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NAAC accredited 'A+' grade (CGPA 3.46)

21<sup>st</sup> Samanwaya  
11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> March, 2024

*International Conference on:*

**“RISE AGAINST CHILD TRAFFICKING: PROTECT RIGHTS AND FUTURE OF CHILDREN”**

*Organized by*

**Dept. of Social Work, BCM College, Kottayam  
in association with Johannesburg University, South Africa,  
Kadambari Memorial College, Nepal,  
CSRD ISWR Ahmednagar,  
KAPS, INPSWA**

**Concept Note**

## **Introduction**

Bishop Chulaparambil Memorial (BCM) College, situated in the heart of Kottayam, was founded in 1955 and stands as one of the esteemed institutions affiliated with Mahatma Gandhi University, Kottayam, Kerala, India. Since 2003, the Department of Social Work, BCM College Kottayam has been organizing an annual event called **Samanwaya**, which means **"the blend of all."** This gathering brings together social work students, educators, scholars, and practitioners from various parts of the country and abroad. The objective is to promote a deeper understanding of contemporary perspectives, fostering stimulating and thought-provoking discussions. Samanwaya takes the form of a National/International Social Work students meet and capacity building program, providing valuable insights for both students and practitioners in related fields. The Department of Social Work maintains a robust affiliation with the Kerala Association of Professional Social Workers (KAPS), which is affiliated with the International Federation of Social Workers (IFSW) through Indian Network of Professional Social Workers Association (INPSWA).

## **Samanwaya 2024; 21<sup>st</sup> Edition**

Since 2008, Samanwaya has dedicated significant focus to the exploration of contemporary issues concerning children and the development of intervention strategies. This thematic emphasis has emerged from practical experience gained by the Social Work Department. In the current year, Samanwaya is once again being conducted in collaboration with KAPS, INPSWA and various other organizations dedicated to child welfare. The overarching theme for this year's event centers on **“Rise against child trafficking: Protect rights and future of children”** reflecting a broader perspective on addressing the well-being of children.

## **Theme of Samanwaya 2024; 21<sup>st</sup> Edition:**

**“RISE AGAINST CHILD TRAFFICKING: PROTECT RIGHTS AND FUTURE OF CHILDREN”**

Child protection entails ensuring the safety and well-being of children by preventing violence, exploitation, abuse, and neglect. Article 19 of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child establishes the necessity of safeguarding children within and outside their homes. "Child rights represent the fundamental liberties and inherent entitlements of individuals below the age of 18," and these rights are

applicable regardless of a child's gender, caste, race, colour, or other characteristics. To effectively uphold children's right to protection, it is crucial to adopt a distinct perspective on children and their needs.

In light of the continually increasing incidents of child abuse and neglect, it becomes evident that our global community needs to allocate more time and resources towards the welfare of children. Undoubtedly, children constitute an invaluable asset for every nation and form an essential pillar of human civilization. Ensuring the protection of children from potential adversities is of paramount significance. Every child inherently possesses the fundamental right to thrive within a secure and inclusive setting, free from any potential harm or adversity.

All children have the inherent right to a happy and dignified childhood, free from violence, exploitation, neglect, deprivation, and discrimination. India, as a youthful nation, boasts a child population of over 444 million, constituting nearly 40% of its total population. Protecting this substantial demographic isn't just a matter of upholding their human rights; it is also an investment in building a strong and prosperous nation. The Indian Constitution recognizes children as equal rights holders and places their protection and well-being as a top priority. Additionally, India is a signatory to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC), which has led to the establishment of a robust legal framework for the protection of children.

Child trafficking refers to the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harboring or receipt of children through the use of force, coercion, abduction, fraud or deception, for the purpose of exploitation. In India, child trafficking is a significant problem with an estimated 2 lakh children trafficked annually for various forms of exploitation including forced labour and sexual exploitation.

This legal framework includes various acts such as the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act 2015, the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act 2012, the Pre-Conception and Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques (PCPNDT) Act 1994, the Commission for Protection of Child Rights Act 2005, the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act 2009, the Prohibition of Child Marriage Act 2006, the Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Amendment Act 2016, the trafficking of persons (prevention, Protection and rehabilitation) Bill 2018.

Despite these legal provisions, India still faces a significant challenge in combating all forms of child abuse and violation of child rights. In fact, India has the highest number of child laborers in the 5-17 age groups in absolute terms, as per the International Labour Organization (ILO) report titled 'Child Labour in South Asia.' This challenge necessitates a comprehensive and coordinated policy approach. The current policy leverages the safeguards embedded in India's Constitution, various child-centric legislations, international agreements, and existing policies dedicated to the protection and welfare of children. Its primary goal is to establish a safe and nurturing environment for all children by addressing and preventing child abuse, exploitation, and neglect. This policy serves as a guiding framework for institutions, organizations (including corporations and media houses), government entities, and private sector actors to understand their collective and individual responsibilities in safeguarding and promoting the well-being of children.

