

Loyola College (Autonomous)

Chennai – 600 034.

Department of Social Work

Two Day National Conference on

“Social Work Response to Contemporary Social Issues - An Insight”

Date: February 12 & 13, 2018

Time: 9.00 AM to 5.00 PM

Venue: LS Hall



Ms. Teesta Setelvad, addressing the gathering

Ms. Teesta Setelvad was the key note speaker of the inauguration ceremony. She highlighted on how we cannot achieve political equity when there is a lack of social and economical equity in our country. She also emphasized on how we have to gain collective understanding about our history and civilization.

The first session was on Honor Killing by Mr. Kathir – Executive Director Evidence Human Rights Activist. He shared various honor killing cases and judgments given for it. As he told that people respect caste more than God, Judgment and justice is based on people’s color, place, caste and influence. In order to stop honor killing changes have to be made on judiciary level. The justifications of caste based murders are more and most of the people remain silent on these social issues. It is important to break this silence.



Dr. Suresh addressing the gathering

The second session was on Welfare state and its relevance in present Indian scenario: Dr. Suresh - General Secretary of PUCL. He mainly focused on how the underprivileged are deprived of their rights. He also made us think on how our rights to question our identity is being shaped by political forces. He also spoke on our Constitutional Right and Directive principles.



Dr. SP Udaya Kumar delivering the speech on Environmental Ethics

The third session was on environmental by Dr. SP Udaya Kumar, writer and Anti-Nuclear activist from Tamil Nadu. He focused on Environmental, racism, degradation and fascism. He emphasized on the importance of public hearing in

terms of decision making. It helped us to understand on how we are part of nature and we should protect it as it protects us.



Dr. Claudia enlightening the gathering on human rights

The fourth session was on Gender Justice by Dr. Claudia, She is the Head of Department of Social Work COBURD University of Applied Science, Germany. She mainly highlighted on the History of Human Rights, the core of Human Rights, transgender and Intersexual Rights.

Mr. T A Mathew Gunaseelan, who is the General Manager of Indo National Limited, spoke on the topic "Trade Union, Retrenchment and Industrial Relations in the era of Globalization". He spoke about the various factors which affects the Industrial Relations. He explained the causes and effects of the retrenchment with few case studies. He enlightened the gathering on the concept of artificial intelligence which may rule over all the sectors. He also spoke that disruptive environment is becoming a trend everywhere including industries. Mr. P.B. Prince Gajendrababu, the educationist spoke on the topic "Child Friendly Education System". He said that education for NEET/SLET is not an important factor and education has now become a competition. He insisted that education through mother tongue enables the students to think creative. He quoted that Jyothiba Phule, Savithriba Phule, were the first persons to insist on the importance of common education system and education for the girl child. He also spoke about the law of Negation.

Mr. Purna Chander, the assistant manager of Human Capital DP world, Cochin, spoke on the topic "Increasing Suicides among Youth in India". The suicide among youth in India is high especially among women. The age groups of youth from 15 to 29 are widely prone to suicidal tendency. Nowadays youngsters fail to face challenges in work place as well as in their life, and media should also stop glorifying suicide. And finally he ended the speech by offering human solutions to reduce suicides such as a national helpline and every institution must have a counsellor in order to solve the problems of people, etc.

Mr. Sridhar Radhakrishnan, Programme Director of THANAL, works on Environmental health and ethics. He said that 4 lakhs farmers commit suicide and 60% of families are in debt. In Kerala, school children are motivated to cultivate their own food items in order to increase awareness and help them to lead a stress free life. Many pesticides are used in the food causing health risk and social workers need to raise their voice against this.

Dr. Umar Farook, spoke on alternative medicinal system, wherein he said that knowledge should be practiced in the field. Medicine is part of human being. Traditional medicine is now becoming commercialized. Our body is a natural system and we need to listen to our own voices. There was no need to be too dependent on laboratory procedures, which may not be always true.

The Valedictory function was started with the prayer song Followed by Welcome Address given by Prof. Simon. Ms. Harsha Pooja gave the consolidated report of the two day Conference. Dr. Fatima Vasanth, the Deputy Principal gave the key note address Prof. Semmalar introduced the Chief Guest Mr. Bezwada Wilson, National Convenor Safai Karmachari Andolan Hyderabad. Mr. Bezwada Wilson covered three important burning social issues in his valedictory speech which was starvation, inequality, and untouchability. He insisted that these three are the major social evils which should be eradicated. He asked to raise our voice against these social issues and break the disparity between men and women at all levels. He also asked the audience to find five social problems and keep it in mind always and take efforts to do something good for the needy.