



Goa University

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

Social Work Programme

Report on Guest Lecture on Connecting the Dots Social Work, Forensic Science, and Sexual Assault Investigations for Justice and Advocacy

1. Title of the Event	Guest Lecture on "Connecting the Dots: Social Work, Forensic Science, and Sexual Assault Investigations for Justice and Advocacy"
2. Date and Time	23rd August 2024 10:00 AM to 11:30 AM 26th August 2024 3:30 PM to 5:00 PM
3. Mode of Conduct	Physical
4. School / Directorate/ Section	D.D. Kosambi School of Social Sciences and Behavioural Studies, Social Work Programme
5. Collaborating Agency	None
6. Detail of the Resource Person (Brief biodata)	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Dr. Sweta Nidhi: An Assistant Professor in the Department of Forensic Sciences at the National Forensic Sciences University, Goa Campus. With over five years of teaching experience, she specializes in Forensic Biology, Biotechnology, Genomics, Bioinformatics, and Molecular Biology. Dr. Nidhi completed her PhD at Aix-Marseille University, France, focusing

	<p>on the defense mechanisms of microorganisms. She has also served as an Assistant Professor at Jharkhand Raksha Shakti University and is actively involved in sports and cultural activities at her current institution.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Adv. Poonam Bharne: The Director of Prosecution for Goa. Adv. Bharne has a wealth of experience in prosecutorial strategies, particularly in cases involving sexual violence and child protection. Her insights into the legal processes and the role of social workers in these contexts provide valuable perspectives for students and professionals in the field of social work. 3. PI Sudiksha Naik: Police Inspector at the Women Police Station, South Goa. PI Naik has extensive experience in handling cases related to women and child protection. Her role in law enforcement, particularly her involvement in early interventions in sexual assault cases, provides critical insights into the collaboration between social workers and police to protect vulnerable populations.
7. Number of Faculty attended/participated	2
8. Number of Student Attended / Participated	18
9. No. of external students/faculty/other participants	0
10. Objectives of the Event	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To provide social work students and faculty with an in-depth understanding of the intersection between social work, forensic science, and sexual assault

	<p>investigations.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. To explore the critical role of social workers in supporting survivors and ensuring justice through effective collaboration with forensic experts and legal authorities. 3. To equip participants with practical strategies for applying forensic science and legal knowledge in social work practice, particularly in cases involving sexual violence and child protection.
<p>11. Description of the Event</p>	<p>The lecture commenced with an introduction by Peter F. Borges, Coordinator of the Social Work Programme, who emphasized the importance of integrating forensic science into social work practice to advocate effectively for survivors of sexual violence and child abuse.</p> <p>Day 1 (23rd August 2024):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation by Dr. Sweta Nidhi: "Unveiling the Science: Forensic Tools for Social Work Practice" <p>Dr. Sweta Nidhi, an Assistant Professor from the National Forensic Sciences University, Goa Campus, delivered a compelling presentation on how forensic science can enhance social work practice, particularly in cases involving sexual violence.</p> <p>Drawing on her extensive background in Forensic Biology, Biotechnology, Genomics, Bioinformatics, and Molecular Biology, Dr. Nidhi discussed various forensic tools that social workers can utilize to support legal investigations and strengthen their advocacy efforts.</p> <p>She illustrated the application of forensic evidence in social work through real-world examples, demonstrating how DNA analysis,</p>

trace evidence, and digital forensics can play a crucial role in cases of sexual assault and child abuse. Dr. Nidhi also highlighted the importance of understanding the basics of forensic science for social workers, enabling them to collaborate effectively with forensic experts and law enforcement.

Her session provided practical insights into the integration of forensic tools in social work, encouraging students to consider forensic science as an essential component of their professional toolkit.

Day 2 (26th August 2024):

- **Presentation by Adv. Poonam Bharne: "Legal Strategies in Sexual Assault Cases: The Role of Social Workers"**

Adv. Poonam Bharne, the Director of Prosecution for Goa, shared her expertise on the legal aspects of handling sexual assault cases, focusing on the vital role that social workers play in the justice system. In her presentation, Adv. Bharne outlined the prosecutorial strategies employed in sexual assault cases, emphasizing the need for thorough documentation, evidence collection, and victim support.

