

INDIA, WEDNESDAY, JUNE 1, 2016



The Social Spectrum

A NETWORK OF PROFESSIONAL SOCIALWORKERS - INDIA INITIATIVE

FREE EDITION, ISSUE 3

Driven by volunteer power!!

#WeNPSVolunteers

To be a volunteer Tweet us @networkpsw
or Post an update with #WeNPSVolunteers

the social spectrum
A NPS - India Initiative
WWW.FB.COM/NETWORKPSW

Spending about three months building NPS through social media like whatsapp, facebook and releasing a newsletter every month can be taxing. How do we manage the issues that crop up on whatsapp? There are men trying their luck with women, there are juniors trying to outdo seniors and then there are some people who just do not understand rules in the group. How long can a team consisting of a handful of members do it all, burning the midnight oil? Energy levels were going down, our health was failing us, we had jobs that is still our bread and butter to attend to, families that missed spending time with us and yet we had to keep NPS going forward. But, how on earth do we manage that without any resources?

The best thing to do now would be to put our Social Work Education to good use. We started by mobilizing human resources. It was time, we put to good use, the data collected from our census in the previous month. We had about 70+ volunteers who signed up for various roles under NPS. Our volunteers are across the length and breadth of India and some from the international arena. We are grateful to these volunteers who are helping us hold the fort together and are sharing our work with us.

On the dark side, despite being social workers, some men want to misuse the professional forum for their personal benefits. Don't worry about the ugly truth ladies! In addition to our volunteer program, NPS has also created a helpline for women of the NPS community. In case you had missed the announcement earlier, you can take a look at it here.

If you feel that there is an area you can contribute in as a journalist, editor, coordinator or researcher, you can register at <https://goo.gl/a6gTil>. Come join us to make a change in the social workers community. Change starts from within, if we cannot help ourselves how are we going to help others. So hop onto the bandwagon, let's make a positive change for our profession.

-Team NPS

NOTICE

Do NOT randomly start texting women in the group. If you want any help, make a public request in the group. If you are to text anyone personally, remember to introduce yourself along with the purpose of your message. Let's maintain professionalism in the forum! 'Fighting crimes like rape, start with not misusing every opportunity of speaking to a woman!' - Team NPS

Women Helpline +91 7200543506



Dr.K.Shanmugavelayutham
Managing Trustee
FOR YOUNG CHILD



Dr. K. Shanmugavelayutham has a Master's degree in Social Work from Sri Ramakrishna Mission Vidyalaya Arts & Science College, Coimbatore. (Batch of 1977- 79). He completed his M.Phil in social work from the University of Delhi and secured his Ph.D from Kashi Vidyapeeth, Varanasi.

He started his career (1979-1981) as Lecturer in Tirpude College of Social Work in Nagpur and spent thirty years in Teaching, Research, Field Practice (1981-2011) in Loyola College, Chennai, and retired as an Associate Professor.

At present he is the Convener for the Tamil Nadu Forum for Creche and Child Care Services (TN-FORCES)

Executive Director, Legal Resource Centre for Child Rights (LRCCR)

State Convener, Tamil Nadu People's Mental Health Forum (TNPMHF)..(Contd/P2)

REAL LIFE HERO!!!

Q & A with Dr.K.Shanmugavelayutham

Managing Trustee, FORYOUCCHILD

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E.mail:tnforces@yahoo.com



The social work faculty should be attached to an institution and work for an organization. Field based experience along with in class-teaching will enrich the profession better.



Q.What is the major cause for you to have dedicated your life in the field of social work?

A. To be honest, rather than dedication it is the teaching and research that made me passionate to this field. I have guided Ph.D scholars and M.Phil scholars. During the initial years being involved in working with the mentally challenged and counselling, I was instrumental in the effect of Persons with Disability Act, 1995, and a part of the disability campaign. From there, I moved on to child rights. For, twenty-five long years I have been involved in working for child rights

Q.What is your True passion in the field of social work?

