

"If we keep holding on to God, there is nothing to fear." - Amma

# Department of Social Work, Coimbatore Campus Contection September 2020

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### MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

# Department of Social Work Coimbatore



Dr.P.Rangasami Chairperson



Dr. Suja.M.K Associate Professor



Dr.V.Priya Assistant Professor



Mrs.K.Umamaheswari Assistant Professor



Mr.S.Kanagaraj Field Co-ordinator



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



**CONTENT CREATOR** HARIKRISHNAN MG II MSW



**DESIGN** ARUN JS II MSW

# One World One Prayer

27 Sep 2020, Amritapuri Excerpts from Amma's Birthday – AmritaVarsham 67

### "Karuna-virus can conquer the coronavirus"

ue to the COVID-19 pandemic, Amma's 67th birthday was observed today exclusively as a global prayer for world peace.

"Although Amma is unable to physically see your smiling faces, Amma sees each one of you in her heart. She is always thinking of you and praying for you."

She then went on to put responsibility for the COVID-19 pandemic squarely on the shoulders of humankind's selfish, boundless exploitation of Mother Nature. "Nature has been sending us many indicators regarding this for quite some time," Amma said. "But man has refused to see, hear or acknowledge even the strongest of these messages. The bad habits we have acquired have become our nature. They have gradually shaped human behaviour and our way of living. Our ego has not allowed us to change. We thought this situation wouldn't last long. But our intellect's calculations—even those of modern science—were wrong. Humankind remains helpless and defenceless before the coronavirus".

Yet, Amma said the need of the hour was not fault-finding or feeling guilty but casting away idleness and engaging in dharmic action with intense alertness and courage. Amma then listed seven guidelines she felt humanity needs to follow moving forward:

- 1. As much as possible, keep your body and mind under control.
- 2. Maintain a regular spiritual practice, at least to a small extent.
- 3. Make protecting Nature a part of your daily routine.
- 4. Do not belittle the forces of Nature and see them as inferior.
- 5. See life from a broader perspective.
- 6. Create a balance between your selfish and selfless interests.
- 7. Acknowledge and obey the universal laws set by God—the supreme authority.

Amma clarified that COVID is not a punishment from Nature, but a warning to help humankind correct its behaviour. "We may feel that such times of crisis are a form of punishment from Nature," she said. "But don't take it like that. Treat it as a clarion call from Nature for us to mend our ways. Think of it as a shock treatment from God, or Nature, to prevent us from doing worse things. Both Mother Earth and Mother Nature are considered as paragons of patience. However, man has taken this patience as a license to commit all manner of atrocities. It's time to correct this mistake."

Amma concluded her talk by stressing the need for compassion. "The fragrance of a flower travels only in the direction of the wind. However, the fragrance of goodness travels equally in all directions. We may not be able to help everyone in this world. But if we are able to express our compassion to a few people around us, they will pass it on, and very soon it will spread like links of a chain. This karuna-virus [virus of compassion], which can conquer the coronavirus, is what should spread across the world today.

# Current Affairs



### **1.FELUDA COVID 19 TEST**

An accurate and low cost-paper-based test strip to detect Covid-19 called Feluda has been approved for commercial launch by the Drugs Controller General of India.Feluda is acronym For FNCAS9 Editor Linked Uniform Detection Assay.It was indigenously developed by CRISPR gene-editing technology to identify and target the genetic material of SARS-CoV2, the virus that causes Covid-19.

### **2.CARBON NEUTRALITY**

Carbon neutrality or climate neutrality or having a net zero carbon footprint, refers to achieving net zero carbon dioxide emissions by balancing carbon emissions with carbon removal (often through carbon offsetting) or simply eliminating carbon emissions altogether (the transition to a "post-carbon economy"). With China, the 30 countries that have some kind of carbon neutrality pledges, account for about 43% of the world's carbon dioxide emissions from the burning of fossil fuels. Only two countries, Bhutan and Suriname, have achieved carbon neutral status.

### **3.LIVING PLANET REPORT**

The Living Planet Index is a report on the state of global biodiversity and the health of our planet. It is based on the living Planet Index and ecological footprint calculations. The index is published by Worldwide Fund for Nature(WWF). The report says population sizes of mammals, birds, fish, amphibians and reptiles have fallen by an average of 68% in fewer than 50 years. Deforestation and farming are two of the major causes, while overfishing is a big problem for life in the ocean and fresh waters.

### 4.MULTIDIMENSIONAL POVERTY INDEX(MPI)

It is released annually United Nations Development Programme(UNDP) and the Oxford Poverty and Human Development initiative(OPHI). The global Multidimensional poverty index-(MPI) is an international measure of acute poverty covering over 100 developing countries. It complements traditional income-based poverty measures by capturing the severe deprivations that each person faces at the same time with respect to education,health and living standards.NITI Aayog is preparing a Multidimensional Poverty Index(MPI) parameter dashboard to rank states and Union Territories.

### **5.NASA's sonification project**

The sonification project is led by the Chandra X-ray Center in collaboration with NASA's Universe of Learning Program (UoL). The objective of the project is to transform data from astronomical images into audio. This project allows audiences including visually-impaired communities to experience space through data. Sonification refers to the use of sound values to represent real data. Simply put, it is the auditory version of data visualisation.

### 6.E-Sanjeevani

'E-Sanjeevani' is a digital platform of the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare which provides telemedicine services to people. The platform has enabled two types of telemedicine services viz. Doctor-to-doctor (e-sanjeevani OPD) tele-consultations. The former is being implemented under the Ayushman Bharat Health and Wellness centre (AB-HWC). It has been developed by centre for Development of Advanced Computing(C-DAC),Mohali.'E-Sanjeevani' has been implemented so far by 23 states.

### **7.SWASTHYA PORTAL**

The Ministry of Tribal Affairs in collaboration with Piramal Swasthya, the Centre of Excellence has developed this Tribal Health and Nutrition Portal 'Swasthya',a one-stop solution presenting all information pertaining to tribal health and nutrition related to Scheduled Tribal people.The Portal will be managed by the Centre of Excellence(CoE) for knowledge Management in Health and Nutrition, established by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs in Collaboration with Piramal Swasthya Management and Research Institute.It has a dashboard, knowledge repository,partner segment,Sickle Cell Diseases(SCD) support corner. The Draft Defence Acquisition Policy 2020(DAP20) envisages service Headquarters establishing an Innovation & Indigenisation Organisation within existing resources.

