

*KILA's International Conference Series 5*

MARGINALISATION, POVERTY AND DECENTRALISATION  
19-22 November 2016

Anthology of Abstracts



KERALA INSTITUTE OF LOCAL ADMINISTRATION (KILA)

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*Abstract*

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MARGINALISATION, POVERTY AND DECENTRALISATION  
19-22 November 2016

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# Poverty And The Orphan Child

Isaac Twumasi Ampofo\*

Children in Ghana who grow up in poverty and disabled to families with little or no education endure limited early learning opportunities and its worse with children who have lost both parents.

Every child has the capacity to succeed in school and in life. Yet still too many children, especially those from poor and minority families, are placed at risk while they receive low - expectations instruction, lower quality education and lower quality future while rich children receive high quality education and do have a better future.

This finding describes the educational disadvantage faced by orphans and vulnerable children and summarizes a number of educational responses. It aims to respond to the concern that orphaned children are dropping out of school at a higher rate than non orphaned children, and asks how it is best to meet the educational needs of these orphan children.

As it is said that about 250 million of the world's children work, nearly half of them full-time. Child labor then becomes an option for these orphan children prevents them from participating in school. One constraint on Ghana's economic growth has been inadequate human capital development.

Increased demand for schooling is the most effective way to reduce child labor and ensure that Ghana's human capital is stabilized. The high cost of schooling and the poor quality of education has also pushed many children into work. And family characteristics play a big role in the child's decision to work or go to school.

As per my findings, majority of the teachers that support children with special needs in schools do lack appropriate resources for proper instruction. In addition more than 60% of children with special needs who graduate from school do not get jobs as people who call themselves able to don't employ such people and even see them as misfortune to their business and sometime see them to be witches and wizards. There is the need to provide more teachers to support disabled and orphan children, provide school supplies and disabled friendly buildings for such children.

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## **A Philosophical Narrative Of State And Nation Buildings In South Sudan**

Duol Ruach Guok \*

Reath Maluth Deng †

Although there has been lack of scholarly consensus about the conceptual understanding of nation and state – building, the notion of state building connotes construction of state institutions for a functioning state, while nation-building signified to construction of a national identity for a functioning of state. State-building agenda has evolved from the governance agenda and that mostly constitutes set of state institutions being built. These institutions often provide the context in which differences can be accommodated and managed in a nonviolent, political way. In that context, nation-building in Africa has long been seen as an important focus for post-colonial governments. However, African states were mostly carved out of racial, ethnic and cultural diversity that gave state pluralistic configuration and pluralism has been characterized by considerable disparities in the shaping and sharing of national wealth, social services and development opportunities. The design of the states in African is primarily driven by the desire to promote the interest of the ruling elite and that of their ethnic group.

Despite Africa's disconsolate post independent nation-state buildings, which South Sudan is supposed to learn, the ruling elite decided to choose the precarious nation and state building mostly followed by many African countries including the Sudan from where it seceded. This conflict will mostly emanate from changes of administrative boundaries under 28 states. Similarly, the nature of security sector is likely to ignite another ethnic tension and threat to nation and state building, particularly during the amalgamation of forces, as the various armed groups commanded ethnic loyalty in lieu of national interest.

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## **Growth Acceleration Program (Pac) And Its Importance For Housing The Poor In Florianopolis, Santa Catarina State, Brazil**

Elaine Dorighello Tomás\*

The Growth Acceleration Program (PAC) was a policy implemented by Lula's Administration in 2007. Consisted in one of the biggest infrastructure programs as Brazil ever had before. The main objective was accelerating the economic growth. The Program was expressed by a set of economic policies and investment projects such as "My House, my Life" (PMCMV) was a program for housing poor population and it has continued and expanded under Dilma Rousseff administration. When this mass housing Program was launched, it was seen as an anti-cyclical response to the international financial crisis and, at the same time, as an opportunity to improve the social welfare state. The public spending expanded the housing market, generated jobs and resulted in three million housing units built until 2014.

One of these places in Brazil, at Santa Catarina's State, is Florianopolis City. In the downtown area, it is possible to see the Massif of Morro da Cruz (MMC). Initially considered as a "Non-Territory", it has been modified several times during the urbanization process of Florianopolis City, until 2012, when it was characterized as the "Growth Acceleration Program (PAC) Florianopolis Territory". This population is considered peripheral, in spite of living downtown. Called an "irregular city", it is not taken out of many urban, social and environmental problems. The MMC is composed of eighteen communities, approximately 30,000 people in 2008 that suffered for a long time the lack of public investment and recognition of their rights to the city. It is a group of communities from an invisible city, which challenges the public policy of the local government, what certainly demands better recognition.

The effect of this meteoric urbanization in the study area (MMC) can be observed in 3 massive flows of migrants during the last 80 years following different stages. In 2008 new perspectives were presented to the grass-roots movements of MMC with the announcement, by President Lula himself, of the transfer of \$ 54.6 million reais (approximately 25 million dollars). These funds, 46% from the federal government, 27% of the state government and 27% of the city council, were intended mainly for infrastructure projects and the implementation of MMC Natural Park.

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## **Build A Future Where Humans Can Live In Harmony With Nature**

Ludwig Oscuro Federigan\*

The presentation focuses on how humans can live in harmony with nature. Before achieving this objective, the presentation will present the reasons why Earth is in danger i.e., the Earth is getting hotter and the reasons why the greenhouse gas emissions is continuously increasing including the biggest sources of these GHGs. Examples on extreme weather events caused by the warming climate will be presented.

Our present conditions showcase devastating effects of climate change to small islands states like Fiji, Vanuatu and the Philippines. Four out of the ten global challenges- agriculture and food security, economic growth and social inclusion, environment and resource security, global crime and anti-corruption, as enumerated during the WEF 2015 are environment-related.

This year, the World Economic Forum have listed water crises, failure of climate change adaptation and mitigation, extreme weather events, food crises, and social instability as the global risks of highest concern for the next 10 years.

Why planet EARTH? It discusses the degradation of the natural resources, forest, water, food, at an alarming rate. How do WWF respond to these challenges? I will showcase the different programs and projects that we have implemented like the whale shark conservation and eco-tourism program, the tamaraw conservation program, the partnership program towards sustainable tuna, the business risk assessment and management of climate change impacts, and our work on renewable energy.

For everyone to live in harmony with nature, sustainable initiatives like zero carbon, sustainable transport, sustainable water, sustainable food, sustainable materials and zero waste will be presented.

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## **A Legal Critique Of Cameroon's Decentralisation Efforts Since The Colonial Era: Accommodating Anglophone And Francophone Cameroonians**

Chofor Che Christian Aime\*

Accommodating ethnic, religious as well as the major linguistic groups in Cameroon, which happen to be Anglophone (English speaking) and the Francophone (French speaking) Cameroonians, has met with a lot of challenges, since independence in 1960. The difficulty of adequate decentralisation to ethnic, linguistic and religious communities in Cameroon flows from the colonial history of the country.

The central question of this contribution is: does the decentralised system provided under the 1996 Cameroon Constitution adequately provide for the accommodation of diverse communities in the country? In attempting an answer to this question, the first section gives a historical, constitutional and political analysis of decentralisation effort from the colonial era, to the era under the 1972 Constitution of Cameroon.

In the second section, a definition of identity and language conflict is attempted as well as concepts such as secession. This is followed by the definitions of federalism and decentralisation. The third section of this contribution then moves forward to make an assessment of the 1996 Constitution in its decentralisation efforts. A comparative assessment is made with the 1996 Constitution of South Africa, taking elements of federalism and decentralisation into consideration.

The central argument is that, the 1996 Constitution of Cameroon has domineering elements of a strongly decentralised system of government, which cannot adequately address the concerns of diverse communities in the country. Nonetheless this contribution is limited in that it does not exhaustively examine laws on councils and decentralisation. It is thus suggested in this contribution that, in addressing the concerns of diverse communities in Cameroon, there is need for adequate administrative, political and fiscal decentralisation of powers and authority to lower spheres of government. There is also the need to have legal safeguards as well as conflict resolution mechanisms in place like for instance a constitutional court which can mitigate conflict between the spheres of government.

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## **Empowerment Of Urban Poor Communities And Access To Decision Making Process In Urban Development**

Anwar Hossain\*

The present paper intends to promote system of decentralized urban governance in which urban poor communities are empowered to engage effectively in decision-making and delivery of improved urban services.

