

GOLDEN JUBILEE CONVENER'S REPORT

1) Inaugural function

Karve Statue & Campus of the Institute

Friday, 9th Nov 2012.

The Inaugural functions of the Golden Jubilee Celebrations were organized on 9th Nov 2012, which is the Foundation Day of the Institute. In the morning, members of the Governing Body and the Managing Committee, staff and students gathered to garland Maharshi Karve's statue at the cross section of Karve Road.

During the formal inaugural in the evening, Dr P. C. Shejwalkar, Chairperson of the Institute, shared the memories of his 25 years association with the Institute. Mr. Ajey Bhave, President of the Institute, expressed his gratitude towards Shri Bhaskarrao Karve, the illustrious son of Bharat Ratna Dhondo Keshav Karve, for establishing this Institute and appreciated all those who contributed to its development during these fifty years. The proposed plans of the Golden Jubilee year were also presented.

Speaking on this occasion, the Chief Guest, Dr. Syeda Hameed, Member, Planning Commission, voiced her concern for the people who are left out of the development process in India. She expressed the hope that schools of social work, like Karve Institute, can generate the critical mass to see whether the development programmes and policies are really catering to the needs of marginalized sections of the society.

Ms Anu Aga, Member Rajya Sabha and former CEO, Thermax Ltd., was the guest of honour at the Inaugural function. Expressing concern about the continuing issues of malnourishment, lack of education and declining sex ratio, she encouraged social work professionals to take up advocacy roles and influence the government to make it accountable towards the rights of marginalized groups.

The inaugural event ended with a cultural performance of social songs-"Insaan Hai Hum" - by activist-researchers, Ms Charul Bharwada and Mr. Vinay Mahajan, from Loknaad, Ahmedabad. The songs carried messages of Secularism, Non-Violence and National Integration.

The performance culminated with a spectacular collective lighting of candles, as if each participant was taking an oath of spreading the light of knowledge, non violence and equality for a future of peace based on humanitarian values – a philosophical value expressed in the new logo of the Institute, developed during the golden jubilee year.

The function was attended by about 300 guests including the Institute's patrons, former and current management committee members, donors of the Institute, field work partners, former employees of the Institute and other well wishers.

On November 10th, as a link programme following the inauguration was the release of Ms Syeda Hameed & Ms GunjanVeda's book, "Beautiful Country - Stories from Another India" by the late Dr. Mohan Dharia. Despite it being Diwali eve around 125 people graced the event.

2) Regional Conference

Venue: Campus of the Institute

Dates: 8th-10th December 2012

The Regional Conference and Social Work Students' Festival 'Reflections-From Exclusion to Inclusion - Issues, Efforts, Challenges and the Road Ahead', was organized from 8th December and ended 10th December 2012, which is also World Human Rights Day. This event was planned to develop perspectives among social work students to work with marginalized groups and to get involved in eradicating exclusion and discrimination.

A unique mime presentation by students of this institute which symbolically represented various excluded groups bound by the shackles of discrimination and marginalization and the breaking of these shackles formed an apt beginning to set the theme of the conference rolling. Delivering the inaugural address of the conference, Ms Aruna Roy, social activist and the then Member of National Advisory Committee, spoke on the Right to Information legislation as a tool for inclusion of marginalized groups.

There were 159 participants, from 16 institutions of social work from Maharashtra, Gujarat, and Madhya Pradesh. There were also 15 special invitees from the North Eastern states who gave unique insights about the seven sisters representing India's North Eastern border. Their presentation highlighted the need of cultural sensitivity to integrate these states into the Indian mainstream.

During the three days, presentations were made on Economic, Social and Political Exclusion due to various disabilities. The resource persons were experts who have worked on issues related to Subjugated Castes, Religious Minorities, Tribal Communities, Women, Sexual Minorities, patients with mental health problems, physically and Mentally Challenged and HIV affected.

There were also competitive sessions by the student participants through cultural performances, skits, slogans, posters around the conference sub-themes.

During her valedictory address at this event, Ms Medha Patkar highlighted how development policies and programmes have led to exclusion of marginalized groups. She urged the students to dedicate at least a year for social movements so that voices from the periphery can be heard by the power centers.

