

**INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON  
SOCIAL WORK CONTRIBUTION TO SUSTAINABLE  
DEVELOPMENT**

**12<sup>th</sup> & 13<sup>th</sup> February**



**P.G & RESEARCH DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WORK**

**LOYOLA COLLEGE (AUTONOMOUS)**

**CHENNAI-600034,**

**TAMIL NADU,**

**INDIA**

**DETAILS OF THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE CONDUCTED ON 12<sup>TH</sup> & 13<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2016.**

NAME OF THE COLLEGE: LOYOLA COLLEGE (AUTONOMOUS),  
(COLLEGE OF EXCELLENCE)  
NUNGAMBAKKAM,  
CHENNAI- 600034.

ORGANIZED DEPARTMENTS: P.G & RESEARCH DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL  
WORK,  
LOYOLA COLLEGE (AUTONOMOUS),  
NUNGAMBAKKAM,  
CHENNAI-600034

DETAILS OF THE CONVENER: Dr. D. JOHN PAUL, M.A, M.Phil, Ph.D.,  
ASSISTANT PROFESSOR, SOCIAL WORK  
DEPARTMENT, LOYOLA COLLEGE,  
CHENNAI-600034

TITLE OF THE PROGRAMME: SOCIAL WORK CONTRIBUTION  
TOWARDS SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

DATE OF THE PROGRAMME: 12<sup>TH</sup> &13<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2016

DETAILS OF RESOURCE PERSON: INAUGURATION & SESSION1: Dr. TELMA  
SESSION 2: PROF. V.B ATHREYA  
SESSION 3: PIYUSH MANUSH  
SESSION 4: STAN THAKAEKARA  
SESSION 5: Dr. K. SIVASUBRAMANIAN  
SESSION 6: AROKIA SAGAYARAJ  
SESSION 7: NITHYANAND JEYARAM  
VALEDICTION: RAJENDRA PRASAD

REPORT OF THE PROGRAMME: ATTACHED

(Convenor of the Programme)

(Name, Seal & Signature of the Principal)

The international conference on Social Work Contribution to Sustainable Development was conducted on 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> February 2016.

The inaugural session was started at 9:30 a.m. with a prayer song. The program has started with a short film presented on screen. It has explained various issues associated with the development of nature. The inaugural session was started with the introduction of the chief guest. Professor Balamurugan from second shift has introduced the chief guest.

The chief guest of the session was Dr. Thelma Narayan, Secretary, SOCHARA, Bangalore. Present were the vice principal of shift I, Professor Dr. D. John Paul the organising secretary of the conference and Dr. G. Gladston Xavier the Head of the Department, Social Work Department. The lighting of kuttuvilaku was done by the chief guest Dr. Thelma Narayanan and the other dignitaries.

The Head Of the Department Dr. G. Gladston Xavier has briefed



about issues associated with sustainability development. He said that the earth belonged to everyone. So the responsibility of taking care of the earth was responsibility of all of us. Social Work has started with form of charity, and then it has developed into a profession with the process of helping the people to cope up with their life. The relevance of sustainable development could be seen where every thing used in the conference was eco-friendly and the food being served was the organic one. He told that the responsibility of presenting sustainable developments falls into the shoulders of the younger generation.

Then Dr. D. John Paul the organising secretary of the conference has spoken about the dynamics of the conference. He emphasized about the theme of the conference being social work contribution to the sustainability development. Any development might be long lasting in the world provided it was sustainable. The discussion in the conference would be the issues of ordinary people to generate many ideas. The government roles and responsibility pertaining to sustainable development.







Prof. Pencier the vice principal of shift- I gave a presidential note. He started with greeting and congratulating the department for having chosen the relevant and useful topic according the present scenario. He said that the sustainable development was possible with the active involvement of the youngsters. India has got second largest youth population in all over the countries. He had positively commented about the short film screened on the screen. The change and adoptability of the rectifying the necessary change lead to the better future. So the imminent needs are providing the present and future requirements. The human nature is interconnected. Social Work has been connected with human and nature concerned with it. The human



life for better social and economic, participation which protects the mother earth.

