

# Anniversary Edition

October 2020

**AMRITA UDAAN**  
Monthly Newsletter of  
Department of Social Work  
Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham  
Coimbatore Campus.





# AMRITA UDAAN



A Leap Forward

Monthly Newsletter

October 2020

Volume 02 Issue 10



*"We cannot change situations in life, but  
we can change our attitude towards them"*

*- Mata Amritanandamayi Devi*

- Editor's Word
- Anniversary Wishes
- Farewell to Our Beloved Suja Ma'am



**AMRITA**  
VISHWA VIDYAPEETHAM  
DEEMED TO BE UNIVERSITY

Department of Social Work  
Coimbatore Campus

*Aswaas*

Amrita Social Work  
Association of Alumni and Students



# Contents

October 2020

|                          |           |         |                    |
|--------------------------|-----------|---------|--------------------|
|                          | <b>1</b>  | Page 10 | Anniversary Wishes |
| Departmental Activities  | <b>2</b>  | Page 14 |                    |
|                          | <b>3</b>  | Page 26 | Student's Corner   |
| Well known Social worker | <b>4</b>  | Page 31 |                    |
|                          | <b>5</b>  | Page 33 | UGC - NET          |
| Government Scheme & Act  | <b>6</b>  | Page 34 |                    |
|                          | <b>7</b>  | Page 38 | MSW job Openings   |
| MSW Internships          | <b>8</b>  | Page 39 |                    |
|                          | <b>9</b>  | Page 40 | A talk With Alumni |
| Current Affairs          | <b>10</b> | Page 41 |                    |

# Department of Social Work

**Dr.V.Priya**  
Assistant Professor



**Mrs.K.Umamaheswari**  
Assistant Professor



**Mr.S.Kanagaraj**  
Field Co-ordinator



**Dr.P.Rangasami**  
Chairperson



**Mr.T.Sathishkumar**  
Field Co-ordinator



**Mr.V.S.Varunanvelu**  
Faculty Associate



**Mrs.Ambika Balakrishnan**  
Admin Assistant



# Our Team

## FACULTY CHIEF EDITOR

Mr.S. KANAGARAJ  
Field coordinator



## STUDENT CHIEF EDITOR

DEEPTHI MENON  
II MSW



## CONTENT CREATOR

M KALYANI  
RADHAKRISHNAN  
II MSW



## CONTENT CREATOR

AISWARYA T  
II MSW



## SHUTTERBUG CREDITS

RAGHAVADITYA Y  
II MSW



## DESIGN

ARUN JS  
II MSW







## Editor's Word

30 October 2020  
Coimbatore

*Aum Amriteshwaryai Namaha!*

*Dear Readers,  
Om Namah Shivaya!  
Greetings from Team Amrita Udaan !*

I am delighted to share my happy moments and the journey of one year with this wonderful newsletter

Amrita Udaan. It has been one year since we started with a humble beginning from zero. It is my honour and privilege to be faculty chief editor of this student driven newsletter. I must also admit that it was not a cakewalk to run the newsletter one year but it was mire and we could overcome it with the support of our dedicated team.

It gives me great pleasure and happiness that our newsletter has completed one year and it is indeed a matter of joy. In this issue, we are bringing you some insightful reminiscences of the past and present. I take this opportunity to thank my dedicated team without their support as we could have not completed this journey. I hope this newsletter reaches greater heights than this in the future and it keeps spreading important events in our department and our University.

I truly hope you enjoy this wonderful issue we've put together for you!

Thank you!  
With warm regards  
**Mr.S.Kanagaraj**

**Stay safe! Stay healthy!**



## Message From Chairperson



A successful completion of one year of Department of Social Work, monthly newsletter Amrita UDAAN is completely managed by MSW students with a strong support of faculty member. It gives an immense pleasure and cheerfulness when I receive the soft copy of the issues every month without any delay. Many contributors and students covered topics on academic information, competitive examinations, social issues, information related to placements, programmes covered on training and workshops and placement opportunities always enriched the newsletter and many people benefited out this information. I would like to thank the Udaan team Faculty Chief Editor Mr.S.Kanagaraj, Field Coordinator, student chief editor Ms. Deepthi Menon, content creator Ms. KalyaniRadhakrishnan, content creator Ms. Ashwarya and Mr. Raghavaditya for their efforts on how the material could be presented so that it would make sense to the intended readers. The newsletter enters into second years, I whole heartedly wish every one of them success and wish to work as a group. A group effort often provides a richer educational experience.

Best Regards,

**Dr.P.Rangasami,**

Chairperson

Department of Social Work



# Department at a glance

- I MSW - 46
  - II MSW - 33
  - Faculty Members - 06
  - Admin Assistant - 01
  - Ph.D scholars - 16
- Fulltime - 03
- Partime - 13



# Udaan at a glance



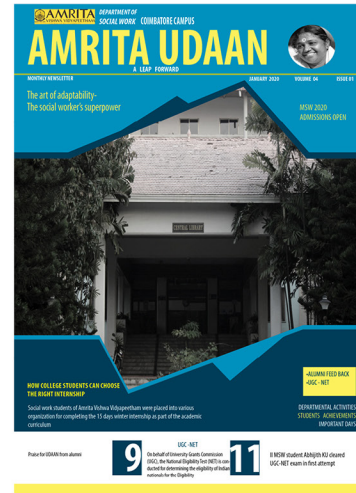
October 2019



November 2019



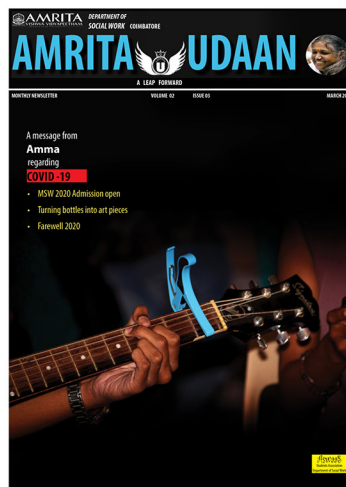
December 2019



January 2020



February 2020



March 2020



April 2020



May 2020



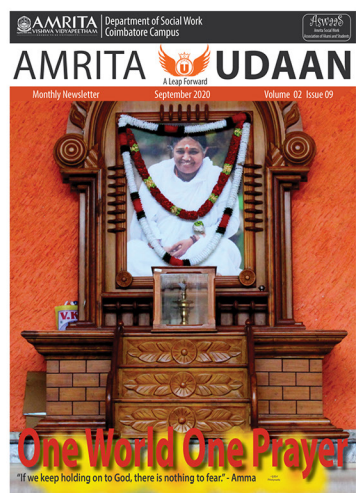
June 2020



July 2020



August 2020



September 2020

# **“WISHES is a gift. Ideas are the currency of our next success.”**

Congratulations on the first Anniversary of UDAAN Newsletter. My best wishes to the dedicated team of UDAAN for all the efforts and look forward to more brilliant ideas from the team in future.



- Dr. V. PRIYA – ASSISTANT PROFESSOR

Could see UDAAN flying high with wonderful colours every month and this first anniversary edition is a demand added to its colourful feathers. Congrats UDAAN Team.



- Mrs. K. UMAMAHESWARI – ASSISTANT PROFESSOR



*If the mind is intensely eager, everything can be accomplished—  
mountains can be crumbled into atoms.*

*-Swami Vivekananda*

I would like to congratulate the Udaan Team for their effort to bring up a great platform for students to share their thoughts, knowledge and skills. The enlightenment of students' creativity on productive leads towards a meaningful and responsible society. I would appreciate each individual person in the team Udaan. I expecting the same for upcoming year. All the best. With Love



Mr.T. SATHISHKUMAR – FIELD COORDINATOR

It's been a year for UDAAN. 2020 is the most challenging and toughest year this generation is witnessing, during this pandemic situation UDAAN and Team UDAAN never rested rather continued to collect innovative content that projected various talents of students, alumni interactions etc,. My best wishes for Team UDAAN on its First anniversary!



Mr.V. S. VARUNAN VELU - FACULTY ASSOCIATE

On the first anniversary of our department's newsletter, I'd like to thank the entire team for starting this venture and carrying it out wonderfully. Even though the purpose of the newsletter is to sketch a report on departmental activities, it has also been a great source of knowing what my friends were up to. During the lockdown period, the newsletter acted as a great place to showcase our artistic, culinary and creative experiments and as a result I got to learn a lot about the hidden talents of my friends.

- AJOY GILBERT – II MSW

This was a very good initiative by the department and since we gained a lot of information and at the same time the skills and talents of each student was brought out by the newsletter. Throughout the Pandemic too the newsletter kept us in touch with the college and our friends and faculty and also the alumni. Overall the newsletter provided us with lots of knowledge and entertainment

- ANAGHA S KUMAR- II MSW

The newsletter has been a beautiful initiative. The idea of charting everything that the department has done, and reporting it monthly has only reinforced the students to take part in and conduct several activities. The newsletter has also for me acted as a diary; by looking at previous editions of the same, I could reminisce about our department, the things we did, and the memories we shared together.

- ARUNA P K – II MSW

Congratulations and Thank you to all the team members of UDAAN for doing your best since its inception with all the newsletter activities. HAPPY 1- YEAR Anniversary Team Udaan.

- BHANOORI VASU – II MSW

Every individual is unique. Every once perspective is also unique. Newsletter is one like a sky with stars and colours. The words and pieces of knowledge were sowed in the letter. It's shining and it will shine. But it's not an end...

Apart from the information regarding the functions and activities which have been done in our department, the content which has been shared by our classmates is a very useful and informative message, and also it is a reason behind everyone to be a part of it and to show their uniqueness in this platform. And I thank everyone who are the responsible pillars behind in carving and shaping the Newsletter publications every month. Yes it's not easy without teamwork but you all proved it.

- KANNAN.M – II MSW

Congratulations Team UDAAN on your Anniversary. This Newsletter was a great platform and idea which helped our mates to showcase their ideas, creativities, thoughts etc. I feel really great and happy to see that team UDAAN's efforts are turning into one. And I'm happy to be a part of this newsletter. Happy Anniversary UDAAN.

- NAMITHA RAJEEV – II MSW

I'm happy to know that our monthly newsletter UDAAN has this year completing one year of successful journey. First of all congratulations to the UDAAN team for this grant success and may our newsletter reach great heights in the years to come.

- RENJIMA - II MSW



The newsletter has been a great initiative from the part of the department. It has served to bring together the whole department in a time where everyone has been separated and isolated by the pandemic. It provided a platform to share experiences, showcase talents and hobbies. It helped us feel a sense of connection with the college even though we were not really there. In my opinion the Newsletter is one of the best things that we have received from the college during these testing times and to read through it and feel engaged with everything is absolutely worth it.

- SIDDHARTH SANTHOSH – II MSW

This is a very special year for UDAAN-as we are celebrating our 1 Anniversary of our Newsletter. Looking back, I think we had brought many new ideas as well as showcased many of the talents of the students in our department by participating them towards every corner of the newsletter. On the back of our first- year success, UDAAN has proved that this is the major stepping stage for every student to bring out their skills. The best part of the UDAAN was that they never separated anyone rather than in-co-operated everyone's participation equally. They used to include not only the present students from our department but also used to bring out the experiences of the alumina. The efforts which are made by the UDAAN team members are unspeakable. I would like to congratulate you on your future editions and I hope that this will move forward as it is a great success.

