

## **Minutes of the First Meeting of Advisory Committee of the Odisha Center for Geriatrics and Gerontology held on 25.01.2020**

The first meeting of the Center of Excellence (COE) advisory committee on Odisha Center for Geriatrics and Gerontology (OCGG) was held at 4 PM on 25.01.2021 on virtual mode. The meeting's primary purpose was to develop an integrated framework and work plan to study the various aspects of the aged population of Odisha through interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary approaches. The Honourable Vice-Chancellor and the esteemed members of the Advisory Committee, Registrar, Deputy Registrar, Heads of all participating schools, and the university's faculty members attended the meeting.

The meeting commenced with the inaugural address by the Honorable Vice-Chancellor of Gangadhar Meher University-Prof N.Nagaraju, followed by a brief introduction of the COE by the coordinator, Prof. Sibabrata Das. Heads of all (eleven) participating schools elaborated on the objectives of their proposed work related to the aged population of Odisha. Prof. Atanu Kumar Pati summed up the objectives proposed by the participating schools of GMU.

After carefully listening to the presentations of proposals, members of the advisory committee provided their valuable inputs and suggestions regarding various aspects of OCGG- planning, execution, and sustainability. Prof. M.K.Thakur reviewed the proposals and asked heads to delimit the objectives within the project's time limit. According to him, the goals should be in tune with the plans mentioned in the Center of Excellence's original proposal. Concerning the area of coverage of the study, he suggested starting work from the district of Sambalpur. He also suggested more frequent interactions of faculty members involved in the project to resolve the problems they would confront in due course.

Prof. D. Jamuna could not give her expert comments because of poor internet connectivity. Prof. A.B. Dey suggested talking to doctors with a specialization in geriatric medicine in different medical colleges, notably Veer Surendra Sai Institute of Medical Sciences and Research (VIMSAR), Burla. Additionally, he suggested talking to Dr. Rashmi Ranjan Mohanty of All India Institute of Medical Sciences, Bhubaneswar, for advice on the aged population's health and health-related issues. He also talked about possible reasons for Odisha's people's higher longevity despite its socio-economic backwardness. Further, he suggested writing good projects to get funding from the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR). During his deliberations, he emphasized on Sarcopenia research. He mentioned about Department of the Science and Technology (DST) project entitled 'Technology Interventions for Disabled and Elderly (TIDE).'Organizing camps for the aged population in collaboration with NGOs, like Help Age India, is another suggestion made by Prof.Dey.

Prof. Atanu K. Pati summarised the suggestions given by Prof. Thakur and Prof. Dey. He emphasized the study of nutrition and food habits for a probable explanation of higher longevity in Odisha. According to him, writing projects for funding (Institutional and individual) and working on the project in line with the original proposal should go

simultaneously. All advisory committee members unanimously decided to hold the second next meeting in a month to finalize the participating schools' objectives.

After the deliberations, the Registrar of the university, Mr. Girish Chandra Singh, proposed a formal vote of thanks, and Prof. Atanu K. Pati, former Vice-Chancellor of GMU and member of the advisory committee, declared the closure of the meeting.