

World Social Work Day 2008 - Nepal

Submitted by
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1. Background

Social Workers from every part of the world celebrated the first ever *World Social Work Day* in the year 2007. The theme was *Social Work: Making a World of Difference* highlighting that social workers help people to make positive changes in their lives. The celebration of World Social Work day further reinforces the role of social workers as the agents of change that makes the world a better place to live. The day unites all the social workers around the globe. As the saying goes "stick to the winner". The Social Workers around the World join together to celebrate the Second World Social Work Day on **April 15, 2008**.

The International Federation of Social Workers (IFSW) aims to work with partner organizations to achieve United Nations recognition for World Social Work Day and to work in partnership with other global organizations to ensure proper recognition of social work. The IFSW has since its original establishment in 1928 been the representative body of professional social workers globally. Today, IFSW represents social work associations in 84 countries with a total membership of more than 500,000 social workers.

2. Nepalese context of social work

In Nepal, the celebration of this Day is going to be for the first time to our knowledge and the timing of the annual World Social Work Day interestingly coincide with the historical changes that are taking place in the country.

The social work in the form of charity and welfare existed in Nepal since the time immemorial. The religion, culture and the patriarchic traditions of the society always dominated the values of social work. The birth of democracy in Nepal in 1990 provided a fertile opportunity for the NGO sector to grow. As a result need for trained social workers grew in the country. The restoration of democracy and the recent Jana Andolan II further brought about land mark changes in the field of social work with the emergence of large number of NGOs; Community based organizations and the strong presence of INGOs in the country contributing the social development. The celebration of World Social Work day in Nepal is visualized as there has been a need for formation a national association of social workers in the country.

3. Rationale:

The international days(March 8 as International Day, December 10th as a Human Rights Day for example) that are celebrated for different issues provide recognition to a particular issue and also generate greater awareness about the issue among the public.

By marking the World Social Work Day in Nepal from First April on 15th of April, we aim to raise awareness among the general public and various stakeholders about the contribution and challenges of the social work profession. We also would like to seek the attention and support of the concerned stakeholders of the profession around the globe. We hope that it also provide a platform for the dialogue between practitioners and young social workers.

4. Introduction to Kadambari College and the secretariat (coordination committee)

Students and Faculty from different colleges that are offering Social Work training have come together to form the secretariat to function as a collective organizer. It was decided that the department of social work at **Kadambari College** will be the coordinating agency. The College is the only institution runs a BSW program under Purbanchal University. The College is also a member of APASWE. The college is an educational initiative of Sutra Centre a not for profit organization registered with Nepal Government.

The partner organizers to mark the event are the Kathmandu Model College (KMC), K and K College, Classic College, Padma Kanya

College and Nepal College of Development Studies. In addition the the activities are also supported by Fr. P.T. Augustine Resource Centre and Sutra Centre for Development Education and Research.

The central co-ordination committee is headed by the students from all these colleges with proportional representation including other committees of media, poster campaign and street drama.

5. Proposed Activities:

5.1 Poster Campaign (April 1-15, 2008)

The objective is to reach various stake holders. An initial Poster campaign will be followed by a poster competition on the theme of Making World of Difference. The competition will be conducted among all the students of the organizing colleges. The competition will follow the central theme of the day, i.e. making the world of difference. All the collected posters will be displayed for exhibition in the final day of April 15th at the Kadambari Campus and the posters will be judged by an expert committee and selected posters will receive an award and a certificate. The selected posters will be used for the campaign using print and visual media. The posters for the pre- awareness of the general mass and concerned stakeholders, before the celebration of the day, are already prepared by the students of social work. The dissemination of the posters to various parts of Nepal is planned.

- Expected participants would be 150-200.
- There are two categories (Individual and Team of six)

5.2. Cultural program (April 15)

A Cultural program will be conducted on the April 15th at the premises of Kadambari Memorial College. The program consists of dances, songs and poems which represent Nepali Culture and highlight the issues of gender and equity. The participants of the programs are BSW students from all the participating colleges. The audience will be the invited social workers and general public.

5.3. Public Rally (April 14)

The main participants are the Students and Faculty of the participating Institutions. We also plan to mobilize participants from NGO sector. The

rally starts from Basantapur and ends at the Mandala. The purpose of organizing the rally is to raise awareness about the Social Work profession and seek solidarity. The program will be started by cleaning Ganesh Temple located at Basantapur. The cleaning program is to help the people of the locality and the general mass to be conscious to their environment.

5.4. Theatre for Change (Street drama shows April 1-15)

The street drama on the socially relevant issues will be presented at different places like Maitighar Mandala, Newroad, Sahidgate and Bhadrakali in the valley. Using the theatre for Change skills the social work students would like to highlight different social issues and also learn from the audience.

5.5. Fellowship and Network of Social Workers (April 15, 2008)

The day will provide the platform for the exchange of dialogue between the development practitioners, senior social workers and the young social workers enrolled in different colleges. Moreover, the social workers from different sectors come together to celebrate the day, which will reflect the unity and strength of the profession and also a motivation to form a national association of social workers.

5.6. Press Meet (7, 14 and 15th of April, 2008)

The information about the various activities and celebration will be disseminated through press releases, web tools and through media. A meet the press is planned on 7th and 14th at the Reporters Club. Since, media can play an important role in showcasing our activities; we would like to work with media professionals on a long term basis.

6. Expected Outcome(s):

The following are the expected outcomes:

- Public awareness about the social work profession and its contribution
- Strengthening of the network between different social work institutions

- address the gaps between practitioners and the professional social workers
- establish the tradition of observing World Social Work Day in Nepal
- Play an important role in the international social work