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NAAC accredited 'A+' grade (CGPA 3.46)

23rd SAMANWAYA
27, 28 (offline) and 29 (online) January, 2026

International Conference on:
“Compassionate Intelligence for Child Protection”

Organized by
Department of Social Work, BCM College, Kottayam
our associates
Kadambari Memorial College, Nepal
University of Johannesburg, South Africa,
KAPS, INPSWA
Concept Note

Introduction

Bishop Chulaparambil Memorial (BCM) College, established in 1955 and located in the heart of Kottayam, is a distinguished institution affiliated with Mahatma Gandhi University, Kottayam, Kerala, India. Since 2003, the Department of Social Work, BCM College has been hosting **Samanwaya**, an annual event signifying "**the blend of all.**" This platform brings together Social Work students, educators, scholars, and practitioners from across the nation and internationally, fostering meaningful discussions on contemporary perspectives. 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 robust affiliation with the Kerala Association of Professional Social Workers (KAPS), which is affiliated with the International Federation of Social Workers (IFSW) through the India Network of Professional Social Workers' Associations (INPSWA).

SAMANWAYA 2026; 23rd Edition

Since 2008, Samanwaya has concentrated on examining modern challenges affecting children and devising effective intervention strategies. This year, Samanwaya is being conducted in association with Kadambari Memorial College, Nepal, Johannesburg University, South Africa, KAPS, INPSWA and various other organizations dedicated to child welfare. The event centres on the theme **“Compassionate Intelligence for Child Protection”** reflecting a broader perspective on addressing the well-being of children.

Theme of Samanwaya 2026: 23rd Edition:

“COMPASSIONATE INTELLIGENCE FOR CHILD PROTECTION”

Children are the bedrock of any society, and safeguarding their rights, dignity, and well-being is essential for building a just and equitable nation. In India, where millions of children continue to face entrenched vulnerabilities, the principles of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) survival, development, protection, and participation serve as a compelling reminder that every child deserves a safe, nurturing, and enabling environment.

Yet, despite legislative progress and growing awareness, India continues to grapple with serious issues related to child rights violations. Alarming levels of child abuse, physical, sexual, and emotional along with widespread neglect, trafficking, child labour, early marriage, and digital exploitation highlight the urgent need for strengthened protection mechanisms. Marginalized groups, including children from economically disadvantaged backgrounds, tribal communities, migrant families, and children with disabilities, face heightened risks of exclusion and harm. Ensuring social inclusion is therefore not merely desirable but indispensable, allowing all children to access education, healthcare, justice, and opportunities for meaningful participation in society.

India has established a strong legal and policy framework to address these challenges. Key legislations such as the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, and the Right to Education Act reflect the nation's commitment to safeguarding children from abuse and exploitation while promoting their holistic development. However, effective implementation, adequate resources, and coordinated action remain essential to translate these rights into everyday realities for every child.

While political, legal and governmental interventions are necessary, they are not enough. Compassionate intelligence leading to mindful actions must be integrated to promote ethical selfless and mindful problem solving (Kailash Satyarthi).

Social workers, positioned at the frontline of child protection systems, play an indispensable role in identifying risks, supporting survivors, strengthening families, and advocating for systemic reforms. Their expertise is vital in bridging gaps between policy and practice, ensuring that interventions are trauma-informed, culturally sensitive, and grounded in child rights principles.

The Samanwaya conference, with its theme "**Compassionate Intelligence for Child Protection**," provides a timely and critical platform to address these pressing concerns. By bringing together trainees, academics, and practitioners, it encourages robust dialogue on child rights violations, child abuse trends, challenges in India's child protection systems, and strategies

for promoting compassionate intelligence. Such collective efforts pave the way toward a future where every child in India grows up free from violence, discrimination, and fear and where no child is left behind.

.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.

23rd 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 27th and 28th January, 2026

Join us for a session focusing on “**Compassionate Intelligence for Child Protection**” where we will have panel discussions and paper presentations on various sub-themes on **27th and 28th January, 2026** (offline). 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. There will be provision for presenters from outside Kerala/India for **online** presentation on **29th Jan 2026**.

