



Department of Social Work **ANNUAL REPORT 2024-25**

The Department of Social Work of St Claret College was instituted in 2018. The Department has been actively working towards enhancing knowledge for students and faculty members through workshops and programs.

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

FIELD VISITS

Orientation Visits

Since its inception in 2018, the Social Work Department has always conducted Orientation Visits each academic year for the students of first year. The purpose being that both NGOs and GOs have different functioning methods. The students need to be oriented with their functioning style adequately. For the Orientation Visits, students were accompanied with a Faculty Member. Hence, 14 students were accompanied with one faculty member for all the visits. In each of the organizations, there was a resource person who gave a thorough presentation about the organization and the activities they conducted. Students were also taken to the field and shown how the activities are conducted therein.

Field Trips- Social Work Camp

The 1st year students of the Department of Social Work participated in a 7 –day Social Work Camp, from the 2 th of August till the 5th of April, 2025, as per the curriculum requirement and guidelines of the MSW course. The camp was being conducted in collaboration with Brothers Integrated Rural Development Society. The location that was chosen to conduct the social work camp was a village situated in Maranahalli Panchayat. The camp oriented students on rural realities. As part of the camp, they took part in various learning enhancement activities. They spent the next seven days learning and unlearning about rural life and rural people. Each day was a new learning experience. They visited the local panchayat and understood the functioning of the village administration. They planted trees near the school premises and spread environmental consciousness around. The students played sports games with the school students building connections with the rural children. The seven days were spent in hard labor. They gave voluntary service or shramdaan doing their bit to help keep the village clean. They built strong

connections with the rural people through daily cultural activities. The students learned to cook on their own, budget their expenses, resolve conflicts, and learned to co-exist together. They learned team building, communication, and other key life skills. They were exposed to learning to live with others through group living and appreciate its value in terms of self-development, interpersonal relationships, sense of organization, management, and responsibility.

ADD ON PROGRAM- CORPORATE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

An engaging add-on program on Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) was conducted for MSW students, featuring expert sessions from Mcom, MBA faculty and CSR experts from the industry. The initiative aims to bridge the gap between social work and corporate practices, preparing 32 MSW students for emerging CSR roles. Resource persons shared insights on CSR frameworks, compliance norms, and the strategic integration of social impact in business operations. Students explored how social workers contribute meaningfully to stakeholder engagement, sustainability planning, and community development within corporate settings. A highlight of the program was a field visit to the Bangalore International Airport, where students observed firsthand the CSR initiatives undertaken by airport authorities. The visit illuminated the real-world role of social workers in facilitating inclusive, community-centric programs in high-stake corporate environments. Case discussions and reflective exercises reinforced classroom learning with practical relevance. The exposure helped understand corporate culture for aspiring development professionals. This blended learning approach enriched students' career readiness for the CSR sector.

KNOWLEDGE ENHANCEMENT SESSIONS

Knowledge Enrichment Session on Conceptual Understanding at the Workplace for PG students

The Department of Social Work organized a Knowledge Enrichment Session on Conceptual Understanding at the Workplace for PG students across the departments of MSW, MCom, and MSc Psychology. The session aimed to raise awareness about sexual harassment, understand relevant laws and regulations and equip students with the knowledge to prevent and respond to such situations effectively. The session was taken by Ms. Taranga Sriraman, a Social Work Practitioner. The session provided a bird's-eye view of the Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition, and Redressal) Act, 2013 (POSH Act). With the help of numerous illustrations, Ms. Taranga helped students understand the concept of sexual harassment. She helped students understand how it encompasses various forms of harassment such as physical, verbal, and psychological harassment. She mentioned briefly the key provisions, penalties, and the legal recourse available to victims.

