

AMRITA VISHWA VIDYAPEETHAM  
School of Social and Behavioural Sciences

JOINTLY ORGANIZE

# **ANNUAL CONFERENCE**

## **of Indian Society of Professional Social Work (ISPSW)**



International Conference on

# **INNOVATIVE TECHNOLOGIES & SOCIAL WORK**

Transforming the Contemporary Social Work Profession

**25-27 March 2026**

**Venue** | Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham  
Ettimadai, Coimbatore Campus (offline only)

# CONCEPT NOTE

In the rapidly evolving landscape of global development and social innovation, technology stands as both a catalyst and a bridge for the social work profession and social science disciplines at large. This international conference, “Innovative Technologies and Fieldwork: Transforming the Social Work Profession,” convenes distinguished practitioners, educators, technologists, policymakers, and civil society leaders to advance integrative knowledge and practice across diverse domains. The conference’s objectives seek not just to foster dialogue—but also to engineer actionable solutions—to strengthen technology’s role in enhancing the effectiveness, reach, and ethical rigor of social work and allied disciplines. By nurturing evidence-based research, building professional capacities, and establishing global standards for technology adoption, this event foregrounds the importance of equity, inclusion, and human rights within all technological advancements. In particular, it aims to prioritize gender equality, social inclusion, and the development of best practices that meet the needs of marginalized and vulnerable populations.

Key thematic areas span from digital innovation in fieldwork, technology-enabled service delivery, and artificial intelligence, to immersive technologies and emerging advances in health, education, and governance. Sessions will address use of technology in social science research, trauma-informed care from human rights perspectives, and empowering developmental sector organizations—while also focusing on national missions such as Viksit Bharat 2047, Digital India, and Skill India. Through these themes and sub-themes, participants will engage with examples of cutting-edge practice—mobile data collection, telehealth, AI-powered analytics, blockchain, and digital inclusion strategies—reflecting the sector’s forward-thinking response to contemporary challenges. By documenting lessons learned from technology implementation in diverse settings, examining ethical frameworks, and fostering international collaboration, the conference is committed to developing robust policy recommendations for local and global change. These shared explorations aim to not only address workforce shortages and promote technology competencies, but also elevate standards of practice and research for Scopus-indexed publication and lasting impact. In so doing, the conference aspires to chart a transformative path for social work and social sciences—one that is data-driven, inclusive, ethically sound, and truly responsive to the needs of society in the digital age.

# CONFERENCE OBJECTIVES

## Primary Objectives

- i. Advance Knowledge Integration: Foster dialogue between social work practitioners and technology innovators to generate research-based evidence on technology's role in enhancing practice effectiveness,
- ii. Build Professional Capacity: Equip social workers with knowledge of emerging technologies and evidence-based strategies for implementation, including considerations for technology-enabled supervision, evaluation, and data collection in diverse settings.
- iii. Establish Global Standards: Develop consensus on best practices for technology adoption in social work that respect ethical considerations, cultural contexts, and vulnerable population safeguards.
- iv. Promote Gender Equity and Inclusion: Prioritize discussions on how technology can advance gender equality, address social inequalities, and enhance services for marginalized populations, particularly in fieldwork and community engagement.
- v. Fieldwork and technology: Foster the fieldwork in social science disciplines to promote technology for advancing the use of technologies to promote in diverse settings.

## SECONDARY OBJECTIVES

- i. Identify technology-enabled solutions for addressing social work workforce shortages and burnout
- ii. Examine ethical frameworks for technology use in sensitive social work contexts
- iii. Document lessons learned from technology implementation in diverse geographical and institutional settings
- iv. Create networking opportunities for international collaboration and research partnerships
- v. Develop policy recommendations for governments and social work regulatory bodies
- vi. Identify the use of technology in fieldwork and its importance in various other social science disciplines

# CONFERENCE THEMES AND FOCUS AREAS

## CORE THEMES

### **1. Theme : Technology for learning and development in social work.**

- 1.1 Real-time data analytics for fieldwork and community assessment
- 1.2 GIS and spatial analysis applications in social work
- 1.3 Supervision and mentoring mentorship in technology-enabled environments
- 1.4 Digital literacy training to address resistance to technology adoption and change management
- 1.5 Virtual reality applications in clinical training and exposure therapy
- 1.6 Game-based learning in social work education