Dr. Thelma Narayan the chief guest and the speaker of the first session was graduated in medicine in 1977 from St. John's Medical College, Bangalore, a premier institution in India, which has evolved into the St. John's National Academy of Health Sciences. With a M.Sc Epidemiology (1987) and a Doctorate in public health policy (1998) from the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, London University, she is a scholar activist deeply committed to health and enquiry.

She was a faculty member in the Department of Community Medicine, St. John's Medical College from 1977-1983. She co-initiated the Community Health Cell (CHC) a professional resource centre in community health in the voluntary sector in 1984. This grew into the Society for Community Health Awareness, Research and Action (SOCHARA) in 1991. She

developed the Community Health Fellowship Scheme in 2003 for SOCHARA which is now in its 12<sup>th</sup> year. In 2005 following a response to the tsunami she set up the CHC extension unit in Chennai, Tamilnadu which just completed ten years of work. From 2008 she evolved the Madhya Pradesh Public Health Resource Centre and the Community Health Fellowship Program in Central India. From 2011 SOCHARA under her leadership has evolved into SOPHEA-SOCHARA School of Public Health Equity and Action (SOPHEA). She is currently Director of SOPHEA and Secretary SOCHARA, Bengaluru.

She has helped evolve public health and primary health care oriented state health policies in Karnataka (2004) and Orissa (2002). She is an advisor to various national health initiatives including the National Rural Health Mission since 2005, National Health Systems Resource Centre from inception till 2013. She was a member of the national ASHA mentoring group from 2005 till 2013 and is a member of the Advisory Group on Community Action of the NHRM from 2005 onwards. She is on the state mentoring groups supporting community action in Karnataka and Madhya Pradesh. She was a member of the National Mental Health Policy Group set up by the MOHFW, GOI and the national mental health policy for the country was adopted in October 2014.

She is active in the People's Health Movement in India and globally since the inception in 2000. She was a member of the Measurement and Evidence Knowledge Network of the WHO Commission on Social Determinants of Health( 2005- 2008) and



on the Planning Committee of the 2008 Bamako Inter- ministerial Forum for Research on Health, Development and Equity. She was invited to chair the session on Institutionalising Community Participation in Public Health Policy at the WHO World Conference on the Social Determinants of Health at Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, October 2011. She has lectured various universities abroad.

She is the Chairman of an Evaluation Committee of the St. John's National Academy of Health Sciences established at the golden jubilee of the institution, 2013-2015. She was organizing



Secretary of the 5<sup>th</sup> National Bio- ethics Conference co-organized by FMES, St. John's National Academy of Health Sciences and SOCHARA IN Bengaluru in December 2014.

She is a member of 15 professional associations/ boards. Her main areas of interests are: community health, public health,



health policy processes and implementation, socially relevant medical education, training of health personnel, medical and public health ethics, gender and health, social determinants of health.

She has written over 62 reports/ publications/ papers.

The chief guest Dr. Thelma Narayan has shared her knowledge about “community health and sustainability”. She said that the necessary of thinking critically for noble justice to help ourselves. She explained about the Andhra Pradesh cyclone campaign experience the cause for the cyclone was the global change which turned the drastic change of the climate. She said that global aspiration was everywhere. But that aspiration not necessarily met. She spoke about the healthcare in India that people had protest found some change in the health care. She insisted the youth power to change the necessary requirement.

In the second half of her session she has discussed about the “community health and sustainability”. The main purpose of the health, wellbeing, and developing in the era of globalization. She said that it has included inequalities, vulnerabilities trends, underlying, determinants, contradiction. The various areas to be rectified which should be concentrated were rights, responses of people to demand. The accountability of the government on the provisions of the fundamental health care facilities to the people. The participations of the society in wide with the government also concerned.

