

A Report on National Conference held on March 4th and 5th, 2011

The P.G & Research Department of Social Work organized a National Conference on 'Role of Youth in Community Based Disaster Management' on 4th and 5th of March 2011. The National Conference was held with the Collaboration with the Rajiv Gandhi National Institute for Youth Development. A total of ____ participants from ____ colleges and social work agencies participated in the conference. It provided the students of social work with the experience to organize such seminars and a clear knowledge about Disasters and Disaster Management.

Planning for the National Conference

The planning for the national conference was done well in advance, once RGNIYD had confirmed for providing financial assistance for the conference. The students of the Department of Social Work were divided into different committees as per the requirement for the prior preparation of conference. Dr. Henry Rozario, Associate Professor of the Department was the Convener of the entire National Conference. The details of the different committees which had been formed for the conference are as below:

Names of the Sub Committee

- Reception & Hospitality Committee
- Hall Arrangement Committee
- Ceremonial & Valedictory Committee
- Finance Committee
- Cultural & Mock Drill Committee
- Accommodation Committee
- Food committee
- Media & Public Relations Committee
- Documentation Committee

A steering committee had also been formed comprising of all the leader of the above mentioned committees. Each Professors of the department was also assigned in

charge of different committees, and the committees had to report to them. Invitations for the conference had also been sent to nearly 150 Social work colleges and agencies well in advance.

Conference Proceedings

The Conference started with the inaugural function on the 4th of March. Conference Convener Dr. Henry Rozario gave the welcome address, Fr. Rector gave the Presidential Address, while Mr. Girreesan (Head, PRIYA Division, RGNIYD) gave the Inaugural Address, Additional Principal also addressed the gathering.

The Keynote address of the conference was given by Dr. Shekar, Head, Department of Psychiatric Social Work, NIMHANS on the theme Disaster Context in India. Different Sessions on the topics related to Role of Youth in Community Based Disaster Management were also conducted by eminent personalities such as Dr. Parthasarathy, Prof & Head, NIMHANS, Bangalore, Dr. G.P. Ganapathy, Centre for Disaster Management & Mitigation, (CDMM), VIT, Vellore, Dr. Sandra, Head, Dept. of Social Work, Stella Maris College, Chennai, A. Amala Jeyarayan, Research Scholar, Gandhigram University and Mrs. Padmavati, District Forest Officer, Tirupattur.

Practical Sessions

Practical sessions on First Aid were also held by Mr. Suresh, Trainer, St. John's Ambulance, Hosur, he trained the students on the different First Aid techniques. Besides this there was also a session held to prepare Disaster Action Plan which was conducted by the District Forest Officer. Poster Competition was also conducted for the participants on the topic of Disaster Management.

Mock Drill by NDRF

A mock drill by National Disaster Relief Force was also held in the College Ground as part of the Conference. The NDRF team came with all the materials that were

being used in a Relief situation during a Disaster. They demonstrated a mock drill and also taught about some of the basic relief activities which could be easily practiced.

All the Students of the College, Shift I and Shift II attended the drill in different sessions, beside this there was also special session arranged for school children in and around Tirupattur to come and witness the drill. Nearly 3000 students in total witnessed the drill the entire day and were benefitted.

Cultural Programs

Cultural Programs were organized on the 4th evening and participants from different institutions came up with variety of cultural programs.

Valediction

The Valediction function started, on evening 5th of March by 3.30pm. It was attended by Rev. Dr. Maria Sossai, Principal of Sacred Heart College who gave the Valedictory address and Dr. Jeyakumar, Senior Specialist, Psychosocial Support and Mental Health Services, National Disaster Management Authority(NDMA), Govt. of India, New Delhi who gave the Presidential Address on the topic ‘Paradigm Shift in Disaster Management in India’.

The conference ended with the distribution of Certificates to the participants and vote of thanks presented by the Conference Convener Dr. Henry Rozario.

Media Coverage

The conference also got a extensive media coverage from the leading newspapers viz, The Hindu, Indian Express and all the Tamil Dailies during both the conference days. Besides this the news about the conference was also telecasted on News Channel such as Win TV and Imayam TV.

Publication

The entire proceedings of the conference and various articles related to Disaster Management by Experienced Authors was published through Knowledge Hub, Chennai under the title “Role of Youth in Community Based Disaster Mnagement” with ISBN number 978-81-921601-1-5, edited by Dr. J.Henry Rozario, Dept. of Social Work, Sacred Heart College & Dr. K. Gireesan, Rajiv Gandhi National Institute of Youth Development. The book contained papers presented by 19 authors on various themes of role of youth in community based disaster management.