AIAMSWP

NEWS LETTER YEAR 2021 VOLUME 3

Don't fear....
Adopt COVID appropriate Behaviour.....!!!

All INDIA ASSOCIATION OF MEDICAL SOCIAL WORK PROFESSIONALS

Message of President

Dear Friends,

Greetings to everyone,

It is an honour for me to be a part of this movement which we call AIAMSWP. I am calling it a movement because it is an effort to bring the entire fraternity of Healthcare Social Workers of India on a single platform, and the Newsletter is also a significant part of this initiative.

At the national level, we have kept expanding our job profile in our institutions and could implement the strategies to realize our collective vision. As a result now we have secured a prominent place in the Allied and Healthcare Professions Act – 2021. I am very fortunate to be a part of the team which made this dream come true to create the professional space on national & international level as desired.

During the Pandemic, we all have contributed significantly for patient welfare and also kept ourselves academically agile. More than 20 webinars were conducted during last one year and research articles were published in reputed journals. Our members participated in these events and also organized many of them at national level.

With continuous hard work it is equally important to document everything and shape it as a reflective piece. The newsletter holds a very significant place in this pursuit and I appeal to all the members to contribute more actively in this newsletter so that it develops into a more effective medium of learning, communication and celebration of our professional endeavour.

My best wishes and gratitude to everyone.

Shri B R Shekhar

President - AIAMSWP

Message of General Secretary

Dear Friends

Greetings from the All India Association of Medical Social Work Professionals (AIAMSWP).

You are reading the third edition of the AIAMSWP's Newsletter .It has been started with the thought of sharing all activities of Association with members and as a good medium to be in touch with colleagues & senior Social Work Professionals. I am sure you all will be getting benefited. we are eager to hear your feedback. For any feedback, suggestion, question or concern feel free to write to the editor, AIAMSWP Newsletter at aiamswpnewsletter@gmail.com.

Friends, the Team AIAMSWP is working very hard for betterment of Medical Social Work Professionals. As you know AIAMSWP had given representation on 11-10-2019 and presented in person in the parliament for meeting with Parliamentary Standing Committee on Health and family Welfare, Rajya Sabha New Delhi with the demand of inclusion of the Medical Social Work Professionals in the above bill/act. I am happy to inform you that Gazette Notification is done for "The National Commission for Allied and Healthcare Professionals Act, 2021 and Medical Social Work/Social Work/ Psychiatric Social Work Professionals have been included in above said Act. I Congratulate AIAMSWP for this historical achievement and thank all members for their support. We hope to get your support in the future too.

As we all know in 2020-21 there was nationwide lockdown and restrictions on movement of people. In order to enhance the awareness of COVID-19 Pandemic Concerns and how to deal effectively in this crisis, AIAMSWP has conducted various national and international academic program online (Webinars, Panel Discussion, Talk and National elocution competition) . All the zones (East, North, West, South and North East) participated actively in the program of spreading awareness and reducing the level of stress.

I am looking forward desperately to attend the 8th Annual National Conference of the AIAMSWP, which is to be held from on 7th&9th August, 2021 through online due to COVID-19. The theme of this year "Health Social Work Practice in current Scenario: emerging issues & Challenges" is very relevant for social work professionals. I am quite certain that under the dynamic leadership of Sh. B. R. Shekhar this programme will be a great success for the Social Work Professionals and other interested Health/Mental Health professionals.

In the end, I wish to thanks all my EC members of our Council, Office bearers and members of Committees for their unfailing support and efforts. My gratitude also goes to all our Joint Secretaries/ Zonal Secretaries who all have contributed with their time and expertise generously for AIAMSWP.

Long live All India Association of Medical Social Work Professionals!

Dr. Om Prakash Giri
Hon. General Secretary, AIAMSWP

AIAMSWP NEWSLETTER

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Editorial

The year 2020 was most disastrous in our life, the COVID 19 pandemic spread all over the world in very short time which has taken away life of lacks of people. This pandemic has long lasting impact on the socio-economic conditions of the society.

The lockdown imposed to control the spread on one hand saved the life of people from the corona infection, on other hand it created socio psychological impact on community life as wel it increased unemployment, disrupted business activity, insecurity, home isolation, stress has of increased burden of mental disorders. Domestic violence, child abuse, was also seen in the community.

In current of crisis, Medical/psychiatric Social work professionals, has played vital role, in supporting the community at large to cope up from the mental disorders.

AIAMSWP has taken great initiative by organizing several webinars to enhance the capacities and skills of the development professional The experts from public health to psychiatric health oriented the professional across the pan India.

