

## **Report of the Inauguration of Geriatric Counselling Centre and Activities**

The Geriatric Counselling Centre was established on 21<sup>st</sup> October 2022 in the Department of Social Work, Bharathidasan University, Khajamalai Campus, Tiruchirappalli. It was Inaugurated by Dr.M.Selvam (Vice-Chancellor, Bharathidasan University), Dr.K.R.Gangadharan (Director, Heritage Foundation, Hyderabad), Dr.R.Mangaleswaran, (Professor and Head, Department of Social Work), Dr.J.O.Jeryda Gnanajane Eljo (Associate Professor and Coordinator of GCC). For the Inauguration I MSW, II MSW Students, Research Scholars, Functionaries from Old age Home, Faculties of the Department and other Departments were present.

Dr.J.O.Jeryda Gnanajane Eljo, Associate Professor and Coordinator of GCC formally welcomed all and mentioned about the significance of GCC and its aims about bringing together a core group of elderly and their functionaries/care givers from all over Tiruchirappalli with a significant participation from our own department. She had also spoke to the students about the importance of social workers role in Geriatric centre and presented the vision, mission, goal and activities of the Geriatric Centre for the elderly and their caregivers/functionaries.

It was followed by the Presidential address delivered by, Dr.R.Mangaleswaran, Professor and Head of Social Work Department. In his speech, he said that the Dr.J.O.Jeryda Gnanajane Eljo, Associate Professor conceived the foundation to cater to the psycho-social needs of the aging population and also their functionaries. It also focuses on the practical development of social work students in the field of Gerontology. In addition, the foundation will help the elderly accept their developmental stage of life and be mentally, physically, and socially alert to cope with the inherent and natural demands of aging.

Official inauguration and speech was done by, Dr.M.Selvam, Vice-Chancellor, Bharathidasan University. In his homily, he affirmed the bold step taken to establish Geriatric Counselling Centre in the Department of Social Work, and he strongly emphasized the need to appreciate the lives of the elderly while they are still here living with us. In his Inaugural address, he spoke about the ample opportunities available in the field of Gerontology to the budding social work students.

The Key note address was delivered by Dr.R.Gangadharan, Director of Heritage Foundation, Hyderabad. He informed about the various activities that GCC can provide for the elderly and functionaries and the roles that GCC can promote to nurture the spirit of practical exposure among social work students. He mentioned that the main objective of Geriatric Centre and their vital role in organizing, coordinating and promoting activities for the elderly population. He congratulated BDU for setting an excellent example for other colleges within the state.

In the end, Mrs. Priya.S.Dev (Doctoral Research Fellow) offered a vote of thanks to all the dignitaries Professors, and Heads from different disciplines and also faculties from various Departments. She thanked all the invited guests and participants for gracing the occasion by their solemn presence. She also thanked the BDU Social Work Department for providing all kinds of facilities and services to establish such a center. At last, she wished for the success of the centre and appreciated the faculty members, student social workers and functionaries from various old age homes for their efforts in making the programme a grand success.

The program being hosted successfully, had a voracious response from the audience and was concluded with the National Anthem.

### **Elder's Meet**

The Elder's Meet, organized by the Geriatric Center in collaboration with the Rotary Club of Tiruchirappalli Midtown, took place at Bharathidasan University's MMTC HALL on 4th October 2023 at 10.30am. Notable attendees included forty-two elderly individuals from various old age homes and institutional caregivers. Dr. M. Selvam, the Vice-Chancellor of Bharathidasan University, inaugurated the event, which commenced with the singing of the 'Tamil Thai Vazhthu' by the department choir. Dr. J.O. Jeryda Gnanajane Eljo welcomed the attendees, and Dr. R. Mangaleswaran, Head of the Department of Social Work, emphasized the importance of observing the International Day of the Elderly.

Following Dr. Selvam's address on healthy aging, Rtn. P. Gowri Sankar, President of the Rotary Club, stressed the need for elder care, while Rtn. S.

Muthukumaravel, Secretary of the club, commended the GCC's efforts. Subsequently, Dr. A. Sivagami and Dr. K. Maheswari felicitated the event. The formalities concluded with a vote of thanks by Mr. N.A. Arjunan. The program continued with refreshments and sessions led by Ms. Latha Ponnuraj on Yoga and Meditation, Ms. V. Renuka on Nursing Care for the Elderly, and Ms. Priya Antony facilitating Music and Dance therapy. The event concluded with gratitude expressed by Ms. Priya S. Dev, leaving the attendees with fond memories and lunch packets as they departed around 2:00 pm.

### **PROGRAMMES ORGANISED BY SOCIAL WORK TRAINEES**

In addition, Social Work Trainees from our Department, assigned to the Geriatric Counselling Centre for fieldwork, also conduct regular visits to the allotted Old Age Homes every Tuesday and Saturday. MSW Student Trainees also organize programs, awareness programmes, various therapies like Art, Movement, Music, Dance, Physiotherapy to the elders in oldage home.The main areas of focus include mental health, quality of life, and physical well-being. The Geriatric Counselling Centre also provides counselling and therapeutic services for the elderly in need.