### 8.NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR TRANSGENDER PERSONS

In exercise of the powers conferred by section 16 of the Transgender Persons(Protection of Rights) Act,2019,the Central Government has constituted a National Council for Transgender Persons. The Union Minister of Social Justice & Empowerment will be Chairperson and Union Minister of State for Social Justice & Empowerment will Vice-Chairperson.The National Council be shall perform the following functions, namely: 1)to advice the central Government on the formulation of policies, programmes, legislation and projects with respect to transgender persons; 2)to monitor and evaluate the impact of policies and programmes designed for achieving equality and full participation of transgender persons; 3) to redress the grievances of transgender persons.

#### 9.SURAKHSYA portal

The Union Environment Minister launched National Portal on Human Elephant conflict called"-SURAKHSYA". The National Portal was launched during the celebration of international annual event World Elephant Day. The World Elephant Day is celebrated every year on August 12 to create elephant conservation and share knowledge for better protection of wild captive elephants.The portal will help to set data collection protocols,data visualization tools and data transmission pipelines.Indian Elephants have been listed under Appendix 1 of conservation of the Migratory species.The Asian Elephants are listed as "Endangered" in the IUCN Red List.The Project Elephant was launched in 1992 by the Ministry of Environment and Forest.

### **10.WORLD OZONE DAY**

September 16 was designated by the United Nations General Assembly as the International Day for the preservation of the ozone Layer. The theme for World Ozone Day 2020 is "Ozone for life". This designation had been made on December19,2000, in commemoration of the data, in 1987, on which nations signed the Montreal Protocol on substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer.Montreal protocol is a global agreement to protect the stratospheric ozone layer by phasing out the production and consumption of ozone-depleting substances(ODS).Signed 16 september 1987, it was made pursuant to the 1985 vienna convention for the protection of the ozone layer, which established the framework for International cooperation in addressing ozone depletion.

### **11. National Medical Commission Bill**

The National Medical Commission Act 2019 passed by both Houses of Parliament is historic and path-breaking. The National Medical Commission Bill seeks to improve the medical education system in the country by ensuring availability of adequate and high-quality medical professionals, periodic assessment of medical institutions, adoption of the latest medical research by medical professionals and an effective grievance redressal mechanism. The Bill proposes to set up a medical commission, both at the national and state level, within three years of the passage of the legislation. The Bill also has a provision for setting up a Medical Advisory Council by the Centre. The council will act as a channel through which the states/Union Territories can convey their views and concerns to the NMC. The legislation also talks of conducting a uniform NEET for admission to under-graduate medical education in all medical institutions regulated under the Bill. The Bill proposes to hold the National Exit Test for the students graduating from medical institutions to ob-

tain the licence for the practice. The test will also allow students to take admission into postgraduate courses at medical institutions under this legislation. The Bill says that the NMC will have the authority to grant a limited licence to certain mid-level practitioners connected with the modern medical profession to practice medicine.

### 12. CAROTAR 2020 Rules

The Customs (Administration of Rules of Origin under Trade Agreements) Rules, 2020 (CAROTAR, 2020) came into force on September 21. They set guidelines for enforcement of the 'rules of origin' for allowing a preferential rate on imports under free trade agreements. They supplement the existing operational certification procedures prescribed under different trade agreements (FTA/ PTA/ CECA/ CEPA). The new norms have been framed with a view to check inbound shipments of low quality products and dumping of goods by a third country routed through an FTA partner country. Under these rules, a country that has inked an FTA with India cannot dump goods from some third country in the Indian market by just putting a label on it. The new Rules will support the importer to correctly ascertain the country of origin, properly claim the concessional duty and assist Customs authorities in smooth clearance of legitimate imports under FTAs. The new Rules would also strengthen the hands of the Customs in checking any attempted misuse of the duty concessions under FTAs.

### 13. International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights

The International Commission of Jurists (ICJ) has said civil rights lawyer Prashant Bhushan's conviction for criminal contempt of court by the Supreme Court seemed to be inconsistent with the freedom of expression law guaranteed by the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights that India was a party too. It is an international human rights non-governmental organization. It is a standing group of 60 eminent jurists, including senior judges, attorneys and academics. To develop national and international human rights standards through the law. The conviction appears to be inconsistent with international standards on freedom of expression and the role of lawyers. The judgment risked having a "chilling

effect on the exercise of protected freedom of expression in India". While some restrictions of freedom of expression are permitted by international standards, a particularly wide scope must be preserved for debate and discussion about such matters as the role of the judiciary, access to justice, and democracy, by members of the public, including through public commentary on the courts. It is a multilateral treaty adopted by the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA). Monitored by the United Nations Human Rights Committee. The covenant commits its parties to respect the civil and political rights of individuals, including the right to life, freedom of religion, freedom of speech, freedom of assembly, electoral rights and rights to due process and a fair trial. The ICCPR is part of the International Bill of Human Rights, along with the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR) and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR). It became effective in 1976. Article 49 allowed that the covenant would enter into force three months after the date of the deposit of the thirty-fifth instrument of ratification or accession. India is a party to this treaty.

## 14. Sweet sellers need to display 'best before date' from 1 October orders FSSAI

Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) has released guidelines on sale of loose sweets. In case of non-packaged/ loose sweets, the container/tray holding sweets at the outlet for sale should display the 'Best Before Date' of the product mandatorily with effect from October 1, 2020. The food business operators (FBOs) might also display the date of manufacturing. It is not mandatory however. The FBOs shall decide and display the 'Best Before Date' of sweets depending on the nature of the products and the local conditions. Food safety commissioners should ensure compliance. The decision was based on various complaints about the quality and adulteration of sweets, mostly during festive season. This regulation will help to ensure that the consumers are purchasing fresh products.

### 15. RBI releases document on UCB's cybersecurity

The 'Technology Vision for Cyber Security for Urban Co-operative Banks (UCBs) 2020-2023' was

recently released by RBI. It has been formalised based on inputs from various stakeholders. It seeks to enhance cybersecurity of urban co-operative banks (UCBs). RBI plans to achieve its objective throughafive-pillared strategic approach GUARD:-

- 1. Governance Oversight.
- 2.Utile Technology Investment.
- 3. Appropriate Regulation and Supervision.
- 4. Robust Collaboration.
- 5. Developing necessary IT.
- 6.cybersecurity skill sets.

