

manipal
hospitals
LIFE'S ON

**A Two-Day International Conference
on**

**Ethics, Values and Human Dignity
in Healthcare:**

**Psychological, Literary, Artistic &
Medical Perspectives**



Organized by

**Departments of Psychology & English
DCT's Dhempe College of Arts & Science
Miramar-Goa**

in collaboration with

Sangath, Goa & Manipal Hospital, Goa

23rd & 24th February 2026

Venue: Multipurpose Hall

Sanskriti Bhavan, Patto, Panaji, Goa

CONCEPT NOTE

An emergent field in critical studies, Health Humanities arises at the crucial intersection of medical science and the human 'story' of suffering and healing. Psychological perspectives, for instance, explore the cognitive, emotional and social dimensions of illness and care thereby addressing issues of empathy and institutional support in healthcare.

Correspondingly, literary and artistic perspectives recognize that beneath the pulse and precision of medicine lies the intricacy of narrative: of bodies that remember, voices that seek agency, and lives that seek meaning in times of adversity and restoration.

This conference aims to facilitate interdisciplinary engagement between the fields of medicine, psychology, literary and artistic expression, philosophy and cultural studies within the broad framework of Health Humanities. Through this platform, we aim to foster innovative ways of addressing pivotal issues affecting contemporary healthcare systems.

SCOPE OF PRESENTATIONS

The Conference on Health Humanities welcomes not only empirical research but also experience-based, reflective, and creative contributions that explore the human, social, and ethical dimensions of health and healing.

Participants from NGOs, healthcare, education, and community organizations are especially encouraged to share insights drawn from their practice and field experiences.

FORMS OF PRESENTATION

Case Studies or Field Experiences

Community interventions, mental health initiatives, or wellness programs that highlight innovative or compassionate approaches to care.

Reflective Accounts

Perspectives from healthcare providers, counsellors, educators, or caregivers on empathy, ethics, resilience, or professional burnout.

Conceptual or Theoretical Papers

Discussions on the role of culture, media, technology, or society in shaping health and well-being.

Narrative or Creative Works

Patient or caregiver stories, short films, digital narratives, or art-based healing projects illustrating human experiences of illness and recovery.

Documentation of NGO Work

Descriptions of ongoing projects or community models integrating psychological, social, or ethical aspects of healthcare.

* The emphasis is on sharing meaningful experiences and ideas that connect health with humanity - beyond data, into stories that inspire understanding, compassion, and change.



ABOUT THE HOST INSTITUTION

Located along the blue waters of Miramar, DCT's Dhempe College of Arts and Science stands as one of Goa's leading centers of higher learning. Established soon after the State's liberation by the group of visionaries led by Dempo family to make quality education accessible, the College has nurtured pioneers in liberal arts, science, and technology in India and abroad. Offering several programmes in Arts and Science along with skill-based, employment-oriented certificate courses for the benefit of the learners. The institution is the only general education college in Goa ranked in the NIRF 151–200 band (2025). Accredited by NAAC with an 'A' grade, and is ISO and Green Certified, the College also holds an 'A' grade under the DBT Star College Scheme, while the Institution's Innovation Council has earned a three-star rating. This Conference represents the institution's commitment to explore new frontiers in research, academic dialogue, and social welfare - a conclave of ideas and innovation to which we warmly welcome you.

ABOUT THE ORGANISING DEPARTMENTS

The Department of Psychology

The Department offers a B.A. Psychology program that blends academic rigor with experiential learning, fostering empathy, compassion, and inclusivity. Through MoUs with various reputed Institutes, students engage in internships and community-based learning experiences. In collaboration with Sangath Goa, the Department through its flagship initiative, 'Jagruti' promotes mental health awareness among general public, with the objective to reduce stigma associated with mental illnesses. Additionally, the faculty members are actively involved in research through projects and grassroot level programs. They also organize skill development certificate courses in areas of contemporary relevance, equipping students with practical and professional competencies.

The Department of English

The Department offers a B.A. English program that integrates critical thinking with creative and contemporary perspectives. It offers a range of certificate courses in Translation and Language Development, Content Creation, and Research Methodologies. The faculty are active researchers in areas such as Gender and Autonarrative Studies, Environmental and Digital Humanities, Healthcare Narratology, and Diasporic Fiction, and are associated with national and state bodies engaged in multilingual language resource development and allied linguistic projects. The Department also facilitates internships in reputed organizations, enabling students to enhance their skills and expand their career opportunities.