A. Working for the cause of children has made me passionate, considering this passion as a God given opportunity has helped me reach out to a larger populace.

Q. How does your family support?

A. Initially, my wife felt that social work was typically for a government employee. Now she is my whole support and strength, without my family I wouldn't have come this far.

Q. Challenges faced in your career?

A. There wasn't any professional training and it was difficult as a student. There was no proper guidance, and training.

Awards received.

(i) International Federation of Social Workers – Medal for Outstanding Contribution for the Professional Social Workers. - At Social Workers World Conference Sri Lanka – 1994

(ii) Outstanding Work in Tsunami Relief and Rehabilitation – Children Relief and Rehabilitation – Rose Ridwan Award by Bahai community, Chennai in the year 2005.

(iii) Human Rights Award by the MakkalMedia, 2003

Q.Why did you choose social work as your profession?

A. The awareness toward professional social work was unknown, after my under graduation in botany I took up a master's degree course in social work, by the influence and suggestions from family and friends.

Q. Who is your role model?

A. Ms.Girija ICCWO, an Honorary General Secretary. I admire her dedication towards Child Care and child care Services.

Dr. P.K Gopal, a social worker who got Padma Shri award from the Government of India in the Field of Leprosy Rehabilitation Sagayam IAS

Dr. Ganapathy (Professional in Human Resource Management)

Top three achievements .

- (i)** Improvement in Early Childhood Care and Development through evidence based research studies
- (ii)** Voluminous publication on Child Rights.
- (iii)** Advocacy on child rights. Secondary and primary educations were ensured.

Q. What is your opinion on integrated social work?

A. Method wise or field wise specialization is to be inculcated. Field wise specialization in India is the focus. I suggest, BSW should have integrated and MSW should have specified specialization, impetus must be laid on specialization at the masters' level.

Q. Opinion on a council for social work?

A. In the Beginning of my career I did lots of work, I involved myself in promoting and critical reviewing. The problems were bitter, rivalry, egoism and having a council is one method of getting recognition for social worker, but it will take long time.

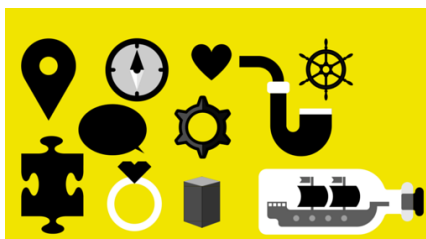
Q. Message to the educators.

A. The social work faculty should be attached to an institution and work for an organization. Field based experience along with in class-teaching will enrich the profession better. Do not use just power point presentation and old examples; make the lectures rich with current experiences!

Q. Message for NPS -INDIA.

A. NPS should highlight the scope for social work. NPS has to innovate and work hard and keep going. Document all the work you do. There will be lots of storms, face it!

Interviewed by: Ms.Preenu Ashok .MSW,MPhil, Medical social worker,Chennai
Mr. Manikandan S MSW,MPhil, Associate, Csr, Vikatan Group,Chennai



a little bit of
EVERYTHING

“The pain you feel today is the strength you feel tomorrow. For every challenge encountered, there is opportunity for growth” as the saying goes, social work trainees i.e. I and II MSW students of Postgraduate Centre of Mangalore University, Chikka Aluvara, Coorg went on the Rural Study camp in Yedavanadu Village and Sulebaavi a Tribal colony in Coorg from 4-01-2016 to 10-01-2016.



