

Report on 5th National Social Work Week Celebration



Department of Social Work, under School of Professional Studies, Netaji Subhas Open University, celebrated the 5th National Social Work Week as per the guideline of National Association Of Professional Social Work (NAPSWI), in collaboration with the Social Work Department, CDOE Rabindra Bharati, by organizing a panel discussion on “School Social Work: Challenges and Opportunities, followed by the activities and presentations by the learners of Social Work Department of both the Universities on 22nd August 2024 at Subhas Chandra Sabhaghar, NSOU Head quarter.. The programme was conducted on blended mode. A total of 50 participants on online as well as offline mode attended the programme. There were resource persons from five different Universities, like, Bankura University, Visva-Bharati, CDOE Rabindra Bharati University, Kanyashree University including Netaji Subhas Open University offering Social Work programme.

After the felicitation of the speakers on the dais, Dr.Kasturi Sinha Ghosh, Asst.Prof. of Social Work NSOU ,extended her warm welcome to the participants, and introduced the objective of the programme.Smt. Arunima Dhar, Asst.Prof. of Social Work, CDOE Rabindra Bharati University, shared about the core idea of NAPSWI.

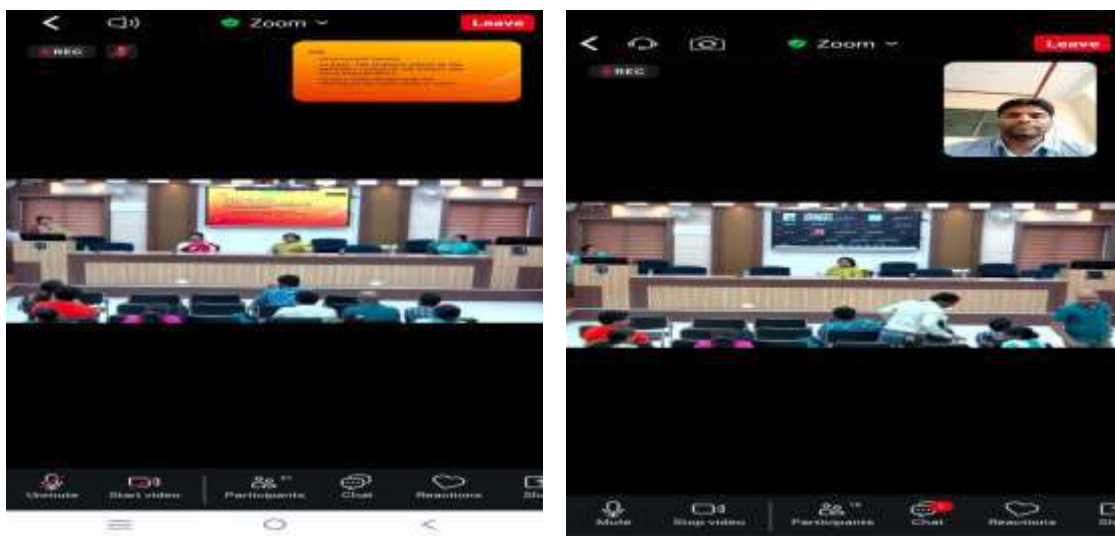


The panel discussion began with the deliberation of Dr. Sudeshna Saha, Asst.Prof. of Social Work Visva Bharati.Dr. Saha opined, that, education is a fundamental human right, but schools often face violence and students view them as unsafe. School social workers play a crucial role in addressing these issues by building relationships, assessing, and working with multidisciplinary teams. They help maintain the school-community-pupil linkage and perform various roles such as psycho-social assessment, student counselling, and crisis intervention. Publicizing and creating awareness about the roles of school social workers is essential for creating a favourable environment for children to develop their talents based on equality and respect.

Prof Anirban Ghosh, Director School of Professional Studies, joined the discussion and expressed his gratitude to all the speakers and shared he was very happy to see the learners of

Social Work Programme from various universities to be a part of celebration. He further said that we must think of collaborative activities, as we cannot do effective work, without each other's support.

The next speaker was Dr. Tanuka Sinha Roy, Asst.Prof. of Social Work Bankura University. Dr. Sinha Roy was of the view that, School social work in India, based on the American Model of School Counselling, has been in operation since the 1970s. Education-based social workers must be trained as mental health professionals who address children's mental health and behavioural issues in schools. They provide counselling services, conduct bio-psychosocial assessments, and serve as advocates for students and their families. They must possess skills in clinical assessments, resource research, program evaluation, understanding laws, stress identification, and empathy.



The Guest Speaker, Dr Sutapa Guha Roy, the School counsellor of Sushila Birla Girls School, shared her experiences that she came across within the school setting. She said the common problems that the students face are, pressure from the parents, peer pressure, problems due to excessive competition, issues related to relations. While dealing with the students she tried to find out their background, relationship with their parents and friends their childhood experiences. She then talked about the kind of Philanthropic activities the school carries out by involving the students. The students often participant in Dana Utsav, where they donate clothes and books to the NGOs, they also visit old age home and spent some quality time with inmates of the home. Dr Guha Roy, said it is important to instil good value system within the children, and plays an important role in this regards.

Smt Arunima Dhar, Asst Prof of Social Work, CDOE Rabindra Bharati University, shared the kind of activities that her department carries out in different school setting. She further said that we have to create professionals who may work at the school level, as the school is the institution where we are moulding the children who would become the future of our country.

Dr Debarati Sarkar, Guest Faculty of Social Work, Kanyashree University, said that School must be responsible for the development of both physical as well as mental health of the students. The students must be taught to maintain their health hygiene and lead a good life.

Dr Kasturi Sinha Ghosh Asst Prof of Social Work, NSOU, was of the view that still today most of the Indian households does not allow their girls to go for higher education. They are reluctant to spend on girl's education. Another point that she raised was that these days "fear for numbers" is a very common phobia that is prevalent among the students. She feels that parents at time are responsible for creating such stress .School must promote strategies for Joyful Learning, which will help the students to learn in a stress free environment

The last speaker Dr Monojit Garai, Asst Prof of Social Work, NSOU elaborately discusses the Social Work syllabus of NSOU, and shared that many of the students of the university have opted for working in the schools as a part of their field work project. He said that schools can take up an important role in dealing with social problems related to school drop outs, early marriages and child labour.

Finally Dr Garai proposed vote of thanks.Thus the panel discussion came to an end, this was followed by exhibition of poster making and a cultural programme by the students.



Submitted by
Dr Kasturi Sinha Ghosh
Asst Prof of Social Work
NSOU