



United Nations  
Educational, Scientific and  
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UNESCO Chair in Community Based  
Research and Social Responsibility  
in Higher Education



University  
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JAIN UNIVERSITY

Declared as Deemed-to-be University u/s 3 of the UGC Act, 1956

**Dialogue on  
Community Engagement and Social Responsibility in Higher Education  
Centre for Research in Social Sciences and Education (CERSSE), JAIN UNIVERSITY  
18-19 March 2015**

**Background Note:**

As public institutions, Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) world-wide are being challenged to demonstrate their societal relevance through their core functions of teaching and research. With rapid growth in enrolments in post-secondary education, the issues related to social relevance of curriculum, inclusion of indigenous knowledge, access to hitherto excluded students and direct contribution to problems in their communities have gained ascendancy in India.

The new 12th Five Year Plan has, for the first time, included an action agenda in this respect: In the face of growing isolation of HEIs from society, there is a need for renewed effort for HEIs for genuinely engaging with community, conduct socially relevant research and education and foster social responsibility amongst students as part of their core mission. For this purpose, a National Initiative to Foster Social Responsibility in Higher Education would be launched. An Alliance for Community Engagement, an independent association of practitioners, academics and community leaders would be created to support its implementation.

In light of the above, it is imperative that:

- Mapping and research of current practices in community engagement and social responsibility is undertaken
- Dialogues across civil society, academia and policy-makers in different provinces and regions are conducted in order to build shared understanding of and common actions for realizing the above initiative of the 12th Plan.

During the India Launch of UNESCO Chair on Community-based Research and Social Responsibility in Higher Education in Jamia Millia Islamia on December 10, 2012, the Member of Planning Commission, Dr. Narendra Jadhav asked the UNESCO Chair to take the initiative for this in the country.

Therefore, as part of Global Education dialogue series of British Council and UNESCO Chair partnered to take the above agenda forward in South India during December 2014 – February 2015.

**Purpose:**

1. To assess the current levels and quality of community engagement by HEIs in the state.
2. To analyze best practices and meanings of social responsibility as practiced in the state.
3. To learn from innovative policies and practices in the UK in the broad field of public engagement and social responsibility.
4. To identify strategies to scale up community engagement in the state in light of the new policy in the 12<sup>th</sup> five year plan.

In Collaboration with CERSSE of Jain University, the Karnataka component of the said study was undertaken.



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## PROGRAM SCHEDULE

### **Day 1: March 18<sup>th</sup> 2015**

10:00 am: Welcome

**Dr. Mythili P. Rao**, Dean of Languages, Jain University

10:10 am: Overview of the British Council Portfolio in Higher Education

10:15 am: Setting the Stage

**Dr. Rajesh Tandon**, Co-Chair, UNESCO Chair in Community Based Research and Social Responsibility in Higher Education.

10:30 am: Inaugural Address

**Dr. B.K Chandrashekar**, Former Education Minister, Government of Karnataka

10:45 am: Special Address

**Dr. N. Sundararajan**, Vice Chancellor, Jain University

11:00 am: Presidential Address

**Dr. Chenraj Roychand**, President, Jain University Trust

11:15 am Tea Break

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**11:30 pm - 1:00 pm**

### **Plenary Session I- Trends in Karnataka**

*Recently, Jain University has undertaken a survey on the existing current practices of community engagement in various HEIs in Karnataka. The survey was carried out in Bangalore, Mysore, Tumkur and Ramanagaram districts. This session will witness the sharing of the findings of the survey undertaken by the researchers from Jain University*

**Chair: Prof. R.S. Deshpande**, Former Director Institute for Social and Economic Change

11:30 – 11:35 am: Introduction of Participants



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11:35 – 12:00 pm: Sharing the findings of the Karnataka Survey

**Dr. Reetika Syal** Assistant Professor, Jain University

**Ms. Nayantara Kurpad**, Research Assistant, CERSSE, Jain University

12:00 – 12:20 pm: Comments from the Panelists

**Dr. Indira M.**, Professor of Economics, University of Mysore

**Dr. P. S. Jayaramu**, Former Dean and Professor of Political Science (retd),  
Bangalore University

12:20-12:50pm: Open Discussions

12:50 – 1:00 pm: Comments from the Chair

1:00 pm: Lunch

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**2:00 – 3:40 pm**

## **Plenary Session II- Forms and Structures of Community Engagement**

*'Forms & Structures of Community Engagement' essentially points out to the various institutional arrangements and support structures in place for promoting and practicing community engagement in HEIs. Forms of community engagement encompass a number of activities that come under the purview of community university engagement. They may be in the form of learning with the community, researching with the community, knowledge sharing with the community, devising new curriculum and courses, inviting practitioners as teachers or social innovation by students. Structures of community engagement refer to specialized support structures which help to channelize the engagement efforts in the right direction. They may be in the form of a Centre which coordinates such activities or an Office, wholly dedicated to the execution of engagement activities. This and the next session will focus on the same.*

*Key questions for speakers of the two sessions:*

- ✓ *How can the existing community engagement practices be made meaningful?*
- ✓ *How can the learning acquired by students in the classrooms be linked to the service they can provide to the society, outside the university?*
- ✓ *To what extent can true engagement with the community be realized in the academic system?*