Knowledge Enrichment Session on Trend in HR

The Department of Social Work at St. Claret College, Bengaluru organized a Knowledge Enhancement Session titled “Trends in HR” on 30 January 2025 from 10:00 AM to 11:15 AM in the I MSW Classroom. The resource person for the session was Mr. Ranganth G.R. The event aimed to align human resource practices with evolving business needs by integrating new technologies, fostering a positive employee experience, promoting diversity and inclusion, and optimizing talent management strategies to enhance organizational performance and adaptability. Mr. Ranganth provided valuable insights into contemporary HR trends, encouraging interactive discussions that connected theoretical learning with practical applications.

Knowledge Enhancement Session on Integrating Values into Social Work Practice

On December 2, 2024, the Department of Social Work organized a Knowledge Enhancement Session on 'Integrating Values into Social Work Practice' for I MSW students at the I MSW Classroom. The session, held from 2:00 to 3:00 PM, was facilitated by Ms. Hepzibah Sharmila, Executive Director of Vathsalya Charitable Trust. The session emphasized the significance of values and ethics in social work. Through engaging discussions and real-life case studies, students explored ethical dilemmas and the role of the NASW Code of Ethics. The session enabled students to reflect on their personal biases and develop essential skills for ethical decision-making in practice.

Knowledge Enhancement Session on Financial Literacy

On 17 January 2025, the Department of Social Work conducted a Knowledge Enhancement Session on Financial Literacy for I MSW students at the I MSW Classroom. The resource person, Dr. K. Siva Murugan, Assistant Professor from the PG Department of Commerce, facilitated the session from 10:00 to 11:00 AM. The session strengthened their understanding of personal financial management. Key topics included budgeting, debt management, and financial planning. The use of case studies and interactive methods enriched the learning experience. Students actively participated and gained practical skills for informed financial decision-making.

Knowledge Enhancement Session on Intellectual Property Rights and Social Innovation

The Department of Social Work at St. Claret College Autonomous conducted a Knowledge Enhancement Session on Intellectual Property Rights and Social Innovation at the I MSW Classroom. The session took place on March 13, 2025, from 10:00 to 11:15 AM and was facilitated by Ms. Vanishree Moji, a registered patent agent. The session created awareness about intellectual property rights and their relevance to social innovation. Ms. Moji provided valuable insights into the legal and strategic aspects of protecting innovations. Students engaged actively and gained foundational understanding of intellectual property in the social sector.

Alumni Talk

An alumni talk was conducted for the first and second-year students of MSW on 13th December 2024 in the MSW classroom. Titled Rendezvous with Alumnus, Ms Harshita our ex-student from batch of 2021 was the resource person for the session. The alumni session conducted for 20 postgraduate students aimed to provide valuable insights and career guidance from successful alumni, fostering professional development and networking opportunities for current MSW students. The session offered students practical career advice, industry insights, and emerging trends in the social work profession. The session highlighted the importance of essential skills (e.g., communication, teamwork, problem-solving) in the professional world. She stressed the need to practice networking that shall enable them to build professional connections. She inspired the students by sharing her struggles and achievements.

Orientation Program on Dementia Awareness and Screening

On May 30, 2025, the second-year MSW students of St. Claret College participated in an Orientation Program on Dementia Awareness and Screening. It was held from 10:30 AM to 12:30 PM at the Dementia India Alliance, Bengaluru. The session enhanced student's understanding of dementia, with a focus on awareness, early identification, and appropriate screening methods. Participants were guided through the complexities of dementia care, its social implications, and practical strategies for early intervention. The interactive session offered valuable real-world insights into the challenges faced by individuals and families affected by dementia. Students actively engaged with the training team, gaining meaningful knowledge applicable to social work practice.

Career Opportunities in New Zealand

A special interactive online session was held for 19 MSW students, in the AV2 room featuring two accomplished professionals from New Zealand with expertise in social work. The resource persons, Ms. Dona Kurian and Mr. Manoj both seasoned MSW practitioners based in New Zealand, shared their personal and professional journeys in the New Zealand social service sector. They provided valuable insights into the country's social welfare framework and the growing demand for qualified social workers. The session focused on essential skills for job readiness, including CV writing, interview techniques, and networking strategies specific to the New Zealand context. Students gained a clearer understanding of the accreditation process and employment pathways for international social work graduates. The speakers emphasized cultural competence and adaptability as key traits for success. Participants also explored opportunities in government and non-profit sectors. The interactive Q&A segment allowed students to clarify doubts and build connections. Overall, the session significantly enhanced students' awareness and preparedness for global career prospects.