- ATHIRA E.A - II MSW

I'm feeling very happy in sharing my experience with our Newsletter, with all of you on this wonderful occasion. I got ample chances to contribute and share my knowledge and ideas. I shared concepts related to my specialization Physical and Mental Health. Whenever I wish to share anything, I get a positive and encouraging approach from the Professor. Kanagaraj Sir, and all the team members of the Newsletter. Especially I need to specify Ms. Aiswarya and Mr. Arun, who was very supportive for me, in giving clarifications. Their patience must be appreciated very much and they always approached and communicated with me in a friendly manner. Overall I thank and appreciate the members behind our Newsletter for your tremendous and hard work in carrying out the work up to this level. I wish you that you will achieve greater heights and be a good example for our juniors and to the entire campus.

- NANDHAA.C - II MSW

Greetings Team UDAAN, First of all, congratulations on your first anniversary. I also congratulate Mr Kanagaraj sir for implementing this. Without his plan, this wouldn't have worked out. Great job Mr Kanagaraj sir. This Team has great potential and has been proving every month with their amazing work. Amrita UDAAN is a whole package and it covers important messages and news around the world. This shows how the team members are updated with the contents and the trends. This is a great platform for our alumni to communicate with the current students and fellow students about their work and the projects. I enjoy the quality of the design and the photographs of our university.

Team UDAAN, keep up the good work. You guys are rocking. Thank you for your work

-Sarukeerthana D, 2018- 2020 Batch

The UDAAN team through its decision on starting a newsletter has enabled them to gain informative insights on the activities carried out by the social work department. It has helped in learning and development for shaping the desired future. Best wishes to the UDAAN team on its anniversary. Wishing you lots of success on your journey.

-Aishwarya Nair, 2018-2020 Batch

# DEPARTMENTAL ACTIVITIES

## ASWAAS Office bearers Election 2020-2021

On 14th October 2020 ASWAAS, Students Association, Department of Social Work, conducted the election for selecting the new Office Bearers from the newly joined 1st years. Mr. S. Kanagaraj, Field Coordinator, Department of Social Work, facilitated the election procedure which was conducted through the online platform of Microsoft Teams. 39 students of 1st MSW students participated in the election.

### Results of the Election



Vice President  
**Mr. Anandapadmanabhan.H**



Joint Secretary  
**Ms. Meenakshi.D.H**



Joint Treasurer  
**Mr. Akhil Santhosh**

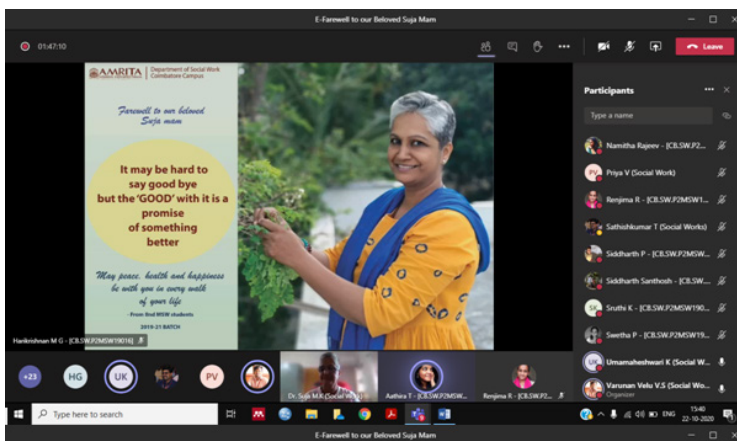




## Farewell to Our Beloved Suja Ma'am

The Department of Social Work organised a virtual farewell to the very beloved Dr. Suja. M.K, Associate Professor, Department of Social Work, Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham, on 22nd October 2020. The program started with the speech of Dr.P. Rangasami, Chairperson, Department of Social Work, talking about the

memories he shared with Suja ma'am and the personality that she possessed. Following, all other faculties of the department also shared their memories of working with Suja ma'am. Some of the students of the department also shared their individual experiences that they had with Suja ma'am while being taught by her.



M. Kalyani Radhakrishnan - II MSW





# "A Good Teacher Is Like A Candle - It Consumes Itself To Light The Way Of Others."



Our beloved Suja Ma'am in search of new pastures, parted ways with our department on the 31 st of October. Her time here with us at Amrita, is something that deserves nothing less than to be celebrated. She has been in our institution for the past five years and has spent all five of them imparting knowledge, skills and more importantly, kindness, towards everyone she has associated with. Her attention to detail, while keeping the broader picture in mind, has been invaluable.

Her willingness to put in extra time and effort to help us has demonstrated a commitment to excellence that we have come to depend upon.

*"Here is an excerpt of our interaction with our beloved Ma'am."*



### 1. Ma'am can you please tell us about your experience and memories in Amrita for the past 5 years?

Five years just flew by. As in any organisation the experiences are bitter-sweet. You cherish the sweet experiences. You learn from your bitter experiences. Being an Internationally reputed institution Amrita gave me exposure to the International arena. It helped me to sharpen my professional skills.

### 2. What's your viewpoint in the entire change in our usual curriculum to online classes?

It's a new experience for all of us. What is missing is the personal touch and fun. Activities are also limited. I prefer activity-based learning hence would like a classroom method. Online has also opened avenues for being tech savvy.

### 3. Ma'am will you miss being a teacher?

**Because we will miss you**

I would always be a teacher. Of course, I would miss the classroom teaching which I always enjoyed. Thank you. It's nice to know that I will be missed.

### 4. Ma'am, can you please share your thoughts on the progress of our Newsletter UDAAN that is celebrating its First Anniversary?

The newsletter has really shot into limelight in a very short period. The team is working hard, and it shows. Udaan always comes with variety which is the spice of life. Keep up the good work.

### 5. What do you wish to tell us students, who are currently pursuing MSW?

"To be a winner all you need to give is all that you have." Don't bother just to be better than your contemporaries, be better than yourself...every day. Follow ethics in Social Work practice. Empathy and Individualization are great tools. A Social Worker always talks less and listens more. All the very best to each one of you.



**AISWARYA.T - II MSW**



**AJOY GILBERT - II MSW**

# Webinar on Convergence Of Community Mental Health With Public Health System

**M**ental health is a state of mental well-being in which people cope well with the many stresses of life, can realize their potential, can function productively and fruitfully, and can contribute to their communities. Mental health is important at every stage of life, from childhood and adolescence through adulthood. So to uplift, this concept all over the globe World Mental Health Day is celebrated on 10th October 2020 every year. Concerning this, a webinar on “Convergence of Community Mental Health with Public Health System” was organized by the Department of Social Work, Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham, Coimbatore on World Mental Health Day, 10th of October 2020. The major details of the webinar are as follows.

## *Topic:*

**Convergence of Community Mental Health with Public Health System**

## *Resource Person:*

**Mr .S. Lokabiraman,**  
Technical Advisor- Technology and Innovations,  
Quality Management Services,  
NACO-CDC-CMAI Project.

**Date: 10th October 2020**

**Time: 10:00AM- 12:00PM**

**Platform: Microsoft Teams**

The webinar was conducted on World Mental Health Day, 10th October 2020. According to the World Health Organization (WHO), the theme for World Mental Health Day 2020 is increased investment in mental health. World Mental Health Day

is observed on 10 October every year, with the overall objective of raising awareness of mental health issues around the world and mobilizing efforts in support of mental health. The Webinar was organized by Dr.V.Priya, Assistant Professor, Department of Social Work, Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham, Coimbatore. There were more than eighty participants for the webinar including the Honourable Dean of Engineering, Head of the department, Faculty Members, Ph.D. Scholars, and both first and second year students.

The webinar officially began at 10:00AM with a prayer song by Ms.Anagha.S.Kumar, IIInd year MSW student. Master of Ceremony was done by Ms.Abhirami AS, IIInd year MSW student. This was followed by Welcome Address by Ms. Aiswarya.T, II year MSW student. The inaugural Address was given by Dr. Sasangan Ramanathan, Dean of Engineering. Dr.P.Rangasami Chairperson, Department of Social Work, Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham, Coimbatore delivered the Felicitation Address. Ms. Sruthi K, II year student then gave a brief introduction about the Resource Person Mr.S.Lokabiraman.

*Brief Profile of the Resource Person Mr.S.Lokabiraman is as follows:*

Mr. S Lokabiraman is currently working as a Technical Advisor- Technology and Innovations, Quality Management Services, NACO-CDC-CMAI Project. He has also worked as Technical Manager- Monitoring and Evaluation, South to South HIV/AIDS Resource Exchange project Voluntary Health Services Tamil Nadu. He has also worked as Faculty Guide for Research Methodology, Health educator, Educational Society for Health, Counsellor, Assistant study coordinator, and Program Manager. Mr.S. Lokabhiraman proved his excellence in developing Monitoring and Evaluations systems for state and Pan India Programs which found community-based interventional targeting of vulnerable groups. He has also designed and implemented capacity building programs, e-learning platforms, and e-courses. He has engaged with the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, National AIDS control Organizations, and UN agencies. He has also published numerous articles and papers in top Journals. Some of these publications



include “Risk Factors for HIV infection in injection drug users and evidence for onward transmission of HIV to their sexual partners in Chennai, India”, “Identifying Young and New female Sex Workers through Client -based approach” and many more. His initial publication was in the year 2004, an abstract titled “Managing harm reduction: Sharing of good practice from Chennai, India.” Mr.S. Lokabhiraman is currently undergoing his part -time Ph.D. in Social Work at Amrita University.

The session was then taken forward by the guest. Following are the various details that were delivered by the guest during the webinar:

### **SESSION: 10:00AM-12:00PM**

The Resource Person started the session by explaining the stigma existing in society towards mental illness. COVID-19 pandemic has increased the intensity of mental illness and the population of children, pregnant women, and the elderly are more prone to its effects. So this is the core area social workers need to focus on. This was the important note given by the Resource Person initially. PowerPoint mode was used during the webinar for explaining important details related to the topic. The session started by explaining what is community mental health. The availability and integration of mental health services into communities can promote accessibility, acceptability, affordability, and scalability of services. Moreover, community services can play a crucial role in promoting mental health awareness, reducing stigma and discrimination, supporting recovery and social inclusion, and preventing mental disorders. Then he explained the convergence of community mental health with the Public health system. Public health system mainly focuses on physical health. So how can we merge community mental health with the public health system and thus increase focus on both the physical and mental health of individuals. Community Mental Health is very much vital since it integrates the perspectives and engagement of service users and families. A brief history of the evolution of community mental health was explained by the speaker. In 1975 mental health services were integrated with primary health care. The National Mental Health Programme (NMHP)

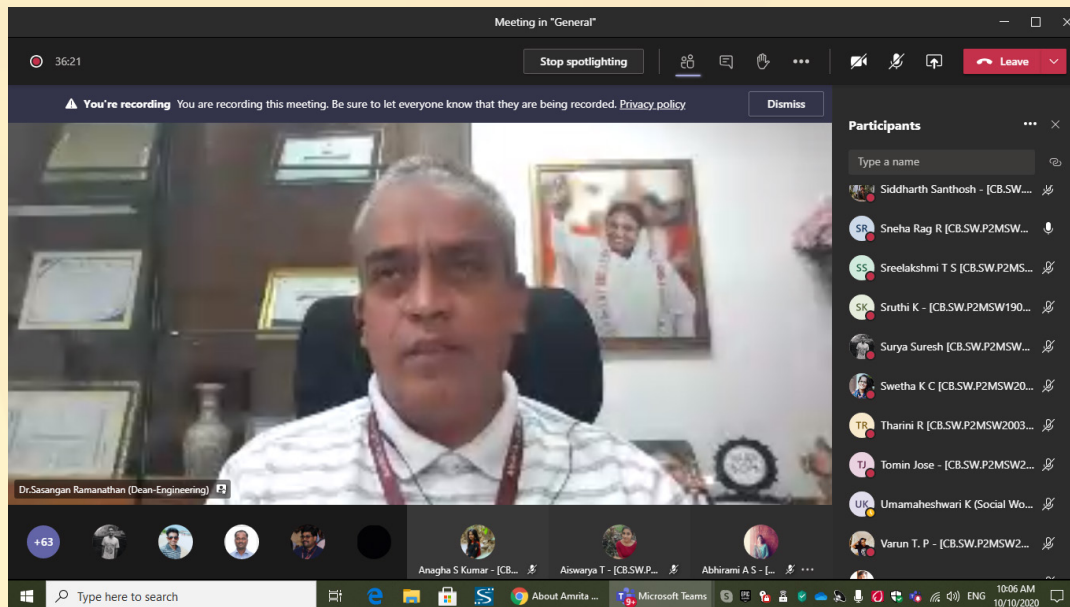
was formulated to develop a national-level initiative for mental healthcare based on the community psychiatry approach in 1982. This was followed by the formation of the District Mental Health Program which is a Community based Mental Health Service delivery. The speaker explained the Core importance of the District Mental Health Program. Since it helped in decentralizing mental health care in the community using the public health infrastructure and other resources. This was done by developing partnerships between the district mental health team, the primary health care (PHC) teams, community-based organizations, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), service users, family groups, and various government departments.

