



DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WORK  
VIMALA COLLEGE (AUTONOMOUS), THRISSUR  
KERALA, INDIA

INTERNATIONAL SEMINAR ON  
VALUES AND ETHICS IN SOCIAL WORK PRACTICE

9<sup>th</sup> December, 2017

At Lisieux Hall

## **Context of the International Seminar**

The primary mission of the social work profession is to enhance human well-being and help meet the basic human needs of all people, with particular attention to the needs and empowerment of people who are vulnerable, oppressed, and living in poverty. A historic and defining feature of social work is the profession's focus on individual well-being in a social context and the well-being of society. Fundamental to social work is attention to the environmental forces that create, contribute to, and address problems in living.

Social workers promote social justice and social change with and on behalf of clients. "Clients" is used inclusively to refer to individuals, families, groups, organizations, and communities. Social workers are sensitive to cultural and ethnic diversity and strive to end discrimination, oppression, poverty, and other forms of social injustice. These activities may be in the form of direct practice, community organizing, supervision, consultation administration, advocacy, social and political action, policy development and implementation, education, and research and evaluation. Social workers seek to enhance the capacity of people to address their own needs. Social workers also seek to promote the responsiveness of organizations, communities, and other social institutions to individuals' needs and social problems.

Values and ethics have both philosophical and practical significance for the profession of social work. Core values reflect the ideology of the profession. Their articulation, through ethical standards, guides social workers' choices and actions across an array of roles, settings, and client populations. Values and ethics help to distinguish social work from other professions and provide a basis for accountability. Ethical decisions rely on a strong understanding of the codes that guide the profession, on practitioner self-awareness and on the use of thoughtful, thorough frameworks for weighing choices when dilemmas or conflicts arise. As such, social workers must understand concepts such as self-determination, confidentiality, informed consent, competence, and conflicts of interest and the ways in which these standards may be challenged or upheld in practice. They must also comfortably utilize critical thinking, consultation, and research in weighing options for resolving ethical dilemmas and have the capacity to skilfully implement the result of the decision-making process.

In a globalised world of social work, values and ethical codes are the guiding light of the practice. The present seminar will retrospect the values and ethics which we practice today in the global level. The deliberations and discussions from the different parts of the globe

will definitely enlighten the social workers to reaffirm our values and reinforce our ethical practice.

### **Objectives of the Seminar**

- To debate on the present value system and ethical codes in the global social work practice
- To retrospect the underpinning theories of social work practice
- To discuss the challenges faced by our fraternity in the context of value based practice and ethical standards
- To examine the different perspectives on Social work values and ethics

### **Confirmed Speakers**

**Dr Abraham Francis**, Associate Professor in Social Work and Human Services, James Cook University, Australia

**Dr Vishanthie Sewpaul**, Senior Professor in Social Work, School of Applied Human Sciences, University of Kwazulu-Natal, South Africa

### **Registration Fee**

The venue of the seminar would be at Lisieux Seminar Hall, Vimala College (Autonomous), Thrissur. The registration fee would be Rs 150 which covers refreshments and resource materials. The timing would be 9.30 am – 4.30 pm

### **For Further Assistance, Please Contact:**

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