3) Alumni Meet and Felicitation Programme of former colleagues – was organized on Saturday, December 29th 2012 to enable former students to relive their moments on the campus and also discover the changes in the Institute. Former colleagues were felicitated to give recognition to their contributions in building this Institute. Well known character actor, Mr. Sadashiv Amrapurkar was the Chief Guest at this event. Around 500 guests, including several batches of alumni as well as former employees participated in the program. Our alumnus Navneet Wadkar presented a visual delight of photographic memories across batches while other alumni, Archana More and Shilpa Shivankar conducted fun games that brought cheer for all. Many alumni penned their feelings on a cloth banner.

The excited 'catching up' between batch-mates and with faculty, the post dinner songs and '*shershayari*' around the bonfire all added to make for a memorable event indeed!

4) International Conference

Venue: YASHADA, Pune

During: 14 to 16 January 2013

The year saw the first ever international conference organized by the Institute. The International Conference on “**Social Work Education in the Contemporary World: Issues & Challenges**” was organized from 14th to 16th Jan. The Conference sought to create a platform for Social Work educators and practitioners as well as professionals from other disciplines to exchange experiences, thoughts and developments in the field of Social Work education and practice and to strengthen the inter-disciplinary base of social work.

It was organized under two plenary sessions and 6 sub-thematic sessions that covered:

1. Social Work Education and Global Social Work
2. Interdisciplinary Nature of Social Work Practice and Education
3. Indigenous Social Work
4. Social Work Education and Practice in relation to Marginalized Groups
5. Theoretical Perspectives of Social Work
6. Research in Social Sciences and Social Work

The 72 delegates and numerous student participants included those from the United Kingdom, Norway, Australia, Belgium, Egypt, Spain, Thailand, and from various states across India. More than 40 papers were presented on various issues related to the sub-themes. Some papers also raised pedagogical and epistemological issues in social work education.

Twenty one resource persons from social work and other disciplines, all having international and national stature, brought in the shared commitment to participatory people oriented development. Dr. Vimla Nadkarni, President, International Federation of Schools of Social Work was amongst the honoured guests.

The Chief Guest at the inaugural programme Mr. Sandeep Chachra, Director, Action-Aid, expressed his views on ‘Economic Justice: Challenges for Development Activists and Professionals’. He hoped that the conference would generate spaces to revisit ideas for strategic intervention to make social work education more relevant in the current context.

Speakers at the 1st Plenary session included Dr. Mary Whiteside from La Trobe University, Australia, Mr. Chachara, Mr. John Samuel, Democracy and Governance Advisor, United Nations Development Programme and Mr. Minar Pimple, Regional Director for Asia and the Pacific, UN Millennium Campaign.

During her summing up of the 1st plenary, the Gandhian Social Worker Ms Minakshi Apte gave a call to the participants to follow equality, secularism, fearlessness as they engage themselves at various levels to bring positive change in society.

The key speaker at the 2nd Plenary, Dr. John Pinkerton, Professor in Social Work, Queens University, Belfast & Associate Editor of British Journal of Social Work elaborated upon the importance of Evidence Based Research in the field of Social Work to complement knowledge with values and skills. The 2nd speaker in the plenary was Ms Puja Marwaha, Director, Child Rights and You (CRY).

The valedictory address by Dr. Sukhdeo Thorat, Chairperson ICSSR focused on the value of combining knowledge with action to bring change in the lives of people, particularly the poor

and the marginalized. He touched upon the inspiration provided by great visionaries such as Ambedkar, Gandhi, Mao and Lenin who combined thought with sincerity of actions. He reiterated that social work begins where knowledge ends as it recognizes that there are problems in society that need to be engaged with.

5) Two days State level Symposium & Workshop “The Water Sector in India: Challenges and Prospects” 23rd to 24th March 2013 was organized to commemorate World Water Day

This event was organized on the premise that social workers and social scientists need to develop a comprehensive understanding to engage with this critical sector that covers all aspects of life and livelihoods. This would help develop the curriculum framework to integrate water related concerns into the teaching learning process.

The total number of 160 participants included

- Post graduate level faculty & students from social work colleges and social science departments in Maharashtra
- Representatives from NGO's/CSO's/Research Centres working on water related issues

The resource persons were eminent experts who have been engaged in research, policy advocacy and people's movements around water.

