

## **PG Department of Social Work**

### **ANNUAL REPORT 2023-24**

The Department of Social Work of St Clare College was instituted in the year 2018. The Department has been actively working towards knowledge enhancement of the students and faculty members through a series of workshops and programs on social issues.

The following is a summary of the key activities conducted for the academic year 2023 - 2024.

#### ***Learning From The Field: Orientation Visits to NGOs and Government Organizations***

As per the Bangalore University Syllabus, all the I MSW students were taken for 12 Orientation visits to various NGOs, reputed hospitals, and Governmental Organizations in Bangalore. The objectives of these visits were to orient students to the nature of the work undertaken by the organizations. These visits were conducted between the period between 19 December 2023 and January 2024. The 18 students of first year MSW were part of these visits. The organizations the students visited were all based in Bangalore and worked on different issues namely Children, Women, Education, Special Needs, Health, Community Development, Human Resource Management etc. The organizations visited were pretty diverse. They included SOS Children Village, Sumanahalli, Association for People with Disabilities (APD) St. Philomenas Hospital, Unnati, Vimochana, Eco Watch, Karnataka Mediation Centre, Jalahalli Police Station, Vathsalya Charitable Trust, United Way Bengaluru and Orion Mall PVR.

#### ***Voices of Resistance: Learning from Women in the Field associated with Vimochana***

On the 9<sup>th</sup> of January, 2024 the Anti-Human Trafficking Club (AHTC), the department club of the PG Department of Social Work organized a field visit to Vimochana. It is an NGO that advocates extensively for women's rights. 18 students of first year MSW were part of the visit. The visit aims to spread awareness about the issues that women face. The concepts of domestic violence were covered by the resource person. The students learned in detail how women's empowerment can be done at the field level. They also got an insight into the various projects and campaigns undertaken by Vimochana. With a core focus on personal

forms of violence against women, including domestic abuse, sexual exploitation, and human trafficking, they recognize the inextricable link between individual suffering and broader societal injustices. The students got a glimpse into Vimochana's commitment and the ways they work to dismantle systemic forces that perpetuate violence and inequality.

**There is Always an Ability even in Disability: Disability Immersion Programme at Association of People with Disability.**

On 18<sup>th</sup> December, 2023, the PG Department of Social Work organized a disability immersion program at The Association of People with Disability (APD). 18 students of first-year MSW were part of the session. The session sought to orient the students on concepts of disability. This program was initiated within a MoU collaboration with APD.

The session was aimed at helping students understand various programs available for the rehabilitation of people with disability. There was a disability immersion program with hands-on practical activities that helped students comprehend the understand the concept of disability and the challenges faced by them. The session was taken by Dr. Anoop Menon, Director Academics, Assosication of People with Disability. He explained to the students about the various types of disability. The students were given aids and appliances used by people with disability and were made to try them on. The Rights of Persons with Disability Act was explained to them.

Finally the students were taken to all the project areas of APD - the special school. These included centres, vocational training centre, library etc. The session helped students to understand the challenges faced by the people with disability. The students were able to comprehend the various rehabilitation programs available for PwDs.

***Injustice Anywhere is Injustice Everywhere: Commemorating the World Day of Social Justice .***

The Anti- Human Trafficking Club (AHTC), commemorated World Day of Social Justice for the students at St. Claret College on 25<sup>th</sup> March 2024. The day is celebrated to create awareness about gender-based discrimination. 35 students of MSW were involved in the program. The theme was ***Bridging Gaps and Building Alliances***. This was portrayed through a street play on gender inequality and a cultural dance from Meghalaya. The commemoration began with a cultural dance from Meghalaya by the students of II MSW. Then a street play highlighting the various gender-based discriminations in India was done by MSW students.

Finally, there was a speech on the theme by Fr. Thomas Thennadiyil on the importance of diversity, inclusion, and respect. The programme helped the participants/ viewers understand the significance of cultural and gender solidarity. They understood the ways gender discrimination is prevalent in our society.

## **STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS**

### **Participation at National Conferences**

Our students participated in the various national conferences. They presented papers on varied themes. Ms. Angel Baby Prince and Ms. Joselin Jose from first-year MSW presented a paper titled “ Impact of Social Networking Apps Based Communication on the Mental Health of Youth”. They presented it on 15<sup>th</sup> March 2024 at the National Conference on Social Work for Sustainable Transformative Change and Social Justice organised by the Department of Social Work, Madras School of Social Work, Chennai.

Ms. Angel Baby Prince and Ms. Joselin Jose from first-year MSW presented a paper titled “Transportation and Sustainable Mobility on 14<sup>th</sup> December 2023 at St. Claret College. They presented this paper at Saksham- VI, an Inter-collegiate student-level paper presentation on Energy Conservation and Sustainable Development, organized by the Department of BBA, St Claret College, Bangalore.

Ms. Bratati Majumdar and Ms. Nikita Nath from second-year MSW presented a paper titled “Sociological Perspectives on Culinary and Coutre Convergence: Cases of West Bengal and Assam on 29<sup>th</sup> January 2024. They presented the paper at Bengaluru Sociology Students Seminar at CHRIST University, Bengaluru, and received accolades for the same.