She has given the pathways to improve the health in the interior and remote areas. Globalization of solidarity from the rural villages for example the PHM( Primary Health Meeting). The



addressing the underlying social determinants of health and development. The inter control rights and pathways towards the social justice in health. The globalization of solidarity from BHON. Social mobilization and people health movement with constructive, critical engagement between civil society and government. It must be in the form of poverty, inequality, discrimination which causes the lack of health and development. She said that health is a determination of development according UNDP 2005. Development was one of the determinants of health;

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The corporation led globalization, neo-globalization economic reforms. The negative metro policies which advisory affected

social majority in nationally and globally. It linked with the people's livelihood, income, food security, increased conflict, war and violence, access to health care, employment degradation. The micro policy has driven politico-economic determinants, backed by unprecedented wealth and confrontation of the poor. The system of enhance existing sociality embodied the hierarchy based on the gender, disparity and globalization.

The trade, development, health, which explained about the over 2/3<sup>rd</sup> of the poor are small fairness and agriculture labour. This was unfair trade undermines their livelihood. The three main pillars of SP are economic, social, environment. The negligence of primary health to people which has indicate that in 2015 the estimate population of India was 1.27 billion of the people were poor. The 977% as poor as low income.

She has explained about the place for politics and the cause that medicine given by the doctors hasno effort. It has inactive process. Those who have no information of the implemented .She told social worker should keep people happy and hopeful, allows for capture of policy apace by elite, and then occur with a passive discomforted.

She has concluded that the understanding about health in our county was critical understand of history, context and society.

It was followed by Technical session II at 12.20 pm. Chief Guest address was given by Fr.Amal Doss. The resource person elucidated about the Dimensions and Sustainable Development which includes Economic, Social and Environmental sustainability. The historical perspective predicts which the early

man's survival was not sustainable; he has to work hard for his survival. If he works hard then he could get food for his daily bread so that was not sustainable. Man is a social animal where he interdependent with the nature and environment so he mentioned that as development would always in and through the society of which man lives.

The resource person for the second session was Mr.Venkatesh Athreya, Rtd. Prof. Department of Economics, Bharathidasan University. He is currently Adviser (Food Security) at the M.S. Swaminathan Research Foundation and Adjunct Professor, Asian College of Journalism, both in Chennai.

Dr.Athreya obtained his B. Tech degree in Chemical Engineering from IIT Madras in 1969. He subsequently went into the field of Economics, obtaining MS and Ph.D. degrees in Economics from the University of Wisconsin, Madison, USA. He joined the Bharathidasan University at Tiruchirapallin1997 as Reader in Economics. He became a professor of Economics in 1984 and





Head of the Department in June 1990. He retired from Bharathidasan University in 2008.

Professor Athreya has held faculty positions/ fellowships/ visiting scholarships in a number of reputed academic institutions in India and abroad. These include the University of Wisconsin and Bucknell University in the USA, Oxford University and the University of Cambridge in UK, Lund University in Sweden, the Scandinavian Institute of Asian Studies in Copenhagen, IIT Chennai, MIDS, Chennai and CDS, Thiruvananthapuram. He has also delivered lectures at leading Universities and research institutes in Canada, Denmark, France, Germany, Netherlands, Sweden, UK and USA. He has delivered a number of endowment and other invited lectures in several reputed institutions of higher education in India.

Professor Athreya has written over a hundred research papers including several research reports and monographs. He has authored/ co-authored five books. He has also been a contributor to the popular print media in both English and Tamil. He has participated in several radio and television programmes on social and economic issues.

Professor Athreya has held important academic and administrative responsibilities. He has served as chairperson of postgraduate boards of studies in Economics, member of the Senate, Syndicate and the Standing committee of Academic affairs in several Central and State Universities. He has been on several central and state government committees. He has also been a consultant to both central and state governments and

development agencies of the United Nations and of several countries.