The Resource person mainly linked the topic with the current pandemic condition. COVID-19 situation thus helps in understanding the importance of Community Mental Health. Community Mental Health care is a grass root level initiative. The Primary aim of Community Mental Health care is nothing but identification of mental health in the community and thus formulating appropriate processes to reduce the issue. The District Mental Health Program is channelled via primary health institutes in the public health system. Thus a small introduction about the public health system was given that is commonly defined as “all public, private, and voluntary entities that contribute to the delivery of essential public health services. He also explained the challenges in the implementation of convergence of community mental health with the public health system. It includes a shortage of qualified mental health human resources, as well as little involvement of other primary care health workers in the mental health services. Lack of coordination of Health and Medical Education Departments and most importantly the stigma existing in the society towards mental illness. The speaker also added that this can be sorted out by various measures such as sensitization and training of health personnel. Awareness camps for reducing stigma and discrimination regarding mental illness. FrontLine Health workers should be trained in identifying the mentally ill persons. Auxiliary Nurses and community health workers

should be given basic training in the field of counselling for sorting out the issue. This will thus help in reducing the stigma existing in the society and thus ensuring proper treatment and identification of mental illness in the primary stage itself. The Resource person was then ready for a Q and A session which lasted for one hour.

### *Highlighting questions of students from the webinar*

**Question:** In a country like India, where there is a



**Question:** During the Pandemic, Asha Workers provide any mental health care at the community level?

**Question:** Sir, Can you tell me whether in our country community mental health programs are at a satisfactory level?

**Question:** Whether our Government's effort in Community Mental Health is perfect or needs any improvements?

lot of importance given to culture and tradition, do you think our culture and tradition play a hindering role in our view of mental health?

**Question:** There is a lot of emotional distress among the youngsters during this COVID-19 pandemic regarding lay-offs, education etc. What measures will help them to come out of this crucial situation apart from tele-counselling or counselling?

**Question:** Measures taken by Government for the Frontline workers during COVID-19?

**Question:** How far the Mental Health Care Act, 2017 up brings fruitful changes in society?

**Question:** Why is in our educational system they are not giving any information on mental health,

mostly during schooling time. We learn about many physical disorders during our schooling but why not about mental disorders?

**Question:** Teenagers these days have started to take mental health for granted, mummifying of Depression, Anxiety, etc. and also over-exaggerating the issues without properly knowing the seriousness. How to create awareness among the teenagers regarding this?

**Question:** Sir, there is a lot of awareness given to the public about the prevalence of mental health issues. Can you suggest any other ways other than awareness to reduce the stigma still prevailing around mental health?

### CONCLUSION

Webinar ended at 12:00 PM. 10th October 2020 is celebrated as World Mental Health Day and a session conducted on this important day on "Convergence of Community Mental Health with Public Health System" was informative. It helped us in understanding the provision of basic mental health care services at the community level and thereby reducing the wave of stigma and discrimination existing in the society towards it.



**AISWARYA.T - II MSW**



## REPORT OF WEBINAR ON PANCHAYATI RAJ INSTITUTIONS (PRIs) AND SOCIAL AUDIT

The Department of Social Work, Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham, Coimbatore had organized a webinar on 'Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) and Social Audit' on 5th October, 2020 from 2:00 pm to 4:00pm in the online platform of Microsoft Teams. The objective of the webinar was to introduce the students of Masters of Social Work to an in-depth knowledge of governance of PRIs and Social Audit. The Webinar was organised by Mr.S. Kanagaraj, Dept. of Social Work, Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham. There were more than seventy participants for the webinar including the students, faculty members, alumni, PhD scholars and other dignitaries. The guest speakers for the Webinar were:

**Dr. R. Ramesh,**

Associate Professor & Head I/c,  
Centre for Rural Infrastructure,  
National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj, Hyderabad.

**Dr. C. Dheeraja,**

Associate Professor & Head I/c,  
Centre for Social Audit,  
National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj, Hyderabad.

The session officially began at 2:00 pm with a prayer song by Ms. Krishna Unni, II-year MSW student. This was followed by a welcome address by Ms. Deepthi Menon, II-year MSW student. Dr. P. Rangasami, Chairperson, Department of Social Work, Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham, Coimbatore delivered the Felicitation address. Mr. Harikrishnan M G then introduced Dr. R. Ramesh, the Guest Speaker for the first session on 'Panchayati Raj Institutions & Decentralised Planning'.

*A brief Profile of Dr. R. Ramesh is as follows:*

Dr. R Ramesh earned his Ph.D degree in Rural De-

velopment at the Gandhigram Rural University, in India. For his PhD, he studied the Drinking Water Sector Reform of Government of Tamil Nadu, India. He has worked for a variety of projects with varied scope and scale, for over 20 years now. He also served as a Training Expert for a DANIDA assisted project on Water and Sanitation of Government of Tamil Nadu for five years. He has a real flair for empirical research and field-based reporting. He won for Gandhigram Trust the World Bank's India Country Level Development Marketplace Award - 2004. He has co-authored seven books, and his recent research is on 'Reverse Osmosis Plants & Water ATMs in Rural Water Supply'. He has published 30 articles, seven of them in international journals. He has worked as Project Officer for the Terre des Hommes – a Netherlands based INGO with its India Country Office in Bangalore, India.

He has served as research fellow for three years in a research project titled: 'Globalization and Decentralization' funded by the Ford Foundation, New Delhi. The research results from this project were periodically brought out through a journal titled: 'Global and Local' to which Dr Ramesh was Executive Editor. Lately, he was working as Assistant Professor of Rural Development in Bahir Dar University, Ethiopia, where he was instrumental in introducing a PG programme in Rural Development Management.

Currently, he is working as Associate Professor in the Centre for Rural Infrastructure at the National Institute of Rural Development & Panchayati Raj (NIRD&PR), Hyderabad, which is a think tank for the Ministry of Rural Development and the Ministry of Panchayati Raj, Government of India. He is on the Editorial Board of the Journal of Rural Development (JRD) published by the NIRDPR. He is currently working on four research projects – all of them relate to the Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation, Government of India. Dr Ramesh

represents NIRDPR as member of the Subject mExpert Group (SEG) on Rural Development under the UBA Programme of the Ministry of HRD, Government of India.

The guest speaker began the session with a session plan which included:

People's Plan Campaign - the Recent Version of decentralized Planning.

Gram Panchayat Development Plan (GPDP)

Specific Recommendations of the XV Finance Commission for Gram Panchayats.

The focus areas of rural development plan for 2020-2024

The session then progressed by explaining about the elected bodies. Summary of the first session is as follows:

The 'Elected local bodies' or the Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) as they called in India are the ones that make decisions and carries out certain activities which are mandated to do as per the law. The three tier PRI system in India includes of a Zila Parishad at the District level, a Panchayat Samiti at the Block level and the Gram Panchayats in the village level. Most of the countries in the world that follow democratic governance at the Central and State levels have elected bodies at the grassroots level. The constitution of those countries provides for it and they are called 'Local Bodies' (ULBs & RLBs). These local bodies were empowered and entrusted with lot of powers once the 73rd and 74th Constitutional Amendments came into force in India in the year 1992. The 73th Amendment envisages the Gram Sabha as the foundation of the Panchayat Raj System to perform the functions and powers entrusted to it by the State Legislatures. Following this, every State government in India, established the State level Panchayati Raj Act. As per the Act, Rural and Urban local bodies were set up. These bodies undergo periodical elections and the elected Rural Local Bodies are called 'Gram Panchayats'. The session mainly emphasised on the planning in the Gram Panchayat level. It was said that, the Eleventh Schedule of the Constitution which got added in 1992, listed out 29 subjects which are considered as the functional areas placed within the purview of the PRIs. It is the duty of the PRIs to

function and carry out activities in their panchayat which will success with respect to these 29 subjects and the 17 SDGs. These 29 subjects being in the purview of the PRIs explains the need and the extend of contribution of PRIs in providing a real ground for people's planning.

The 29 sectors in the XI schedule are:

|                                     |   |                                      |
|-------------------------------------|---|--------------------------------------|
| 1. Agriculture.                     | 6. Social Forestry.                       | 11. Drinking Water                   |
| 2. Land Improvement.                | 7. Minor Forest Produce.                  | 12. Fuel and fodder.                 |
| 3. Minor Irrigation.                | 8. Small scale industries.                | 13. Roads.                           |
| 4. Animal Husbandry.                | 9. Khadi, village and cottage industries. | 14. Rural Electrification.           |
| 5. Fisheries.                       | 10. Rural Housing.                        | 15. Non-conventional energy.         |
| 16. Poverty alleviation programme.  | 21. Cultural activities.                  | 26. Social welfare.                  |
| 17. Education.                      | 22. Markets and fairs.                    | 27. Welfare of the weaker sections.  |
| 18. Vocational education.           | 23. Health and sanitation.                | 28. Public distribution system.      |
| 19. Adult and non-formal education. | 24. Family welfare.                       | 29. Maintenance of community assets. |
| 20. Libraries.                      | 25. Women and child development.          |                                      |

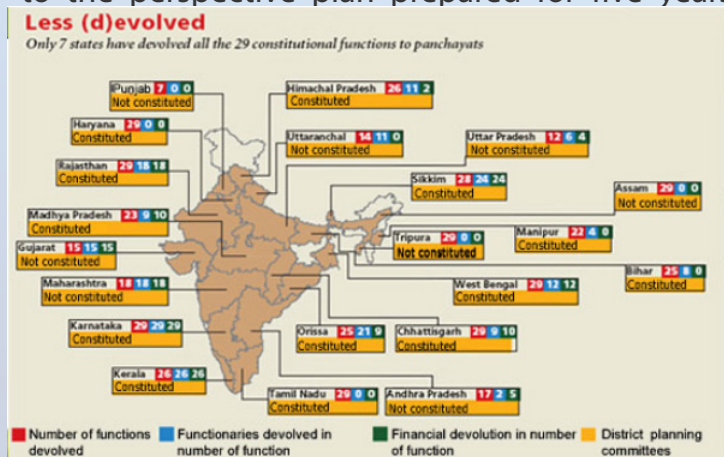
Dr. R Ramesh then went onto explain about the decentralised planning which he described as an 'interesting fact' in the system of PRIs. Decentralised planning also called the 'people's plan' follows a bottom- up approach which means making the plans flow from the villages. This way, peoples' needs and aspirations are given at most priority and are written down as plans for every year. The functions the Panchayats are supposed to perform such as providing the functionaries and the funds required to carry out the local plans are together called: 'Devolution of Power'. The governments at the Centre and State shall endeavour to provide the funds, and functionaries to carry out the necessary operations for the same. The PRIs can also plan their own source revenue. The current status of the 'devolution of power' in India is as given below:

Each panchayat has to prepare development plan or the Gram Panchayat Development Plan (G-P-D-P) Plan keeping in view of the 29 subjects and the 17 SDGs. The GPDP is supposed to bring economic development and social justice utilizing the resources available to them. GPDP is a Vi-



sion-based Perspective Plan which is planned by breaking the perspective plan into annual plans. The GPDP process involves the full convergence of Schemes of all related Central Ministries / Line Departments (for ex; RD & PR, Agriculture, Cooperation & Farmers Welfare, Animal husbandry, Dairy- ing and Fisheries, Health & Family Welfare, Women & Child Development, School Education & Literacy, Drinking Water and Sanitation, Skill Development and Entrepreneurship) related to 29 subjects enlisted in the Eleventh Schedule of the Constitution. This was explained with an example of a project that aims to set up pipe line water services for 270 houses in the Panchayat. The GPDP is carried out by the Gram Panchayat Plan Facilitation Team (GPPFT). GPPFT shall be formed drawing from relevant department staff, Panchayat functionaries, and locally selected key informants. There are also civil servants who are part of the team for guiding the team regarding the various schemes and resources available.

