



Legal Literacy for Social Workers

A comprehensive primer on key legislations every practitioner must know to navigate the complex legal framework governing social work practice in India.

Series of Training Workshops

Organised by

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF PROFESSIONAL SOCIAL WORKERS IN INDIA
(NAPSWI)

2nd and 4th Sunday of every month



**Scan to register
for free**

KEY FEATURES OF WORKSHOPS

Comprehensive Series: An extensive 22-part workshop series designed to cover the entire legal framework relevant to social work practice.

Completely Free: Professional-grade training offered at zero cost to participants for this entire year.

Earn Certifications: Participants receive a dedicated Certificate of Completion after finishing each individual workshop in the series.

Resource Handbooks: Attendees get an exclusive, practice-oriented Handbook containing the Act, tools, and checklists after every session.

Field Application: The curriculum moves beyond "what the law says" to teach "how to use it" in daily field scenarios.

Real-World Case Studies: Learning is anchored in authentic case studies, true incidents, and actual challenges faced by workers.

Practitioner-Led: Sessions are conducted by experienced panelists who are active practitioners in the field.

Actionable Tools: Gain concrete skills in documentation, report filing (SIR/DIR), and navigating institutional procedures.

Bridging the Gap: Directly addresses the critical gap between academic theory and the realities of professional practice.

The Critical Gap in Social Work Practice

The Context

Social work practice does not happen in a vacuum; it is deeply embedded in a complex legal framework that shapes every professional decision. From conducting a home visit to facilitating a counselling session, each action a social worker takes is governed by specific statutes and regulations that protect both clients and practitioners.

Understanding this legal landscape is not merely an academic exercise—it is the foundation upon which ethical, effective, and safe practice is built. The intersection of social work values and legal requirements creates a professional space where practitioners must navigate carefully to serve their clients whilst protecting themselves.

The Problem

A new graduate's single biggest source of professional risk, and simultaneously their greatest source of power to protect clients, is their understanding of the law. However, many students complete their degrees with only theoretical knowledge of key acts, leaving them unprepared for the realities of field practice.

This knowledge gap creates a dangerous paradox: practitioners either fear acting due to potential legal repercussions, or worse, act incorrectly without understanding the consequences. Both scenarios can lead to serious outcomes for clients and practitioners alike, undermining the very foundation of social work practice.

Transforming Knowledge into Professional Confidence

Lasting Impact

Legal literacy is not merely a technical skill—it is the foundation of ethical, effective, and sustainable social work practice. By equipping practitioners with comprehensive understanding of key legislations, this workshop transforms the law from a source of anxiety into a powerful tool for client advocacy and protection.

Participants emerge with practical knowledge that immediately enhances their fieldwork capabilities, strengthens their professional profiles, and increases their employability in India's evolving social work landscape.

The Path Forward

The investment in legal literacy creates ripple effects throughout a practitioner's career. Confident, legally-informed social workers make better decisions, advocate more effectively, protect vulnerable populations more thoroughly, and contribute to raising professional standards across the sector.

This workshop represents a critical step in professionalising social work practice in India, ensuring that every practitioner possesses the legal knowledge necessary to serve clients with competence, confidence, and integrity.

Workshop Aims & Comprehensive Objectives

Primary Aim

To equip social work students with a strong foundational and practical understanding of the key legislations that directly impact their fieldwork and future careers, thereby enhancing their competence and employability in India's diverse social work sector.

01

Deconstruct Core Provisions

To systematically break down definitions, key stakeholders, and provisions in the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, POCSO Act, Domestic Violence Act, and Mental Healthcare Act, ensuring comprehensive understanding of each statute's scope and application.

03

Explain Practical Procedures

To explain the step-by-step "how-to" of using these laws in practice, including filing reports correctly, identifying Protection Officers, understanding the Child Welfare Committee's role, and navigating institutional procedures effectively.

02

Clarify Professional Duties

To provide absolute clarity on a social worker's legal and ethical duties, with particular emphasis on mandatory reporting obligations, confidentiality boundaries, and professional liability across different practice contexts.

04

Analyse Intersectionality

To examine how these laws overlap and interact through authentic, real-world case studies that demonstrate the complexity of practice situations where multiple statutes may apply simultaneously.

Building Legal Literacy: A Transformative Solution

Practical Focus

Moving beyond theoretical knowledge to real-world application and daily practice scenarios

Employability Boost

Massive value-add for career readiness and professional confidence in the field

Empowerment

Transforming legal knowledge into professional power to protect clients effectively

This series of intensive workshop serves as a cornerstone for professional development, designed to build comprehensive "legal literacy" amongst emerging social work practitioners. Rather than simply teaching "what the law says," this programme emphasises "what this means for daily practice," creating a bridge between statutory requirements and field realities.