Professor Athreya has been actively involved in the areas of gender, literacy and development as both planner and social activist. He coordinated the mass literacy campaigns- *Arivolilyakkams*- in Tamilnadu in the 1990s. He has been involved in social mobilization campaigns for gender equality and against female infanticide and foeticide.

Professor Athreya has held important responsibilities in public



life, having been the past President of the All India People's Science Network (AIPSN) and of the Tamil Nadu Science Forum (TNSF), EC member of Bharat GyanVigyanSamithi and EC member of the National Literacy Mission Authority of the Government of India.

Professor Athreya has won a number of awards and honours, the most recent one being the

**Distinguished Achievement Award for Political Economy in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century by the World Association of Political**

**Economy** in May 2014. His most recent book is *Marxian Political Economy* published by Tulika Publishers in 2013.

He spoke on “Inclusive growth and sustainable development” He also talks about the class conflict between working class and dominant class. Social sustainable is in the hands of the dominant class who runs the society and makes others to work for them. So the working class continues to work and dominant class continuous to dominant. To this class labor become commodity for this class to sustainable the economic growth. We live in corporate control media. Subsidy should be look as an investment in human being instead of considered as expenditure in public distribution system.

Is inclusive growth incompatible with sustainable development? Ecologist perceives that poor contribute more to environmental degradation. In contrast ecological fundamentalism sees all economic activity paves way to endangering the environmental. Poor are not degrading the environment they become vulnerable or sometimes become a victim. Inclusive growth and sustainable development are not contradictory.

The third session was handled by **Mr.PiyushManush**, Convenor, Selem Citizen Forum, Tamil Nadu. His topic of discussion was “Environment Protection and Sustainable Development”.Mr.PiyushManush is an environmental activist and entrepreneur who restored some of the devastated lakes of Salem.

The resource person projected a video on ‘Moonkuner 360 Degree’ which reveals efforts for sustainable environmental

growth in Salem. In his address, he expressed his grievance about the threat to the freedom of speech in India. He talked about successful effort on shutting down big cooperate giants like the Vedanta in Selam and to break down the stereotype and preventing exploitation of natural resources. He explained very clearly the malpractices of industrialists and political leaders in encroaching the river beds and misusing the valuable natural resources. He categorised the encroachments into four. They are plastic, near rivers, buildings and catchment areas. He criticised the present model of development which fully focuses on industrial growth but not on sustainable growth. He also gave information about the alternatives of energy production models of Mr.Raisingh and Dharmveer Singh.

He encouraged the students to become entrepreneurs. He advised them not to prefer in working in corporate companies. Instead of this, he asked them to start their own business which should focus on the sustainable development.





Moreover, the resource person talked about the solid waste management which is one of the major challenges for India's so-called growing economy. He stressed on the importance of bio gas.

Stan Thekaekara, activist, thinker and social entrepreneur has worked for nearly 40 years in the field of human rights and development.

The resource person of the last session of the day (session IV) was **Mr. Stan Thekaekara** the session was about "Tribal Community and Sustainable Development" in which he emphasised on the use of the term Adivasi instead of tribal community for understanding the terms better. Stan Thekaekara,

activist, thinker and social entrepreneur has worked for nearly 40 years in the field of human rights and development.

Stan's public life began in 1974 with adivasis in Bihar, now Jharkhand. In 1977 he moved to Andhra to set up “Volunteers for Andhra Pradesh”, a relief and rehabilitation organisation in response to the tidal wave and cyclone that hit the coastal regions of the state. Subsequently he worked in Bangalore on his family farm to help people with problems of alcohol and drug abuse.

In 1984, he and his wife Mari, moved to the Gudalur Valley of the Nilgiri Hills in South India to work with the adivasis (aboriginal people of India). In 1986, they founded ACCORD, to mobilise the adivasis of the Gudalur Valley, Tamilnadu to fight for their social, political and human rights. This led to the formation of the AdivasiMunnetraSangam and a number of other organisations that together ensure that the adivasis can participate in society as equal partners.

