



## Goa University

### D.D. Kosambi School of Social Sciences and Behavioral Studies

#### Social Work Programme

### Report on Guest Lecture on "Advancing Health Equity and Justice: Challenges and Opportunities"

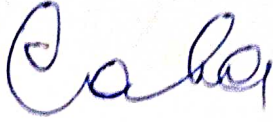
<b>1. Title of the Event</b>	Guest Lecture on "Advancing Health Equity and Justice: Challenges and Opportunities"
<b>2. Date and Time</b>	16th August 2024   9:45 AM to 11:15 AM
<b>3. Mode of Conduct</b>	Physical
<b>4. School / Directorate/ Section</b>	D.D. Kosambi School of Social Sciences and Behavioural Studies, Social Work Programme
<b>5. Collaborating Agency</b>	None
<b>6. Detail of the Resource Person (Brief biodata)</b>	Adv. Runjun Dutta: A lawyer specializing in health access and human rights laws with over 15 years of experience. Adv. Dutta is currently affiliated with an international non-profit organization, where she passionately advocates for health equity and justice, particularly for marginalized communities in lower-middle-income countries. Her work is instrumental in driving policy reforms, leading legal challenges against the prohibitive costs

	<p>of life-saving medicines, and pushing for patent law reforms that prioritize public health over corporate profit.</p> <p>In addition to her legal expertise, she is trained in Human Resource Management and is a CPD-certified trainer in Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) and the Prevention of Sexual Harassment of Women at the Workplace (PoSH Act 2013).</p>
<b>7. Number of Faculty attended/participated</b>	4
<b>8. Number of Student Attended / Participated</b>	32
<b>9. No. of external students/faculty/other participants</b>	
<b>10. Objectives of the Event</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. To provide social work students and faculty with an in-depth understanding of the challenges and opportunities in advancing health equity and justice.</li> <li>2. To explore the intersection of healthcare, social justice, and advocacy, with a focus on the impact of pharmaceutical industry policies on public health.</li> <li>3. To equip participants with actionable strategies for advocacy in addressing systemic inequities in healthcare.</li> </ol>
<b>11. Description of the Event</b>	<p>The D.D. Kosambi School of Social Sciences and Behavioural Studies organized a guest lecture on 16th August 2024, focusing on "Advancing Health Equity and Justice: Challenges and Opportunities." The event featured Adv. Runjun Dutta, a renowned lawyer and expert in health access and human rights laws.</p> <p>The lecture began with an introduction by</p>

	<p>Peter F. Borges, Coordinator of the Social Work Programme, who highlighted the importance of addressing health inequities and the role of social work in advocating for vulnerable populations.</p> <p>Adv. Dutta delivered an engaging and insightful lecture, where she provided a comprehensive analysis of the barriers faced by marginalized communities in accessing healthcare. She discussed the significant influence of pharmaceutical industry policies, such as pricing and patent laws, which often hinder access to life-saving medicines. Adv. Dutta emphasized the need for policy reforms that prioritize public health over corporate profits and provided practical strategies for advocacy, inspiring participants to take active roles in challenging these systemic inequities.</p> <p>Following the lecture, an interactive Q&amp;A session was held, allowing participants to engage directly with Adv. Dutta and delve deeper into the issues discussed. The event concluded with the presentation of a memento to Adv. Dutta, in appreciation of her contribution to the field of health equity and justice.</p>
<p><b>12. Benefit/Key Outcomes of the Event</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Enhanced Awareness:</b> The lecture provided participants with a deeper understanding of health equity and the challenges in achieving it, particularly in relation to the pharmaceutical industry.</li> <li>• <b>Actionable Advocacy Strategies:</b> Participants were equipped with practical tools and strategies to advocate for systemic change in healthcare policies.</li> <li>• <b>Engagement and Inspiration:</b> The event fostered a sense of responsibility</li> </ul>

