

# NEWSLETTER

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## Consultation

Senior Professor Premakumara de Silva  
Director General

## Guidance

V. Gowry Vasudevan  
Additional Director General(Academic)

## Editor

Ms. Nisansala Madushani  
Research Assistant

Mr. Janaka Bandara  
Lecturer

## Language Editing

Mr. Janaka Bandara  
Lecturer

## Designed by

Mahesh Lakmal

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## ABOUT US

### VISION OF THE NISD

To be a centre of excellence, nationally and globally in Social Work Education, Training and Research

### MISSION OF THE NISD

“To enhance human resource for Social Development through the preparation of competent manpower in social work at all levels, generate and disseminate new knowledge and technologies for social work practice, provide specialized services for social welfare and social development”

# 28th Asia Pacific Social Work Conference 2025 (APSWC 2025)

The 28th Asia Pacific Social Work Conference (APSWC 2025) was successfully held in Sri Lanka from 18 to 21 November 2025 at the Bandaranaike Memorial International Conference Hall (BMICH) and the Taj Samudra Hotel, Colombo. The conference was jointly organized by the Sri Lanka Association of Professional Social Workers (SLAPSW) and the National Institute of Social Development (NISD), marking the first time Sri Lanka hosted this prestigious regional event.

The theme, “Social Work Responses to Climate Change and Other Environmental Issues,” highlighted the critical role of social work in addressing environmental challenges. The inauguration was graced by distinguished national and international dignitaries, including representatives from IFSW, APASWE, NISD, and SLAPSW, along with leading academics and practitioners from across the Asia-Pacific region.



The keynote address was delivered by Prof. Manohar Pawar of Charles Sturt University, Australia. Technical sessions featured diverse presentations and panel discussions on climate change and social work practice. The conference concluded with the announcement that APSWC 2027 will be held in South Korea.



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ADDRESS - LIYANAGEMULLA, SEEDUWA, SRI LANKA.

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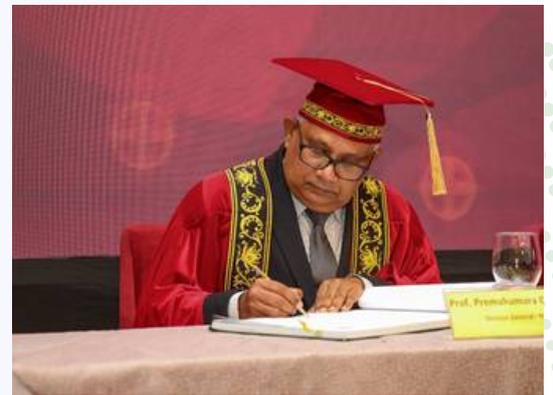
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# 15th Convocation and Diploma Awarding Ceremony - 2025

The National Institute of Social Development (NISD) successfully conducted its 15th Convocation and Diploma Awarding Ceremony on 27 November 2025 at the Bandaranaike Memorial International Conference Hall (BMICH), Colombo. The ceremony marked a significant milestone in celebrating the academic accomplishments of graduates in Social Work and related disciplines.

The convocation address was delivered by Professor Kalinga Tudor Silva, Emeritus Professor of Sociology at the University of Peradeniya, who spoke on the theme “Social Work as a Potential Driver of Educational Reforms in Sri Lanka.” His address underscored the transformative role of social work education in shaping inclusive and responsive educational systems.



During the ceremony, degrees were conferred on 87 Master of Social Work (MSW) graduates and 140 Bachelor of Social Work (BSW) graduates, while 315 diploma holders were awarded their respective diplomas. The event reaffirmed NISD’s enduring commitment to academic excellence and its mission of producing competent professionals dedicated to advancing social development and social justice in Sri Lanka.



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# Smart Village Pilot Project

## A New Initiative to Reduce Poverty in Sri Lanka

The National Institute of Social Development, operating under the Ministry of Rural Development, Social Security and Community Empowerment, has launched a new pilot initiative titled “Smart Village” with the objective of reducing poverty in Sri Lankan society. The initial phase of the project is being implemented in six selected rural communities located in the districts of Ampara, Kilinochchi, Monaragala, Badulla, Anuradhapura, and Gampaha.