### **2. Theme : Technology and AI for intervention in social work**

- 2.1 Social Robotics for vulnerable populations
- 2.2 Wearable technologies for health monitoring and support
- 2.3 Blockchain applications for secure, decentralized record-keeping and client services
- 2.4 Accessibility and multicultural digital inclusion in service delivery
- 2.5 Hybrid models combining in-person and virtual telehealth services in clinical social work.
- 2.6 AI applications for Risk identification and early intervention systems design
- 2.7 Capacity building and corporate social responsibility in NGOs through e-learning and digital tools
- 2.8 Technology Driven Trauma-Informed Care and Human Rights Perspectives

### **3. Theme : Gender Equality, Social Inclusion, and Technology**

- 3.1 Technology's role in advancing gender equality and women's empowerment in social work practice
- 3.2 Culturally responsive digital tools for diverse populations
- 3.3 LGBTQ+ affirming technology frameworks
- 3.4 Addressing digital divides and ensuring equitable access
- 3.5 Incorporating UN SDG 5 (Gender Equality) and Indian Government frameworks into technology-enabled practice

#### **4. Theme : Technology Adoption - Policy, Ethics, and Regulation**

- 4.1 Regulatory frameworks for technology in social work practice
- 4.2 Ethics of AI and digital surveillance in social sciences
- 4.3 Privacy, confidentiality, and data protection in digital contexts
- 4.4 Informed consent and digital client rights
- 4.5 Government and international policy frameworks (UN, national governments)

#### **5. Theme : Technologies for Viksit Bharat 2047**

- 5.1 Digital empowerment for health, education, and farmer welfare
- 5.2 Skill India - Technology for Vulnerable Groups
- 5.3 Digital India Mission for bridging Digital Divide
- 5.4 Urban transformation: smart cities, infrastructure, sustainability
- 5.5 Good governance and technology-enabled service delivery
- 5.6 Fostering high life values and ethical digital citizenship
- 5.7 Digital infrastructure for government and governance

## CONFERENCE SIGNIFICANCE AND EXPECTED IMPACT

Technology for societal good and its Significance for the Social Work Profession

The integration of innovative technologies into social work fieldwork represents a fundamental shift in how the profession can extend reach, enhance effectiveness, and improve outcomes for vulnerable populations. This conference will address the need and impact of technology in social sciences.

**Legitimizing Technology Discourse:** By hosting a dedicated international conference, social work establishes itself as a profession seriously engaging with technological innovation and demonstrating evidence-based approaches to adoption.

**Building Evidence Base:** Rigorous conference proceedings will contribute to peer-reviewed literature on what technologies work, for whom, under what conditions, and with what outcomes—filling critical knowledge gaps.

**Accelerating Practice Innovation:** Practitioners will gain exposure to vetted innovations, reducing the time lag between technological development and professional application.

**Influencing Policy:** Research-based discussions will inform government, regulatory bodies, and international organizations' policies on technology in social work, including alignment with UN Sustainable Development Goals and national gender equity frameworks.

**Addressing Equity Concerns:** By prioritizing gender equity, social inclusion, and cultural responsiveness as cross-cutting themes, the conference ensures that technology's benefits are distributed equitably and potential harms to marginalized populations are prevented.

## EXPECTED OUTCOMES

### **For Participants:**

- Expanded knowledge of technological innovations applicable to their practice contexts
- Networking with international peers, practitioners, and technology developers
- Visibility for their research through conference presentation and Scopus-indexed publication
- Collaboration opportunities for future research partnerships
- Professional development credits and continuing education recognition

### **For the Profession:**

- A peer-reviewed body of research on technology and social work practice
- Established best practices and ethical guidelines for technology adoption
- Policy recommendations for national and international social work bodies
- Evidence for advocacy regarding technology's role in addressing social challenges
- Models for gender-equitable, culturally responsive technology implementation
- Publication opportunity: Special publication opportunity in collaboration with reputed publishers, a Scopus-indexed journal. Selected papers presented at the conference will be considered for publication in a dedicated topical collection, subject to peer review and editorial approval. APC's are additional.