### 16. Kesavananda Bharati Passed Away.

Kesavananda bharati, whose petition in the supreme court led to the evolution of basic structure doctrine of the constitution, passed away. Bharati was the head of Jagadguru Shankaracharya Samsthanam mutt at Edneer, Kasaragod in Kerala. The mutt is believed to have been established by Totakacharya, one of the first hour disciples of Adi Shankaracharya. The case began when kesavananda bharati, challenged the Kerala Land Reforms Amendment Act(1954) as per which government could acquire some of the lands that belonged to the Mutt. The 29th amendment act had included Kerala Land Reforms(Amendment) Act,1971 in the Ninth Schedule to the constitution, beyond judicial review. The case thus evolved into a dispute over Parliament's power under Article 368 to amend the Indian constitution and a challenge to 24th,25th,and 29th amendments to the constitution. The judgment created the Basic Structure doctrine which limited Parliament's power to make drastic amendments that may affect the core values enshrined in the constitution,like secularism and federalism. The Supreme Court strengthened the power of judicial review and placed a limitation on the Parliament's power to amend the constitution.

### **17.REAL MANGO**

Railway Protection Force(RPF) of Indian Railways has disrupted the operation of illegal software called 'Real Mango' used for cornering confirmed railway reservation.Operation of an illegal software called 'Rare Mango' (later changed its name to "Real Mango") was revealed during action against touts by the field units of RPF.The information supplied by RPF will help CRIS/IRCTC to strengthen security features in the PRS system.

### 18.e-Gopala APP

e-Gopala App is a comprehensive breed improvement,marketplace and information portal for direct use of farmers. It will help farmers in many aspects of managing Livestock including:

1.Buying and selling of disease-free germplasm in all forms(semen, embryos etc);

2.Availability of quality breeding services(Artificial Insemination, veterinary first aid, vaccination, treatment etc)

3.Inform farmers about various government schemes and campaigns in the area.

### **19.INDUS WATER TREATY**

September 19 marks the 60th year of the signing of the Indus Water treaty.Indus Water Treaty,signed on september 19,1960, between India and Pakistan and brokered by the World Bank.Under the treaty,India got control over:Beas,Ravi,Sutlej.

All the waters of the three eastern rivers, averaging around 33 million acre-feet(MAF), were allocated to India for exclusive use.

Pakistan got control over Indus, Chenab, Jhelum rivers. The water of these western rivers averaging to around 135 MAF, were allocated to Pakistan except for 'specified domestic, non-consumptive and agricultural use permitted to India', according to the treaty. India has also been given the right to generate hydroelectricity through the run of the river(RoR) projects on the western rivers which,subjects to specific criteria for design and operation, is unrestricted.

Sanjay S, I MSW

Sherin Susan John, I MSW

# A Talk With Alumni

1. Name

3. Batch

- 2. Roll Number
- : M.Ranjith : CB207SW009 : 2007-2009
- 4. Mobile number : 9789412639 5. Present organization
- details
- 6. Job title
- 7. Email

- : Cognizant, Chennai : Executive-Outreach (CSR)
- : ranjiguys@rediffmail.com



### 8. How was your life at Amrita?

It's a journey of 2 Years, lots of fun, fight, mesmerizing memories, can't describe in two lines. We can make a movie on those days. Hope my current juniors are feeling chilled in the University.

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

Of course community development plays a key role in my career. Field work and Rural camp is the key concepts to develop all the skills that required to become a social worker.

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

Currently a bright future is there in INGOs, Government departments and CSR too but we need to work hard in initial stage to become a leader.

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

Field work and interships are the keys to learn and develop your skills. Have fun with friends and professors. This two years of college days will not come again. So enjoy each day with friends.

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

Need to take care of entire CSR programs.

### 13. Who is/are your inspiration?

My Friends. Each one has unique character and if we are ready to understand each one, then that skill itself is enough to become a good social worker.

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

Enjoy your life. Be happy and make others happy.

# **Departmental Activities**

### **Effort for suicide prevention**

Befrienders India is the national umbrella of suicide prevention centres and is a part of Befrienders Worldwide .On 10th Sept Befrienders India conducted a Go Yellow Kerala ' virtual' Marathon. Since it cannot be done on the roads, they put on something yellow. The centres encouraged people to put on yellow on that day – ribbon, tika, bindi, shirt, skirt, saree, bangles, yellow bands etc.

II MSW Mental and Physical Health specialisation students along with the faculties participated in this virtual marathon organised by Befrienders India.

## Docu to spread awareness on suicide prevention

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Kochi: On World Suicide Prevention Day, Maithri Kochi launched a documentary on the social media titled 'Listeners of Solitude' featuring experts including actor Lena to spread awareness on suicide prevention.

#### WORLD SUICIDE PREVENTION DAY

Lena, who is also a clinical psychologist, appears in the documentary to emphasize on how important it is to share and listen so that suicides can be prevented. "Many among us bury their sorrows deep in themselves as they have no one who would listen to them. Maithri is an establishment where anyone who is facing distress can approach, to talk discreetly and openly," Lena says in the video.

Padmakumar T, director of the documentary, says that Maithri is also collaborating with the National Service Scheme to use the video to spread awareness among students.

Psychiatrist Dr CJ John, who is also the founder di-



World Suicide Prevention Day JOINING HANDS: Images posted on social media to spread awareness on suicide prevention

rector of Maithri and advocate Litto Palathinkal, joint secretary of Maithri, among others appear in the video to explain the concept.

The video posted on You-Tube says, "are you lonely, depressed or suicidal? Here is help. Our helpline (+91)-(0) 484-2540530."

Meanwhile, the call by NGOs working for the cause to conduct a 'Go Yellow Kerala Virtual Marathon' also was well received on the social media. "The aim was to let everyone know they have a listening ear if they want to talk," said advocate Rajesh R Pillai, president of Befrienders India, the national umbrella body of suicide prevention centres.





