) My mother yelled at the top of her voice, when I did not respond to her multiple calls. I replied, "I am doing my fieldwork Ma, can't come now." She gave her "don't give me that attitude" look and said "In which universe does fieldwork happen in bed, sitting under the blanket." I was about to say "Ma get used to it; this is the new normal". But obviously I couldn't risk missing the yummy food that she had made.

There has been a lot of leg pulling in and outside my home regarding the online fieldwork. Especially among my friends who never got tired of calling me "blanket social worker" or "bed work". Often while calling me for football matches, they would ask if they could play in my bed, because that apparently was my field.

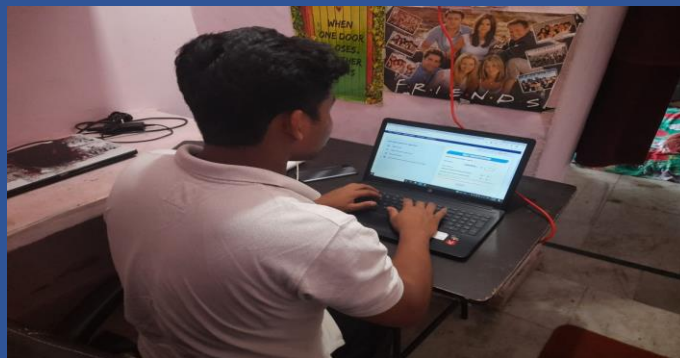
Going beyond the comical part, these comments do pose a legitimate question - can fieldwork be done sitting on bed? On a laptop or mobile? Does field only mean the physical aspect of it or like the recent trend of metaverse, fieldwork can be in digital medium also? And most importantly, do I necessarily have to go to the dinner table every time food is served or given the importance of my fieldwork, food can be served in my bed on Tuesdays and Thursdays, given that I take full responsibility of cleaning the bed sheet if curry is spilled on it?

It took me two waves of Covid, eight months of fieldwork, a couple of abusive calls and multiple slaps from my mother to get the answers to all these questions,

which out of generosity, I am going to share with you.

As part of my concurrent fieldwork in first semester I worked at Azim Premji foundation's Jharconnect project. The project focused in the area of government entitlements. The project had a tie up with SWAN which helped the migrant laborers to return home during the lockdown. Jharconnect volunteers initially called these returned laborers to help them with various entitlements like ration cards, MGNREGA, pensions and shramik cards. We filled online forms, spoke with the officials to get the pending applications passed, threatened the ration dealer to lodge a complaint when they didn't provide full ration, joked with the elderly who were waiting for their pensions while filling their forms, and faced the abuses from the clients who thought it was a fraud call. We delivered rations, resumed pensions, got people jobs under MGNREGA, got their houses constructed under PM Awas - all while sitting on the bed, wrapped under warm comfy blankets, through phone calls and government websites. That was my fieldwork.

Same was true for many of my classmates. Some were taking sessions on cancer awareness on zoom, some were analysing data for research, some working in remote child line call centers as part of their fieldwork. The pandemic has changed the perception that to do fieldwork, one necessarily has to go to the field physically. One laptop or phone, an active agency and willingness to do good to society is enough for an effective fieldwork.



## DIGITAL SOCIAL WORK

Zehra Naqvi

BSW, B.R Ambedkar College, DU



Considering the development in each and every field in this 21<sup>st</sup> century which is full of hush and rush, its commendable how social work has frequently adapted to this advancing technological culture. In the primitive era no one could have imagined social work through this medium. Even during such tough times, we have come across several techniques and strategies to help them, out in every possible way to uplift and empower people living in different communities without considering or differentiating on any racial or cultural basis.

Talking about field work which is a very important part of the social work practice especially for social work students, I still remember all of my classmates being in utter chaos when the lockdown was initiated, resulting in shutting down of all the educational institutions worldwide. Never imagined field work online so there was a lot of curiosity to know how things will move on.

Through the support and guidance of our college supervisor I got placed in NADA India foundation. As I was in my hometown throughout the lockdown period, our agency supervisor assigned us various tasks by dividing groups according to our states. In the initial days of field work taking care of all the necessary Covid precautions. I visited PHC (public health care) in a nearby village to know about NCD's and other common diseases in the town, also visited the district hospital to know about the Covid conditions. As a peer educator, during my virtual field work I have worked on NCD's related issues through CBAC (Community based assessment checklist) and learnt how the consumption

of tobacco and alcohol increase the risk of NCD's in youth and elderly. I made a Google form as a CBAC and circulated it among our friends and relatives to check the responses of people of different age group. The questions asked in the form were about their health rating, sleeping hours. If they have ever undergone any drug, exercise routine or alcohol consumption. The identity of the person was completely confidential. Also worked with Asha workers and further learned about their immense contribution throughout this phase as a frontline worker.