The GPDP is a very comprehensive planning done by the GPs and the speaker also discussed about the GPDP plan of the Financial Year (FY) 2020-2021. This FY GPDP is an Annual plan which refers to the perspective plan prepared for five years



that is from the year 2020-2024. Every GP is given three- months' time for the planning purposes and in this FY, it is from 2nd October to 31st December and these GPDPs must be uploaded to the e-gramswaraj portal. He explained the same with a calendar for the better understanding of the students. He then discussed the various factors important for the planning. The first step in planning includes the collection of data. The type of the data

is determined through a 'village situation analysis' stage which is done by understanding the situations and conditions in which people live and thus they can plan for their betterment. The data is required for the analysis is drawn from Geography of Gram Panchayat, its administrative profile and demographic details. After the analysis and conclusion of the type of data needed, it is then collected either through primary or secondary sources. The primary sources include PRA, FGD, HH Survey and the secondary sources include Mission Antyodaya, E-gramswaraj, SECC-2011, Data from Line Departments. Another approach in planning includes the Saturation Approach which involves sector-wise intervention and making plans to achieve 100%. The overall GPDP cycle in short is given as below: The source of funds for this planning is mainly the



grants provided to the local bodies. For the FY 2020-2021, total grants provided to the local bodies is Rs 90,000 crore of which Rs 60,750 crore is recommended for Rural Local Bodies (67.5%) and Rs 29,250 crore for Urban Local Bodies (32.5%). The other sources of funds include MGNREGA, Central Finance Commission (XV FC Funds), State Finance Commission, Jal Jeevan Mission, Swatch Bharat Mission-G 2.0, Scheme funds from various departments of the Govt, Skilling & Entrepreneurship (DDU-GKY), Own Source Resources, Member of Parliament LAD, MLA -Assembly Constituency Development Programme, Corporate Social Responsibility. The funds to the local bodies are of two types; a) Tied funds b) Untied funds. The tied funds mean the funds are allocated or tied to a specific purpose or project and the untied funds

mean which are not allocated to a specific and can be spend as per the need. These funds are allocated on a ratio of 50:50. The tied funds were explained with an example of water and sanitation project. For ex, if 50% of the funds are allocated for water and sanitation project, then it should be spent on completing the ODF project, setting up solid waste management units, providing functional taps, rainwater harvesting structures, wastewater management systems. The resource person then concluded his session by briefing on ODF Plus Rural Sanitation Strategy, its vision for 2019-2024, vision of Jal Jeevan Mission, E- Gramswaraj.

This was followed by a Q & A session from the students and faculties. Some of the Question and Answers Include:

Q&A

What is the role of CSOs in decentralized planning system?

Ans: The planning is done with the help of several institutions which includes NGOs/CSOs and from public. The local bodies will need the support of all those supporting institutions and agencies for an effective execution and large reach of the project. This is the stage where the services of CSOs can be made use for the better implementation and outreach of the programmes to the beneficiaries. Isn't it better to have centralized planning or governance than the decentralized one considering more chances of corruption in a decentralized planning?

Ans: Decentralized planning is needed for carrying out the daily affairs of the village people in a smooth and effective way. If it was centralized planning or governance then the Govt might not be able to closely look after the concerns of the people living in the remotest area. This is why the idea of electing one among them is initiated and followed so that they will be understand the issues better and work more effectively for their betterment. In order to check the malpractices like corruption, social audits for the schemes are carried out.

How Social Workers can be involved in PRIs?

Ans: Field works must help the social worker students to know about PRIs, visit some of the local

bodies, involve them in the process of social auditing, GPDPs, and help them locate the identify the needs and locate the resources and then match the both accordingly.

Some of the screen shots from the session are given below

## SESSION 2

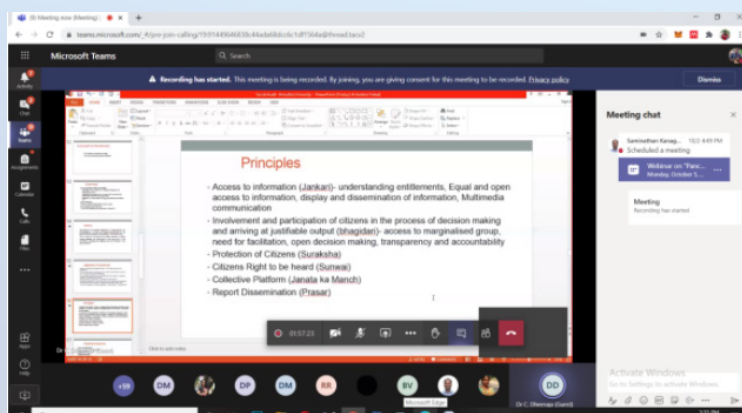
The second session began at 3: 00 pm by an introduction of the guest speaker by Mr. Bhanoori Vasu. II MSW student. The resource person for the session was Dr C. Dheeraja, who is currently working as an Associate Professor in Center for Social Audit, National Institute of Rural Development, Hyderabad. As a faculty in charge, the resource person was very much authentic in explaining the important facts on the topic "Social Audit". The session started with a question to the participants, about the meaning of accountability. After hearing from the crowd, the resource person took control of the session by explaining about accountability and the areas where we can see accountability in our daily life.

From accountability, there was a shift to social accountability which is an obligation and responsibility on the part of the government to be answerable to the citizens for its actions. Then the need for social accountability is discussed, as it can enhance development outcomes, improve the focus of public service delivery, monitor government performance, demand transparency, emphasize the needs of vulnerable groups and empower marginalized groups. There are many tools that are used to measure social accountability and nine of the tools are explained in the session. It includes Citizen's Charter, Participatory Budgeting, Independent budget analysis, Expenditure tracking, Participatory performance monitoring, Citizen's Juries, Public hearings, Transparency portals, ombudsmen. Participatory performance monitor is one such tool under which the social audit has its place. Then the types of social audit came into picture, in which the resource person explained government or institutional audits, public audits



and social audit. In government audits, the audit is conducted by professional auditors and public perceptions will be the least. Whereas in the case of public audit the audit is conducted by the people with the assistance of NGO's or other movements and this can have public's perception and local knowledge. In the social audit, both the government and people are involved and can bring on board the knowledge and perceptions of the public to a larger extent. The ideal scenario that we can experience in our day to day life about the three types of audits were mentioned in between and a comparison between financial and social audit was done. In financial audit, it checks whether the money is spent correctly or not whereas in the social audit, it checks whether the spending makes a difference or not. Then the focus went on to the various projects like MGNREGA, PMAY-G, NSAP, FFCG, PMKSY, JJ Act etc. in which the social auditing is practiced and are mandated by specific acts.

Social auditing has some objectives and the pri-



mary objective is to promote transparency and accountability in the implementation of the programme. It also informs and educates the people about their rights and entitlements under the Law. It provides a collective platform such as social audit Gram Sabha, for people to express their needs and grievances. Social audit promotes people's participation in all stages of implementation. It strengthens participation in Gram Sabha, makes it an inclusive and participatory institution and makes it a platform for positive and corrective action and improves the capacities of local stakeholders who participate in the social audit.

There are six principles for social auditing. The first one is the access to information (jankari), understanding entitlements, Equal and open access to information, display and dissemination of information, Multimedia communication. The second principle is the Involvement and participation of citizens in the process of decision making and arriving at justifiable output (bhagidari)- access to marginalised groups, need for facilitation, open decision making, transparency and accountability. The third principle is the Protection of Citizens (Suraksha). The fourth principle is Citizens Right to be heard (Sunwai). The fifth principle is Collective Platform (Janata ka Manch). The last principle is Report Dissemination (Prasar). It is based on these principles that social auditing is conducted.

In the institutional structure, the first step is the establishment of the social auditing units (SAU). In the state of Kerala there was a huge delay in setting up SAU's compared to other states. Once they are set up resource persons are appointed. The next step is the capacity building in which the resource persons are given adequate training to get expertise in their works. Certain rules are formed and enough funding should be provided for the good conduct of the audit. Then a system is there set up to take necessary actions that is through public hearing and vigilance. Database is maintained through MIS.

Four mandatory steps are there while conducting a social audit and it includes record verification, physical verification, door to door verification, and public hearing. In record verification, the records are being verified and are being assessed. In physical verification, the physical assets are verified and cross checked. In door to door verification, verification is done door to door that is auditing conducted to households and other institutions. The fourth one is the public hearing which is a participatory process that aims to strengthen transparency and accountability.

The process of social auditing starts with the planning of audit, in which the SAU resource persons should obtain an understanding of the nature of the entity/ programme to be audited. Then an annual calendar is created by the SAU which in-

cludes coverage of all the Gram Panchayats within a specified period. The next step is Risk Analysis and assurance, that is Audit assignment should be planned to reduce the audit risk. The implementing agency is responsible to provide all the records at least 15 days before in required formats. Then the information should be analysed in such a way that it is easily understood by the stakeholders. Mandatory pro-active disclosure of the information is required. The audit findings, conclusions and recommendations must be based on evidence. It can be physical evidence, documentary evidence, oral evidence, analytical evidence, Jansunwai. Physical verification of entitlements of beneficiaries, verification of works, verification of facts through Jansunwai. The auditing process is documented and the participation of the beneficiaries is ensured. Also, the reporting should be accurate, objective, clear, concise and complete, should be in standardised formats, should be prepared in local language and displayed on the notice board of GP. All social audit reports should be available in the public domain. There should be follow up required to establish a mechanism to monitor and ensure actions on social audit findings. Responsibilities and timelines should be assigned; a collective platform should be established for sharing and reflecting on follow up actions. MIS at state level to facilitate data capture about deviations recorded.

The auditing guidelines had evolved through years and the standards have been fixed by various authorities. There are many issues and challenges faced during auditing and it can be constitutional or can be resource person level. At institute level there can be challenges like the independence of the SAU's in the functioning and there will also be many directions that can restrict the smooth conduct of audits. There will not be sufficient number of resource persons and there can be lack of adequate information or records. The reduction in the number of audits conducted and in most cases the lack of actions based on the audit findings is also a degrading factor. The reduced number of public hearings and the lack of governmental support can hinder the process. There is also the inef-

fectiveness of the CSO's, ombudsmen etc. that can affect the auditing process. Also, enough funding is required for the auditing process. And there should be pro-active disclosure of the findings required for a more systematic auditing. And at the resource person level there are many limitations among which, the ability of the resource person to do auditing is the major limitation. Then there will be flaws when the resource person didn't adhere to the code of conduct of the SAU's. Then there will be threats during the auditing and also political pressure is also a major limitation. Then the integrity and ethical value of the resource person is important in the auditing process. Routine form filling exercise is needed for the resource person and proper facilitation should be provided to the public by the resource person.