The association is committed to enhance the status andf understanding about the social work profession in health care system through its various activities, it has now become the voice of the medical social work professionals, which has recently resulted in to the inclusion of medical social work professional in the Paramedical Council of India.

There is long way to go. So let us come together and work for better tomorrow!

Sanjay Bhonge
Editor

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Current Pandemic: Professional Social Workers' Role

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Department of Adult, Continuing Education, Extension Work and Field Outreach
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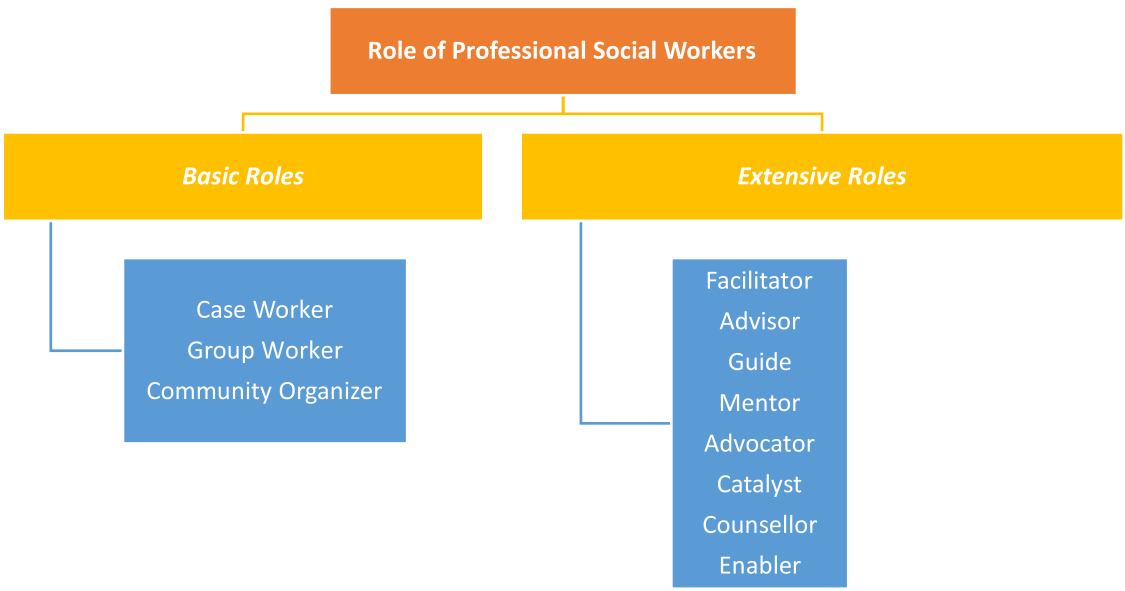
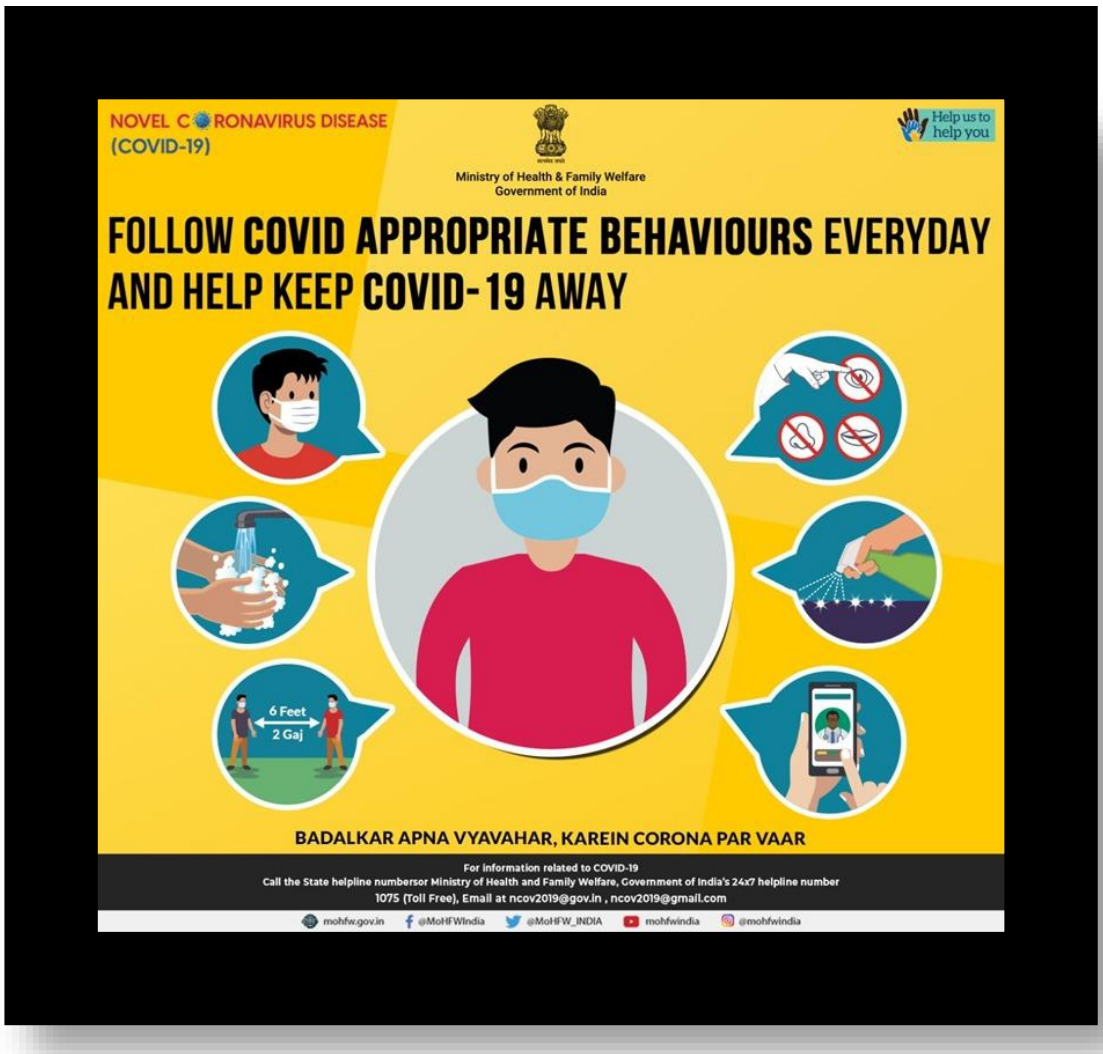
Social work as a profession is more than hundred years old. And the demand of professional social workers become very high, when there is any national emergency or public health crisis. Now, the world is suffering from a pandemic COVID-19 infection. According to "A dictionary of epidemiology" it can be said that, a pandemic is "an epidemic occurring worldwide, or over a very wide area, crossing international boundaries and usually affecting a large number of people". And according to World Health Organization, Corona virus disease (COVID-19) is an infectious disease caused by a newly discovered corona virus. COVID-19 pandemic is both a national emergency situation as well as public health crisis. Professional social workers play vital roles in the areas like physical health, mental health, economic issues, and legal issues and so on. We have seen that in this particular pandemic situation professional social workers played significant roles all over the world and they have to play it in future as well. Presently, many a people are living in an anxiety provoking situation. Many study reports showed that anxiety and depression are increasing day by day. As well as economy of every country is in a turmoil condition, job issues or a sudden drop in salary and many more problems are there. Now-a-days all the people are trying to cope with the new normal situation. Most of the offices, hospitals, restaurants, hotels are now open after a gap of prolonged lock down all over the country. But, now they are to follow many strict safety rules. In many cities of our country schools are now open and with time student community and others are also trying to adapt to the new normal situation. In this present circumstance the role of professional social workers are in it's increasing need. Professional social workers have to take a huge responsibility and play significant role for the sake of our society. We can jot down some basic roles of professional social workers keeping in mind the present situation;