The workshop addresses the critical gap between academic preparation and professional practice by providing a clear, practical, and practitioner-focused primer on the "non-negotiable" laws that govern the profession. Participants emerge as confident, competent, and legally-informed professionals who understand both their obligations and the protections available to them and their clients.

By demystifying complex legislation and translating it into actionable knowledge, this programme empowers students to act decisively and ethically in challenging situations. The focus remains firmly on practical application: understanding not just what the law requires, but how to implement these requirements in diverse field settings across India's varied social work landscape.

Expert Resource Persons: Bridging Theory & Practice

The workshop requires a carefully curated panel that bridges the gap between legal theory and field reality, bringing together complementary expertise to create a comprehensive learning experience for participants.

1

The Legal Expert

Role: Teaches "what the law is"

Professional Background: Qualified lawyer or advocate specialising in respective workshop topics/Acts, ideally affiliated with legal aid centres or advocacy-focused non-governmental organisations.

Key Contributions: This expert covers legal definitions, statutory hierarchies, procedural requirements, and consequences of non-compliance. They provide authoritative interpretation of complex legal language and clarify practitioners' legal obligations under various statutes.

Teaching Focus: Constitutional foundations, statutory frameworks, legal definitions, rights and duties, penalties and protections, and recent judicial interpretations affecting social work practice.

2

The Senior Practitioner

Role: Teaches "what the law means"

Professional Background: Senior social work professional with extensive field experience in specialised settings

Key Contributions: This expert provides the practical "how-to" of legal application and contextual implementation. They share authentic case examples, common challenges, institutional procedures, and effective strategies for navigating complex legal situations in diverse field settings.

Teaching Focus: Documentation protocols, inter-agency coordination, report writing, ethical dilemmas, client communication about legal processes, and managing professional boundaries within legal frameworks.

Training Schedule

FIRST QUARTER: CHILD RIGHTS & PROTECTION

01

The Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015

02

The Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, 2012

03

The Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act, 2009

04

Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006 & Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Amendment Act, 2016

05

The Commissions for Protection of Child Rights Act, 2005



Training Schedule

SECOND QUARTER: WOMEN'S RIGHTS & SAFETY

06

Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005 (PWDVA)

07

Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (PoSH) Act, 2013

08

Dowry Prohibition Act, 1961 & Indecent Representation of Women Act, 1986

09

Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act, 1956

10

Medical Termination of Pregnancy (MTP) Act & Maternity Benefit Act



Training Schedule

THIRD QUARTER: VULNERABLE GROUPS & HEALTH

11

Rights of Persons with Disabilities (RPWD) Act, 2016

12

Mental Healthcare Act, 2017 & The National Trust Act, 1999

13

SC/ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989

14

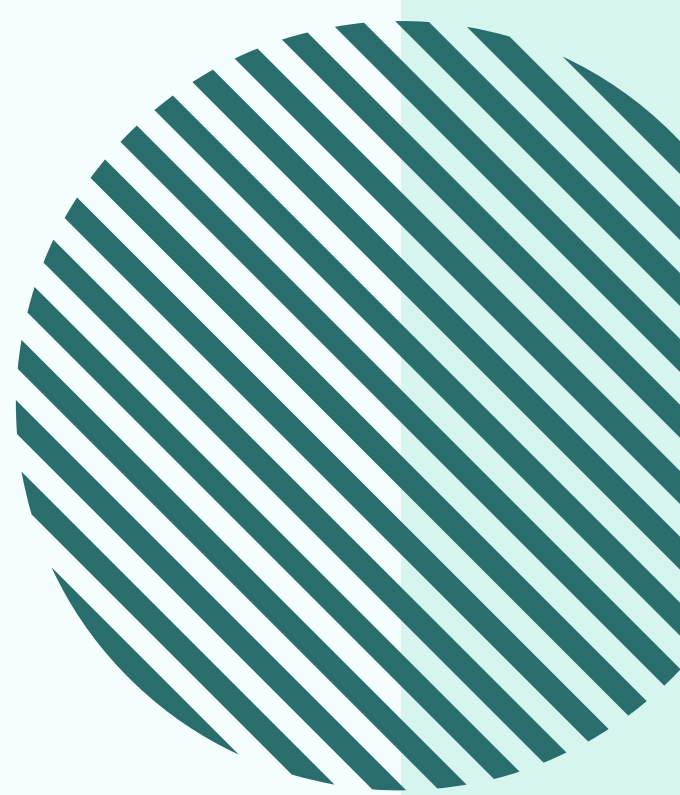
Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens Act, 2007

15

Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Act, 2019

16

HIV and AIDS (Prevention and Control) Act, 2017



Training Schedule

FOURTH QUARTER: LABOUR, FAMILY LAW & GENERAL ADVOCACY

17

MGNREGA, 2005

18

Unorganized Workers' Social Security Act & Bonded Labour System Act

19

The Code on Wages, 2019

20

Right to Information (RTI) Act, 2005 & The Companies Act (CSR Provisions)

21

The Family Courts Act, 1984 & Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987