Also, in this online mode I collaborated with Milestone Ngo, which is a Delhi based NGO, and worked for the upliftment and education of small children who were in dire need of guidance during COVID-19. We are continuing the classes in physical mode now in Kali Bari Basti every Wednesday and Friday.

I was fortunate enough that I got various opportunities to be a part of several national seminars, webinars and workshops which were very informative and enlightening.

# NAPSWI

In earlier times fund raising or as we called it "Chanda" collection when we were small was the only way to help people in need, how tough it would be to collect money from door to door in such difficult times considering all necessary Covid precautions if technology or digital platform were absent. Social media and various other platforms made it easy for us, in a lot of ways.

Considering the mental health and social work interventions in dealing with the clients, social work professionals have admirably helped people through regular online sessions and workshops which really helped people in coping up with their anxieties and dilemma.

## EVOLVING FIELDWORK DURING THE PANDEMIC

Ms. R. SUBHASHINI IMRAN

PhD Scholar, Presidency College  
(Autonomous)



In the new pandemic scenario, fieldwork has changed dramatically, with the distinctive rise of e-learning, whereby research is undertaken remotely and on digital platforms. The need for increased connection was clear at the beginning of the pandemic situation. During the pandemic, social media engagement increased more than ever, all over the world.

The fieldwork has become much easier for researchers during the pandemic era. Pandemic has provided many opportunities for the researchers to access online practice such as Google Meet, zoom, cisco, WebEx, video conferencing, Twitter, Facebook, WhatsApp, and Instagram. In fact, the pandemic era has connected the globe too close towards the research. For the young researchers, plenty of national & international seminars, conferences, webinars, FDPs, are conducted and connected all over the globe to shape and enhance the research. Nothing can stop the research because it is a continuous process in all the sectors of the world.

### Benefits in the research during Pandemic:

- To use online survey tools or doing content analyses using existing online interactions as research materials
- Connected the whole world at its own pace to do fieldwork through (google docs, forms, google meet, zoom)
- Interviews have been conducted by phone or Skype for a long time

- Researchers started to google and founded many digital apps, libraries, books to explore their research
- Access to the online platform in an effective way
- Increased social interaction in social media and connectivity with people
- Time-saving
- Money-saving
- Learned how to tackle the time-being situations
- Increased critical thinking
- Feel from stress & anxiety

My own experience as a researcher, as I'm a full-time researcher in English Language Teaching (Reading Skills) in Presidency College (Autonomous), University of Madras, Chennai has been intriguing. During the pandemic era, my research has changed into new paradigm shift. It's a fact, that the pandemic has changed drastically my fieldwork especially in my research and tuned me in an effective way. Pandemic helped me to think in new perspectives, and I'm especially proud to share that I have introduced an innovative reading technique *called* "Two-fold Reading Technique (Advance 2020)".

During the pandemic, I have collected a lot of information and data through online mode throughout the world. To conclude, really the pandemic has changed research field in an innovative way for all the researchers in their fieldwork.

## SHIFTING DIGITALLY FOR THE FIELDWORK

Ankita Konar

BSW, RKMVERI, WEST BENGAL

As the fast paced technologically mounted all over the world, the demand for a holistic development using new means of technology became evident. This resulted, in spreading the concept of digitalization far and wide. With onset of COVID-19 and the subsequent lockdown, the idea of going digital for all basic activities of life has been more common than ever. In such a condition, we as individuals or as organisation have accepted the new normal in the digitalized way. With all this being stated, one important factor that comes into each of our minds is accepting the digitalized form of social work.

For the first time when I thought of the digitalization of my area of study that is social work, I felt kind a weird considering the fact that social work always meant something that was to be done in person, on field and with the masses. But, with Covid ruling the globe, I was sure my ideology was in need of change. That was exactly when I did the easiest thing I could, i.e.; googled up this “digital social work”. Weirdly enough this concept of digital social wasn’t all that new to the dictionaries, in fact it was a pre-existing concept and I believe it will only continue to be a more prominent concept in the future.

The basic idea of digital social work can be nicknamed as social work 2.0. Here the very concept of digital social work envisages all the new technological ideas and practices that can be implemented in such a way that it can meet up with the changing needs in a meaningful way using user friendly technology.