### **Skilling Students on MS Excel: Add-On Programme Offered by the Department**

The Department of Social Work organized a 30-hour add-on program for its 35 students from the first and second years. This is offered as part of a skill development program to enhance their knowledge of subjects that are otherwise not available in their regular syllabus but are a much-needed requirement in executing their professional tasks. The department approached Havana Yukta Solutions to offer the course. Mr Saravanan was the chief resource trainer for the entire duration. The sessions began on the 17th of February and concluded on 19 th of April, 2024. The students were oriented to the key features of both basic and advanced Excel. Post-completion of their course, the students were assessed based on the specifications and examination requirements for attaining the certification. Post attending the exam, the students received their Microsoft badges and certificates.

### **Seeking Careers Abroad : Session on Career Opportunities in the UK**

The PG Department of Social Work conducted a career guidance session on career opportunities for MSW students in the UK. Around 35 students from the PG programs attended the program. MSW students from St. Joseph College, Ukhurl, Manipur also attended the programme. The session was taken by Mr Tomy Sebastian who runs a consultancy in UK and in India guiding students on the career opportunities.

The session sought to help students understand the job opportunities available for social workers in the UK. The session was extremely interactive and wholesome discussions on life and other opportunities in the UK were undertaken. Mr.Tomy gave a presentation on the process, qualifications and documents required for students aiming to go abroad for jobs. He also insisted that students would need to pass IELTS exam and be prepared to aspire for jobs that are challenging but rewarding in the longer run. He vividly explained about the cost involved and deliberations to be done before embarking on migration. The session helped the students to understand the job opportunities available in the UK and other countries as well.

### **RECLAIMING HER VOICE IN DEVELOPMENT: KNOWLEDGE ENRICHMENT SESSION ON GENDER MAINSTREAMING IN PROJECT MANAGEMENT**

On 7th June, 2024 the department invited Mr Lokesh Gujjarappa, Specialist and Lead, Monitoring and Evaluation, United Way Bengaluru. The objective of the session was to help the students understand the concept of gender mainstreaming in project management. Through the session, Mr Lokesh helped the students understand the concept of gender mainstreaming and features that the concept entails. He described pictorially how organizations across the world were increasingly incorporating the concept in the quest to promote gender equality and sustainability in projects when working with communities. He helped understand the need and relevance for budding social work students to develop an understanding of gender mainstreaming and the steps and approaches to be adopted. He oriented the students towards gender mainstreaming to achieve positive gendered impacts of environmental degradation, and support equitable resource management and economic empowerment for women, for the benefit of whole communities. He spoke of how the approach fosters social innovation and collaborative learning, measures that can lead to more effective and sustainable solutions. Many illustrations were offered from field which helped students to reflect on how the concept is implemented by field level organizations. The

illustrations helped understand that integrating gender equity into environmental initiatives creates results that benefit both people and the planet, contributing to a more just and sustainable world overall.

### **Going Back to One's Roots : Knowledge Enhancement Session on Indian Knowledge Systems**

A Knowledge Enhancement Session on Indian Knowledge Systems in association with Institution Innovation Council (IIC) St. Claret College, Bangalore and KSCST was held on 5th July, 2024. There were 40 students who were part of the session. The session sought to create awareness about Traditional Indian Medicines. It sought to impart an understanding on the importance and relevance of Indian Medicines. The speaker for the session was Dr. Nandini D, a Visiting Faculty from RIWATCH, Arunachal Pradesh. Dr. Nandini began with an introduction to the rich heritage of Indian Medicine. An overview of AYUSH (Ayurveda, Yoga, Unani, Siddha and Homeopathy) was given to the students. With pictures and examples, Dr. Nandini explained the benefits of AYUSH. The various methods of treatment in each of these systems of medicine was highlighted. The comparison between Allopathy and Indian Medicine system was also explained. Using her experience as a Botanist and a researcher, she also emphasized on folk remedies and suggested that the students experience these forms of treatment.

### **'Tracing the Journey of an Entrepreneur': Knowledge Enrichment Session on Social Entrepreneurship.**

A knowledge enrichment session on Social Entrepreneurship was organized on 12<sup>th</sup> July, 2024. The speaker was Ms. Aishwarya Augustina Toppo, Founder & CEO, Madonna's Sustainable Decors. The session sought to gain knowledge on incorporation of sustainable practices in entrepreneurship. It intended to develop amongst the students an understanding on the significance of entrepreneurship in social sector. Ms. Aishwarya began the session by introducing herself and her company. She shared about the vision behind Madonna's Sustainable Decors and its growth. She highlighted her personal experiences and the significance of her MSW journey in becoming an entrepreneur. The importance of innovation and sustainability in entrepreneurship was emphasized. Then the significance of social work in entrepreneurship was discussed in the context of the session. A group discussion was initiated where the students were divided into 6 groups and made to discuss the applicability

of social work skill in entrepreneurship. Ms. Aishwarya also encouraged the students to explore the vast field of entrepreneurship as social workers.