The session was very much informative and the resource person was successful in conveying facts about social auditing citing suitable examples. The doubts from the participants were accepted and proper explanations were provided in returns. Doubts also came from the faculties too. The opportunities for social workers in the social auditing is explained and some of the institutions that provide job openings were listed. The session ended with the vote of thanks from Ms. M. Kalyani Radhakrishnan of II MSW.



Harikrishnan MG, II MSW



Deepthi Menon, II MSW



Mr. S. Kanagaraj  
Field Co-ordinator



# STUDENT'S CORNER

ROO  
NTS

# IMPACT OF SOCIAL MEDIA ON TEEN'S MENTAL HEALTH

## Introduction

The success of social network sites such as Facebook, Twitter and the likes is owed to patterns of internet consumerism we see today. We are drowning in the world full of apps. People lost the patience to wait for tomorrow's newspaper or wait till weekend for magazines to release. Social media can impact mental health to a negative extent. Especially, adolescents are more prone to negative aspects such as loss of interpersonal relationships, developing dangerous habits like cyberbullying, cyber attack etc.,

## Formulated for excessive use

There is nothing to disagree that designing social media platforms was deliberately to get user's attention for prolonged periods and insisting them on vulnerabilities relating to our own desire for validation and fear of rejection. Extreme usage of social media can be unhealthy and it leads to ADHD symptoms, anxiety and sleep deprivation. On the other hand, Self-promotion is a major drawback for youths in social media. Here is where you present the false view of yourself in those platforms for nothing other than to get more followers. Here it defines that you are highly influenced by others perception which has no meaning. Severe social media usage decreases face to face interactions and results in loneliness. This will

personally affect you in the ways of behavioural change, sleeplessness, low appetite, high substance use and less motivation.

## Negative impacts on adolescents

Youngsters, let's say below eighteen years are more exposed to online predators who get to woo them into sexual acts such as lesbianism and other sexual misconducts. Cyberbullying and violence related to it are increasing tremendously among youths. Attackers target innocent teens especially young women and threatening them by stealing their photos, using hurtful and humiliating words, exposing them to illegal actions, dragging them to pornography etc., Participating in social media expose them to threats from both strangers and people they know. It affects their physical and also mental health. People are less aware during tasks that require more focus and attention because of excess use of mobile phones. They tend to be distracted by notifications that arise from social media while driving which consequently leads to road accidents. People are often predisposed to mental health issues such as anxiety, depression which ultimately leads them to use illicit substances such as alcohol and drugs. This leads the victim to drastically decrease in their academic performance and reduce their self-esteem level. In some ex-

treme cases, it leads to suicides too.

## Is social media to blame?

The rise of social media is considered to be an important factor in the rise of mental health issues among youths. In this pandemic time there is tremendous increase in social media usage among people who are at very early age. Social media is also responsible for "Quarter-life crisis", a state of anxiety and discontent, a sense of failure born from the perception that you have not made enough/fit into society by the age of 25.

## Conclusion

Finally, it may be concluded that social media has a strong negative side. Individuals particularly teens are responsible for them to choose the path whether to go on excessive and harmful usage or harmless moderate usage. Parents need to play a vital role in monitoring children's activities. The education system also be revised in such a way that creates awareness among them.

## Reference

<https://www.unicef.org/stories/social-media-bad-teens-mental-health>  
<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC7012622/>



Adhithayumanavan G, I MSW



# THE ENHANCEMENT OF MENTAL WELLNESS THROUGH SELF-LOVE; A PERSONAL EXPERIENCE

“Love yourself” is the ultimate quote for the mental wellness of a person who undergoes a tremendous level of stress, anxiety, tension etc., according to me. During this pandemic scenario, self-love is a much important aspect that came up especially with more highlighted areas to think of. I have been realizing this fact of loving myself which would ultimately enable me to channelize my unwanted thoughts that are more severe to affect my mental health through diverting it with the activities exclusively including myself only. Such activities like finding time and place for my physical as well as mental fitness through Yoga, walking alone in the acres of rubber plantation talking to the beautiful small wildflowers, saying a gentle ‘hello’ to the little cute sparrows while taking the nectar from flowers, listening to the marvelous music of breeze, observing the jumps of squirrels from one branch to another, the sound and the actions of the woodpeckers, swimming alone in the river when drizzles, etc. made me feel that amazing nature has hidden magic to convert our sorrows and worries into happiness and joy, we won’t truly realize it until and unless if we are in an immense relationship with nature and we genuinely love ourselves. Self-love also helps us to be in harmony with nature as we can be least bothered about what the outer world’s or society’s concept of me, and can fruitfully spend time with nature enhancing our mental wellness and finding peace and tranquility in the beautiful and marvelous creations of Almighty.

When we focus upon our mental wellness through self-love we tend to change ourselves from being worried into searching for happiness, this happiness may not be eventually found or reflected in

our life but gradually you will start to notice the changes happening within. When we try to please others rather than be satisfied by oneself we start to fake things, starting from faking even a smile when deep inside we cry. I won’t deny that including me, we all may do such things but give less importance to mental wellness. People slowly started to think about it very seriously when they began to undergo the after-effects of being lonely and having relations only in the virtual platform. The concept of self-love has been playing a vital role in my own personal life. I was, indeed I am a person who is too worried and with an overthinking character. It used to always put me in trouble because this worriedness occurs most often when I think what others would think of me if I say this or if I do this etc. but when we put efforts to love ourselves such thoughts may be turned into positive and we will act accordingly. Thinking twice about a matter and eradicating such worriedness by knowing or understanding the facts that this may go wrong but its not due to my fault or it happens and be ready to accept and move on ,etc. these thinking patterns usually occurs within a person who loves himself or herself and do not let the negative aspects to take influence upon our mental wellness. So lets be the persons who love ourselves and who are taking care of our mental wellness for our growth in both mental and physical aspects.



Jerry George - II MSW

# BOOK REVIEW



## THE MINISTRY OF UTMOST HAPPINESS BY ROY

**A**rundhati Roy is an Indian author popularly known for 'the God of Small Things', which won the Man Booker Prize of 1997. The Ministry of Utmost Happiness, her second novel was published after twenty years, discusses a plethora of problems, and is filled with voices of the muted within contemporary India. The people who have been broken by the world are the main characters of the novel.

The work blends personal stories with topical issues as it uses a large cast of characters, including transgender woman and a resistant fighter in Kashmir. Anjum and Tilothama were the two main characters of the novel. The unsundering characteristics of these two characters show the miracles of Arundhati Roy's storytelling gifts. The protagonist of the novel Anjum is a fiery hijra whose independence leads her to build a life for herself completely on the margins of society. A mysterious, dark-skinned, South Indian, woman who seemingly has no past and no family, Tilo is highly independent and secretive. The characters of the novel come as shards of broken glass, all broken and tiny pieces but joined together as a single plane. They all have their tale to tell and they have the opportunity to do so.

Arundhati Roy suggests some possible solutions to overcome the oppression suffered by women and nature. She used her fictions to raise her voice to contemporary issues, protest against social evils, and also to describe her concern for the preservation of nature. She examined the interconnectedness of her female protagonists with nature being a substitute for surviving in the patriarchal society. Anjum is compared to a tree that is accurate by the end of the novel. She is a committed tree which is constantly rooted firmly on the ground protecting all sorts of birds like Zainab, Saddam Hussain, S. Tilottama, Azad Bhartia, Miss Jebeen the second, and Nimmo. To quote S. Tilottama, one of the protagonists, "How to tell a shattered story? By slowly becoming everybody. No. By slowly becoming everything." Roy's focus on everybody and everything incorporates the shattered story. It is not the story of fate people or marginalized, old dairies, and a busy cemetery, a government assassin, and an abandoned baby girl but also the fate of animals, forest, and rivers. It is not the story of everybody but the story of everything.



Sreelakshmi T.S - I MSW



# WELL KNOWN SOCIAL WORKER

## Dayabhai



**D**ayabhai, the resolute voice of tribal people. Daya Bai is a social activist and renowned social worker from Kerala who has worked for the welfare and upliftment of tribal people in central India for more than 50 years. At

present she lives in Barual village of Chhindwara in Madhya Pradesh. Her real name is Mery Mathew and belongs to a prosperous Christian family in Pala, Kerala.

She left home at the age of 16 to become a nun. Later, she gave up the life to work for the welfare of tribal people and found satisfaction in it. She took great effort in the empowerment of people in the internal Madhya

Pradesh and has played a significant role in the improvement of life and culture of tribes. Daya Bai, who practises the theology of liberation, set up a school in the Barul village. Her ideas of the Swayam Sahayatha Group as a tool for the eradication of poverty, earned her the wrath of the middlemen, the moneylenders and village chief. She struggles to represent the forest dwellers and villagers in Bihar, Haryana, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra and West Bengal. She also assisted the commoners in Bangladesh during the war there. She is settled down among the Gonds of Chhindwara district in Madhya Pradesh.

She has been honoured with Vanitha Woman for the year 2007, Good Samaritan National Award in January 2012, Syro Malabar Society's work of Marcy in 2019. Even after their service and contribution to society she faced many difficulties in her hometown because of what she wore. Even after every difficulty she believes to respect others and to lead a simple life.

Devika K.S - I MSW



# CINEMATES QUE

## *As Good as It Gets (1997)*

***Cast: Jack Nicholson, Helen Hunt, Greg Kinnear.***

***Directed by: James L Brooks***

***Genre: Romance/Drama***

**A**s Good as It Gets is a 1997 American romantic comedy film directed by James L. Brooks, who co-wrote it with Mark Andrus. The film stars Jack Nicholson (Melvin Udall) as a misanthropic and obsessive compulsive novelist, Helen Hunt (Carol Connelly) as a single mother with a chronically ill son, and Greg Kinnear (Simon Bishop) as an artist.

The movie is a story of Melvin Udall, who has obsessive compulsive disorder and how he behaves and communicates to other people. It is a story of a man's struggles

to overcome his Obsessive Compulsive disorder.

He is a highly insensitive, angry, annoying man who wants to be left alone. He prefers to keep people at a distance. He verbally assaults neighbors and strangers, jumps down the street to avoid cracks in the sidewalk, eats breakfast at the same table in the same restaurant every day.

The whole movie revolves around this man Melvin Udall and his struggles to overcome the disorder and to reach out to the love of his life. By the end, he tries to become a better person and

live just like any other man.

The movie has beautifully portrayed the life instances of an obsessive compulsive disorder patient and how he welcomes changes in order to find the love he needs. He is ready to go to any extent for love. The movie shows the audience that it is not impossible for a person to change. All it needs is love and determination.



Abhirami A.S - II MSW



# UGC NET JULY 2016 SOLVED QUESTION PAPER (PAPER-3)

**1) Which of the following is not a system in system approach ?**

- (1) Change agent system
- (2) Client system
- (3) Target system
- (4) Personality system

**2) Drug abuse denotes**

- (1) Frequent use of drug
- (2) Use of illicit drug
- (3) Physical dependence on drug
- (4) Psychological dependence on drug

**3) Which among the following is not a feature of Random Sampling ?**

- (1) It makes the sample representative of the population.
- (2) It ensures generalization of results.
- (3) It reduces error and increases precision of the experiment.
- (4) It maximizes experiment variances.