ABOUT THE COLLABORATORS

Sangath

Sangath is a not-for-profit mental health research organization dedicated to closing the treatment gap for mental health in India and beyond. Founded in 1996, Sangath is globally recognized for developing scalable, evidence-based care models grounded in community participation and cross-sector collaboration. Sangath's work drives community-centered mental health impact through world-class research, strategic partnerships, public engagement, service delivery, and innovative solutions tailored to low-resource settings. Sangath has received prestigious international and national awards, each milestone reaffirms its mission- to make quality mental health care accessible, inclusive and grounded in science.

Manipal Hospitals

Manipal Hospitals is one of India's leading healthcare providers, serving over 7 million patients annually through a network of 37 hospitals across 19 cities, offering 10,500+ beds, 5,600+ doctors, and 18,600+ employees. With the acquisitions of Medica Synergie Hospitals and AMRI Hospitals Limited, the network has strengthened its Pan-India footprint, delivering affordable, high-quality multispecialty and tertiary care to patients across the country and beyond. Manipal Hospital Goa, serving the community for over 30 years, is a state-of-the-art tertiary care centre known for its advanced infrastructure and clinical excellence. It is the only centre in Goa equipped with a PET Scan facility and a pioneer in Robotic Knee Replacement Surgery, offering precision-driven care and faster recovery. With a legacy of trust, innovation, and compassionate service, Manipal Hospital Goa continues to uphold the Manipal tradition of delivering world-class healthcare.

SALIENT MULTIDISCIPLINARY PERSPECTIVES FROM...

Keynote Speaker

Prof. Vikram Patel

Paul Farmer Professor and Chair of Global Health and Social Medicine,
Harvard Medical School

Plenary Speakers

Prof. Richard Velleman

Emeritus Professor
University of Bath

Prof. Abhijit Nadkarni

NIHR Professor of Global Health Research
London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine (LSHTM), UK

Dr. Kavery Nambisan

Noted Surgeon and Novelist

Dr. Shivashankar K.N.

Professor
Head, Department of Medicine, Kasturba Medical College, Manipal

Prof. Gayathri Prabhu

Professor & Incharge Director
Manipal Institute of Social Sciences, Humanities and Arts

Prof. Nikhil Govind

Professor
Manipal Institute of Social Sciences, Humanities and Arts

Panelists

Dr. Mahadeva Swamy B C

Hemato-Oncologist
Bone marrow transplant physician,
Lead consultant, Manipal Hospital Goa

Dr. Ashwini N.V.

Psychologist
Founder-Director
Muktha Foundation, Bengaluru

Panelists

Dr. Amit Dias

Lecturer
Department of Community Medicine, Goa
Medical College

Dr. Anjali Chaubey

Assistant Professor
Shenoi Goembab School of Languages and
Literature, Goa University

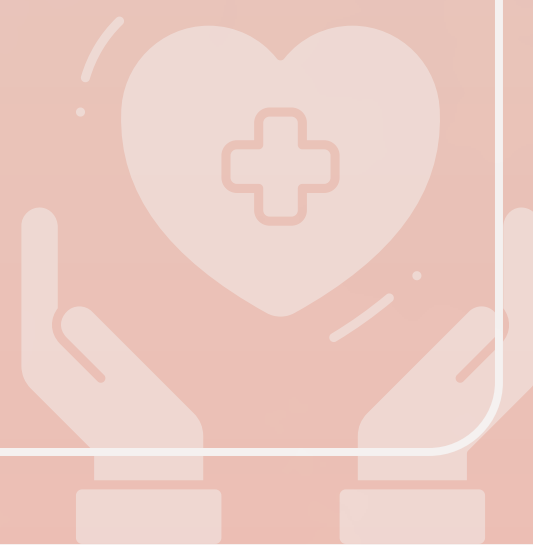
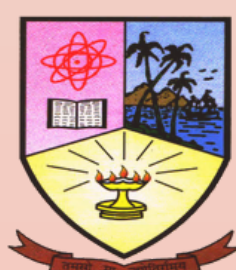
THEMATIC TRACKS

