

Integration of professional boundaries in multi-disciplinary approaches in mental health care
10 September 2014

The Dept. of Social Work organized a panel discussion on Integration of professional boundaries in multi-disciplinary approach in mental health care on 10 September 2014. Multi-disciplinary approach is a mechanism to ensure truly holistic care and a seamless service for patients throughout their disease trajectory and across the boundaries of primary, secondary and territory care. The objectives of the panel discussion were to bring panelists to discuss about the challenges and opportunities in the multi-disciplinary approaches and help students understand the strengths of this approach in mental health care. Participants were students of Social Work and Clinical Psychology. The panelists were; Dr. Sunita Simon, Professor and Head, Department of Psychiatry, St. John's Medical College and Hospital, Dr. Poornima Bhola, Associate Professor of Clinical Psychology, NIMHANS, Dr Prakash Rajaram, Additional Professor of Psychiatric Social Work, NIMHANS and Dr Madhavi Rangaswamy, Associate Professor of Psychology, Christ University. The panel discussion generated several doubts and clarifications in the audience on the challenges of current practices in hospital settings. The discussion concluded that, each professional should be competent in their profession and professionals should develop individual qualities of respect and healthy interpersonal skills. Integration of professional boundaries is required for the benefit of the clients and this should be taught to the young professionals at the beginning of their training.

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