



## CRITERION VII INSTITUTIONAL VALUES AND BEST PRACTICES

### 7.3 - Institutional Distinctiveness

#### 7.3.1 - Highlight the performance of the institution in an area distinct to its priority and thrust (within a maximum of 200 words).

The College of Social Work has been reaching out to vulnerable groups, and diverse populations and responding to contemporary issues through a five-pronged strategy: *fieldwork engagement; networking and advocacy; capacity building; research, and provision of flexible learning pathways.*

#### ***Field engagement***

Through its Fieldwork Practicum, Field action projects (Spandhan, Youth Development Center, Pravas), and research and documentation the College ensures it engages with the communities and obtains grassroots perspectives on the needs of the people. The college utilizes various tools (home visits, observations, social resource mapping); methods (group work, community organization, and work with individuals and families); and research while working with children, adolescents, youth, elderly, women, and elderly.

#### ***Capacity Building***

The college organized a state-level online conference on Child Protection: Concerns and Responses during COVID-19 Pandemic on 4<sup>th</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> October 2021 to identify child protection concerns in the pandemic context, learning about the response of both government and civil society towards addressing those concerns and undertake concerted efforts in the field of child protection at Maharashtra level. As an outcome of the conference, a three-series workshop was organized for functionaries engaged in child protection in Mumbai and Maharashtra. The themes were Child Protection and Child Rights in Crisis Situations including the Covid-19 pandemic: An Overview of Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act 2016 and JJ Rules and Role of Child Welfare Officers in CCIs and significance of Individual Care Plan (ICP).

The Nirmiti Centre for Social Innovation and Entrepreneurship (NCSIE) set up in July 2019 aims to support social entrepreneurship and offer academic programs where the students, immediately after graduation, get the guidance, mentoring, physical space, and a network for funding and value-based collaboration. The E-Cell (Students Club) is an Idea Club initiative of NCSIE that aims to



foster the spirit of entrepreneurship amongst students enrolled in the Cell. Various events organized by the cell include regular elective courses, add-on courses, entrepreneurship development programmes, and faculty development programme.

### ***Networking and advocacy***

**Group Grief Intervention programme:** The college under the leadership of Dr. Smita Bammidi organized a Group Grief Intervention programme (November 2021 - February 2022). The group grief interventions were initiated to create a support group for students at the college to facilitate grief/bereavement suffered due to the loss of loved ones, loss of job, financial crisis, or loss of any kind caused due to the Covid-19 pandemic. This intervention was organized in collaboration with AMITA an organization that is part of the platform PERLSSS. The intervention demonstrated rapport and trust building, sharing, processing, relooking, and resolving the grief in ways unique to an individual.

**Saksham Project:** The National AIDS Control Organisation and National TB Elimination Program (Primary Recipients) have received funds from Global Fund for strengthening the national level efforts in addressing HIV/ AIDS and TB. The primary recipients have roped in Tata Institute of Social Sciences (Sub Recipient) partnered with five regional institutes for capacity building and evaluation (Sub-Sub Recipients) divided into five zones- east, north, south, west, and central. The college is responsible for the west zone which includes the State of Goa, Karnataka, Maharashtra, and the District of Mumbai. The two projects undertaken through Saksham are (a) Saksham Pramaan- Evaluation of HIV/ AIDS Targeted Intervention (TI) & Link Workers' Scheme (LWS); and (b) Saksham Pravaah- Capacity Building of the National TB Elimination Programme (NTEP) staff on psycho-social aspects of TB and counselling.

**Certificate Course in Bio-Medical Ethics 2021-2022 by F.I.A.M.CBio-Medical Ethics** *Centre in collaboration with the college* provided an enriching platform for thought-provoking deliberations on philosophical, social, and legal issues arising in medicine and the life sciences concerned with human life and well-being. Designed on the lines of the Master of Global Ethics- Online Program (UNESCO Chair on Bioethics and Human Rights) the course dealt with the respect for the sanctity of life, the integrity of the human being, and the protection of health from conception to natural death, considering the person in his [or her] singularity, always as an end and never simply as a means. The nine modules, with four topics in each module, provided insightful knowledge dissemination and provoked dialogue and reflection.



The College organises the Global Campus online Peace education programme initiated by the Programme of Tokyo University of Foreign Studies, Japan in partnership with four other universities in South Asia- the Gadjah Mada University (Universitas Gadjah Mada), Indonesia, the Pannasastra University of Cambodia, the Peradeniya University, Sri Lanka, Quaid- Azam University, Islamabad, and the Islamic University of Science and Technology, Srinagar, India.

*Provision of flexible learning pathways.*

The College of Social Work through its Extension Center has been providing flexible learning pathways and offering learning opportunities, capacity building, and training programmes for people of all age groups. Some of its pioneering courses include the Certificate Course for senior citizens and the paraprofessional certificate programme.

Research and Development: This year the research unit has contributed to various research studies such as Evaluation of the Effectiveness of Interventions and Contributions of IJM, Mumbai to Improved Judicial Processes across Maharashtra; Impact Evaluation - MUSKAN Foundation for people with multiple disabilities and Evaluation of UNICEFs Education Programme in India.

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