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- ✓ *What is the possibility of Community Based Participatory Research becoming the mainstay of outreach/extension activities practiced by the HEIs at present?*
- ✓ *How can units such as the NSS/NCC be made more relevant? Can the NSS/NCC students be engaged in true community engagement, beyond of the mere 'social service' activities they engage in, at present?*
- ✓ *What kind of structures can we have in place in the HEIs in Karnataka?*
- ✓ *What kind of support do you think would be essential to provide to such structures?*
- ✓ *What role do you see such structures playing in the process? Facilitative, Coordinational, Managerial?*
- ✓ *Where can it be positioned in the University's hierarchical structure?*
- ✓ *How much autonomy can be given to such structures?*

**Chair: Prof. Eresi, Former Dean of Commerce, Bangalore University**

2:00 – 2:15 pm: Experience from other states

***Ms. Wafa Singh***, Program Officer, PRIA

2:15 – 2:30 pm: ***Dr. Sandeep Shastri***, Pro-VC, Jain University and Director- CERSSE

2:30 – 2:45 pm: ***Mr. Johnny Joseph***, CSA Director- Christ University

2:45 – 3:00 pm: ***Dr. Sreedhar P.D***, Head, Hindi Department, NSS Head, Kristu Jayanti College, Bengaluru

3:00 - 3:10 pm: **Discussant: *Dr. Cheriyan Alexandar***, Department of English, St. Joseph's College, Bengaluru.

3:10 – 3:30 pm: Open discussions

3:30 – 3:40 pm: Comments from the Chair

3:40 - 4:00 pm: Tea

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**4:00 - 5:15 pm: Panel Discussion**

**“Forms and Structures of Community Engagement: Experiences from Bangalore”**

**Chair: Dr. M. K. Sridhar**, Dean of Commerce and Management and Director Placement,  
Bangalore University

***Speakers:***

- **Dr. B.C. Prabhakar**, Director- IQAC, Bangalore University, Bengaluru
- **Prof. Clement D'Souza**, Welfare officer and Campus Minister, St Joseph's College, Bengaluru
- **Dr. Basavaraja G.**, NSS Coordinator, Tumkur University, Tumakuru

**Discussant: Dr. Meera Chakravarty**, Adjunct Professor, Jain University

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**Day 2: March 19<sup>th</sup> 2015**

**9.30 – 10.30 am: Panel Discussion**

*A panel of students will reflect on their impressions of Community Engagement. Having heard the conversations from the previous day, the students are encouraged to speak up their views and experiences on the issue.*

**Moderator: Ms. Bindu Subramaniam**, Director, Subramanian Academy for Performing Arts, Bengaluru

*Students from Universities will dialogue on Opportunities and Avenues for Community Engagement*

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**10:30 – 11:40 am**

### **Plenary Session III- Policy Implications**

*This session is wholly dedicated to two very important issues related to community engagement: policy implications and ways forward. While the former stresses on the policy aspects and the kind of role the government can play and support it can offer, the latter emphasizes on key learnings from the conference and the crucial action points that emerge from here. Therefore, the focus of this session is on how to mainstream community engagement in the academia, with support from the policy actors, its implications and crucial pointers which call for action within and outside the academia, including civil society actors and networks.*

#### **Key Questions for speakers:**

- ✓ *What are the emerging implications for policy for the Karnataka Government in the sphere of Education?*
- ✓ *How can the implications be realized in a practical sense?*
- ✓ *What role can a state policy on community engagement play in this context?*
- ✓ *What should be the key provisions of such a facilitating policy, just in case a similar policy is devised in the future?*
- ✓ *What are the practical ways forward for strengthening community engagement in the HEIs of Karnataka?*
- ✓ *What can be some easy, doable points that can be operationalized in HEIs in a hassle free manner?*
- ✓ *How and in what ways can the civil society network with HEIs for achieving the purpose?*
- ✓ *How can it lobby for a facilitative state policy, in addition to assisting HEIs achieve meaningful community engagement?*

**Chair: Dr. Jayagopal Uchil, Director- Planning and Academics, Jain University**

10:00 – 10:30am: **Prof. Shireen Nedungadi**, Principal, National College, Bengaluru

10:30 - 10:45am: **Ms. Pinky Chandran**, Radio Active, Bengaluru

10:45 – 11:00 am: **Prof. S.S. Meenakshisundaram**, Vice-Chairperson, Myrada



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11:00 – 11:10 am: **Discussant: Dr. Shailaja Shastri**, Professor and Head, Dept of Psychology, Jain University

11:10 – 11:30 am: Open Discussion

11:30 – 11:40 am: Comments from the Chair

11:40 – 12:00 pm: Tea Break

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**12:00 – 1:00 pm**

**Concluding Session: Ways Forward**

**Session Moderator: Dr. Rajesh Tandon**

12:00 – 12:10pm Summary of the Dialogue: **Dr Rajani Jairam**, Director IQAC, JU

12:10 – 12:30 pm: Open discussions

12:30- 12:40 pm: Comments from Chair

12:40 – 1:00 pm: **Valedictory Remarks:**

**Mr.B.G.Nandakumar**, I.A.S., Commissioner of Collegiate Education GOK

1:00 pm: Programme closes with lunch.

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