

Knocking the door of your conscience

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From the editor's desk:

Dear Reader,

As we embarked on the journey of a new semester we marked a rocky start to the new year with a plethora of catastrophic events befalling our fate. Be it the sad turn of incidents at the university or the delayed examinations the entire student fraternity was left perplexed at the helm of it all. As we limp back to normalcy and the routined activities, Dastak is back with its combined edition for the months of January and February. This particular edition aimed at encapsulating the free expression of the students, is an amalgamation of emotions and the creative abilities which we hope leaves you captivated at the end.

For this edition we've posed a few questions for you to ponder upon, a couple of field work experiences to reflect upon and a few excellent pieces of poetry to rouse upon. To sum it up all we have updates of the various events organised by the department during the two months and a placement update which has brought us pride and hope during this turbulent phase.

Happy Reading!

Literary Society, Dept. of Social Work, JMI

Literary Society, Department of Social Work, JMI

The past calling

Saifullah Sabir (M.S.W)

The Karachi resolution adopted by the Congress party in 1931 has had a great influence the Indian o n Constitution. The socioeconomic provision of the resolution was radical in itself and had its way to the Directive Principles of State Policy in the Constitution. The year 1931 means the Weimar republic was in death



throes. The Great Depression was setting in. Hitler was campaigning to end years of "German humiliation". In the U.S., lynching was still on, Jim Crow segregation laws were in place and blacks were systematically denied the right to vote. In the United Kingdom, women's suffrage was allowed just three years ago. In France, there were still curbs on women's voting rights. In such a context, the Karachi resolution called for universal adult suffrage in India - it stated that every citizen, irrespective of their caste, creed, class or sex, is equal before

the law. Is stated that; "Political freedom must include real economic freedom of the starving millions". Freedom of association, freedom of speech, free profession and practice of religion should be allowed along with it also endorsed that the state should be neutral to all religions sowing the seeds of secular polity.

In 1931, when world was faced with problems of grave nature like great economic miseries, rising fascism, structural inequalities, racist violence and at home Naziinspired ideologues were trying to torpedo the national movement by trying to divide it on religious lines, our constitutional forefathers called for an idea of India that's based on equality and equal rights. This historic document played an important role in shaping the idea of India as a plural and secular, in which every citizen was conceived equal before law. This was the beginning of a social revolution that enriched Indian democracy from within and even as most countries in the neighbourhood, failed to take off as functional republics, it was the cornerstone of these principles which helped India to sustain as a true democracy.

"Need for Diversity and Inclusivity in Public Policy"

Adarsh Trivedi (M.S.W-Final)

"It is time for parents to teach young people early on that in diversity there is beauty and there is strength."

Above lines by Maya Angelou helps us to understand that diversity isn't just about beauty, but it's about enhanced strength that we as a human sometimes fails to recognise. We still don't understand that nature's secret recipe to sustain itself is nothing but diversity. In public policy also we need to recognise that uniformity can't be a general yardstick to measure everybody. For example, policies like reservation take into account such differences and historical backwardness and thus attempts to work towards greater equality than merely notional ones.

Similarly, our federal system of governance is also designed to work on the basis of different needs of different people. So, sometimes we fail to recognise that whether it's India or its constitution, diversity is an inherent and indispensable part of it. However, problem arises when there is mere acceptance of diversity as a principle but failure of policies to deliver it. It then Inclusivity comes into picture, it's actually a carrier, an instrument through which we bring diversity in policies to life.

Moreover, a golden rule for any policy to work is public acceptance thus if policy has to really work then it should be acceptable, now when the population itself is so diverse and needs of regions differ from one another then, so it's a common-sense that a policy should also be inclusive.

Another point that we often fail to mention is that anything is inclusive when there is participation of all stakeholders, which then instills sense of ownership in them. That's is also one of the reasons why our policies fail to work as they are result of superficial inclusion and not true inclusion of all stakeholders including public in the process of formation of policies. Thus, the policy that isn't inclusive or diverse neither conforms to the ideals on which our constitution was based nor is a practically sustainable policy.



Why they came out?

Anonymous

An outcome of the Non-Cooperation Movement, Jamia Millia Islamia, today, is known for its multicultural and diverse learning environment, lush green campus, and acclaimed courses like Mass Communication, Social Work, Architecture, and Engineering to name a few. In the upcoming year of 2020, Jamia Millia Steps into its centennial year celebrating a century of struggle, resistance, dissent,



nationalism, cultural assimilation, love and above all peace. The very existence of this institution in the current age is the testimony of its determination and promise to impart excellence to the next generation. This institution has a history of nurturing individuals who keep their souls and their thriving careers at the altar of the nation, to sacrifice all they have in the service to the nation.

On the countdown to its centenary, History repeated itself with Jamia students leading a nationwide protest once again. This time it was for a different cause and was led by different students, still, one thing had not changed at all and that was to always keep the nation on the top. Jamia Students like students in any other university are dedicated to build up their careers and fulfil their dreams. They come from diverse backgrounds and all walks of life to toil for the better tomorrow. It is an institution that gives knowledge and a canopy to the most backward sections of the society in the national capital of the country and above all its one the best educational institutions available in the country. It produces India's brightest minds in multiple disciplines through its renowned academic rigour, discipline, and tehzeeb. Like every fall, this year also students were busy preparing for their career-defining exams that were going to take place during the month of December.

So, the question arises what brought the students of such an Institution on the streets in the first place? There can be many interpretations but there is only one answer, it's the nation called India i.e. Bharat. Students came out because they cared for the idea of their nation, they came out as that is what their education from taxpayer's money taught them, they came out as they were anxious since the foundations on which their institution was based were shaken, they came out as that what freedom fighters and designers of our constitution would have done, they came out as they were disturbed to see the fear residing deep into the hearts of the masses, they came out as they had compassion towards the fellow citizens protesting to preserve their abode in the northeast, and above all, they came out in the chilling winters of Delhi to lit the doused fire of dissent again.

