Draft of

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF
SOCIAL WORK (EDUCATION AND PRACTICE) BILL, 2020

A Bill to provide for the constitution of the National Council of Social Work (Education and Practice), to regulate quality, autonomy, flexibility and innovation in social work education and in social work practice, so as to meet the goals of social welfare and sustainable development in India, with inclusion of marginalised and vulnerable groups, and to create national registers of accredited Social Work Education Programmes and recognised Professional Social Workers, and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto. Be it enacted by the Parliament in the Seventy Fourth Year of the Republic of India.

Preamble

Whereas for more than a century now, social work has been an internationally recognised multidisciplinary profession, where social workers are trained through social work education, based on a scientific body of knowledge, professional ethics, and skills of working with people and systems;

Considering that the need for training of social workers was realised in India by Social Service League, as early as in 1923, Professional Social Work education in India was launched in 1936, and today comprises more than 500 Social Work Education Programmes;

Recognising that social work profession in India has played an important role in preventing and addressing the age-old and emerging social problems, upholding the Fundamental Rights and the Directive Principles of State Policy, and achieving social welfare and sustainable development goals through social policies and programmes and people-driven grassroot level interventions;

Acknowledging that social work profession in India has made significant progress towards indigenisation in the Indian social, economic, and cultural context by way of curriculum development, relevant practice, and development of literature;
Bearing in mind that in the absence of a national statutory body for social work education and practice, there are several concerns with the quality of social work education and practice in India;

The Government of India has decided to set up a National Council of Social Work (Education and Practice), NCSW in short, to regulate quality, autonomy, flexibility and innovation in social work education and practice, by an act of legislation.

The NCSW aims at the following objects:

1. Formulate a curriculum framework and standards for social work education in India, including specific standards for open and distance learning programmes, and use them for accreditation and registration of Social Work Education Programmes in India.
2. Develop a Code of Ethics for and promote and regulate ethical practices in Professional Social Workers (educators and practitioners) working in India.
3. Carry out recognition and registration of names of those who have obtained Social Work Qualifications from accredited Social Work Educational Programmes.
4. Map and plan for the needs of human resources for Professional Social Work at different levels and in different fields in India.
5. Promote research, documentation, and dissemination of indigenous literature on and for social work education and practice.
6. Carry out policy analysis and contribute to policy formulation related to social welfare and sustainable development.
7. Sponsor continuing education programmes, workshops and seminars for Professional Social Workers for updating their knowledge, attitudes and skills for social work education and practice.
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Chapter I: PRELIMINARY

Section 1: The Act
(a) This Act shall be called National Council of Social Work (Education and Practice) Act (year).
(b) It shall have its headquarters in New Delhi and its functions shall extend to the whole of India.
(c) It shall come into force on such date as the Government of India may, by notification in the Official Gazette, establish.
(d) It shall replace all the existing social work councils in India, if any.

Section 2: Definitions
In this Act, unless the context otherwise requires:
(a) 'Chairperson' means the Chairperson of the Council.
(b) ‘Council’ and ‘NCSW’ means National Council of Social Work (Education and Practice), constituted under Chapter II, Section 3 of this Act.
(c) ‘Fieldwork Practicum’ means a laboratory for practice learning, guided by a social work educator/ practitioner (as defined in (t) and (i) respectively) in a suitable field placement, which is a compulsory component of social work education.
(d) ‘Member’ means Member of the Council and includes Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson.
(e) ‘Notification’ means a notification published in the official gazette of the Government of India.
(f) 'Prescribed' means prescribed under the Act by Rules.
(g) ‘Professional Social Work’ (henceforth mentioned as 'Social Work' in this document) is a profession where a social worker with ‘Professional Social Work Qualification’ (as recognized under sec 2 (j):
   i. Promotes social welfare and sustainable development, guided by the ideologies of the Indian Constitutions, namely socialism, secularism, and democracy, goals of human dignity, justice, and liberty, and Fundamental Rights of equality and freedom, and the human rights conventions to which India is a signatory;
   ii. Contributes to community development through rights-based universal provision for poverty eradication, and access to education, health, livelihood
and employment, food security, water and sanitation, housing, and relief and rehabilitation of victims of displacement, social conflict, and environmental disasters etc.;

iii. Works with individuals and families, groups, communities and organisations, in rural, urban, and tribal areas; and with the state, corporate sector, mass media, and other social, economic and governance systems;

