



NAPSWI Newsletter

September 2025

Issue 2.9

Editor's message

Dear Readers,

A very warm welcome to the September 2025 issue of the NAPSWI Newsletter!

We sincerely apologize for the delayed release of this edition. We made the decision to hold this issue back to ensure we could bring you timely and comprehensive coverage of two momentous events for our community: the prestigious Mahatma Award received by the TISS team and Shri Raghavan, and the heartfelt memorial meeting held in honour of the legendary Dr. Armaity S. Desai.

This edition is packed with insightful content. We are thrilled to celebrate the well-deserved Mahatma Award recipients and share moments from Dr. Desai's memorial, paying tribute to a visionary leader who shaped our profession. Alongside these special features, you will find a celebration of NAPSWI completing 20 remarkable years in advancing professional social work in India.

As we gear up for the 13th Indian Social Work Conference (ISWC), there are welcoming messages from our leadership and updates on exciting pre-conference events. Furthermore, this issue features a wealth of articles from esteemed professionals exploring diverse topics such as social work in healthcare, ecotherapy, rural development, and integrating social work principles into our daily lives.

We hope this issue inspires and informs you. Happy reading!

Warm regards,

The Editorial Team NAPSWI

Celebrating 20 Years of NAPSWI

We are delighted to share that NAPSWI has completed 20 remarkable years of advancing professional social work in India. To mark this milestone, The Centre for Social Work, Panjab University, Chandigarh and School of Social Sciences, TISS Guwahati campus joyfully celebrated by cutting a cake and organized formal program in their Social Work Departments. The grand celebration of NAPSWI's 20 years will be held during the 13th Indian Social Work Congress (ISWC), bringing together our community to honor this journey and renew our commitment to social work education, research, and practice.



“Cake cutting at
School of Social Sciences, TISS Guwahati
campus”

The Centre for Social Work, Panjab University, Chandigarh, organised a Special Lecture on Social Work Profession:



Opportunities and Challenges on 12th September 2025 at the Emerging Area Building. The resource person for the lecture was Prof. Sanjai Bhatt, Former Professor, Delhi School of Social Work, University of Delhi.

Prof. Bhatt began his lecture by narrating his personal and professional journey, offering valuable reflections on his years of engagement in teaching, research, and advocacy.

He emphasised that human relationships form the very foundation of social work practice, and highlighted the profession's role in addressing pressing social issues. The lecture explored how social workers engage in diverse areas such as health, education, community development, social policy, and corporate responsibility, while also confronting challenges of recognition, resources, and sustainability.



Message from NAPSWI Leaders

Dear Members and Friends,

It is with great happiness and excitement that I welcome you all to the 13th Indian Social Work Conference. This gathering is a celebration of our shared commitment to advancing social work education, research, and practice in India. I am deeply grateful to our members, collaborators, and well-wishers whose constant support makes such milestones possible. This conference is more than an academic event—it is a space for dialogue, inspiration, and solidarity. I look forward to engaging with you all as we collectively work towards an inclusive and equitable society.

*Warm regards,
President, NAPSWI*

Dear Colleagues,

On behalf of NAPSWI, I extend a heartfelt welcome to the 13th Indian Social Work Conference. It fills me with gratitude and pride to see this platform grow into a vibrant space where students, educators, and practitioners come together to share insights and strengthen our profession. I sincerely thank our members, partners, and institutions for their trust and support in this journey. This conference is an opportunity not only to learn and network but also to reaffirm the spirit of compassion, collaboration, and social justice that defines our discipline.

*With best wishes,
Secretary, NAPSWI*

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to all our members for the overwhelming response and active participation in the registration process. Your enthusiasm and commitment have brought us an incredible number of registrations, reflecting the collective spirit of our social work fraternity.

We encourage you to continue spreading the word and inspire your colleagues in social work to join us. It is because of your constant support that NAPSWI continues to grow stronger each day. Keep supporting us with your participation and contribution—together, we can make a greater impact.

Follow us on social media to stay connected with the latest news, events, and insights from India's social work community



Click on icon to connect

Thanks to supporting agencies

The National Association of Professional Social Workers in India (NAPSWI) extends its heartfelt gratitude to the host institutes for organizing insightful and engaging pre-conference seminars, which set a strong foundation for the deliberations of the conference. We also sincerely acknowledge the generous support of the Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR), whose funding made this event possible and impactful. Our special thanks go to the Odisha Professional Social Workers' Association (OPSWA), our valued Knowledge Partner, for their dedicated collaboration and contribution in enriching the conference with their expertise and commitment.