Today, while Jamia is still recovering from wounds of barbaric atrocities that it experienced. There are thousands more on streets to preserve and protect what Jamia stood for. It's nothing but the piousness of the intent that brought not only students but civil society, activists, professionals, and world outside to back Jamia. These protests



certainly have etched a mark in the history of Jamia and renews and rejuvenates its resilience and determination. Jamia learned from its philosophical founder Mahatma Gandhi that violence is the instrument of the weak exactly a century back and thus the scars of this violence will only strengthen its resolve to stand up for the nation. It has kept its promise a century later and will stick to the path of non-violence in millennials to come. Jamia doesn't stop, Jamia doesn't fear, Jamia doesn't bow down to injustice. Jamia will rise again in the proverbial tomorrow – where the mind is without fear and the head is held high!

My Lost Abode

Anonymous

My tryst with Zakir Hussain Library started four years back in 2015 when I entered this institution for the very first time. I used to love books but my encounter with the library took place when one of my professors insisted upon visiting it at least once in order to check for books



suitable for us to supplement the lectures and enhance our understanding. I walked into this majestic building with three other friends of mine and with our fee slip in our hands and excitement in our minds. Absorbing all that was around, we reached the second floor where we were welcomed by a guard smiling at the door. Reaching the hall on the right-hand side of the entrance gate of the Second Floor, I was in awe of the hall stacked with books covering an array of disciplines like sciences, economics, psychology, history, politics, law, sociology, anthropology... and what not! That whole day I spent going through the books and picking all those I liked. I even made a list of books in order to get them issued later. It was from that very day that The Zakir Hussain library became my safe place, my abode far from home. I would spend hours reading books about things I haven't ever heard of and as nerdy it might sound even took notes from books that mattered to me. I would roam around for hours searching for my next book and dwelling upon what life meant to me. Walking through the hallways, I would glance at thousands of ambitious students studying to fulfil their dreams. Other times, I would land in the Digital Resource Centre to find students surfing the Internet and, and reading study material online. When I used to be sad, it was this library that helped me to forget my sadness. When I use to feel lonely, it was books that provided me company. I would read, write, think, and sometimes even cry in between the bookshelves. I was completely mesmerised by the sheer aura of this place. Four years down the line, the library became my go-to place in the whole University. I met seniors who came looking for books, took their suggestions about preparing for exams, and finding the right books. I would hang-out with friends, reading paragraphs while engaging in whispered discussions sometimes. How can I forget eyes staring at us when we would giggle at something funny that we came across? A week before the

siege of my safe haven, I visited the library to look for books that will be useful for my exams. It was a Friday, and the library was closing for the afternoon prayers, the librarian told me to leave the hall politely and suggested me to take the books to the Ph.D. section for reading. But I rather chose to sit in the hallway and read the books while basking in



the sunshine. Later I went for lunch, keeping books with a guard who nervously agreed to my request. While leaving the library that day, I overheard old men chatting and catching up on their lives. I heard random students discussing their oncoming exams. Soon I realised that the Library was not just for reading books, it was much more than that. In fact, *through those books, people read life*.

On 15th December, I was at home when suddenly my phone was flooded with the messages crying for help, accompanied by pictures and videos testifying for the barbarity on my safe haven, I was shocked. I couldn't help but cry, seeing the destruction of my abode. Library that was once filled with the rustic smell of books was now covered with smoke everywhere, the halls which were known for pin-drop silence were now screaming.

A week ago, this time there was blood on that floor. I was completely shattered. How could someone ransack my library? My library that has always been so walk and welcoming to every visitor, how could someone be so cruel? Inconsolable and numb that I was, I kept asking these questions to myself. A day later when the photos of the aftermath came in, my body froze and tears started trickling down my face. There was nothing but rubble in those eerie and hollow photos. It was as if each picture was still crying for help while narrating the tale of horrors that it experienced! *Violence is never the answer and violence in a temple of knowledge is unimaginable*, there are no words that can ever explain my pain and grief to see my library bleeding. I don't know when will I be able to visit my library again, but I do know that it will never feel the same...

Reflections from the field:

A journey to remember

Sana Afreen (M.S.W)

It is rightly said that, "destinations never matter, the journey does". Keeping in view this thought I'm reminded of the journey that started on 27th August, 2019 in the form of 'fieldwork'.

The best a human learns, is through practice and this journey which is still in the nascent stage, opened up an arena of sharing and learning experiences which forms the basis of developing a personality that stands out, becoming a



person who wants to excel by building on strength and strengthening the weakness.

Fieldwork is one indispensable part of social work studies, as it not only makes the



student/trainee ready to face the world outside the

university and their primary group, but also prepares them to face themselves and this development facilitates their understanding of dynamics on both sides of the wall.

There has been many instances which need to be mentioned, but the one that sums it all for me was the 'Athletic and cultural meet 2019' funded by Kopal foundation. This event saw the whole community of Saraswati camp, R.K.Puram turning up to be a part of it.

The event saw kids participating in large numbers as the parents volunteered to be spectators. The athletic component was divided into various events which included races of various kinds held individually for the boys and the girls. The winners were awarded with certificates of appreciation. On the organising front we were accompanied by the kids themselves, who were proactive to make it a success. Our supervisor Mr. Sanjay Onkar Ingole, helped and mediated our conversations with

the agency.

This event and the associated field work was a huge learning experience. The biggest takeaway was however the congruence with the mankind. Of all things it is the humans that matter the most. It is thought that a trainee on the meant to bring about a change in the community. But the reality is that the trainee gets an opportunity



to test his/her knowledge and the theory all the while becoming more accepting and less judgemental through it.

It keeps the voluntariness intact and pertains to relationship building which keeps alive the urge to understand and solve the problems and to make lives a little better than before.Experiences like field work are explicitly adding to the life skills and act as a live examples of the knowledge garnered within the walls. It breaks the barrier between words and actions; and allows the opportunity to live the information, like in the case of group work and community work.

It bridges the gap between theory and practice and adds to the understanding (conscious), providing the idea of possible implications irrespective of whether they are positive or negative, which leads to improvisations in practice. Patience, resilience, emotionality, rationality all are tested and enhanced, adding to overall development in the personal self.

The exposure garnered through field work is the journey, that gives hope and credibility to the destiny of becoming a social worker, who in true sense works and breathes for humanity. The practice here is the fodder that enhances the chance of acquiring an end product which has all the finesse needed to excel.

