



Lighted to Enlighten

St. Joseph's College (Autonomous), Irinjalakuda

Voice of Social Work @SJC

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Three-Day Educational Camp “Naambukal”

The third-year Bachelor of Social Work (BSW) students successfully organized a three-day educational camp titled “Naambukal” in collaboration with the Aashrayam Rural Development Society, Kollengode. The camp took place from 1st February to 3rd February 2024 and aimed to foster personal development, self-awareness, and skill-building among the participants.

The camp was inaugurated on 1st February 2024 by Mr. Prasanth, Vice President of Aashrayam Rural Development Society. In his inaugural speech, he emphasized the importance of education and skill development in empowering



individuals to contribute effectively to society. The event set a positive tone for the sessions and activities planned over the three days. The Naambukal camp successfully achieved its objectives of promoting self-awareness and skill-building among participants. Feedback from attendees highlighted the engaging nature of the sessions and the relevance of the topics discussed. The collaborative effort between the BSW students and Aashrayam Rural Development Society set an example of how education and community engagement can lead to meaningful change.

The educational camp “Naambukal” was a well-rounded initiative that brought together students, trainers, and community members in an enriching learning environment. The dedication and teamwork demonstrated by the third-year BSW students played a pivotal role in the camp’s success.

Students Participation in National Conferences

National Conference BHARATHION 2K24

Three MSW students, Ms. Mareena Paulose, Ms. Keerthana K.A., and Ms. Jigitha Sajan, represented their institution at the National Conference BHARATHION 2K24, organized by Bharata Mata College, Thrikkakara. The conference was held on 1st and 2nd February



2024 and centered around the theme, “Exploring the Multidimensional Prospects of Millets – The Panacea to Kerala’s Growing Public Health Menace.”

The participation of Ms. Mareena Paulose, Ms. Keerthana K.A., and Ms. Jigitha Sajan enriched the conference discussions. The students actively engaged in sessions, contributing their perspectives as emerging social work professionals. They gained valuable insights into the multidimensional benefits of millets and their role in improving public health outcomes.

Participation in ZRAVAS 2024 National Conference and Students’ Meet

BSW and MSW students actively participated in the ZRAVAS 2024, a National Conference and Students’ Meet hosted by Christ College (Autonomous), Irinjalakuda, on 16th and 17th February 2024. The event centered on the theme, “Tribal Welfare: Rejuvenating Social Work Practice,” and brought together students, academics, and practitioners to discuss strategies for improving the well-being of tribal communities.

Student Contributions

First-year MSW students, Ms. Aiswarya Anil, Ms. Ann Maria Jose, and Ms. Smrithi K.S., made noteworthy contributions by presenting research papers at the conference. Their presentations focused on:

1. Ms. Aiswarya Anil: Examined the challenges faced by tribal women in accessing healthcare services and proposed actionable recommendations.
2. Ms. Ann Maria Jose: Highlighted the impact of educational initiatives in empowering tribal youth and improving literacy rates.
3. Ms. Smrithi K.S.: Presented a case study on community-based rehabilitation models for enhancing tribal livelihoods.

Their well-researched papers sparked engaging discussions and demonstrated the importance of social work in addressing tribal welfare issues.

Academia Practice Interface-2024

To commemorate International Women's Day, a seminar on the theme "Social Work with Women" was organized at Vimala College (Autonomous), Thrissur, on 5th and 6th March 2024. The event provided a platform to explore the challenges faced by women in society and the role of social work in addressing these issues.

Block Field Work - BSW Students

The BSW sixth-semester students were placed for their agency-based concurrent



fieldwork at state-level agencies such as Aashrayam Rural Development Society, Kollengode; ATMA Foundation, Thrissur; Rajagiri Outreach, Kalamassery; Thanal, Palakkad; and others. The agency-based fieldwork undertaken by the

students at 14 different organizations has been a resounding success. It has not only enriched their academic experience but also equipped them with practical skills and knowledge essential for their future careers.

Self-Défense Programme

On 6th March 2024, the Department of Social Work at St. Joseph's College (Autonomous), Irinjalakuda, in collaboration with Sakhi One Stop Centre, organized an insightful Defense Lesson for students. This initiative was undertaken to



empower students with the knowledge and skills needed to safeguard themselves against crimes or abuse they might encounter. The session was led by Senior Civil Police Officers Ms. Gigi V.V. and Ms. Shajamol, whose extensive experience and expertise made the class highly impactful. They provided practical advice, legal information, and self-defense techniques tailored to the challenges faced by young individuals today. The students expressed gratitude for the initiative, describing the session as empowering and informative. Many highlighted how the practical skills and knowledge gained would enhance their confidence in dealing with adverse situations.

Concurrent Fieldwork of BSW Fourth-Sem

The BSW fourth-semester students of St. Joseph's College (Autonomous), Irinjalakuda, were placed for their concurrent



fieldwork in various Panchayats, including Vellangallur, Poomangalam, Padiyoor, Kodakara, Pariyaram, and the Irinjalakuda Municipality. This initiative aimed to provide students with practical exposure to the Panchayati Raj System, enabling them to understand its functions, identify community problems and needs, and conduct a social analysis of the communities they engaged with. The concurrent fieldwork placements were a resounding success, providing students with a holistic perspective of rural and municipal governance systems. The Department of Social Work aims to continue such initiatives, reinforcing its commitment to creating skilled social workers who are attuned to the needs of their communities.

Faculty Editors:

Dr. Jessy K.C (HOD), Ms. Reshma Paul, Ms. Mary Amrutha

Student Editors: Ms. Jesmi Mathew (MSW II Year), Ms. Mereena A.S. (MSW I Year) Ms. Juliet Biju (BSWI Year), Ms. Siva Priya M.D. (BSW II Year)

Designers: Ms. Amani K.A, Treesa Maria Garvavis (BSW II Year) Department of Social Work, St. Joseph's College (Autonomous), Irinjalakuda

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