



National Community Engagement  
Academic Network  
सहयोग सहभाग



Special Issue | August 2025 | National Social Work Week

# Ageless Bonds

*Harnessing the Wisdom of Elders  
for Fostering Community Engagement*

Inside

True Story of Social Work  
Conversing: Health & Wellbeing  
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National Community Engagement Academic Network

Nurturing the Wellness of Society by Caring for the Aged

**National Social Work Week 2025 August 15-21 in Telangana at  
Osmania University, Telangana University, Kakatiya University, Mahatma  
Gandhi University, Palamuru University and Satavahana University**

Every year, from **15th to 21st August**, the **National Social Work Week (NSSW)** brings together the social work fraternity across India. It is a time to celebrate the profession, to acknowledge its achievements, and to recommit ourselves to the cause of service. It is a week to take pride in belonging to this noble profession.

**Core Idea:** The idea behind NSSW is simple yet powerful – to highlight the development of the social work profession in India, to look at both its bright and challenging sides, and to co-create opportunities for mutual learning. It is also about empowering stakeholders through active engagement and knowledge sharing.

**One Platform:** During this week, the aim is to bring all stakeholders – educators, practitioners, students, NGOs, researchers, and civil society – on a single platform. This collective identity projects the profession strongly, while also enabling deeper connections and mutual growth.

**Special Dates:** The one-week observation begins on **15th August** and ends on **21st August**, which is also celebrated as **Indian Social Work Day**. This timing symbolically links the profession's values of service, freedom, and responsibility.

**Historic Start:** The observation began in **2020**, during the pandemic, in a fully virtual mode. The first celebration

was a resounding success, proving that commitment and creativity can overcome any challenge.

**Growing Participation:** Since then, many **Social Work Educational Institutions (SWEIs)**, NGOs, professional bodies, and individuals have joined hands to organise academic and professional activities. These range from workshops and lectures to community-based initiatives.

**Founding Links:** Though the Sir Dorabji Graduate School of Social Work (now TISS) began in 1936, NSSW coincides with the establishment of Independent India's first school of social work – the **Department of Social Work, Kashi Vidyapith**. This institution co-ordinated the very first NSSW programme in 2020, in collaboration with **NAPSWI** and **ISPSW**.

**Leadership Role:** In 2021, NAPSWI took the lead in organising the second NSSW, launching a series of national-level activities. By 2022, NAPSWI encouraged SWEIs across the country to celebrate the week in their own way – physical, virtual, or blended.

**Theme Focus:** From 2023 onwards, NSSW adopted **theme-based observations** while keeping space open for other facets of the profession. The **4th NSSW** highlighted *Green Social Work*, spreading awareness nationwide.

**School Advocacy:** The **5th NSSW in 2024** focused on *School Social Work:*

*Opportunities and Challenges*. This was in line with the New Education Policy 2020, and renewed advocacy for establishing School Complexes and appointing school social workers.

**This Year:** The **6th NSSW 2025**, from **August 15 to 21**, will explore the theme *Social Work in Health Setting: Bridging Care and Compassion*. This theme highlights the need for holistic health interventions, where care and compassion go hand in hand.

**Health Focus:** The spotlight will be on the profession's role in health care – from hospital social work to mental health counselling, from community health outreach to rehabilitation services. It will showcase the multifaceted approaches that combine technical expertise with human empathy.

**Shared Vision:** The week will encourage educators, students, and practitioners to reflect on their values, expand their skills, and commit to building healthier, more compassionate communities.

**Call Participation:** All stakeholders – from professional bodies to grassroots volunteers – are invited to participate. Together, we can project a strong, united identity for the profession and open doors for collaborative growth.

**Memorable Week:** As in previous years, the 2025 celebration promises to be dynamic, diverse, and deeply inspiring. Let us join hands to promote it.

# Recognising the True Story of Social Work

The **National Social Work Week (NSWW)** is more than a celebration – it is a reaffirmation of our profession’s values, mission, and vision. Observed every year from **15th to 21st August**, it unites social work educators, practitioners, students, and community

The primary aim of NSWW is to promote **social work education** and **social work practice** across the country. It is a time to popularize the values of justice, equity, and empathy, while renewing our commitment to the personal and social wellbeing of every citizen.

**Health Focus:** A key objective is to highlight the **need and significance** of social work in the health sector. From hospitals to community health programmes, social workers provide multifaceted interventions – addressing physical, emotional, and social needs. The week encourages discussions on how to **embed care and compassion** into all health-related work.