iv. Uses rights-based, culture-sensitive, strengths-based, gender-aware, and participatory approaches to facilitate empowerment and inclusion of the marginalised and vulnerable groups (such as women, children, older persons, persons with disability, organised and unorganised labour, marginalised communities and others);

v. Provides research-based consultation for policies and programmes for social welfare and sustainable development, and administers comprehensive community-based preventive service delivery systems, implements grassroots intervention, and their monitoring and evaluation; and

vi. Organises Social Work Education Programmes and promotes social work practice to meet the above goals, develop social work literature to guide social work education and practice, and contribute to strong voluntary professional social work associations for networking and solidarity.

(h) ‘Professional Social Work Association’ means a voluntary and registered association of 'Social Work Education Programmes' (as per Definition (s)), ‘Professional Social Workers' (as per Definition (k)), or ‘Social Work Educators’ (as per Definition (t)), or at the regional, state, national or international level.

(i) ‘Professional Social Work Practitioner’ means a ‘Professional Social Worker’ (as per Definition (k)) who practices social work (by way of employment, private practice, or consultancy) through grassroots engagement/ intervention, organisation management, practice-based research, and/or consultation for developing policies and programmes.

(j) ‘Professional Social Work Qualification’ means a minimum of a Bachelor’s, or a Master’s degree in social work from a UGC-recognised college or a university (under sections 2F and 3, and 12b of the UGC Act of 1956), a deemed or a private university, or a university set up under a State Act and recognised by the UGC.

(k) ‘Professional Social Worker’ means a person who holds a 'Professional Social Work Qualification' (as per Definition (j)), and includes Social Work Educators and Social Work Practitioners).

(m) ‘Register of Social Work Education Programmes’ means the National Register of Social Work Education Programmes, recognised by the Council under this Act.

(n) ‘Register of Professional Social Work Educators’ means the National Register of Social Work Educators recognised by the Council under this Act.

(o) ‘Register of Professional Social Work Practitioners’ means the National Register of Professional Social Work Practitioners recognised by the Council under this Act.

(p) ‘Registered Professional Social Worker’ means a Professional Social Worker (educator or practitioner) registered by the Council.

(q) ‘Rules’ means Rules made under this Act.

(r) ‘Secretary’ means the Secretary appointed under this Act as a non-member executive functionary.

(s) ‘Social Work Education Programmes’ refer to the social work programmes offered at the undergraduate and post-graduate levels in institutions recognised by the University Grants Commission (UGC) Act of 1956 under sections 2F and 3, and/or 12 (b) or by the State Act/ by the UGC.

(t) ‘Social Work Educator’ means a ‘Professional Social Worker’ (as per Definition (k)) who is appointed for a Social Work Education Programme (as per Definition (s)) for teaching, fieldwork guidance, research, research guidance, and/or any other academic activity.

(u) ‘Vice-Chairperson’ means the Vice-Chairperson of the Council.

(v) ‘Voluntary Organisation’ means a registered voluntary collective of people-oriented non-government organisations, working at the community, state, national and/or international levels.
Chapter II: CONSTITUTION AND COMPOSITION OF THE COUNCIL

Section 3: Establishment of the Council

(a) Constitution of the Council:

1) With effect from such date as the Government of India may notify, there shall be constituted for the purpose of this Act, a Council to be called National Council of Social Work (Education and Practice).

2) The Council shall be a body corporate, by the aforesaid name having perpetual succession, and a common seal, with competence, subject to the provisions of this Act, to acquire, hire, hold and dispose of property, both movable and immovable for the purpose of carrying out the functions of the Council.

3) The Council shall comprise a Chairperson, a Vice-Chairperson, and Honorary Members.

4) The Government of India shall, by notification in the official Gazette, make rules to carry out the functions of this Bill.

(b) Setting up of a Search Committee:

1) The Ministry of Education of the Government of India shall institute a Search Committee for the formation of the Council, chaired by an eminent Professor/Former Head of a Social Work Education Programme, from a NAAC-accredited (A) college or university. The Search Committee shall comprise two additional eminent Professional Social Workers, including at least one senior Professional Social Work Practitioner (with at least 25 years of experience).

2) The First Search Committee shall select all the members of the Council and put up to the Ministry of Education for approval.

