

**COLLEGE OF SOCIAL WORK (AUTONOMOUS), NIRMALA NIKETAN**

**I. About Us**

The College of Social Work was founded in 1955 by a band of valiant women known as Daughters of the Heart of Mary, whose mission was to readily respond to the felt needs of the people according to the signs of the time. In the years following the Independence of India, the founders – Ms Paiva Couceiro, Ms Collette Galby and Dr Dorothy Baker realized that the nation's struggle for development would be served not so much by sensitive social concern as by insightful committed action. This led to the conceptualization of academic and field intervention programmes to prepare young people to undertake and assist in resolving the existing social problems.

During the 67 years of existence, the College of Social Work has initiated several field-based innovative projects in the areas of children, women, rural, communal harmony, disability, disaster management, dowry, housing, domestic work and other emerging areas of social concern. The college has been awarded the grade of academic excellence by the National Accreditation and Assessment Cell (NAAC) the highest score in all the three cycles. In 2001 the College was awarded a five-star status; in 2007 the College was awarded an A+ with an Institutional Score of 93 percent and in 2015 it was reaccredited (Third Cycle) with A Grade (3.53 CGPA out of 4) valid up to 2022.

On 12th Feb 2019, the University Grants Commission conferred Autonomous Status to the College of Social Work for a period of ten years w.e.f 2019-2020 to 2028-2029. With the Autonomous status, the college planned several initiatives such as add-on credit courses in Art Based Therapy, Advance Research, Media and Communication, Social Entrepreneurships, etc.

On 9<sup>th</sup> July 2019, under the visionary leadership of Dr. Lidwin Dias (Principal), the Nirmiti Centre for Social Innovation and Entrepreneurship was inaugurated, with financial support from RUSA, Maharashtra. Ms. Priya Agrawal, Director of Antarang Foundation was the guest of honour.



Nirmiti in Sanskrit means artistic, creation, or formation. The centre aims to support social entrepreneurship and offer academic programs where the students, immediately after graduation, get guidance, mentoring, physical space and network for funding and value-based collaboration. The Centre is located on the third floor of the College. The Pre-Incubation Meeting Room is available on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor of the college. The centre shall set up an Incubation Unit in 2021 which promotes social start-ups by guiding them right from the stage when social problems are articulated and the possible solutions are proposed, to ensure that these ventures create impactful and sustainable solutions at an appropriate scale.

## **II. Entrepreneurship Awareness**

### *a. Activities Conducted*

- 9<sup>th</sup> July 2019: Awareness Session on Social Entrepreneurship (Journey of Social Entrepreneur) by Ms. Priya Agrawal, Antarang Foundation

### *b. Trainings Participated by Staff*

- Participated in the New India Start-up Conclave 2.0: Entrepreneurship in 100 Transformational Districts, organized by Atal Incubation Centre-Rambav Malgi Probodhini (Supported by Atal Innovation Mission, NITI Aayog), Mumbai, 8th February 2020
- Participated in the Convention on Catalysing Incubation, organized by University of Mumbai, in collaboration with Rashtriya Uchchar Shiksha Abhiyan and Department of Skill Development, Maharashtra, 6th February 2020
- Participated in the Seminar on Social Returns on Investment, organized by Indian Merchant Chamber in association with SP Jain Institute of Management and Research, Mumbai, 17th October, 2019

## **III. Teaching and Learning**

### *a. Add-On Courses*

- For the 2019-2020 batch the college offered an Add-On Course in Social Entrepreneurship. 25 students registered for the course

### *B. Elective Course*

- For the BSW program, 5<sup>th</sup> semester students an elective on Social Entrepreneurship is offered.

### *c. MDP, EDP & FDP*

- The college is planning on hosting a couple of EDPs from 2020-21. Curriculum development for the same has begun.

### *d. Degree Program*

- The college is planning to offer a MA Program in Social Innovation and Entrepreneurship from 2022-23 batch. Curriculum development is underway.

## **IV. Infrastructure & Student Support Facilities**

### *a. E-Cell (Students Club)*

E-Cell (Students Club) is an initiative of the Nirmiti Centre for Social Innovation and Entrepreneurship that aims to foster the spirit of entrepreneurship amongst the students at College of Social Work. Currently Ms. Irene is the Faculty In-Charge of the E Cell. Below are some of the activities that will encourage students to foray into the field of innovation and business:

- Sessions:
  1. On 23rd July 2019, there Development of an Idea by Mr. Amitabh, Unlimited India.
  2. On 16th July 2019, there was a session on Lateral & Design Thinking by Ms. Alison Rosario, Salt & Light Foundation.