Town-wide slum dweller organizations are being established & strengthening capacity of low-income communities, their organizations, and relevant Local Authorities (LAs) to plan, deliver and sustain community-led development and service systems that expertise and approaches are passed on effectively to new post-holders. Through the process slum dwellers' organizations were able to formulate, implement, review and effectively engage with Local Authority and relevant stakeholders about their participatory plans, in ways which are community-led, boost incomes and improve their environment. Capacity building and assessment of CBOs has been done through annual review processes, thus reinforced City-level forums for co-ordination among stakeholders, giving priority to the needs of slum dwellers, and allocating resources to support their priorities. In particular, that promotes linkages with existing large programmes to maximize effective use of available funds, and scale-up the approaches and lessons learned.

Urbanization is growing at a fast pace and become one of the major challenges in Bangladesh. About 26 per cent people of Bangladesh are living in urban areas with increasing poverty, vulnerability and social exclusion. Their state of affairs is not well documented and they mostly remain outside from traditional development plans. Municipalities are also conventionally reluctant to provide services to these illegal settlements thus slum dwellers receive limited or no services. Practical Action has implemented the Integrated Urban Development projects in two phases such of these situation. The primary objective of the project was to empower urban slum dwellers to engage effectively in decision-making process and assist to delivery most basic and relevant urban services to them.

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## **Healthcare Of The Marginalised: A Case Of Jamuna River Char Dwellers**

Sarawat Rashid\*

Tariq Ahmed

Shaikh Shahriar Mohammad

The paper tries to explore the healthcare seeking behaviour of marginalised Jamuna River Char dwellers from socio-economic and gender perspectives including the incidence and effects of poverty. Its specific objectives are, a) to elicit views from responding Char dwellers whether and what type of healthcare services was sought when the community people get ill; and to reveal or to diagnose what were the determinants of Char dwellers' healthcare seeking behaviour and analyse the reasons for it.

Data showed how “four As” play as key factors of healthcare seeking behaviour of Char people. The study area was Char Sthal Naohata in Chauhali sub-district under Sirajganj district more specifically in the village Chalohara. This Char grew up nearly more than 20 years ago. Purposive sampling method was used to select the study area where healthcare facilities were not easily available and people were poor.

Healthcare seeking behaviour was not just an isolated event. It was a part of an individual, a family or a community's identity, which was the result of an evolving mix of social, personal, cultural and experiential factors. The process of responding to ‘illness’ or seeking care involves multiple and interwoven steps. It could rarely be translated into a simple one off set of choices or activities, or be explained by a single model of healthcare seeking behaviour. Findings of the study demonstrate that an individual's decision to attend a particular healthcare facility, or the decision to abstain from it, depended on a number of factors.

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## **Empowerment Of Female Garments Workers Through Labour And Social Capital Strategies In Bangladesh**

Shaikh Shahriar Mohammad\*

Sarawat Rashid†

The garment sector is now the largest export earner in Bangladesh. Everywhere in the world, the garment sector employs predominantly young women. Bangladesh is not an exception. In spite of the great contribution made to the national economy, the female garment workers in Bangladesh were beset with enormous problems. These are relate to low payment, compulsory over-time, uncertainty of their jobs, threat of being laid off, or withheld wages. These problems bring severe impacts on the female garment workers' livelihoods coping strategies in urban slum.

In the slums of Bangladesh, basic infrastructural and social services are largely inadequate. Shortage of housing, overcrowding, poor health-care facilities and, lack of sewerage and water supply are common in the Dhaka slums. This paper examines the issues on female garment workers' coping strategies using Moser's Asset Vulnerability Framework in urban slum. Presenting empirical research results, this study aims at making an original contribution to the knowledge about coping strategies of the slum living female garment workers.

The study found garment workers possessed so small amount of productive asset, this research indicated that it is hardly any use as a coping method in a slum. That is why, this research argued the idea of productive capital- particularly housing and land as an asset in slum dwelling female garments workers is questionable. Supportive roles of household relations and supplementary functions of social capital are the key pillars of coping strategies of slum dwelling female garment workers. Moreover, the study explores the insights of the lives of garment workers in urban slum

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## **Rural Marginalisation, Local Environmental Exposure And Community Vulnerability To Climatic Hazards In Bangladesh**

Shaikh Mehdee Mohammad\*

Bangladesh is one of the most disaster prone countries of the world and it is predicted that its current climate variability will be made worse by future climate change. Apart from a well-known disaster management system and inherited coping mechanisms of residents in high risk locations of Bangladesh, community vulnerability to environmental disasters and climate change remains high due to rural marginalisation, chronic poverty, and social and political exclusion.

To better understand the meaning of environmental vulnerability in local context, the present study was carried out amongst both flood and cyclone victims in focal regions of Bangladesh using qualitative and quantitative approaches. Despite regional disparities, the respondents overall claimed that geographical location and the morphological formation of their land were the major aspects of environmental vulnerability to disasters and climate change. They were concerned about localised seasonality and natural resources due to their agriculture based livelihoods.

The study found that the marginalised char-dwellers from the Brahmaputra-Jamuna river basin were regularly displaced from river islands to the mainland due to floods and river bank erosion whereas the Cyclone Sidr victims who lived closer to the coast were severely affected by the cyclonic event in terms of house damages. However, the respondents from the Brahmaputra-Jamuna river basin had their houses on higher plinth and had not been affected by floods or river erosions since 2005.

The people who lived in the villages situated behind the ‘Sunderbans’ were not exposed to Cyclone Sidr. The results show how initiatives such as home plinth raising, coastal afforestation, resilient settlement design and sustainable livelihoods decrease environmental vulnerability to climate induced disasters in Bangladesh.

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## **Poverty, Marginalization And Unrest In The Niger Delta Region Of Nigeria**

Nsikak-Abasi Aniefiok Etim\*

The economy of Nigeria is dependent greatly on the oil and gas sector which contributes ninety –five percent export revenues, 80-85 percent of government revenues and about 32 percent of gross domestic product (GDP). Nigeria is also the largest producer of crude oil in the African continent and among the top ten in the world. These oil and gas reserves are concentrated in the southern part of the country known as the Niger Delta. But unfortunately, the oil-wealthy Niger Delta which has great potential for prosperity has faced difficult and unpleasant challenges over the years. The region is marked by deprivation, marginalization, underdevelopment, unrest and volatility. The region is further disadvantaged by the difficult topography which makes the cost of providing basic infrastructure higher and the effects of environmental challenges in the region like oil spills, gas flaring, shoreline flooding and erosion on the traditional occupation (fishing and farming) of the inhabitants which results from the consequences of crude oil extraction. The severity of poverty and extent of marginalization coupled with insecurity, volatility and unrest in the region has created a challenging environment for social and economic development. This paper highlights some underlying structural factors that tend to promote instability and unrest in the Niger delta region to include a propensity for a society to fragment along ethnic lines, a federal system of government that concentrate power and resources at the center, a political economy of oil that creates little opportunity and diversity, patronage structure which counteract citizens right and the feeble capacity of the state to protect its citizens. The paper further captured such factors as governance issues (poor leadership, poor governance and pervasive corruption); environmental degradation, unemployment, insecurity, poor education, lack of basic infrastructure, low quality of life and poverty as drivers of unrest, volatility and aggression in the region. The perception of prosperity in other regions of the country has strongly influenced the feeling of deep marginalization among the Niger Deltans. Findings in this paper however, revealed that poverty among the inhabitants of the region is higher through self assessment compared to quantitative poverty assessment using income and expenditure data from households. The statistics of poverty in the region as revealed in this paper has clearly shown that despite several poverty reduction policies and programmes adopted by successive administrations of the Nigerian Government to improve to the living standards of the inhabitants of the region, their quality of life is still worsening and the

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wellbeing has not significantly improved. In order to reduce poverty, promote inclusion and maintain stability in the Niger Delta region, a holistic approach is required by stakeholders and development partners among other things to improve access to basic health care, education and safe water supplies, train and employ youths, tackle corruption headlong by strengthening institutions and good governance, and decentralization of power and control of resources at the centre.

