



INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON **FROM FAMILY CARE TO SOCIAL CARE**

JAPANESE EXPERIENCE
CONFERENCE REPORT

30 & 31 AUGUST '23



A Glimpse of Day 1

Inauguration

**Session 1: Changes in Social Structure and Overview of Welfare System in Japan:
Changing Role of Family and Social Care**

Session 2: Family Care system in India

Discussion 1: Family Care & Social care in India & Japan

Session III: "Community Welfare Policy and Community Social Work in Japan":

Discussion 2: Changing family systems in Japan and India.

Cultural Program by Students

A Glimpse of Day 2

Recap of Day 1

Session IV: Facilities for Developmentally Disabled Children in Japan and Experience in Sri Lanka"

Session V: Facilities for Disabled People in Japan and Bangladesh

Discussion 3: Focus of Social Work intervention in the changing family systems.

Summary & Feedback

Valediction

Overview

The Social Work cluster in collaboration with the Association for International Social Work (AISW), Japan organized an International Conference on "From Family Care to Social Care" - Japanese Experience, held on 30 & 31 August 2023.

The goal of the conference is to promote the importance of family social work and its impact on creating a quality society. This conference will provide a unique platform for knowledge sharing, networking, and professional development in the vital field of family and child social work.

International speakers who have extensive experience and knowledge in the field of family and social care are providing sessions on family social work. We invite social work practitioners and social work students to be part of the conference.

The seminar is designed to share experience of experts from different nations (Japan, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh and India) on family care, social care, and importance of moving to social care from family care.

A series of lectures and discussions took place and also a cultural programme by students depicting the culture of India was performed.

Recommendations to strengthen the social care in the country will be developed as the output of the two-day international conference.

Resource Persons



Dr Mariko Kimura

Dr. Mariko Kimura is a Professor Emeritus, Japan Women's University and President of Association for International Social Work (AISW). She has worked as a social work educator for over 25 years and has specialized in international social work, and community mental health. She has served for the IFSW Education Commission since 2016 and now representing the Asia Pacific Region. She is also a member of Japanese Association of Mental Health Social Workers.



Dr Kyoko Mori

Dr. Kyoko Mori is a Professor, Department of Social Work, Japan Women's University. She is a member of International Committee, Japan Federation of Social Workers (JFSW). She has been involved in international adoption and assisting refugees living in Japan. She has been an educator at the University for more than 20 years, teaching local government welfare policy, and community-based social work related to immigrants and refugees.



Mr Shah Abdus Salam

Founder and CEO of Development Wheel and DEW Crafts. He has 35 years of diverse experience working with different national and international development organizations. His areas of interest include Fair Trade, Sustainable livelihoods, Agriculture, Human Rights and Good Governance, Land Rights, and Climate change & environment.



Ms Leela Gunasinghe

Social Welfare Superintendent at Child Guidance Centre in Department of Social Services, Government of Srilanka. She has developed and launched a national program for a Child Guidance Center and an early intervention system for children with disabilities. Her areas of interest include the Pre-Vocational Skill Development Center for teenagers with disabilities.



Dr PM Mathew

Associate Professor of Social Work, Christ University, Bangalore. He has 20 years of experience in the area of child protection as a teacher, trainer and a consultant. He has previously worked as a Child Protection officer in Children Services in London under British Government. He was a faculty in the Central University of Kerala. His areas of interest is child protection and family welfare.

Inauguration



The event started at 9:30 a.m., beginning with the inaugural ceremony. The event was a collaborative learning experience with speakers and delegates nationwide. The event's inauguration began with the lighting of the lamp and a prayer song by students of MSW. Dr Mathew PM welcomed the gathering.

Dr Tony Sam George delivered the presidential address, setting the context for the 2-day international conference. Dr. George emphasized how the love for fellow beings directly reflects individuals who prioritize relationships, and social work is built on the notion of relationships, without which there is no meaning in what we do. He added that our sense of family reflects our sense of community. Community and family remains significant value across the diversity of different cultures and countries that we come from. He highlighted the need for reflecting on how the larger sense of community can inspire us backwards to what family means to us and how family care and social care are essentially interrelated.