- Now-a-days people are trying to cope with the ‘new normal’ world and the situations are not same as before. Many of the patients are unable to come to the hospitals or health care centres physically. So, there is an increasing need for telehealth services. This is not only applicable for mental health but can also be used for physical health issues.
- Social workers will play a very important role in the reconstruction of ‘new normal’ life style. As, it is already discussed that there will be many differences between past, present and future, that also will affect the daily life of many persons. Accepting ‘new normal’ is not easy for everyone, some of the people may face problem in accepting these change. Here comes the need for social workers, they will have to take care of the issues and have to explain the need of the measures taken by the government or any other authoritative body time to time.
- When the students will go back to regular education system perhaps they would be unable to cope with the changed situation. In that case, professional social workers will have to come forward for resolving the issues.
- Social workers would have to help the community to maintain the new hygiene rules they have learnt and are learning in this pandemic situation.
- The marginalized section is at risk. Social workers are tirelessly trying to help them always, but after this pandemic will be over this responsibility might increase. Social workers might have to perform more field visits or field interventions for helping them in the sectors of daily living, economy, education, health, mental health and many more.
- Social workers have to provide all the government and legal information to that part of community, who will not be able to avail these easily.
- There are many misconceptions and negligence regarding the COVID-19 vaccines. Social workers have to play a very important role for educating the general public regarding the issue and make them aware.
- Professional social workers have to suggest to take some immediate measures to the community members regarding any medical issues, economic matters or legal problems. By this they will play their virtuous role as an advisor or guide.
- Many section of our community are facing various mental health issues, in that case social workers have to take up the role of a mentor and enable the client to vent out the pent-up feelings.
- Professional social workers’ role in economic development is quite often neglected. But, this is a very important area where social workers’ role is needed. Social workers are able to use different strategies to help economic development of a community. They are able to assess the natural assets of a community and by this they can advice different measures to overcome the problems. By using skills they can join the local economic development organizations with a community. Through taking these steps professional social workers would be able to help a community to overcome their economic crises.
- Social work research is an important area to be kept in mind. Extensive social work research in pandemic situations will help the professionals to take proper measures to prevent possible future outbreaks.
- Other than these most importantly social workers have to work for the vulnerable section like child, women etc. From different reports we came to know that in this pandemic period, especially, in the prolonged lock down phase many a children are suffered from child sexual abuse, some of them would perhaps speak out in future regarding their problems when they will come to their comfortable places, then social workers have to work for their care and protection. From study reports, newspapers we came to know that during pandemic domestic violence rate have increased. So, social workers have to work for the victims’ protection also.

