

OYSTER

(Organisation of yester year students of Rajagiri College of Social Sciences)

Department of Social Work

Annual Report 2023-24

OYSTER activities for the period:

The Department has initiated Manan Samvaad (Alma Connect) and Vikas Samvaad (NGO Connect) scheduled to be on every Thursday afternoon. The first edition of 2023-24 years was on 08th February 2023 and 7 editions have been rolled out till day. The OYSTER Alumni meet was conducted on 26th January 2023 and 24th February 2024.

ALUMNI Meet

- DAY: Thursday
DATE: 26/01/23

VENUE: ZOOM PLATFORM (ONLINE)

The Alumni meet, OYSTER- Organization of Yester Year Students of Rajagiri College of Social Sciences, "Homecoming Day" of the year 2023, was conducted online on 26th January 2023. It started in 1980 and has functional National Chapters in Trivandrum, Chennai, Bengaluru, and New Delhi and International chapters in Dubai, London, Australia, New Zealand, Singapore, and New York. The welcome address was done by Dr. Fr. Joseph MK, head of the Department of Social Work, and then Mr. Venugopal, president of OYSTER, gave the message, to the crowd. Then the Activities of the department were explained by Dr. Kiran Thampi, assistant professor of, the Department of Social Work. The gathering then celebrated the jubilee of the alumni who completed 10, 25, and 50 years of togetherness. Then an open interaction session was conducted, and Dr. Sr. Sunirose IP was the moderator of the session in which the alumni shared their old memories and about their work life. Then finally, the formal vote of thanks was delivered by Dr. Kiran Thampi, assistant professor of, the Department of social work.



- Date: 24 February 2024
Day: Saturday
Venue: Golden Aureole, RCSS

The Department of Social Work hosted its annual alumni homecoming day, Oyster 2024, on 24 February 2024. After a gap of two years during the time of the Covid-19 pandemic, the event was held in full swing as a hybrid affair. Alumni from around the world participated either online or offline.

The program began, as is tradition, with the Rajagiri anthem, followed by a welcome address by Dr. Nycil Romis Thomas. This was followed by the opening address delivered by Mr. K. Venugopal, President of OYSTER. The day was dedicated to celebrating alumni achievements, with a special felicitation for the golden jubilee batch of 1973, the silver jubilee batch of 1998, and the decennial batch of the BSW program.

Several other dignitaries addressed the gathering. Dr. Fr. Saju M.D, the principal of RCSS, highlighted the college's recent achievements and accreditation. Dr. Binoy Joseph, the ex-secretary of OYSTER, spoke about the social work program's international focus, mentioning initiatives like summer school programs and upcoming collaborations. Dr. Kiran Thampi, the current secretary of OYSTER and the head of the Department of Social Work, elaborated on the valuable support alumni provide through scholarships, participation in board meetings and programs like Manan Samvad and Vikas Samvad. He also mentioned the prestigious collaboration with the University of Edinburgh, which facilitates student and faculty exchange programs.



Manan Samvaad (Alma Connect) and Vikas Samvaad (NGO Connect)

- Date: 8 /02/2023

The 22nd edition of Vikas Samvaad took place on 8 February 2023. The students got the opportunity to interact with Mr. Ranjith Ramachandran, Managing Trustee, Mission Better Tomorrow (MBT). It was the first Vikas Samvaad session to be conducted offline. The welcome address was delivered by Dr. Fr Joseph MK, Head of the Department of Social Work. Mr. Ramachandran spoke about MBT's mission of creating change leaders to create a better tomorrow. He gave a brief history of the establishment of MBT and discussed the various live projects being carried out by MBT including ORC (Our Responsibility to Children), MBT Youth Development Summit (forthcoming), and others.



