



**National level conference on  
Bridging the Inter-generational Gap: Challenges and Opportunities in the  
Neo-Liberal Economy  
28-29 March 2019**

**Organizer: Department of Social Work,  
Central University of Karnataka, India**

Department of Social Work was started in the year 2012. The Department has opened its account with an enrolment of 9 students but now department has almost 61 students. The department is offering two years Master of Social Work (MSW), PhD in Social Work, and MPhil in Psychiatric Social Work in collaboration with Dharwad Institute of Mental Health and Neuro-Science from the academic year 2018-19. The MPhil in PSW is an unique course which follows the NIMHANS pattern in syllabus, teaching, practice and assessment.

With our best learning and research practices, our students are able to excel in academics and could get admissions in to TISS, NIMHANS, CIP Ranchi, IMHANS, Gandigram Rural Institute, Assam Central University, and other National Institutes for higher education. Currently our department has the record of 1, 25, 3, students who cleared JRF, NET and SET respectively. In addition to this Faculties in our Department engaged in undertaking the projects and carrying out their research and extension activities. So far department has completed 5 major research projects sanctioned by Karnataka price commission, Government of Karnataka, ICSSR, National tobacco control programme, District health and family welfare, Government of Karnataka, UGC- New Delhi, Karnataka municipal corporation. Published more than 30 research papers in leading journal such as Indian journal of social work, Hong Kong journal of social work, epilepsy and behavior, social work practice in addiction, Indian journal of psychological medicine, etc and presented papers in various national and International conference by visiting several countries. Books and book chapters have been published in Palgrave publishers, MacMillan publishers, sage, IGI, etc. One PhD scholar had joint guide from China and completed his PhD in comparing social work education in India and China by

visiting China for six months. One student from the department is doing PDF in China. The Faculties and students visited Australia, China, Taiwan, Thailand, Srilanka, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Nepal, and other countries for academic engagement. The employment rate is ninety percent spreading across industries to civil society organizations. Department is engagement with civil society organization, NGO, Industries, Hospital, Government department, Corporate Organization, Rural and Urban Communities.

**The Conference: Bridging the Inter-generational Gap: Challenges and Opportunities in the Neo-Liberal Economy**

Neoliberal economy has brought stunning and significant global changes through the free movement of people, technology and business across the geo-political borders of the nations. As a result of the neoliberal economy, the social transformation has been witnessed in the developing and the under-developed societies. India is no exception to this phenomenon. Individual, family, groups, organizations, culture and communities have shown altogether a different pattern. Families are exposed to family dynamics is undergoing drastic changes resulting in intergenerational gaps and emerging of different challenges and responses to meet the elderly care, support and protection needs. Vulnerability, maladjustment, abuse, harassment and abandonment of elderly are the major issues to deliberate and respond. According to WHO, the elderly would account for 22% of the world's population by 2050. Therefore, elderly population is a huge proportion of the general population. Quality of life, empowerment and wellbeing status of elderly has significant impact on the general wellbeing of the society. The aim of the conference was to bring different stakeholders under one roof, providing platform for discourse and ring out reading materials in the concerned field of intergenerational gap.

The Chief Guest of the conference was Dr. Indumathi Rao, Founder member, CBR

Network, Bangalore, Keynote Speaker was Prof. TBBSV Ramanaiah, Retd Professor, Department of Social Work, Mysore University, Guest of Honor was Prof. Romate John, Dean, SSBS, Central University of Karnataka (CUK), Prof. Mushtaq A I Patel, Registrar, CUK and President was Prof. H.M. Maheshwaraiah, Vice Chancellor, CUK. The session was also chaired by Dr. Channaveer RM, Organizing Secretary, Professor and Head, Department of Social Work, CUK and Dr. Lakshmana G, Assistant Professor, Department of Social Work, CUK was the convener of the conference.

With the inauguration of the conference, Dr. Channaveer RM, delivered the welcome speech, addressed about the relevance of the theme, emphasizing on the perspective of solidarity and understanding needs to be explored and addressed with respect to the generation. Extent of generation gap both positive and negative needs to be addressed. Generation gap included two end , not only with the elderly but also with the younger generation. As a department which always practiced interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary approach, this event will provide responses and approaches to address the generational gap.

Keynote address was delivered by Prof. TBBSV Ramanaiah highlighted about situation where both generation do not understand each other due to different experiences, changing family structure and modernization. Anxiety and depression are the highest psychological disorder found among the elderly. Not only in home but the generation gap should be reduced in workplace as well by adopting strategies like mix group in work, approach to bridge and focus, open communication, team building exercises and encouraging cross age interaction. He concluded quoting "We require homes for old as last resort not first".

Dr. Indumati Rao spoke about how India is different from other western countries. Acknowledging the unlimited potential of Indians, it is the time to rethink and rework towards building community based inclusive society.

Prof MushtaqA I Patel, Prof. G R Naik, Dr. Romate John and Prof. H. M. Maheshwaraiah conveyed their greetings and expressed their gratitude towards the Social Work department for taking up this theme.

### **Release of the Indian Journal of Psychiatric Social Work**

Prof T B B S V Ramanayya, Prof. H M Maheshwaraiah and others dignitaries release the Indian Journal of Psychiatric Social Work Vol 10 Issue 1 during the inaugural session of the conference on Thursday 29th March 2019.



**L to R:** Dr. Channaveer RM (Organizing Secretary; Professor and Head, Department of Social Work, CUK), Prof. G. R Naik, (Pro Vice-Chancellor, CUK), Prof. Romate John (Guest of Honor; Dean, SSBS, CUK), Prof. TBBSV Ramanaiah (Keynote Speaker; Retd Professor, Department of Social Work, Mysore University), Prof. H.M. Maheshwaraiah (Vice Chancellor, CUK), Prof. Mushtaq A I Patel (Registrar, CUK), Dr. Indumathi Rao (Founder member, CBR Network, Bangalore), Dr. Lakshmana G (The Convener; Assistant Professor, Department of Social Work, CUK) and Dr. Kamlesh Kumar Sahu (Editor in Chief, Indian Journal of Psychiatric Social Work; Associate Professor & I/C PSW, Department of Psychiatry, Government Medical College & Hospital, Chandigarh, India)

It had four plenary sessions, 4 concurrent sessions and 1 workshop during these two days of the conference. The major discussion and presentation were on family and intergenerational gap, social transformation and elderly, issues of elderly and elderly welfare, elderly health and mental health, elderly abuse, law and policy. It also included workshop on psychosocial intervention needs of elderly. There were 17 resource persons, 31 paper presenters and 56 students and scholars present in the conference. There were total 104 participants in the two days National Conference.

**Dr. Channaveer RM & Dr. Lakshman G**