The Smart Village pilot project also serves as a field-based learning initiative aimed at enhancing the experiential and practical skills of social work students. Undergraduate and postgraduate students of Social Work at NISD are actively involved in conducting pilot studies under the close supervision of academic staff, thereby integrating academic knowledge with community-based practice.

The primary objective of the project is to develop a scientifically grounded and formal mechanism for poverty reduction, supported by empirical research data, and to design a sustainable model based on this mechanism. It is envisaged that this model will be scaled up and implemented as a national-level programme in the future, with the support of the Ministry.

The project is carried out under the leadership of the Honourable Minister Dr. Upali Pannila and the Ministry Secretary Mr. Sampath Mantrinayake. A two-day capacity-building workshop for field personnel was held on 7-8 October 2025, under the guidance of Senior Professor Premakumara de Silva, Director General of NISD. This initiative lays a strong foundation for evidence-based social transformation in Sri Lanka.



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# The National Conference on Gender Studies (NCGS) 2025

The Centre for Gender Studies is proud to announce the successful completion of the National Conference on Gender Studies (NCGS) 2025, held on 15th September, 2025 under the theme “Beyond Boundaries: Navigating the Complexities of Gender Dynamics.”

This landmark event brought together a vibrant community of scholars, researchers, activists, and practitioners from diverse backgrounds to engage in meaningful academic dialogue on the multifaceted nature of gender. Through thought-provoking presentations, interdisciplinary collaboration, and critical discourse, the conference created a dynamic platform to challenge conventional paradigms, promote social justice, and foster inclusive and equitable societies. At the heart of NCGS-2025 was a commitment to academic excellence and intellectual exchange, empowering both senior academics and aspiring young researchers to share insights, build connections, and contribute to advancing the field of gender studies.



## Vaani Vizha 2025



Vaani Vizha 2025 was celebrated on the 3rd of October 2025 with great enthusiasm and cultural vibrancy. The event was organized by the 2nd-year Bachelor of Social Work students of the National Institute of Social Development (NISD), with the active participation of all students, academic, and non-academic staff members.

The celebration commenced in the morning with a traditional puja ceremony, invoking blessings for peace and prosperity. The evening segment of the event was filled with captivating traditional dance and singing performances, showcasing the diverse cultural heritage of the students. Vaani Vizha 2025 served as a meaningful platform for students to express their artistic talents and strengthen cultural cooperation and unity within the NISD community.



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# Research Study Conducted at the Ridiyagama Kalana Detention Home



The Research and Publications Division of the National Institute of Social Development conducted a preliminary research study titled “Residents of the Ridiyagama Kalana Detention Home – 2025.” Fieldwork was carried out during August, October, and November 2025, with active engagement of residents, staff, and key stakeholders. The study examines social, psychological, and institutional factors affecting residents’ rehabilitation and well-being, including living conditions, available services, and rehabilitation programmes. This initiative aims to strengthen evidence-based interventions, identify gaps in existing practices, and provide policy- and practice-oriented recommendations to enhance rehabilitation outcomes in Sri Lanka.

The National Institute of Social Development successfully conducted the “Learn to Learn” Library Workshop on 09 August 2025 for the BSW 2024/25 new intake.

This 6-hour interactive session, including practical activities, was conducted by Dr. K. R. N. Harshani, Senior Lecturer, Department of Library and Information Science, University of Kelaniya.

The program was well-received by students and served as a valuable orientation to enhance their independent learning capabilities.

## Library Workshop “Learn to Learn”



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# The 'MANORATA' Arts Competition

The Manorata Arts Competition, held in conjunction with World Mental Health Day 2025, took place on 6 November 2025 at the National Institute of Social Development (NISD). Organized under the guidance of Senior Professor Premakumara de Silva, the event was coordinated by Ms. Kumuduni Wedisinghe and Mr. B. K. S. Karunaratne, with over 50 participants. Judging was led by Mr. Prageeth Ratnayake, with Ms. Gowri Vasudevan. Winners were Buddhika Jeewantha (1st), Sewmi Jayoda (2nd), and Nirodha Alwis (3rd). The programme also included psycho-social lectures highlighting mental health through creative expression.



