

April 2026

Issue 3.4

# NAPSWI NEWSLETTER

*The April 2026 issue of the NAPSWI Newsletter reflects our profession's vital shift "From Welfare to Wellbeing". This edition proudly announces the 14th Indian Social Work Conference in Guwahati, hosted by Royal Global University, which aims to integrate social work practice with the vision of a developed India.*

*The newsletter highlights our commitment to professional excellence through the second phase of the Legal Literacy Series, focusing on women's rights and safety. We celebrate significant academic milestones, including new publications on eco-social work and sustainable finance by our esteemed members. From the environmental legacy of Shri Digambar Upadhyay to the record-breaking placements at NEISSR Nagaland, these stories demonstrate the impact of our fraternity at the grassroots level. NAPSWI remains honored to support stalwarts like Shri B.R. Shekhar, whose leadership continues to modernize medical social work education and practice across the nation.*

## ▶ NAPSWI'S UPDATES

Announcing

### 14th Indian Social Work Conference (ISWC) 2026!

NAPSWI is thrilled to officially unveil the details for our upcoming annual flagship event. Join us as we journey to the "Gateway to Northeast India" for a landmark gathering of minds, hearts, and visionaries in the social work profession.

The Grand Gathering:  
14th ISWC, Guwahati 2026

Following the immense success of our 13th conference in Bhubaneswar, we are proud to bring the 14th ISWC to the vibrant state of Assam. This year's conference promises to be a transformative space for practitioners, educators, and students alike.

Dates:

2nd to 4th November 2026

Host City: Guwahati, Assam, India

Venue Partner: The Royal Global University (RGU), Guwahati

Theme:

From Welfare to Wellbeing:  
Reimagining Social Work Practice for Viksit Bharat

This theme reflects a pivotal growth and shift from welfare to wellbeing in our profession. We are moving beyond traditional welfare models toward a holistic "wellbeing" approach. By integrating contemporary social work practices, we aim to align our professional efforts with the national vision of *Viksit Bharat*, ensuring that social justice and prosperity reach to every citizen and each corner of the nation in tune with our philosophy of social work profession.

## ▶ LEGAL LITERACY SERIES PHASE II

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

### Empowering Social Workers on Women's Rights and Safety

NAPSWI is pleased to announce the Second Block of our intensive Legal Literacy workshop series. Building on our commitment to professional excellence and women's empowerment, this phase is dedicated to mastering the legal frameworks that ensure the safety, dignity, and rights of women in India.

### Schedule & Frequency

To accommodate our busy practitioners and students, sessions will be held twice a month:

- Days: Every 2nd and 4th Sunday
- Timing: 3:00 PM – 5:00 PM
- Mode: Online

### Comprehensive Curriculum

*This block provides a deep dive into six critical legislative areas:*

- *Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005 (PWDVA): Understanding the role of Protection Officers and legal remedies for survivors.*
- *Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (PoSH) Act, 2013: Procedural guidelines for Internal Committees and workplace safety standards.*
- *Dowry Prohibition Act, 1961 & Indecent Representation of Women Act, 1986: Addressing systemic exploitation and the protection of dignity in media.*
- *Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act, 1956: Legal strategies for the rescue and rehabilitation of victims of trafficking.*
- *Medical Termination of Pregnancy (MTP) Act & Maternity Benefit Act: navigating reproductive rights and protecting professional interests for working mothers.*

## ▶ NAPSWI MEMBER'S CORNER

*The NAPSWI Members' Corner is a dedicated space to highlight the achievements, initiatives, and recent developments of our valued members. This may include personal accomplishments, professional milestones, innovative practices, or organizational updates that contribute to the growth of social work. We invite our members to share such updates every month, which will be featured in our newsletter. If you wish to showcase your work in the upcoming May issue of the NAPSWI Newsletter, kindly send your contribution to [napswi@gmail.com](mailto:napswi@gmail.com) with the subject line **"Contribution for NAPSWI Newsletter – May Issue."***

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### PROFESSIONAL SPOTLIGHT: SHRI B.R. SHEKHAR ENHANCES MEDICAL SOCIAL WORK

NAPSWI is immensely proud to share the distinguished career of Shri B.R. Shekhar, Former Chief Medical Social Welfare Officer at AIIMS, New Delhi. With over three decades of service, Shri Shekhar has been a pillar of Medical Social Work in India.