Supporting Institutes



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One-Day Lecture Session on “Technology Brings Human Happiness – A Social Work Perspective”



The PG Department of Social Work, in collaboration with Centurion University of Technology & Management, Bhubaneswar, the National Association of Professional Social Workers in India (NAPSWI), and the Odisha Professional Social Workers Association (OPSWA), organized a one-day lecture session on “Technology Brings Human Happiness – A Social Work Perspective” on 12th September 2025 at the SFC Department, Shailabala Women’s Autonomous College, Cuttack. The program, attended by around 70 participants, served as a pre-conference event for the 13th Indian Social Work Congress (ISWC), scheduled from 6th–8th November 2025 at Centurion University, Bhubaneswar.

The event was presided over by Dr. Bikash Kumar Das, Course Coordinator, SFC, with Dr. Smita Mishra Panda, Director of Research, as the Chief Guest. The Guests of Honour included Dr. Pradeep Kumar Sahoo, Organizing Secretary of the 13th ISWC, and Dr. Gayatri Pattnaik, Vice President, OPSWA.

The session began with the lighting of the lamp by the dignitaries, followed by a soulful invocation song presented by the students. In his welcome address, Dr. Bikash Kumar Das greeted the gathering, while Ms. Swati Mohanty, Coordinator, PG Department of Social Work, introduced the esteemed guests.

The lectures were rich with insights:

Dr. Sucharita Mishra, Head, Department of Sociology, spoke on the role of technology in shaping socio-cultural realities.

Mr. Bidhu Bhusan Acharya emphasized the practical significance of the topic.

Dr. Pradeep Kumar Sahoo shared details about the upcoming 13th ISWC, stressing the importance of advancing research and methodology in social work.

Dr. Gayatri Pattnaik delivered an engaging address on social work’s contribution to human happiness.

Chief Guest Dr. Smita Mishra Panda highlighted the value of interdisciplinary approaches and lauded the department’s efforts in organizing such a meaningful pre-conference event.

The program was smoothly anchored by Ms. Biswabijeta and Ms. Smarika, while Ms. Subhalaxmi proposed the Vote of Thanks, marking a graceful conclusion to a thought-provoking session.

Remembering Dr. Armaity S. Desai (1934–2025)



A Legendary Leader of Social Work in India

The National Association of Professional Social Workers in India (NAPSWI) joins the entire social work fraternity in expressing deep sorrow at the passing of Dr. Armaity S. Desai. A visionary educationist, institution-builder, and mentor to generations, she leaves behind an extraordinary legacy that has shaped the very foundations of professional social work in India.

Dr. Desai's contributions spanned over six decades of leadership and institution-building. As Principal of the College of Social Work, Nirmala Niketan, Mumbai (1957–1982), she nurtured a culture of academic excellence and field-based learning that influenced thousands of students. Her tenure as Director of the Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS), Mumbai (1982–1995) marked a period of expansion, innovation, and national recognition. Under her leadership, TISS strengthened its research base, revitalized its curriculum, and deepened its field engagement.

