

SEMINAR ON CHILD RIGHTS AND CHILD PROTECTION: ISSUES AND CHALLENGES

A seminar was organized by the MSW department of IISWBM on 30th August 2019 on the topic **Child Rights and Child Protection: Issues and Challenges**.

Ms Manidipa Ghosh from Child In Need Institute (CINI) who has firsthand experience in the field of child welfare was invited to be the speaker.

Ms Manidipa Ghosh started the session by introducing the students to the global stand of UNICEF about 'child protection' and how children are uniquely vulnerable to the abuses against them. She discussed about Article 19 of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. Then she explored the areas of vulnerability of children keeping the context of Indian environment in the background. She spoke about various child protection acts and schemes like Juvenile Justice (Care & Protection) Act, Integrated Child Protection Scheme and POSCO. She emphasized about the acts, focus area, objectives and target group of these legal protections for children. She also discussed about children who are in conflict with the law and ways of bringing them back into the mainstream of the society. She, then, spoke about different policies, legislations and programs of the Government of India to safeguard child rights. How 'right to survival, right to protection, right to participate and right to development' are some of the key factors that would emphasize on the holistic development of a child was also discussed. An open question and answer segment was scheduled at the end of the session where the students asked Ms Ghosh about their areas of concerns and confusions.

This seminar was an opportunity for the students to develop a deeper understanding of the contents and implications of child rights in India. This session was an ambitious long-term lesson for the students to promote a movement for children human rights defenders.