Rajagiri College of Social Sciences (Autonomous), Kalamassery
Department of Social Work
NGO Connect Discussion Series
VIKAS SAMVAAD #22

SPEAKERS

DR. FR. MK JOSEPH CMI
Head
Department of Social Work

MR. RANJITH RAMACHANDRAN
Ex. CEO of Plant Lipids,
Managing Trustee
Mission Better Tomorrow

VENUE: GOLDEN AUREOLE

8TH FEBRUARY 2023,
WEDNESDAY | 03.00 - 05.00pm

FOR INFORMATION, CONTACT
DR. RAJEEV SP rajeev@rajagiri.edu
MATHEW T JOHN mathewt@rajagiri.edu

- Date: 9/02/2023
Time: 300 PM – 4:30 PM
Participants: 2nd year MSW

The meeting began with the Rajagiri anthem and a formal introduction of the speaker. The speaker of the session was Mr. Asanul Banna, Administration Manager of Hope Cancer Care Foundation, who gave a vivid picture about the functioning of the foundation and the different activities undertaken as part of it. The various provisions included a bag of hope, hope homes for accommodating children during treatments, a bag with necessary provisions for the child, etc. The students interacted with the speaker to know more about the organization



Rajagiri College of Social Sciences (Autonomous), Kalamassery
Department of Social Work
NGO Connect Discussion Series
VIKAS SAMVAAD #23

SPEAKERS

DR. FR. MK JOSEPH CMI
HEAD
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WORK

MR. ASANUL BANNA
ADMINISTRATION MANAGER
HOPE CHILD CANCER CARE
FOUNDATION

9TH FEBRUARY 2023,
THURSDAY | 03.00 - 05.00pm

FOR INFORMATION, CONTACT
DR. RAJEEV SP rajeev@rajagiri.edu
MATHEW T JOHN mathewt@rajagiri.edu



- DATE: 16/02/23

The session started at 3.00 pm on Zoom platform, the speaker of the day was Mr. Ajith K K, Social cum Communication Expert, Kerala Solid Waste Management Project (KSWMP) District Project Management Unit, Idukki. The session mainly included topics about different exams and fellowships that the MSW student can do after the course, which includes UPSC exams, other exams like NABARD, Maharatna Companies navarathna-rural development, Nehru Yuva Kendra, ICMR social scientist, also had details about Kerala PSC, Mahatma Gandhi National Fellowship (MGNF) by IIM, Fellow program in management-IRMA, GATE for humanities and social science. The speaker also explains the pattern of examination: JNMF for EMINENT, UGC NET scholarship, SET, Post-Doctoral Fellowship, Rajiv Gandhi National Fellowship for SC, ST candidates, ICMR Junior research fellowship, Indian Council of Social Science Research, Chief Minister's fellowship program, STSTDD Government of Kerala, and other fellowships provided by NIMHANS. The session concluded at 5.30 pm, with a formal vote of thanks by Reshma Sisil.



- Date: 13th June 2023

Venue: online

The event "Vikas Samvaad was held on 13th June 2023, online. The participants included Barbara W. Shank, Dean and Professor Emerita at the University of St. Thomas, and Dr. Rajeev S.P., Assistant Professor at RCSS, along with the students of BSW and MSW. The program started with a welcome address by Dr. Rajeev S.P., followed by a session conducted by Barbara W. Shank, focusing on IASSW and its student membership programs. The session ended with a Q&A session and a vote of thanks. The feedback received indicated that the session was helpful in learning about IASSW and its student membership programs. Dr. Rajeev S.P. from RCSS was the concerned faculty in charge of the event.