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**Scarcity Of Means; The Embeddedness Of Local Politics  
Solutions Management (Description And Interpretation Of The  
Attempts Of Solving Priority Problems In A Norwegian  
Municipality)**

Sølve Sandaker\*

The intention of this part of a comparative project is to describe and assess the situation for one Norwegian municipality concerning the priorities the local government needs to make, to be able to meet already decided solutions and coming challenges. The most important areas for these decisions, which we have chosen to explore, are the following: Building of Culture House and Church, which at the present moment both are well on their way. The Church is planned to be opened before Christmas 2016 and the time for inauguration of the Culture House is set to March 2017.

Reading the documents to each local government meeting and listening to the debate. Interpreting the document and the debate concerning (1) accomplishing the priorities that has to be made (2) fulfilling the task of being responsible to the citizens when it comes to the local governments democratic task. Reading articles in the local newspaper and on Facebook, referring to the mentioned areas. Possibly making interviews with some representatives in the local government to have their assessment of the situation. Assessing the magnitude and quality of the local representative public dialogue (in newspapers or on internet) with and between ordinary citizens.

Since local government politics probably is one of the most underestimated and consequential politics areas, the dilemmas and possibilities in this area are seldom explained or understood “in full.” To be able to come to grips with it, it will be crucial to approach it in an interpretive and interdisciplinary way. The multifaceted interpretation of local politics will probably need perspectives from at least sociology, politics and literature. In addition comes theories and information about the main areas that are at stake: education (for children and youngsters) and nursing for the elderly, as well as about architecture and building.

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## **Accompanied Self-Doings**

Julien Tatéossian\*

For around one century, various factors have lead to urban population explosion and to rural exodus. Modern urban systems have difficulty in integrating those increases in population.

As a consequence, autonomous installations have grown into the borders of the cities. Those vernacular extensions are structured and organized with rules, habits, and orders even if they are often out of any legal rights. In other cases, in ancient industrial towns like Detroit for example, some urban districts are pauperized because of different factors like lack of maintenance of constructions and infrastructures, or brutal decrease of work...

In that paper, the main elementary objectives consist in providing to poor or marginalized populations reaching the three elementary human needs: food, shelter and health. What is important is the way to get those and collaborative ways might facilitate sustainable land planning and housing building, in which everyone can keep or increase his autonomy.

Collaborative processes facilitate reliable relationship between all the actors and users for the development of a planning project. That kind of collaboration allows people with theoretical knowledge and future users to meet each other during all the development and realization of a project. As a consequence, new professional practices appear and users can be trained in those ones.

Participation in the act of land planning or house building by the users provides them attaching legally their lives and activities in a topsoil, widening their socialization, managing common goods, developing activities or professional practices.

The periods of conception and of the concrete building both bear the paper of unifying people instead of reinforcing hierarchy between players and users, deciders and subjects. This union is even stronger and avoid alienation when local autonomy and social link are maintained.

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## **Decentralisation, Empowerment And Economic Efficiency: Learning From Business Experiences In France And Sénégal**

Michel Villette\*

Centralisation or decentralisation in a given state, city or company is a fact which is the result of a historical process. Therefore it cannot be changed quickly and easily be it in a state, a city or a company. However, for those in charge of political decision making, centralisation or decentralisation is a philosophical choice. Promoting centralisation or decentralisation in each single decision, each implementation process, even on simple and limited issues has great consequences on the long range.

France is a particularly relevant example since it has been and remains one of the most centralised country in the world although its overcentralisation has been highly controversial for decades and is still viewed by many politicians and scholars as a handicap in the globalised competitive economies of today.

Despite many reforms, the public sector remains highly centralised in France and is considered as less and less relevant, effective and efficient. Conversely, since the second world war, the business community has profoundly changed its conception of administrative sciences and many French companies are decentralised nowadays. In this conference, I will emphasise the key role played by management in this transformation towards an empowerment of the bottom of the hierarchical pyramid.

I will argue that the key points of a policy towards a more decentralised society are: 1/ A fair balance between autonomy and accountability. 2/ A fair and complete attribution of the means needed by the decentralised entities to reach their goal. The Saint Louis du Sénégal case study will illustrate the difficulties and complexities of the long process toward the empowerment of the poors.

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## **Andhra Pradesh Microfinance Crisis 2010: How Masculinity Masters Money Capital Contradictions**

Mita Yesyca\*

This research examines Indian microfinance practices as part of the current global trend of financialisation of the poor. A theoretical understanding on how gender underpin money capital contradictions until the tension raised in the suicide phenomenon is possible to be examined using post-structuralist approach, specifically the discourse analysis method, to investigate the Andhra Pradesh microfinance crisis 2010. The phenomenon is a fruitful starting point to reveal the contingency of money capital accumulation in the microcredit practices.

Three different concepts are used to search and elaborate on the evidence required. Firstly, to show how money was transformed into capital and positioned as the basis of production and accumulation in the case study, the particular process in which such transformation takes place is identified using the concept of ‘financialisation’; which means the structure of production and also the system of capital accumulation running through it are pointed out. Second, the concept of ‘capital contradictions’ is then used to examine the contradictions of capital which raised the sense of crisis in the case study. The contradictions are the source of the latent tensions inherently lying in the process of capital circulation and accumulation. They are always moved around until the stress becomes intolerable and raises a crisis. The data is gathered through reread the reports about the AP microfinance crisis 2010 for the full range of capital contradictions they reveal. Third, the concept of masculinist strategy is used to deconstruct the subject represented in an MFI leader’s autobiography at the time of crisis in order to understand gendered financial attitudes and behaviours constructed in the case study.

By elaborating the findings, how the contradictions of capital had made active use of gender relations can be understood. The study shows that Microfinance practices were laden with a specific masculinity, a risk-taking one, mastering money capital contradictions by normalising and moving them through feminising the borrowers. It then calls us to draw more attention to the other masculine gesture existing in the global financial capitalism which is growing rapidly and aggressively at the moment.

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## **Women, Inequality And Social Exclusion In Indonesia: A Study Of Native Women Traders In Papua**

Erna ErmawatiCHotim\*

Andi Achdian

In this paper, we examine social exclusion among native women traders in Papua, the most eastern province and a rich natural resources island in Indonesia. This study highlights how in economically and politically strategic regions, the local population of Papuan ethnic groups was socially excluded and economically marginalized. By employing the historical-sociological approach and qualitative method, we focus on the economic activities of native women as small-scale traders in the border areas of between Indonesia and Papua New Guinea. We find that the native women traders experienced two types exclusion that denied them the benefit of government's program for economic development in the regions.

The first type belongs to cultural domain where an inherent patriarchy structure hindering women's access to land and obstruct the native women trader's opportunity to access financial support. The second is an economic domain where the immigrants groups such as the Buginese and the Makaserese, with better access to financial support and commercial networks, dominated the local economic scenewhile the native women traders' opportunity limited into small-scale trading activities. These two types of exclusion perpetuate structural inequalities of the native women traders in Papua and further strengthened the economic marginalization of women besides the government efforts to improve the economic condition of Papuan ethnic groups in the regions.

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## **Governance Absenteeism In Local Communities Of Russia**

Rimma Akhmetianova\*

The paper addresses the problems of deliberate non-participation of Russia's population in the execution of local government. The specificity of a research approach lies in analyzing the population's government activity in terms of social behavior features. The manifestation of an active social behavior is correlated with the degree and level of participation of members of local communities in socioeconomic development of both local community and entire municipal system being reorganized.

This paper provides an analysis of the main features of population's government absenteeism in local communities. The key reasons for individuals' abstention from participation in local governance under the influence of global, national and local factors are found and classified. A correlation analysis of the level of absenteeism and the legitimate forms of participation in local governance secured in Russian legislation is used to demonstrate that to a certain degree governance absenteeism is a consequence of alienation of the population from the aims and control of local governance bodies activity.

A number of qualitative and quantitative criteria are used to introduce a new classification of governance absenteeism of different social groups of local communities

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## **Issues Of Poverty, Inequality And Migration On The Uclg's Agenda**

Rasikh Sagitov\*

“United Cities and Local Governments” is the World Organization that represents and defends the interests of local governments on the world stage. Its mission is to advocate for democratic self-government, promoting its values, objectives and interests, through cooperation between local governments, and within the wider international community. These programs are aimed at shaping a democratic, self-governing, inclusive, liveable, secure and mobile cities with provision of basic services to every citizen, creating conditions for decent work and healthy existence, thus contributing to urban development, eradication of poverty, reduction of inequality, tackling climate change and solving other global problems.