- Each and every community has separate needs. Professional social workers have to analyse all the needs scientifically with the help of community members. And they have to undertake proper responsibility in order to fulfil those needs. They can work as an intermediator between various government organizations, NGOs and national and international agencies.

Conclusion: Professional social workers have a significant role in community development. Previously discussed roles of social workers are not fixed, rather with time and according to need social workers have to play various roles. Professional social workers constantly played and are playing almost all the roles discussed above throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. And if all the professional social workers work hand in hand it would be possible for the society to overcome most of the odds.



Academic Programmes of AIAMSWP in Year 2020-21

As COVID-19 took hold, countries and cities across the world entered lockdown with the closure of schools, cultural and sports venues and all non-essential businesses. During this COVID Year 2020, AIAMSWP has conducted various national and international online academic programmes (Webinars, Panel Discussion and Talk) to enhance the awareness about COVID-19 Pandemic Concerns and how to deal with it effectively. All the zones (East, North, West, South and North East) participated actively in spreading awareness and reducing the level of stress.

"Role of Counselling During COVID-19 Pandemic" 27th June, 2020, East Zone

"Mental Health Considerations in Context of COVID-19 Pandemic: Academic Perspective" 28 June 2020, North Zone

"Importance of Enhancing Social Support and Well Being in Current Pandemic" 4 July 2020, East Zone

"Scope and Challenges of Social Work Profession" 11th July, 2020, Central Zone

"Social Work in Health Care During Pandemics: Indian and Global Perspective" 18th July, 2020, South zone in collaborations with KAPSW, Kerala

"Approaches & Challenges for Person with Disability (PWD) during Pandemic: Perspective of Professional Social Workers"25th July, 2020, Central Zone

"COVID-19 Pandemic: Beyond the Box"01st August, 2020, North Zone

"Living with COVID-19 Pandemic: What Future Beholds" 08thAugust, 2020, East Zone

" COVID-19 Pandemic: Experience from the lens of Warriors and Survivors" 15th August, 2020, North Zone

"Future Living with COVID-19 as a Public Health Issues: Management and Challenges 21stAugust, 2020., West Zone in association with NIPHTR, Mumbai

"Psychosocial Challenges and Impact on Migrant Labours during COVID-19: Prospective of Professional Social Worker" 22ndAugust, 2020, West Zone

"Impact of COVID-19 Pandemic and Domestic Violence: Issues, Challenges and Management"29ndAugust, 2020.,North Zone

"COVID-19 Pandemic: Risk and Resilience in Family Functioning" 05th September, 2020, North Zone

"Society after COVID-19 Pandemic: Where will we stand?",12th September, 2020,East Zone

"Social Stigma and Public Health in Times of COVID-19",19th September, 2020,North-East Zone

" Social Media Boon or Bane for Social Solidarity and Global Connectedness",16th February, 2021. East Zone