This was the first camp organized by the Centre since the course started two years ago and this was the first batch. In the camp, all found many problems in the colony, in which water

shortage was a serious issue. The colony had a total of 45 families but there was one small well which was 10 ft and the water in the well was not potable but the inhabitants are forced to use this contaminated water which resulted in Cerebral Palsy (CP) of a child. Our team having witnessed this dire is-

sue wanted to move a step further and address the issue. The team along with the local inhabitants together set out to clean the well. After two days of exercise the water



was better in comparison to what was before. The child who had CP was taken to the District Disability Welfare Officer and was awarded a disability pension card. The child was then referred to a local NGO for regular physiotherapy. Based on PRA data, a report was made and handed over to the CEO of the Zilla Panchayat Kodagu. The initiatives drawn by the team was highlighted in the local newspaper, and this helped initiate the authorities to lay concrete roads and this came into being within a span of five days! The local government has promised to provide basic facilities to the inhabitants at the earliest. When there is unity and dedication to achieve something nothing can stop us from achieving it.

Faculties: Robin K J, Harinakshi K, Lokesh Bharani M N, Nataraja S M

Students: Akshanth, Dixshith, Madhuraja, Kiran, Pavithra, Shruthi, Nafiya, jeevitha, Akshatha, Brohini, Monica, Monalisa, Darshan, Venktesh, Rakesh, Rajesh, Vimala, Soumya, Sushmitha and Taneem

Institution: Postgraduate Centre of Mangalore University, Chikka Aluvara, Coorg



RESILIENCE AMONG WOMEN SEX WORKERS AND OTHER WORKING WOMEN

Due to many economic reasons and industrialization women have to go to work and support the family financially on equal par with men. Being able to get into work hasn't been an easy fight for women to win. Women in general have to manage their family life as well as their work life without causing hindrance to others. One such stressful job is sex work. Sex work is the provision of sexual services for money or goods. A commercial sex worker is a person who works in the sex industry and receives money or goods in exchange for sexual services, and who consciously define those activities as income generating even if they do not consider sex work as their occupation. Some people use the term to avoid invoking the stigma associated with the word prostitution. Resilience has been defined as the individual's ability to positively cope with stress and adversity; "bouncing back" to a previous state of normal functioning, or using the experience of adversity to enhance flexibility and overall functioning. Resilience does not eliminate stress or erase life's difficulties. Instead it gives the strength to tackle problems, hold on and overcome adversity and move on with their lives.

Working women as a whole need the ability and strength to maintain normalcy of functioning in both family life as well as work life for which resilience is one main tool for life. With respect to sex workers, many pre-effects and post effects of sex work, they face physical problems such as STD's, bone injuries, pregnancy, miscarriage, TB, chronic pelvic pain, injuries, etc. and mental problems such as Severe Trauma, PTSD, anxiety, depression, stress, self-medication through alcohol and drug abuse. To face all these physical and mental problems, resilience is essential in their day to day life. A study with a sample of 40 sex workers and 40 working women of age group 21-67 was done using Connor-Davidson resilience scale (2003) was used to measure resilience.

It showed a significant difference in resilience between female sex workers and other working women. Resilience in Female sex workers is significantly high when compared to the other working women. This may be due to high exposure to risk factors and constantly getting used to it.

There are only a few studies which monitor and evaluate outreach and intervention programmes. The interaction of different forms of social exclusion is best described, whereby people often suffer from multiple processes of exclusion which exacerbate negative health impact. Government can help by doing constant health check-up and providing jobs which can help the individual and intervention can be done in order to eradicate mental health issues.

Written by,
A.Ofelia, MSW, 1st year
Madras School of Social Work, Chennai

NATIONAL LEVEL WORKSHOP



Coimbatore Campus

on

Issues and Difficulties of Women - Headed Families
While Carrying Out Their
Responsibilities June-14-15 2016

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THE UGLY TRUTH

STAND. SPEAK. ACT.

Every person has got a role to play in his life. Be it be personal or professional, no matter what, human beings are entitled to play a role in life. Being bestowed a role or being in a role itself gives a person satisfaction and also increase his productiveness. As far as a professional is concerned, the importance of having a 'role' in that organization or setting is significant.

