

**Office of the
Public Relations Officer-
Media Coordinator
Jamia Millia Islamia**

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Press Release

**National Conference on Indigenous Social Work: Challenges, Responses and Way Forward
at JMI**

Department of Social Work, Jamia Millia Islamia, organized two day National Conference on Indigenous Social Work: Challenges, Responses and Way Forward on 16th & 17th November 2018. The aim of the conference was to evaluate the role of social work in deconstructing and reconstructing a vision of indigenous social work practice and suggest a blueprint by collecting and creating a volume of indigenous social work literature. The conference was attended by more than 150 delegates from various parts of the country. More than 90 research papers were presented on both the days. There were 10 sessions including 5 technical and 5 plenary sessions. The conference started with the recitation of The Holy Quran. Prof. Ushvinder Kaur Popli Conference Director & Head, Department of Social Work gave the welcome address and spoke on the importance of indigenous social work. The chief guest of the conference was Dr. Bollinani Keerthi from Vasavya Mahila Mandali, Vijaywada. The keynote address was delivered by Prof. Surinder Jaswal, Deputy Director (Research) & Dean, School of Research Methodology, Tata Institute of Social Science Mumbai. In the inaugural address, Dr. Bollinani Keerthi emphasized on the human centric approach to social work. She also emphasized upon the importance of updated curriculum design which is not just about academic theories but have amalgamation of field based practical knowledge. This was followed by the key note address delivered by Prof. Surinder Jaswal. Prof. Jaswal stressed on the difference in class teaching and field work knowledge and how one should dig deep and fill in the gaps through critical thinking and documentation. Prof. N.U. Khan, Dean, School of Social Sciences delivered the presidential address. The inaugural session was followed by a panel discussion on Indigenous Social Work Education and Practice. Prof. S.M. Sajid, Prof. Sanjai Bhatt, Prof. Sanjay & Prof. Ujwala Masdekar were the panelist in the session.

There were two technical sessions on the first day of the conference which focussed mainly around use of methods of social work in practical setting and emphasized on importance of peer learning and supervision process to enhance the effectiveness of social work practice.

The sessions also dealt with the issues faced by rural, urban and tribal women. It talked about holistic approach that needs to be adopted for women empowerment.

The sessions on the second day focussed on impact of development and modernization on tribal communities. The conference concluded with the valedictory session which was presided over by Prof. A.S. Kohli & Prof. RBS Verma. In the valedictory session Dr. Ashvini Singh, Conference Organizing Secretary presented the detailed report of the conference. The conference has been able to take a stock of the indigenous knowledge base, challenges and the opportunities

available to strengthen them. It will help in contextualising social work practice in Indian socio cultural perspective.

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