

SOCIAL WORKERS' ASSOCIATION FOR STAFF AND STUDENTS REPORT 2015-16

The inauguration of the SWASS was held on the 20th July 2015 at 12.30pm. Prof. P.K. Visveswaran, Former Principal of Madras School of Social work was invited as the chief Guest for the event. The annual plan of activities for the year was presented.

CHILD FEST - 2015

The Social Worker's Association for Staff and Students(SWASS) from the Department of Social Work in Loyola College conducts the 'CHILD FEST' programme every year. SWASS invites about 30 underprivileged children from different services organizations and the community for this program. It serves as a platform to exhibit their talents and make them to enjoy and express themselves. It gives them an exposure to the college and the festive ambiance enhances a friendly learning experience. The goal is to welcome to the college and inspire the young minds dream big. This year we plan to collaborate with CCFC for this event. Hence we are forwarding a proposal to that effect. Please find the budget attached at the end of the document.

This year also SWASS planned and conducted the CHILD FEST on 12th Sep 2015. This year the objective of SWASS is to engage the children in more in for entertainment activities with an overarching theme of child rights and protection. For this SWASS organized more entertainment programs and events for the children like arranging indoor games, outdoor games, and entertainment. About 30 underprivileged children from different service organizations benefitted.

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON SOCIAL WORK CONTRIBUTION TO SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT.

The international conference on social work contribution to sustainable development was conducted for two days on 12th and 13th February 2016.

The inaugural session has started at 9:30 a.m. with a prayer song. The program has started with short film has screened on screen. It has explained various areas to be developed in the development of nature. The first session has started with the introduction of the chief guest. Professor Balamurugan from second shift has introduced the chief guest.

The chief guest of the session were Dr.Thelma Narayan, Pencier the vice principal of shift I, Professor John Paul the coordinator of the conference and Dr. Gladston Xavier the Head Of

the Department. The lighting of kuttuvilaku by the chief guest Thelma Narayanan and the dignitaries.

The Head Of the Department Dr. Gladston Xavier has through some information about the sustainability development. He said that the earth belonged to everyone. So the responsibility of taking care of the earth was responsibility of all the people. The social work had started with form of charity profession, and then it has developed with the process of helping the people to cope with their life. The adaptation of sustainability development started in the place where the conference held that every things used by the people in the conference were eco friendly things and the food which has served also connected with the organic food system. He told about the implementation of the sustainability development falls on the young generation.

Then Dr. John Paul the coordinator of the conference has spoken about the dynamics of the conference. He emphasized of the topic and the social work contribution in the sustainability development. Any development might be long lasting in the world. The discussion in the conference would be the issues of ordinary people to generate many ideas. The government roles and responsibility of sustainability development.

Pencier the vice principal of shift- I gave speech. He started with the greeting and congratulation the department for chosen the relevant and useful topic according the present scenario. He said that the sustainability development was possible with the active involvement of the youngsters. India is second youth population in all over the countries. He had portrayed about the short films screened on the screen. The change and adoptability of the rectifying the necessary change lead to the better future. So the imminent needs of providing the present and future requirements. The human nature is interconnected. Social work connected with human and nature connected. The human life for fairness for economic, participation which promoted and protects mother earth.

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 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 underling social determinable 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 the determinate of health.

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 2/3rd 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 has no 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 was Mr. Venkatesh Athreya, Rtd. Prof. Department of Economics, Bharathidasan University. 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 next session was conducted by Mr. Piyush Manush, Convenor, Selem Citizen Forum, Tamil Nadu. His topic of discussion was “Environment Protection and Sustainable Development”. Mr. Piyush Manush is an environmental activist and entrepreneur who restored some of the devastated lakes of Salem.

The resource person projected a video on ‘Moonkureri 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 break down the stereotype and

cooperate 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.

The resource person of the last session of the day 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. 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 Nilgiris. 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 use 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 use 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 1st 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 happy for it and lives accordingly. Realistic persons are the adivasi's. This is sustainable, by sharing they conceptualise. 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. Siyasubramaniyan, 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. Arokia Sagayaraj 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. Nithyanand Jeyaram, 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 Dept 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, practisionaire 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 all the paper presentation, 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, Tarun Bhagat Sangh, Rajasthan. He discussed how human health and natures 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.

The activities of SWASS concluded with valediction of the association.