**Value Building:** Another important goal is to **inculcate work values** and a strong sense of **social responsibility** among educators, practitioners, and students. NSWW encourages active participation and creative engagement from all stakeholders through workshops, campaigns, and collaborative activities nationwide.

**Mutual Learning:** The observation also provides a space to reflect on both the **bright and challenging sides** of the profession. This honest exploration allows for co-creating opportunities for **mutual learning** and **empowerment**. By sharing successes and addressing difficulties, the profession grows stronger together.

**Strong Partnerships:** Collaboration is at the heart of NSWW. The week aims to deepen cooperation between **Social Work Educational Institutions (SWEIs)** and various agencies, NGOs, and community organisations. These partnerships help broaden the reach of initiatives and make a lasting impact.

This year theme reflects the profession’s pivotal role in delivering holistic, person-centred care in diverse health environments.

**Vital Role:** Social workers often act as the **connecting thread** between medical services and the social, emotional, and psychological needs of peo-

ple. They provide the human link that ensures treatment plans are understood, emotional needs are met, and community resources are accessible.

**Post-Pandemic Lens:** In a time of increasing health disparities, growing mental health challenges, and ongoing post-pandemic recovery, this theme takes on even greater significance. It calls for social work to be integrated more deeply into **healthcare systems** at every level.

**Compassion First:** By emphasising both **care** and **compassion**, the theme reinforces the profession’s core values while advocating for systemic changes. It reminds us that technical expertise must always be matched with empathy and respect for human dignity.

**Call to Action:** This NSWW, let us work together – educators, practitioners, students, and community allies – to make health care more humane, inclusive, and responsive. Through shared activities and national collaboration, we can demonstrate that social work is not just a profession, but a mission to **bridge care and compassion** for all.

**Collective Voice:** Social work organizations and professional bodies form the backbone of advocacy, training, and recognition in the profession.

During the 6th National Social Work Week, they will take the lead in driving policy dialogues, launching campaigns, sharing expertise, and celebrating achievements in health-based social work.

**Policy Dialogues: Policy dialogues and round tables** will be organized to bring together government officials, health policymakers, academic leaders, and field practitioners.

These discussions will focus on integrating social work roles within India’s health systems, ensuring that mental health, community care, and preventive health interventions receive the professional attention they deserve.

Strong Advocacy

**Advocacy campaigns** will use both digi-

tal and offline platforms to promote the institutionalization of health social work. From social media challenges to grassroots petitions, these campaigns will highlight success stories, mobilize community support, and influence decision-makers.

**Knowledge Sharing:** Through **webinars and knowledge series**, organizations will host expert-led discussions on topics such as geriatric care, palliative care, school health programs, and mental health outreach.

These online platforms will make learning accessible nationwide, breaking geographical barriers and connecting diverse perspectives.

**Honouring Excellence:** Recognition matters. **Recognition and awards** will celebrate exemplary contributions by social workers who have made significant impact in hospitals, communities, or policy advocacy.

Certificates, trophies, and media features will not only appreciate their work but also inspire emerging professionals to follow their path of service.

**Innovative Initiatives:** Some organizations will pilot **innovative initiatives** such as health information kiosks, community wellness centers, or mobile counseling units.

These models will serve as practical examples for replication across the country, bringing social work interventions closer to underserved populations.

**Collaborative Spirit:** All these efforts aim to deepen understanding, encourage engagement, and promote the essential role of social work in health. By combining policy discussions, advocacy, training, recognition, and innovation, the 6th NSWW will highlight how collective action can transform the scope and reach of the profession.

**Key Learnings:** From these activities, organizations will gain sharper advocacy strategies, stronger stakeholder connections, and practical blueprints for integrating social work into health policy.

## **Nurturing Professionals**

Telangana is home to several universities that have been shaping the future of professional social work. These institutions are hubs of learning, research, and field engagement. They play a critical role in preparing students to address complex social challenges, especially in health, education, and community development.

### **Osmania University**

Founded in 1918, Osmania University has a long-standing tradition of academic excellence. The Department of Social Work offers programs that combine theory with intensive fieldwork. Students engage in health camps, rural outreach, and policy advocacy. The curriculum emphasizes research, ethics, and culturally sensitive interventions.

