THE MERAKI

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A JOURNEY OF INSPIRATION AND CHANGE

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MESSAGE FROM THE DEPARTMENT COORDINATOR



Congratulations on yet another edition of our Department Magazine!

We live in challenging and rapidly changing times, where the relevance of social work is more significant than ever. As societies grapple with complex realities, social inequalities and the emerging challenges, the need for sensitive, skilled, and reflective social work practice continues to grow. With continuous talk around Artificial Intelligence (AI), it is important to remember that our profession is not immune to the opportunities and challenges AI offers to our society. AI is no longer a distant possibility; it is a reality that is reshaping the way we live, learn, and work. It is a question before us is not whether we should engage with AI, but how we can engage with it thoughtfully, ethically, and responsibly. As social work professionals and learners, we must learn to co-adapt with emerging technologies while remaining rooted in our commitment to human dignity, empathy, and social justice.

Our challenge is to harness new possibilities and to find meaningful and sustainable solutions to the problems faced by individuals, families, and communities. At the heart of this journey lies a hunger for knowledge, a willingness to acquire new skills, and a deep respect for the people with whom we work. Understanding what we do, how we do it , and why we do it is fundamental to effective and ethical social work practice. This understanding must be nurtured by curiosity, critical reflection, and, above all, a lifelong love for learning. May this edition inspire us to question, explore innovate, and grow as learners and practitioners, while strengthening our commitment to building a more just, inclusive, and compassionate society.

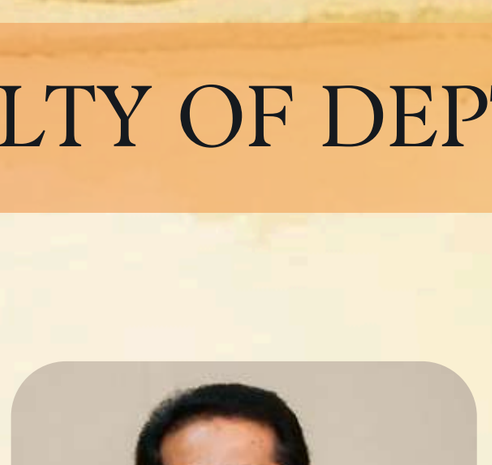
My best wishes to the editorial team, faculty members, and students for bringing out yet another meaningful edition!

Ms. Sherin Jacob
Coordinator, Department of Social Work

FACULTY OF DEPT. OF MSW



Rev.Fr.Joseph S
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Ms.Beulah Praisy V.
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DEPARTMENTAL LEVEL PROGRAMMES

KNOWLEDGE ENRICHMENT SESSION: CHARTING ONE'S PATH AS AN ENTREPRENEUR

The Department of Social Work, in association with the Institution Innovation Council of St. Claret College (Autonomous), organized a knowledge enrichment session titled "Charting One's Path as an Entrepreneur" on 14 November 2025 at the Mother Teresa Conference Hall.



The session featured Ms. Aishwarya Augustine Toppo, Founder and CEO of Madonna's Sustainable Decors, as the resource person. The programme was organized to provide students with insights into entrepreneurship and the journey of establishing a business.

Students from the MSW, M.Com, and B.A. programmes, along with faculty members, were part of the target audience. The session reflected the institution's commitment to fostering innovation, creativity, and entrepreneurial thinking among students.

INTERNATIONAL CHILD RIGHTS DAY COMMEMORATION

The Department of Social Work, St. Claret College (Autonomous), commemorated International Child Rights Day on 20 November 2025 at the Higher Secondary Education Government School, Siddhartha Nagar.

Organized under the theme “For Every Child, Every Right,” the programme focused on highlighting the importance of child rights and the need to ensure a safe, inclusive, and supportive environment for every child. Students organized activities for children along with educating them on this rights.

The event was coordinated by Dr. Christina H. and Mr. Krishnaunni C. U. and was intended for government school students. The programme reflected the Department of Social Work’s commitment to promoting awareness of children’s rights and strengthenning social responsibility among students.

