

## **Centre for Advanced Study (CAS) under UGC**

In recognition of the Department's contribution to higher academic research and research excellence, the University Grants Commission (UGC) had sanctioned the Department of Social Work, University of Delhi as a **Center of Advanced Study (CAS) in Social Work** and provided financial support of Rs. 81 lakh for five years in this regard. The financial assistance has been received under the Special Assistance scheme after completing three terms of support under DSA. However, the financial assistance has not been received since last three years.

To guide the CAS programme a CAS Advisory Committee was constituted with internal and external members. The three external members are Prof. Sreemati Chakrabarti, Dean, Social Sciences as Nominee of Vice Chancellor, Prof. R.R. Singh, Former Director, TISS, Mumbai and Prof. H.Y. Siddiqui, Deptt. of Social Work, Maulana Azad National Urdu University, Hyderabad as experts. The Committee has five internal members and they are, Prof. Manoj Kumar Jha, HOD who is also the Chairperson of the Committee, Prof. Sushma Batra, Prof. Neera Agnimitra, Prof. Pamela Singla, and Prof Sanjai Bhatt as Coordinator and Member Secretary.

The thrust area of CAS is Social Policy and Development with the special reference to women, children and poor. Under its proposed work plan, the Department with the support of CAS would like to evolve as a Faculty with different and distinct courses strengthening the base of Social Work. It shall strive to produce best quality research in the thrust areas in particular and in the discipline of social work in general.

The four research projects which are in progress are:

- Gender and Class Analysis of Communal Tension in Delhi: A study of Bawana and Trilokpuri areas of Delhi by Ms Neena Pandey, Ms Shashi Rani and Sudhir Maske and Mr. Iqbal Bhat.
- Convergence of Services and its Impact on Women and Children: A Case Study of a Gender Resource Centre-Samajik Suvidha Kendra by Prof. Neera Agnimitra and Prof. Sanjai Bhatt.
- An Analysis of Stakeholder Perceptions on Elementary Educational Entitlements: A Study in Wazirpur J J Colony, Delhi by Dr Sanjoy Roy and Mr Pratap C Behera
- Sex work as Traditional Occupation: A Study of Children from Bediya Community in Delhi by Dr. Seema Sharma.

In addition, two research papers, one on the issues of homeless in Delhi in relation to the Supreme Court decision and the other based on a study of National Children Fund in light of the changing policies were under prepared. The Department library was also enriched under the CAS with addition of new books worth nearly two lakh rupees and also creating the Kumedan Research Corner on Women and Children in the library in memory of the first Librarian.

This year, Department has organized a seminar on Improving development effectiveness through impact evaluation and evidence synthesis: Evaluations and evidence synthesis for social programmes in joint collaboration with International Initiative for impact Evaluations (3ie) and Campbell Collaborations. The session was attended by around 50 researchers and research scholars.