

# AMRITA UDAAN

A LEAP FORWARD



MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

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FEBRUARY 2020

**ADMISSION OPEN FOR 2020  
HOW TO CRACK NET**

**WORKSHOP ON DISASTER  
MANAGEMENT**

**ARTICLE ON CAPITAL PUNISHMENT**

"Be like the honeybee who gathers only nectar wherever it goes.  
Seek the goodness that is found in everyone."

- Amma



**Workshop on NAPDDR  
current affairs**

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February 2020

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# MEET OUR TEAM

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## In the Field - To Self-Disclose or Not To Self-Disclose: That Question Is Too Simple

There are many gray areas in social work practice, and self-disclosure is no exception. Despite the fact that the literature typically frames self-disclosure as a complex and controversial use-of-self practice issue (Goldstein, 1994; Knight, 2012; Urdang, 2010), inquiring minds still want to know: "So...should I do it or not?" This is often the case for students and newer practitioners. And who can blame them? Social work practice is full of chaos and complexity, and sometimes it just feels reassuring to get a solid answer. As a teacher, I've said, "It depends," more times than I'd care to admit to excellent questions posed by students. So, last semester, when a student proposed, "Ahhh...can you please just tell us what we should say when a client asks us a personal question?" during a first semester practice course, I paused, collected my thoughts, and did my best to lay out reasons why the question of whether or not to self-disclose is tough to answer. What follows here are some musings and basic parameters to consider when thinking about this baffling practice issue.

### First Things First: Let's Define It

If a client asks me my age, should I tell them? If not, how should I respond? Should I tell my client where I'm going on vacation? Is it okay to have family photos in my office? When is it appropriate, if ever, to tell a client that I am also in recovery? Is there a difference between telling a client that I am in recovery from substance misuse vs. another form of mental illness? Is it okay to cry with clients?

This is just a sampling of the range of common, highly debatable questions related to self-disclosure. What are your answers to the above questions? Do your answers depend on any of the following—theoretical orientation, scope of practice, practice setting, use-of-self, foundational social work values/theory, interpretation of the ethics code?

Generally speaking, self-disclosures come in two forms: self-revealing and self-involving (Knox & Hill, 2003). Nearly all clinicians self-disclose to clients in some way or another. If you wear a wedding ring, for example, you are disclosing something about your personal life to your clients. Let's consider the example of a clinician working with a client who endured several years of domestic abuse. In this situation, a clinician letting the client know that she is affected emotionally/viscerally by the clinical encounter is an example of a self-revealing disclosure: "I feel deeply moved by your account of leaving this relationship after years of turmoil and abuse." If the clinician informs the client that she, too, is a domestic abuse survivor, she is making a self-involving disclosure. It is easy to see why self-involving disclosures are the more controversial of the two. Although in both examples the clinician makes a choice not to be a "blank slate" in the therapy room and inserts her humanity, self-involving disclosures carry a greater risk (more on this later).

### Self-Disclosure and Use-of-Self

Although I've always tended toward minimal use of self-involving disclosures with clients, I can vividly recall an instance when a self-involving disclosure seemed to have a positive impact on treatment. I was working with a young adult client struggling to sift through a flood of mixed emotions prior to her wedding day, most stemming from complicated family dynamics. With the intention of validating just how stressful rites of passage can be (despite social messages that such events should be perfect),

I briefly shared the story of my own wedding day, which began with a phone call early in the morning alerting my soon-to-be husband that his father had just died. My disclosure did seem validating to the client. It offered her a model for accepting the confusing and messy aspects of her experience—the anger and sadness regarding her family situation and the excitement and joy surrounding her marriage.

Now, it's possible that the same disclosure in another clinical scenario would have backfired, which brings me to the next point: context is everything. We need to evaluate the situation at hand, the probable impact on the clinical relationship, and the likelihood that the disclosure will be helpful (or not) for the particular client (Urdang, 2010).