CERTIFICATE COURSE ON THEATRE AND PUPPETRY FOR SOCIAL ENGAGEMENT

The Department of Social Work, St. Claret College (Autonomous), organized a certificate course on “Theatre and Puppetry for Social Engagement” for the students.

The course included theatre sessions held from 27 to 29 November 2025 and puppetry sessions conducted on 10 and 11 March 2026. With a total duration of 30 hours, the programme was conducted at the A.P.J. Abdul Kalam Auditorium. Students actively participated in the sessions and had performed for events based on the theatre and puppetry across various occasions.





The course aimed to introduce students to theatre and puppetry as creative tool for communication, awareness generation, and social engagement. Through these artistic approaches, students were provided with opportunities to explore innovative methods of connecting with communities and addressing social concerns.

The programme was coordinated by Dr. Christina R., Head of Department and Associate Professor, and Ms. Beulah Praisy V., Assitant Professor.

WORLD AIDS DAY: SUPPORT POSITIVE GATHERING



The Department of Social Work, St. Claret College (Autonomous), actively participated in a World AIDS Day Support Positive Gathering held at the Support Care Centre, Sumanahalli, on 1 December 2025.

Organized under the theme “Overcoming Disruption, Transforming the AIDS Response.” the programme focused on promoting awareness, solidarity, and support for people living with HIV and AIDS. Students gathered at St. Joseph Convent High School before proceeding to the venue, where they participated in an awareness rally.

The event was organized in association with community-based organizations, including the HOPE Anti-Addiction Action Group. Through the rally and collective activities, students pledged their commitment to advocating for the rights and dignity of people living with HIV/AIDS.

The gathering emphasized the importance of compassion, collective action, awareness, and community support in creating an inclusive and stigma-free society. The participation of the Social Work Department reflected the students’ commitment to social responsibility and community engagement.

COMMUNITY HEALTH PROGRAMME

A knowledge enrichment Community Health Programme was organized on 04 December 2025 in association with the Society for Community Health Awareness, Research and Action (SOCHARA).

The programme was scheduled from 9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. and was coordinated by Ms. Beulah Praisy V. It was intended for first and second-year MSW students. It provided an opportunity for students to engage with the concept of community health and explore the importance of participatory approaches in addressing health-related concerns.



The programme emphasized the relevance of community awareness, social participation, and collective action in promoting health and well-being. Such initiatives contribute to strengthening students' uderstanding of community-based social work practice.

WORKSHOP ON FUNDAMENTALS OF RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

Dr. S. Rama Gokula Krishnan, Assistant Professor and Dedicated Research Faculty from the Department of Social Work, St. Joseph's University, took a workshop session on "Fundamentals of Research Methodology" on 21 December 2025 as a resource person in MSW classroom at St. Claret College (Autonomous).

The workshop was coordinated by Ms. Sherin Jacob and Dr. Christina R. The programme was designed for first and second-year MSW students and aimed to strengthen their understanding of the fundamental concepts and processes involved in social work research.

Research Methodology plays an important role in developing evidence-based social work practices. Through such academic initiatives, students are encouraged to develop research-oriented thinking and strengthen their capacity to undertake systematic social investigations.

INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS DAY COMMEMORATION

Human rights are central to social work practice as they promote dignity, equality, justice, and social inclusion. Through this initiative, the Department of Social Work sought to emphasize the relevance of human rights awareness in building a more inclusive and equitable society.

The Department of Social Work commemorated International Human Rights Day on 12 December 2025 at St. Claret College Quadrangle. The students put forth a performance on the same at the college quadrangle, which was addressed by Fr. Thomas Thennadiyil.

The programme was organized under the theme "Human Rights, Our Everyday Essentials." The commemoration highlighted the importance of recognizing and protecting human rights in everyday life. The programme was coordinated by Dr. Christina R. and Ms. Beulah Praisy V.