At the World Summit of Local and Regional Leaders that was held on November 16-20, 2010 in Mexico city, there was adopted “The City of 2030 – Our Manifesto” where UCLG has set an aim to contribute to ensuring the cities without slums by 2030 all around the world, as slums are an evident indicator of bad housing conditions of people, an indicator of poverty. Jointly with the Global Taskforce of Local and Regional Governments UCLG took part in elaboration of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development that represents a set of 17 Sustainable Development Goals to end poverty, fight inequality and injustice and tackle climate change by 2030. It is UCLG and the Global Taskforce of Local and Regional Governments that contributed to the inclusion of the SDG 11 on Sustainable Cities and Human Settlements aimed at making cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable. The New Urban Agenda adopted at the UN Conference on Housing and Sustainable Development that took place on October 21, 2016 in Quito, Ecuador, by promoting sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, delivering basic services for all, providing enabling conditions for citizens existence, readdressing the way cities and human settlements are planned, designed, financed, developed and managed will contribute to poverty eradication and inequality reduction. UCLG has recently agreed a partnership with the ICMPD and UN-Habitat to shape the agenda and inform on the role of cities in migration policies around the Mediterranean.

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## **River Bodoland: Prospect, Problems With Reference To Chirang District**

Redion Narzary\*

The main objective of this paper is to explore the rivers as gift of natural resources situated within the jurisdiction of Bodoland Territorial Council (BTC). It is an exploratory study employing qualitative research methodology, using fields study as primary tool to collect photographs, personal experience, understanding and interaction with local people. The BTC area is having a number of rivers, and the presence of as many as 126 aquatic species has been reported. Origin of most of these perennial rivers is in Bhutan. This region shares international boundary with Bhutan, on the north which is a mountainous section of Himalayan range. Most of the rivers that coming from the hills of Bhutan are running speed to the downstream, fall into the river Brahmaputra. These rivers provide prospect and revenue to the BTC in particular.

However it has many downstream effects that are creating problems in the area. The present paper studies the policies and management of these problems. Among the four district of BTC Chirang district is the smallest in geographic and demographic size. But many of the rivers which have origin in Bhutan flowing through the Chirang district. Recently this area was affected badly by the flood especially during the summer. The flood is also caused by the man made activities. At the same time these rivers provide livelihood to many people. Thus it warrants a good mechanism of management to use effectively without affecting the natural course. The present paper is focused on such an attempt.

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## **Community-Based Activism: Towards Social Accountability**

Molankal Gangabhushan Mallesham\*

Affirmative action in the form of legislation has helped ameliorate the condition of some sections of the deprived communities, but it has failed to fully address the fundamental inequity in the society. This is because those who have benefited from pro-poor regulations and laws have tended to be co-opted into the prevailing value system rather than seeking to redefine society in more egalitarian terms.

The paper is an attempt a) to explore the potential of promoting social accountability by the NGOs through creating enabling spaces through knowledge-based activism and grassroots mobilization towards social accountability, b) to evaluate the impact of grassroots mobilization in ensuring transparency and accountable governance at grassroots. c) to understand the challenges associated with grassroots community mobilization. In view of the above, the paper is an outcome of the authors association with a grassroots advocacy programme - Community Learning Movement (CLM) initiated by National Centre for Advocacy Studies (NCAS), pune in the state of Karnataka. To probe into the above stated objectives, the paper brings forward the learning from the field experiences with regards to people centred advocacy initiative (CLM) in collaboration with grassroots activist organizations in Karnataka.

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## **The Politics Of Identity And Autonomous Councils In India's Northeast**

Sumesh S.S.\*

The present paper has three sections. The first section of this paper tries to locate the process of marginalisation among the different ethnic communities residing in India's Northeast. It needs to be understood in relation to the socio-political history of this region. The second section tries to analyse the multiple counter narratives from the margins through the cultural of movement's of the region. The third section addresses the state's responses to accommodate the ethnic aspirations within the modern democratic space. The forceful initiatives of the state government need to be critically looked in to the effects of the creation of more Autonomous Councils or incorporation into the Sixth schedule areas to accommodate the political aspirations of different ethnic communities have also to be taken care of.

The paper argues that the workings of decentralised structures have not been able to address the social inequities in the everyday life of people in the 'margins of the margin'. The decentralised structures of modern democratic state still need to find new ways to negotiate the local hegemonic structures.

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## **Chamadi, The Tiwa Dormitory: A Model OF Sustainable Living In The Era Of Urbanization**

Maitrayee Patar\*

Sustainability can be seen as the urgent need of the hour when it comes to arriving at a people centred alternative of the mainstream concept of development. In this light, development of indigenous population comes as a challenge that needs to be addressed with empathy in general and an understanding of their societies in particular.

This paper would attempt to establish Chamadi, the youth dormitory of the indigenous Tiwa tribe of Assam as an alternative development model which relies on indigenous tools and participatory action towards a sustainable way of living. Arguing that development must be undertaken from within the people and should be geared to their basic needs, and that the development of any society has to be intrinsically related to its corresponding culture and the education it experiences. The paper would look at the tools and techniques of self reliance within the Tiwa tribe that get materialized through the institution of Chamadi.

It is through social relationships that the individual organizes his experience, and education, in this case social education, plays a decisive role in shaping this experience. Illustrating the institution of Chamadi in Tiwa society, the paper would thus also attempt to locate the process of education in tribal societies which emphasizes more on the social development of individuals to become responsible and able members of the tribe.

The present paper would try to locate the structural changes that the Chamadi has gone through in the wake of globalization and would argue on why it can be established as a model of sustainable living as well as that of decentralized local governance in indigenous societies, despite repeated marginalization in the era of development.

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## **Financial Inclusion Among Urban Migrants : Analysis Based On Guwahati City**

Aparajeeta Borkakoty\*

Bikas Paul†

Fast growing urban centers morphs into centers of business excellence hubs, that is reinforced by economic and internal migrant labor from rural areas. Such migrant class in Gauhati city, constitute the economically disadvantaged, and marginalized groups who often confronts social exclusion. Their services are indispensable in developing urban landscapes ,whereas they encounter symptoms of urban poverty in respect of housing, healthcare and level of living. This results in further broadening the gap of inequality in the society. The reflections are visible and repercussions of rural to urban migration emerges that leaves the target population in acute financial and social disadvantage.

Poor economic conditions leads them to depend and adopt traditional methods of savings and investment that are supposed to offer solution to critical financial and personal problems. The paper therefore attempts to measure the extent of financial inclusion of the target respondents in urban centre. The effect of financial inclusion in urban to rural migration is also examined.

Structured questionnaire and Close Participant Observation are used to elicit desired information. The queries include the respondent's sources of income, purpose and barriers of creating formal accounts, savings behavior, sources of formal and informal borrowing, use of residual income and finally use of insurance products for health care, agriculture and livelihood.

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## **Social Equality Among Graduate Students**

M.Srinivasa Rao\*

Social inequality is shaped by a range of structural factors, such as geographical location or citizenship status, and is often underpinned by cultural discourses and identities. Social inequality occurs when resources in a given society are distributed unevenly, typically through norms of allocation, that engender specific patterns along lines of socially defined categories of persons. It was certainly the case that the students we interviewed on issues of inequality sometimes responded instantaneously and seemingly spontaneously while, at other times, they had to pause to think before they replied. The present paper is a humble attempt to ascertain the level of inequality due to social factors among graduate students in Andhra Pradesh.

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## **Processing And Production Of Eatables Using Jack Fruit Waste**

Vijayalakshmi Gutta\*

In a World which is running out of time and natural resources the mandate for us is to Research, Develop and Deliver solutions to the new era. Food which is finding acute shortage in traditional culture needs to be sourced from existing crop which otherwise is going waste. The present paper depicts the process and use of low cost eatables using Jack fruits.

The non-juicy perianth fiber of jackfruit which are discarded as waste can be utilized as one of the raw materials for processing the low cost and highly nutritious RTE food products, breakfast cereal and cupcake. Overall acceptability of both the products for all the sensory attributes tested indicated its significant high acceptability ( $P=0.05$ ). Relatively low cost of both the products, Rs.23.25 and 26.00 against 34 and 70 per 100 grams of reference samples (breakfast cereal and cupcake) also contributes to its acceptance and commercialization.