**4) The confirmatory test used to diagnose HIV is**

- (1) ELISA
- (2) Western Blot
- (3) ESR test
- (4) PCR test

**5) Juvenile Justice Board deals with the issues of**

- (1) Children in need of care and protection
- (2) Children in conflict with law
- (3) Missing children
- (4) Special children

**6) A short term or temporary care for a few hours or weeks designed for the sick or disabled to provide relief to the regular care giver is called**

- (1) Institutional care
- (2) Respite care

(3) Advance care

(4) Revival care

**7) Terms of Reference (TOR) includes**

- (i) Time dimension
- (ii) Expected Results
- (iii) Corrections
- (iv) Limitations

**Codes :**

- (1) (ii) only
- (2) (ii) and (iii) only
- (3) (i) and (iv) only
- (4) (i), (ii) and (iv) only

**8) Who among the following is associated with the concept of 'Social Fact' ?**

- (1) Emile Durkheim
- (2) Karl Marx
- (3) M. Mauss
- (4) Max Weber

**9) Herbert Spencer's model of society was essentially**

- (1) Consensus
- (2) Organic
- (3) Functionalist
- (4) Conflict

**10) The use of Random tables for drawing a sample is also called as**

- (1) Simple random sampling
- (2) Quota sampling
- (3) Lottery method
- (4) Tippet's method

**ANSWERS**

- 1) 4, 2) 2, 3) 4, 4) 2, 5) 2
- 6) 2, 7) 4, 8) , 9) 2, 10) 4



Harikrishnan MG, II MSW

# Did You KNOW ?

## POCSO ACT AND ITS RECENT AMENDMENTS

- Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act (POCSO) was passed in the year 2012.
- Before the enactment of this Act, there were only IPC (Indian Penal Code, 1860) governing the crime against Children. But the later Act did not distinguish the child and an adult.
- The POCSO Act is gender-neutral.
- It makes the reporting of abuse mandatory.
- It makes the recording of sexual abuse mandatory.
- It lists all known types of sexual offences towards minors.
- It provides for the protection of minors during the judicial process.

### *Provisions of POCSO:*

- Police officers must bring every case to the attention of the Child Welfare Committee within 24 hours of receiving a report.
- They must also be in plain clothes while recording the minor's statement so as to not appear intimidating.
- The statement must be recorded in a place chosen by the minor, in the presence of a person that he/she trusts.
- The medico-legal examination for the collection of forensic evidence must be conducted only by a female doctor, in the presence of a person that the minor trusts.

- Special courts have been set up to conduct speedy, in-camera trials. These courts must ensure that:
  - » the minor is not exposed to the accused in any way during the evidence recording session.
  - » the minor's identity is not disclosed at any point of time during the investigation or trial.
  - » the minor is not made to repeat his/her testimony in court, and also can give the testimony through the video link.
  - » The case is disposed of within one year from the date of reporting the offense.
  - » The defence counsel questions are made through the judge and the interrogation should be in a non-aggressive manner.
  - » An interpreter, translator, special educator or any other expert is present in court for the minor's assistance.
  - » Compensation for medical treatment and rehabilitation is given to a minor who has been sexually abused.

The Act provides for the punishments to the various crimes including penetrative sexual assault, aggravated penetrative sexual assault, sexual harassment, use of minor for the pornography purposes. For the above mentioned crime the punishments range from minimum 7 years imprisonment to life imprisonment.

### **AMENDMENT 2019:**

The amendment provides the definition of the "CHILD" is below the age of 18.

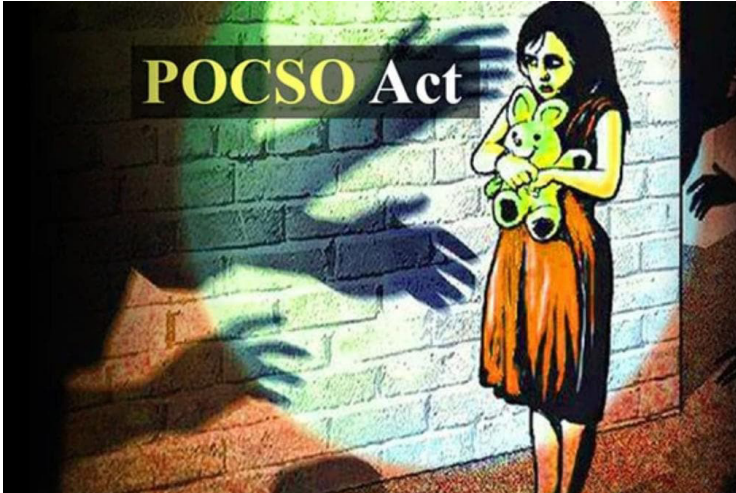
The major amendment was made in the definition of "aggressive sexual assault" to which the punishment was amended to death penalty.

The imposing of death penalty was reasoned by the rule of "rarest of the rare cases".

Therefore the minimum punishment is imprisonment for 20 years and the maximum is death penalty.



## POCSO RULES 2020



Due to the rapid increase in crime rate there is an urgent need for improvising the Act. The suggestions were made by the JUSTICE Verma Committee through which the amendment 2019 of the Act was passed. To make these amendments effective and in the interest of curbing the child pornography and child sexual offences the Rules were framed in 2020.

1. **Mandatory police verification:** The new rules include provision of mandatory police verification of staff in schools and care homes, procedures to report sexual abuse material (pornography), imparting age-appropriate child rights education among others.

2. **Reporting to Special Juvenile Police Unit:** For crackdown on child pornography, any person who has received any pornographic material involving a child or any information regarding such pornographic material shall report the contents to the Special Juvenile Police Unit (SJPU) or police, or the cybercrime portal.

3. **Child protection policy:** Under the rules, the State Governments have been asked to formulate a child protection policy based on the principle of zero-tolerance to violence against children, which shall be adopted by all institutions, organizations, or any other agency working with, or coming in contact with children.

4. **Periodic training:** The Central Government and every State Government shall provide periodic training including orientation programmes, sensitization workshops and refresher courses to all persons coming in contact with the children, to sensitize them about child safety and protection.

5. **Age-appropriate curriculum:** The Centre and State Governments have been asked to prepare age-appropriate educational material and curriculum for children, informing them about various aspects of personal safety, including measures to protect their physical and virtual identity and to safeguard their emotional and mental wellbeing, prevention and protection from sexual offences and reporting mechanisms.

6. **Orientation programme:** According to rules, orientation programmes and intensive courses may also be organized for police personnel and forensic experts for building their capacities in their respective roles on a regular basis.

7. **Background check:** Any institution housing children or coming in regular contact with children, including schools, crèches, sports academies or any other facility for children must ensure a police verification and background check on a periodic basis of every staff. Children are being subjected to neglect, abuse, violence and exploitation. Government cannot ignore child abuse as it is biggest crime and malaise in the society. Rather it must proactively work to prevent it. Thus it is important in changing times to provide enabling rules and legislation.

*Reference:*

*POCSO (AMENDMENT ACT), 2019. 2. POC SO RULES 2020.*



Tharini R, I MSW

# CENTRAL GOVERNMENT SCHEMES

## 1.SAMRIDDHI Scheme for SC/ST Students for Setting Start-Ups (2020-21)

Considering the poor job opportunities in the market, it is necessary to provide SC/ST students with opportunities to start their own businesses. According to AICTE's Entrepreneurship Policy, the broad goal of this program is to help SC/ST students design, start and operate their own business/entrepreneurship through the entrepreneurial development plan, and formal education has ended/during their education period, this is through formal education Finished.

### Eligibility Criteria:

AICTE-accredited research institute/university department accredited by AICTE

The institute/university department must exist for at least ten years.

The institution should also have a good incubation centre whose activities must last at least 5 years.

In the past 3 Years, the institute must have an average of at least 50 SC/ST students on the register and abide by the government's tribal sub-plans and reservations, a guide to the caste sub-project.

### SAMRIDDHI scholarship benefits:

The duration of the plan is 2 years.

The total funding is INR 20 Lakh (of which INR 100,000/year is a recurring grant).

The funding payment is 100% of the recurring funds that will be released when the plan is granted.

### Terms and Conditions for SAMRIDDHI scheme for SC/ST:

The proposal should be evaluated by the following expert Committee, three experts who are not lower than associate professor level include at

least one entrepreneur.

AICTE will provide a limited one-time financial assistance in the amount of INR 20 Lakh. An institute-level committee was established to select 9 registered SC/ST student start-ups companies. Each start-up company will receive INR 2,00,000 Lakh as seed funding, and this money will not be refunded. INR 2,00,000 will be allocated to the Institute to pay for the remuneration of well-known teachers/entrepreneurs invited to conduct entrepreneurial conferences.

In order for the centre to operate smoothly and effectively achieve its goals, it is essential that the centre must have a dedicated teacher as the chief coordinator and support staff.

the centre will carry out the following activities: Provide seed funds to open their own businesses to the students who have been eliminated/students after completing formal education in the same college.

Organize workshops and training courses to improve their skills to start their own business after completing formal education

Organize students' open days/personality development workshops/competitions to test their learning level.

The college should design a feedback mechanism to evaluate the importance of the plan. After each procedure, feedback should be obtained from each SC/ST student. If necessary, the institute can update the curriculum of these courses.

Start-up beneficiaries of other AICTE/GOI programs will not be entitled to scheme.

### Reference

[www.aicte-india.org](http://www.aicte-india.org)

[socialjustice.nic.in](http://socialjustice.nic.in)

## 2.Samagra Shiksha

Samagra Shiksha was proposed in the 2018-19 Union Budget aiming at holistic treatment of students in terms of education from pre-school to class 12. The scheme ensures equal opportunities for schooling and learning outcomes. The emphasis is given on improving the quality of school education by focussing on the two T's – Teacher and Technology.



## Objectives

Quality education and enhancing learning outcomes of students.

To eradicate social and gender gaps in schools.

To ensure equity and equal participation of students.

Promoting vocationalisation of education.

For getting support of states in implementation of Rights of Children to free and compulsory Education (RTE) Act, 2009.



## Main Outcomes

The scheme is led by the Minister of Human Resource Development and a Project Approval-Board (PAB) headed by secretary of Department of School Education and Literacy at the national level. This is a Central Government sponsored scheme also focused on Teacher Education Institutions (TEIs). The fund sharing between Centre and State is at a ratio of 90:10 for 8 North-Eastern states and 3 Himalayan states and 60:40 for all other states and Union Territories with legislature. Union Territories without legislature are completely sponsored by the Centre. Major interventions proposed under scheme are:

Universal Access including Infrastructure Development and Retention;

Gender and Equity

Inclusive Education

Quality

Financial support for Teacher Salary

Digital Initiatives

RTE Entitlements including uniforms, textbooks etc.

Pre-school Education

Vocational Education

Sports and Physical Education

Strengthening of Teacher Education and Training Monitoring

Programme Management

National Component.

It is proposed that priority would be given to Educationally Backward Blocks (EBBs), LWEs affected districts, Special Focus Districts (SFDs), Border areas and the 117 Aspirational districts. The scheme would also use the benefits of technology and increase the good quality education across all States and Union Territories and across all sections of the Society.