MEDICAL CAMP AT SIDDHARTHA NAGAR

The medical camp was organized for the residents of Siddhartha Nagar on 18 April 2026, from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. The initiative aimed to promote community health and improve access to essential healthcare services for the local residents.

The medical camp brought together doctors from various specialities to provide consultations and health-related guidance to the community. The medical team included two physicians, one orthopaedic specialist, one ENT specialist, one ophthalmologist, one gynaecologist, and one paediatrician.

The availability of doctors from different specilizations enabled residents to seek medical consultations according to their healthcare needs. The iniatiative reflected the Department of Social Work's commitment to community well-being and the promotion of accessible healthcare services.

The medical camp highlighted the importance of community-based healthcare initiatives in addressing health concerns and strengthening the connection between social work and public health.



MEET OUR ALUMNA: AN INTERACTIVE SESSION



An interactive session titlted “Meet Our Alumna” was held on 22 May 2026 at the II MSW Classroom. The session featured Ms. Maria Jessica, Academic Coordinator and Counsellor at Capital International School, as the resource person. The programme was conducted for the first- and second-year MSW students. The session was coordinated by Ms. Sherin Jacob.

The initaitive provided an opportunity for students to connect with an alumna and gain insights into professional experiences and career pathways. Interactions with alumni helped students understand the practical application of social work knowledge and explore opportunities for professional development.

EXPERT SESSION ON TRENDS IN TECHNOLOGY FOR THE SOCIAL SECTOR

An expert session titled “Trends in Technology for Social Sector” was organized for the second and fourth semester MSW students. The session was coordinated by Mr. Krishnaunni C.U.

The session featured Mr. Nagaraj R., from Adept HR Consultants, Bengaluru, as the resource person. The programme was conducted in the II MSW Classroom from 2:00p.m. to 3:15p.m. on June 15, 2026.

The session focused on the relevance of technology in the social sector and its potential role in strengthening professional practices and service delivery. With technological developments increasingly influencing social services, such academic initiatives provide students with opportunities to explore emerging trends and their relevance to social work.

VOICES FOR THE PLANET: PUPPETRY FOR ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS

The PG Department of Social Work of St. Claret College, Bengaluru, celebrated World Earth Day through an engaging puppetry performance focused on environmental awareness. Using creative storytelling, students highlighted the importance of environmental responsibility, sustainability, and collective action.



The activity provide an innovative platform to communicate the impact of everyday choices on the environment. It is also enhanced students' creativity, teamwork, communication, and social awareness while promoting sustainable practices. The initiative reflected the department's commitment to experiential learning and socially relevant practice

Message: "Change begins with us."