3) Thereafter, three months prior to completion of the respective terms of the Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson, a new Search Committee shall be constituted to select the new Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson.

4) The Council shall formulate rules for subsequent selection of Honorary Members after completion of their first term.

(c) Appointment of Members:

The Ministry of Education shall appoint the members of the Council with consideration to gender balance and representation from marginalised communities, as follows:
1) The Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson shall be fulltime paid members of the Council, appointed on par with the Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson of other professional councils.

2) The Honorary Members of the Council shall be appointed according to Section 3(f).

(d) Qualifications of the Chairperson and the Vice-Chairperson:

1) The Chairperson shall be an eminent Social Work Educator. She/he shall be qualified with a doctoral degree in social work, have a minimum of 20 years’ experience as a Social Work Educator, with experience in teaching, research and publications in refereed journals or books and administrative experience as Head.

2) The Vice-Chairperson shall be a Professional Social Work Practitioner who shall have field-based work experience for at least 20 years, demonstrated innovations making impact on social policy and programmes, administrative experience as Head of the organisation, and research and/ or publications related to her/ his practice area.

3) Neither should be an officer of the Government of India or any State Government.

(e) Duties of the Chairperson and the Vice-Chairperson:

1) The Chairperson shall:
   i. Act as the official head of the Council; and
   ii. Serve as ex officio on all the expert panels and committees.

2) The Vice-Chairperson shall:
   i. Carry out the responsibilities delegated by the Chairperson; and
   ii. Perform the duties of the Chairperson in the absence of the Chairperson.

(f) Honorary Members:

The Honorary Members of the Council shall comprise the following persons:

1) Five Social Work Educators, each qualified with a minimum of a Master’s degree in Social Work from a recognised Social Work Education Programme, (person with a doctoral degree preferred) with gender balance and regional representation, from universities and colleges.

2) One Social Work Educator from a Social Work Education Programme, run by open/ distance mode.
3) Five Professional Social Work Practitioners from the field, each qualified with at least a Master's degree in Social Work, on rotation, representing different sectors and different regions of India, ensuring a gender balance.

4) Three ex-officio members, not below the rank of Additional Secretary, to represent the Ministries of Education, Women and Child Development, and Social Justice and Empowerment, of the Government of India.

5) Not more than three Professional Social Workers (educator or practitioner) may be co-opted by the Council whose assistance and advice would be useful to the academic functions of the Council.

6) One representative from the national level Professional Social Work Associations and two representatives from the state level Professional Social Work Associations in India, on rotation.

Section 4: Terms of Office and Conditions of Service of Members

(a) Terms of Office:

The terms of office of persons appointed as Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson, or Member, unless he/she becomes disqualified for continuing as such under the rules that may be framed under this Bill, shall be as follows:

1) The Chairperson shall hold office for a term of five years, or until he/she attains the age of seventy years.

2) The Vice-Chairperson shall hold office for a term of five years or until he/she attains the age of seventy years.

3) The Honorary Members of the Council shall hold office for a term of three years or until he/she attains the age of sixty-five years, or until they hold office if appointed ex-officio.

(b) One-third of the Honorary Members of the Council shall retire every year. (Of the first Council, one-third members shall retire at the end of one year, one-third at the end of two years and the remaining one-third at the end of three years, to ensure continuity. Honorary Members who have attended the least number of meetings shall be asked to retire first. The Council shall lay down the criteria for deciding who will retire when at the time of the appointment).

(c) Reappointment:

1) None of the members shall be appointed for more than two terms.
2) A person who has held office as an Honorary Member shall be eligible for reappointment as Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson, or Honorary Member for only one consecutive term if the age limit permits.

3) A person who has held office as Vice-Chairperson shall be eligible for reappointment as Chairperson if the age limit permits.

(d) Filling of Vacancy:
A casual vacancy in the Council shall be filled in accordance with the provision of Section 3 and the person so appointed shall hold office only for the remainder of the term, for which the member in whose place he/she was appointed would have held that office.

Section 5: Disqualifications
Under this Act, no person shall be a Member of the Council if she/ he:

(a) Is or has been convicted for any offence which in the opinion of the Government of India and the Council, involves moral turpitude; or

(b) Has been removed or dismissed from the service of the government or a body corporate owned or controlled by the government; or

(c) Has in the opinion of the Government of India such financial and other interest in the Council as is likely to prejudice the discharge by him/ her of his/ her functions as a Member; or

(d) Does not meet the criteria of a Professional Social Worker.

