

NAPSWI

NEWSLETTER

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MARCH 2026

Dear Readers,

Greetings from NAPSWI.

We are pleased to present the NAPSWI Newsletter for the month of March for your happy reading. We sincerely apologize for the delay in its publication and appreciate your patience and continued support.

In this issue, we have included highlights of our members' achievements, along with updates and activities from social work organizations and educational institutions. These contributions reflect the diverse efforts and ongoing engagement within the social work community.

We hope you find this edition informative and enriching, and we look forward to your continued encouragement and participation.

Warm regards,

Editorial Team

NAPSWI Newsletter

If you would like to feature your achievements or updates in the upcoming newsletter, please send them to napswi@gmail.com; you are also welcome to share your valuable suggestions.

NAPSWI's updates

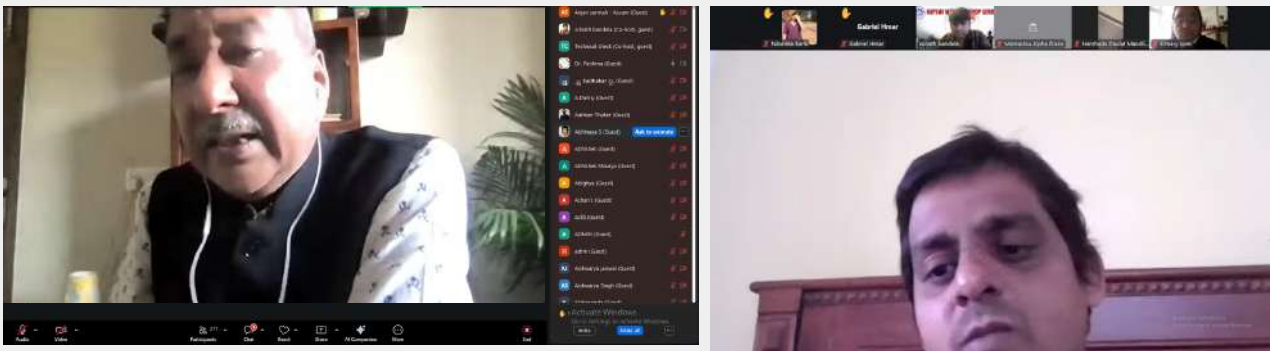
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As for your knowledge, we are updating you that NAPSWI has initiated the National Web-Workshop Series on Legal Literacy for social work professionals and students. This initiative was launched to fill the significant gap between theory and practice, particularly for those who have recently started working or are in the fresher phase of their careers. In this series, we invite experts specialized in specific Acts and practical field application to guide our members. We have recently completed the first block of legal literacy which focused exclusively on Child Rights, covering essential topics including the The Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, The POCSO Act: Implementation and Reporting, The Right to Education (RTE) Act and School Social Work, Child marriage and child rights act Historical Analysis of Child Rights in India and NCPCR, State PCR and Child Protection Laws

Event-04: Strengthening Child Protection Frameworks



The fourth session of the NAPSWI Legal Literacy series, held on March 14, 2026, focused on the critical intersection of child marriage and child labor laws. Expert speakers Mr. Dhananjay Tingal, a veteran child rights advocate with nearly three decades of experience, and Dr. Manoj Jatav from the V. V. Giri National Labour Institute, provided a comprehensive analysis of the Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006 and the Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Amendment Act, 2016. The workshop moved beyond theoretical definitions to equip 250+ participants—who joined from across India as well as Nepal, Sri Lanka, and France—with actionable tools for documentation and navigating institutional procedures when intervening in cases of exploitation. By bridging the gap between statutory requirements and field realities, the session empowered practitioners to act as informed advocates for vulnerable children in diverse professional settings.