His transformative contributions include:

- Integrating Social Work into the National Commission for Allied and Healthcare Professions (NCAHP) Act, 2021.
- Standardizing national curricula for Medical and Psychiatric Social Work from Bachelor's to PhD levels.
- Pioneering CSR initiatives at AIIMS to mobilize vital resources for patient welfare.

Currently a Council Member of the National Commission, Shri Shekhar's expertise is a treasure for the fraternity. NAPSWI looks forward to his guidance in mentoring our young professionals and shaping the future of healthcare social work.



## STRENGTHENING SKILLS IN HEALTH COMMUNICATION: A MILESTONE FOR CHANDRESH PRAGYA VERMA

We are immensely proud to congratulate Chandresh Pragya Verma, Technical Officer 'C' (MSW) at ICMR-NICPR and a valued NAPSWI member, on completing a prestigious four-month Certificate Course in Health Communications. Developed by ICMR in collaboration with MICA and Global Health Strategies, this program has equipped her with advanced skills in risk communication, community engagement, and combating health misinformation.



Notably, Chandresh was honored with the Best Poster Award (2024–25) for her outstanding work in the field. We celebrate her dedication to professional growth and her commitment to advancing public health awareness.



## STRENGTHENING WORKPLACE SAFETY: BHOOME THAKRAR CONDUCTS POSH TRAINING AT NAVNEET PUBLICATION

We are incredibly proud to have dedicated professionals like Bhoomie Thakrar within the NAPSWI family, who continue to champion safety and dignity in the professional sphere. Recently, Bhoomie conducted a vital Prevention of Sexual Harassment (POSH) training session at the Navneet Publication Administrative Office in Ahmedabad, Gujarat.

Recognizing the evolving nature of modern work, the session placed a specialized focus on Digital Harassment Awareness. As professional environments increasingly rely on virtual collaboration, Bhoomie addressed the nuances of harassment within emails, internal chats, and virtual meetings. The training empowered employees with:



- A clear understanding of identifying digital harassment in virtual spaces.
- Best practices for maintaining safe and professional online communication.
- A comprehensive overview of reporting and redressal mechanisms available under the POSH Act.

Building a truly inclusive workplace requires addressing both physical and digital boundaries. Through this initiative, Bhoomie Thakrar has underscored that awareness is the essential first step toward prevention. We celebrate her commitment to fostering safer, more respectful organizational cultures across India.

## EMPOWERING RECOVERY: PARINITA POTE'S "RECOVERY CAPITAL" INITIATIVE AT MUKTANGAN

The social work fraternity takes immense pride in the dedicated efforts of Parinita Pote, a counselor at the Muktangan Rehabilitation Center. For the past five years, Parinita has been implementing a transformative activity titled "Recovery Capital" with patients undergoing de-addiction treatment. Based on a concept established by the World Health Organization, this activity serves as a vital tool to measure an individual's internal and external resources for maintaining a meaningful life during recovery.

The activity is introduced to inmates in groups of 50 once they have completed 15 days of treatment and are free from withdrawal symptoms. Using sketch pens and their personal diaries, participants create eight horizontal boxes, each representing a specific domain of recovery capital:

- Physical capital
- Psychological capital
- Food, shelter, and clothing capital
- Family support
- Occupational capital (skills and earning potential)
- Legal health capital (absence of criminal records)
- Medical help availability
- Willpower

Participants color these boxes based on their self-perceived progress in each area. For instance, if they feel their physical health is 60% good, they fill 60% of that specific box. This visual representation provides patients with a holistic and "colourful" view of their lives, offering hope during difficult times.