1. Bridging Psychological Community Health Initiatives and Frontiers in Medical Interventions

- Ethical Dilemmas in Psychiatry and Psychotherapy
- Autonomy, Dignity, and Consent in Mental Healthcare
- Culture, Society, and Mental Health
- The Psychology of Suffering, Resilience, and Recovery
- Balancing Empathy and Efficiency: Ethical Dilemmas in Everyday Clinical Practice
- Healthcare Professional Burnout: An Ethical Concern for Systems and Societies
- Human Rights and Health: Protecting the Vulnerable in Medical Practice
- Technology, Media, and the Mind
- The Efficacy of the Biopsychosocial Model in Healthcare
- Humanistic Approaches in Psychiatry: Beyond Diagnosis and Medication
- Interdisciplinary Research Models in Health Humanities
- Ethics and Dignity in Healthcare: A Practitioner's Perspective
- Healthcare and Ecology: New Perspectives in Medical and Environmental Humanities

2. Literary and Artistic Perspectives

- The Narratives of Illness: Voices of Patients in Literature
- The Narratives of Illness: Voices of Healthcare Providers in Literature
- Narratives of Suffering, Trauma, and Healing
- (Mis)Representations of the Healthcare Sector in Media
- Representations of the Patient–Provider Relationship in Narratives
- Gendered Representations in Healthcare Narratives
- Digital Representations of Healthcare Narratives
- Auto-Narration of Suffering and Healing
- Narratives of Healthcare from the Global South
- Documentation of Symptoms and Prognosis in Literary Narrative

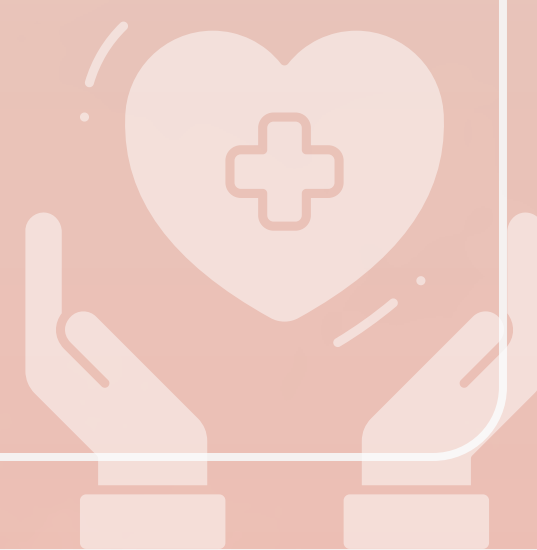
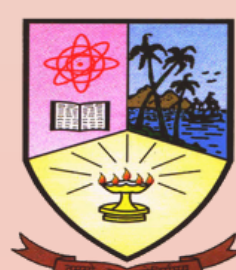


READING LIST (FROM A LITERARY PERSPECTIVE)

This list is intended merely as a suggestive framework. Contributors are welcome to select any text or topic that aligns meaningfully with the overarching theme of the conference.

- F.Scott Fitzgerald - “The Crack-Up series”
- Charlotte Perkins Gilman: “The Yellow Wallpaper”
- Albert Camus - The Plague
- William Carlos Williams - The Doctor Stories
- Kavery Nambisan - The Hills of Angheri
- Lisa Genova - Still Alice
- Jodi Picoult - My Sister’s Keeper
- John Green - The Fault in Our Stars
- Rebecca Skloot - The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks
- Haris Qadeer (editor) - Medical Maladies: Stories of Disease and Cure from Indian Languages
- Jerry Pinto - Em and the Big Hoom
- Paul Kalanithi - When Breath becomes Air
- William Styron - Darkness Visible
- Sidhartha Mukherjee - The Emperor of All Maladies
- Gayathri Prabhu - If I had to tell it again
- Atul Gawande - Being Mortal
- Kavery Nambisan - A Luxury Called Health: A Doctor’s Journey through the Art, the Science and the Trickery of Medicine

Apart from textual/theoretical analysis, the Conference would also be interested in scoping reviews, empirical studies, socio/ethnographic perspectives etc.



