



# ISSW TIMES

Saturday, April 13, 2024

Edition I



## FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK

Dear Students, Faculty, Staff, and Supporters,

I am delighted to address you on this momentous occasion as we celebrate the publication of the inaugural newsletter of the Indore School of Social Work. This publication marks a significant milestone in our journey towards fostering greater communication, collaboration, and community engagement within our esteemed institution.

As we reflect on the values that define our school—integrity, compassion, and excellence—it becomes evident that effective communication plays a crucial role in advancing our mission of social transformation. Through this newsletter, we have the opportunity to amplify the voices of our diverse community and showcase the inspiring work being done to address pressing social issues.

At the core of our educational philosophy is a commitment to equipping our students with the knowledge, skills, and empathy needed to make a meaningful difference in the lives of others. This newsletter serves as a platform for celebrating their achievements, whether it be through innovative research projects, impactful fieldwork experiences, or leadership initiatives within the school and beyond.

Furthermore, the publication of this newsletter underscores our dedication to transparency and accountability as an institution. By sharing updates on academic programs, faculty accomplishments, and institutional developments, we aim to foster a culture of openness and inclusivity where all members of our community feel informed and empowered to contribute.

I would like to extend my heartfelt gratitude to the editorial team and contributors who have dedicated their time and talent to bring this publication to fruition. Your dedication to excellence is a testament to the spirit of collaboration and creativity that defines the Indore School of Social Work.

As we embark on this exciting new chapter in our school's history, I encourage each of you to actively engage with the content of this newsletter, share your feedback, and continue to support our collective efforts to create positive social change. Together, we have the power to shape a more just and compassionate world.

Thank you for your continued commitment to the values and mission of the Indore School of Social Work. I look forward to the impact that this newsletter will undoubtedly have in inspiring and empowering our community for years to come.

Warm regards,  
Dr. Mathew C.P.  
Principal  
Indore School of Social Work

## CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE



Dear Friends, Supporters, and  
Advocates of Social Justice,

I am delighted to extend my warmest greetings to you all on the auspicious occasion of the publication of the inaugural newsletter of the Indore School of Social Work. As the Chairman of our esteemed institution, and indeed as a shepherd of our community, it fills me with immense pride and joy to witness the realization of this significant milestone.

The Indore School of Social Work stands as a bastion of hope and progress, dedicated to the noble cause of uplifting the marginalized and advancing the principles of equity, compassion, and social justice. Since its inception, our school has been a beacon of light, guiding individuals towards lives of dignity and purpose, and empowering communities to forge their own paths towards a brighter future.

In launching this newsletter, we embark on a journey of communication, collaboration, and celebration. Through its pages, we have the opportunity to amplify the voices of those who work tirelessly to effect positive change, whether they be students, faculty, alumni, or partners in our shared mission. From groundbreaking research endeavors to grassroots initiatives aimed at addressing the most pressing social challenges of our time, each article serves as a testament to the indomitable spirit and unwavering dedication of our community.

I extend my heartfelt gratitude to the editorial team and contributors whose tireless efforts have made this publication a reality. Your commitment to excellence and your passion for social justice have undoubtedly laid the foundation for what promises to be a transformative and impactful platform for our school.

As we celebrate this momentous occasion, let us also reflect on the significance of the work that lies ahead. Our journey towards a more just and equitable society is far from over, and it is incumbent upon each of us to redouble our efforts in pursuit of this noble goal. Let this newsletter serve as a rallying cry for change, a call to action for all who believe in the power of compassion and solidarity to reshape the world around us.

In closing, I offer my sincerest congratulations to the entire Indore School of Social Work community on this historic achievement. May this newsletter be a source of inspiration, knowledge, and empowerment for all who engage with it, and may it serve as a testament to our collective commitment to building a more just and compassionate world.

