

## Focus Group Discussions for Community Organisation

Guest Talk on "Focus Group Discussions for Community Organisation" by UG Department of Social Work on 03 August 2023 at Gelge Hall, St Aloysius College. The session was moderated by Ms. Coral Jean Rego, II year BA (SW) student. Ms. Savitha D'Souza, Head of UG Department of Social Work accompanied Mr. Kishore Attavara on to the dais. Sr. Lynda led the prayer. Mr. Kishore Attavara began the session by introducing himself, he spoke about his vast experience organizing communities in North Karnataka when he was working with the Azim Premji Foundation. He spoke about the emancipatory potential of group work for empowering communities. Issues of oppression, including caste and religion, were explored during the talk. He spoke about how social workers need to work around caste and religion while organizing focus group discussions. He gave examples of how surnames can be used to identify castes and power centers in communities. He asked the students for their surnames and identified their caste, clan and domicile. Through this, he showed the students that it was possible to know the caste location of people through their surnames. He also said that most of the social work interventions like group work and community organization take place within the bureaucratic parameters and the support of government officials and local politicians is crucial for this. He gave examples for this of his work in the Ullal CMC.



The second half of the session was interactive, wherein he took questions from the students. Several II year students shared their