Event-05: Historical Context and Statutory Oversight



On March 28, 2026, the series concluded its first quarter with a deep dive into the historical evolution of child rights in India and the role of statutory monitoring bodies. Led by Dr. N.V. Vasudeva Sharma, Executive Director of the Child Rights Trust (CRT), and Prof. RP Dwivedi, a pioneer in Gandhian social work with over 35 years of experience, the session provided a "historical analysis" of the legislative journey toward modern child protection. A diverse group of 210 participants from India and international locations including Nepal, Sri Lanka, IRELAND, Nigeria and Kuwait explored the functional scope of the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) and State Commissions. This session emphasized the "non-negotiable" nature of understanding oversight mechanisms, ensuring that emerging professionals can serve their clients with increased competence, integrity, and a global perspective on child welfare.

For this ambitious workshop series, we have received a remarkable 1,600 registrations, demonstrating the high demand for legal expertise in our field. The workshops are organized via Zoom and YouTube, and we are proud to share that the sessions are also broadcast live in many Social Work departments across the country. Altogether, we have achieved an active participation of 800 individuals, bringing together a vast community of learners to strengthen the professional and legal standards of social work in India.

Delhi

NAPSWI Launches Student Ambassador Programme

The National Association of Professional Social Workers in India (NAPSWI) has launched the Student Ambassador Programme (NSAP) to bridge the gap between academic learning and professional practice. By appointing "NAPSWI-cum-Social Work Ambassadors" from various institutes across India, the association is nurturing a cadre of future leaders equipped with leadership, networking, and organizational skills. These ambassadors, currently pursuing BSW, MSW, or Ph.D. degrees, serve as vital liaisons between NAPSWI and their respective departments.

Their roles include organizing collaborative seminars, conducting membership drives, and running social media advocacy campaigns on issues like mental health and gender equality. In return, NAPSWI provides field work assistance, specialized capacity-building workshops, and mentorship from senior practitioners. This symbiotic initiative empowers students through professional recognition and "Certificates of Excellence," ensuring a vibrant future for the social work profession in India.



Manish Kumar

MSW 1st Year
RODA MISTRY COLLEGE OF SOCIAL WORK



Shwetha S.

MSW Mental health
(2nd Year)
Madras School of Social Work



Prakalya N

MSW 2nd Year
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WORK
PONDICHERRY UNIVERSITY



Abhinav R Gopal

MSW 1st Year
Department of Social Work
CENTRAL UNIVERSITY OF KARNATAKA



Angel Sona D'couth

MSW 1st Year
Department of Social Work
RAJAGIRI COLLEGE OF SOCIAL SCIENCES, KALAMASSERY, KERALA



Sharon Mary Rajesh

MSW 2nd Year
MADRAS SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK



Kalyanavarman C

MSW 1st Year
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WORK
RAJIV GANDHI NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF YOUTH DEVELOPMENT,
SRIPERUMBUDUR.



Sivanesan B

MSW 2nd Year
DHARMAMURTHI RAO BAHADUR CALAVALA CUNNAN CHETTY'S
HINDU COLLEGE



Abhinava T M

BSW (2nd Year)
Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar College, University of Delhi



Akash Tiwari

MSW (1st Year)
Livelihood and Social Entrepreneurship
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Member's Corner

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Chandigarh

Celebrating Glorious Journey: Retirement of Dr. Milan Pandit



The NAPSWI fraternity proudly celebrates the remarkable 37 years of dedicated service of our esteemed member, Dr. Milan Pandit, on the occasion of her retirement from the Haryana State Council for Child Welfare, Chandigarh.

Dr. Pandit has served with distinction in multiple key roles, including Divisional Child Welfare Officer, District Child Welfare Officer, Probation Officer under the Juvenile Justice Act, and Counsellor. A University Gold Medalist in Social Work, she has been widely recognized with several State and Central awards for her impactful and compassionate leadership.

Her journey reflects resilience, dedication, and excellence in advancing child welfare and social justice. A true inspiration and role model. Her legacy will continue to guide future social workers.

NAPSWI extends heartfelt congratulations and best wishes for a fulfilling and joyful retirement.