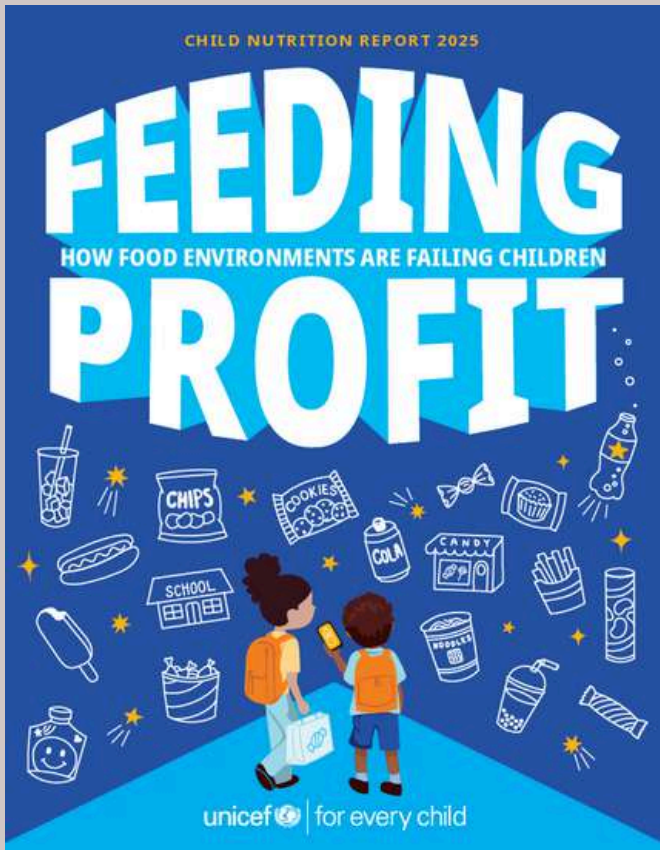
Her appointment as Chairperson of the University Grants Commission (UGC) (1995–1999) was a milestone not only for her career but for the profession as a whole. She used this national platform to advocate for social work education and policy, contributing to the professionalization and recognition of the discipline across India.

Dr. Desai's unwavering commitment to social justice, secular values, gender equity, and human rights earned her immense respect across sectors. She was not only a policy influencer and educationist, but also a mentor whose clarity, compassion, and integrity shaped generations of social work professionals.

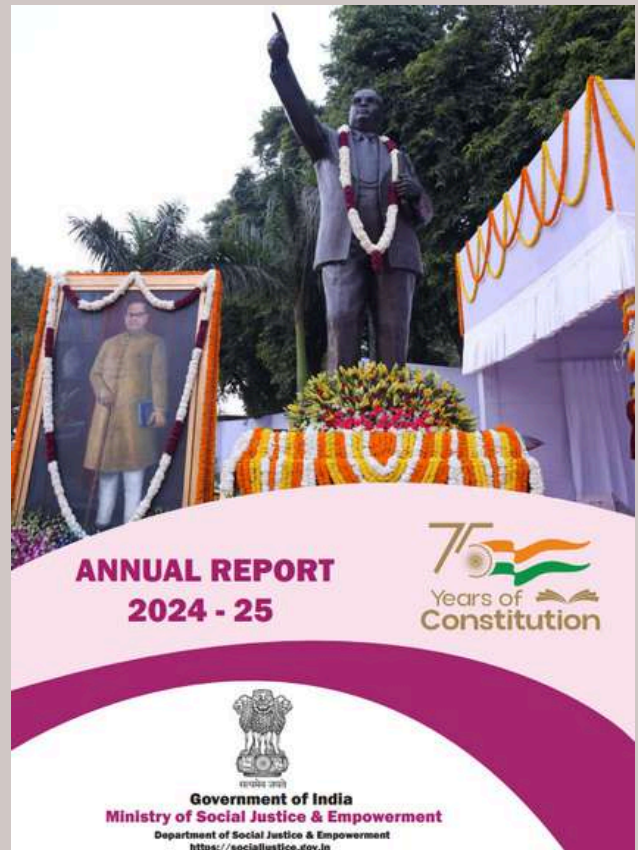
In recognition of her remarkable contributions, NAPSWI had conferred upon her its Lifetime Achievement Award—a tribute to her unparalleled influence on the profession and her role in strengthening the social work movement in India.

Dr. Armaity S. Desai's legacy lives on in the institutions she built, the policies she shaped, and the countless professionals she inspired to work towards a more just, humane, and equitable society.

Reports you can use



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We Value Your Suggestions

As we continue to bring you updates and insights through our newsletter, we would truly appreciate your suggestions on how we can make it even more meaningful and engaging. Please share your ideas on what more we could include or how we might improve. Your feedback will help us grow and ensure the newsletter reflects the interests and needs of our members.