### **Telangana University**

Located in Nizamabad, Telangana University focuses on producing competent social workers with a commitment to social justice. Field practicum is at the heart of the program, with strong partnerships in healthcare institutions, NGOs, and community projects. Special attention is given to rural health and livelihood issues.

### **Kakatiya University**

Kakatiya University in Warangal is known for its dynamic approach to social work education. The program trains students in medical social work, mental health care, and disaster management. Regular workshops, expert talks, and health awareness drives are integrated into the academic calendar, fostering professional confidence.

### **Mahatma Gandhi University**

In Nalgonda, Mahatma Gandhi University blends Gandhian philosophy with modern social work practices. Students learn the importance of empathy, ethical action, and sustainable community initiatives. Fieldwork often focuses on women's health, child welfare, and rural sanitation, bridging classroom learning with real-world challenges.

### **Palamuru University**

Palamuru University, based in Mahabubnagar, has a strong emphasis on social work in public health and community development. Students collaborate with local

health departments, conduct surveys, and organize awareness programs on nutrition, hygiene, and disease prevention. The university fosters leadership in grassroots health initiatives.

### **Satavahana University**

Satavahana University in Karimnagar is emerging as a vibrant center for social work education. Its programs focus on both academic rigor and field engagement. Students gain exposure to hospital social work, palliative care, and rehabilitation services. The faculty encourages innovation in health-based interventions.

### **Maulana Azad National Urdu University**

MANUU in Hyderabad offers inclusive social work programs with a unique linguistic and cultural dimension. The curriculum integrates social policy studies, counseling, and health advocacy. Fieldwork placements in multilingual communities equip students to work effectively in diverse settings across India.

### **Shared Objectives**

All these universities share a common vision—to create skilled, ethical, and compassionate professionals. They aim to address social inequalities, strengthen public health systems, and promote sustainable community well-being. The academic structures encourage critical thinking and collaborative problem-solving.

### **Learning Steps**

Students are guided through structured field placements, internships, and research projects. Universities maintain strong links with hospitals, NGOs, government agencies, and international organizations. This ensures students not only gain practical skills but also understand the nuances of policy and program implementation.

### **Key Insights**

From these institutions, several key learnings emerge:

- Social work in health demands both technical knowledge and emotional intelligence.
- Effective interventions require partnerships between academia, government, and civil society.
- Cultural sensitivity is essential in addressing diverse community needs.
- Continuous learning and adaptability

are vital in a changing social landscape.

### **Collective Impact**

Together, these universities are building a strong cadre of social workers ready to contribute meaningfully to India's health and development sectors. By merging academic excellence with a spirit of service, they are shaping professionals who not only respond to challenges but also anticipate and prevent them.

**Practical Learning:** Field work bridges classroom theory and real-world application. Students gain first-hand exposure to social issues, community needs, and institutional functioning.

**Observation Skills:** Through field visits, students sharpen their ability to observe situations, read non-verbal cues, and understand community dynamics.

**Communication Skills:** Interacting with diverse groups builds confidence in both verbal and written communication, essential for counseling and advocacy.

**Problem Solving:** Fieldwork encourages critical thinking by requiring students to assess challenges and design practical interventions.

**Team Work:** Working alongside peers, NGOs, and professionals fosters collaboration and the ability to function in interdisciplinary teams.

**Ethical Practice:** Students encounter ethical dilemmas and learn to make decisions guided by professional values and social work codes.

**Cultural Sensitivity:** Exposure to varied communities builds respect for cultural practices and helps design inclusive interventions.

**Documentation Skills:** Keeping field diaries, case studies, and reports improves record-keeping, analytical, and reflective writing abilities.

**Leadership Development:** Taking initiative in organizing programs or mobilizing communities enhances leadership qualities.

**Professional Confidence:** Regular engagement with real-world challenges helps students develop a strong professional identity and self-assurance.

*Linking technical care with emotional support, connecting clinical systems with community realities, and blending treatment with human dignity.*

## **Shaping Health, Strengthening Social Work**

The 6th National Social Work Week will spotlight the vital role of social work in health through dynamic initiatives by professional bodies and organizations.

Highlights include policy dialogues, advocacy campaigns, expert-led webinars, and recognition of outstanding contributions. Innovative projects like mobile counseling units and wellness centers will inspire action nationwide.