Fr Jose CC, Honourable Vice Chancellor, delivered the Inaugural address. He addressed How family values are changing, and the changing Demographic shift calls for robust social care services. He shared that the need for family care is increasing as 1 in 4 people according to the census, is over 60. Over 70% of the population is nuclear families. Need for social care for the elderly. He spoke about the changing complexities of society and how Japan's journey is illuminating, redefining care structure involving family dynamics. He explained that the Japanese experience in social care holds a valuable lesson: shift from family care to an inclusive community care model, an inclusive and sustainable society. Education goes beyond mere academic excellence, Creating an inclusive environment where everyone feels upheld. Values of empathy, integrity, social justice, and collective well-being are essential for everyone. Dr Suparna Kar delivered the felicitayion address after which Dr Mariko shared her message. Dr Mariko Kimura shared her delight to see the participants come across different parts of the country and she extended her thanks to Toshiba International Foundation, for funding the conference. Ms. Shema Elsa Daniel, Conference Coordinator delivered the vote of the thanks for the Inaugural function.

Session 1

Changes in Social Structure and Overview of Welfare System in Japan: Changing Role of Family and Social Care

Dr Mariko Kimura, President, AISW, Japan

Dr Mariko started Japan's demographic trend and explained the Implications for policy shifts. She explained Japan's falling birthrate and the population decline. She shared perspectives on the formulation of making policies that are friendlier to families and children. She explained the Work-life balance charter and action policy. More programs for the aged people are required. Government generous program for maternal health at the workplace and child care. Maternity leave.

She explained the Implications for Social Work in the diverse society. Society is not going hand in hand with the government programmes, govt is trying to keep up with the fast pacing societal changes. She explained the need for introducing generous programmes for women for their interests.



Dr Mariko shared measures to support work and family life balance and shared about the Ikumen Project Implementation. She gave a Case example - alleviating stress of child rearing. She ended with government proposal of Expanding the allowance hope to ease the financial burden for many.

Session 2

Family Care System in India

Dr PM Mathew, Associate Professor of Social Work

Dr PM Mathew explained the importance of family care in India. He delved into the Key aspects of the traditional family care system in India like Multigenerational living, Elderly care, Child care, Women's role

He explained the Changing dynamics: shift in family structure, shift from joint families to nuclear, and Challenges in the family care system in India. He explained the Statutes for safeguarding of children - PCCSO act, JJ act, and RTE act. He shared about the changing demographics in India, mentioning the Elderly population increasing and the children population decreasing. The world's largest youth population - India. He explained about the Family social work - supporting families, safeguarding children from harm, protecting children, counseling, effective parenting techniques . he shared about the Model project for family care system : kaval, kaval plus , a psychosocial intervention for children in conflict with law.



Discussion 1

Family Care & Social care in India & Japan

Dr Hemalatha K (Professor-Social Work)

Dr Hemalatha spoke about how Japan and India are two very contrasting societies. The commonalities - both societies are transitioning very fast, and the one institution under pressure is the family. In India, due to its size, the dichotomy between the urban and rural space is so different that the institutions also work differently. In society, more people are old and even a considerable number of middle-aged and youth. Participants asked questions like how is the social worker in Japan changing things? Voice of social work in times like these? New dynamics in the role of social work? What is the mental health of children in Japan? We also had reflections from the participants on the importance of family care and asked why we should move to social care. Also, a participant shared about intimate partner violence.