Having quenched my curious mind with the basic idea of digital social work, I had this keen desire to dwell deeper into the ideas and practices of social work



through digital platform. My very next step towards knowing more started with my online hunt of various social work internship through online platforms. During my hunt of different social work internships, I came to know how wonderfully different NGOs are performing social work even in this confined lockdown condition. Taking this opportunity, I decided on investing my spare time of the day in doing what I best love- “Spreading smiles”.

I had applied for these digital social work internships, and I was blessed enough to be chosen by Bhumi for an online teaching internship under the project Ignite of Bhumi. In this opportunity, I had to teach computer to orphan children living in orphanage homes all around the nation. Prior to the outbreak of COVID-19, these classes were taken by the volunteers in offline modes. But, since the spread of Coronavirus all over the world, it was near to impossible to continue the classes in the offline mode. Thus, taking up this golden opportunity, the NGO pledged- The vehicles on roads might stop, but the education of children should never stop! It personally felt so surreal to be on the other side of the teaching desk. Life is always uncertain, but our existence through life should certainly impact others around. With these noble thoughts in heart, I embraced this opportunity with an open heart and a giving mind. Certainly, I had a sense of loss as I wasn't able to personally contact these flowering buds of little children, but surely, I felt blessed to have shared a virtual smile with them! We as humans bind ourselves into a never-ending process of growing and grooming, and everyone would agree to the fact that education is the best method for any individual to grow. Thus, performing social work needn't always demand your physical presence, but surely it will demand for your mental accord.

My pledge of spreading smile didn't restrict itself to education alone. My little heart reached out to all the people who were fighting hard against the devastating fangs of Covid-19. Thus, I searched for opportunities that would allow me to interact with the COVID infected people and help them overcome these hard

times. I am thus, a presently volunteer under NITI Aygo's Surakshit Hum Surakshit Tum Abhiyan. Under this, I have been making calls to know about the conditions of previously or presently infected people and motivate them to get vaccinated for a better future.

These beautiful opportunities helped me grow as an individual and also made me realise social work is all about helping. It doesn't matter how remote area you or your beneficiaries might be from, as long as you are willing to strive for the betterment of society, you can always do that even from the comfort of your own bed through this digital mode of social work. It's all about a caring heart, that's willing to console an ailing soul.

NAPSWI

## SECURING SOCIAL JUSTICE DURING PANDEMIC

Shubham Shekhar  
MSW, DSSW, D.U.



Women constitute half of the population but her situation remains a subsidiary of men from thousands of years ago. Her role in decision making in day-to-day affairs of society remains very minimal, in most cases she nods her head and it is understood as consent in marriage and division of wealth and other social needs in respect of boys. As per UN Women Organization, domestic violence, also called domestic abuse or intimate partner violence, is any pattern of behaviour that is used to gain or maintain power and control over an intimate partner. It encompasses all physical, sexual, emotional, economic, and psychological actions or threat of actions that influence another person. This is one of the most common forms of violence experienced by women globally. Psychological violence involves causing fear by intimidation, threatening physical harm to self, partner, or children, or forcing isolation from friends, family, school, and work. Emotional violence includes undermining a person's self-worth through constant criticism; belittling one's abilities, name calling or other verbal abuse; damaging a partner relationship with children; or not letting partner see friends and family. Physical violence constitutes hurting or trying to hurt a partner by hitting, kicking, burning, grabbing, pinching, shoving, slapping, hair pulling, biting, denying medical care or forcing alcohol or drug use, or using other physical force. It may include property damage. Sexual violence involves non-consensual sex with partner.

During the first phase of Covid lockdown, in our country women filed more domestic violence complaints than recorded in a similar period in the last 10 years. In 2020, between March 25 and May 31, 1,477 complaints of domestic violence were made by women. Under reporting among the 14.3% of victims who sought help, only 7% reached out to relevant authorities- like police, doctors, lawyers, or social service organizations. But more than 90% of the victims sought help only from their immediate family (June 22,2020. The Hindu).

The national commission of women rights received 23,722 complaints of crimes committed against women in 2020, the highest in the last six years; nearly one fourth of the total complaints were domestic violence, according to NCW data. Among states, the highest number of complaints were received of domestic violence from Uttar Pradesh followed by Delhi, Haryana and Maharashtra. In those 23,722 complaints, 7,708 complaints were received under the right to live with dignity clause, it takes into account the emotional abuse of women and 5,294 complaints were related to domestic violence ( January 03, 2021 Hindustan Times).

Therefore, for a better understanding of domestic violence we should start to understand the society, which is called ‘the process of social learning’ look at the historical process in social context, structure, how it was created? There is a need to focus on belongingness, with identification of complexities.