Some may conclude that self-disclosure is an aspect of how clinicians use themselves within the art and science of treatment. That's right. I said it. The art and science of treatment. Some decisions are made by feeling and thinking it out rather than relying on an empirically tested, formulaic answer. Why? Because the work involves understanding our clients' sense of self and their emotional needs. No two clients are alike. No two clinical encounters are the same. And no two clinicians are the same, which brings me to another point: Theory.



### Self-Disclosure Through Various Treatment Lenses

We would be hard pressed to find a treatment theory that has made self-disclosure a main tenet of its treatment philosophy. Still, we can surmise how various theorists think about this topic.

Freud believed that therapist neutrality was key to treatment; therefore, he would not have been a fan of using self-disclosure (Raines, 1996). Revisionists of his theory vary in their philosophies about and use of self-disclosure. Some argue that it should be avoided, as it may interrupt the client's free flowing thoughts and feelings. Clinicians adhering to a relational-psychodynamic lens envision the therapeutic relationship as a main catalyst for change; therefore, they are likely to have transparency, letting clients see how they are affected by the therapeutic encounter (Knight, 2012). Envision the difference between a classical psychoanalytic posture in which the client lies

down and therapists avert their eyes versus a more relational posture where both parties face one another, and the therapist allows facial expressions and responses to be seen by the client.

Humanists in the vein of Carl Rogers assert that a therapist's authenticity—being genuine and real with clients—is crucial to the client's self-acceptance and therefore pivotal to healing and growth (Knight, 2012). If a disclosure occurs in the process of expressing genuine regard for the client, then so be it. Although cognitive behavioral theory (CBT) does not explicitly provide a guide for relational issues in the same manner that the other theories do, most social workers practicing within a CBT framework create ample room for clients to ask questions and express concerns regarding their treatment (including the treatment relationship) along the way.

This is perhaps the most common form of self-disclosure and is a point of agreement for most ethically-minded clinicians—we should always allow clients to ask us questions about our training, where we got our degrees, and why we chose the modalities we did. Such inquiries are very common, especially in the beginning stage of treatment.

### Practical and Ethical Considerations

Perhaps the biggest ethical concern related to self-disclosure surrounds the issue of boundaries. Will the disclosure "turn the tables" on the client, perhaps burdening the client to take care of the clinician? This is certainly a good question to ask. We also want to ask ourselves who the disclosure serves, as well as whether or not the disclosure has a therapeutic purpose (Maroda, 1999). Of course, it is not always easy to answer the latter question. What feels validating to one client may feel dismissive to the next, and this all depends on the client's unique sense of self and subsequent relational needs. In the above example from my own practice, my decision to self-disclose was made, in part, by having knowledge of my client's relational history and my therapeutic hunch that it would validate her experience.

There are other considerations, as well. Some caution against clinician self-disclosure in the following clinical situations:

- if a client's boundaries and/or reality testing is poor,
- if a client tends to focus on others' needs before their own,
- if the therapist feels very vulnerable within the treatment relationship, or
- if a client tends to go off topic in sessions (Goldstein, 1994; Maroda, 1999; Raines, 1996).

Of course, some inquiring minds still want to know: If a client asks me my age, what should I do? Consider why the client wants this information, how your answer might affect the therapeutic relationship, and whether or not it's ultimately helpful? And, by the way, sometimes it's okay to let the client know that you're not sure whether you want to answer the question or not. An honest, empathetic discussion with the client about the issue may make for an interesting session.

Finally, is it such a bad idea to leave a little room in the far reaches of our minds for embracing an old adage? Sometimes a question is just a question!

by **Pamela Szczygiel**

Reference: <https://www.socialworker.com/feature-articles/practice/field-to-self-disclose-or-not-to-self-disclose-that-question-is-too-simple/>

# CURRENT AFFAIRS -FEBRUARY 2020

## **Donald Trump to sign new bill to tackle coronavirus threat, after Senate gives its approval.**

The bill aims to accelerate the government's response to tackle the rapid spread of the deadly coronavirus in the nation. The total number of confirmed coronavirus cases has risen to 233 in the United States, including 14 deaths.