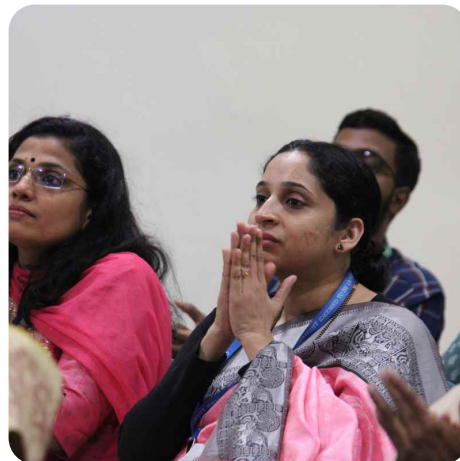


Session 3

Community Welfare Policy and Community Social Work in Japan

Dr. Kyoko Mori (Professor-Social Work, Japan)

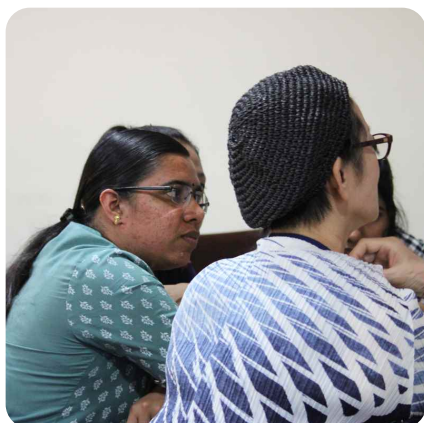
Dr Kyoko addressed the Current Welfare Issues, highlighted the Aging society with a declining birthrate, Changes in Families and Communities, Changes in Women's Employment, Improving the employment rate of women, and Increase in double-income households. She explained how Care function in the family and community is declining and why it is necessary to build "new connections and mutual support" in the local community. She explained the Complicated and Diversified Social Needs in Japan. She explained the Community Welfare Policy the Vision: To create a 'Regional Cohesive Society' Promoting inclusive "connection and mutual support" in the local community. She explained the Promotion of a 'Regional Cohesive Society' by Municipalities, the model for the Comprehensive Consultation System in the Municipal level, and the Multi-layered Support System Development Project. She explained it with case study. She also explained the process of becoming a social worker and challenges the social worker faces.



Discussion 2

Changing family systems in Japan and India

Dr Bharathi (Associate Professor-Social Work)



The participants were divided into six groups and a group discussion was facilitated in each group on the topic of family care system in India and in Japan. The international experts joined and all the participants deliberated on the differences, commonalities of Japan and India, how there is intergenerational faith, but values are still intact, Inclusion, live in relationships, new concepts on the perception of family, Work - a priority in both countries, family becomes a barrier, Ikumen project and how both countries are prone to Disaster and look into disaster management and how it impacts the family care. It was wonderful to see the participants enthusiastically sharing their discussion points with the audience,

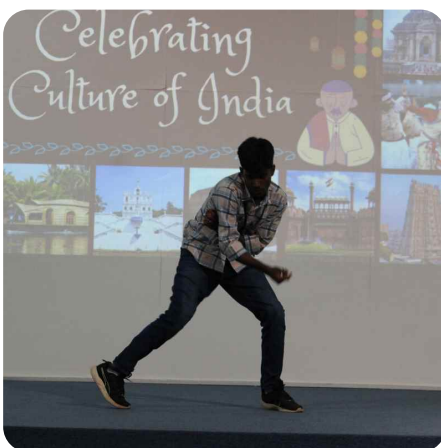


Cultural programme

By the students



Cultural performance by students were arranged. Students performed Indian Classical Bharathanatyam dance, followed by fusion and musical performances. A State-wise thematic walk in which the students dressed up in vibrant attire, represented the diverse states of India. This visual spectacle showcased the cultural richness of each region. There was also open mic for the participants from other institutions to express their talents.



