

World Population Day 2017

Organized by Department of Sociology and Social work

11 July 2017

In 1989, the UN declared 11th July as World Population Day with the aim to raise awareness on the growing population. The themes set by UN for World Population



Day 2017 are family planning, empowerment of people and developing nations. A program was organized by the Department of Sociology and Social work and among the attendees were students of MSW- CCP I and III Semester and students from MA Sociology class. The Key Speaker of the program was Mr. Karthik Ponnappa, Co Founder of Smarter Dharma, Bengaluru.



While addressing the Program, Dr Victor Paul, Professor and Head, Department of Sociology and Social Work shared the concept of Service learning program that MSW offers

to students which can help the students to contribute to the society and make an impact in their surroundings. He spoke about different wings of Centre for Social Action (CSA) and their programs and he also talked about the achievements of the Departments of Sociology and Social work.

Prof. Suparna Kar, Assistant Professor, Department of Sociology and Social work, spoke about the significance of World Population Day. She mentioned that,



current population of the world which is around 7.4 billion and is expected to be 9 billion on 2043 and will be 10 billion by 2050. The world population day aims to raise awareness on the growing population. The challenge for all of us is to solve this problem of increasing needs and expectation of growing population and address the link between sustainable development and rapid population change.

Ms. Rachita Rao, I MSW CCP student, gave an introduction about Smarter

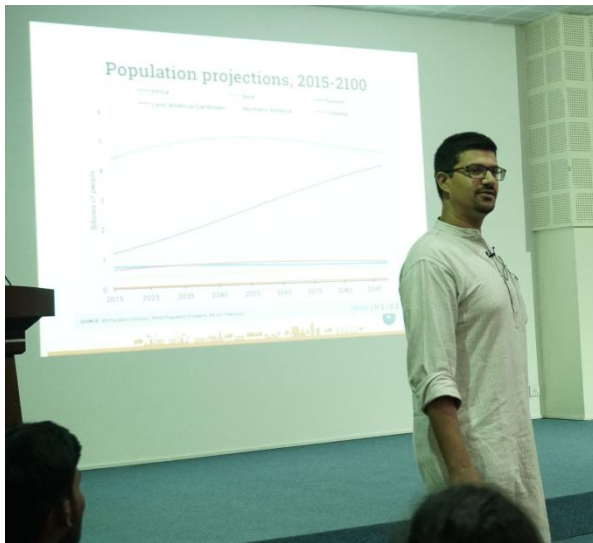


Dharma, which is a social enterprise working on environmental and social sustainability. Founded in 2012, Smarter Dharma actively engages with organizations, to pursue

resource efficiency and envision business model change that creates social and environmental value. They also assist governmental bodies through policy advocacy and help in education of communities.

Mr Karthik Ponnappa, Co-Founder of Smarter Dharma, spoke about the theme of the day - “Empowering Global Citizens to Sustain Nations for a Better

Tomorrow". He shared his belief in understanding the problem, working on the



problem to solve it. He asked the students about their understanding of sustainability wherein students answered that it is the optimum utilization of the available resources so that they don't run out for both present and future generations, to also let the future generations enjoy resources that we are enjoying at

present and that it is the systematic utilization of resources. He asked the students about why they even care about sustainability and the students answered that there's scarcity in many parts of the world. And those who have access to these resources are only few in numbers and are privileged; hence it is the need of the hour for this generation to focus on sustainable development.

Students also expressed their view that it is important to sustain our existence as well as that of our future. He showed a video by Mr. George Carlin, who being a



comedian very subtly shared that humans have destroyed enough and need to stop meddling with mother nature's processes and its way of existence and let the planet rejuvenate itself, after years of exploitation driven by man's greed, because that's the nature of planet Earth.

He shared several facts on climate change, wherein he told that last year, that is 2016, was the hottest year in the last 50 years due to global warming and greenhouse gases (like carbon dioxide, carbon monoxide, CFCs etc), due to which glaciers are melting, weather is becoming extreme and unpredictable, and the depletion of ozone layer. Mr Kartik explained about the over exploitation of water, food and other essential resources caused by humans over the years and the rate of which is just increasing every year. He spoke about the garbage dumps and patches found in islands and oceans globally and how it's effecting the biodiversity and eco system, as there is so much waste being generated by humans. He also spoke about the Syria Crisis that began due to a drought in early 2000s which lead to the migration of poor from rural to urban and which later led to conflicts and intensified in to a civil war. Mr. Karthik also gave an astonishing fact that even after the rapid pace of construction in Bangalore, 70% of the infrastructure/construction required to meet the demands of the population in 2020 has not even started. The program ended by Mr. Karthik adding to the talk about his organization and the activities they do to promote and achieve sustainable development and the various activities that are conducted by Smarter Dharma.

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