## **Nari Shakti Puraskar 2019: Full list of winners**

The winners of the Nari Shakti Puraskar 2019 belong to diverse fields including sports, education, agriculture, handicrafts, armed forces, wildlife conservation and afforestation. They have been recognized for showing exemplary courage and safeguarding women's rights, especially the rights of most vulnerable and marginalized women. The award aims to recognize their outstanding contribution towards the emancipation of women, especially marginalized women.

## **Artificial Intelligence Modules launched in Schools by NITI Aayog**

On February 27th the National Association of Software and Services Companies (NASSCOM) and NITI Aayog's Atal Innovation Mission came together to introduce a new module opening the world of artificial intelligence for Indian schools. The AI module will be implemented in 5,000 Atal Tinkering Labs in India, exposing 2.5 million students to the world of artificial intelligence, which commenced from February 27th. The module will be taught through videos, activities, and experiments, which will make learning fun for the children and entice their interest in this field. This will, in turn, prove to be fruitful for India overall. Artificial Intelligence (AI) set up module is the next level of this teaching.

## **Sri Lanka withdraws from UNHRC Resolution**

On February 26th, the Government of Sri Lanka submitted a formal notice to the United Nations expressing its desire to withdraw from the United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC). The Council was dealing with Sri Lanka's decades-old feud with the Tamil Separatists. The Sri Lankan government now decided that it will not work along with the 2015 resolution, which demands accountability for alleged extreme operations carried out by the Sri Lankan forces against the victims.

## **The 6th Coast Guard OPV – 6: VAJRA launched in Chennai**

On February 27th, the 6th Coast Guard Offshore Patrol Vessel (OPV) 'VAJRA' was launched in Chennai, Tamil Nadu. The VAJRA was launched by the Union Minister of State for Shipping and Chemicals & Fertilizers Shri Mansukh Mandviya. The job of VAJRA is to guard the exclusive economic zone (EEZ) spread across 20 lakh sq. Km. This is where more than one lakh merchant ships transit every year to operate global trade.

## **Finance Minister launched Enhanced Access and Service Excellence (EASE 3.0)**

Enhanced Access and Service Excellence (EASE 3.0) reform agenda aim at providing smart, technologically advanced public sector banking in India. The EASE 3.0 will be much more user-friendly and will make Public Sector Banking much easier and approachable.

## **Donald Trump India visits: Talks on future trade deal**

The U.S. President Donald J. Trump's India visit was scheduled from 24th February to 25th February 2020. He was escorted by the First Lady Melania Trump, his daughter Ivanka Trump, who visited India last year, and many representatives of the U.S. government. The basket of the agreement is full of many useful fruits like the collaborations on dealing with mental health issues, supply of apex quality of medicines to the U.S., defense deals which promises a certain type of helicopter, intellectual property right deal and to our much delight a deal on collaboration on space programs.

## **Scientists found Breathable Oxygen in Another Galaxy for the First Time**

For the first time, molecular oxygen was found outside the Milky Way. The discovery made by astronomers of breathable oxygen in a faraway galaxy can prove crucial in understanding the importance of oxygen in the origin of planets, galaxies, stars and most importantly, life itself.

## **Ideal Legislative Assembly Speaker Award was conferred to Sri Ramakrishnan**

Ideal Legislative Assembly Speaker/Ideal Legislative Council Chairman Award was conferred to the Speaker of Kerala Legislative Assembly Shri P. Ramakrishnan.

## **Phase II of SWACHH Bharat Mission approved by Union Cabinet**

After the successful implementation of the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan in 2014 and the completion of Phase I in 2019, this year marks the commencement of Phase II of the mission. Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced the beginning of Phase II of the Swachh Bharat Mission (Grameen) (SBM (G)) 2020 – 2024-25 on 20th February 2020. The focus of Phase II will be eradicating the open defecation in the nation and educating everyone about the need for using a toilet. The aim is to improve the health of people living in rural areas.