In 2000, Stan and Mari founded Just Change, an international cooperative linking producers, investors and consumers in mutually beneficial ways – rebuilding the notion of community and regaining power in the marketplace.

Stan has served as a trustee of Oxfam GB and was Visiting Fellow at the Skoll Centre for Social Entrepreneurship at the Said Business School, Oxford University.

Stan has straddled the entire gamut of human rights and



development work -

from grassroots

activism and long term

development, to

disaster management

and rehabilitating

youngsters with

addiction problems. He

sits on the Board of

various non-profits and

has been instrumental

in founding a number

of development

organisations in India

and abroad. He also

provides support,

guidance and training

in field of community mobilisation and organisation

development.

Known for his radical and innovative thinking on development

economics, he has delivered numerous lectures, including the

Alternative Mansion House Speech in London and the Fourth

Annual Feasta Lecture at Trinity College, Ireland. He has also

written extensively on development issues.

He has won many national and international awards for his

work. Outlook Business listed him among the top 50 Social

Entrepreneurs of India and described him as “the man who delights in turning textbook theories on its head”.

The resource person clearly defined about the term Development, which means growth, changes, gradual process which talks about the organisational development related to welfare, education, economy. The session was very interactive, the resource person then said that the development for Adivasi is to make them to live like us. They seem to be underdeveloped but in nature's point of view they are developed.

We have to reinter our way of living & consider the Adivasi's living. The resource person started his work towards the community by 1984, during those time the Adivasi's were massively exploited. During 1984 & 1986, the community were working as labourers and bonded labourers in their own land.





Getting the land back from them was the initial agenda done to Adivasi as social justice. For them the land was the common property, they don't cultivate in the same land, they give rest to the land. It's a main stream economy. They were asked to grow tea in The Nilgiris District. When there were globalization and price hike they were unaware about whom to approach.

The Secondary problem was related to health care. The resource person used to notice that some of the Adivasi's were laying down on the veranda in every villages, who had sickness and waiting to die. The resource person used to convince the village people and request them to take the sick people to the hospital. It was in this time period were the resource person shifted his activist work into development oriented work. After 3 years the rate of anti-natal and maternity has come down. Nowadays they have their hospitals, community themselves collects money for the purpose of insurance, they don't trust the Government, and instead they continuously collects money for the sake of insurance.

The resource person says that the community should be taught to read and write. The resource person convinced the parents to send their children to school. Now at present there is 100% enrolment in school. It has its own set of problems. There are 20 students who belong to 1<sup>st</sup> generation learners, but after completing their studies where will they go for the job? They have all most no opinion other than going out of their community and place in search of job. Development actually creates problems..... is this sustainable development?

These communities share everything among themselves; they look for happiness for it and live accordingly. Realistic persons are advised. This is sustainable, by sharing what they have. It is adivasi's life highly sustainable and not ours. Problem is within us, it is we who should change and not them. He concluded saying that with beautiful message " I was born in an injustice society and determined not to leave it the way I found it".

The second day began with Technical Session V on Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development by Dr. K. Siyasubramanian, an associate professor of Madras Institute of Development Studies. The presentation aimed to demonstrate factors underlying for the decline of agriculture in Tamil Nadu compared to all India.

He presented how India has experienced a drastic transition in status of sectoral contribution. He clearly showed the employment contribution in secondary and tertiary sector have been progressing over the decades. However, the fact remains that employment in the primary sector, especially in agriculture is significant and its decline poses a threat to our society.

Before scrutinizing the factors of agricultural decline, he introduced the concept of LAWFA as five constituents of the globe, namely Land, Air, Water, Fire and Atmosphere, out of



which Land, Water and Atmosphere has possibility of ownership whereas Fire cannot be owned and Air is invisible. He proposed that water is particularly a crucial constituent with reference to the recent decline of agriculture in Tamil Nadu because water is primary source for agriculture and interlinked with many other factors.