Currently, as I’m working with Action India, which functions in many Mahila Panchayats to protect women from domestic violence, I participated as a trainee social worker by giving them knowledge about menstrual hygiene, supporting the survivor psychologically and monitoring them. When I interviewed the first Covid-19 lockdown domestic violence survivor, who faced mental, verbal, physical and emotional violence during the lockdown in June, 2020. She was almost on the verge of dying, and suddenly she met with a mahila panchayat member and was rescued.

Several interviews are done to collect information about the survivors, because their condition is very fragile, the intensity of violence they face is very high and inhuman, justice is a mirage for them, because of the very long hearings and a gap in hearings takes many years to get the relief from judiciary, in many cases justice is delivered but does not get implemented. I cannot forget the words of a survivor, once she told me that, ‘I know what to do, but how I will do it’?

After hundreds of such caseworks during the pandemic, I observed that women have no control over their body and mind. After marriage there is pressure for children which hampers her health, education and professional career. She has been threatened and beaten if a girl child is born, many survivors have been deserted due to this reason, girls are taken as a burden due to social customs and tradition, as she would not take the family clan forward, high dowry is also one of the important reasons.

After this fieldwork experience as a social worker, I realized that the main reason of persistence of this chain of violence is our faulty education system, opportunity of employment, societal norms, traditions and many more. Our education system is very biased towards gender, it does not address gender issues in very scientific way. Therefore, it was an eye-opening experience.

Concept of social justice in a comprehensive manner and intellectual manner equipped with logic, reasoning, in addition it deals with what capacity, what mind of individual psycho thinking’. How does an individual deal with structural issues, and how does he/she see its different perspective? is what really matters at the end of the day.

## DIGITILAZATION OF SOCIAL WORK: IT'S IMPACT ON FIELD WORK DURING PANDEMIC PRACTICE IN RURAL COMMUNITIES

Srilita Ghosh & Arnab Sanyal

MSW, Visva-Bharati University, W.B.

Fieldwork practicum is an integral part of Social Work. As this pandemic has wrecked the normal rhythm of this world, we have adopted new techniques to continue our education as well as our profession. During this pandemic, digitalization becomes inextricably linked in every aspect of our lives. The digitalization in the education system has affected the learning process of the students, especially the students of practical-oriented disciplines like social work. In digital social work, practising fieldwork becomes very challenging, especially in rural communities. Before the pandemic, the student social workers used to apply different social work methods like casework, group work and community organisation etc. in order to resolve the problems of the rural masses during their fieldwork practice. But this deadly coronavirus compelled to change the entire process of fieldwork practice. In the context of South Asian countries like India, a large number of people reside in the villages. Most of the time, they face difficulties in getting food, medical care, education and other basic amenities. In this situation, the smartphone and internet services seem luxurious to them. It is hardly possible for the student social workers to intervene in those problems in rural communities and perform those methods digitally. To control this deadly coronavirus, the government announced a nationwide lockdown for which a huge number of people lost their jobs. Rural people weren't the exception. Difficulties overflowed in their lives, as they broke down financially which led to

deteriorating their mental state also. This was the time when they need the student social workers most. But the digital fieldwork was not suitable for directly reaching out to the rural masses among whom the majority is under "below poverty line (BPL)" and they cannot afford the smartphone and internet facilities. But through some innovative thoughts and ways, these issues can get a partial solution. The resource persons of the villages can be contacted over the phone by the student social workers. At the request and initiative of the student social workers, they can take some steps towards solving the problems of the villagers. They can aware the villagers through the Asha workers or other front-line workers to maintain the health guidelines by the government to get rid of the virus and other possible facilities like any information regarding any schemes, pensions or other necessities can be provided by the student social workers through the resource persons. Also, the student social workers can contact some NGOs who can take the initiative to fix some of the issues of the villagers as possible. In this paper, the authors are going to discuss the various limitations towards a fruitful fieldwork practicum in rural communities during this digitalization era but also some possible way outs which can be a weapon against all these barriers.