2.30 - 2.40 PM:

# "Need and importance of public policy perspective for social work students"

Date : 17.09.2020 Time: 02:30 PM - 03:30PM Platform: Microsoft Teams

> i) Prayer ii) Welcome Address - Dr.PRangasami, Chairperson, Dept. of Social Work, Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham, Coimbatore iii) Introduction of the Guest - Deepthi Menon Student, II year MSW.

2.40 - 3.25 PM:

1. Talk by the Guest: 2.40 - 3.10 PM Sri. Gowrisha Joshi, Deputy Director, Centre for Educational and Social Studies (CESS), Bengaluru, Karnataka 2. Q&A Session: 3.10 - 3.25 PM

ank



Sri. Gowrisha Joshi

3.25 - 3.30 PM:

Vote of thanks: Bhanoori Vasu Student, II year MSW

The Department of Social Work, Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham, organised a webinar on "Need and Importance of Public Policy Perspective for Social Work Students" on 17th September 2020. The resource person for the webinar was Sri. Gowrisha Joshi, Deputy Director, Centre for Educational and Social Studies, Bengaluru, Karnataka.

The resource person briefly explained about the evolution of National Education Policy 2020. The various stages the policy draft went through were explained. The policy is finally formulated and drafted after a wide consultation from important stakeholders like state governments, subject expert groups, educational institutions, academicians, teachers and citizens.

# **Alumni Series Talk**

Alumni series talk: Mr.Ashwin Chacko Jaise Mr.Ashwin Chacko Jacko(2016-18, 10th Batch) interacted with the I MSW students on 18.09.20 from 03.00pm to 04.00pm. He shared many insights with the students during his graduation on campus. He specifically told me to utilize the opportunities in the fieldwork and writing reports. Also he shared wonderful memories visiting Amma and participating in seva activities. Finally he wished all the students for their best career. At the end, Ms. Meenakshi V Menon, I MSW student proposed a vote of thanks.



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AJ PR

VS

### **Alumni Interaction with I MSW**

Mr. Joseph Thomas (2007 – 09, 1st Batch) interacted with I MSW students 23.09.2020 from 02.00pm to 03.00pm. He shared his own experience of getting a high paid job. He suggested finding out the interest area and enhancing skills in that area. Students need to improve presentation, report writing, proposal writing and administrative skills for better job opportunities. Ms. Meenakshi D H, I MSW student proposed vote of thanks.



COIMBATORE CAMPUS

# Induction of I MSW Students

Date: 9th September 2020 (14th Batch 2020-2022) Time: 10 am to 1 pm through online mode

### Introduction:

Department Social Work's 14th batch (2020 – 2022) was inaugurated on September 09, 2020 through online mode using Microsoft Teams. All the IMSW students were given a meeting link provided by our University through which they participated in the inaugural programme. The function started at 10.15 am with a University prayer. Mr.S.Kanagaraj, Class Advisor, gave a welcome address. Followed by Dr.P.Rangasami, Chairperson welcomed all the participants and introduced all the faculty members to the students and other participants. All the faculty members introduced themselves through video mode.

A video of the campus was screened to the participants. Dr.P.Rangasami briefed about the history, and milestones of the department activities, strength of the alumni, curriculum and syllabus, various funded and field projects. MSW alumni were requested to attend and eight of our alumni including two working abroad gave a nice speech and recollected their memories and experience from the campus. Most of them advised their fresheners to take instructions related to fieldwork, fieldwork report writings, seminar presentations seriously and requested them to facilities provided in the campus. The following alumni shared their experiences.



• Mrs. Shanmukha Priya (2016 -1) - Chief Program officer, Teach for India, Hyder abad

• **Dr. Pooja Kandula (2011-13)** - Assistant Manager, CRY-Child Rights, Andhra & Telan gana

• **Dr.Madhusudanan (2010-12)** - Research officer, Indo-US Project (TB-LION), JIPMER, Puducherry

• Mr.Deepu M ( 2010-12) - Marketing Assis tant Embassy of India, Doha-Qatar

• Ms.Janani A. (2012-14) - Program officer, HCL Foundation, Chennai

• Ms.Archana (2016-18) - University of Brit ish Columbia (Graduate Student ), Canada

• Mr.Ajay Kumar Jha (2018-20) - Block Project coordinator Mithila Gram Vikas Pari shad-MGVP, Darbhanga, Bihar

• Mrs. Kirthika P (2011-13) - Junior Re search Fellow, DST-SEED Project Food Nu trition and health education centre, Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham, Coimbatore



Mrs.K.Umamaheswari, Assistant Professor explained scope of MSW, and the highlighted placements training offered by our University from the first semester onwards. Dr.V.Priya, Assistant Professor, introduced the academics and credit system. Dr.M.K.Suja, Associate Professor explained about the research aspects. Mr.T.Sathish Kumar, Field Coordinator, provided orientation about the various aspects of Field Work components and its

importance. There were a few questions from the student's side on the fieldwork system and time table related areas. All were clarified and contact details were given for further assistance. Finally Dr.V.Priya proposed a vote of thanks.

All the 39 I MSW students (Girls = 27, Boys =12) participated in the inaugural programme. There were some mixed students with backgrounds ranging from Engineering, Visual communication, science, literature, Law, and BSW.



### Webinar Report On Need and Importance of Public Policy Perspective for Social Work Students

Webinar was organized by Dept. of Social Work, Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham, Coimbatore on 17th September, 2020. The details of the webinar are as follows:

### Topic: Need and Importance of Public Policy Perspective for Social Work Students

Guest Details: Sri. Gowrisha Joshi, Deputy Director, Centre for Educational and Social Studies, Bengaluru, Karnataka

Date	: 17th September, 2020
Time	: 02:30 PM – 03:30 PM
Platform	: Microsoft Teams

The session officially began with a prayer song at 02:30 PM. The participants of the webinar are: Faculties of Dept. of Social Work

- Mrs. K. Uma Maheshwari, (Assistant Professor)
- Mr. S. Kanagaraj, Field Coordinator
- Mr. Varunanvelu V.S, (Faculty Associate)
- Ms. Ambili (Research scholar)
- Il Year students of Master of Social Work

The inaugural speech was delivered by Ms. Deepthi Menon, II-year student of Dept. of Social Work. Mr. Varunanvelu, Faculty of Dept. of Social Work delivered the welcome address.