Subthemes

- 1. Humanitarian Compassion for Homeless Children: Challenges, Advocacy and Support Systems**
- 2. Social Inclusion of Children in Contemporary Society**
- 3. Child Protection Policies and Programmes: Critical Analysis**
- 4. Child Rights and Safety in the Digital Age**
- 5. Child Abuse: Multidisciplinary Strategies and Social Work Interventions.**
- 6. Community Resilience Models for Vulnerable Children**
- 7. Inclusive Education as a Compassionate Pathway for Children with Disabilities**
- 8. Media Representation and Compassionate Communication for Children’s safety**
- 9. Children on the Move: Migration, Identity and Social Integration**
- 10. Sustainable Development Goals and Child Rights**
- 11. Climate and Environmental Safety as a Fundamental Child Right**

12. Indigenous Social Work Practices in Supporting Children

13. Disaster-Responsive Compassion: Child Rights in Resilience, Recovery and Rebuilding Phases

14. Juvenile Delinquency: Prevention, Rehabilitation and Reintegration

15. Emerging Challenges to Child Rights in a Rapidly Changing Society

16. Social Responsibility and Empathy to Strengthen Child Rights

17. 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 300 words) can be submitted at bcmsamanwayaacademic@gmail.com from **10th December 2025 to 10th January 2026**. The selection of abstracts will be intimated within one week of submission. Submission of full paper (in APA 7 style) has to be done on or before **20th January 2026**. 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. After acceptance of abstract, confirmation of paper presentation will be given after participant register for the conference.

B. Social Work Students' Meet

Theme based competitive events of Social Work students on themes related to the main theme **“Compassionate Intelligence for Child Protection”** on **27th and 28th January, 2026**. In an effort to work towards the cause, **23rd 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 Best Student Social Worker Competition**
- 5 Community Based Competition**
- 6 Theme Based Exhibition**
- 7 Extempore Competition**

There will be extempore events mingling students of Social Work from various colleges **(Rules and regulations of the competition events will be intimated shortly)**.

Registration Fee details:

	Students	Practitioners (including educators)	KAPS Members (including educators)	
			Students	Practitioners
Participation Only	Rs.550	Rs.700	Rs.500	Rs.650
Participation with paper presentations	Rs.650	Rs.800	Rs.600	Rs.700

Registration fee does not include accommodation. Low budget accommodation (Dormitory) is available for Rs.160 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 (\$ 25 appx) (Rs. 1500 INR for students) and for other countries Rs. 3000 INR (\$ 35 appx) (Rs. 2500 INR for students) with moderate food, without accommodation. Registration for the event can be done by filling the Google form (attached). <https://forms.gle/r1LrkqCSNK7e4Gk66>

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/r1LrkqCSNK7e4Gk66> along with the payment reference number.

Distribution of Certificates

All the registered participants will get the certificates. For those participating online and presenting papers, certificates will be sent through registered post (within India only). Winners of competitions will get certificates, trophy and cash awards. For group events certificates of all the members in the team will be distributed. Overseas online participants will get soft copy of the certificate or e-certificate by email.

Associates of 23rd Samanwaya**Kadambari Memorial College of Science and Management**

Kadambari Memorial College of Science and Management was established in the year 2005 with a vision 'Appa Dippo Bhawa' 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 organizations of Social Work. It is a member of United Academic Impact (UAI), International Association of School of Social Work (IASSW) and Asia Pacific University Community Engagement Network (APUCEN). The college has partnerships with many different universities and colleges around the globe.

Department 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. It offers a comprehensive range of academic programmes at undergraduate and postgraduate levels. University of Johannesburg consistently climbs QS university ranking for its consummate global academic and research performance.

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 Workers Associations). KAPS has chapters in all districts of Kerala. Details of KAPS are available at 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, PSWAJK and OPSWA. 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.

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