***This celebration is not just about awareness—it's about impact, collaboration, and creating sustainable change in healthcare systems.***

***Together, we move towards a healthier, more compassionate India, where social work is an integral part of public well-being.***

### **Timely Need**

In 2025, the bridge between care and compassion is more urgent than ever. India's health system faces chronic illnesses, mental health crises, health inequities, an aging population, and post-pandemic trauma. Laws like the **Mental Healthcare Act** and the **National Commission for Allied & Healthcare Professions Act, 2021** have strengthened the space for social workers as skilled professionals and ethi-

cal advocates in both institutional and community health.

### **Physical Care**

In hospitals and clinics, social workers ensure continuity of care, especially for under-resourced or marginalised patients. They help people understand medical procedures, arrange follow-up support, and connect families to government health schemes. With the rise of non-communicable diseases, disabilities, and post-COVID needs, their role in making care inclusive and accessible is vital.

### **Policy Advocacy**

Health social workers also push for systemic improvements—advocating for affordable services, better patient rights, and community-based health models. Their work bridges the gap between healthcare policies and the lived realities of people.

### **Mental Support**

India's mental health landscape requires both competence and compassion. Social workers trained in clinical and community mental health offer counselling, crisis intervention, and rehabilitation. They dismantle stigma, deliver tele-counselling, and foster safe spaces in schools, workplaces, and families.

### **Healing Spaces**

By working in the National Mental Health Programme and community outreach, they bridge emotional care with professional expertise—helping individuals rebuild resilience and wellbeing.

### **Emerging Fields**

New opportunities are opening in palliative care, disability rights, gender-based violence response, and health equity. Policy frameworks like the National Health Policy, NEP 2020, and the NCAHP Act have begun acknowledging psycho-social care as integral to health.

### **Persistent Gaps**

Despite progress, social workers still face limited hiring in public health, lack of formal recognition in health teams, and insufficient interdisciplinary training. A policy-level push is needed to institutionalise their roles across India's health systems.

### **Whole Health**

The **WHO definition of health** affirms the breadth of this year's theme:

- **Physical Well-being** – addressing illness alongside root causes like poverty, malnutrition, and poor housing.
- **Mental Well-being** – blending clinical care with empathy, healing emotions, relationships, and community ties.
- **Social Well-being** – building support networks, livelihoods, and dignity for the excluded.
- **Beyond Disease** – promoting empowerment, rights, and long-term wellness as part of life worth living.

### **Human Touch**

Social workers don't just treat illness—they humanise health systems. They bring care into homes, advocate for the vulnerable, and ensure compassion is never lost in procedures and protocols.

### **Call Action**

This NSWW, we call on educators, practitioners, students, institutions, and policymakers to champion the integration of social work into every health setting. Recognise their power to heal, empower, and transform lives.

## **Collective Vision**

***Let us commit to a health system where care is accessible, compassion is constant, and social workers are central.***

***Together, we can bridge care and compassion for a healthier, more humane India.***

## Being a Student is utilising opportunity to learn

*National Social Work Week (NSWW) offers an inspiring platform for students to apply their classroom learning to real-world contexts. Activities are designed to connect theory with practice, fostering the values of care, compassion, and social responsibility.*

*This year's focus on Social Work in Health Settings challenges students to engage deeply with health issues in diverse communities.*

*The approach is hands-on, collaborative, and rooted in service.*

### Clear Objectives

The student activities aim to:

- Promote awareness on health, hygiene, nutrition, and preventive care.
- Foster collaboration with health institutions and community networks.
- Encourage research and documentation for evidence-based practice.
- Develop leadership, communication, and advocacy skills in health-related interventions.
- Strengthen professional identity through meaningful social engagement.

### Field Campaigns

Students will step into urban slums, rural areas, and schools to lead **field-based health awareness campaigns**. These drives address physical health, mental well-being, nutrition, and hygiene practices.

Interactive methods such as street plays, group discussions, and visual aids make the message accessible and engaging. These campaigns also serve as platforms for early detection of health risks in communities.

### Strategic Collaboration

Collaboration is a core strategy. Students will liaise with local **government health departments**, primary health centers (PHCs), charitable hospitals, and NGOs. Through these partnerships, they will facilitate mobile health check-ups, vac-

ination drives, and counseling services in underserved areas. Students will also observe how multi-sector cooperation strengthens health service delivery.

### Research Practice

Short-term research projects offer students the opportunity to explore pressing health issues. Topics may include access to healthcare, health-seeking behavior, nutritional deficiencies, or the stigma surrounding mental illness.

