

National Seminar on Mental Health: Initiate for Action

October 31 and November 1, 2017

Organized by the Department of Social Work, Martin Luther Christian University, Meghalaya

Venue: Shillong, Meghalaya



About the University

Martin Luther Christian University was created by Act No. 11 of 2005 of the Legislative Assembly of Meghalaya and received the assent of the Governor on July 6, 2005. The Government of Meghalaya issued the gazette notification on February 22, 2006. The creation of the university is in accordance with the University Grants Commission Act, 1956 under Section 2(f) and the university is empowered to grant degrees under Section 22 of the UGC Act.

Martin Luther Christian University is the first full-fledged Christian University in India, the capstone to more than two centuries of Christian education in this country.

The University recognises its responsibility to contribute to the sustainable development of the region, participating in vocational education, health care, information and communication networks, agri-sciences, environmental protection, disaster education, peace studies and developmental projects. The University collaborates with NGOs, community organisations, self – help groups and industry in the development of the community.

Concept note on the Seminar

Mental Health has become an important component of health. Mental health is the capacity of the individual, the group and the environment to interact with one another in ways that promote subjective well-being, the optimal development and use of mental abilities (cognitive, affective and relational), the achievement of individual and collective goals consistent with justice and the attainment and preservation of conditions of fundamental equality (Canadian Association of Social Workers, n.d.).

The National Mental Health Survey 2015 -16 reveals that 1 in 20 people in India suffer from depression. Nearly 1% of the population reported high suicidal risk. The prevalence of high suicidal risk was more in the 40-49 age group (1.19%), among females (1.14%) and in those residing in urban metros (1.71%) with half of this group reporting suicidal risk had co-occurring mental illness. Substance use disorders (SUDs), including alcohol use disorder, moderate to severe use of tobacco and use of other drugs (illicit and prescription drugs) was prevalent in 22.4 % of the population above 18 years (NIMHANS, 2016).

Prevalence of mental disorders in age group 13-17 years was 7.3% and nearly equal in both genders. Nearly 9.8 million of young Indians aged between 13-17 years are in need of active interventions. Prevalence of mental disorders was nearly twice (13.5%) as much in urban metros as compared to rural (6.9%) areas (NIMHANS, 2016).

In England it is increasingly felt that social workers have a crucial part to play in improving mental health services and mental health outcomes for citizens. Social workers are trained to work in partnership with people using services, their families and carers, to optimise involvement and collaborative solutions (Allen & Romeo, n.d.). The field of mental health provides a unique opportunity for social workers to practice collaboratively with allied professionals and at the same time maintain the integrity of their knowledge and skill base (Canadian Association of Social Workers, n.d.). In India, the social work in Medical Psychiatry is offered in many institutions. These trained personnel work in clinical settings like hospitals.

However there needs to be more awareness and advocacy on the need for mental health professionals in the communities, schools, colleges, hospitals and other institutions in the state and region.

Thus the Department of Social Work has felt the need to organize a National Seminar with the theme, ***Mental Health: Initiate for Action.*** –

Key Note Speaker:

Dr. Kasi Sekar, Head of Department, Psychiatric Social Work, NIMHANS, Bangalore

Resource Persons for the different themes:

- i. Prof. R.Srinivasa Murthy, Former Head of Dept. of Psychiatry, NIMHANS, Bangalore
- ii. Prof. Sudhir K.Khandewal, Former Head of Dept. of Psychiatry, AIIMS, New Delhi
- iii. Dr. Sonia Pereira Deuri, Head of Department, Dept. of Psychiatric Social Work, LGBRIMH, Tezpur
- iv. Mr. Mukul Goswami, Director, ASHADEEP, Guwahati

Call for papers:

Proposals are invited from students, scholars, faculty members, researchers, professors and all other individuals on the following themes:

Day 1: Sub Theme I: Mental Health in educational and health institutions

- Mental Health Education for students, nurses in schools and colleges
- Mental Health Care and Services

Day 1: Sub Theme II: Mental Health Research Approaches

- Research on techniques, scales, experiments, new approaches in Mental Health
- Social Work Research/ Research on mental health

Day 2: Sub Theme III: Community Mental Health: Role of different stakeholders –

- Primary – Family,
- Secondary – Neighbours, Traditional healers, Community at large
- Tertiary – Hospitals, Care and Services

Day 2: Sub Theme IV: Advocacy and Policy for Mental Health

Last date of submission of proposal: October 8, 2017

Abstracts to be submitted to nationalseminar.mlcu@gmail.com

Abstract guidelines:

1. Title of paper with name, designation, institution, contact details (Phone number and email id)
2. The abstract should be within 500 words under the following format:
 - a. Font style: Times New Roman
 - b. Font size: 12
 - c. Spacing: double space except for block quotations, footnotes, references and long headings
 - d. After sentence. One space
3. Intimation on the acceptance of paper will be informed by October 13, 2017
4. The full paper need to be submitted by October 25, 2017
5. Registration can be done after the acceptance of the paper

Participation fee:

- Students: Rs 100.00
- Others (Scholars/Practicing Professionals etc. : Rs 500.00
- Paper presenters are exempted from the participation fee

**Payment can be done at the venue*

Guidelines for the participants who require accommodation

- Accommodation can be arranged if needed for the participants. Hence, participants are to confirm their participation by October 14, 2017. Expenses will be borne by the participants.
- For assistance in accommodation, participants can contact the following

Contact person:

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