## Four Days Staff Development Workshop on Enhancing Literature Review Skills in the AI Era

The Research and Publications Division of the National Institute of Social Development successfully conducted a Staff Development Workshop titled "Literature Review in the AI Era: Methodological and Technical Support." Led by senior professor Premakumara de Silva and Dr. Nilantha Ramanayaka, the workshop introduced academic and professional staff to AI-driven tools that enhance literature searching, organization, analysis, and synthesis. Practical demonstrations highlighted the effective and ethical use of AI in research, while discussions addressed academic integrity and limitations of technology. The interactive session strengthened participants' research competencies and promoted a forward-looking, technology-informed approach to scholarly work.



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# Training Workshop on Strengthens Field Supervision in BSW and MSW Programmes



The School of Social Work of the National Institute of Social Development successfully conducted a Training Workshop for Field Supervisors involved in the BSW and MSW field placement programmes on 25 October 2025 at the Thalawa Regional Training Centre and on 1 November 2025 at NISD, Seeduwa. Held under the patronage of the Director General, Senior Prof. Premakumara de Silva, the programme aimed to enhance the supervisory skills and professional competence of field supervisors. The workshop focused on effective supervision, student assessment, ethical practice, and integrating theory into fieldwork. Through interactive discussions and experience sharing, participants strengthened collaboration between NISD and field agencies. The programme was highly appreciated for its contribution to improving the quality and effectiveness of social work field education.

## New Diploma in Counselling Batch Commences at Kandy Centre

The NISD inaugurated a new batch of the Diploma in Counselling on 2nd November 2025 at the Probation Department Auditorium, Kandy. The event was held under the patronage of Senior Professor Premakumar de Silva, Director General of NISD. Addressing the gathering, he emphasized the growing demand for professionally trained and ethical counsellors amid rising psychological and social challenges in Sri Lanka. The programme is designed to provide strong theoretical knowledge and practical skills for effective service delivery. As a government higher education institute, NISD continues to strengthen the national social service sector through quality training programmes.



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## Two-Day Training Programme on Counselling Skills and Capacity Building for Care Workers

A two-day training programme titled “Counselling Skills and Capacity Building for Care Workers” was successfully conducted at the Kalana Detention Home, Ridiyagama, Ambalantota. The programme aimed to strengthen the professional competencies of care workers by enhancing their knowledge, attitudes, and practical counselling skills. The sessions were facilitated by Dr. P. C. Hettiarachchi, with contributions from Mr. Irone Jayasekara and Mr. B. K. S. Karunaratne. Eighty care workers participated and engaged in interactive discussions, role plays, and practical activities. The programme significantly contributed to improving the quality of care and psychosocial support within the institution.



## The Annual Cricket Tournament

The Annual Cricket Tournament, organized by the 4th-year Bachelor of Social Work (BSW) students, was held on the 9th and 10th of September 2025 at the Davindra Mendis Stadium, Katunayaka. The event brought together all four batches of BSW students, along with the academic and non-academic staff of the School of Social Work, creating a vibrant atmosphere filled with enthusiasm, teamwork, and sportsmanship. The primary objective of the tournament was to promote unity, collaboration, and a healthy balance between academic and extracurricular activities among students. It also aimed to strengthen interpersonal relationships across batches and between students and staff, fostering a strong sense of belonging and community within the School of Social Work.



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# Workshop on Developing Academic Profiles

The Web Development Committee of the NISD successfully conducted a Workshop on Developing the Academic Profile of Academic Staff on 17 October 2025 at the NISD Conference Room. Held under the chairmanship of the Director General, the workshop aimed to enhance the academic capacity of staff by exploring strategies for maintaining academic profiles, publishing in indexed journals, and writing successful research grant proposals. The session was conducted by Professor Nayana Gunathilaka of the University of Kelaniya, one of the youngest professors in Sri Lankan academia and a scholar recognized among the world's top 2% scientists.



## Public Lecture Series No. 01

The National Institute of Social Development (NISD) organized the first session of its Academic Public Lecture Series on the 15th of August 2025 at 2.00 p.m. at the NISD premises. The guest speaker was Associate Professor Ksenija Napan from the School of Social Work, Massey University, New Zealand.