These projects encourage evidence-based advocacy, equipping students with analytical and problem-solving skills essential for future social work practice.

### Experience Documentation

Documenting field experiences is a vital learning step. Students will prepare **case studies**, testimonials, and field diaries that capture intervention processes, community responses, and key challenges.

This reflective exercise deepens understanding and creates a repository of knowledge for future academic and professional reference.

### Creative Outreach

To amplify impact, students will organize **health-focused events**. These may include poster-making competitions, street plays, quizzes, or role-plays, all designed to highlight the link between health and social work.

Such events also encourage peer-to-peer learning and mobilize wider community participation.

### Step-by-Step

1. **Orientation** – Briefing on health themes, ethical guidelines, and safety protocols.
2. **Planning** – Selecting activity sites, designing awareness materials, and setting objectives.
3. **Execution** – Conducting campaigns, events, or research in the field.
4. **Collaboration** – Partnering with government or charitable organizations for support.

5. **Documentation** – Recording observations, outcomes, and learnings.

6. **Presentation** – Sharing findings and reflections with peers and faculty.

### Key Learnings

From these activities, students will gain:

- **Practical Exposure** – First-hand understanding of community health challenges.
- **Communication Skills** – Ability to explain health information in simple, relatable terms.
- **Cultural Sensitivity** – Adapting interventions to local customs and beliefs.
- **Teamwork Ability** – Coordinating with peers, professionals, and community members.
- **Advocacy Skills** – Promoting health rights and access for marginalized groups.
- **Ethical Practice** – Upholding dignity, confidentiality, and respect in all interactions.

### Professional Growth

*Participation in these initiatives bridges academic knowledge with community realities.*

*Students not only serve as advocates for health and wellness but also evolve into compassionate leaders ready to navigate the complex intersections of healthcare and social justice.*

*By engaging with communities and institutions, they help build the bridge between **care and compassion**—the heart of this year's NSWW theme.*

## The joy of Learning from the Field

*Educators play a central role in shaping the vision, skills, and values of future social workers. National Social Work Week (NSWW) recognizes their critical contribution by offering structured activities that blend academic depth with community relevance.*

***This year's theme, Social Work in Health Settings: Bridging Care and Compassion, calls on educators to lead innovative learning opportunities, build professional networks, and integrate community health into teaching practices.***

### Clear Objectives

The activities for educators aim to:

- Introduce students to integrated approaches in healthcare and social work.
- Strengthen theoretical understanding through real-world examples.
- Equip learners to navigate policy frameworks and ethical challenges.
- Create immersive field experiences that reinforce classroom knowledge.
- Foster collaborative learning through community-based modules.

### Special Lectures

Inviting experts from healthcare, mental health, and public health brings diverse perspectives into the classroom. These guest sessions highlight **integrated social work approaches** in real health contexts. Educators can curate topics such as mental health outreach, palliative care models, or community epidemiology to expand students' vision of the profession.

### Policy Discussions

Classroom discussions on the **WHO definition of health**, the National Health Policy, and NEP 2020 equip students with policy literacy.

Case-based debates on ethical dilemmas

in health social work allow learners to examine professional boundaries, patient rights, and systemic challenges in a safe learning space.

### Field Visits

Field visits to hospitals, mental health facilities, palliative care centers, and rehabilitation clinics offer students direct exposure to **multi-disciplinary care environments**.

Educators can design reflective assignments to help students connect observations with theoretical concepts and policy guidelines.

### Practice Simulations

Simulation activities—case studies, role-plays, and mock counseling—help learners rehearse professional responses to real-life health situations.

These methods strengthen problem-solving skills, empathy, and adaptability, while preparing students for unpredictable scenarios in health settings.

### Community Modules

Integration of **community health modules** into the field practicum reinforces the connection between academic learning and service delivery.

Assignments can focus on mapping community health resources, evaluating accessibility, or designing outreach programs for underserved populations.

### Step-by-Step

1. **Planning Phase** – Identify relevant health themes, select resource persons, and align activities with the curriculum.
2. **Scheduling** – Fix timelines for lectures, visits, and practice-based sessions during the NSWW period.
3. **Partnerships** – Liaise with hospitals, NGOs, and public health departments for expert input and site access.
4. **Execution** – Conduct lectures, field visits, and simulations in a coordinated manner.
5. **Documentation** – Record student

participation, feedback, and learning outcomes.

6. **Reflection** – Organize post-activity discussions to consolidate key learnings.