Reference:

<http://samagra.mhrd.gov.in/about.html>



Meenakshi D H, I MSW

## IMPORTANT DAYS IN NOVEMBER

**NOVEMBER 5** - World tsunami awareness day

**NOVEMBER 7** - National cancer awareness day  
- Infant protection day

**NOVEMBER 9** - Legal services day

**NOVEMBER 12** - World Pneumonia day

**NOVEMBER 14** - Children's day

- World Diabetes day

**NOVEMBER 16** - International day for tolerance

**NOVEMBER 17** - National Epilepsy day

**NOVEMBER 19** - International men's day

**NOVEMBER 20** - Africa Industrialisation Day

**NOVEMBER 21** - World television day

**NOVEMBER 25** - International Day for the Elimination of Violence against women

**NOVEMBER 26** - Law day (India)

**NOVEMBER 29** - International Day of Solidarity with Palestinian People

# MSW JOB OPENINGS

## •Andaman and Nicobar Administration

Andaman Adim Janjati Vikas Samiti

Name of the post - Tribal Welfare Officer

No of posts - 2 , Age limit - 18-33 for male, 18-35 for female

Consolidated remuneration - Rs. 41,400/- per month

Place of engagement - anywhere in A & N islands

Essential qualification- Bachelor's degree in Anthropology/ sociology/ social work from any recognised university (essential), desirable - master's degree in Anthropology/ Sociology/ Social work from any recognised university or one year experience in Tribal welfare/ Tribal research work/ Social work.

Last date - 2nd December 2020, apply by post

For more details - [www.andaman.gov.in](http://www.andaman.gov.in)

## •Program Manager for NGO

Area of expertise - Nutrition, Health, Food Security & Livelihood(FSL) Program Management

Location - Palghar, Maharashtra (Base location Mokhada or Jawhar)

Experience - 5-10 years

Salary package - 7-9 lakhs per annum(based on experience and exposure)

Application Procedure: Apply with your updated resume to [applications@employerism.com](mailto:applications@employerism.com) with "Program Manager-Palghar" as subject line.

For Quick response please apply through the form link below:

<https://forms.gle/EkW42BmB8YrE854k6>

## •Child Care and Development Foundation, Delhi

Post - Program Coordinator

No of posts - 5

Experience - 3-5 years

## Sree Chitra Tirunal Institute of Medical Sciences and Technology (SCTIMST)

Post - Research Associate II

No of posts - 2

Last date of application - 13 November 2020

Monthly pay - Rs. 28,000/- per month

## Jubilee Mission Medical College and Research Institute

Post - Associate / Senior Associate

Experience - 2-5 years

For more details - <http://www.jubileemission-medicalcollege>

## National Cyclone Risk Mitigation Project

Post - Local Community Mobiliser, Thrissur

No of posts - 6

Last date of application - 2 nd December 2020

Consolidated pay per month - Rs. 24,040/-

## Pallium India Trust, Trivandrum, Kerala

Post - Medical Social Worker

Experience - 1-2 years

Monthly salary - Rs. 16,000/-

## Hearts NGO, Delhi

Post - Social Worker

Monthly salary - Rs.6000/-

Freshers can also apply

Last date of application - 30th November 2020

## LMD centre for management Development

Post - Local Community Mobiliser

No of posts - 6

Experience - 2-3 years

Monthly salary - Rs. 24,000/-

Last date of application - 2nd December 2020



Sreelakshmi Jayaprakash,  
I MSW



# MSW INTERNSHIPS

1. DraftCraft International  
Social Work (Women's Right)  
<http://www.draftcraft.org>

Mumbai, Maharashtra

Interns will get exposure and opportunities to directly observe and assist in DraftCraft International's live projects in the area of women rights in Goa.

Candidates can apply who:

- are available for full time (in-office) internship
- are available for duration of 2 weeks
- have relevant skills and interests

2. The Akshaya Patra Foundation Bengaluru

<https://www.akshayapatra.org/>

Candidates can apply who:

- are available for full time (in-office) internship
- are available for duration of 3 weeks
- have relevant skills and interests

Email: [hr.helpdesk@akshayapatra.org](mailto:hr.helpdesk@akshayapatra.org)

3. Bhumi, Chennai, Tamil Nadu

<http://bhumi.org.in/>

Candidates can apply who:

- are available for the part time job/internship
- are available for duration of 1 month
- are from Chennai and neighboring cities

4. Global Peace Foundation India

<http://www.globalpeaceindia.org/>

Work from Home

Managing the team working for conducting surveys.

Candidates can apply who:

1. are available for the work from home job/internship
2. can start the work from home job/internship between 3rd Nov'20 and 8th Dec'20
3. are available for duration of 6 weeks

5. INDIA Redefined

<http://www.indiaredefined.org/>

Work from Home

Handling awareness programs for underprivileged for COVID 19

Candidates can apply who:

1. are available for the work from home

job/internship

2. can start the work from home job/internship between 31st Oct'20 and 5th Dec'20

3. are available for duration of 1 month

6. Azad Foundation, Chennai

<http://azadfoundation.com/>

Programme Assistance

Start – immediately, Duration – 2 months, Stipend – Rs 2k/3k per month, Apply by – 15th Nov, Work from Home

Assist programme officer

Candidates can apply who:

1. are available for full time (in-office) internship
2. can start the internship between 30th Oct'20 and 4th Dec'20
3. are available for duration of 2 months

7. Spardhaincred Foundation, Gujarat

Working for the promotion of NGO and Raise Funds

<http://spardhaincred.com/>

Start – immediately, Duration – 3 months, Stipend – Rs4500 per month, Apply by – 15th Nov, Work from Home

Candidates can apply who:

1. are available for the work from home job/internship
2. can start the work from home job/internship between 1st Nov'20 and 6th Dec'20
3. are available for duration of 3 months

8. Samagra Foundation, Nashik, Maharashtra

<https://samagrafoundation.com/IN/>

Promote the campaigns and initiatives of the NGO

Start – immediately, Duration – 1 month, Stipend – Rs1000 per month, Apply by – 15th Nov, Work from Home

Candidates can apply who:

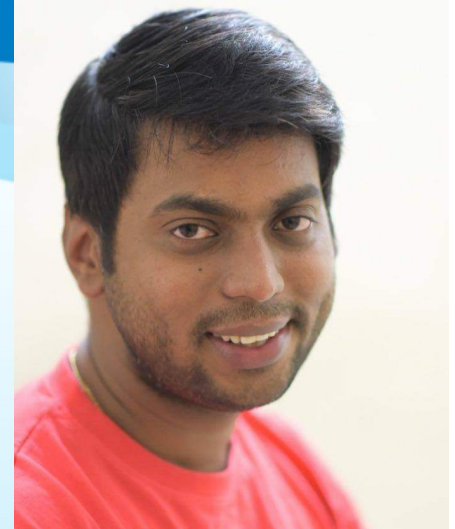
1. are available for the work from home job/internship
2. can start the work from home job/internship between 30th Oct'20 and 4th Dec'20
3. are available for duration of 1 month

9. <https://tisscpc.wordpress.com/category/internship/> Link to follow more exciting Internships shared by Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS).



Param Kumar Singh  
I MSW

# A Talk With Alumni



1. Name : Ashwin K
2. Roll Number : CBP2MSW09003
3. Batch : 2009 - 2011
4. Mobile number : 9962232206
5. Email : ashwin15.raman@yahoo.com

## 6. Present organization details

Datatracks services private limited, Chennai.

## 7. Job title

Senior executive administration and facilities.

## 8. How was your life at Amrita?

It was good where I cherished my goal in professional and personal life.

## 9. What are the key skills that you learned at Amrita helped your career?

People Handling Skills.

## 10. How is the current scope of Social Work?

There is so much scope emerging for social workers through private and government agencies.

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

Kindly try to apply practical things in field work and conduct many programs during your MSW career and try to apply new innovation techniques in your final year of your professional course.

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

Need to maintain administration and facilities of our organization.

## 13. Who is/are your inspiration?

My parents.

## 14. Any other thing you would like to share?

Please feel free to contact in case of professional help is required.



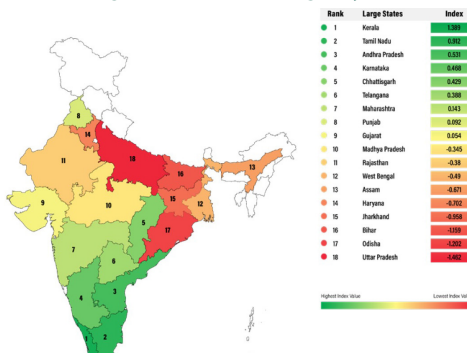
# October 2020

# CURRENT AFFAIRS

**1)NIRBHAYA FUND:** Government of India has set up a dedicated fund called Nirbhaya fund for implementation of initiatives aimed at enhancing the safety and security of women in the country. It is a non-lapsable corpus fund, being administrated by Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance. Under the Nirbhaya fund, the proposed projects should have the features like direct impact on safety and security concerns of women, optimum use of existing infrastructure, innovative use of technology, no duplication of existing government schemes/ programmes, provision for real time intervention as far as possible. Ministry of Women and Child Development is the nodal authority for appraisal of the scheme/proposals received under Nirbhaya Fund.

**2)PUBLIC AFFAIRS INDEX-(PAI):**The Public Affairs Centre has released Public Affairs Index. It primarily evaluates the performance of governance in the states and Union territories of India. According to the PAC, the governance performance is analysed in the context of sustainable development defined by three pillars of equali-

ty, growth and sustainability. It largely uses data extracted from Union Government Ministries and department. Kerala was awarded the best-governed state in the country while Uttar Pradesh ended at the bottom in the large states category.



### 3)75 YEARS OF UNITED NATIONS

October 24,2020 marks the 75th anniversary of the formation of United Nations.

**HISTORY OF UN:** The forerunner of the United Nations was the League of Nations, established after the first World War 1919 under the Treaty of Versailles. However, the league ceased its activities after failing to prevent the second World War. The name "United Nations" was first used during the second World War, when representatives of 26 nations pledged their Governments to continue fighting together against the Axis Powers. The United Nations officially came into existence on 24th

October 1945, when the charter had been ratified by China, France, the Soviet Union, the United Kingdom, the United States and by a majority of other signatories.

**OBJECTIVES OF THE UN :**

- 1)Maintain international peace and security
- 2)Develop Friendly relations amongst the nations
- 3)Achieve international cooperation to solve international issues of social, economic, cultural or humanitarian nature
- 4)Be a centre to harmonize the actions of the state to accomplish these common goals

### 4)CHANGES IN LAND LAWS IN KASHMIR

On October 26, the Ministry of Home Affairs(MHA) announced several amendments to land laws for the Union Territory of Jammu Kashmir. This includes the Jammu and Kashmir Development Act of 1970, which till now entitled only permanent residents to purchase or sell property in the former state, and the J&K Land Revenue Act, 1996. The MHA has amended sections of the J&K Land Revenue Act, 1996 and the J&K Development Act of 1970. According to the amendments to the Land Revenue Act, anyone from any

part of the country can now buy land in J&K, including agricultural land. Economically deprived people from all parts of the country will be eligible for small housing sites provided till now given to permanent resident from to “economically weaker section” and “low income groups”. These laws apply only to Jammu and Kashmir as the laws for Ladakh have not yet been notified.

### 5)GLOBAL HUNGER INDEX 2020

The report is prepared and jointly published by concern Worldwide, and Welthungerhilfe(WHH).India ranks 94th out of 107 in Global Hunger Index 2020.It termed the level of hunger in India “serious”. The GHI score is calculated on four indicators-

- 1)Undernourishment
- 2)Child wasting
- 3)Child stunting
- 4)Child mortality

In the region of south, east and south-eastern Asia, the only countries which fare worse than India are Timor-Leste, Afghanistan and North Korea.