She discussed the legal frameworks governing sexual assault and child protection, including the POCSO Act, and explained how social workers can aid in navigating these legal processes.

Adv. Bharne stressed the importance of social workers being well-versed in legal terminologies and procedures to effectively support survivors and collaborate with legal professionals. Her lecture aimed to empower

social work students with the knowledge and skills needed to advocate for victims' rights and ensure that justice is served.

- **Presentation by PI Sudiksha Naik:
"Law Enforcement and Social Work:
Early Interventions in Sexual Assault
Cases"**

PI Sudiksha Naik, Police Inspector at the Women Police Station, South Goa, provided valuable insights into the role of law enforcement in sexual assault cases, particularly the importance of early interventions.

Drawing from her extensive experience in handling cases of sexual violence and child protection, PI Naik highlighted the critical need for timely action and coordination between social workers and the police.

She detailed the protocols followed by law enforcement when responding to reports of sexual assault, including the collection of evidence, interviewing victims, and ensuring their safety.

PI Naik emphasized the importance of sensitivity and empathy when dealing with survivors, underscoring the need for social workers to be equipped with skills to provide immediate support and build trust with victims.

PI Naik also discussed the challenges faced by law enforcement in sexual assault cases, such as underreporting and the stigma associated with sexual violence.


She called for a collaborative approach where social workers play a pivotal role in bridging

	<p>the gap between victims and law enforcement, ensuring that survivors receive the necessary support and that justice is pursued diligently.</p> <p>Conclusion</p> <p>The event concluded with an interactive Q&A session, where participants engaged directly with the speakers, asking questions and sharing their thoughts on the topics discussed.</p> <p>The sessions provided a comprehensive understanding of how forensic science and legal frameworks intersect with social work, highlighting the importance of interdisciplinary collaboration in addressing sexual violence and child protection.</p> <p>The lecture series inspired participants to adopt a multidisciplinary approach in their future practice, equipping them with the knowledge and tools needed to advocate effectively for justice and support for survivors.</p>
<p>12. Benefit/Key Outcomes of the Event</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhanced Understanding: Participants gained insights into the intersection of social work, forensic science, and legal interventions, particularly in cases of sexual assault. • Practical Strategies: Attendees learned actionable strategies to apply forensic science and legal knowledge in their social work practice, supporting survivors and advocating for justice. • Interdisciplinary Collaboration: The event emphasized the importance of collaboration between social workers, forensic experts, and legal authorities, inspiring participants to adopt a multidisciplinary approach in their future practice.

13. Enclosures with report

- Copy of E-Flyer
- Geo-tagged photos
- Attendance Sheet

Peter F. Borges
Assistant Professor (Social Work)


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

Date: 27th August 2024

Seal of the School/Directorate/University

DEAN
D. D. Kosambi School of Social Sciences
& Behavioural Studies
Goa University

Goa University Hosts Lecture Series for Justice and Advocacy

■ Connecting the Dots: Social Work, Forensic Science, and Legal Interventions in Sexual Assault Cases

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PANAJI: The Social Work Programme at Goa University hosted a two-day lecture series titled "Connecting the Dots: Social Work, Forensic Science, and Legal Interventions in Sexual Assault Cases for Justice and Advocacy." Held on the 23rd and 26th of August 2024, the series brought together experts from forensic science, prosecution and law enforcement to provide critical insights into handling cases of sexual violence and child protection, emphasizing the vital role of social workers.

The lecture series aimed to equip social work students and professionals with a comprehensive understanding of how forensic science and legal strategies can be integrated into social work practice to support survivors of sexual violence effectively. By bridging these fields,



the series sought to prepare social workers to collaborate more effectively with forensic experts and legal authorities, ensuring that justice is served and survivors receive the necessary support.

The first day of the series featured Dr. Sweta Nidhi, an Assistant Professor from the National Forensic Sciences University, Goa Campus, who delivered a presentation titled "Unveiling the Science: Forensic Tools for Social Work Practice." Dr. Nidhi discussed the integration of forensic science into social work, focusing

on how tools like DNA analysis and digital forensics can support legal cases and advocacy efforts. She emphasized, "Forensic science provides social workers with powerful tools to advocate for survivors of sexual violence. Understanding these tools is essential for ensuring justice and supporting victims through the legal process."