Session 4

Facilities for Developmentally Disabled Children in Japan and Experience in Sri Lanka

Ms. Leela G, , Social Welfare Superintendent, Sri Lanka

Ms Leela discussed the background in Sri Lanka, how, in the 90s, there was a lack of technological knowledge to assist children with developmental disabilities, and there were gaps and challenges in terms of health facilities. No authorized ministry at the time had taken up the responsibility to curb these gaps. Due to the lack of technical knowledge at the time in Sri Lanka, Dr. Leela resorted to acquiring knowledge in Japan to assist the children better. There were facilities for hearing aids, speech therapy, occupational therapy, and special education for the children. The facility provided for early detection in Japan, a law exists regarding early detection, and medical checkup at the healthcare centre is compulsory and free. she explained it with a model in Sendai city. After that Introduced new concepts to the National Action Plan of Department of Social Services in Sri Lanka. The model concept of “Pre-Vocational Skill Development Center for teenagers with disabilities, Provided technical assistance to “ Guideline for Vocational Training Institutes of Department of social Services. Capacity Building / Preschool Teacher Trainings. She shared about the challenges faced.



Session 5

Facilities for Disabled People in Japan and Bangladesh

Mr. Shah Abdus Salam (Bangladesh)

Mr Shah shared how his Organization works for equitable access to employment, resources, human rights, good governance, and gender equality. Three major programme areas: Human rights and Good Governance, Sustainable Livelihoods, and Promotion of arts and crafts. To work for the promotion of sustainable livelihoods and fair trade options for small producers in the sector of agriculture and arts and crafts. A comparative analysis of both countries was drawn, including work facilities, social inclusion, the impact of rehabilitation and the different challenges faced by both countries. He also highlighted about the Autism In Bangladesh and shown case study of People Working for it. He also shared recommendations for both Bangladesh and Japan in terms of Improving accessibility infrastructure for disabled individuals, Implement inclusive education policies to ensure equal access to quality education, Conduct comprehensive public awareness and to Promote inclusive workplaces.



Discussion 3

Focus of Social Work intervention in the changing family systems

Dr Reena Cherian (Assistant Professor-Social Work)

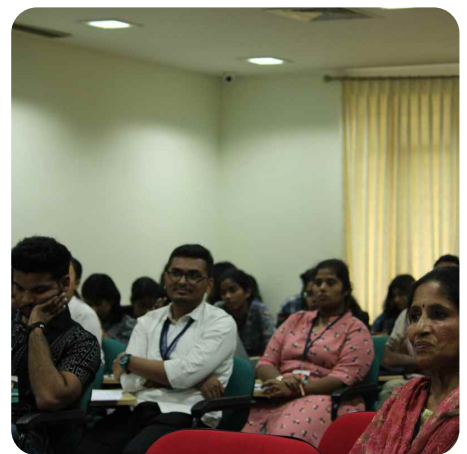
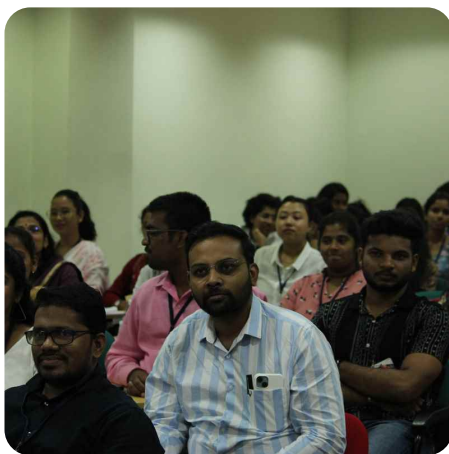
Dr Reena Cherian spoke about Families that are globally in transition, family disruption, migration, low birth rate, the need to focus on geriatric family members, how families impacted by violence, LAT, changing perspectives of marriage, intergenerational trauma, single parents, LGBTQIA parents. Moving along the tide, unlearning and relearning, the egalitarian community (power strata difference, heterogeneous society, how to engage with others). Group discussion was organized and teams discussed on the topics. Themes were Living apart but together families, LGBTQIA families, single parent families, Migration and Disruption, History and evolution of the family system, Single Parenting in the context of pandemic. Social worker's role was discussed. The participants had a group discussion on the theme assigned and discussed the points.



