

**MADRAS SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK**

**DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHOLOGY**

**BSC PROGRAM**

**Workshop Report: Indian Knowledge Systems Integration**

**Date:** 31 July 2025

**Facilitator:** Mr. Anmol Tikoo

As part of the B.Sc. Psychology Program's initiative to integrate Indian Knowledge Systems (IKS) into its curriculum, a workshop on *Conscience* was organised in collaboration with Prakriti Foundation. The session, facilitated by filmmaker and educator Mr. Anmol Tikoo, aimed to explore the idea of conscience as understood in both traditional Indian thought and contemporary psychological perspectives. Serving as a precursor to the upcoming lecture by Dr. David Shulman on "*The Silent Witness in the Mind: A South Indian Theory of Conscience*", the workshop provided students with a reflective and dialogue-rich learning experience.

Over the course of ninety minutes, the facilitator guided thirty-six undergraduate students through a series of activities designed to provoke personal introspection and active engagement. The session began with students sharing their own understanding of conscience and reflecting on how it shapes their everyday choices and relationships. Participants were prompted to consider whether their moral compass shifts when interacting with people of different backgrounds, beliefs, or life circumstances. They also recalled instances in their lives when their conscience had been stirred and engaged in an imaginative exercise to envision a world without conscience.



Peer discussions formed an important part of the workshop, allowing students to listen to diverse viewpoints and challenge their own assumptions. These exchanges brought forth themes of moral choice, integrity, empathy, and responsibility, helping students connect the philosophical roots of conscience with psychological theories of moral development. The facilitator's approach combined storytelling with reflective questioning, enabling participants to bridge the gap between abstract ideas and lived experiences.

Students reported that the workshop enhanced their self-awareness and deepened their appreciation of values such as integrity, responsibility, and empathy. Many felt better equipped to navigate moral dilemmas and looked forward to engaging more meaningfully with Dr. Shulman's lecture. By encouraging personal reflection alongside intellectual exploration, the workshop successfully connected traditional philosophical concepts with modern disciplinary learning, contributing to the B.Sc. Psychology Program's broader effort to embed IKS meaningfully into its academic offerings.