

MADRAS SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK

QUESTA FORUM

National Conference on Building an ecosystem for promoting social entrepreneurship among marginalized communities for sustainable development

Event No: 11

Date: 28.04.23

Time: 10 am – 7 pm

Venue: Tag Auditorium

Faculty Organiser: Dr Arivukkarasi

Organised by: QUESTA forum

On April 28, 2023, a conference was held at the Madras School of Social Work (MSSW) in Chennai, India, with a theme of "Building an ecosystem for promoting social entrepreneurship among marginalized communities for sustainable development." The conference was attended by various dignitaries, professors, students, and NGO representatives.

The conference began with a welcome address by the head of the MASE department, Mr. Antony Stephen. He welcomed the dignitaries Mr. Paul Divakar, Prof. Dr. L.S. Ganesh, Dr. Samapti Guha, Principal of MSSW Dr. S. Raja Samuel, students of various departments, and NGO friends. He shared his views on the conference and how everyone was looking forward to a great learning experience from it.

Dr. N.A. Arivukkarasi then gave a brief introduction to the audience about the conference theme, defining marginalized communities and the lack of support they receive from authorities. She highlighted how entrepreneurship can support these communities and be the bridge connecting them with their rights towards growth. Social entrepreneurs can bring about a positive change by directly connecting with marginalized communities.

Dr. S. Raja Samuel, Principal of MSSW, then gave a felicitation address. He shared his

experience of the growth he has seen in the emergence of social entrepreneurship as an academic field in MSSW over the last 15 years. He expressed how little drops contribute to the density of the ocean, just like building up the community and networks through such conferences can lead and create a significant impact in building the ecosystem.

Dr. Samapti Guha gave a special address, focusing on social entrepreneurship through the lenses of well-being and sustainable development. She spoke about how social entrepreneurship is an emerging approach to address the Sustainable Development Goals and intergenerational well-being. The concept of well-being is broadened to accommodate the quality aspects of well-being, such as civic and political life apart from material well-being.

She mentioned how social entrepreneurship can play an important role in development by creating community-centered local organizations based on local culture. She emphasized how social entrepreneurship undermined the role of the state in today's time. Later, she presented three cases on rural indigenous entrepreneurship, social security for people with disabilities, and waste management solutions. She concluded that social entrepreneurs are successful in addressing social problems in the local context but are unable to focus on interrelationships, and gaps need to be filled by all.

Thiru KS Kandasamy, IAS, spoke about the needs of marginalized communities. He shared his personal experience of his interaction with underprivileged people and the importance of not abusing economically underprivileged people. He emphasized that the economy around India revolves around marginalized communities and that there is no value for their products, leading to a lack of employment generation. He emphasized the need to address the upliftment of marginalized communities in a holistic way with schemes and with the help of NGOs.

During the conference, various topics were discussed, including disability in India and Tamil Nadu, how disability is viewed in India, the problems faced by disabled persons, and the challenges they encounter. The speakers highlighted the lack of access to school, trained teachers, and availability of educational materials for the disabled. The challenges include lack of awareness, ignorance, stigmatization, and poor planning and strategies.

The speakers also addressed the issues faced by adivasi and other marginalized communities. They discussed the lack of access to schemes, loans, and facilities, and the challenges faced in building huts in forests. They also shared how adivasi people celebrate

their lives and the need to change our lifestyle like old traditions. The speakers emphasized the need for social entrepreneurship in building an ecosystem for promoting sustainable development among marginalized communities.

Photos of the Event:

MADRAS SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK
PG DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP
&
QUESTA STUDENT FORUM
ORGANISES
National Conference 2023
on
Building Ecosystem to Promote Social Entrepreneurship Among Marginalized Communities for Sustainable Development
Venue: TAG Auditorium 31st March 2023

INAUGURATION SPEAKERS

 N. Paul Divakar Convener of GFOD, Executive Director	 Prof. Dr. L.S. Ganesh (Retd.), IITM, Vice- Chancellor, ICFAI Hyderabad	 Dr. Samapti Guha Professor, Centre for Social Entrepreneurship, TISS, Mumbai.
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ECOSYSTEM BUILDING SESSION SPEAKERS

 Ms. Sanjukta Mukherjee Founder, Sustainable Design Research Consortium (SDRC) Kolkata	 Mr. M. Ramu Senior Consultant, Madurai	 Dr. Satya Ranjan Mahakul Assistant Professor, (NIRD&PRI), Hyderabad	 Ar. Xavier Benedict IUCN-CEM ICOMOS-India
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PRACTITIONERS SESSION

 Ms. Bishes Huriem Indian Model, Women Entrepreneurship Ecosystem, Manipur	 Mr. Sivan Nilgiris Postman (Retd.), Tribal Livelihood, Nilgiris	 Ms. Uma Mageshwari Humaart Enterprises, Disability Entrepreneurship Ecosystem, Chennai	 Mr. Elumalai Tribal Entrepreneurship Ecosystem, Kolli hills	 Mr. P.J. Thangavelu Master Weaver, Kanchipuram
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SESSION MODERATORS



Marie Banu
Director of Centre for Social
Initiative and Management
(CSIM) Chennai



Ramasubramanian
Consultant, World Bank,
Senior consultant, Sustainable
Livelihood Institute, Auroville



Dr. Sharmista Bhattacharjee
Associate Professor,
Sociology, Tamilnadu

POSTER PRESENTATION AND CULTURALS

VALEDICTORY SESSION SPEAKERS



Thiru K S Kandasamy I.A.S
Managing Director, Tamil Nadu
Adi Dravidar Housing and
Development Corporation, TAHDCO



Ms. Leelavathy
Member, State Commission for SC/ST
Tamil Nadu

WE WELCOME YOU ALL FOR THE CONFERENCE



Chief Patron
Dr. S. Raja Samuel
Principal, MSSW



Dr. Subashini
Dean, MSSW



Mr. M. Antony Stephen
Head Department of
Social Entrepreneurship

Faculty members and students of
Social Entrepreneurship





Conclusion:

In conclusion, the conference provided valuable insights into the challenges faced by marginalized communities and the