The brief profile of the Guest Sri. Gowrisha is as follows:

Sri. Gowrisha has more than a decade of teaching experience at postgraduate level teaching Management subjects. He has experience in Quality Management and Accreditation of Higher Education Institutions. He worked as Chief Consultant in the Technical Secretariat of Committee for draft National Education Policy constituted by MHRD, Government of India in 2017. He served as honorary Secretary and Treasurer of C-LAMPS; a Bengaluru based NGO. Gowrisha has been involved in many research pursuits in the area of education. He has presented and published research articles at national and international level and delivered a number of lectures on various topics related to quality of education, innovations in teaching-learning and education policy. He has conducted many workshops for faculty members of higher education institutions, research scholars and students. Mr. Gowrisha is a visiting faculty at MBA department of Bangalore University. Presently he is serving as Deputy Director of Centre for Educational and Social Studies, Bengaluru.

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

Sri. Gowrisha has shared his life experience to the participants. He is currently working in policy advocacy in the field of Education. He explained his professional journey starting as a management faculty to policy developer/ advocate and finally establishing a public policy centre. He briefly explained about what exactly social policy is and the importance to understand about it by the citizens of India, and social work students in particular. He explained the need to understand the issues faced by a common citizen at the grass root level before designing a policy. He briefly explained about the various policy level activities that are happening across various social organizations and informed about how an NGO, or civil society organization has a role to play in policy formulation and policy development. He clearly explained the need to disseminate the policy formulated and enacted to the citizens of India so that they are well aware about the various contents of the policy. The importance of properly disseminating the guidelines of the policy to a common individual is explained. The various efforts taken by the Government of India and ministries like the Ministry of Education for disseminating the enacted policies were explained. These include capacity building programmes, training workshops, development programmes etc. He explained the role of NGOs and civil society organizations in properly disseminating the guidelines of the policy to the public. During his entire talk, the guest has taken examples of various policies like National Educational Policy

2020, Water Policy, Environmental Policy etc. so that the students can practically relate to the perspective of public policy.

Some of the social problems that villages in India are facing were showcased particularly education, sanitation and infrastructure. He also explained the various challenges that we are currently facing across the field of education during the present pandemic.

The guest explained the importance of social workers working at the grass roots level who have huge potential in assisting the local, state and national governments in bringing policy level changes by identifying the gaps with empirical data gathered from the field. Social Workers are one of the important stakeholders in policy formulation and policy development. Social workers play an important role in communicating the needs of people to policy makers, subject expert groups, politicians and to authorities in development sectors. The social workers have a huge opportunity to work at grass root levels and can better observe, understand and analyze the problems experienced. Suitably, the policy level changes can be determined with supportive field data. He explained about how a public policy which is developed at a macro level addresses the common problems faced by the mass population of India. He mentioned a social organisation based in Delhi who advocated for the physically challenged people in Delhi and brought policy level changes that assisted them better.

He briefly explained about the evolution of National Education Policy 2020. The various stages the policy draft went through were explained. The policy was finally formulated and drafted after wide consultation from important stakeholders like state governments, subject expert groups, educational institutions, academicians, teachers and citizens.

Following are the areas where social workers have scope to work on related to public policy domain:

• Identification of social issues/ problems and Policy Advocacy – Social Workers identify the problems being faced by people or communities and conduct detailed research on such problems and then produce the evidence to authorities and carryout advocacy. He explained how the orga-

nization which he works for are doing policy advocacy and policy consultancy with the government after suitably collecting data from various stakeholders.

• Consolidation of the experts opinions – Before drafting any policy, wide consultation of stakeholders is done to bring any policy changes before finalising the draft. Social Workers have a huge role to give opinions and feedback to such experts with supportive field data.

• Implementation of Policy – Social Workers can devise strategies in effectively implementing the policy at the grassroots level.

• Monitoring and Evaluation – Social Workers can evaluate the implemented policies, programmes, schemes and collect data on the effectiveness of such implemented development programmes. Later, the various skills that are required by a social worker to become a professional in public policy domain are explained. These are

- Preparation of project proposals,
- Working on Management Information system
- Preparation of project implementation plans
- Management and coordination of various stake holders and authorities
- Project management
- Preparation of evaluation reports
- Budgeting and Cost analysis
- Writing case studies
- Conducting capacity building programmes and workshops
- Mobilization of resources
- Work in adverse situations
- Problem solving and critical analysis
- Communication, Collaboration and Cooperation

Apart from the above-mentioned skills, the guest highlighted the highly important skill required which is about how to conduct a Research. He emphasized the need to develop expertise in the field of research.

The guest concluded the webinar by highlighting the need to understand the policy by every citizen with neutral judgement. The session concluded with a highly interactive questionnaire session with the participants. The guest gave numerous insights about the National Education Policy 2020, Role of NGOs in policy development, policy formulation and policy dissemination, Role of media etc.

The session was highly informative and received good feedback from the participants. The Vote of Thanks was delivered by Mr. Vasu, II-year student of MSW.

Some of the glimpses of the webinar are:





C. Nandhaa - II MSW



# Students Corner

## **MISINTERPRETED 21st CENTURY FEMINISM**

### *"For most of history, Anonymous was a woman"* – Virginia Woolf

recap of the history of feminism is necessary before analysing modern feminism. The history of feminism constitutes different levels of development and the changing ideologies are termed as 'waves'. Each major movement is included under four waves. The purpose of these waves was to ensure legal rights, equality and electoral rights. The age of enlightenment facilitated the writers and philosophers like Mary Wollstonecraft to defend the rights of women. They strived to secure equality, women's suffrage, reproductive rights, abolish gender norms and so on. The activism of the period was primarily engrossed in achieving equality. In the course of time, women raised their voices against injustices and sexual harassment like 'Me too movement'.

The modern feministic wave is denounced by society because of the so-called feminists or pseudo feminists. They tend to believe in women's superiority and do activism upholding the essence of feminism. The particulars are doing harm to the rest of the activists by making them unpopular. The pseudo feminists can never free women from patriarchy and tendency of being judged. Another misconception existing in present day feminism is related to the word 'equality'. It means enjoying equal opportunity and rights to that of men. However, the idea of the word is twisted to a sense that it is used to hate or protest against men. The pseudo feminists must cease from utilising it against all men. Sally Miller Gearhart, political activist and radical feminist made a statement in her essay "The Future-If There is One-Is Female", "The proportion of men must be reduced to and maintained at approximately 10% of the human race". Here, a reason why women are questioned or criticized by society when they claim to be a 'feminist' is understood.