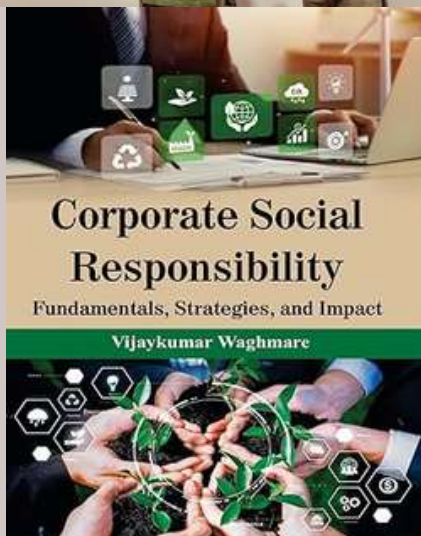
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Updates form field

A Proud Achievement: Prayas Wins Prestigious 2025 Mahatma Award

Heartfelt congratulations to Professor Vijay Raghavan and the entire Prayas team on being honored with the prestigious Mahatma Award for Social Good and Impact 2025.

This award is a significant recognition of your tireless efforts, deep commitment, and the tangible impact your work has had on society. The jury specifically noted that Prayas, a field action project of the TISS School of Social Work, was awarded for its significant social impact and for setting a shining example for others to emulate. By receiving this award, which is supported by the Aditya Birla Group, you join the esteemed ranks of past recipients like Ratan Tata, Azim Premji, and Sudha Murthy. We hope this honor serves as a call to action to continue your vital work towards justice, equity, and social betterment.



New Book on CSR by Vijaykumar Waghmare Presented in Pune

We are delighted to share the news, announced by Shri Rajiv Bhardwaj Ji of Just Rights for Children (JRC), of a significant new publication on Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR). Authored by Vijaykumar Waghmare, a faculty member in Social Work from Jalgaon, Maharashtra, the book was recently presented in Pune. It delves into the crucial shift from corporate growth based on profitability alone to a more holistic model of sustainable development that includes all stakeholders. The book thoughtfully explores the question, "Does it pay for businesses to act morally?" and demonstrates how, under the right conditions, social responsibility and profitability can go hand-in-hand. This important work aims to initiate a vital nationwide discourse on the concepts and practices of corporate social action in India.

Members Contribution

Title

Healing Beyond Medicine: The Human Touch of Social Work in Hospitals

By



Dr.G.Gayathri Ranjith



Dr.Bindya Yohannan



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In healthcare, where technology often overshadows human connection, social workers serve as a vital link between medicine and society, offering crucial emotional, social, and spiritual support to patients and families. They address non-medical challenges such as financial difficulties, cultural differences, family conflicts, and mental health issues, ensuring patients are treated holistically.

Medical social workers play a transformative role by providing emotional support, counseling, advocacy, and connecting patients to resources like financial assistance programs, rehabilitation centers, and home care services. They also assist with discharge planning, helping families transition from hospital to home. Their "human touch" is essential, as patients often remember kindness and empathy more than specific treatments.

Social workers bridge gaps in complex healthcare systems, simplifying information, advocating for patients, and guiding them through difficult decisions. Case illustrations highlight their impact in crisis support for accident victims, ongoing assistance for chronic illness patients, and end-of-life care in palliative settings, emphasizing their role in restoring dignity and hope.

Despite their critical contributions, social workers face challenges such as high caseloads, undervalued roles, limited resources, and emotional burnout due to constant exposure to trauma. The future of hospital social work involves deeper integration into healthcare teams, supported by digital tools, interdisciplinary collaboration, and policy recognition. Ultimately, social workers are indispensable in hospitals, bringing a healing dimension beyond medical treatment by ensuring patients and families feel supported, respected, and empowered through compassion and empathy.

Title
Organisation and functional aspects of medical social work in India

By
Dr Mukesh Kumar



There are three major and interconnected facets of medical social work: organization of social work services; functions which reveal the purpose of the profession; and educational endeavors to produce trained manpower for the growth of the profession. Generally, the services of trained social workers in medical settings are organized in medical social welfare units that function under the administrative control of hospital authorities. The support of these units comes from the hospital budgets and donations from other sources. Organization within the medical social welfare units differs according to the size of the staff and the scope and purpose of the medical institution. Some have only one or two social workers; others have a chief or in charge assisted with trained social workers, clerical staff and volunteers. In some hospitals MSWs assume varied duties while in others they are placed in different departments like pediatrics, cardiac, orthopedics, oncology, psychiatry, community medicine, organ transplantation etc.

The majority of activities of social workers in hospitals involve direct services to patients and families such as psychosocial assessment; counseling; case work; crisis intervention; group therapy; referral; resource mobilization & linkages; rehabilitation; advocacy; awareness generation, health education and so on. At times, they are involved in programme planning, administration, teaching, supervision and research. Mostly, the referrals of patients to social worker are made by treating physician for issues related to financial assistance, accommodation, guidance about hospital procedures, community resources etc.