With warmest regards,  
Manoj Charan  
Chairman  
Indore School of Social Work



# Embracing the Calling:

## Anyone Can Become a Professional Social Worker!

In a world filled with challenges and disparities, the need for compassionate individuals who can make a positive difference is greater than ever. If you've ever felt a calling to help others, to stand up for justice, and to be a beacon of hope in times of adversity, then the field of professional social work might just be your perfect fit. But who can become a professional social worker? The answer is simple: anyone with a heart for humanity and a passion for change.

- 1. Your Background Doesn't Define You:** One of the most beautiful aspects of social work is its inclusivity. Your background, upbringing, or socio-economic status doesn't determine your ability to become a professional social worker. Whether you come from a privileged background or have faced your own hardships, what truly matters is your dedication to serving others and your willingness to advocate for those who need a voice.
- 2. Empathy Knows No Boundaries:** Empathy is the cornerstone of social work, and it knows no boundaries. It doesn't matter if you haven't experienced the exact struggles of the people you aim to help. What matters is your ability to connect with them on a human level, to listen with an open heart, and to stand in solidarity with them as they navigate life's challenges. Empathy is a gift that each of us possesses, and when we harness it for the greater good, miracles can happen.
- 3. Every Skill is Valuable:** You might think that only those with specific skills or qualifications can pursue a career in social work, but the truth is that every skill is valuable in this field. Whether you excel at communication, problem-solving, creativity, or organization, there is a place for you in the world of social work. Every talent you possess can be utilized to uplift others and create positive change in society.
- 4. Diversity Strengthens Our Impact:** The beauty of social work lies in its diversity. We need individuals from all walks of life, with unique perspectives and experiences, to come together and tackle the complex issues facing our world. Whether you're a recent graduate, a career changer, a parent returning to the workforce, or a retiree looking for a new purpose, your presence in the field of social work strengthens our collective impact and enriches our profession.
- 5. You Can Make a Difference:** At the core of it all, what drives people to pursue a career in social work is the desire to make a difference. No matter how big or small your contributions may seem, each act of kindness, advocacy, and support has the power to transform lives and communities. By becoming a professional social worker, you have the opportunity to be a catalyst for change, to inspire hope where there was once despair, and to be a source of light in a world that often feels dark.

So, if you've ever felt the tug of compassion on your heartstrings, if you've ever longed to be a force for good in the world, then consider this your invitation to join the ranks of professional social workers. Together, we can create a future where empathy reigns supreme, where justice is served for all, and where every person has the opportunity to thrive. It's time to answer the call and embrace journey of becoming a professional social worker. - Mr. Anand Goud

On **August 15, 2023**, the Indore School of Social Work celebrated Independence Day with great fervor and patriotism. The entire faculty, including Dr. Mathew C.P, Prof. Anand Goud, Dr. Sudha Jain, Dr. R.K Sharma, Dr. Avinash Mishra, Dr. Minakshi Kar, Asha Thomas, Librarian Mr. Avinash Mishra, and Prof. Mohit Jat,



actively participated in the program, along with the enthusiastic involvement of the students.

Dr. Mathew C.P and the other esteemed faculty members shared their insights and thoughts on the importance of independence and the role of youth in shaping the future of the nation.

On **September 14, 2023**, the celebration of Hindi Diwas took place at the Indore School of Social Work.



All the students participated in the event with enthusiasm and actively engaged in the program. Additionally, all the faculty members also participated in the event and showed their support.

The celebration concluded with a communal feast, where everyone enjoyed popular Hindi delicacies. It was a splendid opportunity to foster camaraderie and partnership among the students.



On **September 27, 2023**, a guided interaction session between fresh students and seniors took place at the Indore School of Social Work. This session aimed to provide a platform for new students to get acquainted with the senior members of the institution, including both faculty and fellow students. During the session, all faculty members and students actively participated, fostering an environment of warmth and camaraderie.



On **September 23, 2023**, the Indore School of Social Work was alive with vibrant colors and joyous celebrations as the entire faculty and student body came together to commemorate Ganpati Utsav. The atmosphere was filled with excitement and positivity as everyone gathered to honor the beloved elephant-headed deity.