Session on Learning to Draft Effective Project Proposals

A focused training session was conducted for 20 MSW students by Mr. Lokesh Gujjarappa, specialist, Impact from United Way Bengaluru, renowned for their work in community-based program implementation. The session held in the MSW classroom delved into the *nuances of proposal development* and *program management* within the development sector. Experts shared real-world insights on crafting impactful proposals, identifying funders, and aligning projects with donor priorities. Students learned essential techniques such as needs assessment, logic model framing, budgeting, and monitoring mechanisms. The session also highlighted the growing demand for skilled proposal writers in NGOs, CSR units, and international agencies. Emphasis was placed on precision, storytelling, and outcome-oriented planning. Interactive exercises gave students hands-on experience in drafting proposal components. The speakers also shared career journeys and recruitment tips relevant to the domain. Students came away with a clear sense of job opportunities and competencies required in proposal writing. Overall, the session boosted their confidence and strategic thinking for pursuing careers in the social impact space.

Awareness Session on Blood Cancer and Stem Cell Donation

The Department of Social Work at St. Claret College, Bengaluru, in collaboration with the Rotaract Club, organized an awareness session on blood cancer and stem cell donation on 16 July 2025 from 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM in the I MSW Classroom. The session was led by Ms. Saswathi Dutta, Assistant Manager – Donor Recruitment at DKMS Foundation, who volunteered her time and expertise. Aimed at student volunteers, the session focused on enhancing understanding of blood cancer and highlighting the life-saving potential of stem cell donation. Through informative discussions and real-world insights, participants were sensitized to the urgent need for donor registration and the impact of stem cell transplants in treating blood-related disorders.

Awareness Session on Domestic Violence and Gender Based Violence

The Department of Social Work organised an awareness session on domestic violence and gender-based violence on 27 April 2025 at the Government. LP School, Marasandra Village, Yelahanka Taluk. The session, held from 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM, was attended by 20 women Self-Help Group (SHG) members. Led by senior advocate Adv. Sowmya Bhat from the Karnataka High Court, the session focused on defining domestic violence under the Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005, and explored its various forms—physical, emotional, sexual, and economic. Participants were sensitized to the legal frameworks available for prevention and redressal, and the societal barriers that hinder reporting. The event successfully enhanced participants' understanding of legal protections and empowered them to recognize and respond to violence in their communities.

CONFERENCES/ SEMINARS

International Conference on Emerging Trends in Artificial Intelligence, Entrepreneurship and Sustainability

Amrutha R., an MSW student of the PG Department of Social Work, St. Claret College, participated in the International Conference on Emerging Trends in Artificial Intelligence, Entrepreneurship and Sustainability. The conference was conducted at BMS College of Commerce and Management on 5 and 6 December 2024. She presented a paper titled 'The Role of Human Resources (Hr) in Driving Sustainability'.

National Conference on Interdisciplinary Research in Social Science and Languages (N-CIRSSL - 2025).

Ms. Angel Baby, an MSW student of the Department of Social Work, St. Claret College, participated in the National Conference on Interdisciplinary Research in Social Science and Languages (N-CIRSSL - 2025). The conference was conducted at WMO Arts and Science College, Muttill, Kerala on July 1, 2025. She presented a paper titled 'Shifting CSR Priorities: A Pre and Post Pandemic Analysis of Multinational Companies in Bangalore.