Most of the pseudo feminists might not be even aware of the true intentions behind the movements, but feminists who are conscious of the purpose must be better understood as 'feminazis'. Nowadays, women are more resistant to the word feminism than men. Women still dissociate fearing social backlash. 21st century feminism is beginning to be accused of being anti-men. Before arraigning all men, a thought about our fathers who kept us safe and protected us must be considered for preventing the pseudo feminists from unleashing their frustration as they condemn one or two men in their life.

Both genders constitute good and bad individuals. Campaigns like 'we have legs' anguished many men creating a social disturbance. It is an evidence of the unchanged mentality prevailing in the society; also it shows that all men are not the same as many came forward in support of the campaign. Men must be educated and their support is essential to conquest against social evils. Intolerance towards men isn't the way to free the unfree.

Meenakshi Hareendran I MSW.



# DEMENTIA – ELDERS – LOCKDOWN

n this September month, we dedicate the entire month to people affected with Dementia. We as a society can utilize this precious period to sensitize, aware the public about the symptoms, causes, and consequences of dementia. Let's Talk about Dementia!

Dementia is a syndrome, mainly affecting elderly people, it is one of the disabilities which the elders acquire, which accounts for emotional stress to the family members and caregivers of the affected individual. It affects the normal functioning of the elders in their regular activities. It affects the cognitive function of the individual, which is worsening of abilities such as memory, thinking, orientation, comprehension, calculation, learning capacity, language and judgement. The conscious will be there. The early symptoms were forgetfulness, losing track of time and becoming lost in familiar places. They will not be able to control their emotions, lacking knowledge in proper public behaviour.

The elders who experience these symptoms will feel shame to share this with anyone because it affects their prestige when others make fun of them telling that they are getting aged. The elders were unable to tell it out in family and the society also, because of the ignorance and lack of education about it in society as well as in the family. Especially in families, if they vent it out, the members will think of them as useless and neglect them. These factors contribute to situations where they don't get proper professional care, diagnosis which later leads to severe stages and becoming helpless.

As psychiatric social workers, it is our responsibility to educate the society about dementia, we need to remove the stigma around it and help the affected individuals to reintegrate into the society and in the family. We should educate the family members and caregivers about the syndrome and make them understand the changes in behaviour of the individual. Also, help them to manage the affected individual. The only medicine we can provide is love and care towards the affected individuals in the home environment. On a societal level, we can provide respect and create a positive environment to help them to lead a dignified life.

In the present pandemic situation, the elders who experience the symptoms of dementia and the caregivers who experience the changes in the behaviour of the elders were unable to get help from professionals because of lockdown guidelines. It is very pathetic for elders who were already affected by dementia and their caregivers, who were experiencing more stress as they were also unable to reach organisations for getting rehabilitation services and professional guidelines and help.

I request all the respected individuals who are reading this article, to provide a "friendly ear", that is a non-judgemental ear to elders, spend little time with elders in your home or in the community in which you live. First, let them speak out everything, what they wish. If you talk closely with elders they will tell you their difficulties. If you get any information from them regarding memory loss, kindly guide them to professional help. Your supportive presence and friendly talk will help them to manage the syndrome and to get valuable, priceless professional support and rehabilitation.

If you need any contacts to help the elders to get professional help, below given are a few such contacts. kindly use them to reach for help. **NIMHANS Geriatric Clinic and Services Phone no: 9900418922** 

C. Nandhaa - II MSW NIMHANS Volunteer (Vayomanasa Sanjeevani Project) 79040864



# COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT: A BOON FOR GROWING INDIA

n India, effective community development programmes and policies could be a game changer in ensuring social and economic welfare of the majority of its population who still remain poor and illiterate. Community development holds immense potential to eradicate most of the problems India faces today and bring about improvement in the quality of life of the multitude.

The Planning Commission defined community development as " an attempt to bring about social and economic transformation of people's life through the efforts of the people's themselves". This definition indicates that community development focus on social and economic reconstruction with the cooperation of people itself. The community development programmes initiated in 1950's emphasised on asset creation and infrastructure in rural areas with people participation. But now, community development encompasses programmes which aims at the overall social and economic development of the people, thereby empowering them. But there exists so many obstacles before we reach this goal. Since India continues to be a nation heavily dependent on agriculture, a robust agriculture sector is essential to bolster the economic sector too .Current data shows that agriculture and allied sectors accounts for 15.4% of the GDP and most importantly, about half of India's population is wholly or significantly dependent on agriculture and allied activities. However, agricultural productivity and its contribution to development continues to be a question. Some serious problems Indian agriculture sector face are old and obsolete agricultural practices, dearth of new tools, shortage of high quality and productive seeds, etc.Thought the government has made important interventions to solve these issues through various schemes like soil health card mission, PM

Fasal bima yojana, paramparagat krishi vikas yojana, etc. The participation of common people is inevitable to bring about a considerable change in this regard. That's where community development programmes provide a solution. Community development policies and programmes focusing more on agriculture and its stakeholders would bring the officials and common people together, and efficiently lead them towards better planning, implementation of projects and thereby, the desired outcome.

Community development programmes could also be a solution to the menace of poverty, which is a threat to growing India. According to Global Multidimensional Poverty Index(MPI),India is 62nd among 107 countries.MPI is computed based on 10 parameters which includeNutrition, Child Mortality, School attendance etc. At the same time, according to the Food and Agriculture organization that 194.4 million people in india is undernourished.India Ranks 102 out of 117 countries in Global hunger index and child wasting rate in India was 20.8% which is extremely high.According to UNICEF, Child wasting rate is strong predictor of mortality among children. In india, various government programmes like ICDS, ANNAPOORNA etc exist in india to address these issue however these efforts are guite inadequate, so it's time to review these programmes and restructure them with community development programmes to efficiently tackle the issues of poverty and hunger.

Increasing unemployment rates also pose a threat to India's aspirations to be a 5 trillion economy. As per the periodic labours force survey of NSSO,the unemployment rate among the urban workforce was 7.8%,while in rural workforce was 5.3%.The quality and availability of employment in india are primarily at the lowest due to illiteracy and over dependence on agriculture. So,the government should emphasize on creating more job opportunities and incorporate schemes like MGNREGA,PMEP with more community development initiatives to make them more effective.

