

## STATE LEVEL SEMINAR ON SOCIAL WORK RESPONSE TO HIV/AIDS CONCLUDES

The valedictory session of two day State/UT level seminar on Social Work Response to HIV/AIDS concluded at JNRM seminar auditorium on 27<sup>th</sup> April. In his valedictory address, Prof. Gracious Thomas, Director, National Centre for Differently Abled, IGNOU, New Delhi and the Programme Coordinator highlighted the role of Social Worker and told the participants about the difference between a voluntary worker and a professional social worker. He reiterated that generally there is confusion in the society in understanding a difference between a voluntary worker and a professional social worker.

Earlier addressing the participants, S.Saunand, Regional Director, IGNOU Regional Centre, Port Blair envisaged the need for having a team work for realizing the developmental needs of the islands and envisaged the role of a social work in meeting the requirements.

All the participants reiterated a need to have to have a Professional Social Workers body for looking after the developmental needs of society and NGOs in A & N islands. Later in the session on the 2<sup>nd</sup> day of seminar, various aspects of student support services in IGNOU were discussed in reference to BSW, CAFÉ and DAFE programmes. All the participants were later given Certificates of appreciation in the state level seminar on Social Work Response to HIV/AIDS.