Ahmedabad, Gujarat

“World Kidney Day Recognition” Sterling Hospitals, Ahmedabad, Gujarat

World Kidney Day Recognition – Proud Moment for NAPSWI Member

On the occasion of World Kidney Day, Sterling Hospitals honored professionals contributing to ethical transplant practices. We are proud to share that our member, Ms. Bhoomee Thakrar, Medical Social Worker and Ethics Committee Member, was part of this prestigious recognition at Sterling Hospital, Gurukul, Ahmedabad.

The event highlighted the importance of ethical governance, compassionate care, and accurate decision-making in transplant processes. Distinguished leaders and healthcare professionals gathered to reflect on this year's theme, “Kidney Health for All – Caring for People, Protecting the Planet.”

Ms. Thakrar's involvement reflects the vital role of social workers in promoting patient-centered and ethical healthcare practices. This recognition marks a significant achievement and a proud moment for the NAPSWI community.



Raebareli

ICMR-NICPR- 7th National Conference on Tobacco or Health, promoting evidence-based actions for a healthier India.

The ICMR-National Institute of Cancer Prevention and Research (NICPR) team represented India at the prestigious 7th National Conference on Tobacco or Health (NCTOH) 2026, held from 30th January to 1st February 2026 at All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), Rae Bareli, Uttar Pradesh. Themed “Tobacco or Health: It’s Your Choice”, the conference brought together public health professionals, doctors, researchers, policymakers, academicians, and advocates to address the pressing challenges of tobacco use and its impact on health.

The conference emphasized translating evidence-based tobacco control policies into effective, scalable, and sustainable practices to strengthen healthcare delivery and promote holistic development. The ICMR-NICPR team actively contributed through oral presentations and panel discussions, sharing insights on tobacco-related research, policy frameworks, and population-level interventions. These sessions aimed to guide policy decisions and foster collaborative strategies for tobacco control.

As the host of the WHO FCTC Knowledge Hub on Smokeless Tobacco (KH-SLT), ICMR-NICPR continues to play a pivotal role in smokeless tobacco research, policy support, and advocacy. The Hub generates evidence on epidemiology, health effects, product constituents, prevention, and control strategies, and disseminates it through workshops, consultations, and a comprehensive searchable web portal.

Participation in NCTOH 2026 provided ICMR-NICPR an invaluable platform to engage with national and international stakeholders, strengthen knowledge exchange, and contribute to advancing evidence-based tobacco control measures across India.



Kurukshetra

Retirement of Dr. Ramesh Kumar Bhardwaj:



The NAPSWI fraternity extends heartfelt congratulations and best wishes to its esteemed member, Dr. Ramesh Kumar Bhardwaj, on his retirement from the Department of Social Work at Kurukshetra University.

With over 36 years of distinguished service in teaching, research, and administration, Dr. Bhardwaj has made invaluable contributions to social work education and practice. His journey from a field-based social worker to Senior Professor reflects dedication, academic excellence, and commitment to social development. He has actively contributed to national academic bodies and maintained strong engagement with the National Association of Professional Social Workers in India.

As he embarks on a new chapter, his legacy of mentorship and leadership will continue to inspire generations of social workers.

Chennai

Celebrating Excellence in Social Work

NAPSWI is immensely proud to congratulate Dr. Mary Angeline (Dr. Mary Santhosam) on being honored by the Sustainable Development Council at the 2nd edition of Pen Shakthi Maanadu held on April 3, 2026, at the Taj Connemara, Chennai. This prestigious award recognizes her extraordinary dedication of over two decades to higher education, social work, and sustainability, highlighting her innovative efforts in empowering marginalized communities. Dr. Angeline’s commitment to ensuring that no one is left behind serves as a powerful inspiration to the professional social work community in India. We celebrate her impactful journey and wish her continued success in her mission to foster a more inclusive and sustainable future for all.