### **For Society:**

- Enhanced social work capacity to serve disadvantaged communities
- Evidence-based approaches to technology's role in addressing social problems
- Improved access to social services, particularly in underserved areas
- Strengthened understanding of technology's role in advancing gender equality and social justice

# ABOUT ORGANISERS

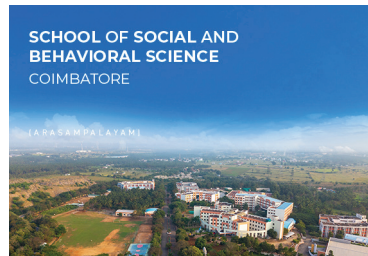
## Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham



Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham, a multi-campus, multi-disciplinary university established by Sri Mata Amritanandamayi Devi (Amma), is one of India's leading private institutions. It is accredited with an 'A++' grade by NAAC and consistently ranks among the top universities in India, holding the 7th position in the NIRF 2024 rankings. Amrita offers over 300 undergraduate, postgraduate, and doctoral programs across diverse fields, including Engineering, Medicine, Social Sciences, and more. With nine campuses spread across India, Amrita is known for its commitment to academic excellence, humanitarian values, and global collaborations, making it a hub for transformative education and impactful research.

## School of Social and Behavioural Sciences (SSBS)

The School of Social and Behavioural Sciences (SSBS) at Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham is a premier institution dedicated to addressing societal challenges through education and research. Spread across three campuses in Amritapuri, Coimbatore, and Faridabad, SSBS offers programs like BSW (Hons), MSW, M.Sc. in Cognitive Science, and Ph.D. in Social Sciences. It is home to India's only UNESCO Chair in Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment. SSBS integrates rigorous academics with compassionate research, focusing on areas like social justice, community development, and mental health. Its faculty are engaged in impactful projects that foster sustainable development and positive social change.



## INDIAN SOCIETY OF PROFESSIONAL SOCIAL WORK (IPSW)



The Indian Society of Professional Social Work (IPSW), formerly known as the Indian Society of Psychiatric Social Work, was established in 1970 and registered under The Karnataka Societies Registration Act, 1960. With 55+ years of existence, IPSW has conducted numerous Annual National Conferences at prestigious universities and institutions across India. IPSW regularly publishes the National Journal of Professional Social Work and serves as the voice of professional social work in India.



## ISPSW BEST PAPER AWARDS

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### BEST PAPER AWARDS FOR ANC OF ISPSW

- ISPSW Best Paper Award for Social Work Faculty
- ISPSW Best Paper Award for Social Work Practitioner
- ISPSW Best Paper Award for M. Phil/ Ph. D Scholars of Social Work
- ISPSW Best Paper Award for BSW/MSW/ MA Social Work Student(s)
- Visva Bharati Best Paper Award for Practitioner in the field of Persons with Disabilities (in relation to conference theme)
- Roshni Nilaya, School of Social Work Best Paper Award for MSW/ MA Social Work Student(s) in Child Mental Health
- Dr. G. S. Udaya Kumar Memorial Best Paper Award for a Social Work Practitioner in Family Studies
- Dr. M. Chandrasekhar Rao Memorial Best Paper Award for M. Phil/ Ph. D Scholars in the field of Social Work Research
- ISPSW Best NGO Award
- ISPSW Best CSR Award

### ISPSW BEST PAPER AWARD NORMS

- All life members are eligible to contest for various awards.
- Life members are expected to contest under anyone of the award categories.
- Member who has received an award earlier is not eligible to contest for the award for two consecutive annual national conferences.
- The first author of the award paper only has to make the presentation.
- Soft copies of the full paper to be submitted with the covering letter to the High Power Committee of ISPSW through an email: [amritaispsw@gmail.com](mailto:amritaispsw@gmail.com), mentioning clearly the award category on or before the **01<sup>st</sup> March 2026**
- Original research articles which have not been published in any other journal only would be considered for Award category



# TIMELINE

Call for Proposals Opens	: December 29, 2025
Last date for Full paper/Abstract Deadline	: March 01, 2026
Full paper submission for ISPSW Award categories	: March 01, 2026
Author Notification	: March 05, 2026
Early Bird Registration Deadline	: March 10, 2026
Conference Dates	: March 25-27, 2026
Publication of Conference Proceedings	: June 2026

## GUIDELINES FOR ABSTRACT SUBMISSIONS

- Abstracts are invited for free paper presentations, Award papers, Poster presentations, Symposia and Workshops.
- Abstract should **NOT** be more than 250 words with headings such as introduction, methodology, results, conclusion and keywords (3-5 keywords).
- Abstract should contain title of the paper, name, designation and institutional affiliation of authors, contact details (e-mail id & phone number) of presenting author at the end of the abstract.
- Registration is mandatory for all the presenting authors.