Beyond the creative aspect, the activity offers deep clinical insights. It teaches participants that they often possess more recovery capital than they initially realize, shifting the focus from blaming their environment to valuing and improving their existing strengths. Parinita emphasizes that long-term, stable recovery requires a balanced focus on all eight domains. Neglecting one area—such as focusing solely on a job while ignoring family or health—can lead to relapse. Conversely, working on all domains simultaneously creates a support system where strengths in one area, like family relations or willpower, can help an individual overcome challenges in another, such as physical illness.

We are honored to have a member like Parinita Pote in the Social Work Family, whose innovative and consistent work continues to strengthen the field of social work and de-addiction.

## MLCU SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK HOSTS RURAL CAMP AT MAWBEH VILLAGE

The School of Social Work at Martin Luther Christian University, in collaboration with the National Service Scheme (NSS), recently conducted a transformative five-day rural camp in Mawbeh Village, East Khasi Hills, from March 23–27, 2026. Operating under the theme “Kawei Ka Shnong Shibun ki Khana” (One Village, Many Stories), the camp provided a platform for students to link academic knowledge with real-life experiences. The initiative began with home visits to build trust and mobilize the 160 households of the village.

To address community needs, a health camp was organized with Swer PHC, offering free check-ups and sessions on hygiene and maternal care.



Simultaneously, students conducted a baseline survey and implemented Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA). Engaging directly with residents, they mapped vital resources such as aquaculture and potato cultivation while identifying gaps in water distribution. Historical timelines also traced the village’s transition from coal mining to present-day initiatives like Self-Help Groups.

The camp further emphasized youth engagement and service through sports, a cleanup drive, and workshops on Gandhian ideals. Discussions at the Anganwadi Centre focused on adolescent nutrition, ensuring inclusive participation. The program concluded with a vibrant cultural evening featuring traditional Khasi songs and storytelling. This collaborative journey reinforced that social work flourishes when learners and communities work closely together to celebrate strengths and address challenges.

## NEISSR CREATES HISTORY IN NAGALAND: 80% MSW 2026 BATCH SECURES PLACEMENT BEFORE GRADUATION

The North East Institute of Social Sciences and Research (NEISSR) has made history by securing 80% placement for its 2026 MSW batch before graduation. Most students were recruited as School Social Workers and Soft Skills Mentors for Evanta TCIC Kochi, earning a minimum of ₹35,000 monthly plus benefits.



As India's only institute specializing in Peace and Conflict Transformation, the NAAC B++ accredited college integrates academic excellence with 30 essential life skills. This achievement highlights NEISSR's successful student-centered model, which combines rigorous fieldwork with professional mentoring, effectively transforming Nagaland's youth into highly sought-after, socially committed professionals.

## GUARDIAN OF GREEN: SHRI DIGAMBAR UPADHYAY'S ENVIRONMENTAL LEGACY

NAPSWI takes immense pride in sharing the pioneering work of member of our social work fraternity, Shri Digambar Upadhyay. With over three decades of dedication, Shri Upadhyay has transformed community-led conservation in Odisha by blending traditional wisdom with innovative practices.



His visionary initiatives include the "Green Memory Campaign," which has facilitated the planting of over 28,000 trees to mark life milestones, and the "Brukhya Rakhyabandhan," a movement where women pledge to protect trees as "brothers". He successfully guided the Sagarpali Van Surakhya Samiti in transforming the barren Kurladungri hill into a lush forest and established the "Sanjeevani Vatika" medicinal garden.

From installing 600+ water pots for birds to leading massive seed ball campaigns, his efforts have deeply enriched biodiversity and climate resilience. For his lifelong commitment to social development and environmental stewardship, NAPSWI honors his achievements and is proud to have such an inspiring leader in our social work fraternity.