Sonipat

Palliative Care Workshop Marks World Social Work Day 2026



On the occasion of World Social Work Day 2026, the Department of Social Work, Bhagat Phool Singh Mahila Vishwavidyalaya, Khanpur Kalan, Sonapat, organized a one-day workshop on “Palliative Care for Cancer Patients” in collaboration with CanSupport, New Delhi, on March 17, 2026.

The workshop aimed to enhance awareness about palliative care and its critical role in improving the quality of life for cancer patients. Dr. Deepali Mathur, Head of the Department, inaugurated the session and emphasized the growing importance of social workers in providing compassionate and holistic care.

Dr. Savera Ahmed, Senior Palliative Care Physician, highlighted the urgent need for accessible palliative care in India and stressed the importance of emotional, psychological, and home-based support alongside medical treatment. Ms. Anamika Pandey from CanSupport focused on the role of effective communication and psycho-social counselling in addressing patients’ and caregivers’ needs.

The workshop underscored key aspects such as pain management, dignified care, and the bridging role of social workers between patients, families, and healthcare systems. Faculty members and students actively participated and appreciated the initiative.

The programme concluded with a vote of thanks by Mr. Sohan Lal, marking a successful and impactful learning experience for all.

Shillong

World Social Work Day 2026 Organised at Martin Luther Christian University Hall, Nongrah, Shillong.



The School of Social Work, Martin Luther Christian University, Shillong, observed World Social Work Day on 17th March 2026. The programme was attended by participants from various organizations and the development sectors. The programme was conducted as per the schedule, featuring contributions from distinguished guests, faculty members, and students.

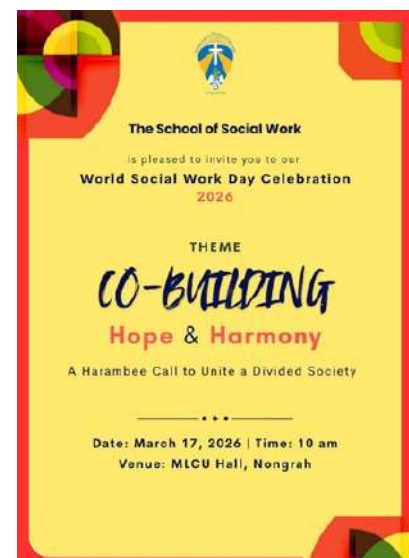
The event was organised under the global theme, “Co-Building Hope and Harmony: A Harambee Call to Unite a Divided Society.” The programme was commenced by a welcome song from the BSW 4th semester students, followed by a welcome address by Dr. Ardonister Lyngdoh, Dean, School of Social Work. His speech covers the theme, stressing the need for more inclusivity with diverse backgrounds uniting together, and he also highlighted that the documentary being released in today’s programme is consistent with this year’s theme.

There was felicitation of the Chief Guests by the Registrar. The programme also included a sharing experience of one student of the MSW 4th semester, and a speech from the Registrar, Dr. Iadonlang Tynsong, which further highlighted the importance of the role of social work and working together to address contemporary issues.

A major highlight of the programme was the release of the documentary titled “Social Work in Action: Voices, Impact and Change.” The documentary served as an advocacy tool, presenting the profession through a five-phase narrative. It explored the values and scope of social work, showcased its practice across diverse sectors, and highlighted real life-success stories of individuals and communities impacted by social work interventions. It also reflected the collective presence of social workers, concluding with a message

of hope, unity, and harmony aligned with the global theme.

The programme concluded with an address by the Chief Guest, Smt. Camelia Doreen Lyngwa, MCS, Director, Social Welfare Department, Government of Meghalaya. It was then followed by the University Anthem and a vote of thanks by Dr. Emideiwahun K Rangad. The event successfully enhanced the awareness and appreciation of the social work profession.