My experience of working with leprosy patients

Manavey Solanki (M.S.W)

For my field work I was placed in The Lepra India Trust which works for treatment and care for leprosy patients. I was required to visit Seemapuri leprosy home which was run Missionaries of Charity-Mother Teresa Home. Prior to this I never had any interaction with any leprosy patient and barely knew



anything about their situation. I was very nervous to visit the leprosy home for the first time. when I reached their on my first day I was so happy to see greenery everywhere, there were beautiful flowers around and inspiring messages from Mother Teresa and Jesus Christ were written on walls about how to love other human being and being kind, generous and compassion towards other beings.

The scene was very beautiful until I saw the crude reality. I met the head sister their and introduced myself and told her my purpose of visit. She greeted me warmly and told me to observe certain rules while I was working there. Then she asked me to go around and meet with patient and talk to them and know about their lives. The colony was located in a large area and there was one section for women and one section for men. I went around seeing the colony and that was the first time I saw leprosy patient with a close proximity and had the chance of talking to them. I came across a woman who was sitting on the floor looking very disappointed and was in a lot of pain I tried to make a conversation about her condition and she almost broke down in tears she told me that she was had unbearable pain in her head her one leg was amputated because of leprosy and did not have any family support. She said that she was running from one hospital to other get her treatment but all she was getting was disappointment because the hospital authorities were not taking her case and all were giving her different dates to come.

While listening to her story I had tears in my eyes and could not say anything. I was completely speechless her pain was visible she was so weak that her bones were

visible. There were many patients like her in the ward. Then I went to place where every Friday a doctor would come for providing medicines to these leprosy patients who were having any health problem. I went and sat with doctor and sister and other staff to assist them in the process. There were around 25 leprosy patients who had come for the treatment and by then I did not know what kind of problems were faced by leprosy patients when I saw the first patient who showed his feet there was deep ulcer in his foot and if the proper treatment was not given there would be need for amputation. I asked one of the staff member what is this and how does this happen. They said that most of the patients suffering from leprosy are very poor and because of social stigma they are either disowned by their own family or they leave their family and move to other places. In case of leprosy the peripheral nerves of the patient are damaged and because of which they lose the sensation in their hands and feet and any king of minor injury or major injury or lack of adequate care could result in grave ulcers and most of the patients are very negligent of their health because they have no hope to live and wish to end their life as early as possible but one thing that they do not realise is that they will never die because of leprosy however not taking proper care could make their lives worse. For the first time I saw ulcers where worms were coming out I just couldn't see the pain of people. I saw an old man crying in front of doctor to relive him from the pain. The sight was horrific, to this day I cannot forget the face of the old man and I am sure I will never forget that in future.

After I came back from field work I was in a state of trauma. I couldn't forget the face of people, their ulcers and their mental condition. I couldn't sleep that night. Next day in college I discussed about it with my friends they tried to calm me down but deep in my

heart I could not face the harsh reality of life. For the next field work I was really not sure whether I would like to continue this or not but I decided to give myself one more chance. This Friday when I went around the colony I saw people of different age groups sitting there and have nothing to do. their hopelessness was



visible from their faces especially old people while talking to one old man he was constantly saying "I don't know what wrong I had done in my life that I am being punished like this" he told me that he worked all his life for his family and when he was affected by leprosy his family left him to die.

There were many patients who had similar stories. When I was sitting with doctor to assist him there was a young boy of 15 years who had contacted the disease when he was just 5 years old. I had the conversation with the boy about his visit to Delhi and what all places he has seen and how many people are there in his family? The boy was happy to talk to me but he became sad when he told me that he had to stop going to school because of his disease. I just had nothing to say but I tried to motivate him by saying that he has his family who loves him so much and that he should never give up on life and take good care of himself rest everything will be fine.

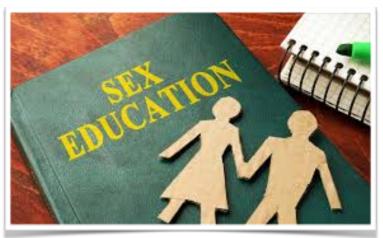
When I came back from field work I thought I needed to talk to someone because I was so depressed by the events of the day that I couldn't think about anything else but that small child. Every Friday since I have started going to leprosy colony each time I have had the great opportunity to talk to people and look and the life from different perspective. After every visit I get depressed and demoralised but only thing that keeps me going is that I know there is someone like Missionaries of Charity who are taking care of people who have been abandoned by everyone in this society. I often read a short story "what men live by" written by Leo Tolstoy to keep myself going.

Sex education- A Taboo

Risha Nusrat (M.S.W.- Final)

How many of you were informed/ educated about matters related to sexual anatomy, intercourse, reproduction and so on? What is sex education? It is a comprehensive term that is used to describe education about human sexual anatomy, sexual reproduction, sexual intercourse, and other aspects of human sexual behavior that helps people gain the information, skills, and motivation to make healthy decisions and choices about sex and sexuality. Indians and Sex Education - HUSHH!!! "There is no need for sex education in schools as it will have a negative impact on children, an organization said." (Source: India Today, 29 August, 2019) Indians, be it, adolescents or adults, sometimes even the well-read urban kind, often attach a whole lot of sensitivity to the topic of sex, regarding it with the most vicious taboo. Therefore, sex education is met with a lot of resistance from different sources like parents, teachers, especially these nosy neighbors. Sex education and Adolescents: Stigma and Shame There are 243 million adolescents in India (UNICEF) which indicates the importance of specifically addressing the healthcare needs of this group, particularly for developing countries such as India. It is during adolescence that these young people experience developmental changes in their physiology and behavior as they are about to enter adulthood.

