



**INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE  
ON  
HUMAN DIGNITY AND MENTAL HEALTH  
IN THE NEW NORMAL  
(ICDMH 2021)**

*17-18 December, 2021*

**Organised by**



**DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHOLOGY  
UTKAL UNIVERSITY  
VANI VIHAR, BHUBANESWAR  
ODISHA, INDIA**

## *Background*

The unprecedented pervasive impact of the recent pandemic on humankind has brought about a major shift in the way we conceptualize mental health. The world has witnessed overwhelming changes in lifestyle and livelihood of people brought about by the survival challenges of the infectious disease. Besides the physical impact, the psychological consequences of safety protocols during the pandemic have made matters worse. It has been realized since long that human dignity and mental health are interrelated. While disregard and discrimination meted out to people having mental health issues violate their right to life with dignity, the loss of intrinsic worth of an individual embedded in societal structure and cultural practices results in mental health issues. The recent pandemic saw hospitals being ill-equipped to address the stress and anxiety of patients and their family during different phases of the treatment. The need to access counselling and other mental health services across different age groups has been acutely felt during this time. Whether it is the traumatic isolation or the abject poverty, the loss of human dignity has been appalling. The situation seems to linger without any end in sight. It has been opined that the best way to cope with the situation is not to wait for the pandemic to end, rather learn to accept the prevailing circumstances as the 'New Normal'.

This calls for rethinking and reevaluating our role in ensuring human dignity as well as making mental health a priority across time and context. To deliberate upon the changing interpersonal dynamics, this International Conference intends to bring together academics, practitioners, social activists, students and the like from Psychology and related disciplines. The aim is to disseminate the current perspectives on the theme and related issues, and translate the shared meanings into social action for a stronger foothold of mental health in future research, policy and practices.



## *Major Themes*

- **Dignity and well being**
- **Mental health literacy**
- **Mental health support services**
- **Teaching-learning process**
- **Workplace challenges**
- **Family and relationships**
- **Technology and human behavior**



## *Utkal University*

Established in 1943, Utkal University, Vani Vihar is the 17th oldest University of India and the Mother University of the state of Odisha situated in the state capital Bhubaneswar. It is a teaching, research and one of the largest affiliating universities having twenty-seven Post-Graduate and seventeen Self-financing programmes within the campus that include faculty of Humanities and the Social Sciences, Science & Technology, Commerce and Management, Pedagogical Science , Medicine and Law. The second campus of the University came into being in 2019 for catering to the specific needs of rural areas. The University has established several Centres of Excellence under RUSA 2.0 and World Bank-Odisha Higher Education Programme for Equity and Excellence to promote interdisciplinary research including inter- departmental research. The university strives continuously to become an institution of eminence in eastern India with a focus on innovative teaching, research and extension activities.

## *About Department of Psychology*

The Department of Psychology was established in 1953 at Ravenshaw College, Cuttack as an undergraduate Department. It was upgraded to Post-Graduate Teaching and Research Department in 1958, and moved to Utkal University Campus at Vani Vihar, Bhubaneswar in 1962. In 1980, it was declared as a Centre of Advanced Study in Psychology (CASP), the first such centre in Psychology in the country, and the only such centre in Odisha. The department has had the CAS status for 29 years. The faculties have contributed to the growth of the discipline through innovative research as well as towards the mental health needs of the community since long. The Department is currently celebrating its Diamond Jubilee at Utkal University.

## *Call for Papers*

**Submission of original work is invited from prospective authors relevant to the major themes and related areas. Proposals for both Paper presentations and Symposium are welcome. The abstract within three hundred words and full paper within four to five thousand words (Times New Roman font of size 12, line spacing 1.5, MS Word file having author's name, designation, institutional affiliation, contact e-mail id and mobile number) should be sent to the following email id. There is a plan to publish the selected papers with a reputed publisher.**

**[icdmhpsyutkal2021@gmail.com](mailto:icdmhpsyutkal2021@gmail.com)**

**The Conference will be conducted in blended mode. Outstation participants may opt for virtual presentation. E-certificates will be awarded to the registered participants who have presented papers in the conference. Certificate for the co-author, who has registered for the conference, is available subject to her presence during the scheduled presentation.**

## *Important Dates*

**Registration:** *20 October -19 November, 2021*

**Last date of Abstract submission of registered participants:** *20 November, 2021*

**Last date of communication of Abstract acceptance:** *25 November, 2021*

**Submission of Full paper:** *14 December, 2021*

**Conference dates:** *17-18 December, 2021*

## *Registration for Conference*

**The Registration for the Conference is free. Please register yourself online by using the following link:**

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdVkj\\_jjOg8xXnBNLYtw-j8nyAriR6rePEGEEmbRt4YZU756w/viewform?usp=sf\\_link](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdVkj_jjOg8xXnBNLYtw-j8nyAriR6rePEGEEmbRt4YZU756w/viewform?usp=sf_link)

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## ***CONVENER***

**Prof. Bhaswati Patnaik**, Head, Department of Psychology, Utkal University



***Contact us @***

**Convener, ICDMH 2021**

**Whatsapp link:**

<https://chat.whatsapp.com/DwAzeSTM7ZE0ydhx3tsLQr>

**Email:** [icdmhpsyutkal2021@gmail.com](mailto:icdmhpsyutkal2021@gmail.com)

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