## **The US has removed the "Developing" tag for India**

On 10th February 2020 the United States of America removed the status of "Developing Nations" of many nations and India was also excluded from the list. India will now be regarded as a developed nation that brings many negative trade implications.

## **India's first inter-city electric bus services**

The Union Minister of Road Transport & Highways Shri Nitin Gadkari inaugurated India's first-ever inter-city electric bus service in Mumbai which will run between Mumbai – Pune on 14th February 2020.

## **SC grants Permanent Commission to Women in Army**

The Supreme Court of India granted the Permanent Commission to Women Soldiers in the Indian Army on 17th February 2020. The Permanent Commission was granted to women officers in the Army's noncombat support units on par with their male counterparts should they wish to continue with it after completing their short-service commission.

## **Dan David Prize (Indian Scholar, Gita Sen)**

The Dan David Foundation at Tel Aviv University awarded the prestigious Dan David Prize to Ms Gita Sen, India's prominent feminist scholar and activist.

## **Jaipur gets World Heritage Certificate from UNESCO**

The Pink City of Rajasthan, Jaipur will formally be called a World Heritage City now. At the Albert Hall, Audrey Azoulay the Director-General of UNESCO presented the Urban Development and Housing Minister Mr. Shanti Dhariwal the certificate of World Heritage.

# SEMINARS, WORKSHOPS, PAPER PRESENTATIONS

## **Five Days National Workshop on Digital Technologies for Social Science Research**

Date: April 6, 2020 - April 10, 2020

Venue: Terminal Room, Tata Institute of Social Sciences Mumbai, V.N. Purav Marg, Eden Gardens, Deonar, Mumbai, Maharashtra 400088

link: <https://www.tiss.edu/view/5/homepage-data/homepage-events-and-announcements/five-days-national-workshop-on-digital-technology/>

## **International Conference on Physical Education for Children and Youth with Visual Impairments (ICPECYVI-20)**

Date: April 12 2020- April 13 2020

Venue: Indana Palace Jodhpur  
Opposite Military Officer Quarters,  
Benayakiya Road, Shikargarh,  
Pabupura, Jodhpur, Rajasthan 342001

Link:

<https://iraj.co.in/conf/reg.php?id=1172706>

## **JTSDS Annual International Roundtable Conference**

Date: 3rd-4th April, 2020

VENUE: Old Conference Hall, Main Campus, TISS, Mumbai

Link:

<https://www.tiss.edu/view/5/homepage-data/homepage-events-and-announcements/jtsds-annual-international-roundtable-conference-s/>

# DEPARTMENTAL ACTIVITIES

February 05

The department organised the Social Communication lab and Theatre session on Acid Attack for the II MSW students as part of their academic curriculum.

## Amma's Kovai Visit

February 01 and 02

As part of the Bharat Darshan, Chancellor of Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham, Mata Amritanandamayi Devi visited Coimbatore on 1st and 2nd of February 2020. All the students, faculty members, staff members of the department took part in the seva activities as part of the Brahmasthanolsavam on both the days



The field work students of the department organised an awareness session on 'Organ Donation and Prevention of Liver Diseases' for both the I and II MSW students. The session was handled by Dr. Anand Bharathan and Mr. Raghuman from Sri Ramakrishna Hospital. This was done by the students as part of their field work curriculum.



February 26

The Students Association ASWAAS of the department organised a talk on 'The Missing Pieces Of The Sustainability Puzzle'. The session was handled by Dr. Nikhil Kothurkar, Asst. Professor, Department of Chemical Engineering, Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham, Coimbatore.



February 04

The Department of Social Defense, Govt. of Tamil Nadu, along with the Department of Social Work, Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham, Coimbatore, organized the final workshop session of the series of Capacity Building Program on National Action Plan for Drug Demand Reduction (NAPDDR) in Erode.