INFORMATION FOR PAPER PRESENTERS AND PARTICIPANTS

Important Dates:

Last date for Abstract submission: 30th December 2025

Abstract review decision: 5th January 2026

Last date for full paper submission: 30th January 2026

Dates of the Conference: 23rd and 24th February 2026

Guidelines:

- **Abstract:** 200-250 words with 4-5 Key words
- **Length of full paper:** 3000-5000 words
- **Reference Style:** APA stylesheet
- **Abstracts to be sent to:** healthconferencedct@gmail.com

(Upon acceptance of abstracts, registration form and payment details will be sent to the authors)

Publication details:

Selected papers that adhere to publication guidelines will be published in a volume with ISBN.

Best Paper Award

The Conference will include the presentation of Best Paper Awards to acknowledge outstanding research contributions.

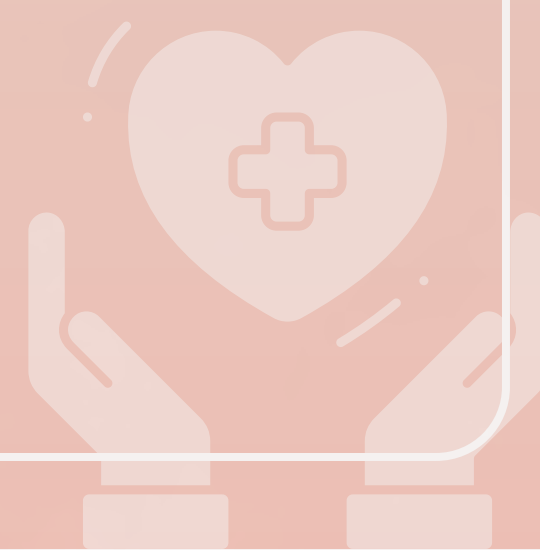
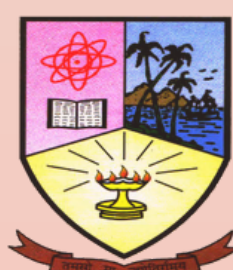
Registration/ Participation fees:

Academicians & Professionals: INR 2000/-

Research Scholars: INR 1500/-

UG/PG students: INR 1000/-

(includes Conference kit, breakfast, lunch and tea on the days of the event i.e. 23rd and 24th February 2026).



INFORMATION FOR PAPER PRESENTERS

- Kindly note that the registration fee does not cover accommodation or travel expenses. Outstation participants are requested to make their own arrangements for stay and transportation. However, for convenience, the organisers will share a list of recommended hotels and lodges located in close proximity to the Conference venue.
- In case a paper has multiple presenters or authors, each presenter/author is required to register individually by paying the full conference fee.
- A limited number of online slots will be available for international paper presentations. Please note that the registration fee will remain the same.

Payment Details:

A/C Name: DHEMPE COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCE

A/C No.: 06681000001780

Bank: Punjab & Sind Bank

Branch: PANAJI (GOA) 403001

IFSC Code: PSIB0000668

For any queries, feel free to contact:

- Dr. Mukta Karamadi: 9172104756
- Dr. Akshata Bhatt: 9511706384
- Ms. Clarinda Dias: 8552811511

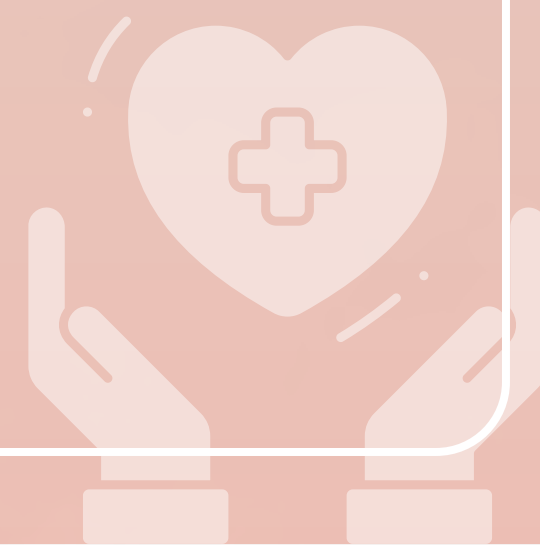
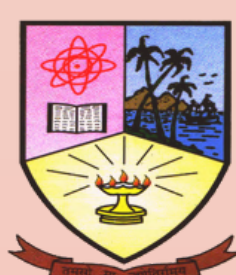
or write to us at:

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akshatabht89@dhempecollege.edu.in



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(Assoc. Prof. & Head, Dept. of Psychology)

Dr. Akshata Bhatt

(Asst. Prof. Dept. of English)

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