## GUIDELINES FOR FULL PAPER SUBMISSIONS

- Full paper should **NOT** be more than 3000 to 5000 words with headings such as introduction, methodology, results, discussion and conclusion.
- Maximum of two tables and one figure can be appended separately.
- Referencing style: **APA 6th Edition**
- Declaration by author regarding conflict of interest and ethical clearance are must.

## NOTE FOR ABSTRACTS AND FULL PAPER SUBMISSION

- Paper must contain title of paper, name, designation and institutional affiliation of author or authors, contact details (Email id & Contact address) of the presenting author.
- **Times New Roman style, font size 12, 1.5 spacing in a single file in MS Word format.**
- Abstract and full paper should be sent to: [amritaaispsw@cb.amrita.edu](mailto:amritaaispsw@cb.amrita.edu) | [amritaaispsw@gmail.com](mailto:amritaaispsw@gmail.com)

**Potential collaborations:** Media partner, publication partners, National and state social work associations

Indian Society for Professional Social Work (ISPSW) has agreed to collaborate for organising this conference.

<https://ispsw.org.in/executive-committee.html> [The ISPSW is the oldest association of professional Social Workers in India]

## REGISTRATION FOR THE CONFERENCE

Category	Early Bird — Members (ISPSW)	Early Bird — Non-members	11 <sup>th</sup> Mar. 2026 onwards — Members (ISPSW)	11 <sup>th</sup> Mar. 2026 onwards — Non-members
<b>Paper Presenters category</b>				
BSW/MSW /Any social science	₹1,200	₹1,500	₹1,500	₹1,800
M. Phil & Ph. D Scholars	₹1,700	₹1,750	₹1,750	₹2,200
Faculty/Practitioners/ Corporate	₹1,750	₹2,000	₹2,000	₹2,500
Developing country/ SAARC/ APR	\$60	\$75	\$75	\$90
Developed countries	\$60	\$75	\$75	\$90
<b>Attendees</b>				
	<b>ISPSW</b>		<b>Non ISPSW</b>	
Faculty/Practitioners/ Corporate	₹800 per day		₹1000 per day	
Students M. Phil & Ph. D Scholars	₹400 per day		₹500 per day	

\* ISPSW Life Members need to quote their LM number for availing concession in Registration (More than one paper presentation additional ₹500 per paper shall payable)

## PAYMENT DETAILS

Beneficiary Name : Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham

Bank A/c No: **39520611953**

IFSC : SBIN0015763

Bank & Branch : State Bank of India, Pichanur Branch, Coimbatore

## ACCOMMODATION

Arrangements shall be made by the concerned Committee based on prior request and subject to availability on prior payment.

# How to reach Amrita

Located near the border of Tamil Nadu and Kerala, about 2.5 km north of the Coimbatore-Palakkad highway (NH 47), the campus is ensconced by the Western Ghats on its three sides. It is 16 kms from Coimbatore City and 32 kms from Palakkad.

## By Air:

The closest airport is Coimbatore, located about 27 kilometers from the campus. Most airlines operate flights to Coimbatore from all major cities in India.

## By Bus:

The nearest major bus terminals are at Gandhipuram (about 22 kms) and Ukkadam (about 18 kms.). There are regular bus services from Gandhipuram (Bus Nos. 96, A3 and 3G) and Ukkadam (Bus Nos. 96, 48, S2, 3G and A3). Alight at Ettimadai Piruvu Bus Stop (Amrita College) and hire an auto rickshaw to the campus (3 kms). A3 bus will come upto the college Gate. The travel time from Ukkadam to Ettimadai Piruvu is around 45 minutes.

Ettimadai is a request stop for all Kerala and Tamil Nadu State Transport buses from Kerala. Alight at Ettimadai Piruvu Bus Stop (Amrita College) and hire an auto rickshaw to the campus (3 kms). Travel time from Palakkad to Ettimadai Piruvu is around one hour.

## By Train:

Passenger trains are available from Coimbatore Railway Station and Palghat Railway Station. Ettimadai Railway Station is only about 500 metres from the campus and one may easily walk to campus upon alighting at the station. Train schedules from Coimbatore Junction to Ettimadai and Palakkad Junction to Ettimadai are available in railway website. Coimbatore is a major railway junction on the Southern Railways and there are trains to Chennai, Rameswaram, Madurai, Bengaluru, Mumbai, Kanyakumari, Kozhikode, Mettupalayam, Kochi and Delhi.