## SOCIAL WORK AND GOOD GOVERNANCE

Priyanka Roy

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The way in which our society governs itself has undergone a quiet revolution over the last two decades. Society is in the midst of a paradigm shift from what is known as a 'Government' paradigm to what is being called a 'Governance' paradigm. The 'Governance' concept is as old as human civilization- it defines the process of decision-making and the process by which decisions are implemented. Government is one of the actors in Governance. It defines 'Good Governance' as 'equality' or "the manner in which power is exercised in the management of a country's economic and social resources for development". 'Social work' is only part of the 'Good Governance' story. The 'social work' will bring the 'Good Governance' with rigorous accountability culture if the rulers where the common would be heard and counted. It has always been recognized to be a critical tool for advancing sustainable development and it requires a long and broad perspective on its needs, full protection of human rights, institutions and processes try to serve all stakeholders within a reasonable time frame. It provides quantifiable data to compare the state of governance in all states and assures that corruption is minimized the views of minorities are taken into account and that the voices of the most vulnerable in society are heard in decision making. The COVID-19 pandemic has shown where the cracks lie in the interrelated levels of global, national and local governance. As an example, in 1665 when the 'Plague' swept England, Londoners were asked by authorities to kill cats and dogs. These moves were famously counterproductive, not only choking the afflicted by crucially allowing them free. 'Governance' has moved on since the times of Restoration England, but its coordination will be crucial to passing the test of COVID-19. The Pandemic also lays bare the existing structural inequalities of the global economy perpetuated by neoliberal economic



development policies that have weakened state capacities to respond to this global crisis. With the absence of a coordinated global response, we are seeing a return from ‘Governance’ to ‘Government’. The term ‘Good Governance’ often evokes the mental image of a well-functioning political system where individuals play a more important role than one might think, particularly in regard to institutional effectiveness, quality of education and student employability. There is no doubt that nurturing the element of the rule of law is extremely important as part of ‘Good Governance’ for the promotion of human rights that elements should not merely imply, respect for the national law but rather of law which is consistent with the international human rights framework. ‘Govern’ is to choose but the governments should assess the consequences of their actions against the well-being of the most at-risk from the social and economic costs of the policy responses to the virus but this doesn’t mean that everyone will be protected as they should receive the benefits government. However, to ensure sustainable human development, actions must be taken to work towards this ideal with the aim of making it a reality. In a collaborative way, both social workers and government agencies promote, strengthen, support and maintain a variety of roles and responsibilities to provide client-focused social services, social workers assist with conflict resolution, community work, work with organizations and counsel people, it tries to minimize the social problems and inequalities than an economic system that is not fair produces. ‘Social work’ support human especially socially disadvantaged people cope with their inability to meet basic needs. On the other hand, ‘Good Governance’ describes how public institutions conduct public affairs and manage public resources. The social worker will bring the ‘Good Governance’ with rigorous accountability culture of the rulers where the commons would be heard and counted if there is no accountability culture of the rulers come from the mafia doctrine and loot the people at large and deprive them of their basic rights and needs. It can achieve higher levels of ‘Good Governance’

even by completely neglecting those who are socially disadvantaged but improving social works ultimately will improve 'Good Governance'.

NAPSWI

## INDIAN DEFINITION OF SOCIAL WORK

Professional Social Work is based on democratic values, humanitarian philosophy with a central focus on human relationships and human dignity. In India, the profession of social work draws its strengths from indigenous wisdom, scientific knowledge base, and constitutional commitment for equality, social justice, and human rights. Its professional practice contributes to macro-level understanding and policy change while continuing to focus on people at the individual, group, and community levels. As a profession, its interaction enriches institutions and systems at all levels through culturally responsive interventions that aim at individual and social wellbeing. Its central concerns are empowerment of vulnerable, oppressed, and marginalised sections of our communities, and as a practice, it endeavours to partake in social change, sustainable development through participatory and collaborative processes with people in need, institutions, and the state.

**Adopted by NAPSWI, in 2018, at the 6th Indian Social Work Congress, Delhi**

## GLOBAL DEFINITION OF THE SOCIAL WORK

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 knowledge, social work engages people and structures to address life challenges and enhance wellbeing. The above definition may be amplified at national and/or regional levels.

**Jointly adopted by International Federation of Social Workers (IFSW) and International Association of Schools of Social Work (IASSW), in 2014.**

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## TESTIMONIALS

"It's a great platform to gain knowledge on general facts in common. As a student social worker from Sri Lanka, I am so proud and really happy about my participation. Keep it up!"

**Kishorthana Sivananda**  
*National Institute of  
Social Development  
(NISD), Sri Lanka*

"My experience with NAPSWI has been amazing, I felt honour and privilege to have participated in the debate competition organised by them. The judges and associated members of the event, being in their presence - all provided prestige. Hoping to be a part of more such inspiring endeavours of NAPSWI."

**Pakshalika Mansingh,**  
*University of Lucknow*

The events and workshops under the students' forum provided me with the platform to develop professional, management, and social development skills. I got the opportunity to develop an all-around knowledge base of the profession and participating in competition boosted my self-confidence.

**Tripti Pandey,**  
*Banasthali Vidyapeeth*

Email us at [napswimail2020@gmail.com](mailto:napswimail2020@gmail.com) for comments & suggestions!

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