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## **Poverty And Deprivations - The Story Of Arunachal Pradesh**

Sukamal Deb\*

Human poverty expresses its deprivations in multiple dimensions. The UN coined the term poverty along the lines of what is called HDI. The two billion people or more in the world are referred as the global poor.

In India development is identified largely with poverty alleviation policies. The study aims at to access the poverty level, resultant deprivations and helplessness as a poor trapped in a vicious cycle. The objective is to access the poverty level, resultant deprivations and helplessness of the poor trapped in the vicious cycle of poverty. This is a diagnostic study based on the secondary data sources. The universe of the study is the State of Arunachal Pradesh.

Analysis of the incidence of poverty even at the State level does not reveal the complete picture of rural poverty. The States which have shown significant decline in poverty have followed different approaches to poverty alleviation. An integrated approach covering the various dimensions of poor is essential. Development is a sustained improvement. It involves a qualitative concept waging war against the inequalities. Discriminations towards women are deeper in A.P. They mostly have no right to movable or immovable property. Their political power is marginalised.

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## **LSgs And Mahathma Gandhi Nrega; A Study From Bihar**

Sanjay Kumar\*

The local self-governance is very significant for democratic decentralization in India. The practices of decentralization had started after introduction of the Community Development Programme (CDP) but constitutional realization got after 73rd constitutional amendment. The Government of Bihar has also introduced three-tier system. There are several case studies which have proved that the PRIs has played a prominent role in the process of rural development programmes, policies and schemes implementation.

In this context, this paper highlights the said issues and importance of schemes like Mahathma Gandhi NREGA. How has it realized all such discourses and achieved complexities and limitations. It also shows that the Mahathma Gandhi NREGA is such rural development programme in independent India which has truly realized that meanings of democratic decentralization.

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## **Slum Dwellers In Metropolitan Towns: The Case Of North-Western India**

Manoj Kumar Teotia\*

The process of globalization seems to be putting tremendous pressure on urban human settlements in North-Western India by catalyzing the process of formation of slums and squatter settlements with pitiable coverage and quality of housing, basic amenities and livelihood for the urban poor. The inequality in terms of access to housing, land, basic amenities and livelihood options seems to be growing with exclusion and segregation of sizeable population from mainstream urban society although state and its local institutions have been unable to cope with growing urban challenges. Housing the urban poor continues to be a major challenge and poor's struggle for housing seems to be intensifying.

The present paper is based on secondary as well as primary data collected in recent studies of the cities under consideration. The city specific strategies have been suggested in the paper to augment housing and basic services. The suggestions have been given to change the role of the state to strengthen the capacity of local self governments, housing and urban development institutions to provide adequate housing to the slum dwellers under new central policy of Housing for All. The paper is based on the experiences noticed in the metropolitan and capital towns of North-Western India, Srinagar, Faridabad, Shimla and Chandigarh. The pace of migration to all the cities seems to be higher than their capacity to provide adequate housing, basic infrastructure/ services and livelihood. The urban poor find it difficult to purchase land or house on the price which is much beyond their fiscal capacity. The pace of housing under BSUP (JNNURM) seems to be very slow in providing housing to all the slum dwellers. The cities are being fragmented and new forms of inequality seem to be emerging not only in the context of income but housing, basic amenities and livelihood. The capacity of the state and the city governments to foster inclusive urban housing policies and improve social fabric in the city has been questioned in many ways in the paper.

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## **Lessons From Best Practices: Case Of Selected States**

Suhkvinder Singh\*

Panchayats being a state subject varies significantly in terms of their enactment from one state to another. Some states are ahead in terms of devolution and autonomy. Some are in transition and in some states, little has been done for strengthening of the rural local self government institutions. Certain positive things are happening in the entire country due to the constitutional status after 73rd amendment in 1992 and followed by state Panchayati Raj Acts.

The objectives of the paper are to bench mark the essential indicators at national and regional level and to capture the grass root realities and documentation of best practices. The present paper is based on interaction during multi stakeholder's workshop organised in the states. It is found Panchayati Raj System is functioning well in the states of Kerala, Sikkim and Tamil Nadu whereas poor performance was recorded in the eastern states of particularly Bihar and Uttar Pradesh. The best practices documented from the state of Kerala and Sikkim can be replicated with minor modification in other states for Strengthening of PRIs in India. Lesson learnt from the best Practices and their possibilities of replications in other states would be discussed in detailed in this paper.

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## **Society Kept Them Lower, Nature Kept Them Closer**

Astha Sharma\*

In India, there is increase in caste-based violence all over the country. The socially backward classes, religious minorities have been easy victims to the prolonged and ongoing violence in the country. This has not only contributed to the social conflicts but also to the environmental conflicts in eco-nationalist and anti-environmentalist forms. Even though these sections of Indian society are tyrannized and marginalized, history and sociology agrees with the fact that they have contributed much to global and national issues like environment and public health.

In fact, the excluded communities of the society are the ones who have been responsible for the sanitation and hygiene in the surroundings, their association being with the occupations regarded as ritually impure, such as leatherwork or butchering, or removal of rubbish, animal carcasses and human waste. Dalits work as manual laborers cleaning streets, latrines and sewers. These activities were considered as polluting to an individual and this pollution was considered contagious. The present paper will be discussing how caste, class and environment are synchronous to each other. How the recent juxtaposed nationalism results in sexual racism, casteism and environmental degradation. This paper interrogates the various strands of the intersection of growing protests against social exclusion, environmental and gender issues from historical works to recent researches. Further, we will analyze how community participation has taken up the environmental issues in their social movements in the past and if not yet, whether such movements for fundamental rights, when taken up with environmental movements would benefit and become more broad-based. Also, whether the Indian social movements would benefit if they take up environmental perspective.

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## **The State Of Education In Punjab: Emerging Issues And Concerns**

Isha\*

Education, apart from being an essential constituent of human life, also lays the foundation for a developed nation. Education provided in the early stage plays an imperative role in acquiring important skills and tools for later decision-making and information gathering. Various initiatives have been taken so far by the government for revitalizing the education system in India.

Some of the major initiatives are District Primary Education Programme (DPEP), Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) and Mid Day Meal (MDM). These programmes strive for achieving the goal of Universalisation of Elementary Education (UEE) in India. Apart from these initiatives, the enactment of Article 21A and Right to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act, 2009 is a significant step taken by the government making free and compulsory elementary education a fundamental right of every child of 6 to 14 age groups. In spite of that, administrative, financial and infrastructural problems are pervasive in the educational system of Punjab. The present paper will make an effort to highlight those emerging issues and concerns which are responsible for this impediment and to suggest measures for strengthening the education system in Punjab. In order to meet the information requisites of the paper, both primary and secondary data sources will be used. Also, appropriate statistical techniques will be used to analyze the collected data.

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## **Better Life Through Women Empowerment**

Veena Madaan\*

Women constitute almost 50% of the total population of India. In the present scenario the role of women is not limited to managing the home they emerge as a breadwinner also. Now a days society also accept their decision making and management skill in various field such as education, engineering, medical, entrepreneur etc. This led to the development of nation in all the aspect such as literacy rate, health, employability etc.

This paper emphasis on various programs polices and schemes offered by central and state government for women empowerment and the case studies which proves how these women become inspiration for the society despite of inadequate resources and cultural barrier in the area of Chhattisgarh. The paper makes use of both primary and secondary data with the convenience sampling method. The finding shows that education is the main source to empower women at some extent but low literacy rate in the area of Chhattisgarh causes many problems such as health issues and unemployment. Women are not aware about their right to protect themselves from exploitation such as inequality in pay scale, domestic violence etc. Females are not able to take the benefit of government schemes due to lack of awareness. Lack of transparency and improper feedback system also a major reason behind the failure of these polices.

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## **Organic Farming And Natural Resource Management**

Rajeev Johari\*

The paper throws light on the relevance and purpose of organic farming in contemporary times. Detailing out and analyzing the procedures involved, it speaks volumes on the benefits of organic farming. Organic farming systems for which management of natural resources of land, water and soil form an inseparable aspect, are observed with the objective of restoring soil productivity, rendering quality to seed, raising crop production and maintaining health of livestock.

Organic approaches are applied towards making agriculture sustainable by simultaneously focusing on conserving soil, water, energy, and biological resources. Organic technologies prove beneficial on many counts like causing increase in soil organic matter and nitrogen, reduction in fossil energy inputs and conservation of soil moisture and water resources. Water conservation assumes significance in drought like conditions continually arising due to ever depleting water tables everywhere.

