

Kerala Association of Professional Social Workers (KAPS) is the registered organisation for Professional Social Workers.

KAPS Kottayam chapter organized seminar and celebration of “World day of social work” on 18 Mar 2014 at BCM college, Kottayam. The programme was organized in association with ASSK (Association of Schools of Social Work in Kerala) Kottayam region and AKSA(All Kerala Social Work Students Association) Kottayam region. The social work practitioners in Kottayam, Pathanamthitta and Alapuzha Districts and all students and staff from Social Work institutions in Kottayam and Pathanamthitta districts have participated.

Mr. Benoy Kattayil (President, KAPS Kottayam chapter/General Secretary of State) has welcomed the gathering and Dr. Ipe Varghese (Secretary, KAPS Kottayam Chapter) has introduced the programme. He has shared the origin and formation details of KAPS and the important programmes/activities after its formation.

The inaugural meeting was presided over by Dr. Cherian P Kurian (Vice President KAPS). In his presidential address he talked in general about the association and introduced the theme of the year “Social and Economic crises: Social Work solutions” .

Sri. Thiruvanchoor Radakrishnan, Hon. Minister for Forest and Transport has inaugurated the programme. In his inaugural address, he emphasised the role of professional social work in the development of our society.

Adv. Philson Mathews (Vice President, Dt. Panchayat Kottayam) has given a key note message. He has mentioned and requested the association of social workers in making the programmes of panchayats success.

Mr. Jaison Philip (Christuraj Social Service society, Pala) has expressed vote of thanks with a call more similar activities which help us to grow .

Two sessions were conducted: (i) Social Work Profession and Changing social scenario - by Mr. Devasia Joseph and (ii) Practicing Social Group Work in present society - by Dr. Jose Antony.

After lunch, cultural programmes were conducted by four colleges. BCM college Kottayam presented a 20 minute Ballad on the theme ‘eco preservation’, KE college, Mannanam made a theme presentation on social issues, Assumption college, Changanassery presented a cinematic dance and BVM college Cherpunkal presented a mime on ‘protecting nature’.

There after an interactive session was conducted which began with brief self introduction by the practitioners. The practitioners and students actively participated in this session and shared their views about future programmes of KAPS. The students shared that they feel proud that they are becoming part of a professional association. Many people shared the need for organizing more programmes by KAPS.

Some students shared the feeling that the programme has brought the students from different colleges together and made them to work as one team. The programme was organized in such a way by forming different committees and by ensuring that each committee has members from all the colleges. They said it was their first and different experience.

All the participants joined in the vote of thanks by rising from their seats and thanking each other and shaking hands.

The programme came to an end with the national anthem sung by the whole participants. Nearly 185 people participated in the programme out of which about 135 were students from different colleges.

Benoy Kattayil
Gen Secretaty - KAPS