The complex emotional state in which youth find themselves in, stigma and shame attached to this subject, gender inequality faced, makes it increasingly challenging for adolescents to attain the k n o w l e d g e t h e y n e e d. Consequence of this stigma: The existence of strong stigma, shame and controversy handicaps any existing adolescent health



programs, making them turn their heads to unreliable sources like the internet and peers to gain an understanding of matters related to their sexual well-being. This shallow knowledge gives rise to risky sexual behavior with outcomes such as early and closely spaced pregnancy, sexually transmitted infection (STI), HIV/AIDS, and sexual violence, the rates of which are already increasing at a disturbing rate. There are cases of rape where the perpetrator is a minor, violence between sexes who are minors, teen and pre-teen pregnancy, incest, etc. which are all manifestations of lack of social, sexual Therefore, there is a need to meet the needs of such a and moral education. vulnerable group and overcoming existing shortcomings in the delivery of education that deals with sexual well-being. Trainee's Observation and Analysis related to Sex Education among Adolescents: While planning and designing the sessions on sex education, the team was conscious of the fact that the students might not talk openly about the theme i.e. Sex education. Therefore, the session was planned very carefully and responsibly. While executing the training sessions, the trainee observed that the students were not comfortable while talking about topics like Reproduction, reproductive health, menstruation, masturbation, wet dreams, safe pregnancy, etc. The engagement and the response rate were guite low compared to the other sessions conducted in the same school with the same students. The trainee analyzed the situation and tried to overcome the barriers through different tactics like making the session easier by the usage of simple words, providing only preliminary information and creating a friendly environment but failed to evoke engagement and responses at a satisfactory level. As learned individuals, we realize the importance of sex education for people, especially adolescents, but due to various reasons, say, the sensitivity of the topic and its relationship with the Indian culture, norms, tradition, socialization pattern, etc.; make sex education a HUSH TOPIC!!! As a social work trainee, it's our responsibility to sensitize the society for ensuring that every individual is provided with the necessary information, clarify myths and provide facts related to sex, sexuality and sexual behavior.

PONDER before You ANSWER:

• Do you think there is a need to impart sex education to adolescents?

• As a social work trainee, what can we do to reduce the stigma and shame attached to sex education in our society?

Expressions:

A piece of advice from a 93 year old 'young' gentleman!

Mohammed Numan (M.S.W)

I've always been a travel enthusiast and have explored various places across India, and have been to almost 15-18 states and as said by Ibn Batuta - "Travelling - It leaves you speechless and then turns you into a storyteller". This is one such experience from my trip to Himachal Pradesh back in the year of 2016.

It was dawn, me and my friends who had accompanied me to the trip, planned to climb up the hill behind our place of stay that would ultimately lead us to the waterfalls. And



as planned we started from our place and in midst of the course, to our surprise we get to see this old gentleman who seemed so energetic, with a heavy basket full of garden-fresh apples, strapped over his forehead, hanging behind his shoulders and was so easily climbing up the hill. And we youngsters were so tired already and imagined if climbing the hill was a right decision. We then happened to take a stop at a shop that would serve us with Maggi- an essential thing to eat while in hilly areas and so did the old man.

We happened to share the same table to sit and eat. The utmost inquisitiveness in me didn't allow me to just sit and see this old man so I thought of talking to him. I introduced myself and the conversation

began (eating Maggi alongside). It emerged out to be almost an hour long conversation and I do not remember everything and do not want to burden all of you reading this. So out of all the discussions I would just like to share my major learnings from the old man -

1. We youngsters indulge into wrong food habits that have led to, us falling into serious illnesses and diseases at such young age. (He told this upon seeing us so tired and him full of energy inspite of his old age).

2. During the age of 13-21 everything seems exciting and the urge to try and experience everything new often leads us to involvement in smoking and drinking habits that ultimately turns us prey to serious health consequences.

3. A man must learn to have trust on himself more than anyone in this world and only the sheer determination to succeed in life will help him succeed. (He had nobody in his family and in order to earn his daily bread and butter, he would pick those ripened apples and supply it to the store - His determination and trust on himself has helped him live so long).

4. The youth must not spend on materialistic possessions but rather save and see what the world has to show when they grow old. Because in the end, all your possessions are gone and you have nothing left but to get out to the streets and search for your daily bread and butter.

5. Don't expect life to be fair. What is life without hindrances? We must learn to see the good things in everything and life would become much easier.

There has always been something that I take back from my visits. And this trip taught me a lot of things that I believe no other place has ever taught me. I do not know whether I'll ever in my life come across this old man and I really hope he's still alive and wherever he is now, he is safe and smiling like he is in the picture and I wish him all the happiness, respect and love.

"Jaate jaate kuch log bohot kuch seekha jaate hain"

The Voice

Akshara Mehra (M.S.W)

Sometimes a murmur, sometimes a whisper to a loud bang nearby

From dew on the leaves of lotus to the frost in fields

A voice of change is like a cuckoo singing alone

To those of slogans shouted in unison.



But what it all takes is a voice A slow, hesitant murmur To make minds ponder and question , Becoming the spring in the forlorn winter Blooming fragrant discussions at every other corner.

First they mock, then they are jealous And finally as it becomes chorus The source doesn't matter When it becomes harbinger of change In a new dawn.

वो सोचते हैं

Shah Alam Ansari (M.S.W)

वो सोचते हैं कि हम पर ज़ुल्म ढाना जानते हैं उनसे कह दो हम भी मुल्क़ बचाना जानते हैं

है अहल-ए-सितम को छूट आज़माए हर सितम हम अहल-ए-वतन भी जिगर आज़माना जानते हैं

हर शख़्स में है आज दिख रहा इक एहतिजाज हुक्मरान के चमचे बस दुम हिलाना जानते हैं

हम अहल-ए-मुल्क़ मानते हैं इस ज़मीं को चमन चंद मुल्क़ के हुक्मरान दहशतख़ाना जानते हैं

तुम नफ़रतों की आग को फैलाओ हर तरफ़ 'आलम' हम दिल से दिल को मिलाना जानते हैं

-आलम फ़र्रूख़ाबादी

Yet another.

Prof. Neelam Sukhramani

Will this spree of making women and children the victims of our lust ever stop? What is

it that runs through the minds of perpetrators? Is the overpowering desire to brutalise the body of a woman or is it the unsatiated lust? I have no answers but only questions.

Should it not prick our conscience even for a fraction of a second while poking a wiper in the anus of an infant. How can anyone be so brutal? How can someone forgive themselves or even seek



forgiveness after being so brutal? What is it that comes upon an individual that such a thought may even cross their mind? Haven't we had enough? Is it not ironical that after this as well, the victims are blamed for inviting such acts? Notions of safety are so superfluous. If the victim is to be blamed for going out into the night, then the question that deserves its space is that, 'Are homes safe'?