The paper asserts that natural resource management ought to be location specific, address variability and diversity in farm conditions specifically of asset less farmers. Production system, so as to raise self sustainability factor needs to take cognizance of location specific conditions like texture, condition of soil, temperature, rainfall, crops, livestock, market needs of farmers etc. by synthesizing cultural, biological and mechanical practices.

Ecological balance is maintained through use of cultural and biological pest controls and use of lesser toxic pest sprays if there is a need. Feeding of livestock turns out to be inexpensive as it feeds on crop residues and animal manure provides nutrients to crops. Further grazing activity controls weeds and diseases in crops. The soil can be enriched through growing legumes for Nitrogen, use of organic fertilizers as supplements and minimal application of soluble fertilizers.

The paper concludes and strongly recommends the practice of organic farming as an answer to present day's farming problems and challenges, against the backdrop of continuous and ever rising global climatic threats.

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## **Marginalization, Poverty And Deprivation : The Case Of Juang Vulnerable Tribe Of Odisha**

Bidyut Mohanty\*

Amartya K. Sen examined the case of China famine in 1958-62 during Mao's era and estimated that about 30 million deaths occurred due to lack of democracy and communication. Various experts estimated the total number deaths to be much higher.

Instances are happening in the remote tribal areas of Odisha in the recent years. Odisha is not alone. It is also happening in other rich states as well. In this case we try to analyse the case of Nagda. For example Nagda Hamlet is situated on the tip of a hill near the industrial belt of Kalinga Nagar, Jajpur located in the coastal belt .The hamlet has 100 families of Juang tribe, one of the most primitive vulnerable and dwindling tribe. Since January 2016, 19 children in the age group of 0-6 have been dead due to malnutrition related diseases without getting any treatment. Many more children are affected by chickenpox and other skin related ailments. These deaths came to lime light because of an NGO and some volunteers from Tata Company who went for a survey. They brought those sad happenings to the attention of local and national media.

So what went wrong in spite of having decentralization at the grassroots level? Why in spite of high growth rate in Odisha, tribals are reeling under the multifaceted poverty? These and many other issues will be discussed taking the data from the field as well as using some secondary source material as well.

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## **Slum Growth In Cities Of West Bengal: Evidence From Census 2001 & 2011**

Meheub Rahaman\*

Since 1980s growth of urbanisation in West Bengal has slowed down owing to the declining or stagnating rate of rural-urban migration and declining rate of natural increase of population. This declining trend of migration to the large cities and other urban areas has been explained as the fallout of ‘exclusionary urbanisation’ because ‘sanitising mode’ of the cities unwelcome the new poor migrants. Keeping in view this juncture of urban and slum dynamics, it is imperative to study the growth of slums in West Bengal.

Present study examines the nature of slum growth with corresponding to urban growth and what are the possible factors determining the slum growth in West Bengal. Analysis of census data (2001-2011) reveals that at district level, growth of slum population was mainly concentrated in the low urbanised districts while the high urbanised districts (where most of the large and medium cities are located) have experienced sharp decline in the slum population. Importantly, in the case of Howrah, Darjeeling and Kolkata this decline was so much so that slum growth was negative. Another important finding is that for some of the districts across the length and breadth of the state, urban population growth was gained mainly by the growth of slum population.

The analysis of city level slum growth uncovers that one third of the total towns/cities displayed negative growth of slum population while 37.28 percent towns/cities (most of them are large cities) of West Bengal have experienced declining percent share of slum population corresponding to their urban population during 2001-2011 suggesting overall diminishing trend of slums in urban West Bengal. The phenomenal decline of slum population in big cities indicates that poor people are no longer able to accommodate themselves in these cities. While most of the large cities (class I) are becoming slum free, there are increasing concentration of slum population in the medium towns (class II) and in some cases whole of the small and medium towns constitute slum population which indicates the dismal condition of amenities and services.

Examination of a correlation between select indicators and slums phenomena shows that urban growth and percent share of slum population negatively correlated. Non-slum growth and slum growth also depicts similar relation confirming the declining trend of slums.

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## **Critical Analysis Of Social Security Policy To Unorganized Sector Workers: Construction Workers In Delhi**

Rohit Bharti\*

Definition of informal sector as per 15th ICLS (January 1993) and informal employment as per 17th ICLS (November-December 2003) “Unorganized workers consist of those working in the unorganized sector or households, excluding regular workers with social security benefits provided by the employers and the workers in the formal sector without any employment and social security benefits provided by the employers”.

Unorganized/informal sector have a crucial role in the Indian Economy. More than 90 per cent of workforce and around 50 per cent of the national product are accounted for by the informal economy. (National Statistical Commission, 2012)

With more than 90 percent of workforce in unorganised/informal sector dominates in number of workers and enterprises. This vast section of the enterprise has inbuilt vulnerabilities, not in terms of only sustainability but their own life move around the full circle of uncertainty of social security.

Papers has been written on my last few years of my association with organisation working with unorganised sectors workers specially construction workers in Delhi. Paper critically look into the social security provisions available in the light of above mentioned soul of the constitution of India.

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## **Fiscal Decentralization In Local Governance: A Dream Of Reality?**

Surinder Verma\*

There is a vast and growing literature relating to theory, which interrogates the relationship between theory and practice of fiscal decentralization to analyze nature of financial autonomy in local governance. Fiscal decentralization refers to the principles and practices which deal with functional or expenditure responsibilities, revenue assignments and rectification of ‘vertical imbalances’ and ‘horizontal imbalances’. Such interrogation high hold significance in a vast country like India, where great regional disparities in resource endowment, level of income, level of development, fiscal disabilities and even social deprivations are seeking answer to the question: “who could do what”, thus turns out to be continuing intellectual and policy pursuit.

The present paper makes an attempt to analyze fiscal decentralisation issues in local governance. This paper is divided into two parts; the first part will cover theoretical issues related to local governance and fiscal decentralization debate. The second part of the paper will bring into focus fiscal issues related to local governance is India, in practice, and also with regards to Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) in particular.

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## **Women Participation And Panchayati Raj System In Bihar**

Rajeev Ranjan\*

In spite of being a BIMARU state, Bihar went one step ahead of the other states and took a historic decision. The Bihar Panchayati Raj Act, 2006 made a provision for 50% reservation for women in PRI. Accordingly, elections to PRIs which were held in 2006 had 50 per cent reservation for women and thus the total elected representatives had more women than men in the final tally. A total of 1881 women were elected against non-reserved posts in the 2006 election. Actual number of women elected in the election held in May-June 2006 exceeded 50 percent.

This paper is based on an extensive review of available literature would seek to reflect on the extent of women's development in Bihar as a result of participation in PRI and see whether the expected goals and targets have been achieved in context of women's development. The paper will shed light on the extent of implementation of The Bihar Panchayati Raj Act, 2006 in context of women reservation.

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## **Housing The Urban Poor – From Shortage To Equity**

Sangeeta Maunav\*

This paper seeks to understand the implications of private participation in public housing in mitigating Urban Housing shortage through the findings of a people-centered field study on the outcome of Affordable Housing policy (2009) undertaken by HUDCO's HSMI in November, 2015. The study was limited to three project cases, two in the city of Jaipur and one in the adjoining town of Chaksu. The cases are representative of projects under 'private Builder on Private Land' model of the policy.

Rajasthan, a western State of India, has emerged as a lead for other states of the country in devising a Housing policy that aims to reach adequate shelter to all, particularly to the urban poor citizens by creating quality housing stock at reduced cost through Public Private Participation. Housing the Urban Poor (a population construct where the Housing shortage is maximum ie 95% for Economically Weaker Section and Low Income Group) is historically attributed with both supply and demand side challenges, particularly – inclusion and exclusion errors; availability of land to adequately house the urban poor; relatively low level of education and awareness of the low income households; inadequate income to purchase a house; and informality of employment to qualify for the credit appraisal norms of conventional housing finance institutions.

Towards such an imperative, the paper calls for the following: a) measures to mitigate inclusion and exclusion errors in public housing, b) measures to check concentration of poor in the urban peripheries and c) up-scale Institutional Housing Finance for the poor that would contribute in a significant way as an equity tool not only for reaching housing but also in other dimensions of socio-economic development. In the absence of these, welfare interventions may lead to reproduction of exclusion within the 'urban poor' population construct.

