



# Netaji Subhas Open University

(Established by WB Act (XIX) of 1997, Recognized by UGC)

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## REPORT

### Human Rights Day Celebration in Bhairab Ganguly Study Centre on 10<sup>th</sup> December 2017 By School of Professional Studies, Social Work Dept.

The learners of Social Work Course were fortunate enough to celebrate the 69<sup>th</sup> Human Rights Day on 10<sup>th</sup> December 2017, as it was a Sunday and they all came to attend their PCP Session on the same very day. After seeking the permission of the Centre Coordinator, the learners under the supervision of their PCP Counsellor of Social Work, Mrs Chandrima Banerjee arranged a programme to observe this auspicious day.

The programme begun with a short introduction by the Centre Coordinator, Sri Mintu Haldar, who briefly discussed the importance of Human Rights Day and said that the United Nations General Assembly adopted the Universal Declaration of Human Rights on 10<sup>th</sup> December 1948 to acknowledge and ensure the dignity and Basic Rights of all the human beings irrespective of their caste, creed, gender, ethnicity, colour and nationality.

Mrs Chandrima Banerjee, discussed in details about the concept of **Human Rights** and how it is related to **Social Work Perspective**. Human rights include the right to life, livelihood and freedom from slavery and torture, freedom to express opinion, the right to work and education, thus no one should be deprived or discriminated against enjoying their basic entitlements and rights. The United Nations has defined a broad range of rights, which includes civil, cultural, economic, political as well as social rights. It has also designed various mechanisms to promote and protect these rights of the people and has formulated guidelines for the nations to carry out their responsibilities smoothly.

While defining Social Work, Ms Chandrima Banerjee gave the following definition-

“Social work is a practice-based profession and an academic discipline that promotes social change and development, social cohesion, and the empowerment and liberation of people. Principles of social justice, human rights, collective responsibility and respect for diversities are central to social work. Underpinned by theories of social work, social sciences, humanities and indigenous knowledge, social work engages people and structures to address life challenges and enhance wellbeing. The above definition may be amplified at national and/or regional levels.”

She gave the six core values of the social work professionie:

- Service.
- Social justice.
- Dignity and worth of the individual.
- Importance and centrality of human relationships.

- Integrity.
- Competence.

While explaining the above values of Social Work and relating it to Human Rights, Mrs Banerjee shared “Social Work is a profession that is charged with promoting social justice and preserving human rights; persons who work under the umbrella of social work are called social workers.” Therefore, we as Social Work Professional are responsible for ensuring Social Justice in our Society. We may only assure Justice in our Society is possible if the people are fully able to enjoy their rights and entitlements and are capable to perform, to their full potential. The social work profession shares a close relationship with human rights, because it believes in securing, respect, dignity, and self-determination. Social Work discipline challenges the inhumane treatment of marginalized people, and it is committed to challenge anti-oppressive practice, and most importantly, ensuring each and every voice of the vulnerable section is heard and addressed.

Finally, she highlighted the relation of Social Work and Human Right as per IFSW 2000 as-

“Human rights are inseparable from social work theory, values and ethics, and practice. Rights corresponding to human needs have to be upheld and fostered, and they embody the justification and motivation for social work action. Advocacy for such rights must therefore be an integral part of social work,”

Mrs Chandrima Banerjee organized a poster making sessions on Human Rights issues where the, learners came up with innovative ideas and concepts. Later the learners were asked to share their opinions and ideas about how Social Work can be instrumental in restoring Human Rights in the Society. following suggestions were given by the learners-

- Make efforts to raise the enrolment figure in the Higher Education level.
- Ensuring employment to the all.
- Allocating more fund for the basic amenities like- education and health
- Organizing awareness camps regarding the basic rights in the community level.

Some of the learners shared the human rights are violated in our societies, and they were of the view that the Women and Children are the most affected people in this regard.

The programme was concluded by singing the song “*Hum honge kamiyab ek din*”