INDIA CELEBRATES WORLD SOCIAL WORK DAY 2017

Come March & the social work fraternity across the globe gears up to celebrate World Social Work Day (WSWD) with enthusiasm, excitement & exuberance. Innovative & impacting programs are organized around the WSWD theme declared biennially by International Federation of Social Workers (IFSW).

In India, the member associations of India Network of Professional Social Workers’ Associations (INPSWA) & several schools of social work in the country celebrated WSWD 2017 by organizing a variety of programs around the theme ‘Promoting Community & Environmental Sustainability’.

Karnataka Association of Professional Social Workers (KAPSW), in association with Department of Social Work, The Oxford College of Arts, Bengaluru celebrated WSWD 2017 at the latter’s college premise. The program was attended by students and faculty of various schools of social work affiliated to the Bangalore University, undergraduate students & faculty of the Arts college, social work practitioners & invitees.
The most vital & relevant ingredient of the day was panel discussion on WSWD 2017 theme `Promoting Community & Environmental Sustainability` where eminent social work professionals shared their experience from their field of practice namely the government & private sector with reference to their contribution to environment sustainability; corporate social responsibility & sustained community development; human rights & advocacy, training & capacity building; and in the health sector, the emerging field of human organ transplantation, organ & tissue donation. The thought provoking panel discussion was followed by playing of video message from Dr. Mariko Kimura, President, IFSW – Asia Pacific Region on the occasion of WSWD 2017 celebrations. The memorable event ended with a cultural program which included Indian classical dance performances by students of Samarthanam Trust for the Disabled (visually & hearing impaired) leaving the audience spell bound, foot tapping group dances, an enlightening skit & melodious songs by social work students on environment protection & community development and one-person show on inclusion of transgenders in the community.
INDIAN CLASSICAL DANCE PERFORMANCE BY STUDENTS OF SAMARTHANAM TRUST FOR THE DISABLED ON THE OCCASION OF WSWD 2017 CELEBRATION BY KAPSW, BENGALURU
Dept. of Social Work, PG Centre, Kolar, Karnataka celebrated WSWD 2017 with a procession by staff & students of social work carrying placards to enlighten the community on WSWD 2017 theme, awareness programs & felicitation program.
The Department of Psychiatric Social Work at the National Institute of Mental Health & Neuro Sciences (NIMHANS), Bengaluru under the banner of Indian Society of Professional Social Work (ISPSW) celebrated WSWD 2017 by organizing an array of novel programs with the theme, Promoting Community & Environmental Sustainability in Mental Health. The well organized day long program began with case presentation and discussion through Virtual Knowledge Network wherein 33 members registered and participated in the virtual case discussion and dyadic interaction through online from the United States of America & various parts of India including Karnataka, poster competition and exhibition where more than 50 posters designed by staff & students were displayed on the pavement for public viewing. The posters depicted the pictures & information on pioneers of social work, methods and fields of social work, knowledge about mental illnesses, neurological conditions, rehabilitation and other information relating to the WSWD 2017 theme. The program also included street play enacted at the hospital premise for the awareness of patients, their family & the general public and quiz competition for the social work fraternity. During the second half of the day, a symposium was organised wherein 3 eminent social work professionals spoke on sustainable social work education models, expanding horizons of social work practice & sustainable community based programs. On this memorable occasion, 3 outstanding
dignitaries were felicitated, two of them for their lifetime achievement and contribution to the field of professional social work literature & education. Before the program formally ended a video message on WSWD 2017 by Dr. Mariko Kimura, President, International Federation of Social Workers (IFSW) – Asia Pacific Region was played.

STREET PLAY AT HOSPITAL PREMISES, NIMHANS, BENGALURU ON THE OCCASION OF WSWD 2017
POSTER DISPLAY ON PAVEMENT AT NIMHANS, BENGALURU ON THE OCCASION OF WSWD 2017

LAUNCH OF VIRTUAL KNOWLEDGE NETWORK BY DEPT. OF PSYCHIATRIC SOCIAL WORK, NIMHANS, BENGALURU ON THE OCCASION OF WSWD 2017
The Department of Social Work, Central University of Karnataka, in association with Department of Social Work, Gulbarga University, Kalaburagi organized one day seminar on ‘Combating Child Labour and Child Trafficking’ on WSWD 2017. The seminar was co-hosted by India Network of Professional Social Workers’ Associations (INPSWA) and Child Rights Trust (CRT), Bengaluru and sponsored by the International Federation of Social Workers-Asia Pacific Region (IFSW-AP) and The Japanese Centre for Social Welfare Promotion and National Examination. This one day seminar provided a platform to sensitize social work students and social work professionals to learn from the experts and discuss about the present scenario. The speakers at the seminar underscored the correlation between the theme of WSWD 2017 i.e. ‘Promoting Community and Environmental Sustainability’ and combating child labour. and introduced the global agenda. Focus was laid on the stipulation of synergy of work between all the social workers (Irrespective of holding social work degrees) to bring in positive change especially when dealing with issues of child labour and trafficking. A video message from Dr. Mariko Kimura, President, International Federation of Social Workers – Asia Pacific Region (IFSW-AP) was presented which identified global social work issues.
WSWD 2017 VIDEO MESSAGE FROM DR. MARIKO KIMURA, PRESIDENT, IFSW-AP BEING PLAYED AT THE SEMINAR

PARTICIPANTS AT THE SEMINAR ON COMBATING CHILD LABOUR & CHILD TRAFFICKING
In Kerala state, the WSWD 2017 was celebrated by Kerala Association of Professional Social Workers (KAPS) through its 14 district Chapters. The district wise programs were organized jointly by concerned district chapters of KAPS and all the schools of social work in the respective district. At several places it was observed as Social Work Week by organizing programs in the community for a week. In all the districts exhibitions, awareness programs in the form of classes and street plays, programs with the participation of community, seminars and academic enrichment sessions, etc. were conducted. At BCM college, Kottayam an exhibition hut was built where exhibition on main theme of WSWD 2017 was organized for a week.

INAUGURATING WSWD 2017 CELEBRATIONS BY KERALA ASSOCIATION OF PROFESSIONAL SOCIAL WORKERS (KAPS), KERALA
DISCUSSIONS, STREET PLAYS, POSTER DISPLAY BY STUDENTS OF SOCIAL WORK ON THE OCCASION OF WSWD 2017 BY KAPS, KERALA
EXHIBITION HUT BY DEPT. OF SOCIAL WORK, BCM COLLEGE, KOTTAYAM, KERALA ON THE OCCASION OF WSWD 2017 CELEBRATIONS

STREET PLAY BY STUDENTS OF SOCIAL WORK, BCM COLLEGE, KOTTAYAM, KERALA AT THE COLLEGE PREMISE ON WSWD 2017