The world has entered a "new normal," and the changes in daily life have a substantial impact on children. Children are sensitive to the stress levels in their environment. To address this new era effectively, it is crucial to enhance child protection based on children's rights, starting from parents and extending to family, community, and government involvement during the pandemic. In this endeavor, social workers play a pivotal role in child protection compared to other professionals. The discussions and knowledge sharing during a three-day conference can provide valuable insights into the child protection issues that society is likely to face in the coming decade. This knowledge can empower professionals to work towards safeguarding children's rights and ensuring their proper development. The

Samanwaya platform is an excellent forum for sharing thoughts on various aspects of child protection, with the participation of distinguished professionals.

Child protection is a matter of paramount importance for all nations across the world. All United Nations member countries are committed to safeguarding children's rights, as per the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC). While government initiatives and policies related to child protection have yielded positive results, creating an overall protective environment for children in our society remains a challenge. Various reports from government bodies and organizations indicate an increasing number of child abuse cases.

The role of professional social workers is especially relevant in addressing this issue. Social workers bear a significant responsibility for child protection compared to other professionals. It is crucial to thoroughly understand the existing child protection systems and critically analyze them to suggest measures for improvement. In this context, the theme of this year's Samanwaya conference is **“Rise against child trafficking: protect rights and future of children”**

### **Objectives of Samanwaya (Expected outcome)**

- a) To create a platform for professional Social Workers and Students to meet and share their experience and views.
- b) To provide chances for sharing knowledge and thereby academic improvement.
- c) To learn innovative models and experiences in the field of child protection & child rights at regional/ national/international levels.
- d) To create forum to showcase creative talents and innovative strategies in working for a relevant social cause.

**21<sup>st</sup> Samanwaya** is organized with a series of online and offline events. There are programmes for Social Work practitioners, Social Work students, School students and public. The events comprise of the following:-

#### **A. International Conference on 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> March, 2024**

Join us for a session focusing on **“Rise against child trafficking: protect rights and future of children”** where we will have panel discussions and paper presentations on various sub-themes on 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> March, 2024. The paper presentation opportunities are open to professionals in the field of Social Work (including educators, research scholars, and practitioners), students, as well as individuals from other disciplines. These presentations will cover a range of relevant sub-themes.

### **Subthemes**

- **Child trafficking and child rights**
- **Challenges to child rights in present decade**
- **Child Rights and Cultural Diversity**
- **Child rights and community involvement**
- **Child abuse and digital society**
- **Technology and child trafficking: risks, challenges and solutions**
- **Role of media and advocacy in combating child trafficking**
- **Gender perspectives in child trafficking: unveiling disparities and solutions**
- **Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and Child Rights**
- **Child Labour and exploitation in Indian society**
- **Social Responsibility in Child Protection**
- **Child rights in crisis: addressing Substance Abuse and illicit trafficking**
- **Juvenile crimes and child trafficking: interventions and preventive approaches**
- **Indigenous Social Work practices in working with children**
- **Disaster and Child Rights: Resilience, Recovery, and Rebuilding**

- **Impacts of domestic violence on children: Mental Health, Trauma, and Healing**
- **Children on the Move: Migration, Identity, and Integration**
- **Role of parents in preventing child trafficking: nurturing resilience and awareness**
- **CSR initiatives in child protection**
- **Extension programmes/ field action projects/ field work initiatives of Social Work Departments/ Social Work practice on child related areas and other areas of social practice**

The abstracts of the papers (typed in Times New Roman font in MS –Word format, not exceeding 250 words) should reach the organizers at [bcmsamanwayaacademic@gmail.com](mailto:bcmsamanwayaacademic@gmail.com) on or before **15<sup>th</sup> February 2024**. The selection of abstracts will be intimated within 2-3 days of submission. Submission of full paper **on or before 1<sup>st</sup> March 2024**. Papers can be presented during specific sessions allotted to each presenter using power point or through posters. Selected papers will be published in the conference proceedings or in ‘**Educere-the BCM journal of social work**’ (ISSN 2249-1090), a peer reviewed biannual journal published since 2005. A Copy of compendium of abstracts will be sent to all online participants. There will be a ‘**Best Dissertation Award**’ for the best dissertation done by **MSW students of 2021- 2023 Batch** on child related topics.

### **B. Social Work Students' Meet**

Theme based competitive events of social work students on themes related to the main theme “**Rise against child trafficking: protect rights and future of children**” on **11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> of March, 2024**. In an effort to work towards the cause, *21<sup>st</sup> Samanwaya* welcomes entries for participation in the following events that contribute substantially towards addressing the issue. The details for the events are attached.