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## **Democratic Decentralization And The Question Of Education**

Shalini\*

In developing countries like India regards local government as a way to make government more responsive to local needs. With the empowerment of local government institutions, improvement in the accountability of democratic institution, access to citizenship rights, citizen engagements in the political process, and inclusion of the women and other minorities happens. Citizens can see the sub-national authorities more clearly, they can influence what programmes are being implemented and increased participation lead to better governance.

There is a long debate since decades on the process of decentralization and various commissions has been setup so that effective implementation of the porgramme can be there at the grass-root level. But practically majority of people are deserted from reaping benefits of these programmes.

At the backdrop this paper critically analyzes the lacunas in decentralization process and outlines the issue and solutions concerning how people at grass root level are left behind in getting benefits and what role they can play in PRI's for successful planning and implementation of policies.

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## **Including The Excluded Through Decentralisation: A Comparative Account Of Two Tribes In Goa, India**

Ganesh Somayaji\*

One of the major steps taken towards including the excluded in the national mainstream by the founders of the Indian nation-state is the promulgation of protective discrimination for the marginalised Indians categorised as Scheduled Castes (SCs), Scheduled Tribes (STs), and the Other Backward Classes (OBCs). As the initial list is tentative, the Constitution has provided for including the names of marginalised categories through amendments. It is a political economic fact that getting included in the list of ST, SC, or OBC depends not simply on the real experiences of marginalisation and deprivation. The success depends much on strong political mobilisation and electoral political dynamics.

This paper attempts to elucidate this fact through an examination of collective actions of the tribes of South Goa towards inclusion in the ST list. Until the year 2003 the tribes of Goa were recognised as OBCs and the tribes listed as STs were staying in Daman, and Diu part of the erstwhile Union Territory of Goa, Daman and Diu. After attaining statehood in the year 1985, the tribes of Goa started to mobilise for inclusion in the list of STs and which culminated in the year 2003 when among the four tribes aspiring to be declared as STs, three were included and one was excluded.

On the basis of primary data from the field the paper seeks to discern the reasons for this legislative practice. The paper also throws light on the limits of inclusion in the ST list by looking into the nature of tribal livelihoods. An exploration into the unintended consequences of the struggle for inclusion in the ST is another objective of the paper.

Conceiving decentralisation as participatory governance, the paper examines the nature of participation of the marginalised people in their socio-economic development. The paper concludes that the efficacy of state sponsored programmes aimed at amelioration depends on the participation of the people. On the basis of ethnographic data pertaining to the Velips and the Dhangars from the field and secondary resources the paper concludes that social mobilisation in the forms of participation in governance brings desired social transformations in the lives of the marginalised.

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## **Decentralisation With Reference To The Panchayati Raj System In Goa**

Pratiksha Chandrakant Shirodkar\*

Decentralization has assumed an important role in matters of governance in the developing world over the last few years. In most of the developing countries ,decentralization reflects a broader process of political and economic reform. The interest in decentralization as a mechanism for transforming society is not new.

In country like India, decentralization is aimed at improving service delivery , development and poverty reduction. After getting independence various measures were adopted for poverty reduction but those measures could not serve the purpose of eradication of several other enduring problems like unemployment, underdevelopment of rural areas and so on. Decentralization and participatory democracy gained importance after the passage of 73rd constitutional amendment which is the landmark in the history of India.

The Goa Daman & Diu village Panchayat regulation was the first of its kind in the history of Goa to envisage development of rural areas and to transfer power to the people at the grassroot level. Goa Panchayati Raj act came in to existence in 1994. But the panchayats were there in Goa prior to the existence of Legislative Assembly i.e 1962.

This paper focuses on the various aspects of decentralization and discusses about the unique history of institutions of local self government dating back to ancient times of Goa and also gives brief account of the two tier system of Panchayati Raj in Goa. It discusses the role local government can play in making democracy strong and powerful in the world in general and Goa in particular. It also discusses the risks of decentralization in order to develop strategy to overcome them so the working of the Panchayati Raj system in Goa & the country can be improved.

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## **Panchayat Raj Instituion: Main Vehicle Of Rural Development Programme**

Pankaj Shankar Kumbhar\*

In India, Panchayat Raj system is identified as the prime instrument of decentralization through which democracy becomes truly representative and responsive. The Panchayat Raj Institution is considered as local self-governments meant for providing basic infrastructure facilities, empowering weaker sections and initiate the development process at the grass root level of rural area for improving their living standard. Several state and central sponsored schemes and programmes are directly implemented through PRI for improving quality of life of people in rural area.

The Gram Panchayat will be effective only if it is aware of people's needs, functions in a democratic manner, undertakes participatory and inclusive planning, executes schemes and projects effectively and remain accountable to the people.

Panchayat Raj Institution at grass roots level are the main vehicles through which the rural development programmes are carried to the rural masses but often it has been seen that the development functionaries reach only the selected and elected ones. The benefits do not percolate deep down at the lowest level.

In this paper, attempt has been made to how PRI/GP can act for implementing development programme at village level and strategies for improving functions of Gram Panchayat.

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## **Inequality, Poverty And Social Exclusion: Issues Of Human Rights Violation**

Mithilesh Kumar\*

This will examine the critical human rights violation and produce the empirical evidence to address the issues positively. This paper also explores the historical evidence of poverty, inequality and social exclusion in human rights perspective in India.

The objective of this paper is to examine the role of the different social welfare scheme, poverty and inequality. This paper also discuss about the unique role of the camera in identifying and solving the exclusion and inequality by the people of the communities themselves.

Methodology both qualitative and quantitative methods and Official statistical data will be used. The quantitative method will be used to examine the evidence of inequality, poverty and social exclusion. The qualitative method will be to testify the expert views on the issues in this paper. Official statistical data such as NSSO data, the NCRB Report etc.

This paper will be concluding the learning from the poverty, inequality and social exclusion theory and programs run by the government and role of different stakeholders in reducing this social evil.

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## **Mainstreaming The 'Doubly Marginalised': Case Of 40 Formertibetan Political Prisoners**

Joanna Coelho\*

Ever since China occupied/liberated Tibet in 1949, Tibetans have been subjected to a series of subjugations, including the Cultural Revolution. Tibetans have responded to these acts of genocide with protests, which the Chinese army ruthlessly contained. These movements of resistance the Tibetan saw a large number of Tibetan monk nuns and the youth being arrested by China as political prisoners. Most of the political prisoners have been convicted of “crimes” relating to peaceful political activities, and for simply exercising their fundamental human rights. Tibetan political prisoners endure harsh prison conditions, including torture, deprivation of food and sleep, and long periods in isolation cells. After the completion of their sentence too, the ordeals of the former political prisoners do not end. They have now to battle political, social and economic exclusion. An increasing number of them escape to India in order to escape poverty and insecurity.

This paper documents the efforts of the Tibetan administration in exile as well as the various non governmental agencies in the rehabilitation of these former political prisoners. The main focus of this paper is on the Tibetan organisations Gu Chu Sum and Tibetan Centre for Human Rights and Democracy (TCHRD). While TCHRD is an organisation of the Tibetan- Government- in –Exile, Gu Chu Sum is a movement started by former Tibetan prisoners that works for the welfare and rehabilitation of this socially and politically excluded community. With the help of interviews conducted with members of both Gu Chu Sum and TCHRD in Dharamshala, Himachal Pradesh as well as a review of secondary data, this paper tries to elucidate that along with Governmental efforts, collective actions and social movements by the excluded themselves play an important role in the mainstreaming of the doubly marginalised.

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## **Identity Conflict Of Adivasis In Assam**

Geetali Phookan\*

The present study explores the possibility of conflicts due to identity crises of a community to assimilate in a larger group. “Identity is a self-referential description that provides answers to the question “who am I?” or “who are we?”. Thus, identity is one of several fundamental human needs that underlie many intractable conflicts. Assam, one of the eight states of the northeastern region of India, has long remained one of the most volatile and sensitive regions in the country. It is a home to many ethnic races and communities. The Adivasis are one of the largest communities residing in the state.