Overall, effective utilization of rainfall through tank irrigation will solve the problem of water shortage and lead to better productivity in agriculture. It needs to be reinforced by the government and we, as social workers, can contribute by taking up research to develop irrigation.

The sessions was followed by endowment lecture 1, the resource person for the lecture was Mr.ArokiaSagayaraj on the topic “Industries and sustainable Development”. He focused on the contribution towards sustainable development by companies. He

also spoke about how the industries can contribute to sustainable development and how NISSAW organisation adopted sustainable development model in the production unit to have zero carbon emission, zero industrial discharge and that 25% water from manufacturing was recycled by the company. He also discussed about the CSR initiatives to promote education, women and SHGs.



It moved on to the second endowment lecture, the resource person was Mr.NithyanandJeyaram, a well known journalist and the environment activist who contributed more for leading newspapers and magazines.

In his lecture, he explained the relation between GDP and development. He projected a video on Destruction of Species in



the middle of the pacific. He explained the reasons for the recent Chennai flood. He showed many pictures which revealed the intensity of the encroachments in Chennai. In his lecture, he commented that the garbage is the sign of the development in this globalised and industrial economy. He elaborated on how special economic zones threaten the ecology and explained how the encroachment is being done in Adayar, Coouvam and Kosasthalai rivers. Also he showed pictures regarding the encroachment of Pallikaranai Marshland where Elcot SEZ project is active. Apart from the explanation of problems he explained the measures also. Prevention and the ensuring natural infrastructure are essential.



Following this, in the interaction session professors, research scholars and the masters of social work raised many questions regarding his lecture and raising their queries about the



ecological maintenance in Chennai. Prof. Semmalar of Social Department of Loyola College raised questions regarding the life situation of manual scavengers and their working condition. The resource person replied that technology has to be applied instead of manual scavenging. In this reply he quoted document of Pope Francis titled 'Environment and Poor'.

The final phase of the conference was paper presentation session in which eleven papers were presented by faculty, practitioners and research scholars. The topic of the paper presentation was "Scope of social work intervention with trafficking children" by S. Vidyalatha followed by Nanjunda and Dhan Prasad on "Changing the relationship between community development and social work." The third presenter was Anil Kumar on the topic "*Family Breakdown, Its Effect on Children's Psychology and Social Work Intervention*" The study was focused on fisherman communities and demonstrated that family breakdown such as divorce and separation can exert negative influence on development of children. The next presenter was Mr. Anand Godfrey on the topic "Development and Retrogression" He conducted the extensive study on a tribal group, Periyars, inhabiting in Kodaikanal and demonstrated conspicuous problems and needs of the community. Simultaneously, the study also encompassed the strength of Periyars, namely the proximity toward the nature which is represented by their traditional practice in herbal medicines. Another paper was presented on "Health Status of women and children in Tamil Nadu" by Dr. Kalaiselvi.

After the paper presentation got over, the international conference came to the last phase of valedictory session, the chief guest for the valediction was Mr. Rajendra Prasad “Waterman of India”, chairman, TarunBhagatSangh, Rajasthan. He discussed how human health and nature's health is independent. Before



1984 there were rivers and streams but after 1985 the river beds are converted to roads, where people were forced to migrate cause of no food, water and life. He talked about two kind of aquifer-unconfined and confined. He started to work in 1984 and found out that 1.2 lakhs people have problem of drinking water. He also concluded saying that whatever people are taking from the nature we should pay twice or thrice the amount gained. In today scenario all the educational institutions are teaching us about the optimum use of the nature, encroachment, pollution. Thus

the resources are over exploited. We should change the education system.



He pointed out that people are talking about all power resources but not discussing about the base of the climate change of water. Cooperate discuss about money and business but not worried about community and humanity. He discussed about the challenges to fight for saving water and to find out a perfect solution for better sustainability in future. On this note the international conference came to an end.