The second day of the series included presentations by Adv. Poonam Bharne, Director of Prosecution, Goa, and PI Sudiksha Naik, Police Inspector at the Women Police Station, South Goa. Adv. Bharne

discussed "Legal Strategies in Sexual Assault Cases:

The Role of Social Workers," highlighting the importance of social workers in navigating the legal frameworks and supporting survivors through legal proceedings.

She remarked, "Social workers play a critical role in bridging the gap between survivors and the justice system. Their understanding of legal processes and their ability to provide emotional support are crucial in ensuring that victims' voices are heard and their rights are protected."



Angal Strategies for Early Intervention in Sexual Assault Cases: Role of Social Workers.

Speakers: Adv. Poonam Bhavne & PI Sudiksha Naik

26/08/2024

Venue: BGLT

Sr No	Name	Gender	Role & Post	Contact No.	Signature
1	Divya Kerkar	F	MSW-II	9552172665	
2	Poonam Malik	F	MSW-II	7391235807	
3	Pratiksha Bhandari	F	MSW-II	9284276724	
4	Shorvari Bhavne	F	MSW-II	9619024612	
5	Khushi A. Parab	F	MSW-II	9325922262	
6	Pranali Gaonkar	F	MSW-II	7588649844	
7	Rani Gupta	F	MSW-II	8788764622	
8	Venu G. Shelgaonkar	F	MSW-I	7972898136	
9	Rudra S. Govenkhar	M	MSW-I	8767705275	
10	Sanvi Shirodkar	M	MSW-I	9307367036	
11	Fareeda Vaz	F	MSW-I	9022984878	
12	Poornima Praadeep	F	MSW-II	7025969058	
13	Rutika	F	MSW-I	7030404170	
14	Vishal Kumari Singh	M	MSW-I	9519250124	
15	Garima Tiwari	F	MSW-I	7972044619	
16	Bhivendra K. Chaurania	M	MSW-2	7350930919	
17	Shaun J. Samuel	M	MSW-II	9021443164	
18	NERV AFONSO	M	MSW-II	9325829468	

Venue: B9:47 Speaker:

Sr. No	Name	Gender	Prog & Part.	Contact No.	Signature
1.	Bhupali Gaonkar	F	MSW-II	9689747598	BG
2.	Poonam D. Malik	F	MSW-II	7391835807	Smalika
3.	Divya Kerkar	F	MSW-II	9552172605	Divya
4.	Venka G. Shetgaonkar	F	MSW-I	7972898136	Vshetgaonkar
5.	Garima Tiwari	F	MSW-I	7972044619	Garima
6.	Poornima Pradeep	F	MSW-II	7025969058	Poornima
7.	Sreebala. k.p	F	MSWII	9633286546	Sreebala
8.	Sharuar Bhave	F	MSWII	9619024612	Sharuar
9.	Shamiya Banu Hawsadar	F	MSWII	7426897556	Shamiya
10.	Uila Miranda	F	MSWII	9607824161	U Miranda
11.	Pranali Gaonkar	F	MSWII	7588649844	Pranali
12.	Kevin Couto	M	MSWII	8698582266	Kevin
13.	Vinayak Divrekar	M	MSW-II	9359468849	Vinayak
14.	NERY AFONSO	M	MSW-II	9325829468	Nery
15.	Shaun Jones Samuel	M	MSW-II	9021443164	Shaun
16.	Vishal Kumar Singh	M	MSW-I	9519250124	Vishal
17.	Sanvi Shirodkar	M	MSW-I	9307367036	Sanvi
18.	Fareeda Vaz	F	MSW-I	9022984878	Fareeda
19.	Bhivendra K. Chaurasia	M	MSW-I	7350930919	Bhivendra
20.	Shamiya Shaikh	F	MSW-II	7249032920	Shamiya
21.	Valanka Brito	F	MSW-II	9049670658	Valanka
22.	Filomina fernandes	F	MSW-I	8080721441	Filomina
23.	Dr. Kajal Kwanekar	F	Faculty	9420686397	Kajal
24.	Joycy Manjun		"		Joycy