February 27, 28, 29

The department organised a three day workshop on 'Disaster Management' exclusively for the I MSW students. The resource person of the workshop was Dr. Rajeev. M.M, Asst. Professor, Department of Social Work Central University of Rajasthan. The workshop was co-ordinated by Mrs.K.Umamaheswari, Asst. Professor, Department of Social Work



February 13, 14, 15

The School of Engineering of Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham, Coimbatore organised Anokha 2020, Tech Fest on 13th, 14th and 15th February in the campus. The department put up a stall in the Tech Fair organized as part of Anokha 2020. The stall exhibited various products made by different NGOs, collaborated with the department as part of the fieldwork curriculum.



# Rally and Awareness Session on Child Sexual Abuse

On 10th February 2020 II MSW Child Rights and Child Protection specialisation students of the department took part in a rally and awareness session conducted for the ending of violence against children specialising in Child Sexual Abuse. This program was organized by Walayar police station and the Vaava express which was inaugurated by Mr. Lokanath Behera, Indian Police Service Officer, Director General of Police of Kerala and Shiv Vikram IPS, Palakkad flagged of the rally.

The rally constituted of police officers and school children from Higher Secondary School, Kanjikode and also other officials as Pudusherry Panchayat President Mrs. Shantakumari who gave the inaugural speech and spoke about the POCSO Act and the importance of it. The Vaava Express is an initiative to make sure that every child is protected and no child is a victim of child sexual abuse.



## ORGANISATION VISIT

February 08

II MSW CRCP students visited Walayar police station as part of their fieldwork curriculum. The students interacted with the Child Welfare Police Officer, Sub Inspector, Community Relation Officer regarding child rights and child protection of the Walayar region. Also, the students further interviewed them on POCSO cases and the situational analysis of children of Walayar.



# MSW ADMISSIONS 2020 OPEN



**AMRITA**  
VISHWA VIDYAPEETHAM  
DEEMED TO BE UNIVERSITY

Department of  
Social Work



**Ms. Janani Arunagiriraj**  
**2012 Graduate**  
**HCL Foundation - Chennai**

## ELIGIBILITY

**MSW:** Graduation in any discipline from a recognized university

**Admission Procedure:** Selection is based on academic performance in the qualifying examination and personal interview

**Duration:** 2 Years

## SPECIALIZATIONS OFFERED IN MSW

Child Rights & Child Protection | Community Development | Physical & Mental Health | Disaster Management

## HOW TO APPLY

Apply online [www.amrita.edu/msw](http://www.amrita.edu/msw) or visit our Coimbatore campus directly.

## FIELDS

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## COLLABORATION

- University at Buffalo - New York for Research & Development projects
- Amrita Center for Child Protection in partner with UNICEF - Chennai
- National Commission for Women - New Delhi
- Department of Social Defence - Chennai
- National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR)
- Tamil Nadu State Commission for Protection of Child Rights (TNSCPCR)

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## Students Avail Study

**Abroad Program** Every Semester

**International Collaborations**

for Student Exchange Programmes



## UGC NET – JULY 2018 PAPER II SOLVED (41 to 50)

41. **What is meant by the term employee empowerment ?**  
(1) A process of giving employees greater autonomy and decision making powers.  
(2) A system that encourages workers to move more freely within the workforce.  
(3) The opportunity to share a company's profits.  
(4) A formal system of leadership that relies greatly on control.
42. **Maslow, in his triangle of human needs, showed that :**  
(1) Challenging new tasks is the basic human need.  
(2) Money always motivates workers.  
(3) Safety and security is a low order human need.  
(4) Workers will not give of their best unless they have good social events provided by the company.
43. **Organised descriptions of an activity in a structured form is known as :**  
(1) Model (2) Perspective (3) Skill (4) Method
44. **Which one of the following is not the function of community council in community organisation ?**  
(1) Fact finding (2) Fund raising  
(3) Promoting public undertaking (4) Coordination of activities
45. **Client-worker relationship is essentially :**  
(1) Personal (2) Purposive  
(3) Social (4) Sympathetic
46. **Protection against social contingencies is :**  
(1) Social Welfare (2) Social Service  
(3) Social Welfare Service (4) Social Security
47. **"Cultural Differences" are emphasised in which year's Human Development Report ?**  
(1) Human Development Report - 2002  
(2) Human Development Report - 2003  
(3) Human Development Report - 2004  
(4) Human Development Report - 2006
48. **Which of the following approach makes a shift towards channelising social services to needy people ?**  
(1) Basic needs approach (2) Unified approach  
(3) Equalitarian approach (4) Holistic approach
49. **The calculated value of Chi-Square is :**  
(1) Always Positive (2) Always negative  
(3) Both positive and negative (4) Neither positive nor negative
50. **Aaron Beck is related to :**  
(1) Gestalt Therapy (2) Cognitive Therapy  
Client-centred Therapy Task-Centred Therapy