I need not answer this question as it would put many to shame to think of no place is a safe place. I am pained to think of the hypocritical society that we are living in. People on whom the pain is inflicted are supposed to be the guardians of their own safety. It is high time we moved away and started acknowledging the responsibility of the perpetrator. How many messages do we come across where we talk about respecting human beings?

Touching the feet of another person or greeting another person cannot be seen as respectful conduct. It goes much beyond that. It involves being non-invasive, respecting the person's space. We need to strategise in a way where we are able to reach every single person. The society that has stopped listening to the call of conscience has to be redeemed.

Hell has broken loose. Before we are able to even deal with the shock of one incident, there is yet another...

Events in the Department:

CV Building Workshop

By: Ms. Vibha Malhotra

Department of Social work, Jamia Millia Islamia is committed to impart excellence to its students. When few students raised a need for having a skill-based session on resume building and handling different phases of the recruitment process. The objective was to provide a common minimum skill set to students to ace through any general format

of the recruitment process. Here comes the role of the department's definitive relationship with its students. Taking swift action department organized a half-day workshop for students. This time students had the honor to attend a session convened by *Ms. Vibha Malhotra-* a Human Resource Consultant having experience over three decades. The



session was insightful and engaging. Students had their doubts cleared through the practical exercise of group discussion and interview. The interest of students is reflected from the fact that work that was designed for two hours was extended almost to two more hours. The major highlight of the session was the special focus of blossoming distinctiveness in individual students while stress was laid upon nuances during any recruitment process. Convener also enlightened students on making an informed and practical choice for their careers. The session had great utility for students. They expressed satisfaction from the session upon completion of the session. The best part was that there was something for everyone to learn from the session. Lastly, as it is said that actions speak louder than words. The quality of the session was vindicated when record-breaking seven students were selected for PRADAN. Students selected expressed in one voice that they were greatly benefited from the session and especially thanking *Ms. Vibha Malhotra* for the wonderful session that she conducted in the department.

Placement Update

Compiled by: Placement Committee

The placement committee, consisting of eight members under the guidance of the field work director, *Prof. Vani Narula* and co-director, *Dr. L. H. M. Gangte*, has worked tirelessly in the last one and a half year - planning, organizing, networking, managing, welcoming, and entertaining the recruiters for the **M. A. Social Work cohort of 2018-2020**.

The placement season took off in the month of November with *Empower Pragati* visiting the department and selected four students, followed by *PRADAN* which we proudly share selected seven students as development apprentices. In the year 2020, the department has had participation from *Vedanta, Maa Anandmayee Memorial School and Medha* who have selected four, one, six, and two students respectively.

It is a wonderful news that nearly half of the batch has been placed, and with several organizations lined up for further placements, we expect the numbers to rise. The literary society reached out to the selected students to get an insight into their experience and inquire if they have any advice for the juniors who will be looking forward to the process in the coming year...

EMPOWER PRAGATI

Empower Pragati works with the objective to impact the lives of underprivileged youth by providing them with the skills to seek employment and livelihood and has become India's leading vocational skill training provider. In the last eight years of its operations, the organization has been successfully able to train over 2.6 lac youth in both informal and formal sectors.

In the month of November, Empower Pragati was the first organization to visit the department for the placement process and selected four candidates as trainees -

- 1. Mani Kashyap
- 2. Muhammad Faisal
- 3. Mohammad Aman
- 4. Syed Mohd. Hammad

Ever since the 2nd year of the course commenced; placements had been a part of every conversation. Empower Pragati was the 1st organization that came and I had set my eyes on it. The process that they conducted was one rigorous yet as flat as a pancake and I without even an ounce of negative thought enjoyed it.

My advice to the juniors: Be confident and calm. Don't stress yourself and be real.

– Mani Kashyap

The placement committee created maximum opportunities for students to meet the expectations and helped them to get placed through their collective efforts.

In the first phase of selection process, there was a written test and group discussion and the second phase was an interview. For the interview, I was very anxious but the interview panel had a warm aura which changed my anxiety into confidence.

" Stop doubting yourself, work hard and make it happen", that is what my supervisor and other faculty members taught me.

– Muhammad Faisal

The commencement of the placement season was quite an unnerving feeling for me as I had never faced a job interview before this. Although, I had confidence in my own

abilities and the learnings that I've had in the past year and a half. The guidance from the teachers was and colleagues was the pillar of my strength. I feel that Department of Social Work has inculcated in my a level of professionalism, hard work and discipline that if I'm able to put that to effective use, the sky is the limit for me and same goes for all the students who are going to be passing out from M.A. Social Work and M.A. Human Resource Management.

As of right now, when two companies have come in for







recruitment and have selected 11 students. The brotherhood and bond between the students are something that I haven't seen before. People taking the success of their classmates as their own. The positive environment that is being formed has motivated the entire department as a whole to strive and achieve results that have never been achieved before!

On a personal note, I look forward to working with Empower Pragati. Them being one of the pioneers in the field and working alongside some of the most talented alumnus of Department of Social Work is going to be a wonderful experience. I would try to make the most of this opportunity!

Trust your abilities, you have been trained by the best people in the field!

– Mohammad Aman

My experience with the placement drive in the department was full of learning, Initially I was worried about how the process will take place and will I be placed or not, but the coordinators of placement were supportive and they made the process easier for me also Department Facilitated the placements very well, I was surprised that we got placed so early. I would like to advice my juniors to take placements seriously, study about the organizations well and learn to present themselves. At last I would like to thank my Teachers, Department of social work and the placement cell for their promptness and Professionalism in conducting placements.



– Syed Mohd. Hammad

PRADAN

Based on the optimism of two young professionals, Deep Joshi and Vijay Mahajan, PRADAN (Professional Assistance for Development Action) was created in 1983, believing that through grassroots work, even the stubborn, endemic poverty that haunts rural India can be solved. The focus of the organization was on bringing well-educated, young professionals within these communities to use both empath and knowledge to help the poor in helping themselves, as the work towards improving their lives.

From 1987 onwards, the organization has been working with the government in programs such as IRDP, NRLM, and SGSY to bring about sustainable change in the system to ensure that the vulnerable and the marginalized groups gain the confidence to take charge of their own lives.