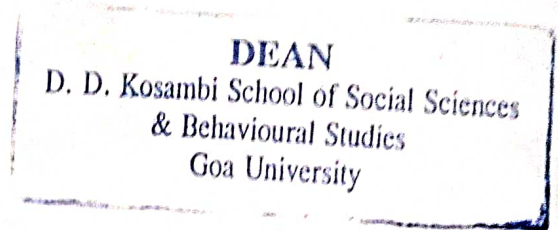
	among attendees, encouraging them to actively participate in advocacy efforts to address health inequities.
<b>13. Enclosures with report</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Attendance Sheet</li><li>• Geo-tagged photos</li></ul>

Peter F. Borges  
Assistant Professor (Social Work)

Dean   
D.D. Kosambi School of Social Sciences  
and Behavioural Studies

Seal of the School/Directorate/University

**Date:** 19<sup>th</sup> August 2024



## Goa University hosts a lecture on health equity and justice



The Social Work Programme, DD Kosambi School of Social Sciences and Behavioural Studies at Goa University hosted a guest lecture, 'Advancing Health Equity and Justice: Challenges and Opportunities,' delivered by the Adv Runjun Dutta. The event attracted a diverse and engaged audience of social work students, faculty members, healthcare professionals, and human rights activists, all keen to explore the critical intersection of healthcare and social justice.

Adv Runjun Dutta, a lawyer with over 15 years of experience specializing in health access and human rights laws, captivated attendees with her profound and comprehensive analysis of the barriers faced by marginalized communities in accessing essential healthcare services. A significant portion of her lecture focused on the powerful influence of the pharmaceutical industry's pricing and patent policies, which often place life-saving medicines out of reach for those who need them the most. Adv Dutta highlighted how these policies are frequently driven by profit motives at the expense of public health, underscoring the urgent need for robust policy reforms that can rectify these injustices.

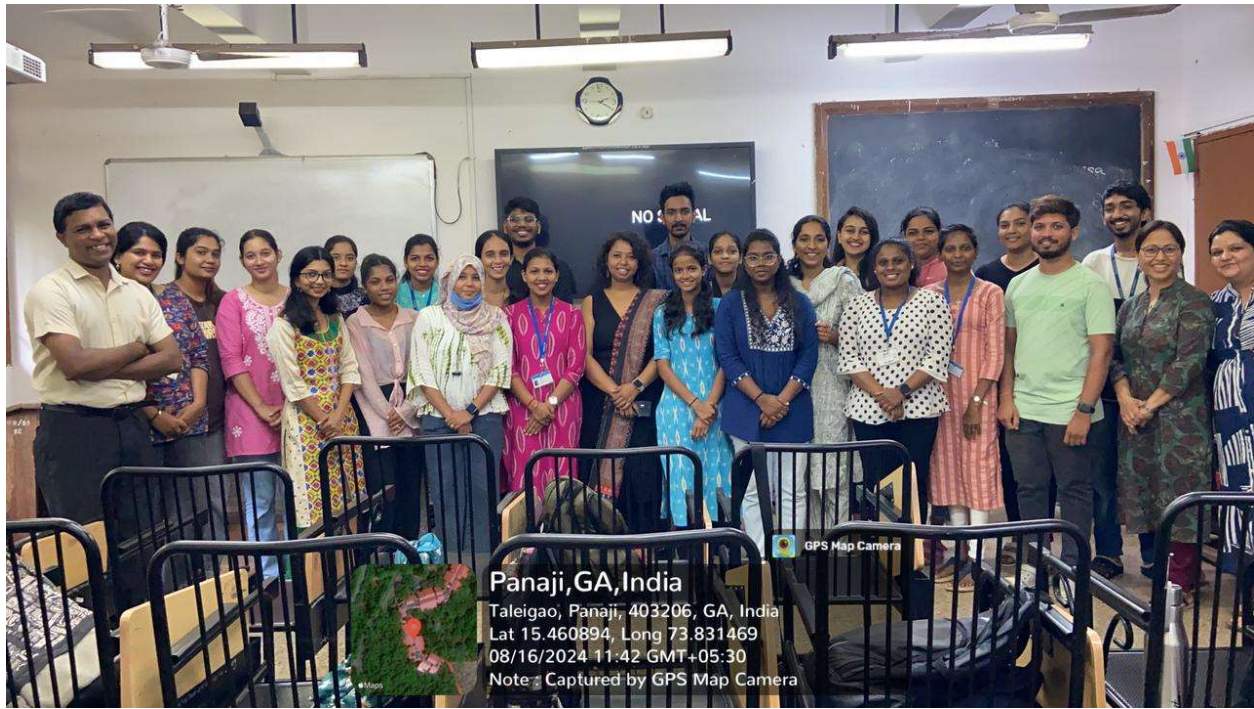
Through real-world examples and case studies, she illustrated the devastating impact of these inequities on vulnerable populations. Adv Dutta then transitioned to offering actionable strategies for advocacy, providing the audience