- On 21/09/2023 the Department of Social Work from Rajagiri College of Social Sciences organized An Orientation Programme through the Vikaas Samvad NGO Connect series at Carmel Hall in collaboration with the speaker Ms Keerthana Madhu, (Associate -Bhumi Catalyse, Bhumi Kochi Volunteer Lead) and also with Mr Rameez Nizar, (Mr Kerala 2023, CEO and Founder- The Meribellas and Bhumi Kochi Volunteer as well. The Participants of the session were from the MSW Programme and PGDCSW Programme as well. At 15:18 The Programme commenced with a welcome address from Dr. Kiran Thampi, Head of the Department, of Social Work, Rajagiri College of Social Sciences where he welcomed the gathering At 15:23 Mr. Rameez Nizar shared his volunteering experiences with Bhumi where he volunteered and excelled in many professional and personal development and importance of volunteering. At 15:27 Ms. Keerthana addressed the gathering about the functioning and projects of Bhumi i.e. Catalyse which aims to provide volunteering opportunities to everyone and also Ignite Project as well which is education works she mentioned and invited the students to volunteer for the seed ball programme which is scheduled on 2nd of October,2023 at Mangalvanam Bird Sanctuary. At 15:35 the students had an opportunity to clarify their doubts with Ms. Keerthana through a Q&A session, where she explained the functioning of various projects, Fellowship Programmes, and Corporate Volunteering, etc. At 15:51 Ms. Elizabeth James proposed the Vote of Thanks and the Programme came to an end at 15:53. Overall through the programme students have come to know about the Bhumi Organization and the importance of Volunteering.



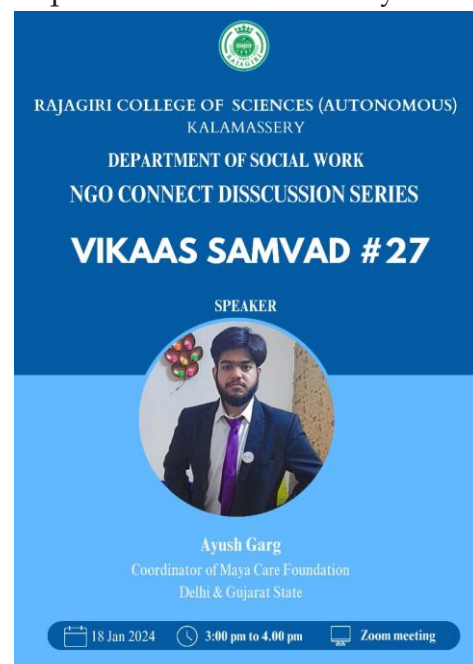
- Date: 14th December 2023

The 26th edition of Vikaas Samvaad, the NGO Connect series, unfolded on December 14, 2023. Ms. Vaishnavi, Officer of QUADS (Queer and Diversity Support), Member of Board, of Rise Up Forum, was the esteemed speaker. The Participants of the session were from the BSW Programme.



- Date: January 18, 2024

On January 18, 2024, the Vikaas Samvad, NGO Connect series session took place through Zoom Online Platform, and the students of MSW Ist year participated in it. At 15:09, the session commenced with the Rajagiri Anthem, followed by Mr. Ayush Garg, co-ordinator of the Maya Care Foundation, who presented about the Maya Care, whereas for many years they offered empathetic service at no cost from their establishment in 2009. Also, he mentioned that practically all needs are identified and service rendered for persons with disabilities. Also, to add on, he said volunteers are the backbone of the organisation. Eventually, a Q&A session was held, during which he shared information about the inspiration for starting the organisation and doing services, as well as how, during the pandemic, the management of projects and the distribution of masks, etc., on the roads with the help of volunteers happened. To conclude, he said that as an impact, current generations have more enthusiasm and responsibility to make change in the lives of senior citizens and PWD. The session ends at 15:45.



- **Session on Social work in Belgium**

Date: 27 July 2023

Time: 10:00am- 11:00am



Venue: Carmel Hall

Guest: Dr. George Palattiyil

On the 27th of July 2023, a session was organized for the students belonging to second-year MSW who belonged to various specializations such as CSR, Community development, Family and child, and Medical and psychiatry. This session was led by Dr. George Paattiyil, Head of Social Work and Senior lecturer at the School of Social and Political Science at The University of Edinburgh. He is an alumnus of Rajagiri who later migrated to the UK as part of his profession.