- 1 Academic Poster Presentation Competition**
- 2 Debate Competition**
- 3 Street Play Competition**
- 4 Short video making Competition**
- 5 Extempore Photography Competition**
- 6 Best Student Social worker Competition**

There will be extempore events mingling students of social work from various colleges (**Rules and regulations of the competitions events will be intimated shortly**).

### **Registration Fee details:**

|   | Students      | Practitioners<br>(including educators) | KAPS Members  |               |
|---|---------------|--|---------------|---------------|
|   |               |  | Students      | Practitioners |
| <b>Participation Only</b>                       | <b>Rs.550</b> | <b>Rs.650</b>                          | <b>Rs.500</b> | <b>Rs.650</b> |
| <b>Participation with<br/>per Presentations</b> | <b>Rs.650</b> | <b>Rs.750</b>                          | <b>Rs.600</b> | <b>Rs.700</b> |

Low budget accommodation (Dormitory) is available for Rs.150 per day. Those who require low budget accommodation may please add accommodation details and fees along with registration form. Nominal accommodation only will be provided. Participants who need better accommodation may contact the organizers. For overseas participants: Registration fee for SAARC countries Rs.2000 INR (\$ 23 appx) and for other countries Rs. 3000 INR (\$ 35 appx) without accommodation. Registration for the event can be done by filling the Google form (attached). <https://forms.gle/MvvsTJ37jcRAeiRR9>

Registration fees can be paid to A/c No. 67122168742, State Bank of India, Kottayam Town Branch (IFS Code: SBIN0070102), Thirunakkara South, Kottayam (Name of account holder: Dept. of Social Work, BCM College, Kottayam). Registration can be done by using the given online Google form link <https://forms.gle/MvvsTJ37jcRAeiRR9> along with the payment reference number.

### **Distribution of Certificates**

All the registered participants will get the certificates and for online participants certificates will be send through registered post (within India only). Winners of competitions will get Certificates, Trophy and Cash Awards. For group events certificate of all the members in the team will be distributed. Overseas participants will get soft copy of the certificate or e-certificate by email.

## **Associates of 21<sup>st</sup> Samanwaya**

### **Dept. of Social Work & Social Development, Johannesburg University, South Africa**

The department of Social Work and Social Development is housed in the faculty of Humanities at the Auckland Park Campus of the University of Johannesburg. UJ is the only South African university listed in world universities 2021. It offers a comprehensive range of academic programmes at undergraduate and postgraduate levels. UJ consistently climbs QS university ranking for its consummate global academic and research performance.

### **Kadambari Memorial College of Science and Management**

Kadambari Memorial College of Science and Management was established in the year 2005 with a vision 'AppaDippoBhawa' meaning "Be your Own Light" Kadambari Memorial College is the second college of social work in Nepal and first college of Purbanchal University to offer bachelor of Social Work program. It is in process of beginning Master in Social Work in near future. The course followed the generic framework to develop entry level. Kadambari Memorial College has built its linkages with national and international schools of social work and organization of social work. It is a member of United Academic Impact (UAI), International Association of School of Social work (IASSW), Asia Pacific University Community Engagement Network (APUCEN). The college has partnerships with many different universities and colleges around the globe.

### **CSRD ISWR Ahmadnagar**

Centre for Studies in Rural Development (CSRD), Institute of Social Work & Research, Ahmednagar is one of the pioneer institutions in community extension and social work education in India. It was established in 1961. It is managed and run by Bhaskar Pandurang Hiwale Education (BPHE) Society, Ahmednagar. The Institute is affiliated to University of Pune and recognized by UGC under Section 2 (f) and 12 (b) of the UGC Act, 1956. The Institute is aided by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Govt. of Maharashtra.

### **KAPS (Kerala Association of Professional Social Workers)**

KAPS is the registered association of professional social workers in Kerala. KAPS is affiliated to IFSW (International Federation of Social Workers) through INPSWA (India Network of Professional Social Work Associations). KAPS has chapters in all districts of Kerala. Details of KAPS are available at [www.kaps.org.in](http://www.kaps.org.in).

### **INPSWA**

INPSWA is a network of seven professional social workers associations that are functioning in India, namely ISPSW, NAPSWI, KAPSW, KAPS, PSWA, BASW and PSWAJK. Various services to members include professional knowledge and practice sharing sessions, developing conceptual framework in social work education and practice, creating a distinct identity for professional social workers, promoting standards and status of professional social workers, support to research , regular lecture meetings, debates and discussions , conducting seminars and conferences to encourage members to write and present papers based on their work and good practices in social work.

**Contact for details:**

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