

**National Symposium on
Youth Work and Youth Rights in Contemporary India
30 – 31 October 2018, Bengaluru
Organised by the
Youth Work Resource Centre
Samvada**



Venue: United Theological College, near Cantonment Railway Station, Bengaluru

Background

In a society where social and economic inequality, intolerance and sexual violence are endemic, it is inevitable that young peoples' vulnerabilities, concerns and dilemmas are diverse and complex. As they struggle to make sense of the world around them, and to navigate their transition to adulthood, their rights and their responsibilities, young people are being challenged at multiple levels. In our families, neighbourhoods, communities, places of work and study, the voices of young people are seldom heard and often misunderstood. And yet, the impact of their choices and decisions on individual wellbeing and on the social fabric is significant and visible. While inspiring young leaders are emerging, young people are also victims of hyper nationalism, unemployment, malnourishment and despair, leading to suicides, honour killings and hate crimes. At this critical juncture let us come together to contemplate the need for *youth work* and the scope of *youth rights*.

Tentative Structure of the Symposium

	Keynote Address
Panel 1	Rethinking Youth-hood: From youth as 'demographic' to the emotional and physical health of young people
Panel 2	Youth Work for Social Inclusion: Reconstructing youth rights & responsibilities in a caste stratified and polarised society
Panel 3	Working with Young People for Pluralism: Reimagining religion and redefining the nation
Panel 4	Youth Work for Gender Equity: Engaging with young people's explorations of gender, sexuality, love and marriage
Panel 5	Higher Education: Issues of quality, accessibility, pedagogy, ideology and challenges for youth work
Panel 6	From Livelihoods to Careers: Can youth work address the employment crisis, guide young people and redefine professions?
Panel 7	Youth Rights, State and Society: Why youth rights need special attention today
Panel 8	The Future of Youth Work – Youth Work as the Future: Ways forward
	Conclusion