She delivered an insightful lecture on "Strengthening Social Work Practice through Reflective Engagement," emphasizing the importance of critical reflection in enhancing professional practice and advancing the field of social work.



## English Festival Day 2025 (Oceana 2025)

The English Day Festival of NISD was held on the 21st of September 2025 from 1.00 p.m. onwards at the Main Hall. The theme for this year's celebration was "Oceana." The event was organized by the first-year students of the BSW program, showcasing their creativity, teamwork, and commitment in bringing the theme to life. The festival featured a variety of performances, including drama, singing, and dancing, which highlighted the talents of the students and added vibrancy to the celebration.



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# The Annual Field Supervisors' Training and Honorary Service Evaluation Program



The National Institute of Social Development successfully conducted the “Learn to Learn” Library Workshop on 09 August 2025 for the BSW 2024/25 new intake.

This 6-hour interactive session, including practical activities, was conducted by Dr. K. R. N. Harshani, Senior Lecturer, Department of Library and Information Science, University of Kelaniya.

The program was well-received by students and served as a valuable orientation to enhance their independent learning capabilities.

## Seiri Week

Under the national project Clean Sri Lanka, NISD organized “Seiri Week” from September 1st to 4th. The theme of the week was “Declutter, Organize, and Create a Clean and Productive Environment.”

With the active participation of students and staff, the initiative focused on disposing of unnecessary items, improving the NISD environment, and fostering a healthier, safer, and more efficient workplace.



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# ZeroPlastic NISD Club Shines at the 2025 ZeroPlastic Awards Ceremony

The ZeroPlastic NISD Club, one of the officially recognized student associations of the National Institute of Social Development (NISD), has brought remarkable national recognition to the Institute by achieving outstanding success at the 2025 ZeroPlastic Awards Ceremony. Competing alongside higher education institutions from across Sri Lanka, the Club's achievements mark a historic milestone for NISD and reaffirm its strong commitment to environmental sustainability, innovation, creativity, and volunteerism.

Through a series of impactful, student-led initiatives addressing plastic pollution, environmental awareness, and community empowerment, the ZeroPlastic NISD Club demonstrated how social responsibility, creativity, and collective action can translate into meaningful national impact. The impressive array of awards, runner-up positions, and finalist recognitions reflects the dedication, leadership, and collaborative spirit of NISD students.



**National Institute of Social Development**  
Recognized by the University Grants Commission under the UGC Act, 25A 18, of 1978 as a Degree Awarding Institute  
Ministry of Rural Development, Social Security and Community Empowerment

**Bachelor of Social Work (Honours) Degree Programme 2025/2026**

**Applications are now open**

**Entry Qualifications:**  
Candidates should have sat for the GCE (A/L) examination in the years 2022, 2023 or 2024 and should have fulfilled the minimum requirements for admission to university in any subject stream at the GCE (A/L) Examination. A minimum of 30 marks in General Knowledge at the GCE (A/L) Examination is required. To apply for a degree program conducted in the medium of English, applicants must have obtained at least a Credit Pass (C) in the English Language subject at the GCE (O/L) Examination or in the General English subject at the GCE (A/L) Examination.  
\* Applications are welcomed from students with special needs

**How to apply:**  
The application form should be downloaded from the official website of the National Institute of Social Development ([nisd.ac.lk](http://nisd.ac.lk)).  
Duly completed application should be sent by registered post to the Registrar, National Institute of Social Development, Liyanagemulla, Seeduwa along with certified copies.

**Applications are now open**

**Application closing date extended to 31-12-2025**

**COURSE FEE:**  
This four-year full-time degree programme is conducted **FREE OF CHARGE** and charges only Rs. 35,000/- as registration fee.  
**APPLICATIONS FEE:** Rs. 500/-  
**SELECTION TEST FEE:** Rs. 1,000/-

**CONTACT**  
Sinhala Medium: Ms. Chamari Thabrew - 075 182 2841  
Tamil Medium: Mr. T. Harshan - 077 334 4676  
English Medium: Ms. Aloka Marumakali - 071 531 8059

Registrar  
National Institute of Social Development  
Liyanagemulla, Seeduwa  
Tel: 0112882506  
E-mail: [registrar@nisd.ac.lk](mailto:registrar@nisd.ac.lk)  
web: [nisd.ac.lk](http://nisd.ac.lk)