41. 1  
42. 3  
43. 1  
44. 2  
45. 2  
46. 4  
47. 3  
48. 1  
49. 1  
50. 2

## HOW TO CRACK UGC- NET ?

Learn from achiever !



Ms. Anju Maria Mathew ( 2017- 2019 )  
cleared UGC - NET December 2019

I Am Anju Maria Mathew 2019 batch pass out student of Amrita Vishwa Vvidyapeetham. I got NET in my third attempt. Now I would like to share my experiences with you. Before exam I allotted days to each topic (based on syllabus) and tried to adhere to the schedule. As per the strategy I made sure that I studied those subjects first that I found tough and which required me to clear my concepts. I skipped certain topic which I was confident about then I practiced as many sample papers and previous year's exam papers as I could. I referred my UG and PG books, guide books by R.Gupta (popular master guide) and to study theory and practice questions given at the back of a topic and I also referred B.ed first year notes on teaching. For the students who are planning to take the exam next time be confident and stick to your plans. Be regular in studies and never give up. Apart from this, time yourself. If you intend to complete a topic in a set numbers of days do not deviate from that. But do not cut down on your entertainment either, otherwise you will get frustrated. Take short breaks and time yourself while preparing.

# Capital Punishment – A Modern Outlook

## T.V. Rajeevan

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### Introduction

We live in a democracy and abide by the constitution and the laws enacted in the country. Modernity has a role in the process of law-making and amending obsolete laws unfit to the time. The topic of Capital Punishment has been discussed widely in the legal and social discourses, as it is severe and irrevocable. India's Constituent Assembly Debates between 1947 and 1949 raised questions on the judge-centric nature of the death penalty, arbitrariness in imposition, its prejudiced impact on people existing in poverty, and the risk of error<sup>1</sup>. Various social factors stopping India in becoming one amongst global countries in abolishing the death penalty.

The law commission in 2015 endorsed the abolition of the death penalty except for the terrorism-related offences and waging war against the country<sup>2</sup>, the government yet to take a decision on it. The country's social fabric and values on human rights are to be further molded to have consensus on the issue. Recently the upper house members from different political parties have moved the private bill seeking abolition of capital punishment<sup>3</sup> which can be regarded as the sign in abolishing the death penalty. The system in India and international views about the death penalty are compared in this article with the arguments supportive and against capital punishment with academic interest to reach to a personal conclusion on the topic.

### The criminal law system in India

The primary penal law of India is Indian Penal Code-1860, the procedural law conducting the criminal trial is based on the Criminal Procedure Code (Cr.P.C), 1973 and the Indian Evidence Act, 1872 for producing the evidence.

### Criminal Trials in India

Manifold types of trials and stages of each trial are described in the Criminal Procedure Code. Section 2(x) Cr.P.C explains the Warrant case as the offenses punishable with death, imprisonment for life or imprisonment beyond two years<sup>4</sup>, Sec.2(w) expounds Summons cases that are punishable with fewer than 2 years of sentence and Summary trial where the sentence will be below three months<sup>4</sup>.

The trial of offenders who received the death penalty comes under the Warrant case. The trial started either by filing an FIR in a police station or by the complaint before a magistrate. The investigation followed by framing the charges on the accused. In India, the prosecution has to prove the guilt of the suspect then the defense is allowed for the accused before the judgment.