Section 6: Vacation of Office by Members
Under this Act, the Government of India shall remove a Member if he/ she:

(a) Becomes subject to any of the disqualifications mentioned in Section 5, or

(b) Is absent without reasonable excuse, for three consecutive meetings of the Council, or

(c) Has been deregistered.

Section 7: Pay and Allowances
(a) The Government of India will decide on the following:

1) Salary and allowances for the Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson, and the full-time staff including the Secretary, on par with other professional councils.
2) Honorarium for attendance of Members and experts at meetings of the Council and the conditions of reimbursement for travel allowance, and other exigencies.

Section 8: Meetings

(a) The Council shall meet at least four times a year at such time and place and shall observe the procedure in regard to the transaction of business at its meetings (including the quorum) as prescribed by the Rules.

(b) The Chairperson, and in the absence of the Chairperson, the Vice-Chairperson, shall preside at the meetings of the Council.

(c) The Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson, if for any reason, are unable to attend the meeting of the Council, a Member, elected by the members present at the meeting, from amongst themselves, shall chair the meeting, as Pro Temp Chairperson.

(d) All questions which come up before any meeting of the Council shall be decided by a majority of votes of the Members present, and in the event of any tie of votes, the Chairperson or in the absence of the Chairperson, the person presiding shall have and exercise a second or casting vote.

Section 9: Appointment of Full-Time Staff

Under this Act, the Council shall, subject to such Rules as may be made in this behalf, appoint the following full-time paid staff:

(a) Secretary of the Council

1) The qualification of the Secretary shall be at the level of a Professor or Associate Professor in Social Work with administrative experience.

2) The Secretary shall hold office for a term of five years or until he/she attains the age of sixty-five years, whichever is earlier, with possibility of re-appointment on decision of the Council.

3) The Secretary shall be Head of the administrative staff.

4) The Secretary will function in accordance with the Rules laid down by the Council and as delegated by the Chairperson from time to time.

5) The Secretary shall:

   i. Be the legal entity, represent the Council in all legal matters like signing contracts, etc.

   ii. Implement the decisions of the Council with respect to the policies, programmes and schemes.
iii. Have such duties relating to the procedures, minutes, and records of the meetings of the Council, as may be prescribed by the Rules.

(b) A minimum of six Professional Social Workers (educators and practitioners) as per requirements of the academic activities to be carried out by the Council, preferably qualified with a doctorate in social work, and have relevant experience, appointed at the Associate Professor’s level.

(c) Appropriate administrative staff.

(d) Other requisite staff as and when required or the work may be outsourced.

Section 10: Expert Panels and Committees

Under this Act, the Council shall constitute Expert Panels and Committees, as and when needed, for a term of three years:

(a) The Panels/Committees will be constituted of registered Professional Social Workers (educators and practitioners), with consideration to gender balance and representation from marginalised communities. As and when necessary, other experts may be coopted.

(b) Each Panel/ Committee shall be chaired by a Convener.

(c) The Council shall constitute the following Panels which may form committees as and when necessary:

1) Panel for Standards and Recognition of Social Work Education,
2) Panel for Online, Open and Distance Modes for Social Work Education,
3) Panel for Code of Ethics and Registration of Professional Social Workers (educators and practitioners),
4) Panel for Human Resource Planning for Social Work,
5) Panel for Continuing Education for Professional Social Workers (educators and practitioners),
6) Panel for Research, Documentation and Dissemination of Indigenous Social Work Literature,
7) Panel for Analysis and Formulation of Policies for Social Welfare and Sustainable Development,
8) Panel for Development of Zonal/ State Councils and their linkages to the National Council, and
9) Panel for Appeals and Redressal.
10) Any other panel/ committee that the Council may decide to constitute.
Chapter III: FUNCTIONS AND POWERS OF THE COUNCIL

(a) The Council may, by general or special order in writing, delegate to the Chairperson
or to any other member or to any officer, subject to such conditions and limitations,
if any, as may be specified in the order, such of its powers and functions under this
Act, as it may deem necessary.

Section 11: Academic Functions and Powers

(a) Develop a perspective plan for quality enhancement in Professional Social Work and
accordingly prepare, approve, and review the annual and five-year plans.
(b) Develop a curriculum framework and minimum standards for Social Work
Education, ensure their implementation, and review them every five years.
(c) Promote quality in Social Work Education by accreditation and registration of Social
Work Education Programmes and re-recognition every five years.
(d) Make recommendations to the UGC for specification of degrees in social work for
purposes of section 22(3) of the UGC Act, 1956.
(e) Set up the procedure for reciprocity and equivalence with Social Work Education
Programmes in other countries for mutual recognition and equivalence of
Professional Social Work Qualifications.
(f) Develop a Code of Ethics for Professional Social Workers (educators and
practitioners) and review it every five years.
(g) Promote ethical behaviour of Professional Social Workers by conducting their
registration and its renewal every five years.
(h) Carry out/ sponsor research and documentation on Social Work Education and
Practice.
(i) Promote research, documentation, and dissemination of indigenous social work
literature relevant for social work education and practice.
(j) Promote and disseminate innovations in social work teaching, training, research,
field action projects, and practice.
(k) Develop curriculum framework for and sponsor continuing education programmes
for Professional Social Workers (educators and practitioners).
(l) Map and plan for the need for human resources for social work at different levels
and in different fields and review it every five years.
(m) Take steps for advocacy and promotion of the profession of social work;
(n) Carry out policy analysis and contribute to policy formulation related to social welfare and sustainable development;
(o) Promote interaction between Professional Social Work and allied disciplines/professions in the area of teaching, training, research, and practice;
(p) Provide relevant consultation and make recommendations to the government, academic and voluntary organisations in India and other countries on social work education and practice in India.
(q) Carry out any other academic functions that the Council deems appropriate for maintaining quality in social work education and practice.

Section 12: Accreditation and Registration of Social Work Education Programmes

(a) Curriculum Framework for Social Work Education Programmes:
   1) The Council shall develop a dynamic sequential curriculum framework for Bachelor's, Master's, M. Phil. and Doctoral Degree Programmes in Social Work, and review and revise it every five years, in context of the changing social realities.
   2) At each level, the curriculum framework shall comprise Aims and Learning Outcomes, Core Social Work Courses and Elective Social Science and Social Work Courses, Specialisations/ Concentrations, Fieldwork Practicum, Social Work Research Projects, Structural Arrangements of the Course, Co-Curricular Seminars, Methods of Teaching-Learning, Evaluation and Reevaluation, and Recommended Reading.
      Such a curriculum framework shall be adapted to meet the differential local requirements.

(b) Standards for Social Work Education Programmes:
   The Council shall prescribe minimum standards and encourage quality standards for the essential matters of Social Work Education Programmes. These may include for example, student matters such as inclusive criteria for admission, student support, appropriate job placement and alumni network; social work extension through consultancy, continuing and extension education and field action projects to develop the field; matters related to recruitment, workload, training, appraisal and promotion of Social Work Educators, based on their roles; adequate and relevant library collection; archives, and so on.

(c) Procedure for Accreditation, Registration and De-registration:
The Council shall develop a procedure for accreditation and registration of Social Work Educational Programmes anywhere in India as follows:

1) Develop criteria for selection of the Accreditation Committees comprising a minimum of two Social Work Educators and one Professional Social Work Practitioner. The size of the Committee shall be increased depending on the size of the programme. None of the members of the Committee shall be selected from within the respective state of the programme.

2) Develop the procedure for self-study, validation of the self-study by an Accreditation Committee through an on-site visit, and recognition and registration of Social Work Education Programmes, based on the minimum standards, every five years.

3) Develop the criteria for temporary recognition, withdrawal of recognition and registration, and deregistration of the Social Work Education Programme.

4) Grant full or provisional recognition and registration of the Social Work Education Programmes with reasons.

5) Grant approval or disapproval of those programmes existing prior to the Bill becoming an Act.

6) Maintain a National Register of Social Work Education Programmes comprising Registered Social Work Education Programmes in India.

7) The Council shall order that the name of any Social Work Education Programme shall be removed from the Register which do not meet the minimum standards. When doing this, the Head of that Programme may be given a reasonable opportunity of being heard. The Council may establish procedures to be instituted for removal and reinstatement of such programmes.

(d) Non-regulatory Development Functions:

1) The Council shall also work towards developing standards and curriculum framework for Social Work Education Programmes below the degree level such as at the higher secondary level, certificate, and diploma courses in social work.

2) The Council shall also work towards development of standards and curriculum framework for certificate and diploma courses in social work education at post-degree and post-graduate levels.

3) The Council shall explore the modalities for recognition and registration of the above programmes, based on the human resource requirements in the field.
Section 13: Code of Ethics

(a) Formulate a Code of Ethics:

The Council shall develop a Code of Ethics for Professional Social Workers (educators and practitioners) comprising the following:

1) Values, principles, and pledge; and
2) Ethical standards to guide the conduct of Professional Social Workers with reference to responsibilities in areas such as the profession, clients/people they work with, practice and fieldwork settings, co-workers and employing organisations, social work education and research, etc.

(b) Promote awareness on how Professional Social Workers can use the Code of Ethics in different situations and how to resolve ethical dilemmas.

(c) Develop a procedure for adjudication of ethics-related complaints filed against Professional Social Workers registered with the Council, assessment of whether they have engaged in unethical conduct, and carry out disciplinary rulings or sanctions based on it.

Section 14: Recognition and Registration of Professional Social Workers

(a) Registration of Professional Social Workers (educators and practitioners):

The Council shall develop procedures for registration of Professional Social Workers in India and their renewal every five years and de-registration:

1) All those who graduate from accredited Social Work Education Programmes with the prescribed Professional Social Work Qualifications shall apply to qualify for recognition and registration.
2) The Council shall maintain a National Register of Recognised Professional Social Workers (educators and practitioners).
3) Every person, whose name appears in the National Register, shall be entitled to work as Professional Social Work Educator or as Professional Social Work Practitioner in any part of India.
4) The Council shall lay down procedures for enrolment of Professional Social Workers (educators and practitioners) with Social Work Qualifications from outside of India, who would like to work in India.
5) Those who possess the prescribed Social Work Qualifications on the date of commencement of this Bill, shall be required to register within two years from the gazette notification of the Act.
6) For renewal of the registration of Social Work Educators, they will have to follow the UGC norms for attending orientation/ refresher courses.

7) For renewal of the registration of Professional Social Work Practitioners, they should have attended at least one continuing education programme, of at least a week’s duration.

8) Redress any complaint against unethical behaviour of Social Work Education Programmes or Professional Social Workers (educators and practitioners), from any stakeholder.

9) The Council shall have the power to deregister Professional Social Workers on any violation of the criteria for ethical behaviour and falsification of the required qualifications.

10) The Council may order that the name of any Professional Social Worker shall be removed from the Register based on the criteria laid down. This may be done after giving the person a reasonable opportunity of being heard. The Council may establish procedures to be instituted for removal and reinstatement of such persons.

**Section 15: Human Resource Planning for Social Work**

The Council shall undertake planning for social work human resources comprising the following:

(a) Map the need for Professional Social Workers (educators and practitioners) at different levels and in different fields in India.

(b) Identify positions to be filled only by those having Professional Social Work Qualifications and those positions where social work could be one of the qualifications required.

(c) Negotiate with appropriate bodies for ensuring that the positions identified for social workers be filled only by those having Professional Social Work Qualifications.

(d) Make recommendations for Social Work Education Programmes to match the need for Professional Social Workers at different levels and in different fields.

(e) Make recommendations for mapping the need for Paraprofessional Social Workers in different fields in India.
Section 16: Administrative Functions and Power

In order to carry out the above academic functions, the Council shall have the following administrative functions, subject to the provisions of this Bill:

(a) Appoint the full-time staff and conduct their annual performance review and recommend their promotion based on the prescribed criteria.

(b) Appoint, determine the composition and tasks, monitor, and review the functioning of the expert panels and committees.

(c) Prepare, approve, and review the annual and five-year budgets.

(d) Commission periodically the organisational and financial decision-making audits of the Council.

(e) Publish and disseminate the relevant documents through the website and/or print media in English, Hindi, and other languages; as deemed necessary.

(f) Liaise with the Ministry of Education of the Government of India and other cognate ministries of the Government of India at the Centre and State, as required.

(g) Redress any grievance or appeals from Social Work Education Programmes or Professional Social Workers (educators and practitioners).

(h) Periodically review and recommend amendments in the Act or dissolution of the Council, if found necessary, by the Government of India.

Section 17: Documentation, Communication, and Dissemination

The Council shall collect, maintain, publish, and disseminate the following and related documents and news through a website and print media in English, Hindi, and state languages, as necessary:

(a) Standards for Social Work Education Programmes

(b) Curriculum Framework for different levels of Programmes of Social Work Education

(c) Rules related to the Bill

(d) Database of Recognised and Registered and Derecognised and Deregistered Social Work Education Programmes

(e) Code of Ethics for Professional Social Workers

(f) Procedure for Registration of Professional Social Workers

(g) List of Registered and Deregistered Professional Social Workers

(h) Annual Reports

(i) Any other relevant data/documents required by the Council

(j) News about meetings and other significant events conducted by the Council
Section 18: Liaising

The Council shall collaborate, provide consultation, and make recommendations on Social Work Education in India to the cognate government, academic and voluntary organisations for identifying the place of social work professional’s role in these institutions, and their schemes and projects, such as:

(a) The Niti Ayog, the University Grants Commission, the National Assessment and Accreditation Council, Indian Council for Social Welfare, the Central Social Welfare Board, the Human Rights Commission, and the Indian Council of Social Science Research.


(c) Other commissions, organisations and entities that the Council may deem fit to collaborate with, from time to time.

(d) The cognate UN systems.

(e) Councils of Professional Social Work in other states of India and in other countries.

(f) Regional, national, and international Professional Social Work Associations.
Chapter IV: OFFENCES AND PENALTIES

Section 19: Offences and Penalties for Institutions
(a) It is an offence for an institution/University/College to conduct any Social Work Education Programme in India that is not recognised by the Council and not entered in the National Register of Social Work Education Programmes.
(b) It is a cognizable and non-bailable offence for an institution/University whose name has been removed from the National Register of Social Work Education Programmes to continue to conduct a Social Work Education Programme in India.
(c) The Managing Secretary of the institution/Registrar of the University who commits the offence as listed in sub-Section 19(a) and 19(b), shall on conviction, be punished with:
   1) A fine of not less than Rs. 10 lakhs for the first offence.
   2) Imprisonment of five years for the continuation of the offence.

Section 20: Offences and Penalties for Individuals
(a) It is a cognizable and non-bailable offence for a person other than the Professional Social Workers, whose names are registered in the National Register of Professional Social Workers, to:
   2) Hold office in a post or position requiring Professional Social Work Qualifications, anywhere in India.
   3) Sign or authenticate any certificate required by any law to be signed or authenticated by the Professional Social Worker in India.
   4) Orally or in writing claim to be a Professional Social Worker.
(b) It is a cognizable and non-bailable offence for a person whose name has been removed from the National Register of Professional Social Workers to continue to practice as a Professional Social Worker.
(c) Any person who commits the offence as listed in sub-sections 20(a) and 20(b), shall on conviction, be punished with:
   1) For the first offence, a fine of not less than Rs. One lakh.
   2) For the continuation of the offence, imprisonment of three years.
Chapter V: FINANCE

Section 21: Council Fund and Budget
Under this Act, the Government of India shall provide funds for the office, capital and recurring revenue expenditure for establishment and functioning of the Council. The income of the Council shall also comprise fees for registration and fines incurred.

(a) Appropriate fees shall be charged for:
1) Recognition of Social Work Education Programmes, every five years;
2) Registration of Professional Social Workers, every five years; and
3) Determining equivalence between programmes, at state, national and international levels.

(b) The Council shall prepare, in such form and at such time each year as may be prescribed, a budget in respect of the financial year next ensuing, showing the estimated receipts and expenditure, and copies thereof shall be forwarded to the Government of India.

Section 22: Accounts and Audit

(a) The Council shall maintain such books of accounts to include its income and expenditure statements, and in such form and in such manner as may, in consultation with the Chartered Accountant, be approved by the Government of India.

(b) The accounts of the Council shall be audited by the Chartered Accountant as required by the Government of India.
Chapter VI: MISCELLANEOUS

Section 23: Miscellaneous

(a) No prosecution or other legal proceeding shall lie against the Central Government, the Council or any committees appointed by it, or any Member of the Council or member of such committees, or any officer or employee of the Central Government or the Council or any other person authorised by that Government or the Council, for anything which is in good faith done or intended to be done under this Act or the rules or regulations made thereunder.