### Key Learnings

Educators and students will gain:

- **Professional Insight** – Understanding the scope of social work in various health contexts.
- **Policy Awareness** – Ability to interpret and apply health policies in practice.
- **Ethical Clarity** – Skills to navigate complex decisions while upholding professional values.
- **Applied Skills** – Competence in assessment, counseling, and program design through simulations.
- **Collaborative Approach** – Comfort working in multi-disciplinary teams for holistic care.
- **Innovative Teaching** – New strategies to integrate community health into formal education.

### Long-term Impact

***These educator-led initiatives help institutionalize a culture of care and compassion in social work training. By merging academic rigor with experiential learning, NSWW strengthens the bridge between classroom theory and community practice. The activities create not only more skilled professionals but also more empathetic, ethical, and socially responsible agents of change in India's health landscape.***

# An Institutional Space Where Learning is Present Abundantly

Educational institutions are the foundation for professional social work education and practice

## ***Institutional Role***

*Educational institutions are the foundation for professional social work education and practice.*

*National Social Work Week (NSWW) 2025 presents an opportunity for colleges, universities, and Field Work Placement Agencies to take the lead in advancing health-oriented social work approaches.*

*Through conferences, exhibitions, publications, and collaborations, institutions can amplify their influence, showcase student work, and strengthen their network with policymakers and practitioners.*

### **Clear Objectives**

The activities for institutions aim to:

- Promote interdisciplinary dialogue on social work in health.
- Showcase research and creative work by students and faculty.
- Document and share health-focused social work practices.
- Build partnerships for sustained field engagement.
- Encourage institutional ownership of community health initiatives.

### **Interdisciplinary Seminars**

Hosting **interdisciplinary conferences or seminars** can bring together social work professionals, health experts, policymakers, and civil society leaders.

These gatherings allow exchange of knowledge, discussion of integrated care models, and identification of policy gaps that social work can address.

### **Thematic Exhibitions**

Thematic exhibitions and **poster presentations** can transform institutional spaces into interactive learning zones.

Research posters, student fieldwork photographs, and community stories presented visually can inspire peers, spark public interest, and make the week's theme accessible to all visitors.

#### **Special Bulletins**

Publishing a **newsletter or bulletin** dedicated to the NSWW theme documents institutional contributions in health-based social work.

It can feature case studies, interviews, student reflections, and summaries of ongoing field projects, ensuring a lasting record of the week's learning.

#### **Collaborative Projects**

Launching **collaborative projects** with hospitals, public health agencies, or NGOs during NSWW demonstrates the practical application of classroom learning.

Such pilots could include community health outreach, mental health awareness drives, or rehabilitation support models that students can sustain after the week ends.

#### **Step-by-Step**

1. **Concept Note** – Prepare a clear plan outlining conference themes, exhibition topics, and project goals.
2. **Team Formation** – Assign faculty coordinators, student volunteers, and partner liaisons for smooth execution.
3. **Resource Mapping** – Identify venues, design materials, and gather equipment for events.
4. **Partnership Outreach** – Invite speakers, collaborators, and institutional partners well in advance.
5. **Promotion** – Use posters, campus announcements, and social media to build momentum.
6. **Implementation** – Conduct events, display exhibitions, release publications, and launch collaborative projects.
7. **Follow-up** – Document proceedings, gather feedback, and explore

possibilities for long-term collaborations.

### **Key Learnings**

From these activities, institutions will gain:

- **Networking Skills** – Building lasting connections with health and policy stakeholders.
- **Knowledge Exchange** – Exposure to national and global practices in integrated health.
- **Visibility Boost** – Showcasing the institution's commitment to social responsibility.
- **Collaborative Culture** – Encouraging joint problem-solving between academic and field partners.
- **Student Empowerment** – Providing platforms for students to present, publish, and lead initiatives.
- **Sustainable Models** – Developing pilot projects that can be scaled into regular programs.

## ***Broader Impact***

***By taking ownership of National Social Work Week, educational institutions position themselves as leaders in community-centered health innovation.***

***Their activities create ripple effects—students gain confidence, communities receive attention, and the profession of social work is strengthened through visibility and relevance.***

***NSWW thus becomes not just a one-week celebration, but a launch pad for year-round, institution-led change.***

# Reminiscing the Experiences

Social work practitioners are the heartbeat of the profession, translating theory into life-changing interventions.

