

SWASS REPORT FOR THE YEAR 2019-20

The association (SWASS), Social Workers Association for Staff and Students) was inaugurated for the year 2019-2020, with the elected body of office bearers on 15th July, 2019. The chief guest for the inaugural ceremony was Rev. Dr. G. Lawrence Amalraj SJ. The Head of the Department Rev. Dr. Louis Arockiyaraj S.J, congratulated and wished all success to the newly elected office bearers. The Coordinator of Shift II, Mr. Simon Joseph, presented the welcome note and wished the students for their upcoming activities. Finally, the chief guest led the gathering to take the social work pledge.

The following are the activities for the academic year 2019-20.

On 26/07/2019 we paid our respect to Prof. Dr. Shankar Mahadevan, on his sudden demise. He was a former faculty member and was also associated with the dept. of Social work. The social work fraternity will miss a valuable person. A condolence meeting was organized in the department where our professors shared their memories of Prof. Shankar and all his inspiring works. The Head of the Department Rev. Dr. Louis Arockiyaraj concluded the meeting with a Prayer. The professors and students paid floral tribute to Dr. Shankar's photo.



On the very same day, shift-I students were delivered with a guest lecture by Rev. Fr. Stan Swamy an activist, a social worker and a Jesuit priest who had spent his life for decades fighting for the rights of Adhivasis in Jharkand. Fr.Stan, highlighted the struggles faced by the adhivasis. He gave insights on the importance of People’s Movement and systematized form of struggles in society.

On 03/08/2019, a guest lecture was organized by the association on the topic “Environment & Climate Crisis: Implication on Growth” and the speaker was Thiru. Sridhar Radhakrishnan. He is an Engineer by profession and taught in various institutions for 8 years. He resigned from Government service in 1997 and since then he has been actively involved in activities related to Environmental, Health and Justice. He is also the programme director of Thanal and focuses on campaigns, policy framing and advocacy. His experience is in working on issues related to industrialization leading to industrial pollution, waste management, pesticides and its impact. At present is the Deputy National Coordinator of ‘Save our Rice Campaign’.



His speech was focused on how sensitive should the citizens be with a need for care for mother earth. Mr.Sridhar briefed on the importance of environment, health and food chain connectivity. He also highlighted the role of social worker in protecting the nature, environment, climate change etc.

On 06/09/2019 a guest lecture was organized by the association on the topic “Secularism Today” and the speaker was Rev.Fr. Cedric Prakash. He is a prolific writer on the subjects related to Social justice, peace, environment, and the Constitution of India. The speaker spoke about current challenges and the threats to Secularism and he also recollected the brutal killing of Journalist Gauri Lankesh.



Decisions with regard to Child Fest were taken wherein each shift would organize it separately to enable better opportunities to students and also facilitate more number of participation by the beneficiaries.

On the 7th September 2019, a one day workshop was conducted for shift-1 students in preparation for child fest. The main aim of the workshop was to familiarize the students on indigenous games. There were indoor and outdoor games like thattangal, thayam, pallanguli, noorankuchi etc. The workshop

concluded with a guest lecture on techniques on effective fund raising by Dr. Gladston Xavier.



Shift-1 students organised Child Fest on 21st September 2019, on the theme “**Inclusiveness**”. A total number of 238 children with quite a good number of them from the differently bled sector participated from various NGO’s. These children were actively engaged through various indigenous games.



Through puppet show and variety of action songs, the children were sensitized about equality and gender inclusion. Ms.Sahana (Zee Tamil fame - Child Artist) was the Chief Guest of honour. Rev. Principal Thomas deeply appreciated the student’s efforts during the valediction.



The Shift-2 students conducted their Child Fest on 28th September 2019, with the theme “**Celebrating Childhood**”.

The chief guest for the inaugural program was Mr.Christuraj (Child Welfare Officer, Karur)

The parai team “**kutties raajiyam**” welcomed the children with Parai and also performed paraiattam at the end of the inaugural program.

Almost 200 children from various NGO's like MCCSS, MCDS, Anbalayam etc., participated and also out of that 200, 25 children with multiple disabilities through the organization 'We are your voice' participated along with their parents. Special games were organized for the differently bled children to cater to their recreational needs, the social work students of the department conducted games like tin throwing, ring your win, hunger city and also activities with balloons and conducted drawing competition.



Children were trained by social work students for cultural activities like dancing, singing and they also performed during the event. Children were given a complimentary bag with stationery kit, lunch box, sweets etc.



Differently bled children were organized through wheel chairs inside the college campus, bus facilities were provided for the children and their parents. Parents

expressed their happiness as this was the first event for their special children to perform and interact with other children.



Ms.Yazhini (super singer 3- second runner up) and Mr. Ravi Maria (actor) were invited for the valedictory program. They motivated the children by their speech and also Ms.Yazhini brought out her singing talents and made everyone to sing along.



DEPARTMENT FEST (UNARVU 2019)

The social work students next geared up for another major event - The Department fest 2019. This time the department fest was named as “UNARVU 2019” and was conducted on 14th December 2019. Around 215 students from 14 colleges in and around Chennai city participated.



The students of shift-1 organized the on stage events (street theatre, block & tackle, mime, 60 secs to fame, group dance, Mr & Ms.Unarvu)



The students of shift-2 organized the off stage events (creative writing, photography, collage, Tamil poetry writing, cooking without fire, face painting, case study)



The winners for the first place 1st place went to Madras Christian College & 2nd place was St. Joseph College, Trichy.



MCC-1ST PLACE



RUNNER UP- ST.JOSEPH

It was quite amazing as we had quite a big number of participants from other colleges from the city

Christmas day Celebration: Christmas day program was celebrated on 20th December 2019. The program commenced with a solemn prayer service followed by HOD's speech on sharing of love and joy. Various games were conducted which actively engaged the students. The day was centered towards spreading positivity, joy and love. Inclusiveness was brought in during the course of celebration and the students shared their joy through messages and gifts with their Christ-child. Appreciation bags were circulated with little messages of positivity. The students went for carol singing to fellow students and faculty homes and shared the joy of Christmas.

National Conference on "Peace and Justice - A Subaltern Perspective" was organized on February 17th and 18th 2020. The conference was organized in collaboration with Subalterns' Alliance for Peace, (SAP).



Dr. Anand Teltumbde, Senior Professor from Goa Institute of Management delivered the key note address.



Ms. M.K. Kanimozhi, Member of Parliament was the chief guest for the conference valedictory. There were deliberations on subaltern leaders like Dr. Ambedkar, Periyar, Savitribai Phule, Jyotirao Phule, Annai Meenambal and their contributions towards Subaltern Peace.



Valediction of SWASS.

The association of SWASS was successfully completed with the valedictory held on 28th Feb.2020. Dr. Virgil D'Samy delivered the special address through which she highlighted the role of a social worker intertwined with values and integrity.



She also stressed on the preparation of students for their professional career by utilizing the opportunities created at the department, which paves way for students to develop their skill and competencies. The Board of members of the association was applauded for their work carried over with commitment and responsibility.

