

Professor Shajahan P.K. Biographical Sketch

Professor Shajahan is the Chairperson of the Centre for Community Organisation and Development Practice, School of Social Work and Dean, Students' Affairs at Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS), Mumbai. He has his Masters in Social Work from Mahatma Gandhi University, Kerala and PhD from University of Delhi.

Two and half decades of his career include direct field practice, research and training before he joined TISS as a Lecturer. He has authored a book titled "Mythscape of Communal Expressions" and several chapters in edited volumes and articles in journals from national and international publishers in the thematic areas of Conflicts and Peace, Social Innovation and People Centred Development and Social Enterprises. He has been engaged in collaborative research and academic projects with universities from USA, UK, Sweden, Denmark, Belgium, Turkey, Portugal, Ireland and Morocco. He is a member of the core group on the Global Agenda for Social Work and Social Development 2020. He is a founding member of the Critical Edge Alliance (CEA) – a global alliance of progressive universities and SERESI - Solidarity Economy Reciprocity and Social Innovation and in the board of trustees of several Non-profits. He is associated with Global Action on Poverty (GAP) and Regional President (South Asia) of ICSW, a member of IASSW and European Research Network on Social Enterprises (EMES).



Vision for IASSW

IASSW is at a critical position in influencing social work education and practice globally. If elected to the Board of Directors, the overarching objective I would set for myself would be to strengthen the Global - Local connect in Social Work Education and practice in many ways. In furtherance to the mission and goals of IASSW, I would like to engage in the following actions which are divided into two parts (i) Connecting Globally and (ii) Forging the local relevance

(i) Connecting Globally

Creating a global diary of good practices: While Newsletters are reporting events and developments, journal publications including ISW are not widely read by the practitioners due to time constraints and the academic nature of presentations. The global diary of good practices can be organised on various verticals such as themes, regions, nature of practice etc. which will be a good resource for the practitioners and educators.

Periodic Submissions to various UN Bodies: IASSW having consultative status at the UN ECOSOC, we may make periodic submissions to ECOSOC sessions and organise side events as was done at the 54th Session.

(ii) Forging the local relevance

Contextualising the Social Work Programmes to the local social and economic milieu: Expanding on the goals set in the IASSW document (2005) on Global Standards for Social Work Education and Training regarding contextualisation of social work education, IASSW could steer a global and regional process of review of Social Work Education across various countries in collaboration with the national member organisations and councils. This could ensure a good mix of indigenisation and internationalisation of Social Work education.

Policy and Transformative Work: IASSW could facilitate policy practice in a variety of fields more particularly in contexts where Social Work is not part of the State Welfare mechanisms. IASSW could institute a biennial awards for significant policy and transformative work done by Social

Workers around the world to promote such work.

Finally, in addition to the enormous contribution of IASSW in steering global debates on Social Work Education, defining social work in changing times, evolving ethical / practice standards and evolving global agenda for social work, I can only think of supplementing the work being done by the dedicated team of IASSW governance team in their efforts. The aim is to close in the gap existing between (i) the knowledge base and the context (ii) Social Work Education and Practice and (iii) Global and the Local.