Trained social workers take up the educational responsibility for giving the interpretation of the personal and environmental difficulties of patients to the medical and other healthcare personnel. They provide supervision to social work students placed for field work training and give valuable inputs from the field so that social work education becomes relevant to the needs of people.

Title

Bridging Care and Compassion: Social Work in Health Settings

By



Dr. R. Mahendranath Chowdary



In today's rapidly changing India, social workers play a critical role in bridging care and compassion within health settings. As per the latest Census trends and data from NITI Aayog, India continues to face major health disparities across regions, especially among rural populations, women, and marginalized communities. Social workers serve as vital connectors between the health system and the community, ensuring that government schemes such as Ayushman Bharat, POSHAN Abhiyaan, and the National Health Mission reach the last mile.

India's cultural and community dynamics demand that health care be not just clinical but also compassionate. Social workers understand local languages, beliefs, and customs, making them effective in counselling, spreading awareness, and promoting preventive health practices. They address both physical and mental health, ensuring holistic care.

Environmental changes and urbanization have introduced new health risks—ranging from pollution-linked illnesses to lifestyle diseases. In such a context, social workers support affected families, advocate for cleaner environments, and promote behaviour change through grassroots interventions.

In alignment with SDG 2030 goals—especially Goal 3 (Good Health and Well-being) and Goal 10 (Reduced Inequalities)—social workers actively promote equitable access to healthcare. Government bodies like NITI Aayog emphasize integrated, inclusive development, and social work contributes directly to these national priorities.

Ultimately, in hospitals, communities, and policy spaces, social workers are the human face of the health system—ensuring no one is left behind by linking services with empathy, empowerment, and social justice.

Title
A Green Home for Ecotherapy

By
Tony Issac

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"A Green Home for Ecotherapy" by Tony Issac explores the profound healing power of nature, contrasting the concept of a "house" as a mere dwelling with "home" as a place of love, peace, and joy. The author emphasizes that the environment serves as our ultimate "home," a vital source of protection and nurture.

The article highlights the growing global mental health crisis, noting that nearly a billion people suffer from mental health conditions with significant treatment gaps. Issac proposes that beyond traditional medication and therapies, the natural environment offers an accessible, affordable, and non-judgmental healing resource.

Spending time in nature can act as a "laboratory, microscope, and mirror of the self," helping individuals navigate uncertainties, identity crises, and daily pressures. Solitude in green spaces fosters self-understanding, challenges beliefs, and reforms lifestyles. Simple acts like a brisk walk in a forest can reveal inner "noises" and egoistic attitudes.

The "Butterfly Effect" illustrates how individual "micro behaviors" in daily life impact the entire planet and ecosystem. The article then lists numerous benefits of solitude in nature, including heightened self-awareness, enhanced creativity, emotional regulation, and mindful living.

Issac encourages readers to "Go for a Date with Nature," suggesting imaginative ways to connect with the natural world, such as hugging a river or inviting a bird for coffee. Such simple joys contribute to overall well-being.

Finally, the article stresses the importance of "Resilience, Recovery, and Recharge" through greater exposure to the natural environment. Scientific studies, like those in Scientific Reports, confirm that greener urban areas are linked to lower probabilities of various health issues. The author concludes with a call to action, encouraging readers to embrace nature for improved mental health, echoing William Butler Yeats' poem "The Lake Isle of Innisfree."

Title
**SPIRITUALITY IN THE
WORKPLACE**

By
Dr. Kumaraswamy. C

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Spirituality encompasses the recognition of a feeling or sense or belief that there is something greater than myself, something more to being human than sensual experience, and that the better complete of which we are part is cosmic or divine in nature. Spirituality in the workplace needs a holistic approach to work and other areas of life. It identifies that what happens outside of work influences the state of the organization and vice versa. Such a viewpoint brings many benefits to the workers and the workplace as a whole.

