

World Social Work Day 2014

Nepal School of Social Work Celebrates

March 13-19, 2014

Social and Economic Crises-Social work solutions

Nepal School of Social Work (NSSW) has a long and proud tradition of celebrating World Social Work Day/week since 2006 in Nepal as an occasion to self reflect and reach the wider society. This year, 2014, is no exception. The faculty and students have marked World Social Work Day with a week long program of community awareness programs, cleaning campaign, essay competition, cultural celebrations, and sharing of stories of unsung champions of Nepalese society.



Celebrations started early on **13th March 2014** with a community art project, 'Painting for Purpose'; aimed at educating about and encouraging a healthier environment for our local community. The visual masterpiece depicts the sad journey of our current environment – from pristine water ways; to a polluted, unsafe water supply. The students of NSSW actively involved in the program and campaigned with a message of hope with the local community: *'if you can, clean up the rubbish...if you can't; don't litter.'*

As part of our inclusion of the wider community – Nepal School of Social Work took the opportunity to make an alliance with other colleges and young people of higher secondary schools and colleges and invited them become involved in social activities to craft and instill social responsibility in the young minds. Young students were invited to write an essay on the selected themes of 'Building Participation' or 'Respecting Diversity – Connecting People'. Essays were completed on 14 March 2014. There were more than 60 students from thirty colleges who participated. The winning student, Ms Shimala Mahat, from Himalayan College, and was acknowledged as part of our cultural celebration. We congratulate and thank all students for their engagement with us and in taking part of world social work day (WSD) celebrations.

March 18th, 2014 World Social Work Day, sees the theme of caring communities develop with a focus on a healthier environment for a healthy future. Nepal School of Social Work CEO, Pradipta Kadambari, welcomed the guests, participants in the programme and highlighted the objectives of the cleaning campaign as part of our 'College with Community' initiative – the college joined with Rosebud School, local community representatives, and police. Mr Hari Bahadur Kunwar, chief, Department of Environment, Kathmandu Metropolitan city expressed his views and announced his commitment to work in partnership with Nepal



school of social work. Kathmandu Municipality has started a river cleaning program since last year. Municipality is committed to clean up the Bagamati river within two years time . Municipality is making its immense effort to clean up rivers though mobilizing local communities, police, local schools, college, and other social organizations and aware people on their responsibilities to keep city clean. The municipality has made strict rule if the people throw garbage in to the river, on the road they will be panelized up to NRs. 5000.00 rupees and one year jail. He further highlighted that the role of the students of Nepal school of social work is important in spreading up the awareness campaign in the local communities

Mr. Bibek Man Singh, Coordinator, Rosebud School has shared his view that they will take full of responsibility for clean up the river closed to their school about 100 meters. The school is happy to participate with Nepal School of Social Work (NSSW) which is taking initiative for the cleanup campaign of Dhobi Khola (River). He further expressed that, they are further inspired to join the campaign with NSSW students to mark the **International Social Work Day 2014** and committed to continue their participation.



Mr. Durga Lal Shrestha, Manager of Butwal Power Company, made a commitment on behalf of his company that they would commit that they will participate in the cleaning campaign and other support whatever is possible to the Nepal School of Social Work. He expressed his gratefulness to the NSSW students and faculty for their initiative in mobilizing local communities, students, local social organizations, schools, colleges in partnership with Municipalities for a good environmental cause.

Dr Dilli Ram Adhikari, Campus Chief, Nepal School of Social Work, on the occasion of celebrating **International Social Work Day 2014**, cleaning campaign with the theme of caring communities and building participation in partnership with Kathmandu Metropolitan city, local collage, communities and social organizations to clean up Dhobi khola (River), expressed that one of the majors tasks of social workers is to bring social change. River pollution, sound pollution, air pollution, emission, adulteration and use of comical, pesticide in agriculture causing various social, economic, psychological and physical problems in people which needs to be focused by the social workers to resolve such problems. Environment pollution has been causing various problems like physical, mental, social and economic problems in the society. It is the time to aware the community and makes them self-disciplined in cleaning their cities and maintain clean environment. He further highlighted and requests all the participants to motivate "each one teach two" people for engaging in to the cleaning campaign.

Friday, March 21, 2014:

A cultural day at the Nepal School of Social Work to mark WSD 2014 as a festival of colours and diversity. A day where students and staff presented music, drama, dance and poems with themes of creating social awareness, and in celebrating social work education and the social work profession in Nepal and globally. They affirmed that social work has the power to transform societies towards peace and NSSW should be playing a more proactive role in Nepal's nation rebuilding process.

Dr. Dilli Ram Adhikari, Campus Chief and other faculty members have echoed that "Contribution of social workers is significant in changing social, economic and behavior. The social workers always fight against inequality, disparity, injustice, inhuman behavior, human rights for a decent life of individual, groups and community focusing on to decrease massive growing inequalities as poverty and defective social policy. Social workers advocate for changing oppressive situations, for good social policies, sustainable development to improve access and use of resources improving living condition of ethnic groups, disadvantaged groups and minorities. Disadvantaged people's participation in development process and decision making is the key to empower people and elimination of massive inequality in distribution of resources.

Ms. Pradipta Kadambari, CEO highlighted that "Collective and skillful actions against solution of social, economic, and psychological problems of discriminated population are done through empowerment. Social workers believe that all individuals are equal and they have potentiality to be able to resolve their social, economic and psychological problems. Social workers always focus to create a fair and just environment which is supportive to empower

people's livelihoods. They facilitate and support to those people who needs help enhance their confidence, potentiality, positive thinking and aspirations. Providing support to the government to make relevant and supportive social policy is important role of social workers which can addresses the problems of disadvantaged people.

Professional social workers are equipped with skills, knowledge and deep understanding about human behavior and work decisively to bring social change. They provide help to individual, groups, communities to empower them, instill social responsibilities and at the same time they influence social policies of government. Social workers help to resolve problems about Child labor, disability, mental problems, elderly people's problems, violation, conflict, displaced people, DAG, poor, beggary, prostitute, human trafficking, HIV affected people, third gender, dowry, domestic violence, drug abuse, migration and so on.

The drama performed by the joint efforts of P.U 1st Semester and T.U 1st Year students was worth appreciating as it emphasized the status of Non-Government Organisations in Nepal and how they are working toward building participation among community people from a grass root level and spread the message that unity is important to bring about change in a positive manner. All staff and students had a thoroughly enjoyable time, and the sense of community created through this celebration was exciting to be a part of. Field Work Coordinator, Samjhana Bhetwal expressed her vote of thanks to all the students, faculty members and partners for their wonderful participation and group commitment for one week of celebrations of World Social Work Day-2014. It was another mile stone for NSSW as a young school of social work in Nepal which aspires to nurture young social workers to craft a just society. Please Visit www.nepalschoolofsocialwork.org and we are more than happy to hear your suggestion and ideas. Thank you all.