## Join the next Generation of Social Workers NISD 2025/2026 Applications

NISD is accepting applications for its four-year, full-time Bachelor of Social Work (Honours) programme in Sinhala, Tamil, English. Tuition is free, with minimal registration fees. Inclusive and equitable, the program empowers future social work professionals to make a meaningful impact. Apply by 31 December 2025: [nisd.ac.lk](http://nisd.ac.lk)



# PROGRAMMES CONDUCTED BY NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

COURSE TITLE	ENTRY QUALIFICATION	TIME PERIOD/ MEDIUM	VENUE
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## DEGREE PROGRAMMES

Master of Social Work (SLQF 10)	A Bachelor's Degree from a recognized university or Higher Education Institute with a minimum of 30 credits in the relevant subject area	Two year/ Part-time (English/Sinhala/Tamil)	NISD, Seeduwa
Bachelore of Social Work Honours	Passing the G.C.E. (A/L Examination with minimum requirements for university admissions (The applicants should appear for a selection test and an interview)	Four year/ Fulltime (English/Sinhala/Tamil)	NISD, Seeduwa

## HIGHER DIPLOMA PROGRAMMES

Higher Diploma in Social Work	Completion 30 credits Diploma in Social Work	One year/ Weekend (Sinhala/ Tamil/ English)	NISD, Seeduwa
Higher Diploma in Counseling	Completion 30 credits Diploma in Counseling	One Year/ Weekend (Sinhala/ Tamil/ English)	NISD, Seeduwa

## DIPLOMA PROGRAMMES

Diploma in Social Work	Passing the G.C.E. (A/L) examination	12 Months/ Weekend (Sinhala/ Tamil/ English)	Seeduwa, Ampara, Thalawa (Anuradhapura), Killinochchi
Diploma in Counseling	Passing the G.C.E. (A/L) examination	12 Months/ Weekend (Sinhala/ Tamil/ English)	Seeduwa, Ampara, Thalawa (Anuradhapura), Killinochchi
Diploma in Child Protection	Passing the G.C.E.(A/L) examination	12 Months/ Weekend (Sinhala/ Tamil/ English)	Seeduwa, Ampara, Thalawa (Anuradhapura), Killinochchi
Diploma in Gerontology and Eldercare	Passing the G.C.E. (A/L) examination	12 Months/ Weekend (Sinhala/ Tamil/ English)	NISD, Seeduwa
Diploma in English	Passing the G.C.E.(A/L) examination	12 Months/ Weekend (Sinhala/ Tamil/ English)	Seeduwa, Ampara, Thalawa (Anuradhapura), Killinochchi
Diploma in Women Empowerment	Passing the G.C.E. (A/L) examination	12 Months/ Weekend (Sinhala/ Tamil/ English)	NISD, Seeduwa
Diploma in Sign Language	Passing the G.C.E. (A/L) examination	12 Months/ Weekend (Sinhala/ Tamil/ English)	NISD, Seeduwa

## CERTIFICATE PROGRAMMES

Certificate Course in Social Work	Passing G.C.E. (O/L) examination	06 Months/ Weekend (Sinhala/ Tamil/ English)	Seeduwa, Ampara, Thalawa (Anuradhapura), Killinochchi
Certificate Course in Counseling	Passing G.C.E. (O/L) examination	06 Months/ Weekend (Sinhala/ Tamil/ English)	Seeduwa, Ampara, Thalawa (Anuradhapura), Killinochchi
Certificate Course in Child Focused Community Development	Passing G.C.E. (O/L) examination	06 Months/ Weekend (Sinhala/ Tamil/ English)	Seeduwa, Ampara, Thalawa (Anuradhapura), Killinochchi
Certificate Course in Research Methodology and Academic Writing	Passing G.C.E. (O/L) examination	06 Months/ Weekend (Sinhala/ Tamil/ English)	Seeduwa, Ampara, Thalawa (Anuradhapura), Killinochchi
Certificate Course in Elder Care	Passing G.C.E. (O/L) examination	06 Months/ Weekend (Sinhala/ Tamil/ English)	Seeduwa, Ampara, Thalawa (Anuradhapura), Killinochchi



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