

Registration

Registration fees for the Paper Presenters will be as follows

Faculty from India and SAARC countries	Rs. 1000
Students/Research Scholars from India and SAARC countries	Rs. 500
International Scholars from countries other than SAARC	USD 50
International Students from countries other than SAARC	USD 20
Participation certificate (if needed)	Rs.100

Registration Fee is payable through a Demand Draft drawn in favour of 'The Registrar, University of Madras.'

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A two-day International Conference on

**Elderly Care in and beyond the Family:
Resourcing Religion and Social Work**

jointly organised by

The Department of Christian Studies

University of Madras

&

The Department of Social Work(SFS)

Madras Christian College



29th and 30th September 2026

Tuesday and Wednesday

Venue

**Hall F-50, Centenary Building, Chepauk
Campus, University of Madras**

&

Center for Media Studies, MCC

Concept Note

Ageing is an inevitable and universal reality of human life. With advances in healthcare and improved living conditions, life expectancy has increased significantly across the globe, resulting in a rapidly growing elderly population. It is projected that one in six people will be aged 60 and above by 2030, placing increasing demands and mounting pressure on families, communities, and public systems of care.

Traditionally, elder care has been rooted in family structures, guided by cultural values of respect, responsibility, and intergenerational support. However, contemporary social transformations—such as urbanization, migration, nuclear family systems, and changing work patterns—have weakened these traditional support mechanisms. As a result, many elderly persons today face challenges, including loneliness, declining health, inadequate care, and social isolation. These realities call for a shift from a purely family- centered model to a broader, more inclusive approach to care that extends beyond the family. Elderly care must therefore be understood holistically, addressing not only physical well-being but also psychological, social, and spiritual well-being.

In this context, religion combined with a professional social work approach can emerge as a vital resource. Religion becomes a meaningful force as a vital resource, offering values of compassion, dignity, and service, while providing at the same time, emotional support and a sense of belonging through faith communities and spiritual practices (Harold G. Koenig, MD, Christopher G. Ellison, Ellen L. Idler). Idler says that devout religious beliefs and practices may be associated not only with mental health but with physical health too, and that religiousness has been related to better functional status.

At the same time, Social Work too plays a crucial professional role by offering structured interventions such as counselling, community-based care, advocacy, and policy engagement to promote the well-being and rights of older people. (Barbara Berkman, Roberta Greene, Rhonda J. V. Montgomery). Daine B. Kaplan and Barbara Berkman say, “social workers and other health professionals with knowledge in aging will become even more essential to address the complex needs of older people and their families.”

The theme “Elderly Care in and Beyond Family: Resourcing Religion and Social Work” emphasises the need for an integrated approach that combines ethical and spiritual values with professional expertise. Such collaboration can foster holistic, inclusive, and sustainable models of elderly care that respond effectively to the multidimensional needs of ageing populations.

This International Conference seeks to bring together scholars, practitioners, religious leaders, policymakers, and students to engage in an interdisciplinary dialogue on elderly care within and beyond the family. It aims to explore innovative and culturally sensitive approaches that promote dignity, inclusion, and quality of life for the elderly, while encouraging shared responsibility among families, communities, and institutions.

Sub-themes - Including, but not limited to

- Aging, Ailments, and Challenges – Physical, Psychological, Social and Cultural
- Aging, Dementia and Palliative Care for the Elderly
- Religion and Spirituality on Aging and Eldercare in Families
- Religion, Homes for the Aged and End-of-life Care
- Social Professional Care, Medical Care and Facilities for the Elderly: Prospects and Challenges
- Integrating Medical, Social, and Spiritual Care in Geriatrics
- Eldercare and Families: Social work Perspectives
- Eldercare and Families—then and now: Religious Perspectives
- Eldercare and Intergenerational Support in Nuclear and Joint Families
- Community-based Rehabilitation and Outreach: Geriatric Perspectives
- Public-private Partnerships in Eldercare
- Inclusive and Age-friendly Communities
- Social Security and Welfare Policies for the Elderly
- Legal Frameworks and Protection of Elderly Rights
- Digital Inclusion and Elderly Empowerment
- Aging: Indigenous and Cultural Beliefs and Practices

Call for papers

The two-day International conference on Elderly care in and beyond the family: Resourcing religion and social work invites academicians, researchers, scholars, and practitioners to contribute original and unpublished papers related to the theme(s) of the conference. The papers may be in the form of research papers, conceptual papers, case studies, or policy analyses. All selected paper abstracts will be published in the form of conference proceedings with an ISBN, and shortlisted papers will also be published in a national or international peer-reviewed journal. Publication fees will be intimated later.

Mode of Conference

In Hybrid Mode (Online mode only for international participants and presenters)

Important Dates

Abstract Submission Deadline	20 th July 2026
Acceptance Notification	31 th July 2026
Full Paper Submission	15 th August 2026

Author Guidelines

- The paper should be an original and unpublished work of the author(s).
- The abstract of the paper should not exceed 250 words with 4-6 keywords. An electronic copy of the abstract should be sent by 05th July 2026 through mail.
- First page of the manuscript should have the title of the paper, name of the author(s), organization's affiliation, and e-mail address, mobile followed by abstract and full paper.
- Recommended length of the research paper should be between 3000-6000 words, with Times New Roman font, Font size 12, and 1.5-spaced.
- For references, Authors are requested to follow the APA Style 7th Edition
- Co authors (if attending the conference) will have to register separately to be entitled to the conference certificate (Authors who do not register will not be entitled to the conference certificate).
- Authors, who are keen to present more than one paper, will have to register for all the papers separately. Last date for submission of an electronic copy of the complete manuscript along with abstract(s), is 15th August 2026, which is to be emailed to icecsw2026@gmail.com
- The author(s) must register themselves for the conference by 30th August 2026 to ensure the inclusion of the paper in the conference proceedings