Through the 73rd and 74th Amendment act of 1992, local self government institutions in India were provided constitutional status for making governance effective and democracy to reach grass root level. Yet, they are ineffective because

of unequal devolution of power and are made more dependent on government funding, etc, making these local self bodies powerless. So focus should be on greater decentralization and generation of financial resources, thereby making the local self bodies more productive. This will benefit the common man and urge them to actively participate in contributing to the development of the society if these local bodies focus on community development programmes that will empower them to stand for their own needs and dreams. The role of the government in addressing the issues mentioned above is a large one. So, the government along with the state governments and local governments should focus on community development programmes and initiatives, in order to improve the lives of india's people. The efficacy of community development programmes is proved beyond doubt and there are several examples before us to highlight this fact. Through innovative partnership with international organizations, civil society, private companies, etc, the government can creatively find solutions with help Community development programme models and reach its goals making the beneficiaries, the common people, a part of it and banking on their potential.

### **REFERENCE:**

GLOBAL MULTIDIMENSIONAL POVERTY INDEX.

Sanjay S, I MSW.



## UNDERSTANDING CONFLICT IN PANDEMIC SITUATION OF COVID-19

### Introduction

Conflict is part and parcel of human life. As very well stated by Denen, it is the universal experience of all life forms (Dennen, 2005). Since the dawn of Homosapien species, learning to tackle conflicts of different forms entails its survival skills. We learnt survival skills in the course of our struggle for existence. On the other hand human beings are the most evolved organisms of all. It has incredible physiological mechanisms to respond to an adverse external stimulus. Our nervous system, reflex action and hormones are examples of such mechanisms in our body. We instantly drag our hand, if we touch any hot object. It is an involuntary rapid response to the external stimulus which is harmful or damaging to our body. The Adrenaline hormone helps us to either Fight, Fright, or Flight during a particular situation happening around us. (NCERT, Biology). On the other hand, as we all are unique genetically, we have developed different styles to face a challenge in our own way.

We all to an extent are familiar by now on COVID-19 pandemic and how to take care of ourselves from the infectious virus. Is this a form of Conflict as well? This short study is an attempt to understand the current situation of challenge, which the whole species is trying to combat with.

### **Understanding Conflict:**

The term 'Conflict' is easily understood as a fight or a struggle (Pattnaik, 2004). Webster's dictionary definition: "Clash, competition or mutual interference of opposing or incompatible forces or qualities (as ideas, interests or wills, the external or internal demands)" (Merriam Webster Dictionary). In fact the term 'Conflict' has a wide connotation. Different scholars and researchers in different fields have done their extensive research to give us a better understanding on what is 'Conflict' and how we can better equip to deal with it. Below are a few definitions as cited in a publication (O'Connell).

1. "Conflict is a breakdown in the standard mechanisms of decision making, so that an individual or group experiences difficulty in selecting an alternative." (J. G. March & H. A. Simon)

2. "Conflict is a situation in which the conditions, practices, or goals for the different participants are inherently incompatible." (C. G. Smith)

3. "Conflict occurs in any social situation or process in which two or more social entities are linked by at least one form of antagonistic psychological relation or at least one form of antagonistic interaction." (C. F. Fink)

### **Types of Conflict:**

In order to make it easy for us to understand the degrees of variation in conflicts, Sheriff explained vividly the types of Conflict. (Folarin, 2013)

Intra-personal conflict - It is the conflict within oneself. The emotions of anger, frustration, depression and its manifestation in behavior like being aggressive, addiction and suicide. It is also described as "man against self". It is a battle that is with our own mind and habits for example, we tend to struggle to stop our bad habits like smoking.

Inter-personal conflict – It is the conflict described as "man against man". It is a conflict between two or more persons who differ in terms of ideas, interests or goals.

Man against Society – It is when man stands against the man-made social practices or systems like governance system, child trafficking, gender/ caste discrimination, corruption etc.

Man against nature – It is a state where a man stands to combat all natural calamities like cyclone, flood, earthquake and pandemic diseases like the current COVID-19.

Similarly, the author also explained other conflict types like family conflict, Inter-state conflict and Intra-state conflict.

### Conclusion:

As unique individuals and different in our social and emotional learning and thought process, un-

doubtedly there will be conflicts in every aspect of our life. Sometimes we are traumatized facing a conflict, but in fact only when there is conflict, we are forced to think out of the box for a creative solution. Like in this pandemic situation, we adopted different practices like sanitizing, wearing masks, social distancing as means to deal with it. Our approach to combat this conflict with Covid-19 is a collective approach. I would recommend further intensive study of this subject so that we are able to understand conflict more, know different conflict handling styles. This will help us to know the capacities and weakness that we possess to handle a conflict situation and in return help each other to grow together with more creative choices in life.

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Param Kumar Singh I MSW



# FARM ACTS AND ITS IMPACT OVER THE FARMERS

### **INTRODUCTION:**

armers are considered to be the backbone of India. The country's GDP is mainly contributed by the agricultural sector. There are always issues that often arise relating to the farmers in the areas like providing subsidies, in fixing market rates, issues of the intermediaries, violation of rights, natural calamities. The news of farmer's protest for their rights notably the Delhi protest and farmer's suicide due to debts are increasing day by day. The agricultural sector being the subject matter of the concurrent list (schedule 7 of the Indian Constitution), the State and the Central government are bringing in various reforms for their welfare. This article concentrates on the various reforms on agriculture. The emphasis is on the recent Farm Acts, their objectives and impact of the Act over the farmers.

Keywords: agriculture, agricultural contract, APMC.

### THE ETHNIC METHOD "MANDIS":

Farmers cultivate their products and bring them to the mandis which are regulated through the APMC (Agricultural Produce Market Committee). These APMC's are controlled by the State government rules. Here the prices are determined by the demands and supply of the goods and are purchased by the wholesale or the food processing units for the rate determined. Even when there is no such rate provided, there is MSP (Minimum Support Price) that is provided to the farmers for their sustainable living.

### FARM BILLS 2020:

There are three Farm Bills that were recently passed in Rajya Sabha. On 27th September with the consent of the Hon'ble President these Bills were passed into Act.