Leh

World Social Work Day 2026 Celebrated at EJM College Leh



The Department of Social Work, EJM College Leh, in collaboration with the Professional Social Work Association of Jammu & Kashmir (PSWAJK), successfully organized a programme to mark World Social Work Day 2026 on 17th March 2026.

The event was based on the global theme “Co-Building Hope and Harmony: A Harambee Call to Unite a Divided Society,” highlighting the importance of collective action, social justice, and inclusive development in an increasingly divided world.

The programme commenced with a formal welcome, followed by an insightful address by the Head of the Department, Dr. Yangchan Dolma, who emphasized the role of social work in promoting human dignity, community participation, and social transformation. She highlighted the need for unity, empathy, and collective responsibility in addressing contemporary social challenges. Students actively participated in the programme by sharing their thoughts, experiences, and reflections on various themes such as social justice, inclusion, mental health, gender equality, and fieldwork experiences, reflecting a deep engagement with contemporary social issues.

The event was effectively moderated by Jaspreet Singh, Assistant Professor, Department of Social Work, EJM College Leh, ensuring the smooth flow and meaningful engagement throughout the programme.

The programme concluded with a formal Vote of Thanks delivered by Dr. Tanushree, Assistant Professor, Department of Social Work, EJM College Leh, who expressed sincere gratitude to the Principal, Head of the Department, faculty members, collaborators, and students for their valuable presence and contributions.

The programme ended on a warm and interactive note with high tea, providing an opportunity for informal interaction and reflection.

Overall, the event served as a meaningful platform to reaffirm the commitment towards building a more just, inclusive, and harmonious society.



Youth Leadership Drives Hope on World Social Work Day 2026

On the occasion of World Social Work Day 2026, VoiceInMind highlighted the transformative power of youth leadership under the global theme “Co-Building Hope and Harmony: A Harambee Call to Unite a Divided Society.” Founded by Mr. Mohd Shahzeb Khan and co-led by Ms. Rafia Nikhat, VoiceInMind continues to create impactful spaces for young people through dialogue, counselling, and skill-building initiatives. With a strong focus on mental health, employability, and life skills, the initiative has engaged over 600 youth from diverse backgrounds, fostering confidence, clarity, and a sense of belonging.

Marking the day, VoiceInMind organized empathy-driven conversations that encouraged participants to reflect on identity, aspirations, and shared humanity. These sessions emphasized the importance of listening, connection, and collective growth in addressing social divisions. The initiative integrates psychosocial support with evidence-based programme design, ensuring sustainable impact and long-term resilience among participants. Youth were not merely participants but active contributors, shaping discussions and co-creating solutions.

VoiceInMind reaffirmed its commitment to nurturing inclusive platforms where young individuals are empowered to become agents of change, contributing towards a more harmonious and compassionate society.