Today, with more than four hundred young professionals working for issues like women empowerment, income generation, livelihood, food security, access to water, and management of natural resources in nearly nine thousand remote villages of India across the seven poorest states of India - West Bengal, Bihar, Odisha, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, and Jharkhand and have reached nearly eight lakh forty eight thousand five hundred families that have been living at the margins.

Every year, PRADAN seeks for Development Apprentices who embark on a path to weigh the realities of life and the value of work. The Apprentices develop the competencies required to function effectively as a Development Executive at PRADAN after the end of the 12-month long apprenticeship. The primary work taken by the apprentices is developing an understanding of the human conditions, and the underlying causes within it. The performance of the apprentice during this program determines their offer for becoming a Development Executive.

PRADAN visited the Department of social work, Jamia Millia Islamia for Campus Placement on 6th December 2019. Twenty-seven students from M.A. Social Work showed interest in the organization after a discussion and video screening by the officials representing the organization.

The placement process first included a psychometric test, followed by group discussions, and finally culminating with the personal interview. At each stage, the students were being shortlisted.

From the initial cohort of twenty-seven students, only seventeen students made it through for the group discussion and were divided in two groups consisting of eight and nine members each. The situation-based group discussion lasted for forty-five minutes to one hour for each group, after which, seven students were shortlisted for the personal interview.

It is a matter of pride for the Department to announce that the organization communicated the selection of all seven of the students who were shortlisted for the interview as Development Apprentices, their names being -

- 1. Madiha Shariq
- 2. Nadeem Sultan
- 3. Rachel Tanvi Chattopadhyay
- 4. Risha Nusrat
- 5. Sabira Yaqoob
- 6. Zahra Amin
- 7. Zaid Ahsan Siddiqui

Campus placements are undoubtedly a boon for students however, they also bring along a certain aura of tension and anxiety among students. Luckily my campus placement experience has been remarkable, due to the immense efforts of the professors and students who managed the recruitment process exceptionally well and kept all the prospective candidates highly motivated throughout the process.

My advice for my juniors will be, try and prepare well for all the rounds of the recruitment process beforehand. During the group discussions, the idea is not only to make your presence felt but the way you come across also matters, so one must keep that in mind and try being assertive rather than being aggressive.



– Madiha Shariq

I'm very happy and grateful that I've got selected as a Development Apprentice of PRADAN. I am quite satisfied with the way everything was planned and organized by

the placement committee and I am thankful to them as well. The anxiety and nervousness were immense but the way whole process was designed by the recruiters helped me to give my best. To my juniors in the department, I would like to say that your genuineness and honesty reflects from you and recruiters know a great deal about how to spot that. Just be empathetic, well aware of the field that you're interested in, and learn to articulate well.



- Nadeem Sultan

The selection process for PRADAN for me was a little bit anxiety provoking, as I did not know what to expect. I was extremely nervous. I had never sat for a placement before and this was my first. I was confident within myself but I wasn't sure if I had what they were looking for or if I would meet their criteria. The psychometric test was a little difficult and took time to complete. The second round of group discussion was unlike any other group discussion. Each one was able to put forth their point and did not hesitate to voice their opinions. The interviewers were not intimidating at all and ensured it was a comfortable space to communicate and express us. Being one

of the leading NGOs in rural development, getting selected for the apprenticeship program for PRADAN feels nothing short of a big achievement for me. It's better to be mentally prepared for psychometric tests as it is used as selection criteria by many organizations now, and not just PRADAN. Be sure to at least make one point during the group discussion rather than none at all. During the interview it is best to be yourself and be honest.

– Rachel Tanvi Chattopadhyay

The placement drive of Department of social work, JMI has been amazing, filled with a lot of insights and learning. As a student, I had an opportunity to participate in the placement drive of this session (2018-20), which has been an enriching experience. After getting selected in PRADAN's Apprenticeship Program, I feel more confident,

relaxed and happy. The credit goes to my mentors, professors, friends, family and placement committee who have transformed me into a person who is worthy, responsible and of course employable.

I think it is very important for a development professional like us to be very clear about their goals and prepare for it. The students must try to link their fieldwork with their interest zone as it helped me to explore my vision. Also, the rural camp aided as a source for bringing out my passion towards rural development and sustaining my interest.

– Risha Nusrat

The placement committee of our batch informed us about the organization that was coming for the recruitment. I searched and read about their work and interventions in various communities across several states of central India. Their work is challenging yet inspiring in many ways. Their community-based model is exemplary! I have had always a desire to work with women, for their emancipation and empowerment this desire of mine matched with the kind of work PRADAN is into. This boosted me to go for it. The entire recruitment process of the organization was well designed and perfectly executed. Everything finished on time. I felt a little exhausted by the end of the day but





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happiness of reaching up to the last round was something, which kept my zeal and excitement alive. It's a moment of immense happiness to get accepted for the apprenticeship program of PRADAN, looking forward for a journey that would give me

plethora of opportunities to learn and explore. I'm happier because of the fact that all the candidates who sat for the interview have been selected.

I would like to extend my gratitude further to Prof Archana Dassi HOD Dept of social work, Prof Vani Narula, Dr. LHM Gangte and all the members of placement committee, Department of social work for organizing, conducting and coordinating this placement drive for the students who earnestly wanted to work in the rural development sector.

One piece of advice for the juniors, explore what you're extremely passionate about, have a clarity regarding your goals. This gives you a sense of direction.

At last, a special thanks to PRADAN for recruiting all the 7 candidates from Jamia this time! Time to celebrate.

– Sabira Yaqoob

As a freshman it was my first experience of a recruitment process, which made me slightly anxious since I was aiming for a job as well as representing my esteemed department in front of the recruiters.

From the very first round till my interview everything went smoothly. PRADAN's recruitment process was very well organized and tested the applicants overall analytical, decision making and problem-solving skills. The recruiters were humble and encouraging, which made me even more motivated to perform well in all the rounds. I personally enjoyed their situation-based GD a lot; it was a new experience for all of us.

Each group member was able to put forth his or her point very well without any hesitation. Getting selected for PRADAN's apprenticeship program is like getting my dream job and I will work hard to contribute to their cause.