National Symposium on “Neuropsychiatric Rehabilitation: Looking back and the way forward”

The II MSW students specialising in Medical and Psychiatric Social Work of the Department of Social Work, St. Claret College Autonomous, participated in the National Symposium on "Neuropsychiatric Rehabilitation: Looking back and the way forward" organised by the Department of Psychiatric Social Work, National Institute of Mental Health and Neuro Sciences, Bengaluru on 08 May 2025. The symposium provided an in-depth exploration of past developments and future directions in neuropsychiatric rehabilitation. Students engaged with leading professionals in the field and gained valuable insights through expert sessions and discussions. The experience enhanced their academic understanding and practical outlook on mental health care.

Round Table Discussion on *Accelerating Action for the Elimination of Cervical Cancer*

On 23 January 2025, the MSW students specialising in Medical and Psychiatric Social Work from St. Claret College participated in a round table discussion titled "*Accelerating Action for the Elimination of Cervical Cancer*" at the Rotary House of Friendship in Bangalore. This was organised by the Rotary Club, Bangalore and Indian Cancer Society. The event brought together experts, including Dr. Prashant Mathur, Director of ICMR-NCDIR, and Dr. Shobha K, HOD of Gynae-Oncology at Kidwai Memorial Institute of Oncology. It was moderated by Dr. Vidyamani Boriah, Senior Consultant OBGYN at Sagar Chandramma Hospital. Other key voices included

government representatives, NGO leaders, and a cervical cancer warrior, Ms. Parinitha. The session facilitated engaging dialogue on current challenges and strategies for cervical cancer elimination. The students actively engaged with panelists and gained valuable insights into public health initiatives for cervical Cancer.

ANTI-HUMAN TRAFFICKING CLUB

Commemoration of Human Rights Day

On 09 December 2024, the Anti-Human Trafficking Club (AHTC) of the PG Department of Social Work commemorated '*Human Rights Day*' at St. Claret College. The event was organised by students of I MSW. As part of the awareness campaign, students distributed symbolic white ribbons and displayed informative posters addressing key human rights such as education, freedom of expression, and equality. These activities served as visual reminders of the importance of protecting human dignity. The initiative aimed to foster a deeper understanding of human rights and cultivate a sense of collective responsibility among students. The campaign was well-received by the college community and sparked meaningful dialogue.

Orientation Session on Human Trafficking

The Anti-Human Trafficking Club (AHTC) of the PG Department of Social Work organized a sensitization session on human trafficking for the MSW students at St. Claret College on 09 January 2025. The session was attended by the I and II MSW students in the I MSW Classroom from 2:00 to 3:30 PM. The resource persons were Ms. Seema Diwan, Founder President; Ms. Reshma Chakraborty, Outreach Coordinator; and Ms. Nilanjana Nath, Social Welfare Officer of the Talaash Association. The session focused on various forms of trafficking, including labour, sex trafficking, and forced marriage. The resource persons shared their insights and real-life case studies to enhance understanding. The session aimed to raise awareness of human rights and instill a sense of collective responsibility in the students.

Commemoration of World Day of Social Justice

On 7 March 2025, the Anti-Human Trafficking Club (AHTC) of St. Claret College Autonomous commemorated *World Day of Social Justice* with a thematic program held at the College Quadrangle. The event centered on the theme '*Empowering Inclusion: Bridging Gaps for Social Justice*' and featured a powerful dance performance by MSW students, symbolizing the journey toward justice and equity. Following the performance, students from across the college were invited to take a collective pledge. As a symbolic gesture, they placed handprints on a chart to affirm their commitment to justice and inclusion. The initiative fostered solidarity and raised awareness of the importance of social justice.

Intercollegiate Poster and Photography Competition

The Anti-Human Trafficking Club (AHTC) of St. Claret College organized a '*Canva Poster Making Competition*' and a '*Photography Competition*' on 10 March 2025. The theme of the competition was '*Inclusion: Diversity and Social Justice*'. Students creatively designed and captured powerful visuals representing social harmony and equity. The event aimed to promote student engagement with social justice themes through digital media. Entries were submitted in PDF, JPEG, or PNG formats and evaluated based on originality and relevance. The initiative fostered awareness and encouraged students to express their advocacy through art. The competition offered a platform for students to spotlight social realities through the lens of justice.

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