Summary and Feedback



The speakers, Practitioners, Educators, Research Scholars and Students shared their feedback about the two day conference and shared their learnings.



Valediction

The valediction event started 3.30 p.m. Dr PM Mathew, the Conference Convener welcomed the gathering. The chief guest Dr Anil Pinto, Registrar, CHRIST University delivered the Valedictory Address. He addressed the importance of the conference and its implication for the social workers. Dr Suparna Kar, the Head of the Department felicitated the conference speakers and the committee. Prof. Mariko Kimura, President, AISW, Japan gave the concluding message for the conference which was followed by Certificate Distribution to the participants. Mrs Shenbakam N, PhD SW Scholar, Conference coordinator delivered the vote of thanks, thanking all the speakers, participants and the organizing committee.



Conference Report Presentation & Certificate Distribution

The documentation committee compiled the summary of the two days conference. The report was presented by Dr Suparna Kar to the chief guest Dr Anil Pinto, Registrar, Christ University and Dr. Mariko Kimura, president, AISW. The report was well received.



The speakers were felicitated with memento and certificate. The organizing committee was also given gifts as token of love for their efforts.



Feedback from the participants ★★★★★

"It was an excellent experience for me to attend the international conference on 'From family care to social care: Japanese experience'. Being a researcher interested in learning the care models across nations and developing new family and social care interventions, the conference helped me in many ways, from adding to my existing knowledge to witnessing the practices done in different parts of the world in terms of care. I had a perfect time meeting new people from various places. I had enriching deliberations in the changing dimensions of the family system and the decisive role of the social work profession in it. All the sessions by esteemed delegates from Japan, India, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka were informative and exceptional. The cultural programs performed by the organisers were marvellous, mainly how they showcased India's diversity and beauty with the exhibition of culture and fashion of different states. Thanks to all the organisers for making the conference a truly memorable one. It was well-organised and curated. I was looking forward to more beautiful interactions with all the exceptional and aspiring social workers again.

**Lija Mary Mathew
Research scholar ,
Rajagiri College of
Social Sciences,**

"The two-day international conference on family care to social care has created new insights on nurturing family values. The resource delegates shared their presentations from their values experiences, enriched with knowledge and values on families and societies. The staff and students of the Department of Social Work at Christ University have done an excellent job in successfully implementing the conference. Thanks to the family members of Christ University for creating a wonderful opportunity-excellent coordination and communication; we all enjoyed the stay."

**Mr. Joseph William, Faculty,
Anugraha Institute of
Social Sciences**

"Congratulations to the whole team behind this international conference. It's, of course, a great eye-opening exposure to Family and social care in Japan. Comparative studies and discussions enriched the knowledge and understanding. Thanks to your whole team."

**Ms Sinu Paul, Research
Scholar, NIMHANS**

Feedback from the participants ★★★★★

“I believe that social workers who are working for the betterment of society should not be confined solely to the society to which they belong, but to render the best services, it's essential to look at other societies' problems, unique challenges and the solutions they've found; this will help the social worker see the pain from various perspectives. And I am grateful to the people behind this wonderful conference for bringing these resourceful and extensively experienced delegates from Japan, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka. I enjoyed Dr. Mathew sir's creative activities, which engaged the participants. I learned about the social workers' status and roles in different countries. This conference is well structured. I appreciate the student volunteers' efforts; you guys are skilful. Thank you so much. I had a great time being at this beautiful campus.”

**Mr Madhu, Research
Scholar, NIMHANS**

“The two-day international conference on From Family Care to Social Care - Japanese Experience was fruitful. The sessions enabled me to understand the changing family care systems in Japan, India, Srilanka, and Bangladesh in detail, and the deliberations helped me to engage with thought-provoking insights from every participant. It also helped me build connections with the broader social work fraternity. Thank you so much, Christ University, for organizing the conference.”

**Mr. Janson Varghese
Asst Professor, BVM Holy Cross
College Cherpunkal.**



For further information, Contact

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