

**IKN: 52**

**Department of Social Work  
Workshop on Panchayath Raj**

The Department of Social Work organized a workshop on 'Panchayath Raj' on 17<sup>th</sup> September 2014 from 10.00 am to 2.15 pm. 44 students from MSW and MA (Applied Sociology) participated in the workshop.



Mr. Varghese G.M, State Officer, Good Governance programme, Karnataka Regional Organization for Social Service (KROSS) and Ms. Padmini Ananth, Senior Programme Associate of the Hunger Project Karnataka

(Former Director, Sugrama) were the resource persons for the programme.

Mr. Mathew CP, Associate Professor of Social Work, welcomed the gathering and presented the concept.

The following topics were discussed;

- Local Self Government: Pre-independence period, Historical Development, Directive principles of state policy (Article-40 of the constitution), 73<sup>rd</sup> Amendment of the Constitution.
- 3 Tier system, Roles and responsibilities of Panchayat Raj institutions, Karnataka Panchayat Raj Act, Panchayat Raj institutions(PRIs) in Karnataka, Devolution of Panchayats (Article 243G of the Constitution), Ward Sabha, Gram Sabha and Gram Panchayat.
- Issues related to the Panchayats at grassroots level and concept of social audit

Sessions generated questions on accountability and transparency of PRIs, ground realities of local self government bodies and the initiatives of Government in promoting the PRIs. Government mechanism to ensure a fair local administration is not effective to monitor and check the gaps in its implementation. The social audit and the gram Sabha



meetings are not effectively undertaken in many parts of the state. Many of the PRI members are not fully aware about their roles and responsibilities.



Women participation in all levels of Local self governing bodies is lacking. Even though the Government has properly designed schemes and plans the effectiveness is not seen much among the underprivileged sections of the villages.

Students expressed that the knowledge they gained from the persons working in the field has enhanced their interest to know more about the Panchayat Raj system in their respective states and to help creating awareness among the villages about the strength of Panchayat Raj. The workshop ended at 2.15pm with the vote of thanks proposed by Ms.Akhila Joseph, MSW III.

Mathew C.P.

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