The three Acts are,

•Farmers' Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Act, 2020. •The Farmers' (Empowerment and Protection) Act, 2020.

• The Essential Commodities (Amendment) Act, 2020.

The key features of these Acts are,

•The farmers are allowed to make intra trade and also inter trade.

•The farmers can fix their price and there is no need to approach the mandis and also confine themselves to the APMC rules of the States.

•The farmers can directly enter into agree ment with the storage banks, corporates, customers and also with the food process ing units. They can fix their own rates and the agreement to be made prior to the cul tivation and it may be for a maximum 5 years.

•The agreement can be made when the farmer feels there is healthy remuneration in return. This helps the farmer to have an alternative apart from the APMC regulated mandis. The aim of the Act is not to shut down the APMC or to deny MSP to the farmers but to increase their choice of in come.

### **IMPACT:**

The aim of the Acts are to

Reduce the monopoly of AMPC mandisReduce the risk of traditional intermediar ies.

As on the other hand, the farmers fear that this free market would lead to the governments getting away from providing MSP. They apprehend that the privates would not favour MSP's. Also the Agricultural census (2015-16) showed that 86% of land holdings are of small and marginal farmers holding less than two acres.

### **Recommendations:**

The Act in theoretical basis is much favourable to the farmers as it facilitates free trade practise. It also believes in improving the technology and farming process with the corporate interventions. In reality, there are hindrances in implementing the same. Earlier, these procedures were adopted in Bihar & Maharashtra, where the mandis were abolished. While the corporates fixed rates lesser than MSP contributed by the APMC's. In the current scenario, there is a need for both the Central and State government intervention because the implementation is risky and the understanding of farmers is less. Similarly, the landlords will always be the one to interact with the corporates in the present system thus affecting the small and marginal farmers. So it is need of the hour to support the marginal farmers with the intervention of the government to uphold their basic necessities and rights.

### **Reference:**

https://indianexpress.com/article/explained/ agriculture-ordinances-punjab-haryana-farmers-protest-explainspeaking-6603039/

Tharini Rajasingam, I MSW.



# IMPORTANT DAYS IN OCTOBER

OCTOBER 01 - international day of older persons
OCTOBER 02 - Gandhi Jayanthi
OCTOBER 04 - World animal welfare day
OCTOBER 05 - World teachers day
OCTOBER 08 - Indian Airforce day
OCTOBER 09 - World postal day
OCTOBER 10 - World mental health day
OCTOBER 11 - International day of the
girl child
OCTOBER 13 - UN International Day for
Natural Disaster Reduction
OCTOBER 15 - Pregnancy and Infant Loss
Remembrance Day
- Global handwashing day
- World students day
OCTOBER 16 - World food day
OCTOBER 17 - International poverty
reduction day
OCTOBER 24 - United Nations day
- World Development
Information Day
OCTOBER 30 - World thrift day
OCTOBER 31 - National unity day

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

1. The right to choose the place of meeting in social case work is preferably vested with the (1) Agency

- (2) Client
- (3) Social Worker
- (4) Person accompanying the client

2. What is the number of proposed targets for Sustainable Development Goals (SDGS) adopted by the UN General Assembly on 25 September, 2015 ?

- (1) 170
- (2) 165
- (3) 169
- (4) 155

3. In the year 1915, the controversial speech titled, 'Is social work a profession' at the National Conference on charities and corrections was delivered by :

- (1) Mary Richmond
- (2) Gisela Konopka
- (3) Abraham Flexner
- (4) Herbert Bisno

4. "Make in India" campaign is primarily intended to

- (i) Attract global investment
- (ii) Provide job opportunities
- (iii) Boost economy

(iv) Organize innovative programmes

Codes :

- (1) (ii) and (iv) only
- (2) (i), (iii) and (iv) only
- (3) (iii) and (iv) only
- (4) (i), (ii) and (iii) only
- 5. Feeling of extreme sadness and loneliness is symptom of
- (1) Phobia
- (2) Hysteria
- (3) Manic depression
- (4) Paranoia

- 6. Abnormal psychology is presently called
  (a) Psycho pathology
  (b) Study of abnormal behaviour
  (c) Science of mental disorders
- (d) Science of neurotic disorders Codes :
- (1) (a) only
- (2) (a) and (b) only
- (3) (a), (b) and (c) only
- (4) (a), (b), (c) and (d)

7. Which one of the following skills of social group work was not given by H.B. Trecker ? (1) Skill in using reality of the present

- (2) Skill in establishing purposeful relationship
- (3) Skill in analysing group situation
- (4) Skill in participation with the group

8. Institutional Redistribution Model of social policy is associated with

(1) Welfare state

- (2) Capital state
- (3) Communist state
- (4) Police state

9. Which act requires employers in industrial establishments to define the conditions of employment ?

(1) The Factories Act, 1948

(2) The Industrial Dispute Act, 1947

(3) The Industrial Employment (Standing orders) Act, 1946

(4) The Trade Union Act, 1926

10. As per global definition of 2014, social work is not concerned with the promotion of which one of the following ?

- (1) Social change
- (2) Social cohesion
- (3) Social choices
- (4) Liberation of people

### ANSWERS

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

> Harikrishnan MG II MSW

COIMBATORE CAMPUS

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

# UDAAN Turning One!

We are so happy to inform you all that our department newsletter 'Udaan- a leap forward', has successfully completed one year of journey. During this one year, we have been through an exciting ride which made us believe in hardwork and team work. This was only possible with our team and the support we received from all of you. We are ever grateful for that. The next edition of Udaan is our one year of Anniversary edition. As part of that, we would like to invite messages and articles from all of you to make it a grand one. Hoping the same, we thank each one of you again for the support and love you showered on us.

Regards, Team Udaan.





Contact: Dept. of Social Work Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham Amrita Nagar (P.O) Coimbatore - 641 112. Tamil Nadu-INDIA Email: <u>msw@amrita.edu</u>, <u>mswudaan@gmail.com</u>, Website: <u>https://www.amrita.edu/school/socialwork</u> Like us at facebook <u>https://www.facebook.com/mswamrita</u> Instagram : Amrita Dept of SocialWork Subscribe at : <u>www.youtube.com/mswamrita</u>

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