[Google map link: https://maps.google.com/maps?q=10.9048694%2C76.8988582&z=17&hl=en](https://maps.google.com/maps?q=10.9048694%2C76.8988582&z=17&hl=en)

# Conference Organization and Leadership

## AMRITA VISHWA VIDYAPEETHAM - ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

### Advisor

#### Dr. Bhavani Rao R

Dean, School of Social and Behavioural Sciences, Director, AMMACHI Labs and CWEGE UNESCO Chair for Gender Equality & Women's Empowerment  
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### Conference Convenor

#### Dr.S. Kanagaraj

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### Co-convenor

#### Dr. Parvathy V

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### Research Chair

#### Ms. Radhika Mohan

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- **Dr. Reshma Ramesh**  
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- **Lekshmi Venkitesh**, PhD scholar

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- **Deepthy T**, PhD scholar

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#### **Food**

- **Mrs. Ambika B**  
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- **Ms. Soumya Amarnath**

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- **Amrita Biju**, PhD scholar

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### Note Taking for all sessions

- **Ms. Diksha Sarma**  
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### ISPSW HIGH-POWER COMMITTEE

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**Prof. Col. Y. S. Siddegowda**, Former  
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and Former Vice-Chairman of Karnataka  
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Government of Karnataka

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President of Family Fellowship Society for  
Psychosocial Rehabilitation Services

**Prof. D. Muralidhar**, Professor and Head  
of PSW (Retd.), NIMHANS & Former  
President of ISPSW

**Prof. S A Kazi**, Ph.D, Former Registrar  
and Vice-Chancellor In-Charge Karnataka  
State Women's University

**Prof. B S Gunjal**, Ph.D, Prof. & Chairman,  
Dept. of Social Work , Karnataka State  
Open University

**Prof. Kodandarama**, Ph.D, Prof. (Retd)  
&Former Head, Dept of Social Work,  
Bangalore University

## ISPSW EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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**Dr. Parashurama K. G.**, Senior Prof. & Chairman, Dept. of Social Work, Tumkur University

### Hon. General Secretary

**Dr. R. Dhanasekara Pandian**, Professor, Dept. of Psychiatric Social Work, NIMHANS

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**Dr. Sanjoy Roy**, Prof. & Head, Delhi School of Social Work, New Delhi

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**Dr. Sojan Antony**, Additional Professor, Dept. of Psychiatric Social Work, NIMHANS

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- **Dr. Sangeetha R Mane** – Professor, Dept. of Social Work, Karnatak University, Dharwad
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- **Dr. Noor Mudasheer C. A** – Assistant Professor, Dept. of Social Work, St. Philomena College, Mysuru
- **Dr. R. Mangaleswaran** – Professor, Dept. of Social Work, Bharathidasan University
- **Dr. M. P. Somashekar** – Assistant Professor, Dept. of Social Work, J.S.S College
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- **Dr. L. Ponnuchamy** – Associate Professor, Dept. of Psychiatric Social Work, NIMHANS
- **Dr. Srinivasa D** – Assistant Professor, Dept. of Social Work, Central University of Karnataka

## IPSW CONFERENCE ADVISORS AND INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATORS

### Senior Academic Advisors

- **Mr. Sriganesh M. V.** Treasurer, IFSW (Global)
- **Prof. L. S. Gandhi Doss** President, INPSWA
- **Dr. Ipe Varughese** Secretary General, INPSWA
- **Dr. R. Shivappa** Senior Professor, Dept. of Social Work, University of Mysore
- **Dr. Parashurama K.G.** Senior Professor & Chairman, Dept. of Social Work, Tumkur University
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- **Dr. Vasudev Sharma** President, KAPSW, Bangalore
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- **Dr. Pavithra Alur** Professor, Dept. of Social Work, Central University of Karnataka
- **Dr. M. Mohan Mukerjee** Retd. Professor, Dept. of Social Work, Visva Bharathi University, Shanthinikethan
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- **Dr. Pradeep B. S.** Professor, Dept. of Social Work, Davanagere University
- **Dr. R. Mubark Ali** Flinters University, Adelaide, Australia





## SOUVENIR SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

A wide range of sponsorship options is available for the NGOs, organizations and CSR project companies to showcase products, services, and innovations to a large number of social work fraternities from across the country and social work professionals for wider network. It is expected to have 600 seminar participants and 6000 University students and staff will be invited to visit the stalls. The sponsorship tiers are as follows:



**Platinum Sponsor (Rs. 5,00,000):** Premier branding across all materials, logo on main backdrop, exhibition booth, full-page and in proceedings, two complimentary registrations, two accompanying and persons one stall for product display.



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