The above process is complex in nature and human error is possible at any of the stages that may lead to convicting an individual. Political pressure, bureaucratic interventions, the societal response on a case are the factors causing diversions on the investigation. That is to say even a silly mistake by investigating officers or negligence decides the future of the culprit.

### Offences Inviting Capital Punishment in India

Capital punishment is awarded to many offences based on different sections of I.P.C – 1860 as shown in the below table

Section	Description
396	Dacoity with murder
376E	Repeat offenders in the context of rape
376A	Rape and injury which causes death or leaves the woman in a persistent vegetative state
364A	Kidnapping for ransom
307(2)	Attempted murder by a serving life convict
305	Abetment of suicide by a minor, insane person or intoxicated person
302	Murder
195A	Threatening or inducing any person to give false evidence causing conviction and death of an innocent person
194	Perjury resulting in the conviction and death of an innocent person
132	Abetment of mutiny
121	Treason, waging war against Government

Source: Law Commission of India – Report No.262 (2015)

Besides IPC several acts permit the death penalty in India. The Air force Act, 1950, The Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989, The Army Act, 1950 etc. are some of them.

### International Scenario

The global trend is evident in abolishing the heinous act, Resolutions in the UN General Assemblies in 2007 and the re-affirming stands to declare a moratorium on executions in the consecutive years 2008, 2010, 2012 and 2014 is seen as a progressive development of human rights<sup>5</sup>The status and practicing the death penalty are moving towards abolition globally. More than two-thirds of the nations across the globe so far abolished capital punishment in law or practice<sup>6</sup>.

The below data indicates the figures as of 31 December 2018;

Abolished for all crimes	106
Abolished for ordinary crimes only	8
Abolition in practice	28
Total number of countries abolished in law or practice	142

Source: Amnesty International Global Report-2018

Non-democratic countries are majority out of the remaining 50 plus countries awarding death penalties, so it can be interpreted as the much-developed countries are projecting the modern democratic values by avoiding the death penalty.

### Discussion

#### (a) Contributing arguments for Capital Punishment

Public opinion may be considered as a reason behind awarding capital punishment. Human development does not stand still, today's support for the death penalty may change in the times to come. When the constitutional morality and social morality comes in conflict, upholding the values of the constitution would get prior consideration. Various instances can be cited across the world abolishing the death penalty contrary to public opinion.

Retribution against the culprit is another reason for the general public to support the act. The pain, and anger experienced by the public attribute much indignation to the cause. Deterrence, another popular argument supporting capital punishment triggers fear in other persons to deter from committing similar crimes. It is evident from the studies<sup>7</sup> that the arguments supporting the capital punishments have no empirical evidence or corroborative data to substantiate that capital punishment reduces crime.

### (b)The rationale against Capital Punishment

The empirical research by Michael and Traci<sup>8</sup> done among the criminologists proven contentious to the supportive arguments of capital punishment. Approaches to capital punishment cannot be considered as unchanged. Their meaning changes as the political climate changes, as the world changes, and as the media change people's perceptions of the world<sup>9</sup>. Unlike other punishments death cannot reverse; under any circumstances methods like Electro-cution, Beheading, Hanging, Lethal injection, Shooting cannot be accepted by modern society. Some countries still mandate the death penalty for drug dealing, sexual assaults which can be scrutinized. Executing children under the age of 18 is simply horrendous activity. Subjecting any human to the death penalty cannot be justified, especially in cases of people with intellectual or mental disability and for those who undergo no trial. Using the death penalty as a political tool is an inhuman way of manipulating legal institutions to suppress the other opinion.

The better possible alternative for the death penalty is the sentence of Life Without Parole (LWOP). Enhancing early childhood education programs in countries, scientific mental health programs for the victims as the correctional process during the imprisonment can also be alternatives.

### Conclusion

As the life of an individual is precious giving time to transform the behavior can at least save human life. We cannot teach killing is erroneous by killing, at the same time taking revenge cannot be considered as delivering justice. The anticipatory misery of the victims before the execution would probably outweigh the anticipatory misery of the victim of their crime.