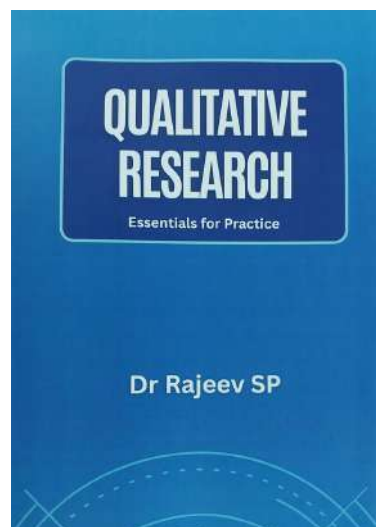
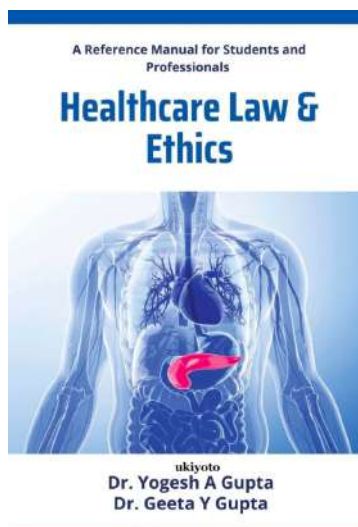
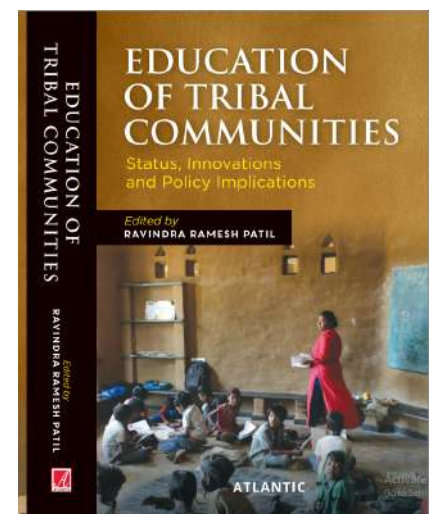
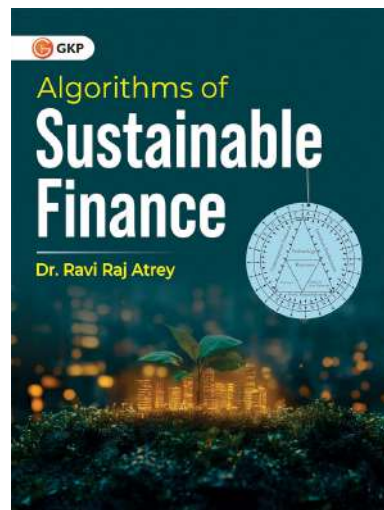
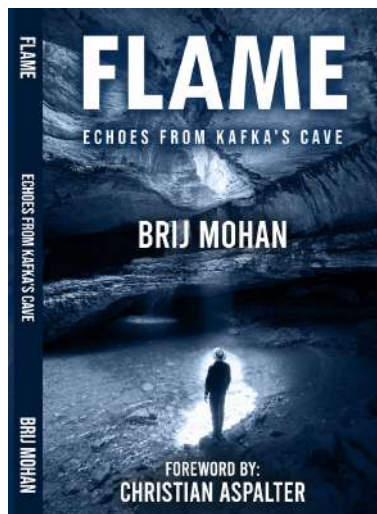
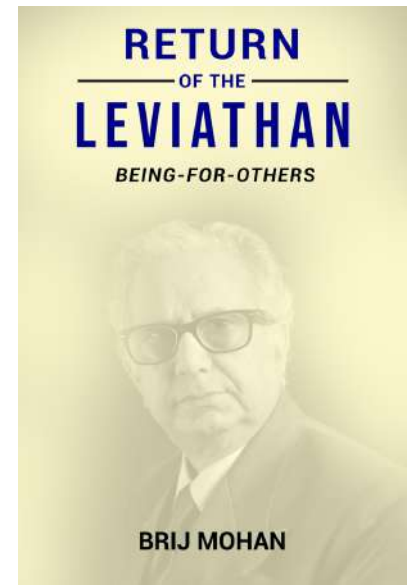
Member's Publication

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In this section, we are pleased to showcase the cover pages of recent publications in the field of Social Work. These books reflect emerging perspectives, research, and practices that contribute to the advancement of the profession. Readers and members may explore and conveniently order these publications through platforms such as Amazon and Flipkart.



Mental health: Calls by people with disability fall on deaf ears

Helplines Have No Chat Options: PwDs

Jahnvi@timesofindia.com

Bengaluru: For Pradeep PK, a resident of Malleswaram living with hearing impairment, seeking mental health support turned into an exercise in frustration.

Hoping to find assistance, he recently downloaded the Tele Manas app — a Union health ministry and Nimhans' mental health initiative aimed at providing immediate psychological support. However, he found exclusion instead. "The app does not seem to help hearing-impaired people who cannot make phone calls. There is no mention of any email address, WhatsApp number or a mobile number that can provide responses to chat-based queries," he said.