Medical and Psychiatric social work students are placed in both medical and psychiatric settings. During the theoretical classes, we learn about the roles that a social worker has in a medical and psychiatric setup. Theoretically everything sounded well! But once field based exposures took off, the roles that we studied got messed up!

THE UGLY TRUTH: While working in a psychiatric setting, we had to work with trainees of different professions. There were a bunch of nursing students, clinical psychology students, counselling psychology students, to add more complications; there were case managers and ourselves. The problem was that all these "budding professionals" were doing the same work, except for nurses, because they dealt with medications in addition with other work.

According to NASW, there are various ethical responsibilities that a social worker requires to maintain with colleagues. One among those responsibilities is 'Interdisciplinary Collaboration'. This responsibility says that social workers, who are members of an interdisciplinary team should participate and contribute to decisions that affect the well-being of clients by drawing on the perspectives, values, and experiences of the social work profession. Professional and ethical obligations of the interdisciplinary team as a whole and of its individual members should be clearly established. In a psychiatric setting, interdisciplinary approach is very much important as far as a patient's overall improvement is concerned. But the irony is that, even if the disciplines are different, the work done and service provided are equivalent.

It is high time that there should be a "working model" of the theoretical roles that a person swats up. Being given a specific role, it helps a professional to enhance professionally and reduce overlapping of work and professional grudges. Unless and until there are no specific and precise roles for each professional, the dignity of the profession and the worth of a person remain qualm.

**Mr. Nithin and Ms.Roshini II year ,MSW
Rajagiri College of Social sciences , Kerala**

Announcement

Aathmasparan,

a ngo based at Chennai has launched a project to provide educational support in the form of

Online audio library for the visually challenged.

Study materials in the form of power point presentations for the deaf and dumb.

Interested volunteers can contact
+91 9003219694

Your helping hands can brighten. Students' life.



Social Work in Canada

In Canada, Social workers work in a variety of settings: family services agencies, children's aid agencies, general and psychiatric hospitals, school boards, correctional institutions, welfare administration agencies, federal and provincial departments. An increasing number of social workers work in private practice.

The consumers of social work services in Canadian communities often belong to the most vulnerable populations. In order to protect their safety and to be sure that quality programs and services are being provided by highly-trained, competent professionals, each province has its own College which regulates the license associated with professional practice. The process of licensure ensures competency and adherence to ethical practice and holds Social Workers registrants legally accountable for their actions. Applications for registration involve proof of Social Work qualification (e.g. BSW, MSW); areas of specialized training as acquired through internship or employment, affirmation of ethical standards and a membership fee. Each year, Social Workers are required to renew their membership with the College they are affiliated with. This involves declaring and providing proof of ongoing professional training to demonstrate professional competence. All legal actions and their outcomes must also be declared at this time. Fees associated with liability and regulation must be paid in full as per renewal of membership with the College.

At the present time, the Canadian Association of Social Workers (CASW) is working on standardizing licensure requirements across provinces. British Columbia is the first province to introduce a licensing exam to qualify for membership in the College. Within the next few years, it is expected that the other provinces will also require examinations as part of an overall strategy to standardize the basic knowledge and practice requirements to qualify for professional practice as a "Social Worker" in Canada. These Standards of Practice have been adopted through the International Federation of Social Workers (IFSW).

**Written by
Vinita Puri MSW, RSW,M.Phil
Canada**

CONFERENCE



**JOINT WORLD CONFERENCE ON SOCIAL WORK
EDUCATION AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT 2016
SEOUL, KOREA | JUNE 27-30 2016**

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<http://www.swsd2016.org/eng/index.php>



All About Mentoring!!

Professionals form a special social group in any developed and civilized society contributing by their highly specialized knowledge and skills for solving human problems and improving social welfare. Often young trainees blossom as a full-fledged successful professional with support from their mentors. Hence this topic of mentoring becomes more important to sustain the motivated social workers who are committed for a career in professional social work. In India there are innumerable challenges for a young social work student or new entrant in a social work job both in government or non-government sector. They range from lack of statutory recognition to civilian acceptance to poor career development just mention the few.

