On the occasion of The Rev. Sr. Thecla Endowment Lecture delivered on 10 October 2018, the Department of Social Work, honoured Ms Sheelu Francis by presenting her the **Illustrious Alumna Award.**

Introducing her to the audience, the Department shared her impressive biodata:

EDUCATIONAL QUALIFICATION:

Master of Social Work specialising in Community Development from the University of Madras – Stella Maris College.

Master of Political Science from the University of Madras.

Bachelor of Law from the University of Bangalore.

Diploma in gender Planning for Development with Women from Development Planning Unit, University of London.

EXPERIENCE:

Began her career as Project Director of a Non Governmental Organisation based in Chennai, Don Bosco Social Service Society in an Integrated Urban Development Project supported by World Bank.

1987 – 1991 As a Project Officer, of Oxfam, U.K. based in its South Indian Office at Bangalore covering the state of Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Karnataka. The work included project appraisal, monitoring and evaluation. Besides this, had the responsibility of the coordinator for the Gender Unit in Asia – AGRA (Action for Gender Relations in Asia).

1992- to date Working as a Freelance Consultant in Gender Issues in Development, PRI, Micro credit, Training in Participatory Methodologies, project Evaluations, Advocacy, Project Planning and Campaigning.

1994- to date working as a facilitator of Tamil Nadu Women's Collective. A collective of women headed NGOs in Tamil Nadu.

MAJOR ACTIVITIES UNDERTAKEN IN THE ABOVE MENTIONED AREAS:

- Accompaniment Service to Christian Aid Partners.
- Facilitation in formation of WOMEN'S COLLECTIVE /Community Collective.
- Local Social Advisor for British DFID's Slum improvement Projects in India
- Senior Consultant of Womenkind World Wide, UK.
- Consultant for Association for Better Land Husbandry, Kenya.
- Consultancy services to Oxfam in India.
- Consultancy to WRRC, Philippines.
- Consultancy to CARE, Bangladesh.
- Consultancy to Number of NGDO's in Sri Lanka.
- Resource Person of CEVA/KKF, Germany, PRAXIS – Action aid, India.

Conducted National & International training, Workshops and Seminars on Gender Issues, Participatory Methodology, Saving & Credit Management, Watershed, Evaluation, Project Appraisal and Panchayat Raj.

Organised Public Hearing and Conference on Violence against Women, Atrocities during local elections and Impact of Globalisation on Women.

Organised Conference on Political Participations of women and the Marginalised, Impact of Globalisation on Women, Climate Change and implication for Marginalised.

A regular visitor to Stella Maris Centre for Development of Resources for Inclusion and Vocational Education (SMCDRIVE) under the Health and Nutrition Training Programme where she promotes low cost and healthy eating through the use of millets. Women participants from the neighbourhood communities have benefitted immensely through her programmes where she combines healthy eating with women's empowerment.

Key Evaluations Conducted:

- Participatory Exchange Evaluation of two NGOs (CROP / Renaissance) in Tamilnadu.
- Participatory Grassroot Exchange Evaluation of two NGOs (Speech / ASA) in Tamil Nadu.
- Team member of the National Evaluation of SIDA Partners in India.
- Team member of the National Evaluation of DFID Slum Improvement Projects in India.
- Team Leader of the Participatory Section of the Impact Evaluation of the BUPP (Bangalore Urban Project) for Dutch Government.
- Team member of National Gender Evaluation of Oxfam (India) Trust.
- Team Leader of Impact evaluation of KKF, Germany Partners in Tamilnadu & Kerala.
- Team Leader of Impact Evaluation of Christian Partners in India.
- Team Member of Impact evaluation of OXFAM partners Earthquake relief work in Gujarat.
- Team Member of Tsunami Relief and Rehabilitation Evaluation of Help age International Partners.
- Team member of Social Equity Audit of Tsunami Projects and Team Leader of Participatory evaluation of PALM –2, Nilgris.

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