with practical tools and approaches to challenge systemic inequities in healthcare. Her lecture not only educated but also empowered participants, inspiring them to take active roles in advocating for a more just and equitable healthcare system.

The interactive session that followed allowed attendees to engage directly with Adv Dutta, asking questions and exploring the topics further, making the event both educational and deeply engaging. The session concluded with the presentation of a memento to Adv Dutta, in recognition of her valuable contribution to the discourse on health equity and justice.

Prof Peter F Borges, coordinator of the event, expressed his gratitude to Adv. Dutta, stating, "Her insights have provided our students and faculty with a profound understanding of the intersection of healthcare and social justice, equipping them with the knowledge to drive meaningful change in their future careers. This lecture has reinforced our commitment to educating socially responsible professionals who are prepared to advocate for the rights of vulnerable communities."

This event is part of Goa University's ongoing commitment to fostering socially responsible professionals equipped to advocate for the rights of marginalized populations. The university is dedicated to continuing such engagements that inspire and educate future leaders in social work and related fields.



Advancing health Equity and justice, opportunities  
 speaker: Adv. Rungun Dutta 16/02/2024

BG:47

SN. No.	Name	Gender	Prof. & Post	Contact no.	Signature
1.	Khushi A. Parab	F	MSW	9325922868	<u>Khushi</u>
2.	Pranali Gaonkar	F	MSW	7588649844	<u>Pranali</u>
3.	Uula Miranda	F	MSW	9607824161	<u>Uula</u>
4.	Shamiyabaru	F	MSW	7420297556	<u>Shamiyabaru</u>
5.	Garima Tiwari	F	MSW	7972044619	<u>Garima</u>
6.	NERY AFONSO	M	MSW	9325829468	<u>Nery</u>
7.	Shamiya Shaikh	F	MSW II	7249032920	<u>Shamiya</u>
8.	Valanka Buito	F	MSW II	9049670658	<u>Valanka</u>
9.	Swizel Fernandes	F	MSW II	9657738558	<u>Swizel</u>
10.	Elia Fernandes	F	MSW I	9423570191	<u>Elia</u>
11.	Bhirendra K. Chavriasia	M	MSW I	7350930919	<u>Bhirendra</u>
12.	Babaji Grawade	M	MSW I	9637163181	<u>Babaji</u>
13.	Fareeda Vaz	F	MSW I	9022984878	<u>Fareeda</u>
14.	Sanvi Shiradkar	M	MSW I	7066652626	<u>Sanvi</u>
15.	Bhupali Gaonkar	F	MSW II	9689747598	<u>Bhupali</u>
16.	Nordini Dessoi	F	MSW I	7820827467	<u>Nordini</u>
17.	Venu G. Shetgaonkar	F	MSW I	7972898136	<u>Venu</u>
18.	Sharvoni Bhave	F	MSW II	9619024612	<u>Sharvoni</u>
19.	Divya Kerkar	F	MSW II	9552172605	<u>Divya</u>
20.	Podnam D. Malik	F	MSW II	7391835807	<u>Podnam</u>
21.	Manjima Chaudhuri	F	MSW I	9433377255	<u>Manjima</u>
22.	Joyay Manjun	F	Faculty		<u>Joyay</u>
23.	Prachi Prabhu	F	Faculty		<u>Prachi</u>
24.	Alisha Das	F	Faculty		<u>Alisha</u>