Mentoring is a human work for developing a valuable human resource, here social workers, which can be offered both in formal as well as informal way. Recently this has become a very popular concept in organizations and has emerged as a formal Human Resource method to develop professional managers. It can also be considered as an opportunity to use our knowledge and experience to offer impartial support to social workers to facilitate the young trainees or employees. But the question is debatable when the social workers are not considered as professionals legitimately, socially and culturally – we need to look at this effort more critically because the challenges are huge for a mentor or mentoring.

Who is a Mentor? What is Mentoring?

In spoken language, it has become common for the word “mentor” to mean a trustworthy adviser, a confidant/confidante, a teacher, an educator or a good friend. The aims of mentoring are to motivate beginners for working life and to transfer and share “tacit knowledge” as well as the experience-based skills and knowledge needed in working life. (Juusela et al.2000; Juusela 2005; Miller 2002). AiniPehkonen, A. et.al profiles the account of mentoring in the Hand Book on Mentoring and Social Work. But the question is, as how it is possible to practice mentoring in Indian setting. When we go through the literature of professional social work it is clear that we do not have any significant work or contribution. But it cannot be denied that it is indeed happening but informally. Lack of documentation and research in this area is we need to make a note.. Globally international professional social work bodies such as National Association of Social workers - USA, British Association for Social Workers, Australian Association of Social Workers etc. have put their organized and well planned Mentoring program in place. But we do not find any such endeavor in our Indian Association for Professional Social workers. Even many of the common questions posted on our web site by young social workers and students remain unanswered for long time. Though the association has made an effort to open digital forum to guide many, but the help is not forthcoming from many senior social workers the reasons of which need examination, however the scene appears to be better in schools of social work where the committed Faculties are able to blend mentoring into their supervision. However I could find a work done in India with social work students. Devadas, Prince Solomon (2010) from MCC, Chennai, has presented a paper on, “Mentoring Social work students in International Field Placements: Some excerpts and experiences” – Poster presentation during the World Joint Social Work Conference in Hong Kong. While we do not have data on the exact number but we can say that this informal mentorship is primary available for social work students. The teaching faculty may not have all the required and relevant experience to address the probing mind of social workers who are in their threshold of their professional ventures in their work or field or agencies. Also we need to encourage mentorship in the field work agencies where we place our students.

Benefits of Mentoring

Mentoring has been used (Alred et al. 2000) in organizations for the following purposes, among others:

1. Orientation: new employees are familiarized with the organization.
2. Support for development: useful learning from the future point of view is ensured
3. Career advancement: talented employees are identified and encouraged
4. Support for learning at work: know-how related to the development of tasks and skills
5. Support for equality: equal treatment for all is ensured
6. Facilitation of change: the development of new skills for those made redundant or laid off meeting the demands of new tasks and projects a quick adaptation to work and staff recruitment are ensured
7. Realization of a change program: employees get a better understanding of what the change is all about.

Significance of Mentoring of Social workers in India

In addition to these, mentoring is significant to the transfer of so-called tacit knowledge, which refers to assimilation-based learning from practical incidents. Tacit knowledge is associated with the contexts of work and social community. The shared abstract knowledge in the work community is transformed into the individual's own tacit knowledge.

India is a vast country and have limited quality resources for any training. The mentorship can bridge this gap for motivating young people to commit for the profession and retain the new social work staff to become successful thus becoming a new mentor. Now, we social workers think of offering, promoting and organizing popular mentor program for our young social work students and practitioners. It is true that every skilled professional and made achievements career and personal life will invariably would have had a good mentor behind. Let us accept that and work towards identifying and connecting mentors and mentees.

