

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WORK



HISTORY OF THE DEPARTMENT

Department of Social Work, Visva-Bharati became the first Institute to introduce Bachelor's degree in Social Work (B.S.W) in the year 1963. Being one of the oldest & premiere institute of Social Work, it has engaged itself towards bringing change in the surrounding villages of Sriniketan which was antecedently initiated by Rabindranath Tagore during Sriniketan Experiment. Currently the Department offers the following programmes:- | Bachelor in Social Work | Master in Social Work | PhD in Social Work The following are the proposed courses : | Diploma in Disability Study | Diploma in Social Exclusion and inclusion.

The framework of the various degree programmes in social work is designed to equip the students for Generic & Clinical Social Work from an Ecological Perspective. It involves a series of processes intended to address widespread social problems or conditions. The department encourages and trains its student to identify the strength perspective of the clientele to develop capabilities to the people in need. The practice assumes that persons in need already have a numbers of competences and resources that can improve their situations. The curriculum's major thrust in on capacity building and advocacy while working with disadvantage and marginalized section of people. Apart from the lectures, case studies, role-plays, individuals and group assignments, management games, seminar presentation, project assignments, study visits and training at fieldwork are also important part and parcel of our teaching learning exercise. National and international guest lectures and participating professionals organize camps to help the students gain insight into real life situation.

Fieldwork is the core of Social Work education. With the objective of integration of theory into practical experiences, fieldwork has been a vital part of the Department of Social Work. The goal is to help students acquire skills of working with people at various levels. In this process, the students are helped in developing a holistic understanding of the issues, the problems, the situations, the causative factors and possible strategies of interventions towards improvement of problems affecting the

state of well-being of people. The framework of the Field Work Curriculum is ecological and equips the students for generalist perspective. The curriculum has major thrust on empowerment, capacity Building, Keeping the strength and advocacy in view while working with the service users especially who are the disadvantaged sections of the society. Curriculum is founded on the mission of Rural Reconstruction as envisioned by Gurudeva Rabindranath Tagore, modified, adapted and reinvented at par with contemporary realities.

The Vision

“To train professional social workers who can contribute to the development of individual, community and the nation and enable them to be self-sufficient in all aspects of their life.”

The Mission

“To provide and integrate professional social work education, research and service to promote social justice and empowerment in communities through social work practices locally, nationally and internationally.” The department enshrines its students to help people realise their self –potentialities and by doing so helps them to integrate the theories and models of social work into practice. The extensive field work helps the students to understand the gross reality and thus they become individuals well aware and adept to the situation. Our motto towards excellence revolves around Tagore's ideals of “SwadesiSamaj” [1904] which forms the core of intervention as he believed, “our salvation lies in making our villages self-reliant and knit together by the ties of corporate life right from the moment of inception of the idea of Rural Reconstruction the underlying principles were built on the Rights based approach and capacity models that most development programmes are ideally based on. The rural people are to exercise their individual agency in exercising their rights and they are to be helped in developing their potential as creative beings so that their participation in the composite life is meaningful and significant”

National and International Collaborations

Over the last few decades, the department has been associated with several national and international level organisations, in a varied form. Some of them are academic collaborations and others may be in the form of exchange programmes. These helped the Department to enrich its bondage with those as well as expertise in its own way. Some of them are as follows:

National Institute of Orthopedically Handicapped(NIOH) Kolkata, an autonomous body of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment , GOI, of running one year Post Graduate Diploma in Disability Rehabilitation and Management.

Society for Participatory Research in Asia(PRIA) for research and professional dialogue.

Commonwealth Split-Sight Doctoral Fellowship with University of East Anglia, U.K.

Collaboration with other Organisations such as the Central Social Welfare Board(CSWB), Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Ministry of Rural Development(MoRD), Tata Institute of Social Sciences(TISS), Lucknow University etc.

Teaching Collaboration with individual faculty members and following Universities: Glasgow University, UK; University of Tampere, Finland; University of Dhaka, Shahjalal University of Science and Technology, Bangladesh; University of Natal, South Africa; University of Illinois and Dominican University, USA, The department hosts international faculty and students for international exchanges on education and research every year with the; University of Illinois and Dominican University, USA, Switzerland and many more. The faculties and students visit these universities on demand or as and when there are opportunities to do so.