



AIAMSWP

NEWS LETTER YEAR 2022 VOLUME 4



ALL INDIA ASSOCIATION OF MEDICAL SOCIAL WORK PROFESSIONALS

Message of President

Dear Friends,

Greetings to everyone,

The Medical Social Work fraternity of India had a lot of hope with AIAMSWP and I can say this with a lot of confidence that the movement we all created together is now bearing its fruits, as our profession has secured a prominent place in the Allied & Healthcare Professional Act. As a member of the National Commission of Allied & Healthcare Professionals, I am now a part of the initiative which will serve towards our vision of a statutory council and propel our professional growth. Now, I realize it more often that how our own initiatives at the foundation like this Newsletter has played a significant role in bringing all of us together and giving required credibility to our profession.



The day is not very far when all Medical Social Workers of India will have a unique registration system at the state & national level, standardized job profile, nomenclature & salary structure, rational strength in all hospitals and a grievance redressal system. In addition to this all academic institutions providing Social Work education would be brought under a single umbrella and we will see a common curriculum applicable at pan India level and defined ways of delivery.

This will result into a metamorphosis of Social Work profession in India and it will have a very large impact not only within the country but also the credibility & the career opportunities for us in other countries will also improve significantly. No wonder, if very soon we see Medical Social Work as the most sought after course in the country because there will be huge surge in the appointments of social workers in all the hospitals.

And with all this we must not forget to continue working on the basics. 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 fourth edition of the AIAMSWP's Newsletter. It was decided that to inform our activities to our members and Social Work Professionals we have to publish newsletter once a year. Apart from that it is also a good way to stay in touch with your colleagues & senior Social Work Professionals. I think you'll be surprised and excited about all the wonderful things happening by the Association. At the same time we hope to hear from you soon, and welcome your feedback! If you have any questions, suggestions, or concerns, please address them to the editor, AIAMSWP Newsletter at aiamswpnewsletter@gmail.com.



Friends, as we all know in 2021-22 there were many restrictions on movement of people due to COVID-19 Pandemic. Our Annual National Conference 2021 was also affected and in August 2021 we were able to do it online only. AIAMSWP has conducted various national and international academic programs online in this period like (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 about medical social work profession and reducing the level of stress due to COVID-19. I thank all the Zonal Secretaries for these programs. And for the first time after January 2020, we are able to sit here and have a meeting in physical mode during conference.

I am looking forward desperately you all to attend the 9th Annual National Conference of the AIAMSWP, which is to be held on 26 March, 2022 at Lucknow. The theme of this year "Medical Social Work Practice: Health & well being of Society" is very relevant for social work professionals. I am quite certain that under the dynamic leadership of Sh. Akhilesh Kumar Tripathi & Dr. R P Singh this programme will be a great success for the Social Work Professionals and other interested Health/Mental Health professionals.

Lastly, I wish to thank 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 their time and expertise generously of 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

Greetings from the AIAMSWP Newsletter Editorial Team

It gives me great pleasure to offer to you the fourth issue of the All-India Association of Medical Social Work Professionals' Annual Newsletter.

It is encouraging to see that the association is growing daily and launching new initiatives to advance the social work profession. Numerous difficulties have been handled, including the nomenclature of the profession of social work and attempts to create uniform norms and pay scales for social work specialists throughout India.

Through its many endeavours, the organisation is dedicated to improving the standing and perception of the social work profession in the healthcare system. The association has made genuine attempts to include the social work profession in the National Allied Health Commission, and I'm delighted to report that. As the Indian government is taking very aggressive steps to eradicate addiction, social workers are also working really hard to address the same issues. As a result, this newsletter issue will also cover drug addiction and its effects on mental health.

To improve the abilities and proficiencies of beneficiaries, AIAMSWP has made numerous contributions, including social awareness campaigns, welfare programmes, and regular webinars.

Let's strengthen our relationships, put in a lot of effort, and keep going, friends. Let's also step up our efforts to benefit the community and the social work profession.

Thank you and good luck

Dr. Prashant Srivastava
Editor

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DRUG ADDICTION

Every year on **June 26th**, the **World Drug Day**, also known as the International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking, is observed to foster action and collaboration towards the goal of a drug-free world. The purpose of this year's campaign is to increase public awareness of the significance of treating drug users with respect and empathy, giving voluntary, evidence-based services to everyone, providing alternatives to punishment, placing a high priority on prevention, and acting with compassion. The awareness of drug addiction is crucial when it comes to substance usage. Addiction to drugs is often accompanied with mental health problems. Because they both depend on one another, it is essential to be conscious of drug addiction. It enables us to talk about every aspect of the issue.