Mentoring Professional Social Workers in India

Dr.V.Sayee Kumar,
Asst. Professor in Social Work,
D.G.Vaishnav College, Chennai.



www.cheerngo.com
 No 21 C, Old No 8 C,
 Taylors Road, Kilpauk,
 Chennai - 600 010, India
helpdesk@cheerngo.com

CHEER - Working towards Social Change

Cheer is an umbrella organization which is working towards common goals for the society as a whole. We wish to develop and work on projects that are designed to the specific needs of a particular target group in furtherance of such goals.

The target groups of Cheer's first project were the transgenders and the homeless. Yes, it may seem like an odd group, but the situation is such that they are more or less, invisible constituents in our society. Our apathy and intolerance play a considerable role in the life choices they make and ultimately in their suffering too. You can however, help them lead a better life. You can give them the choice of leading a self-reliant and dignified life. Cheer intends to train and help them acquire employment, primarily in food kiosks, housekeeping services or any other sectors that fit their skill, interests and/or education. The carefully selected beneficiaries will receive intensive training and counselling from professionals in the concerned fields before they are handed over responsibilities. The beneficiaries who choose to be entrepreneurs, will be apprised monthly for a term of one year and based on their performance and commitment, additional responsibilities will be provided. At the end of the appraisal term, the beneficiaries, upon satisfaction of the trainers and donors will be fully given control of their business.



Cheer's second project is the establishment of rural learning centers for children in three identified villages. These learning centers shall provide a holistic environment for the children where they shall not only be provided with a well-equipped library and reading space but also be provided with training in using computers and its applications, implementing environmental projects in their locality, vocational skill development, sports etc, with the help of local trainers. The rural learning centers will be established in rental premises that have easy accessibility to school children in the locality. Most children will be encouraged to also take part in special workshops which shall be organized periodically.

Apart from the above mentioned projects, Cheer is into raising awareness on current social issues through puppet shows, debates, discussions, workshops and camps.

Towards this end, Cheer requests you to contribute your time, talent, and/or positive influence. Whatever your contribution is, you will receive reports on how your resources were utilized, along with gratitude and appreciation.



Announcement

**Applications are invited for various
Ph.D programmes (including Social
Work)
at
Central University of Kerala, Periyar,
Kasargod. Please click on the link
below for more details.**

http://cukerala.ac.in/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=1226:ph-d-programme-2016-17-admission&catid=76:admission&Itemid=173&lang=en

Q	W	S	U	P	C	K	B	N	R	S	F
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N	R	T	H	S	I	O	F	T	Y	U	S
D	U	T	G	F	E	L	E	Y	C	P	N
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V	M	E	D	A	T	K	R	G	R	O	O
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SAI BAKERY – Neighbourhood Initiative

SAI Bakery is a Neighbourhood Initiative for Special Adults with developmental disabilities that comes under neurological impairment (conditions such as cerebral palsy, mental retardation, autism and multiple disabilities)

It's a Dream of a young Boy who was diagnosed with Aspergers Syndrome and ADHD. Soon after he finished his XII, he wanted to set up a Bakery and named it Sai. He wanted this to be an initiative where his friends could also be equal partners in the program. This is 'Self Advocacy' at its best.

We have so many centres and special schools that cater to the needs of children with special needs, however, what is also very important to remember that these children do grow and as they do, so do their parents. Now the problem or the real challenge arises when there is no more school to go to and when the vocational training centres are all full and there is no breathing space for the youngsters. The parents are in a fix as to not knowing what to do with their young adults who are in their late 20s and 30s.

That's when we bring in an initiative that doesn't look at a big investment or a large group or infrastructure.

That which would be set up at different neighbourhood in within the living premises of a parent and thereby have an economic activity set up. Now Sai Bakery (also signifies - S.A.I – Society All Inclusive) is conceived and run by D.O.R.A.I FOUNDATION that stands for Development, Opportunities. Access. Insight, an NGO registered with the Charity Commissioner's Office under the Societies Registration Act 1860 & Bombay Public Trust Act 1970 – India (No.F27788_ Mumbai). So following our mission to sensitize and equip these individuals with an opportunity along with the resources, Sai Bakery looks to empower not just the adults but also the parents in an organic manner.

