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## COMPLETION OF THE COURSE ON SOCIAL WORK PRAXIS : GRADUATES SAVOR THE OCCASSION

March 13 was the culmination of the 18 month course on Social Work Praxis offered by Samraksha, and 16 counselors who are working in different Samraksha programmes in different settings graduated from the course. The course was offered by Samraksha along with two guest faculty, Dr Rajaram and Ms. Joyce Tan, both social work practitioners and educators and two faculty from Samraksha, Ms Sanghamitra Iyengar, Director of Samraksha and Ms. Sulekha, Director, Care and Support at Samraksha.

The course was designed as a bridge between social work theory and practice, which simultaneously addressed different gaps in a varied set of participants. There were people who had little formal education but had worked as counselors for some time. The course helped them start linking their work and experiences to specific theories and principles of human behavior. There were also fresh social work graduates with an exposure to the relevant subjects and theories, but with little field experience. For them, the course helped understand the theories through reflections on their practice.

The course participants were thrilled on the occasion. Many of them had discontinued formal education after high school or secondary school, and they cherished this opportunity for further learning, and the formal ceremony which marked the completion. Their family members were proud onlookers as they received their certificate. A document which shared the participants' experience of the course and their critical learnings was also released (see Publications page).

Dr. Parthasarathy and Dr. Muralishar, from the Department of Psychiatric Social Work of NIMHANS, Dr. Indumathi Ravishankar from SIAAP, Mr. Manohar Elavarthi from Sangama and Mr. T Pradeep from i2d.