During **National Social Work Week (NSWW) 2025**, practitioners in health settings have the chance to share their journeys, sharpen their skills, and guide the next generation of professionals. Their experiences in hospitals, mental health centers, rehabilitation facilities, and community-based programs are rich sources of knowledge that can inspire and transform practice.

## Clear Objectives

The practitioner-focused activities aim to:

- Bridge the gap between classroom learning and field realities.
- Share innovative, tested, and culturally sensitive health interventions.
- Strengthen professional identity through visibility and peer exchange.
- Mentor emerging social work professionals in health-based roles.
- Document and disseminate lessons from the field.

## Experience Sharing

**Experience sharing sessions** can provide valuable platforms for practitioners to narrate real-world challenges and breakthrough moments.

From handling ethical dilemmas in patient care to navigating resource constraints in rural health settings, these stories help others understand both the complexity and the humanity of the work.

## Skill Workshops

Workshops on **skill development** offer targeted learning for practitioners and students alike.

Topics could include psychosocial assess-

ments, discharge planning in hospitals, tele-counseling for remote patients, and effective collaboration in interdisciplinary teams.

Hands-on activities, case discussions, and role-play scenarios ensure the learning is practical and immediately applicable.

## Student Mentorship

Practitioners can extend their impact through **mentorship of students** during fieldwork placements.

By offering guidance in healthcare projects or community health drives, they help students navigate the demands of health settings while instilling care, compassion, and ethical practice.

## Practice Publications

The **publication of practice-based insights** allows field knowledge to reach a wider audience.

Through reflective articles, short blogs, or social media posts, practitioners can share successes, failures, and recommendations, contributing to the growing body of health-focused social work literature.

## Step-by-Step

1. **Identify Themes** – Select experience sharing topics, skill workshop areas, and mentorship plans.
2. **Create Panels** – Bring together practitioners from diverse health sectors for balanced perspectives.
3. **Design Workshops** – Prepare interactive and skill-oriented modules for immediate relevance.
4. **Pair with Students** – Match practitioners and students for short-term mentorships during NSWW.

5. **Document Learning** – Encourage participants to record and submit takeaways for publication.

6. **Publicize Outcomes** – Share summaries, quotes, and success stories on professional platforms.

## Key Learnings

From these activities, practitioners will gain:

- **Renewed Purpose** – Reconnecting with the values that led them to the profession.
- **Peer Learning** – Gaining insights from colleagues across regions and sectors.
- **Skill Enhancement** – Updating methods to match evolving healthcare needs.
- **Mentoring Experience** – Building leadership skills while guiding students.
- **Professional Visibility** – Sharing work with a larger audience for recognition and influence.
- **Field Documentation** – Turning tacit knowledge into accessible, transferable practice wisdom.

## Lasting Impact

Practitioner engagement during NSWW ensures that the profession remains rooted in **lived realities and community needs**. By sharing experiences, building skills, mentoring newcomers, and documenting lessons, they shape a stronger, more adaptive future for social work in health. These contributions go beyond a one-week event—they create a **continuous chain of learning and compassion** that strengthens both practitioners and the communities they serve.

National Community Engagement Academic Network (NCEAN) is promoted by WF Trust. The National Community Engagement Academic Network promotes knowledge sharing, capacity building, and student engagement among academic institutions. It strengthens connections, advocates for community engagement, and encourages collaboration, raising public awareness, and inclusivity.

We aim to meet the growing needs of the elderly, providing medical and psychosocial care based on Bharatiya Cultural Values. It

plans and executes comprehensive strategies to make the elderly live a meaningful life, offering services for healthcare, recreational activities, meaningful occupations, and attitudinal revision. The Trust aims to ensure that the elderly live with respect and dignity in a secure, compassionate, and congenial environment. The Trust works with educational institutions harnessing the power of students by establishing a community engagement platform where society learns family and cultural values from the elderly. It also exercises social responsibility by providing companionship and feeling

of inclusion for the elderly.

We use festivals, key dates, and cultural avenues to propagate family values and the need for taking care of the elderly. The Trust proposes to trigger curricular changes in academic courses, to include care for the elderly as part of Corporate Social Responsibility, and develop teams of volunteers in educational institutions.

**Editorial Board : Dr. W.G. Prasanna Kumar, Dr. T. Sumalini V. Anasuya and Smt. J Padma for the National Community Engagement Academic Network (NCEAN) supported by Wundavalli Foundation Trust (WFT)**