On **October 6th**, Social Pillars, an online Volunteer Organization in India, hosted a one-day conference focusing on "Three Key Factors of Social Development Acceleration." The event, spanning 2 hours, featured three key introductions. Chief guest Mr. Mukesh Kumar Singh delivered a motivational speech discussing the evolution of social work, the influence of the National Health Policy, and emphasized the importance of prudent decision-making and safe social media practices for youth. Mr. Kamal Patel introduced Social Pillar, sharing his volunteer experiences and outlining the platform's purpose, registration process, and motivation. Mrs. Amita Kumar led a discussion on the significance of bachelor's and master's degrees in social work, highlighting the impactful potential of individuals with a vision for social improvement.



On **October 9th**, 1991-93 Kerala batch alumni visited the college for an interaction session with students. They discussed opportunities in social work, sharing their valuable knowledge and experiences. Fondly recalling their college days, they shared anecdotes and stories, providing insights into the field of social work. This interaction served as a bridge between past and present, inspiring current students with the wisdom and experiences of their predecessors.

On **October 9, 2023**, starting at 3:00 pm to 4:00 pm, in observance of World Human Rights Day, the Indore School of Social Work, in collaboration with the Bhopal School of Social Sciences, Udaipur School of Social Work, and the International Justice Mission, organized a webinar on human rights and labor trafficking. All faculty members and staff actively participated in the event. The webinar aimed to raise awareness about human rights violations, particularly in the context of labor trafficking. Participants engaged in discussions and presentations to understand the complexities of the issue and explore ways to combat it effectively. It was a concerted effort towards promoting human dignity and justice.



# Social Work Employment Soars Across India!

In recent years, the field of professional social work in India has witnessed a remarkable growth trajectory, offering diverse and rewarding job opportunities for aspiring individuals. This article delves into the landscape of social work employment in India, supported by empirical data from credible sources, to shed light on the burgeoning prospects in this field.

- **The Rising Demand:** According to a report by the National Sample Survey Office (NSSO), the demand for social workers in India has surged in response to the escalating social and economic challenges faced by the nation. With a population exceeding 1.3 billion, India contends with issues such as poverty, unemployment, gender inequality, child labor, and mental health concerns, necessitating the intervention of trained social workers. The NSSO data indicates a consistent increase in the allocation of funds for social welfare programs, indicative of the growing recognition of social work's pivotal role in societal development.
- **Government Initiatives and Employment:** Government initiatives play a pivotal role in generating job opportunities for social workers across various sectors. For instance, the Ministry of Women and Child Development's Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) scheme employs a vast workforce of social workers to address issues related to maternal and child health, nutrition, and early childhood development. Similarly, the National Health Mission (NHM) recruits social workers to facilitate community health programs and initiatives. Data from the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare reveals that NHM alone has created over 800,000 job opportunities for healthcare and social work professionals.
- **Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs):** NGOs constitute another significant avenue for employment in the field of social work. Data from the NGO Darpan portal indicates that there are approximately 3.3 million registered NGOs in India, working across diverse sectors including education, healthcare, environment, human rights, and rural development. These organizations offer employment opportunities for social workers to engage in grassroots-level interventions, advocacy, capacity building, and community mobilization efforts. Furthermore, partnerships between NGOs and government agencies often result in collaborative projects, expanding the scope of employment opportunities for social workers.
- **Professional Associations and Certification:** Professional associations play a crucial role in advancing the standards and recognition of social work as a profession. The National Association of Professional Social Workers in India (NAPSWI) provides accreditation, certification, and continuing education opportunities for social work practitioners. Data from NAPSWI indicates a steady increase in membership, reflecting the growing professionalization of social work in India.