### 6)INTEGRATED FARMING

Integrated Farming, integrated production or integrated Farm Management is a whole farm management system which aims to deliver more sustainable agriculture. It is a farming system where high-quality organic food , feed, fibre and renewable energy are produced by using resources such as soil, water, air and nature as well as

regulating factors to farm sustainably and with as little polluting inputs as possible .It is a dynamic approach which can be applied to any farming system around the world. Integrated Farming combines the best of modern tools and technologies with traditional practices according to a given site and situation.



### 7)STARS PROJECT

STARS is abbreviation for The Strengthening Teaching-Learning and Results for states(STARS).The overall focus and components of the STARS project are aligned with the objectives of the National Education Policy(NEP) 2020 of Quality Based Learning Outcomes . The project envisions improving the overall monitoring and measurement activities in the Indian School Education System through intervention in selected states. The STARS project seeks to support the states in developing , implementing, evaluating, and improving interventions with direct linkages to improved education outcomes and school to work transition strategies for improved labour market outcomes. STARS project would

be implemented as a new centrally sponsored Scheme under the Department of School Education and Literacy , Ministry of Education(MOE).Under STARS, The Ministry of Education will establish PARAKH, an assessment centre that will set standards for the 60-odd examination boards in the country as announced in the New Education Policy.

### 8)WORLD FOOD PROGRAM

World Food Program has won the Nobel peace prize. The Nobel Peace Prize was awarded to the World Food Programme for feeding millions of people from Yemen to North Korea , with the coronavirus pandemic pushing millions more into hunger .The agency is Headquartered in ROME. It is a member of the United Nation Development Group ,a consortium of 36 United Nations Funds, programs, specialized agencies, departments and offices that play a role in developments. The agency aims to eradicate hunger, achieve food security and improve nutrition by 2030. The organisation works in emergency assistance , relief and rehabilitation, development aid and special operations. More than two-thirds of WFP’s work is concentrated in conflict-affected countries. It is based on 100% voluntary funding. Food is used as payment for people to rebuild schools, roads and other infrastructure in the wake of conflicts and natural disasters. The agency developed share The Meal app and termed



it as the World's first app against global hunger. Since launching the app in 2015, it has helped provide aid to some of the largest food crisis in the world including Yemen, Syria and Nigeria.

#### **9) NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR PROTECTION OF CHILD RIGHTS(NCPCR)**

The Supreme Court sought a response from the country's apex child rights body, NCPCR, to its request to eight states to "produce" children living in care homes before the local child welfare committees for their "immediate repatriation" with their families. National Commission for protection of Child Rights(NCPCR) is a statutory body established under the Commissions for Protection of Child Rights(CPCR) Act, 2005. It works under the administrative control of the Ministry of Women & Child Development. To ensure that all laws, policies, Programmes and Administrative Mechanisms are in consonance with the Child Right perspective as enshrined in the Constitution of India and also the UN Convention on the rights of the Child. The child is defined as a person in the 0 to 18 years age group.

#### **10) RUDRAM-1**

India's first indigenous anti-radiation missile, Rudram, developed for the Indian Air Force, was successfully flight-tested from a Sukhoi-30 MKI jet. Rudram is an air-to-surface missile, designed and developed

by the Defence Research and Development Organisation(DRDO). Rudram has enhanced its Suppression of Enemy Air Defence(SEAD) capability. The missile has an operational range of more than 100 km, based on the launch parameters from the fighter jet.

#### **11) POVERTY AND SHARED PROSPERITY REPORT**

Poverty and Shared Prosperity Report has been published by World Bank. It reports that for the time in 20 years that Global extreme poverty is expected to rise. As per the report, between 88 million and 115 million additional people will be pushed into extreme poverty in 2020. As per the report, COVID-19 is exacerbating the impact of conflict and climate change, which were already slowing down poverty reduction. Some 9.1% to 9.4% of the world will be affected by extreme poverty in 2020, the Bank said, compared to 7.9% in the counterfactual scenario where the pandemic had not raged across the world. In 2017 India accounted for 139 million of the 689 million people living in poverty in 2017.

#### **12) COVIRAP**

A new COVID-19 diagnostic method named COVIRAP has been approved by Indian Council of Medical Research(ICMR) after testing. It is a new COVID-19 diagnostic method, using a low-cost portable unit developed by researchers at the Indian Institute of Technology(IIT) Kharagpur. It has showed an ac-

curacy level only slightly lower than the gold standard RT-PCR method, at a fraction of the RT-PCR. Once the viral RNA was extracted, the testing process takes about one hour. Before this another accurate and low-cost paper-based test strip to detect Covid-19 using CRISPR cas-9 technique called Feluda had been approved for commercial launch.



#### **13) INDUCED PLURIPOTENT STEM CELL**

Pluripotency refers to a stem cell that has the potential to differentiate into different types of cells. Induced pluripotent stem cells(also known as Ips cells or iPSCs) are a type of pluripotent stem cell that can be generated directly from adult cells. iPSCs are typically derived by introducing a certain set of genes known as Yamanaka genes that re-programme regular nature cells to become Pluripotent stem cells. Pluripotent stem cells hold promise in the field of regenerative medicine. Generate human organ for transplantation. It helps in studying the cellular basis of human disease.

#### 14)NITROUS OXIDE

Human emission of nitrous oxide(N<sub>2</sub>O)increased by 30 per cent between 1980 and 2016. N<sub>2</sub>O is a greenhouse gas 300 times more potent than carbon dioxide(CO<sub>2</sub>).It has the third-highest concentration-after CO<sub>2</sub> and methane-in our atmosphere among greenhouse gases responsible for global warming.N<sub>2</sub>O can live in the atmosphere for up to 125 years. It is estimated that 30% of the N<sub>2</sub>O in the atmosphere is the result of human activity, chiefly agriculture and industry. The research was conducted through an international collaboration between the international Nitrogen initiative(INI) and the Global Carbon Project of future Earth, a partner of the world Climate Research Programme.

cal, chemical or photolytic processes. India had ratified the Stockholm Convention on January13, 2006.Exposure to POPs can lead to cancer, damage to central and peripheral nervous systems, diseases of immune systems, reproductive disorders and child development. The current ratification is thus related to some amendments made in the annex list of chemicals under the convention.

#### Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants



#### Dam Rehabilitation and Improvement Project (DRIP)

The 5th International Dam Safety Conference–2019 is being held in Bhubaneswar as a joint initiative of the Government of India, Government of Odisha and the World Bank under aegis of the ongoing World Bank assisted Dam Rehabilitation and Improvement Project (DRIP) as a part of institutional strengthening.Dam Safety Conferences are being organized as an annual event in different DRIP States in collaboration with the Implementing Agencies and leading academic institutes to provide a common platform for all stakeholders including non-DRIP States.Dam professionals, academicians, scientists, as well

as industries both from within the country and from around the world gather to deliberate on all aspects related to dam safety and the solutions that worked best in addressing dam safety concerns.

About 80% of our large dams are over twenty-five years old. About 209 dams are over 100 years old and were built in an era when design practices and safety considerations were much below the current design and safety norms. Several of these dams may be experiencing distress and are in need of attention for ensuring their structural safety and operational efficiency.

The Ministry of Water Resources (MoWR), Government of India, with assistance from the World Bank, is implementing the DAM REHABILITATION AND IMPROVEMENT PROJECT (DRIP), which would be a six-year project.The Central Dam Safety Organisation of Central Water Commission, assisted by a Consulting firm, is coordinating and supervising the Project implementation.

#### 16) Why US President poll matters to India?

The relationship with the United States of America matters to India more than any other bilateral engagement: economically, strategically and socially. American Presidents can often make a real difference to bilateral ties, including on trade, on immigration policies, and larger strategic issues.The Indian dias-

pora in the US is one of the most successful expatriate communities, and while their political preferences may differ — they all favour a closer bonding between their janmabhoomi and their karmabhoomi. India's first serious departure from its Non Aligned posture, the 1971 Indo-Soviet treaty, was a response to the continuing US tilt towards Pakistan and the beginnings of a Washington-Beijing entente. Now, in 2020, it is the frightening prospect of a powerful, belligerent and hegemonic China that has helped New Delhi build its relationship with Washington. Clearly, both Joe Biden and Donald Trump recognise the grave threat from China, but their response may be different:

Trump 2.0 may be willing to even more aggressively counter China.

Biden is likely to follow a policy of "Congagement": containment with engagement.

### **17) International Labour Organization**

Shri Apurva Chandra, Secretary (Labour and Employment) has been elected as the Chairperson of the Governing Body of the ILO for the period October 2020 to June 2021. It is the apex executive body of the ILO which decides policies, programmes, agenda, budget and elects the Director-General. It meets in Geneva. It meets three times annually

### **18) WWF identifies 100 cities including 30 in India facing 'se-**

### **vere water risk' by 2050**

A hundred cities worldwide, including 30 in India, face the risk of 'severe water scarcity' by 2050, according to a recent report by the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF). The cities would face a 'grave water risk' by 2050 due to a dramatic increase in their population percentage to 51 per cent by 2050, from 17 per cent in 2020. Cities need to invest more in nature-based solutions and enhance the health of river basins, watersheds and wetlands to build resilience to water risks. To manage these initiatives, a public funding pool needed to be created in collaboration with the private sector to invest, reduce risk and generate returns and fuel sustainable economic growth. Cities also needed to support greater global efforts to mitigate greenhouse gas emissions to avoid reaching these scenarios.

The cities include:

Global hubs such as: Beijing, Jakarta, Johannesburg, Istanbul, Hong Kong, Mecca and Rio de Janeiro.

Indian Cities such as: Jaipur, Indore, Thane, Srinagar, Rajkot, Bengaluru etc.

More than half of the identified cities are from China and India.

### **19) India launches flash flood guidance services for South Asia**

India has launched first of its kind Flash Flood Guidance services for India and other South Asian countries — Bangladesh, Bhutan, Nepal, and Sri Lanka.

Under this, IMD will issue impact-based forecasting at the watershed and also city level, of floods which are very sudden and of short duration. It is a robust system designed by the India Meteorological Department (IMD) to provide the necessary products in real-time to support the development of warnings for flash floods about 6-12 hours in advance at the watershed level with a resolution of 4kmx4km for the Flash Flood prone South Asian countries- India, Nepal, Bhutan, Bangladesh, and Sri Lanka.

Recognizing that flash floods have a particularly disastrous impact on lives and properties of the affected populations, the Fifteenth WMO Congress had approved the implementation of a Flash Flood Guidance System (FFGS) project with global coverage. This was developed by the WMO Commission for Hydrology jointly with some others. Further, WMO has entrusted India with the responsibility of Regional Centre of South Asia Flash Flood Guidance System for coordination, development, and its implementation.



**Sherin Susan John,**  
I MSW



**Sanjay S,**  
I MSW





Contact:

Dept. of Social Work  
Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham  
Amrita Nagar (P.O)

Coimbatore - 641 112. Tamil Nadu-INDIA

Email: [msw@amrita.edu](mailto:msw@amrita.edu) , [mswudaan@gmail.com](mailto:mswudaan@gmail.com),

Website: <https://www.amrita.edu/school/socialwork>

Like us at facebook <https://www.facebook.com/mswamrita>

Instagram : [https://instagram.com/amrita\\_msw\\_coimbatore?igshid=w6bwb9m6d1en](https://instagram.com/amrita_msw_coimbatore?igshid=w6bwb9m6d1en)

Subscribe at : [www.youtube.com/mswamrita](http://www.youtube.com/mswamrita)

**Disclaimer**

This newsletter is intended only for informational purposes. It does not constitute legal advice, and should not be construed as such. It is intended only for spreading information about the departmental activities. It is only meant for internal circulation. The views and facts expressed are not necessarily in the view of Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham.