Minutes
Second Meeting of the Advisory Committee
Odisha Center for Geriatrics and Gerontology
Amruta Vihar, Sambalpur
31.07.2021

The second meeting of the advisory committee for the Odisha Center for Geriatrics and Gerontology (OCGG), GM University, Amruta Vihar, Sambalpur was held at 3:00 PM on 31.07.2021 on hybrid mode. The meeting's primary purpose was to review the progress of the OCGG and to work on the timeline for the future course of action. The Honourable Vice-Chancellor and the esteemed members of the Advisory Committee - Prof. Atanu Kumar Pati, Prof. Mahendra K. Thakur, and Prof. Udaya S. Mishra, Mentor of the Center - Prof. Tattwamasi Paltasingh, Coordinator of the center, 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 presentation on the progress of the COE by the coordinator - Prof. Sibabrata Das. The work progress of the center is summarized as follows:

- The center has developed the guideline for a 'Certificate Program on Geriatrics Care' which will be offered in the next academic session.
- The center is conducting a Webinar series on the issues related to aging and the aged population
- The center is creating a database of available secondary data (Census of India and the First wave of Longitudinal Ageing Survey of India) on the aged population, which will be used for research publications.
- The center is in the process of developing a research design and interview schedule for fieldwork.

Prof. Atanu Kumar Pati initiated the discussion on the original objectives of the project and proposed a set of revised objectives (outlined below).

- To conduct a systematic mapping study of trends in health problems and disabilities
- To evaluate the status of sarcopenia
- To determine sleep quality and cognitive abilities
- To study economic and social security aspects
- To enumerate the health care management practices in Odisha

Prof. M.K. Thakur suggested to include Post-Covid Neurological complications among the elderly population. Prof. Paltasingh, the mentor of the center, highlighted the need of studying old age homes.

Prof. Udaya Mishra emphasized studying the magnitude of adverse characteristics of the elderly population. As the share of elderly in the total population increased significantly over the past decades and are expected to rise dramatically in the future, he called for prospective aging inquiry for the future. In this connection, he advised working on issues, such as disabilities through age and rehabilitation, postponement of chronic diseases, and community engagement, etc. His other suggestions include:

1. Publication of intermediate outputs through provisional working papers.
2. Publication of 'Odisha Aging Report' by including aging trends, regional patterns, and government programs/schemes annually.
3. Developing a small module course on 'Ageing and Development.'

As it was finalized in the first advisory committee meeting to begin the work from Sambalpur district, a 10×10 Km^2 grid map was prepared. Prof. Mishra suggested adopting a systematic sampling method for the selection of the sample grids and the households within each randomly selected grid.

Prof. Atanu K. Pati summarised the suggestions given by the esteemed members. After the deliberations, the Registrar of the university, Mrs. Jugaleswari Dash, proposed a formal vote of thanks, and Prof. N. Nagaraju, Vice-Chancellor of GMU, declared the closure of the meeting.