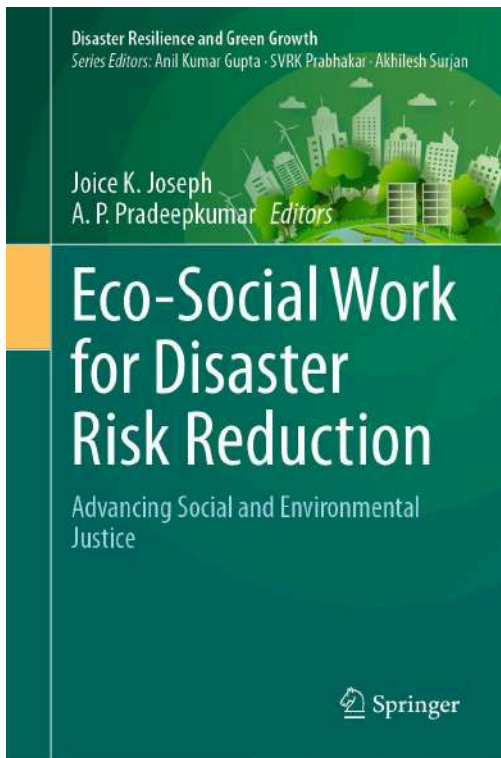
## EDUCATIONAL AWARENESS & COUNSELLING PROGRAM AT GOVT. U.G HIGH SCHOOL, PHULAPOKHARI, BARANGA, CUTTACK, ODISHA

A transformative student counselling and educational awareness session was held at Govt. U.G High School, Phulapokhari, Baranga, Cuttack. The session was led by **Jyoshna Dash**, who engaged with the students with remarkable dedication and energy to address the unique challenges of adolescence. Recognizing that this transition from childhood to adulthood is often marked by confusion and peer pressure, the program focused on building self-awareness and providing clarity for future career decisions.

The session was far from a traditional lecture; students were immersed in an interactive environment featuring storytelling, real-life examples, and motivational games. These activities helped the teenagers feel comfortable and confident, encouraging them to open up about their interests and aspirations. By integrating fun and learning, Jyoshna Dash effectively helped students understand their strengths while reducing the anxiety often associated with life's big decisions. The school authorities and staff cooperated wholeheartedly to ensure the program's success, which concluded with a community lunch. This initiative proved highly fruitful, leaving the students with a positive outlook and a stronger foundation for their professional lives. We are proud to see such impactful grassroots work being led by dedicated professionals in our community.