ADDICTION AWARENESS

Addiction affects all sorts of people from all backgrounds and does not make any distinctions. People from all walks of life can open up if they are aware of the problem. Many people believe that addiction primarily affects those who come from particular backgrounds or who reside in particular regions of the country. The fact remains, nevertheless, that addiction is an illness.

People from all areas of life are affected by this illness; others are just more adept at concealing it. Anyone battling addiction should feel at ease speaking up. The first step in making the decision to live a better, sober life is being open about the problem.

HOW DRUG ADDICTION IMPACT THE MENTAL HEALTH

Being conscious of drug addiction enables us to educate ourselves on all aspects of the problem. Drugs change the brain's chemical composition. Dopamine production is often increased as a result of these alterations. Dopamine is well known for its ability to suppress pain and activate the brain's reward centre. Unfortunately, whenever someone changes the chemical composition of their brains, they run the danger of getting mental health problems. The brain is made up of components that cooperate with one another. Each of these components is responsible for managing particular tasks and performance on its own. These brain regions have trouble adequately communicating with one another when using drugs.

ROLE OF STIGMA IN DRUG ADDICTION

"A mark of disgrace associated with a certain quality, circumstance, or person," is how stigma is defined. A "punish, don't treat" mentality has been influenced by how many people have traditionally treated those who struggle with addiction and the fact that our increasingly unpopular war on drugs has criminalised drug use. Fortunately, this detrimental mindset has lately begun to change as more people have realised that addiction isn't a moral failing on the side of the addict but rather is, at least in part, a brain illness. However, there is still a lot of stigmas that prevents individuals from seeking the essential assistance since it causes them unwarranted guilt and shame.

DRUG ADDICTION AND PREVENTION

Drug addiction is a pressing societal issue that continues to plague individuals and communities worldwide. It is a chronic and relapsing condition characterized by compulsive drug-seeking and use, despite the harmful consequences it brings to one's physical and mental health. The effects of drug addiction extend beyond the individual, impacting families, relationships, and society as a whole.

Raising awareness about drug addiction is crucial in combating this pervasive problem. Education plays a vital role in enlightening individuals about the dangers of substance abuse, its underlying causes, and the available treatment options. By promoting awareness, we empower people to make informed decisions and understand the potential consequences of their actions. Prevention programs and public campaigns are essential tools in increasing awareness. They aim to educate individuals of all ages, from children to adults, about the risks associated with drug abuse. These initiatives emphasize the importance of healthy coping mechanisms, resilience-building, and the availability of support networks.

Additionally, it is crucial to eliminate the stigma surrounding drug addiction. Society must recognize that addiction is a complex medical condition rather than a moral failing or character flaw. By fostering a compassionate and understanding environment, we can encourage individuals struggling with addiction to seek help without fear of judgment or discrimination. Collaboration between governments, healthcare professionals, and communities is key to addressing drug addiction effectively. Adequate funding for research, treatment facilities, and support services is necessary to ensure accessible and comprehensive care for those affected. Moreover, supporting individuals in their recovery journey and providing opportunities for reintegration into society is vital for breaking the cycle of addiction.

CONCLUSION

Drug addiction remains a significant challenge, but through increased awareness and collective action, we can make a difference. By educating the public, eliminating stigma, and providing the necessary resources, we can empower individuals to overcome addiction and lead healthier, more fulfilling lives. Together, we can build a society that prioritizes prevention, compassion, and support for those affected by drug addiction.

8th Annual National Conference

8th Annual National Conference of All India Association of Medical Social Work Professionals organized by AIAMSWP central team. This event organized in hybrid mode due to CORONA pandemic. Inaugural function organized in AIIMS, New Delhi and inaugurated by Dr. Randeep Guleria, Director, AIIMS New Delhi (Photo-1). The conference has been a grand success mainly because of the appropriate theme of the conference, 'HealthSocial Work Practices in Current Scenario: Emerging Issues & Challenges'. 552 participations of all the social Work professionals participated and deliberations by the eminent professionals on the theme, methodical organization of plenary 11 invited lectures including 6 international speakers, 5 award papers 65 free Papers presented by participants.



Other Activities organized by AIAMSWP Zones

On the occasion of World Social Work Day, 2021 various activities were organized by different zones of AIAMSWP. A speech competition was also organized on the occasion. Whose winners were awarded cash prizes.

First AIAMSWP National Elocution Competition

World Social Work Day 2021

UBUNTU: I am Because We Are, Strengthening Social Solidarity and Global connectedness

Congratulations winners!!!