It is very important for the applicants to have a clear idea about their decision of sitting for a particular organization's recruitment process. One needs to read about the organization beforehand and go through their programs. Applicants will have an upper hand if they practice aptitude tests. Most importantly, try to make a point while GD is going on, try acting as a moderator, recruiters like to see leadership skills in a person. And for the interview, just be you.







The opportunity to work with my ideal organisation had arrived, and preparation for the same had been in process for a long time. The recruitment process conducted by PRADAN was not only well rounded, but also designed to vastly explore my capabilities and my fit with the organisation, both in terms or capability and culture. And I am glad it did.

Reflecting back at it, I think being genuine throughout the recruitment process, and in preparation stages is what has enabled me to avail this opportunity.

I cannot thank enough my family, friends, and Allah, for their constant support and belief in me. Thank you still.

– Zaid Ahsan Siddiqui

VEDANTA

Vedanta Limited is a mining company based in India with its primary operations across Goa, Karnataka, Rajasthan and Orissa. The organisation has a first of its kind publicprivate-partnership with the Ministry of Women and Child Development in India under which it has commenced the project Nandghar which focuses on modernising the infrastructure of Aanganwadi in India.

Through its CSR initiatives, Vedanta Limited has reached over thirty thousand rural women and has successfully created over one thousand five hundred self-help groups across the areas of its operations.

In a placement process extending up to three days, Vedanta Limited selected four students from M.A. Social Work, and two students from M.A. Human Resource Management -

M.A. Social Work:

- 1. Anjali Asija
- 2. Ashwini Pathak
- 3. Leena Singh
- 4. Qazi Khadeeja Arif

M.A. Human Resource Management

- 1. Aamir Usmani
- 2. Snigdha Datta



I would like to extend my heartfelt gratitude to all the teachers who have instilled the values and essence of Social Work over the course of two years. The placement drive for the batch of 2018 - 2020 was executed with a lot of zeal by the efforts of the Department of Social Work. The 3-day recruitment process conducted by Vedanta Ltd. was no doubt hectic but the process journey was smoothened by the efforts of the placement committee and my friends who motivated and supported me throughout.

My advice for the juniors would be to self-reflect and thorough analysis before applying if the organization's vision and mission align with your career goals and prepare accordingly. However,



don't be stuck on one opportunity, the country and the World needs bright budding social workers like you, so keep your morale high and give your best shot at everything.

Best Wishes!

– Anjali Asija

It's been 5 years at Jamia Millia Islamia now and rather been 5 years full of fun, joy, learning, and development. The university has been just like a home for me.

I joined Masters in Social work and honestly speaking wasn't really aware of what actually the social work was or what is to be done but in last one and half years at Department of Social work, under the guidance of supportive

teachers, staff and companionship of wonderful fellow-mates, I have really gained not only in terms of building up knowledge base on social work but an all-round change and addition to the personality, practice and thought process.

It's been a rollercoaster ride with all kinds range of experiences and everything had an element of contribution to what I am now. I am yet qualified enough to give advice but would suggest that even though being prepared helps a lot but facing situations in the field; being random and simultaneous response play a very vital role in bringing out a more practical and realist approach which is very necessary.



– Ashwini Pathak

To be given the opportunity to work in an Organization like Vedanta was a dream come true for me. I am very thankful to the Department of Social Work, Jamia Millia Islamia for this. The department has given us so many opportunities and lessons to become productive citizens. This department has provided us with all the preparation for our growth through various mediums from skills labs to mock interview sessions. I would also like to extend my gratitude to the placement committee of the department that has been working tirelessly for all of us. I would like to thank them for bringing this opportunity for me to pursue my career in a company of my choice.

They made this entire process very smooth and easy. The placement coordinator has always motivated us to be more open to opportunities. It is entirely their effort that during this time, when the competition is soaring high, they have given us a hassle-free opportunity to start our career in the field of our interest.

I hope to utilize every ounce of knowledge that I have gathered during my time in this department and put my best efforts in my job.

- Leena Singh

First of all, I would like to thanks Allah the almighty for this blessing in the form of selection in Vedanta. Being selected in Vedanta is like a dream come true for me. The company is a forerunner in its field has a rigorous selection procedure with multiple stages of screening. It was quite an experience in terms of learning. To say my nerves were on fire at the start of selection would not be an exaggeration. But it was an exhilarating experience whenever I cleared a stage. At last when I got selected the feelings which were invoked were no less euphoric then when someone is drunk on happiness. There are people in my life, without whom this success would not have been possible. The first and foremost credit is to my mother

who has been the biggest supporter of my cause during my entire life. She is the cornerstone of my familial support. Then there is my father who has been an encouraging presence in all my endeavors. Then there are my brothers and friends who have always supported me and motivated me toward my dream. Lastly, this line of credit would not be complete without the mention of my esteemed supervisor and other honorable professors who have been the guiding light of my academic career. Apart from all these, I would like to express my special gratitude to the placement committee, whose efforts and guidance have been of paramount importance in my selection.

For juniors, I would like to suggest that it is very important to have patience because it is not necessary that you will succeed in your first attempt. So, the only thing that matters is trying again and again until you succeed. Also, before trying for an organization, it is very important to have thorough knowledge about it and why it is your priority because it will surely help you in your interview.

– Qazi Khadeeja Arif





As I'm nearing the end of my masters in the Department of Social work, I have a lot to reflect upon. The Department has given me the opportunity to work on my professional competence and has allowed me to build a realistic vision. And what is one's life that's void of a vision? Thus, I'm ever grateful to the department that has assisted me in identifying my competence and letting me dream big.

Moreover, I have been placed in Vedanta, which is an excellent company in an ever-growing industry. This has been a huge milestone in my career.

As said by Benjamin Franklin, an investment in knowledge always pays the best interest, I thank all the teachers for expanding my horizons and challenging me to view the world through their lens. It's because of their support that I have been placed in such a prestigious company.

Coming to the placement procedure- it was challenging and nerve-racking. From testing our general knowledge and aptitude skills to marking our abilities in group discussion and finally judging us in the personal interview, it was like a roller coaster ride! The smooth conduct and overall support of the placement team and my batchmates made this process seem easy.

