KAPS
KERALA ASSOCIATION OF PROFESSIONAL SOCIAL WORKERS

AMRITA VISHWA VIDYAPEETHAM







11th KERALA PROFESSIONAL SOCIAL WORKERS CONGRESS

Theme

Care Economy and Professional Social Work

Advancing Competencies, Technology, Ethics and Career Pathways in Care Practice

Organised by, **Department of Social Sciences, Amrita School of Social and Behavioural Sciences (ASSBS)**, Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham

In Collaboration with:

Kerala Association of Professional Social Workers (KAPS)

ON, DECEMBER 14 &15 2026

Duration: Two Days
Venue: Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham
Amritapuri Campus.

1 Background and Rationale

The care economy is an increasingly important component of social and economic development, encompassing the services, workforce, institutions, and systems that provide care and support to individuals and families. Care for older persons, persons with disabilities, and children is becoming increasingly significant in the context of demographic changes, changing family structures, evolving social needs, and the growing demand for specialized and professional care services.

2 Aim

To strengthen the contribution of professional social work to the emerging care economy by identifying practice priorities, professional competencies, educational requirements, technological opportunities, and ethical standards for care services.

THE CONGRESS WILL ADDRESS THE FOLLOWING INTERCONNECTED SUBTHEMES

- Care Economy and Professional Social Work
- Elderly Care, Protection and Wellbeing
- Disability Care and Inclusion
- Child Care and Protection
- Professional Roles and Employment Pathways
- Curriculum and Skill Development
- Technology-Enabled Care

PROGRAMME SCHEDULE

DAY 1

Monday, 14 December 2026

10:00–11:00 AM	Inaugural Session: Care Economy, Professional Social Work and the Significance of the Congress and Symposium -
11:00–11:15 AM	Tea Break
11:15 AM–12:30 PM	KEYNOTE 1 – Understanding the Care Economy: Emerging needs, care systems and the role of professional social work
12:30–1:15 PM	KEYNOTE 2 – Professional Social Work in Care Practice: Roles, responsibilities and essential competencies
1:15–2:00 PM	Lunch Break
2:00–3:00 PM	KEYNOTE 3 – From Care Needs to Career Opportunities: Professional job roles and employment pathways in the care economy
3:00–4:00 PM	KEYNOTE 4 – Technology-Enabled Care: Artificial intelligence, digital innovation and the future of social work practice
4:00–4:30 PM	Day 1 Reflections and Orientation to Day 2 Thematic Working Groups

PROGRAMME SCHEDULE

DAY 2

Tuesday, 15 December 2026

9:00–9:30 AM	Recap of Day 1
9:30–10:30 AM	SESSION 1 – Expert Panel: Strengthening Professional Social Work in the Care Economy
10:45–11:00 AM	Orientation to Thematic Working Groups and Introduction to the Common Output Framework
11:00 AM–1:00 PM	SESSION 2 – Parallel Thematic Working Groups: Sectoral Inputs for an Integrated Care Economy Framework
1:00–2:00 PM	Lunch Break
2:00–2:30 PM	SESSION 3 – Presentation of Thematic Group Outcomes
2:30–3:00 PM	SESSION 4 – Integrated Synthesis: Towards a Care Economy Curriculum, Professional Job Roles and Career Pathways
3:00–4:00 PM	Valedictory Session: KAPS Professional Recognition and Awards