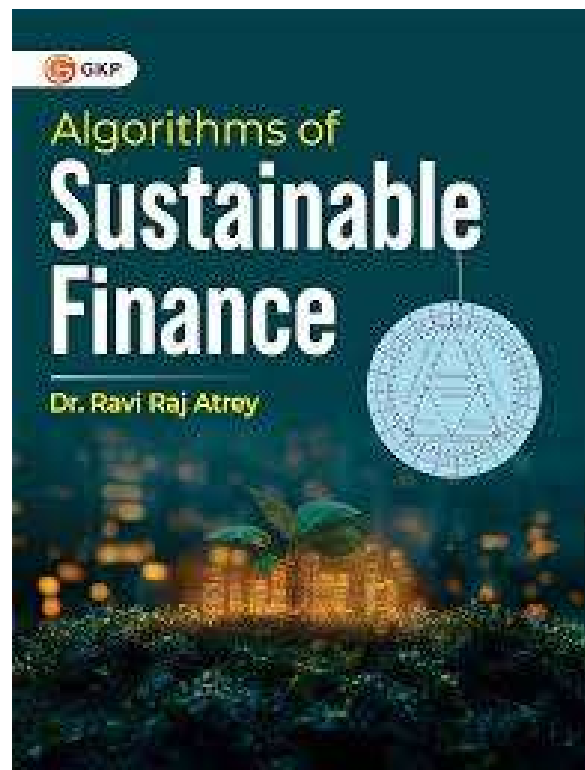
## ▶ LATEST SOCIAL WORK PUBLICATIONS



NAPSWI celebrates the publication of "Eco-Social Work for Disaster Risk Reduction: Advancing Social and Environmental Justice" (ISBN: 978-981-95-4885-9) by Springer. Edited by our esteemed member from the MSW Disaster Management programme at Loyola College of Social Sciences, Kerala, and Dr. Joice K. Joseph, this volume bridges the gap between environmental justice and disaster resilience. We take immense pride in our members' contributions to global academic excellence, providing vital resources for practitioners committed to social and environmental justice.

NAPSWI extends its heartiest congratulations to Dr. Ravi Raj Atrey, Country Lead of Ocean Centres India at UN Global Compact India, on the publication of his insightful new book, "Algorithms of Sustainable Finance."

This timely work explores the critical intersection of financial systems with equity and accountability, specifically focusing on climate justice. Dr. Atrey provides essential frameworks for evaluating Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) risks and opportunities. We are immensely proud of his contribution to global sustainability and financial ethics.



# FREE\* COURSES QUALITATIVE RESEARCH



YALE - Fundamentals of Qualitative Research - My favorite

<https://lnkd.in/gavinZe4>

MIT - Qualitative Research Methods: Data Coding and Analysis

<https://lnkd.in/gVeYSspG>

ASA - Qualitative Research in Psychology - FREE audit

<https://lnkd.in/ggki9nH8>

Emory - Qualitative Research Design and Methods for Public Health Specialization - FREE audit during trial period - Financial Aid available

<https://lnkd.in/gymkf8hZ>

UC Davis - Qualitative Research - FREE audit during trial period - Financial Aid available

<https://lnkd.in/geEQ-zHj>

Emory - Qualitative Research Design - FREE audit during trial period - Financial Aid available

<https://lnkd.in/g94FfYvsR>

University of Amsterdam - Qualitative Research Methods - FREE audit during trial period - Financial Aid available

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## **Why you should join NAPSWI ?**

- ✓ Largest membership based organisation
- ✓ Protection and promotion of SW professional's rights & interests
- ✓ Stay updated with the latest developments in social work.
- ✓ Access to academic resources and research collaborations
- ✓ Engage in research, action & policy advocacy
- ✓ Opportunity to participate in Capacity development programs
- ✓ Connect with scholars & practitioners for knowledge exchange.
- ✓ Professional skill enhancement through training & workshops
- ✓ Network with leading social work professionals
- ✓ Get recognized through scholarships, publications & awards.
- ✓ and many more advantages.

## ***Enjoy our New Initiative-NAPSWI Social Work Digest***

*Social Work Digest is a thematic publication of the National Association of Professional Social Workers in India (NAPSWI), created to provide a dedicated platform for scholarly and reflective articles by social work professionals and members across the country. It focuses on critical discussions, professional experiences, and emerging perspectives within the field of social work in India. Each issue highlights a specific theme to encourage meaningful academic dialogue and knowledge sharing. The Digest complements NAPSWI's newsletter and supports the growth of professional learning, collaboration, and documentation of best practices, helping strengthen the social work community and guide the future development of the profession.*

### ***Call for Articles***

*The National Association of Professional Social Workers in India (NAPSWI) invites its members and professionals to contribute articles to the Social Work Digest. You may submit your articles based on the specific theme announced for each month.*

*Kindly send your contributions to [napswi@gmail.com](mailto:napswi@gmail.com) with the subject line:*

***“Article for [Month] – NAPSWI Social Work Digest.”***

*We encourage well-structured, insightful, and practice-oriented articles that contribute to the growth of the social work profession. Your valuable contributions will help strengthen academic dialogue and knowledge sharing within the community.*

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