

STATE LEVEL SEMINAR BEGINS ON SOCIAL WORK RESPONSE TO HIV/AIDS



A two day State/UT level seminar on Social Work Response to HIV/AIDS was inaugurated by Shri Dharampal, Commissioner cum Secretary, A & N Administration while Prof. Gracious Thomas, Director, NCD, IGNOU delivered the keynote address. In his inaugural address Shri. Dharam Pal said that in order to remove the stigma attached to the HIV/ADS and take the message of HIV/ADS and social work to the masses, it is most important that the knowledge is converted into a plan of action to enable all the departments, institutions and NGOs to work towards preventing HIV/AIDS.

Giving his keynote address, Prof. Gracious Thomas, Director, National Centre for Differently Abled, IGNOU, New Delhi and the Programme Coordinator spoke Social Work response to the problem of HIV/AIDS. Earlier the seminar was formally inaugurated by lighting the lamp by the Chief Guest Shri Dharam Pal.

Welcoming the participants and the guests, S.Saunand, Regional Director, IGNOU Regional Centre, Port Blair envisaged the need for having such seminar and said that A & N islands are as prone to the problem of HIV/AIDS as other states and the regions are. This, he

attributed to the, reasons such as presence of migrant populations of tourists, laborers etc. He emphasized on the need for having greater information about HIV/AIDS amongst stakeholders of development in A & N islands and said that is first step towards informing the people in the region. He also informed that such seminars are also planned for remote and farther places like Campbell Bay.

The seminar registered participation from a wide range of stakeholders in A & N islands including Students of BSW, CAFE & DAFE Programme of IGNOU, Academic Counsellors of BSW, CAFE DAFE Programmes of IGNOU, Teachers, Members of various Self Help Groups (SHGs) in A & N Islands, Government Institutions/Organizations, Non-Government Institutions/Organizations, Media etc.

Later in the 1st technical session, Dr. Shalini Pandey, Specialist Resource Person spoke on Social Work Profession vis-à-vis HIV/AIDS and IGNOU's initiatives. In the second technical session Prof. Gracious Thomas gave a detailed presentation on Value Based intervention for HIV/AIDS. In the third technical session, Shri P.K. Subhash, Director, Doordarshan deliberated upon the Role of Electronic Media in spreading the awareness on HIV/AIDS. while Shri Bikash Chandra Manna, Project Officer, CARE India, ANI presented paper on Stigma related to HIV/AIDS role of social worker. The valedictory session will take place on the second day tomorrow in which the certificates will be given to the participants.