Every convict deserves space for correction, adequate time would be given to the offenders to shed their criminal mindset and transform themselves into peaceful, creative and skilled citizens of the society. A mistake from the system can end a person, which is irrationally damaging the modern values we accumulated throughout many generations. The social psyche has to change in a way suitable to modern human values. The emotional indignation of the people and media attention in sensationalizing become factors that work against the perpetrators. The same factors can substantiate all the above arguments against capital punishment too. It is to be asserted that the human is subject to change, criminals cannot be tagged permanently as 'beyond reform'.

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## UPCOMING INTERNATIONAL DAYS

- 1 March - Zero Discrimination Day [UNAIDS]
- 3 March - World Wildlife Day (A/RES/68/205)
- 8 March - International Women's Day
- 20 March - International Day of Happiness (A/RES/66/281)
- 20 March - French Language Day (French)
- 21 March - International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (A/RES/2142 (XXI))
- 21 March - World Poetry Day (UNESCO 30 C/Resolution 29)
- 21 March - International Day of Nowruz (A/RES/64/253)
- 21 March - World Down Syndrome Day (A/RES/66/149)
- 21 March - International Day of Forests (A/RES/67/200)
- 22 March - World Water Day (A/RES/47/193)
- 23 March - World Meteorological Day [WMO] (WMO/EC-XII/Res.6)
- 24 March - World Tuberculosis Day [WHO]
- 24 March - International Day for the Right to the Truth concerning Gross Human Rights Violations and for the Dignity of Victims (A/RES/65/196)
- 25 March - International Day of Remembrance of the Victims of Slavery and the Transatlantic Slave Trade (A/RES/62/122)
- 25 March - International Day of Solidarity with Detained and Missing Staff Members

# A TALK WITH ALUMNI

**Name** : Remya VJ  
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## How was your life at Amrita?

One of the most interesting stages in life that gives you an opportunity to explore is the 'college phase.' Life at college is the time when the teenage years end and we all dive deep into the ocean of new beginnings and possibilities. This golden period better equips you for all the challenges you'll face in life and creates a strong foundation of knowledge. The University has a serene infrastructure, with nice lawns and ambience. Amrita University as a whole is very disciplined. I wouldn't say my life in Amrita has been a bed of roses. I have good and bad memories. The good ones have helped me survive in this University and motivated me to work hard. The bad ones have become lessons for life.

## What are the key skills that you learned at Amrita helped your carrier?

The good skills and habits you develop in college -- through your coursework and extracurricular activities -- can go a long way to not only improving your grades and personal satisfaction in college, but also providing a big edge over other job-seekers who have not developed some of these key skills and values in demand by employers. Few skills I have learned from Amrita:

Speaking/Oral Communication/Presentation.  
Leading and Working in Teams.  
Innovative thoughts  
Group Discussions  
Time Management.  
Research  
Discipline

## How is the current scope of Social Work?

The scope in the profession of social working is wide and limitless. In this profession you can easily find jobs in organizations that are connected with helping people. India is a growing economy and growth impacts the population of a country in many ways. In a growing economy, society will have to face new problems such as child labor, illiteracy, migrant labor, urban poverty, AIDS and crime against women. Social work organizations and NGOs will need to work on new projects to tackle all such problems due to rising economy which will ultimately lead to the creation of new jobs in the field of social work.

## What message you would like to give for the current MSW students?

At this very moment, there are individuals only you can reach, and differences only you can make in their lives.

-Mike Dooley

Yeah, it's a truth, only we (Social Workers) can bring difference/Change in Society. So, work hard to gain Success.

## What are your key responsibilities in the present job?

Just in One Line "Right Talent – Right Place – Right Time"

## Who is your inspiration?

My biggest source of inspiration is my Paternal Uncle

## Any other think you would like to share?

Success does not come in the first attempt. We have to try and try until we succeed.

All the best for all the Current MSW Batch Students of Amrita!!!



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