National Conferences organized by AIAMSWP

- **Social Work Practices in Healthcare: Challenges and Innovations**
  PGIMER Chandigarh 2014
- **Medical Social Work Practices in Hospital Setting Creative Interventions & Future Avenues**
  AIIMS, New Delhi 2015
- **Social Work Practices in Health Care: Emerging HealthIssues Among Women**
  Safdarjung Hospital, New Delhi, 2016
- **Social Work Practices in Health Care Advance Approachesand Emerging Trends**
  KGMU, Lucknow, 2017
- **Social Work intervention in Health/Mental Health Setup**
  GMCH, Chandigarh, 2018
- **GI Disorders and Transplant -Medical SocialWork Perspectives and Challenges**
  JIPMER, Pondicherry, 2019
- **Social Research in Health Care**
  RIMS,Imphal,Manipur 2020

7th Annual National Conference on "Social Research in Health Care" at RIMS, Imphal, Manipur

The national Conference on "Social Research In Health Care" was organized at Regional Institute of Medical Sciences Imphal, Manipur. The Zonal Committee of All India Association of Medical Social Work Professionals, North-East Zone organized the conference on 6-7 February 2020.

The conference was inaugurated by lighting of lamp at the hands of Prof. A. Santa Singh, Director RIMS, Imphal. On this occasion, Dr. Singh expressed his pleasure for organization of the Conference in the North East region. He said that the Social Work professionals are integral part of the medical services and there is more need of research and discourses.

In this conference more than 300 hundred participants from all over the country actively participated. More than 120 papers and posters were presented.

The conference was concluded with Valedictory function in presence of Dr. Th. Radheshyam Singh, Minister of Education, Government of Manipur. He congratulated the north zone committee and the RIMS for organization of the conference. The Best paper awards were given at the hands of honourable Minister. A cultural program was organized during the conference which depicted the culture and folklore of the Manipur

General Body Meeting 2020 and Election of Executive Body

The General Body Meeting of the All India Association of Medical Social Work Professionals was held on 6th February 2020.

The honarable General Secretary of the association Dr. O. P Giri Presented the minutes of the last meeting get it approved. He also presented the progress report of the association.

After the meeting the Election were held. The New Executive body elected unanimously.

List of Office Bearers and Executive Committee members for 2020-22

President	• Sh. Bhoj Raj Shekhar,
Vice President	• Sh. Narbdeshwar Singh, • Dr. Santosh Kr. Upadhyay,
General Secretary	• Dr. Om Prakash Giri
Joint Secretary	• Sh. Sushil Kr. Mishra , • Sh. Raghavendra Kr. Rai ,
Treasurer	• Ms. Manpreet Kaur, Treasurer
Zonal Secretary	• Sh. Akhilesh Kr. Tripathi, Central ♦ Dr. Narendra Kr. Singh, East ♦ Sh. Pankaj Singh, West ♦ Dr. Prashant Srivastava, North ♦ Sh. Aftab Alam Shah, south ♦ Dr. Ranbir Singh Wahengbam North-East
Executive Members	• Sh. Ajay Singh,♦ Sh. Subhasish Saha, ♦ Sh. Ajeet Kumar, ♦ Sh. Rajeev Maikhuri, ♦ Sh. Ambrish Kumar, ♦ Dr. R. Jayalakshmi, ♦ Ms. Manshi Rani Panda,♦ Ms. Poonam Dhanda, ♦ Ms. Anjana Neglur, ♦ Sh. Avinash Verma,

The Award Winners of 7th Annual National Conference

Mr. Mohit Shukla,CIP, Ranchi receiving the best paper award for Social Work Students/ Scholars at RIMS, Imphal during 7th ANC of AIAMSWP from 6-7 February 2020.

Mrs. Manshi Rani Panda MHI, Cuttack, Odisha receiving the best paper award for Social Work Practice in Mental Health at RIMS, Imphal during 7th ANC of AIAMSWP from 6-7 February 2020.

Mr. Sushil Kumar Mishra, Safdarjung Hospital, New Delhi receiving the award for his contribution to the All India Association of Medical Social Work Professionals (AIAMSWP) at RIMS, Imphal during 7th ANC of AIAMSWP from 6-7 February 2020.

Mr. Raghvendra Kumar Rai, GMCH, Chandigarh receiving the award for his contribution to the All India Association of Medical Social Work Professionals (AIAMSWP) at RIMS, Imphal during 7th ANC of AIAMSWP from 6-7 February 2020.

Mr. Ambrish Kumar, KGMU, Lucknow receiving the award for his contribution to Indian Journal of Health Social Work at RIMS, Imphal during 7th ANC of AIAMSWP from 6-7 February 2020.
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