It was a one-hour session that included the speaker giving a vivid picture of what social work in Belgium is and how a graduate in Social Work can further proceed with job opportunities in the same place. The session also included a question-answer session where the students were able to share their doubts and queries about the place, job opportunities, and other similar doubts. The session started with Dr. Kiran Thampi, HOD of Social Work addressing the crowd and welcoming the speaker. Later the dais was handed over to the speaker who further continued the session.

The session ended with a vote of thanks proposed by a representative from 1st MSW and students dispersed later.



Dr. George Palattiyil
Head of Social Work |
Senior Lecturer
The University of Edinburgh
School of Social and
Political Science

10 am | Carmel Hall
Department of Social Work



SADHANA: The Best Performing Student Social Worker of the Year Award

The Alumni members of the MSW 2008 – 2010 Batch of Rajagiri College of Social Sciences (Autonomous) have decided to institute an award titled “The Best Performing Student Social Worker of the Year Award” to a selected MSW student from Rajagiri in every Academic Year based on their overall performance throughout their MSW Programme, including the Academic, Co-Curricular, and Non-Academic performance. The award is provided to a final semester MSW student based on certain criteria and evaluation processes set by OYSTER (Alumni Association) and MSW 2008-10 Batch. The award will be given to a student for his/her excellence and contribution to the field of Social Work. The initiative aims to inspire Budding Social Work Professionals to creatively engage in all-round activities throughout their academic training in the college and thereby contribute to society at large. The award will be provided to a selected student who fulfills the criteria set by the committee and it consists of a cash award worth of Rs.5000 + Printed Certificate.

From the MSW 2020-22 batch, Mr. Janson Varghese, and the MSW 2021-2023 batch, Ms. Sanjana Salome Durairaj received the Award.





OYSTER Alumni Sale

Rajagiri College of Social Sciences (Autonomous), Kalamassery conducted OYSTER Alumni Xmas sale on 22nd December 2023. The following are the alumni participants from the Department of Social Work.

SLNO	NAME OF THE COMPANY	PERSON IN CHARGE & CONTACT	CATEGORY	ALUMNI DETAILS	PRODUCTS
1	KIDS KOTTAPURAM	DEEPA 7902705067	ALUMNI	MSW BATCH-	ECO FRIENDLY BAGS, BASKETS, GIFT BOXES, XMAS DECOR
2	EIs Pickle	SUMALU THOMAS 7559964927 Amala K. J. 8848979261	STUDENT	MSW BATCH-	PICKLES
3	KRIPA	FR. DIBIN 9995757041	ALUMNI	MSW	STAR & LED LIGHTS



Alumni Participation in the Board of Studies Meeting

(Date, Time & Venu: 25th February 2023, 11.00 am -12.00 pm)

- Mr. Sonykutty George, Child Specialist, UNICEF

(Date, Time & Venu: October 2023, 11.00 am -12.00 pm)

- Mr. Sonykutty George, Child Specialist, UNICEF
- Ms. Meena Kuruvilla, Project Director – Rajagiri Outreach

Alumni Participation in DYUTI Preconference 4th January 2024

On January 4, 2024, DYUTI Preconference was held at the golden aureole of Rajagiri College of Social Sciences (Autonomous). The keynote speaker, Dr. Sherry Joseph, a Public Health professional from the Delhi School of Social Work and Social Work Alumni presented an insightful session on SDGs—Social Work Priorities and Practices.

Alumni Participation in DYUTI 2024

On January 10 and 11, 2024 Department of Social Work, Rajagiri College of Social Sciences (Autonomous) conducted DYUTI 2024 at RBS Campus. The following alumnus of the Department of Social Work participated in the conference.

- Dr. George Paattiyil, Head of Social Work and Senior Lecturer at the School of Social and Political Science at The University of Edinburgh.
- Dr. Sherry Joseph, a Public Health professional from the Delhi School of Social Work.