The symposium was inaugurated by spraying water on a small neem sapling as a symbol of indigenous culture and conservation practices.

In his keynote address Mr. HimanshuThakkar, Coordinator, South Asia Network for Dams, Rivers and People spoke about the **Concerns and Challenges faced in the Water Sector in India**. He also presented a critique of the state policy and possible alternatives to be addressed.

Other speakers highlighted the factors that are leading to a situation of growing water crises and the need for evolving people's alternatives based on equity to resolve water conflicts that arise due to contested demands. A panel discussion on grass-root initiatives provided inspirational insights of what people can do when effectively organized through collective action. The presentations included the efforts of Tarun Bharat Sangh to rejuvenate dried river beds in the Aravari basin in Rajasthan under the leadership of Mr. Rajendra Singh; and Anand Kapoor's presentation of Shashwat's work in creating indigenous alternate livelihoods for Dimbe dam displaced tribal communities in Maharashtra.

The second day was devoted to deliberations on curriculum. The outcome was the presentation of a framework to develop course content in the areas of:

- Water governance
- Water management
- Privatization of water

- Water balance and budgeting

Ms Medha Patkar who delivered the valedictory address at this event stressed on the importance of interdisciplinary perspectives to develop an understanding of development and displacement. She also highlighted the need for social workers and social scientists to engage with social movements and people centered initiatives to develop alternatives.

6) Two Days workshop on Rational Emotive Behavior Therapy (REBT)

On 5th and 6th June 2013

Venue: Conference Hall of the Institute

A two days training workshop on Rational Emotive Behavior Therapy (REBT) was organized which saw the participation of 60 helping professionals. REBT is a therapeutic system of theory and practice and a school of thought which was established by Albert Ellis a trained clinical psychologist, to develop an action-oriented approach to psychotherapy.

The purpose of this workshop was to help professionals understand REBT and its practical applications. The training covered understanding concepts, types and history of emotions, disputation methods and the rules of rationality. By using the case presentation and discussion methods application of REBT in therapy for anxiety, anger, impulsive behavior, jealousy and for personality disorders was demonstrated.

The resource persons for the workshop were Dr. Anand Nadkarni M.D. in Psychological Medicine and Dr. Shubha Thatte, a clinical psychologist who was a key person in setting up the Behavioural Therapy Unit at K.E.M. Hospital, Mumbai.

7) Felicitation Meet for Field Work Partners and Visiting Faculty

Venue: Institute's Conference Hall

Date Oct. 19th 2013

Field work agencies contribute to the development of perspectives, knowledge and skills and visiting faculty bring practice based wisdom into classroom teaching. We could not think of ending our golden jubilee without giving recognition to these valued partners. A small but significant function was organized on October 19th this year, which had 90 representatives from 73 partnering organizations joining us. Apart from giving them a memento and special scroll of appreciation, the event was an occasion to share experiences and set future directions in training students. The Keynote speaker, Dr. Asha Rane, (Former faculty, TISS and Founding Member, Hamara Foundation, Mumbai) spoke from the position of a teacher and practitioner while Ms Harsheela Mansukhani (General Administrator, KEM Hospital, Pune), the Chief Guest, gave interesting insights from her more than 50 years of experience as a medical social worker and field supervisor to several batches of students. She spelt out the challenges that need to be addressed as the mind set and abilities of each generation of students change.

8) Apart from the events two other plans that we could carry out during this year were:

- The production of a 32 minute documentary film showcasing the history, current achievements and looking at the future directions of our Institute, titled "50 Golden Years, A Journey of Commitment".
- The initiation of a study, "Integrating Inclusive Policies & Practices in Higher Education: Efforts & Challenges" to reflect critically on our efforts at bringing in inclusiveness in

our admission mechanisms and pedagogical methods. We expect that the sharing of the study outcomes would help us get new insights to enhance the inclusive ethos of this institute.

We hope that the future days would see some publication outcomes from the events. We also endeavour to take forward the many ideas that saw a genesis but could not be realized within the short span of just one year. In the near future we would like to embark on a concerted exercise of developing and giving shape to the future vision and perspective plans of the Institute which would see more significant contributions. We hope to soar to new heights through the collective realization of our dreams of social change.

November 2013

Nagmani Rao
(Convener, Golden Jubilee Celebrations)