**Conclusion:** The landscape of job opportunities in the field of professional social work in India is dynamic and multifaceted, offering avenues for both entry-level professionals and seasoned practitioners. Government initiatives, NGO partnerships, educational institutions, research organizations, and professional associations collectively contribute to the growth and diversification of employment prospects in this domain. As India continues its journey towards inclusive development and social justice, the role of social workers remains indispensable, making it an opportune time for individuals aspiring to pursue a career in this noble profession. - Mr. Anand Goud



On **October 10th, 2023**, Dr. Vijaya Sakpal, Deputy Director of the State Mental Health Authority, addressed a program on World Mental Health Day, stressing the importance of suicide prevention strategies. The event, a collaborative effort between Indore School, the Mental Health Network of Social Work, featured Dr. Satpal as the chief guest, advocating for compassionate behavior towards society members. Prof. Anand Gaur, Head of Psychiatry, delivered a keynote speech. With 226 participants, including international attendees, the workshop highlighted suicide recognition and prevention policies. Suggestions included stress management training in educational institutions and

The establishment of mental health cells for students. Senior activist Sudhir Goyal announced plans for an international mental health facility in Ujjain.





On **October 11th**, the seniors of ISSW College hosted a memorable fresher's party for their juniors. The event was filled with exciting activities including dance, music, and games, creating an atmosphere of joy and camaraderie. Seniors warmly welcomed the newcomers, ensuring they felt part of the college community. The party provided an opportunity for students to bond and form lasting friendships, setting the tone for a vibrant and inclusive college experience. It was a night to remember, marked by laughter, fun, and the beginning of new connections among the students.



On **October 20th, 2023**, in celebration of Navratri, ISSW organized a vibrant garba event. Both students and faculty enthusiastically joined in the festivities, dancing to traditional Gujarati tunes and immersing themselves in the joyous atmosphere. The event provided a platform for cultural exchange and unity, as participants from diverse backgrounds came together to celebrate the auspicious occasion. It was a lively and colorful evening filled with laughter, camaraderie, and the spirit of Navratri. The garba served as a memorable highlight, fostering a sense of community and celebration within the ISSW campus.



On **November 3rd**, starting at 10:30 AM, the Indore School of Social Work, in collaboration with the Universal Peace and Social Development Society, hosted a lecture titled "Drug Mafia and Alcohol as Root Causes." This insightful session aimed to shed light on the societal impacts of drug abuse and alcoholism. It was open to all students, staff, and representatives of NGOs. The lecture offered valuable insights into understanding and addressing these pressing issues. Participants gained a deeper understanding of the root causes and implications of drug mafia activities and alcohol abuse in society, contributing to a more informed and proactive approach to tackling these challenges.

The NSS unit of Indore School of Social Work College, under the guidance of Dr. Ritesh Mahadik, is set to host the Rastriya Smaprdayik Sadbhav Pratisthan Saptah on **November 24, 2023**, starting at 10:00 am. This event aims to promote national unity and harmony. Faculty members and students from all departments will actively participate, fostering a spirit of inclusivity and togetherness within the college community. Through various activities and discussions, the event seeks to instill values of mutual respect, understanding, and cooperation among individuals from diverse backgrounds. It promises to be a meaningful and enriching experience for all involved.



# Social Workers in India: Champions of Change

- Mr. Anand Goud

In India, the field of social work is enriched by the tireless efforts of individuals who dedicate their lives to serving others and championing causes that uplift communities. This analytical article highlights the remarkable contributions and impact of influential social workers in India, drawing upon data from various sources to illustrate the breadth and depth of their work.

**Aruna Roy:** Aruna Roy, a former civil servant turned activist, is renowned for her advocacy of the Right to Information (RTI) Act in India. Her work with the Mazdoor Kisan Shakti Sangathan (MKSS) paved the way for transparency and accountability in governance. According to official government data, the RTI Act has empowered millions of citizens to access information and hold authorities accountable for their actions.

**Baba Amte:** Baba Amte, a social activist and humanitarian, dedicated his life to serving the marginalized communities in India, particularly those affected by leprosy. His work with the Anandwan community in Maharashtra transformed the lives of thousands of leprosy patients, providing them with healthcare, education, and livelihood opportunities. According to statistics from the Baba Amte Foundation, Anandwan has rehabilitated over 5,000 leprosy patients and their families.