Now the main feature of this kind of an enterprise is that it's primarily parent driven and provides a holistic environment for the young adult to socialise with his group and have a sense of belonging which is needed so much in their adulthood. Indeed, each one is assessed



with the innate strength that he or she possesses and accordingly relevant tasks are assigned. Baking is just one of the areas that we involve the youngsters, the others being all religion prayers, yoga, exercises, newspaper reading, general knowledge sessions, outdoor games, outing and colouring. We also have our Gardening program where the group is involved in growing vegetables and greens. It's the most productive engagement that nourishes their Spirit. The other major focus is the Creative Engagement Program. Under Sai creations where we upcycle old boxes, newspapers, water bottles and just about anything to create beautiful upcycled products. This is putting Art Therapy at its best usage and being Organic and Pro Environment. The most interesting part of the day is our lunch time.

We call it 'the sharing and caring time'. Every adult brings in her or his lunch box and it is 'equally shared among the others'. So at the end of the serving session – we have a platter full of various dishes from all.

We also have a lot of exposure for youngsters from regular mainstream; especially we have the internship programs running for the MBA and Social Work students. This gives the Sai Bakery team an opportunity to interact and express themselves and get to make new friends. Having created a Face book page and an account makes them tech savvy and they are updated on what's happening pertaining to the Bakery and the responses of the world wide audience. Like we have some of our friends from Mumbai, Delhi, Boston, New Jersey, Sri Lanka, Dubai wanting to buy our cookies. The youngsters have their esteem inflated.

And Corporates can also come forward and help the individual parent or a few of them to help set up such initiative. Like we have MEC – Chennai buying our cookies on a daily basis and also give orders for Festive occasions. This way there is consistent work and there is no pressure on the group for marketing. Also when there is such a positive environment then everyone is happy. This is a win-win situation for all.

Let all the young adults benefit and lead a happy life.



D.O.R.A.I FOUNDATION

Development. Opportunities. Resources. Access. Insight

FF-3, SPL ASMANA, NO.2, KALAKSHETRA ROAD, THIRUVANMIYUR, CHENNAI – 600041

Email : doraifoundation@gmail.com Mobile: 91 9500059390/ 91 44 42033015.

Enliven the Spirit of Humanity @ www.facebook.com/groups/dfngo

Tamil Nadu Urban Sanitation Support Programme

Lack of adequate sanitation poses one of the greatest barriers for Tamil Nadu in achieving its full development potential, and ensuring good public health outcomes for the State's citizens.

- One in every six urban households (16 per cent) practices open defecation, and 9 per cent households are dependent on public/community toilets.
- About 27 per cent households are connected to under-ground drainage (UGD) or sewer systems. These sewer systems are mostly located in large cities, and are often difficult to scale up because of high capital costs.
- About 38 per cent of the household toilets are connected to septic tanks, and 7 per cent are improved pit latrines (45 per cent on-site systems), but these are not constructed or cleaned regularly, and untreated fecal matter from these systems is often let out into the open posing a major health hazard.
- Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) and institutions responsible for ensuring sanitation infrastructure and services delivery lack capacities to manage the full cycle of sanitation—from safe containment in toilets, safe conveyance, to disposal/re-use after treatment.
- Citizens, community groups, informal and private sector stakeholders also need to be mobilised to play an active role in improving the full cycle of sanitation.
- The Govt. of Tamil Nadu (GoTN) has been a pioneer in recognising and responding to the above problems. The Chief Minister has announced the TN Sanitation Mission to address sanitation in the coming years. The “Namma Toilet” (“Our own Toilet”) scheme was implemented by the State, and Septage Management Operative Guidelines were issued in September 2014.

