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Press Release

### **JMI's Department of Social Work organizes session on Storytelling in Social Work**

A distinguished storyteller and Senior Editor at Aaj Tak Podcasts, Mr. Jamshed Qamar Siddique, delivered an engaging session, 'Narratives for Change: Storytelling in Social Work' on 3 February 2025 in the Seminar room of Department of Social Work, Jamia Millia Islamia (JMI). The session included over 100 attendees including students, alumni and faculty members.

In her opening remarks, Prof. Neelam Sukhramani, Head of the Department of Social Work, Jamia Millia Islamia emphasized the intrinsic link between social work and storytelling in diverse settings. She also saw the potential that story writing has in optimizing creativity and triggering discussion on sensitive issues. Mr. Asrar Haque Jeelani introduced Mr. Siddique and discussed the profound impact of stories in challenging our consciousness and expanding it. He noted that storytelling and social work share a common framework, defined by the four Ps: Plot, People, Problem, and Place.

Mr. Jamshed Qamar Siddique began his session by illustrating the relationship between social work and storytelling through two compelling narratives—one a generic narrative about the COVID Lockdown and the other a personal moving account. The latter story, he noted, resonated deeply with the audience, demonstrating how storytelling allows us to perceive the world through others' experiences, aligning with the core social work value of empathy. Mr. Siddique provided valuable insights into the art of storytelling, highlighting how the kernel of stories lies in the journey from conflict to resolution. The session featured a poignant story from Mr. Siddique's podcast titled "A Dog Without a Name," which profoundly moved the audience and underscored the power of storytelling in moving the audience to bring change and good. Mr. Siddique concluded by emphasizing storytelling as a vital method for visualizing societal issues. He argued that many global conflicts stem from clashes of perception and that storytelling fosters empathy by enabling individuals to view the world from others' perspectives. This empathetic understanding, he suggested, is essential for creating a more harmonious world. This was followed by an interactive Question and Answer session with the students.

Dr. Hem Borker, the faculty coordinator for the session presented the concluding remarks highlighting how humans are essentially storytelling animals, and highlighted how stories have a long history that inspire us to make meaning and be part of something bigger than ourselves. The entire session was coordinated by students who

are placed in settings that employ storytelling in field practice- Houmera, Farhat, Hida, Sameer and Elbee.

The session was a resounding success, leaving participants inspired to integrate storytelling into their social work practice, harnessing its power to evoke empathy and drive social change.

Public Relations Office  
Jamia Millia Islamia





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