

Department of Social Work

Seminar on Religious Roots of Social Work

The Department of Social Work organized a Seminar on **Religious Roots of Social Work** on Saturday the 12th of July, 2014. The objectives were to familiarize the roots of social work and to highlight the religious roots of social work. All religions of the world rest on tenets which uphold the philosophy of social work. Charity and philanthropy are basic features of all religions of the world. To discuss these aspects the seminar was organized.



Fr Davis Panadan, of Dharmaram Vidya Kshetram, a PhD in Law and specialist in Civil and Cannon Law was the facilitator for the first session. Fr Panadan introduced his presentation by tracing the historical origins of Human Rights in Religion as a perspective. Having mentioned philosophers like Thomas Hobbes, John Locke, Jean Jacques Rousseau, he moved on to talking about the concepts presented by Immanuel Kant, Thomas Pain, and Karl Marx. He explained the change and development of the thought process of the Catholic Church with regards to Human Rights. He traced the works of Leo XIII, Paul VI till Pope Francis. Having mentioned about Christianity, Father moved onto explaining the role and characteristics of other religions - Islam, Hinduism, Sikhism, Jainism, Buddhism and Zoroastrianism as an inter-religious perspective.



The second session was addressed by Prof Tomy Kallaragal, HOD, Dept of Tourism Studies.

He spoke about the contribution made by the founder of the CMI congregation, Blessed Kuriakose Elias Chavara. His life and achievements were highlighted. His contribution to the education sector, which he saw as the most plank of development was presented. This was followed by his contribution to the social sector. It is a matter of his immense contribution that he would be anointed as St Chavara in November 2014. The students found this session to be very interesting and an interaction session followed.



Report is prepared by Dr Hemalatha K Professor of Social Work