**Ela Bhatt:** Ela Bhatt, the founder of the Self-Employed Women's Association (SEWA), has been a trailblazer in empowering women workers in the informal sector. SEWA's data indicates that it has organized over 2 million women workers across various trades, providing them with access to financial services, healthcare, and social security. Bhatt's advocacy has led to policy reforms that recognize the contributions of informal sector workers and protect their rights.

**Prakash Amte and Mandakini Amte:** Prakash Amte and Mandakini Amte, a husband-wife duo, have dedicated their lives to serving the tribal communities in the Gadchiroli district of Maharashtra. Their work at the Lok Biradari Prakalp has improved access to healthcare, education, and sustainable livelihoods for tribal populations. According to data from Lok Biradari Prakalp, the organization has provided healthcare services to over 50,000 patients annually and facilitated the education of thousands of tribal children.

**Medha Patkar:** Medha Patkar, an activist and social reformer, is known for her advocacy of the rights of marginalized communities affected by large-scale development projects. Her work with the Narmada Bachao Andolan (NBA) has drawn attention to the displacement and environmental degradation caused by dam projects in the Narmada valley. According to data from NBA, the organization has mobilized affected communities and secured legal victories to protect their rights.

**Bindeshwar Pathak:** Bindeshwar Pathak, the founder of Sulabh International, has been a pioneer in promoting sanitation and hygiene practices in India. Through the implementation of low-cost sanitation technologies and construction of public toilets, it has improved access to sanitation facilities for millions of people, particularly in rural areas. According to Sulabh International's data, the organization has constructed over 1.5 million household toilets & 8,000 public toilet complexes.

**Bezwada Wilson:** Bezwada Wilson, a prominent Dalit rights activist, has been instrumental in the fight against manual scavenging and caste-based discrimination. His organization, the Safai Karmachari Andolan (SKA), has worked tirelessly to eradicate manual scavenging and rehabilitate manual scavengers. According to SKA's data, the organization has liberated over 300,000 manual scavengers and provided them with alternative livelihood opportunities.

**Dr. Abhay Bang and Dr. Rani Bang:** Dr. Abhay Bang and Dr. Rani Bang, public health researchers and activists, have made significant contributions to maternal and child healthcare in rural India. Their organization, SEARCH (Society for Education, Action and Research in Community Health), has implemented innovative healthcare interventions that have reduced infant mortality rates and improved maternal health outcomes in rural Maharashtra.

**Harsh Mander:** Harsh Mander, a human rights activist and author, has been at the forefront of efforts to promote communal harmony and social justice in India. His organization, Aman Biradari, works towards building bridges between communities divided by religion, caste, and ethnicity. According to Aman Biradari's data, the organization has facilitated peace-building initiatives and provided relief and rehabilitation assistance to victims of communal violence.



On **March 16, 2024**, from 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m., the Indore School of Social Work and Abhyas Mandal jointly organized an awareness program at Shivaji Vatika Chowk. The aim was to promote safe driving practices, emphasizing the importance of wearing helmets and adhering to traffic regulations. Participants engaged in discussions and demonstrations highlighting the significance of road safety measures. The event served to educate the community on responsible behavior while operating vehicles, encouraging everyone to prioritize safety on the roads. It was a proactive step towards fostering a culture of road safety awareness and compliance within the community.





A “pad-yatra” was organized by the Indore School of Social Work involving past and present students alongside professionals like doctors, lawyers, engineers, journalists, and authors, highlighting social concerns. Emphasis was placed on societal contribution rather than solely expecting from society. Participants discussed topics such as social relationships, youth activism, health, and environmental conservation. They distributed pamphlets promoting positive messages and sang patriotic songs during the 18+ km journey. Notable social figures welcomed the procession in various locations, fostering dialogue on community issues. The event concluded with remarks by local leaders stressing the importance of transparent social engagement and cultural preservation.