As Mitroff & Denton says that “Workplace spirituality encompasses the effort to find one's ultimate purpose in life, to develop a robust connection to co-workers and other people accompanying with work, and to have reliability with consistency (or alignment) between one's core beliefs and the values of their organization. (Mitroff & Denton, 1999)”

As best practice in work place, developing a spiritual practice can help you to connect with our progressive purpose, find sense in your work, and develop a better sense of calm and well-being. Workplace spirituality can also improve communication and relations with co-workers, and increase job gratification with professionally and productivity. For example, spirituality involves discovering certain universal themes like love, compassion, self-sacrifice, life after death, wisdom and truth, with the knowledge that some people such as saints or enlightened individuals have achieved and manifested higher levels of development than the ordinary person.

How to implement workplace spirituality; In development process, connect your work to the value system and Look at things positively. As worker, treat others well and respect each other. Get to know coworkers, take some time for self and speak to seniors or coworkers and boss about ideas you have to spread workplace spirituality.

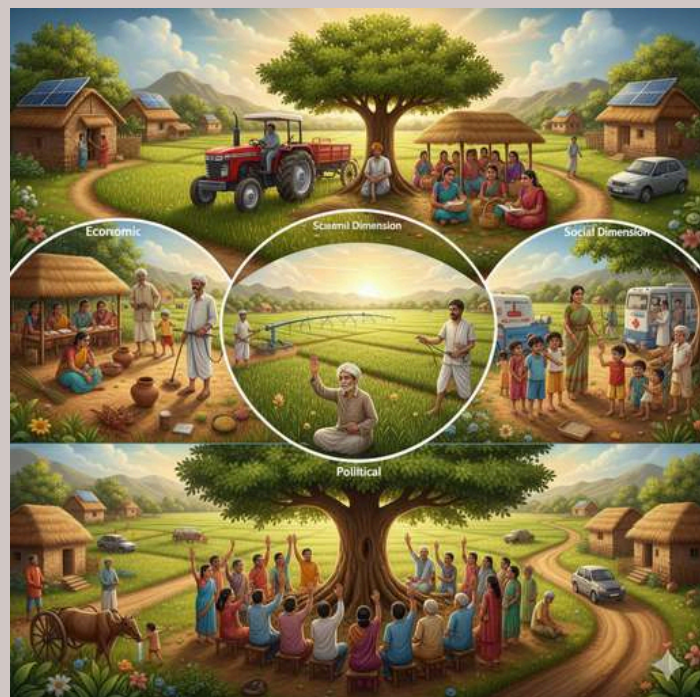
Title

Rural development

By

Dr. Shailesh Brahmhatt

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Rural development is the process of improving the quality of life and economic well being of people living in rural areas. According to 2011 Census 68.84% of population lives in villages. The backwardness of the rural sector would be a major impediment to the overall progress of the economy. India is predominately an agricultural country and farming is their main occupation. According to 2011 Agricultural Census of India, an estimated 61.5% dependent on agriculture. Technical developments in field of agriculture have increased the gap between the rich and poor, as the better off farmers adopted modern farm technology to a greater extent than the small farmers. The all India Rural Credit Review Committee in its report warned

“If the fruits of development continue to be denied to the large sections of rural community, while prosperity accrues to some, the tensions social and economic may not only upset the process of orderly and peaceful change in the rural economy but even frustrate the national affords to set up agricultural production.” Report of the All India Rural Credit Committee, New Delhi, 2003 has rightly pointed out that a purely agricultural country remains backward even in respect of agriculture. Most of the labour force in India depends on agriculture, not because it is remunerative but because there are no alternative employment opportunities.

This is a major cause for the backwardness of Indian agriculture. A part of the labour force now engaged in agriculture needs to be shifted to non-agricultural occupations. Until the 1970s, rural development was synonymous with agricultural development and hence focused on increasing agricultural production. Today, Inclusive rural development is more specific concept than the concept of rural development of earlier, in broader terms, inclusive rural development is about improving the quality of life of all rural people. More specifically, inclusive rural development covers three different but interrelated dimensions: Economic dimension, Social dimension and Political dimension. Economic dimension encompasses providing both capacity and opportunities for the poor and low-income households in particular, benefit from the economic growth. Social dimension supports social development of poor and low-income households, promotes gender equality and women’s empowerment and provides social safety nets for vulnerable groups. Political dimension improves the opportunities for the poor and low income people in rural areas to effectively and equally participate the political processes at the village level.