3. On 17th September 2019, there was a session on Goal Setting and Mentoring by Ms. Sharon D'souza, Emotional Intelligence Consultant.
- Students Day Out (Students spend time with an Entrepreneur/ Enterprise- for a day):
    1. On 3rd October 2019 there was an exposure Visit of Students to field sites of Antarang Foundation (Social Enterprise).
    2. On 5th October 2019, there was de-briefing on the visit
  - Bootcamp
    1. On 27th August, a Workshop on Business Plan was conducted by Mr. Vinod Noronha, Supreme Industries
  - Pitch
 

On 1st October 2019, there was a session on Elevator Pitch by Dr. Ronald Yesudhas, Faculty Member, CSWNN



*b. Pre-Incubation Meeting Room*

The incubations stages comprised of a) Pre-incubation Stage (3-6 months) b) Incubation Stage (6-12 months) c) Accelerator Stage (3-6 months). Pre-incubation stage mainly focuses on ideation, where students having a potential innovative idea can be provided with a co-working space. During this period, the potential entrepreneur develops the idea to into a 'proof of concept' and prepares understanding the technical feasibility of the idea proposed. The college offers safe space for meeting of potential entrepreneurs in the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor. Once a marketable service/product idea gets evolved, a company/ non-profit can be formed and the students will be referred for Incubation Stage.

*c. Incubation Unit*

Incubation Unit shall be fully functional from July 2021. Incubation stage will be 6-12 months where start-up companies/ non-profits graft product / service development and prepare themselves for marketing.

During the incubation stage, the entrepreneur brings all his/her efforts (such as technology, team, seed money) to build a market viable prototype (MVP's). IAU offers a wide array of value-added services to speed up the incubation cycle. Accelerator stage will be of 3-6 months, and this will be a business tools box and a holistic business advisory service, resembling the traditional management consulting or mentoring, but adjusted to fit for the start-ups. The focus of the accelerator stage shall be on rapid growth and to sort out all organizational, operational, financial and strategic difficulties that may be facing the business through a highly systematic approach.

*d. Staff*

The college has nominated the following staff for Nirmiti Centre for Social Innovation and Entrepreneurship:

<i>Mr. Cletus Zuzarte</i>	<i>Assistant Professor-cum-Coordinator</i>
<i>Ms. Irene Tayasheree</i>	<i>Assistant Professor</i>

*e. External Experts/ Agencies for Mentorship*

The College is associated with the following organizations:

- Atal Incubation Centre-Rambav Malgi Probodhini
- Rashtriya Uchcharat Shiksha Abhiyan, Maharashtra
- Indian Merchant Chamber
- Navyuvak Entrepreneurs
- Connecting Dreams Foundation

*f. Community/Social Innovation Projects*

The College has always been keenly aware of the need to provide relevant and effective services to people, especially in those areas where services are inadequate or non-existent. Over the years, therefore, many innovative projects were initiated to address the needs of vulnerable groups such as street children, construction workers, children of commercial sex workers, tribals in remote areas and other similar groups. Our main field innovation projects include Prerana, Vatsalya, Vasundhara, Sakhya, Setu, Pratham, Nirman, Salokha, Ankur, etc. Some of these projects have moved on to become independent NGOs and continue to contribute to the development of these groups today.

The current social innovation projects of the college are:

- *Anubhav*: mobilizes youth in order to equip them with skills of social responsibilities and self-awareness. It aspires to build a cadre of youth leaders. Anubhav conducts training programmes, exposure visits, camps and exchange programmes to meet its objectives and make youth responsible citizens.
- *Spandan*: focuses on tribal issues in Talaserry (rural area in Palghar district). It works on improving nutrition, health and inclusion
- *Pravas*: organises senior citizens to secure their rights and wellbeing through a series of community-based activities

## **V. Support for Ventures**

Nirmiti Centre for Social Innovation and Entrepreneurship is in touch with the CSR Committee of Indian Merchant Chamber for supporting ventures. A formal MoU may be done in the forthcoming academic years.

## **VI. Fund/Investment Mobilized**

Rashtriya Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyan (RUSA) Maharashtra is funding colleges to promote innovation and entrepreneurship.

## **VII. Collaboration for & Co-Creation of I & E**

The College collaborates with various rural and urban development organizations to co-create entrepreneurship ecosystems. Some of the partners in this process includes ISS Jeevandara, Kolad and Community College, Thalasseri

## **VIII. Intellectual Property/ Creative Commons Licensing**

In the next academic year, the college will work on creating modules for EDP and MDP programs. These modules will be available online as open source materials under creative commons licensing