Students Group Prizes		Members Group Prizes
1st Ms. Divya Central University, Kangra, Himachal Pradesh		1st Dr. Kirti Arya AIIMS, New Delhi
2nd Ms. Elizabeth Alexander K. E. College, Kottayam, Kerala		2nd Ms. J Daman Queen Madras School of Social Work, Egmore
3rd Ms. Sunaina Gupta IGNOU, P U Centre, Chandigarh		3rd Mr. Chering Bagh PGIMER, Chandigarh

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Dear Friends,

Congratulations!

We wish to inform you all 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. And a place has also been given in its interim commission constitution; Mr. B.R. Shekhar (President, AIAMSWP) has been made a member (Photo-2).

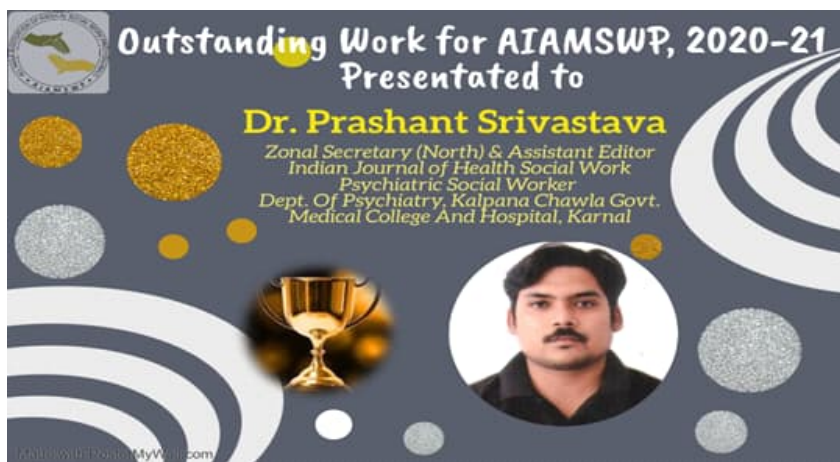
As you all know that AIAMSWP had given representation on 11-10-2019 and presented in person in the parliament (Photo-1) for meeting with Parliamentary Standing Committee on Health and family Welfare, Rajya Sabha New Delhi with the demand of inclusion of the Medical Social Work Professionals in the above bill/act.

Congratulations to all AIAMSWP Members / Social Work Professionals for this historical achievement. AIAMSWP Team.

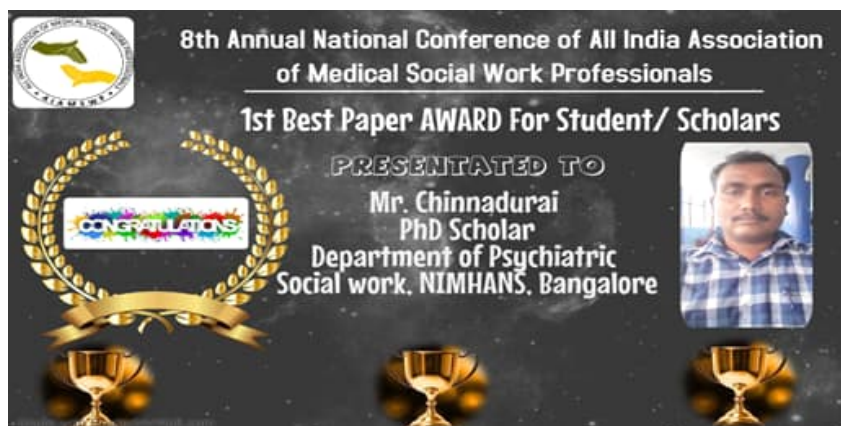
The Award Winners of 8th Annual National Conference



Dr. Narendra Kumar Singh, Central Institute of Psychiatry, Ranchi, Jharkhand receiving the award for his contribution to the All India Association of Medical Social Work Professionals (AIAMSWP) during 8th Annual National Conference of AIAMSWP from 7th -9th August, 2021.



Dr. Prashant Srivastava, Kalpana Chawla Govt. medical College & Hospital, Karnal, Haryana receiving the award for his contribution to the All India Association of Medical Social Work Professionals (AIAMSWP) during 8th Annual National Conference of AIAMSWP from 7th -9th August, 2021.



Mr. Chinnadurai Ph.D Scholar Department of Psychitric Social Work, NIMHANS, Bangalore Karnataka receiving the 1stbest paper award for Social Work Students / Scholar during 8th Annual National Conference of AIAMSWP from 7th -9thAugust, 2021.



Ms. Kheyali Roy Ph.D Scholar Department of Social Work, Visva-Bharati Santiniketan West Bengal receiving the 2nd bestpaper award for Social Work Students / Scholar during 8th Annual National Conference of AIAMSWP from 7th -9th August,2021.