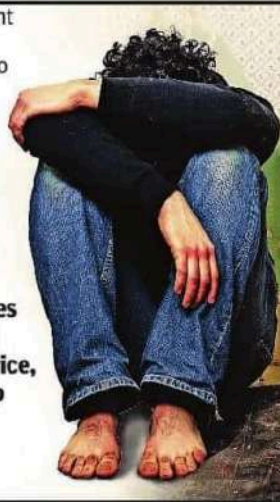
Pradeep's experience is not an isolated one.

Many mental health helplines have been rolled out in recent years across both public and private sectors. Nearly all of them, Pradeep found, offered only landline or mobile numbers — with no

“ Since this is a prevalent problem, I will direct health department officials to do some research on this subject. We will explore the possibilities of developing a chat-based system which could help those in need”

Dinesh Gundu Rao |
HEALTH MINISTER

While for in-person consultation, Nimhans does not have a dedicated sign language counselling service, it offers services with help from doctors/counsellors on campus who know sign language



alternative communication options such as chat-based platforms, email support or verified messaging services. "The Rights of Persons with Disabilities (RPwD) Act, 2016, provides guidelines on how public services should be made disabled-friendly, but most times, these guidelines are ignored," Pradeep further said.

Activists also pointed out that most hearing- and speech-impaired people in the city have no resources to turn to during a mental health emergency. While a handful of chatbots and al-

ternative platforms have emerged in recent years, most are not backed by credible or well-known institutions, making them difficult to rely on.

VS Basavaraju, executive director (strategy) and founder secretary of Disability NGOs Alliance, said: "When govt creates programmes on a mega scale, they often forget minorities who might not benefit from one-size-fits-all programmes. We repeatedly see mental health helplines put out huge numbers about the people they have helped. But when those with impair-

ments need counselling, there are largely no resources available. Govt has time and again failed to pay attention to this problem."

Basavaraju added accessibility challenges are not limited to those with hearing or speech impairments. "There are senior citizens who may not even be aware of existing resources. There are stroke patients who cannot speak properly nor type into a chatbot. They may be in great distress, but have no good counselling options," he added.

However, there are indications that changes may be on the horizon.

According to Naveen Kumar C, professor of psychiatry and head of community psychiatry at Nimhans, feedback from persons with disabilities has been received and is being considered. "We are working on enhancing accessibility, and it will take us at least a few months to integrate it into the system," he pointed out.

While for in-person consultation, Nimhans does not have a dedicated sign language counselling service, it offers services with the help from doctors/counsellors on the campus who are well-versed in sign language.

Inspired by a Story in The Better India & Baba Amte, This Engineer Skipped Placements & Built a Platform Helping Millions

A chance read and the influence of Baba Amte pushed this engineer to rethink a conventional career path. He went on to co-found Donatekart, a platform that helps people contribute essentials directly to those in need, reaching millions each year.

[Read](#)

THE PLEDGE

I pledge to step out of my area of comfort so I may meet people, listen to their lives, grow and remain open to their full humanity

I pledge to be critical and ask questions in order to cast doubt, inquire and prompt social change and transformation.

I shall self-reflect to examine my own biases, clarify my beliefs and take stances.

I shall strive continuously to advance knowledge about people, issues, and social work profession.

I pledge to contribute towards turning our institutions into genuinely transparent, accountable and fair communities of action.

I promise to defend freedom of expression, to being open always to dialogue and listening.

I shall be consciously inclusive towards all people and act to promote diversity, equality, mutual respect, justice and reconciliation.

I give a promise to walk with marginalized voiceless, and people who have been forced to silence.

I promise to myself to engage people and structures to address life challenges and enhance their wellbeing.

From this day I am aware that I am part of a community of change agents. I, thus, pledge to act ethically, in compassion, with thoughtfulness, conviction, passion, honesty, perseverance and humility.

That is the least I pledge for.....

(Adopted by NAPSWI @ 1st Indian Social Work Congress 2013)