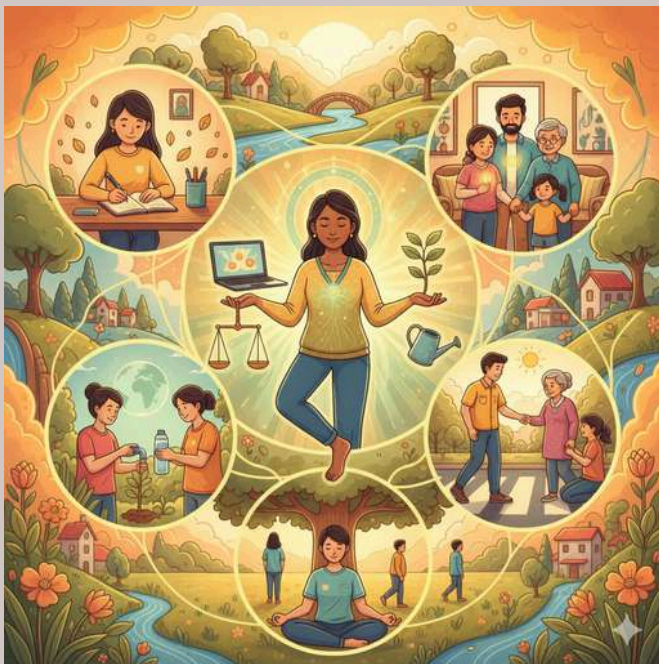
Title

Living Lifestyle Social Work (LSW): How Daily Habits Can Strengthen Professional Practice

By



Prof. Dinesh K.



In "Living Lifestyle Social Work (LSW): How Daily Habits Can Strengthen Professional Practice," Prof. Dinesh K. proposes that social work principles extend beyond professional settings into daily life, fostering personal and professional growth. He introduces Lifestyle Social Work (LSW) as a way to integrate core social work values into everyday decisions.

The article outlines several habits that align with social work values. Practicing gratitude and letting go of frustrations helps reframe perspective and promotes emotional openness. Treating everyone with respect, starting at home, reinforces the dignity and worth of every person. Caring for the environment through conscious choices, like using reusable water bottles, demonstrates the importance of ecological well-being. Protecting the vulnerable extends beyond casework to daily gestures, building advocacy muscles. Finally, building mini rituals of self-care, such as mindful breathing or short walks, helps prevent burnout and nourishes social workers so they can continue to support others.

Prof. Dinesh K. emphasizes that applying LSW principles transforms abstract ideals into realities, leading to increased patience, creative problem-solving, and a greater sense of meaning in work. This consistency builds long-term resilience, reminding us that social change begins with daily choices. The author, Prof. Dinesh K., is a qualified professional social worker and higher education leader with extensive experience, holding a PhD from IIT Roorkee and currently teaching at Woxsen University.

Important Notice

Call for Proposals: NISD Training Programs on Social Defence and Beggary Prevention

All Central and State Universities are kindly requested that if they wish to conduct training programs at their universities, they should promptly submit proposals as detailed below.

1. One day awareness program for transgender persons in begging. (Budget Rs. 50,000/-)
2. Two days training program on special services for children engaged in the act of begging. (Budget Rs. 3,00,000/-)
3. Training program on the convergence of programs towards the elimination of beggary (2 Days) - (Budget Rs. 3,00,000/-)
4. Two day training program on counseling of persons engaged in begging (Budget Rs. 3,00,000/-)
5. 3-Day Training Program on Social Defence Issues for Social Educators. (Budget Rs. 2,00,000/-)

You are kindly requested to draft and share the proposal email in accordance with the request mentioned below.

To,
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join us

We warmly invite you to join us for the 13th Indian Social Work Conference (ISWC 2025), hosted by the National Association of Professional Social Workers in India (NAPSWI). This significant event will take place from November 6th to 8th, 2025, at the Centurion University of Technology and Management in the historic city of Bhubaneswar, Odisha. This year's congress is a premier gathering for social work academics, practitioners, researchers, and students to connect, share knowledge, and discuss the future of our profession. It's a wonderful opportunity to engage with leading experts, discover innovative practices, and contribute to important conversations shaping social work in India. We believe your presence and participation would be a valuable addition to the congress. We look forward to welcoming you to Bhubaneswar for three days of insightful learning, collaboration, and inspiration. Please visit our website for registration and more details.