The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF) is supporting the GoTN in improving urban sanitation by helping set up a Technical Support Unit (TSU) within the Municipal Administration and Water Supply Department (MAWS).

The TSU will help the State Govt. and cities in making improvements along the entire urban sanitation chain in their planning, implementation and monitoring processes. Some innovations and pilots will be implemented in two model cities.

The TSU will have specialists from various disciplines including engineering; policy and planning, capacity building and training, enterprise development, behaviour change and communications, social and community mobilization, etc.

A consortium of organisations led by Indian Institute for Human Settlements (IIHS), and comprising Gramalaya, Keystone Foundation and CDD Society are to be commissioned to implement the program via TSUs at the state and city levels.

The first phase of the program will be for two years (Nov 2015-Oct 2017).

Written by ,

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9840831196



The Link - A philanthropic initiative by NPS to bridge the gap between needs and resources.

I'm Varun. I did Rural Development and Governance from TISS Hyderabad. It is here that I got a proper exposure to the social sector - the issues, core areas, challenges, etc. And it was here that my belief in education was strengthened. I believe that if a person is given proper education and access to at least basic healthcare, that person will have a real good chance of leading a happy and good life. And out of these two, education is what I'm interested in. So I chose to do whatever I can to help people get educated.

And when the issue of the education fees of two students came up in NPS group, I just decided to pay the fees. It would've been really tragic for two students to be unable to study only because their fee was not paid.

I was born in Chennai but raised entirely in Hyderabad. However, I did my Engineering course in Chennai and that's how I learnt to converse in Tamil. And that is how I became close friends with Mr. Boopathi, who is my colleague at work. He was added to the NPS group by someone and he in turn told me about it and added me to the group. And then I got the message about the fees of the two students.

These are a long chain of events which had to be in place for the students to ultimately pursue their studies. It is sad to think that the element of luck is so heavily involved in children's education. I'm sure that even if there wasn't my involvement in this case, the two students would somehow have managed to continue their studies (there are many good people willing to help) but there is still the element of luck or chance that could've worked against these students or many others like them. My aim is to ensure that education is not left to chance.

I want to thank Mr. Boopathi, the NPS team who coordinated the process, and the school which helped the students and brought forth the issue. Without the initiative and proactive work of these people I couldn't have done this and worked towards my aim.'

Thanks,

Varun

Team NPS applauds your contribution Mr. Varun! We hope to be The Link towards bridging more such gaps in the future.

OPPORTUNITIES



Organization: Medico
pastoral association
Place: Bangalore
Qualification: medical and psychia-
trist social workers
Salary: 35k
Experience: 5 yrs
Mail id: npsindia@outlook.in
Contact: 9962346902

Vacancy- Mar Elias College
Post- Assist professor
Department of social work
Specialisation- Rural and Urban com-
munity development or Family and
Child welfare
Contact no: 9446167849

Organisation: Revamp psychiatric
hospital
Place: Ambattur, chennai
Requires 2 full time residential social
worker
Salary with accommodation and food
will be provided.
Experience: Freshers
Contact: Dr. Devaraj 9283449977

Organisation: Surabi, (NGO working
for children)
Place: Chennai
Needs a full-time male graduate
Age limit: below 35 years
Position: Project coordinator for chil-
dren home
Facilities: Good salary,
Free food nd Accommodation
Contact: 9841186432

Chennai Based Environmental social
Organisation Looking for MSW/MA
(DM) People
To Work For Social Development
project
Minimum :1 or 2 Years Experience ,
Passionate to work on field
Salary -Negotiable
Contact ;9176068303

Organization: SOS
Place: Jaipur or Delhi
Qualification : MSW or candidates
from any social organisation
Male candidates oly
Mail id: ritesh.rastogi@soscvindia.org

Openings for field work placement
and volunteers
Month From June
Organisation LORD Mental Health
Centre for Women.
Place: Chennai
Qualification: MSW in m& p
Contact: Mr.Kanisha, 9840370174



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