Lastly, as the word to those who come next in line, every mistake is another lesson. Don't let your falls keep you from getting up and restarting!

- Snigdha Datta

With the blessings of the almighty the journey of the MA HRM has been very successful as I was able to land a job during the campus placement.

Talking about the two-year journey it's been a transformational process for me from being an ambivert person to being a successfully placed student at Vedanta. The whole interview process was like a travelling on a rocky hill as it had different stages & the panel focused on getting things out whatever I've learnt

during the course. Panel concentrated more on real-life based situations and problem-solving suggestions regarding the same.

My suggestion to my juniors & aspiring students is that: Teachers open the door of success but it is you who should enter into that door.

I must say that one should learn new things everyday but using that learnt knowledge in real life & work life is very essential.

– Aamir Usmani





MAA ANANDMAYEE MEMORIAL SCHOOL

Established in 1985 as a non-profit, Maa Anandmayee Memorial School (MAMS) is a co-educational K12 High School that makes direct teaching-learning interventions that facilitate learners to grow to their full potential, achieve self-actualization and develop

competencies to face today's challenges with élan.

The organization visited the department in search of a fundraising and community outreach coordinator and through the process, selected Khyati Arora from the M.A. Social Work (2018-2020) cohort.

I am really happy that I have been selected by the MAMS organization. Foremostly, I would like to thank the Placement Committee of the Department for putting all the efforts in the Placement Drive. Had you people not been there,

most of us would have been searching for jobs on our own. I believe that Campus placements are credible as the Department stays involved. Also, the whole atmosphere during the recruitment process is just beyond imagination and trust me worth the experience. One tip that really worked for me and I would suggest everyone who is going to sit in the recruitment process anywhere in the near future that focus on getting a lot of experience through internships, they count a lot. Also, stay confident and be your true self, it really works. I



would also thank the Department and my fellow classmates for making the time in the department memorable.

– Khyati Arora

MEDHA

With its focus on employment outcomes for youth, Medha seeks to provide skill-based training, career counselling, and workplace exposure, along with job placement and alumni support to students belonging to their educational institutions.

The organization answers the question "WHATS NEXT", delivering the essential 21st century skills through its three main programs which it offers -

1.LAB (Life-Skills Advancement Bootcamp)

2.TAB (Technical-Skills Advancement Bootcamp)

3.CAB (Career Advancement Bootcamp)

The organization works with the students from the enrolled colleges and helping the students finding ways to reach where they aspire for later on in the future.

Having received awards and recognitions such as the Dara Girl Power Award, and the Echoing Green Global Fellowship, currently, Medha is supported by leading corporations like Accenture and JP Morgan Chase, and is working in sixteen districts across Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Haryana, and Uttarakhand with plans to expand to eight states in the next three years with the focus on the North and North-Eastern parts of India.

On 4th February 2020, Medha visited the Department of Social Work to participate in the placement drive. After the pre-placement talk, the interested candidates engaged in a group discussion, prepared and presented and presentation, and then gave an interview.

Six students from M.A. Social Work were selected by the organization, Namely -

- 1. Ayesha Najeeb
- 2. Ishita Bhattacharjee
- 3. Mohd. Imran
- 4. Mohd. Shadman
- 5. Ridhima Rathi

- Ayesha Najeeb

6. Srestha Bhattacharya

I had never planned to sit for Medha, but upon attending the placement talk, I was hooked to the organization and its culture as it was presented to us by the Human Resource Head. As a growing organization, I could foresee and expect my professional growth too by being a part of this organization. It feels great to realize that I have been selected.

To my juniors, I only want to give one advice - do not get disheartened by the rejections you face. Those are just lessoning you learn as you are life leads you to an ideal job for you! Best wishes.



– Mohd. Shadman

Sitting for Medha, was one such experience for me. From the brilliant pre-placement talk to a very interesting group discussion and interaction with the HR team, Medha as a placement experience was exceptional! Throughout the various rounds of selection (group discussion, presentation and interview) the team made sure that none of it was intimidating or unnerving and being a part of such a pleasant and welcoming team is something I am eagerly looking forward to.

"Sometimes your heart truly knows what is right for you"

– Ishita Bhattacharjee

The placement drive in a student's life is very crucial. As a student of department of social work, I got an opportunity to take part in the placement process. I would like to sincerely thank the members of the placement committee for making this process very smooth for us. I am very pleased that I got placed with Medha. the journey has not been easy, but the placement committee made it so for us.

To my juniors, I would like to tell that always have your goals clear. You may face rejection initially, but it will get better, always keep putting in your best efforts.

-Mohd. Imran

I would like to thank the almighty, Allah for my selection in Medha.

placement committee made sure that the process was carried out smoothly, without any hinderances. Having faced rejection in the past, I was still hopeful and took those instances as a chance for me to reflect back on my shortcomings and working on improving myself, and brushing up my knowledge and skills further.

I would like to advice my juniors to not ever give up! Failure is nothing but a ladder towards success, so keep holding on and working hard!!







The selection process for Medha for me was very exciting, the process was enriching and I had a good experience throughout my process. Though the anxiety and nervousness were immense but the way the entire process was designed by the recruiters helped me to perform my best.

– Ridhima Rathi

I was hesitant about sitting for Medha. The job description had puzzled me. I was apprehensive of getting bored with the job if my heart was not into it. The preplacement talk was surprisingly interesting for me. The members of Medha team were warm and looked approachable. I gained a deeper understanding of the roles and

responsibilities of Student Relationship Manager, the post that they were offering to us. I saw an immense opportunity for learning and growth and decided to sit for the placement. I was nervous about the group discussion. But luckily all the participants in my group performed well and qualified for the next round. The next round consisted of a presentation and a personal interview. I had prepared my presentation on marginalization as a social issue after serious deliberation on it with my friends. Since I was the last person on the list, I grew more restless as I waited for my turn. My anxiety was out of bounds. However, I was suddenly full of energy when I went inside the room for the presentation and the interview.

It was a very fulfilling experience. I knew, after interacting with the ladies from Medha, I would enjoy working in an organization that would allow me to interact with vibrant young minds daily!

- Srestha Bhattacharya





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