On **March 2, 2024**, starting at 10:30 am, a group of students from Matru Seva Sangh Institute of Social Work, Nagpur, embarked on a visit organized by the institute in association with Indore School of Social Work College. Under the guidance of Dr. Mathew. C.P, the event aimed to foster intercollegiate collaboration and cultural exchange. Students and faculty members from both institutions participated enthusiastically, sharing experiences and insights. The program included presentations by Matru Seva Sangh students, providing a platform to showcase their talents and projects. This initiative strengthened bonds between the two institutions, promoting mutual learning and understanding.

## GROUP ACTIVITY

From March 19 to March 21, 2024, the Indore School of Social Work orchestrated a vibrant three-day celebration in honor of World Social Day. Led by Mr. Anand Goud, the event commenced each day at 9:00 a.m., featuring a diverse array of activities aimed at fostering camaraderie and celebrating the spirit of social engagement.



The festivities kicked off with a literary competition, where students showcased their eloquence and creativity through poetry, essays, and debates centered around social issues. This was followed by a cultural competition, showcasing the rich diversity of traditions and talents among the student body. Participants delighted the audience with mesmerizing performances ranging from dance and music to drama, art and tent making.

The culmination of the celebration was marked by a spirited sports competition, promoting teamwork, sportsmanship, and physical fitness. Students enthusiastically engaged in various sporting events, including cricket, fostering a sense of unity and healthy competition. Throughout the three days, both students and faculty members actively participated, enjoying the festivities and contributing to the vibrant atmosphere. The event served as a platform for meaningful interaction, cultural exchange, and collective reflection on the importance of social responsibility.

By organizing this comprehensive program, the Indore School of Social Work reinforced its commitment to nurturing well-rounded individuals equipped to make a positive impact on society.





## From the Editor's Desk: Celebrating the Inaugural Newsletter of Indore School of Social Work

Dear Readers,

It is with great pleasure and excitement that we announce the publication of the inaugural newsletter of the Indore School of Social Work. As the Editor-in-Chief, I am immensely proud to present this platform that will serve as a conduit for sharing the remarkable journey and achievements of our esteemed institution.

At the heart of our endeavor lies a commitment to social justice, community engagement, and the advancement of knowledge in the field of social work. The Indore School of Social Work has long been a beacon of hope and change, empowering individuals and communities to lead fulfilling lives and effect positive transformations.

Through this newsletter, we aim to showcase the impactful initiatives undertaken by our faculty, students, and alumni, as well as provide insightful perspectives on current social issues and trends. From pioneering research projects to collaborative community outreach programs, each article featured in this publication reflects our unwavering dedication to creating a more equitable and inclusive society.

Moreover, this newsletter serves as a platform for dialogue and exchange, fostering connections among our diverse community of stakeholders. Whether you are a student embarking on a journey in social work, a seasoned professional seeking inspiration, or a supporter of our mission, we invite you to join us in celebrating the accomplishments of the Indore School of Social Work and the meaningful contributions of its members.

As we embark on this exciting new chapter, I extend my sincere gratitude to all those who have contributed to the creation of this newsletter, from the writers and editors to the designers and administrators. Your passion and commitment have brought this vision to life, and I am confident that this publication will serve as a catalyst for positive change for years to come.

In closing, I invite you to explore the pages of our inaugural newsletter and join us in celebrating the spirit of social work excellence at the Indore School of Social Work.

With warm regards,

Anand Goud

Editor-in-Chief

Indore School of Social Work Newsletter

## Principal and Faculty Members:



Dr. Mathew C.P.  
(Principal)



Dr. R. K. Sharma  
(Senior Assistant professor)



Dr. Sudha Jain  
(Assistant Professor)



Dr. Meenakshi Kar  
(Assistant Professor)



Mr. Anand Goud  
(Assistant Professor)



Mr. Avinash Mishra  
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Mr. Mohit Jat  
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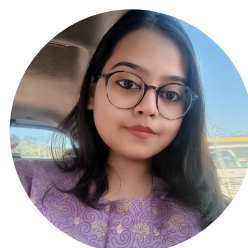
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