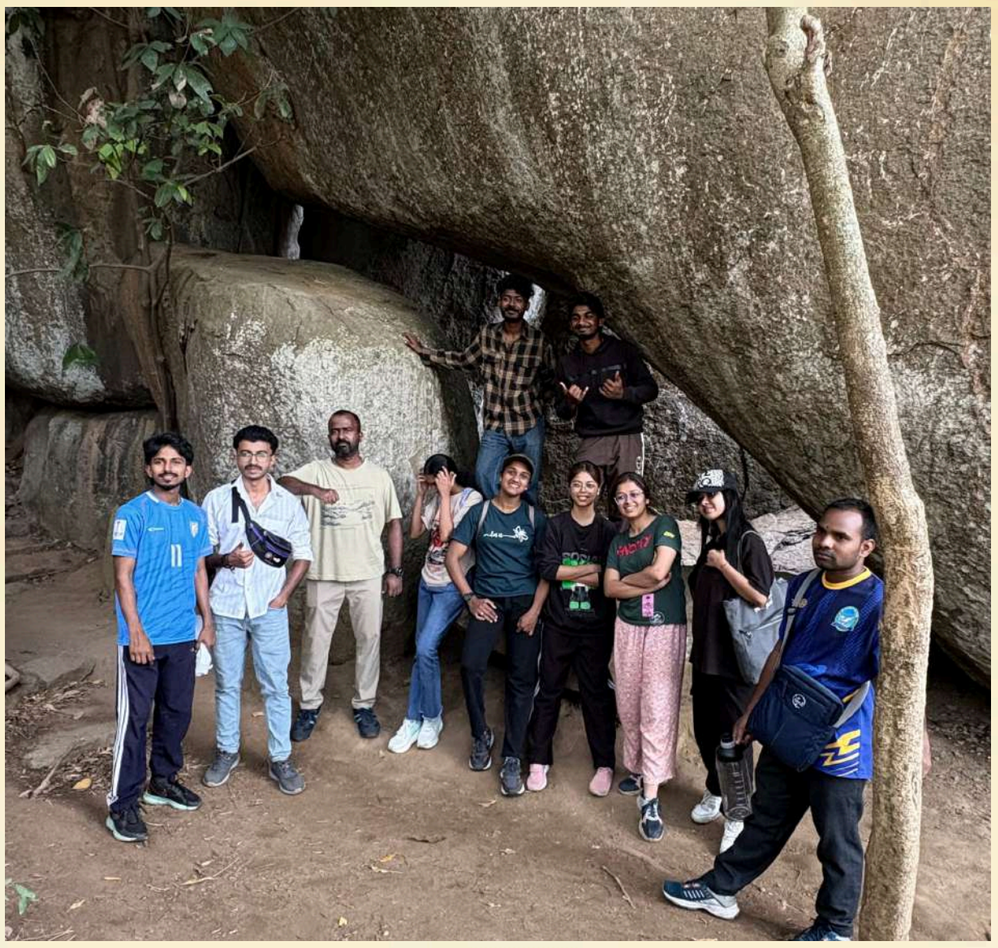
"HOPE IN ACTION: A JOURNEY INTO RURAL COMMUNITY

The Department of Social Work, St Claret College. Bengaluru, II Semester students conducted a week-long rural camp Navachaithanya : Igniting Awareness and Empowering Communities at Doddasomanahalli from 13th to 19th May 2026. The camp provided students with an opportunity to engage closely with the rural community and understand their social realities, needs, and challenges. Through community interactions, awareness activities, surveys, and group programmes, the students actively participated in promoting social awareness an community development. The experience encouraged students to connect classroom learning with practical social work.

It also strengthened their skills in communication, teamwork, leadership, and community participation. The camp was a meaningful journey of learning interaction, awareness, and empowerment, leaving valuable experiences for the students and the community.




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STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS

1. Certificate Course:

Scorers for NPTEL:

- Christina Mary Aby secured consolidated score of 96% in Basic Certificate in Palliative care-2-Elite Gold.
- Ashik Mohan secured consolidated score of 95% in Basic Certificate in Palliative care-2-Elite Gold.
- Nabanita Rabha secured consolidated score of 88% in Basic Certificate in Palliative care-2-Elite Silver.
- Austin Joseph secured consolidated score of 61% in Research Methodology.

2. Paper Presentation and Publications:

- Christina Mary Aby: Presented and Published the research paper on 'BUILDING SUSTAINABLE DEMENTIA CARE THROUGH RECIPROCAL SUPPORT SYSTEMS: A SOCIAL WORK PERSPECTIVE' at Bharathidasan University on January 5, 2026
- Raksha R: Presented and Published the research paper on 'ROLE OF COMMUNITY CAMPS IN BUILDING RESILIENCE AMONG PEOPLE LIVING WITH HIV/AIDS' at Bharathidasan University on January 5, 2026.

3. Sports:

- Goutham V.G. : Secured first position in Inter-departmental Cricket Tournament and second in Javelin Throw.

STUDENT EDITORIAL TEAM



Christina Mary Aby



Nabanita Rabha

FACULTY EDITOR



Mrs. Sherin Jacob