

Goa University

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

Social Work Programme

Report on Interactive Session on "Workplace & Mental Health"

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1. Title of the Event	Interactive Session on "Workplace & Mental Health"
2. Date and Time	7th October 2024, 11:30 AM – 1:30 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	Directorate of Internal Quality Assurance & Centre for Study of Social Exclusion & Inclusive Policy
6. Detail of the Resource Person (Brief biodata)	1. Mr. Vithoba Narayan Mhalkar is an Assistant Professor at the Institute of Psychiatry and Human Behaviour, Bambolim, Goa, and a Ph.D. scholar at Bharati Vidyapeeth, Sangli Campus. With over a decade of clinical experience and another decade in teaching, Mr. Mhalkar specializes in mental health and emotional intelligence. He is the creator of the EMOVAC®

	(Emotional Vaccination Programme) and a certified emotional intelligence trainer, recognized with the ASKMi Innovation Award and India Prime Quality Education Award in 2021. His work focuses on building emotional resilience, managing stress, and fostering well-being in various sectors, including healthcare, education, and corporate environments.
	Mr. Mhalkar has trained government officials, medical professionals, and educators across India, and his contributions to mental health extend to published research and workshops on emotional intelligence and workplace well-being.
7. Number of Faculty attended/participated	22
8. Number of Student Attended / Participated	62
9. No. of external students/faculty/other participants	0
10. Objectives of the Event	 To raise awareness about the importance of mental health in the workplace. To equip participants with strategies for managing stress and improving their mental well-being in professional settings. To promote open discussions on mental health challenges faced by individuals in the workplace.
11. Description of the Event	The interactive session, organized on World Mental Health Day 2024, aimed to emphasize the importance of prioritizing

mental health in the workplace. The session was led by Mr. Vithoba Narayan Mhalkar, who engaged the participants with insightful discussions on mental health challenges commonly faced in professional settings.

Mr. Mhalkar began by highlighting the significance of mental well-being, explaining how it affects overall health, productivity, and personal relationships. He invited the audience to share their personal experiences of workplace stress, which included heavy workloads, lack of organization, and emotional struggles such as phone addiction.

Key strategies for managing mental health in the workplace were discussed, with a focus on the following:

Self-awareness: Understanding one's likes, dislikes, and emotional triggers is key to maintaining mental well-being.

Open communication: Encouraging a culture of transparency in the workplace allows employees to express their concerns and seek support.

Participants Managing emotions: were encouraged emotional develop to intelligence. particularly in preventing "emotional hijacking," where strong emotions such as anger take over decisionmaking.

Cultivating optimism: The distinction between optimistic and pessimistic attitudes was explored, with Mr. Mhalkar explaining how optimism can foster resilience in the face of challenges. Optimistic individuals view success as permanent and failures as temporary, which contributes to a healthier

mental outlook.

The session also included interactive activities on self-awareness and miscommunication, allowing participants to reflect on their mental health practices and understand the consequences of poor communication in professional settings.

Key Takeaways from the Event

Emotional Well-being: Emotions play a crucial role in our daily decision-making and overall well-being. Understanding and managing emotions can help reduce stress and improve mental health in the workplace.

Workplace Stress: Common causes of workplace stress, such as heavy workloads and emotional challenges, were addressed with practical strategies for better management.

Optimism vs. Pessimism: Cultivating an optimistic outlook is essential for mental resilience. Optimistic individuals are more likely to view challenges as temporary and manageable, which promotes long-term mental well-being.

Practical Strategies: The session provided actionable strategies such as self-awareness, open communication, and emotional regulation, all of which can contribute to a more supportive and productive workplace environment.

12. Benefit/Key Outcomes of the Event

- Enhanced awareness among participants of the brain-gut connection and its impact on mental health.
- Encouraged social work students to

	consider the role of nutrition in mental health advocacy and intervention. • Fostered a creative, health-conscious environment, where participants experimented with various ingredients to create dishes that support mental wellness. • Promoted the idea that simple, everyday actions—such as preparing nutritious meals—can have a profound effect on one's mental health, reinforcing a social work perspective that small interventions can lead to significant community impact.
13. Enclosures with report	Event FlyerPhotosAttendance Sheet

Alisha Dias Assistant Professor (Social Work)

D.D. Kosambi School of Social Sciences
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Seal of the School/Directorate/University

Date: 12th October 2024

GOA UNIVERSITY

D.D. KOSAMBI SCHOOL OF SOCIAL SCIENCES AND BEHAVIOURAL STUDIES

Social Work Programme

IN COLLABORATION WITH

THE DIRECTORATE OF INTERNAL QUALITY ASSURANCE
& CENTRE FOR STUDY OF SOCIAL EXCLUSION & INCLUSIVE POLICY

Organizes

WORLD MENTAL HEALTH DAY 2024

"IT IS TIME TO PRIORITIZE MENTAL HEALTH IN THE WORKPLACE"

INTERACTIVE SESSION ON

"WORKPLACE & MENTAL HEALTH"

RESOURCE PERSON

MR. VITHOBA NARAYAN MHALKAR

ASSISTANT PROFESSOR DPN-INSTITUTE OF PSYCHIATRY AND HUMAN BEHAVIOUR BAMBOLIM



7th October 2024



11.30am - 1.30 pm



Seminar Hall Block B



PROGRAM COORDINATOR

ALISHA DIAS 9762338556







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Goa University Celebrates World Mental Health Day 2024 with Focus on Holistic Well-Being

Team Goemkarponn

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Work Programme at
Goa University's D. D.
Kosambi School of Social
Sciences and Behavioural
Studies, in collaboration
with the Directorate
of Internal Quality
Assurance, the National
Service Scheme (NSS),
and the UGC Centre for
Study of Social Inclusion,

celebrated World Mental Health Day 2024 with a series of activities under the theme "It is Time to Prioritize Mental Health in the Workplace."

Held on 7th, 10th, and 11th October, the program aimed to raise awareness about mental health as a crucial component of professional success, blending interactive sessions, competitions, and expert talks to encourage mental well-being in the workplace.

Alisha Dias, Program Coordinator, emphasized the purpose of the event, stating, "By observing Mental Health Day at the University, we are fostering a culture of support and recognizing that mental well-being is integral to success in any work environment."



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