The Bodos have already started their autonomy movement for separate statehood in a peaceful and nonviolent process. But, later during 1980’s, the emergence of two Bodo separatist groups namely Bodo Liberation Tiger (BLT) and National Democratic Front of Bodoland (NDFB, 1986) had vitiated the political atmosphere of Assam by attacking non-Bodo population residing in the Bodo dominated regions of lower Assam. The first clash of conflict triggered in the state during 1990’s when a group of Bodo militants started to attacking the Adivasis residing in the reserve forest of Bodo dominated area. The current attack on Adivasis took place in the state was on December 23, 2014. Constitutionally, the Adivasi do not possess political right over land in the tribal belt and felt that political reservation (ST status) is the only ray of hope of recognition as a part of indigeneous society as well as for their political and social upliftment. In such a circumstance, the Adivasi communities of the state have found themselves been neglected both by the state as well as by the centre. In this juncture, the Adivasis of Assam is in a dilemma of their origin and identity.

This paper is an attempt to understand the perceptions of identity of Adivasi as well as the notion of ‘others’ or ‘outsiders’ in the state of Assam. The paper will try to study identity and conflict of a small community in a broad prospect. Thus, it can open up a new dimension to look into the dynamics of conflict.

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## **Women Empowerment In Handicrafts Sector**

Priyanka Singh\*

Government of India has defined that home based workers a) have their own account workers and contributing family workers helping themselves, involved in the production and goods services, at their homes, for the market and b) workers carry out working processes at their homes for remuneration, resulting in a product or service as specified by the employers, irrespective of who provides the equipment, materials or other inputs used and those contributing family workers help such workers. The present paper has focused on social, economic condition of handicraft household women workers and their problems. This paper has also explores the role of household women in economic development and the factors which have exploited the household women, identity challenges and their empowerment in India.

Among the women home based workers, 49% of the women home – based workers are undertaking production under some form of subcontracting. This process of production and marketing has exploited these home based women workers. Handicraft economy contributes a significant role in the country's economy. It provides employment opportunity to a huge section of craftspeople in rural and semi urban areas.

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## **Exploitation Of Trafficked Women: Analysis On Impact Of Violence In Kolkata's Brothel**

AWkash Kumar\*

In India prostitution is historically considered as a part of Indian society where women were engaged in the trade viewed as entertainment workers, businesswomen and servers of gods. India has nearly 2.5 million prostitutes in approximately 300,000 brothels on 1,100 red-light areas across the country. At Sonagachi brothel within a few kilo meter more than 10,000 women and girls sell their body where thousands of men visit daily. Many of them are trafficked from Nepal, Bangladesh and rural areas of India.

The main objective of this paper is to explore the multiple violence faced by the trafficked victims serving as prostitutes in Kolkata's brothel and to find out the impact of these violence on those prostitutes. In large number of trafficked women and girls are currently working in brothel of Kolkata but for conducting this research 25 women and girls were interviewed. And other data were collected from various secondary sources. It was analyzed after the study that those victim comes from marginalized community, less educated and mostly unmarried. For surviving in brothel they have to face number of violence such as physical and sexual violence, beaten, locked in room without food, tortured brutally and sometime threaten to murder by their owners, madams, traffickers as well as from their clients in their different stages.

The study also found that they have direct impact of violence in terms of loss of weight, several marks on their body, affected by sexually transmitted disease, unwanted pregnancy and several abortions.

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## **Women Empowerment And Women Police Role**

Lalita J. Jadav\*

This paper mainly focuses on women empowerment due to the emerging demands of the women's Police Role in the field of law enforcement. Here, special circumstances forced women to accept the police role rather than intending empowerment of women. So, women empowerment is the latent function in the field of law enforcement.

In India, the first woman police officer was appointed in Kerala, in the Travancore Royal police in 1933. Moreover, it is the first state in India, and perhaps in the world to have Women Police station, which is totally handled by women police and dealing the cases regarding women and children. The major objectives are, a) to measure women empowerment through women's police role, b) to know the circumstances, that had forced to involve women in this male dominant occupation, c) to identify the hurdles for women to empower themselves in law enforcement, d) to know women empowerment through women's police role.

The present study is an attempt to analyze the process of empowerment of women against the background of socio-economic, psychological and cultural factors in India. The study has focused on the caste, class and family which have stimulated the male dominated system of Indian society. To include women in police force was/is a compulsion for the police department rather than empowering women in India. So it is obvious that the empowering women are the latent function for policewomen.

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## **Caste And Marginalisation In Indian Diaspora**

Sandip Rambhau Gawai\*

Bhagyashri Shrimant Pawar†

The present study examines the system of caste and its implications in diaspora. It criticises that in diaspora, the communities still keep the hierarchy of social system keeping the language, region and caste in a peek and looking the people from a narrow-minded look. In the globalised world, migration took place in different part of the world. People move from one place to another for better lifestyle or opportunities that their country of origin denied for them.

The essential objectives of the study are to analyse the issues of marginalisation in Indian diaspora. To examine the caste based discrimination amongst Indian diaspora. The study tries to answer several question like, What are the main reasons of marginalisation of people in Diaspora? What are the main issues dalits confront in diaspora?

Study follows the analytical research method. The study will critically analyse and illustrates the concept like Identity of dalits in diaspora. It was primary as well as secondary sources to define and elaborate the concept like, caste identity in diaspora. The study also tried to apply participant or non-participant and observation method to know about the caste issues of Indians in diaspora.

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## **Decentralisation And Political Empowerment Of Tribal Women**

Indiara M. Vala\*

The 73rd Amendment Act, 1992, mandating reservation in at least 1/3rd of the seats of all Panchayat Councils and 1/3rd of the Pradhan (head of the Panchayat) positions for women, was a landmark for women's political empowerment. This was followed by the 74th Amendment Act, 1992, which established similar reservations in Nagar Palikas & Municipalities. It was a little effort to understand the fact about women's political empowerment, particularly the women from Scheduled Tribes category.

Objectives are a) To know empowerment of tribal women through women's political participation, b) To know the changing status and role of the tribal women, c) To know the experiences and problems of tribal women of the local government.

More than 300 tribal women of local government were interviewed. Keeping in view this particular topic, it is tried to know women's empowerment in the field of politics from the available research data.

The available data shows that women in the rural sectors and particularly SC, ST and other backward castes are not so eager to participate in the local government but the male members of their family play the role on behalf of the woman. Moreover, the fact is also realized that the dominant casts are still playing important role in decision process of their village.

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## **Migrants In Delhi: Life Of Cycle Rickshaw Pullers.**

Naresh Kumar\*

According to Census of India records that more than 100 million people are domestic migrants. Domestic migrants are contributing both the places (Home and Host.) i.e. origin and destinations. Migration has been considered important aspects of regional development and important aspects of eradicating of rural and urban poverty. In the cities, it has been generally seen that migrants are belonged to different occupational categories i.e. skilled, unskilled and semi-skilled. The majority of them are not well educated or not poses skilled in the urban cities like Delhi. This paper dealt the following objectives: a) to discuss the various reasons of In-migration of cycle rickshaw pullers, b) to analyse their socio-economic, demographic aspects and occupational problems faced by them in Delhi, c) to analyse marginalisation and multiple deprivation levels among these in-migrants population in Delhi, and d) to critically analyse the policies and gaps in case of poor migrants and to find out what measures can bridge this gap.

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## **A Sociological Study Of Education And Ethnic Contestation In Conflict Zone, Manipur**

Sapana Devi Karam\*

This paper makes an attempt to analyze the process of education in the conflict zone, Manipur and explores the contestation along the lines of diverse ethnic group. The existing literatures in the Indian context, have not adequately discussed the linkages of education and conflict and the role of the state as a mediator among diverse ethnicities.

The study has addressed this gap by selecting the case of nature of education system in a conflict ridden state, Manipur. Violent conflict is not a new phenomenon in Manipur and has been experiencing for the last many decades. Conflict has been manifested in the form of bandh, blockade and strike in the state. Frequently occurrence of these conflict activities hampered the academic environment of students. Nevertheless, Manipur has its own paradoxes if we look at the scenario of education. Manipur accounts for high literacy rate despite experiencing multiple of issues. This can be attributed to private education and the missionary schools. However, the mode of education system seems to be the features of valley region.

Despite ninety percent of landscape has covered by hilly area, the education sector in hilly areas has not given much attention by the government. This brings the huge gap and imbalance between hilly and plain areas in getting and maintaining quality education. The study has found that the education has increased social inequality and marginalization of people and it also generates conflict among diverse ethnic group.

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## **Beyond Margins: Social Exclusion Of The Scheduled Caste In Maharashtra**

Jayasree Ambewadikar\*

Marginalisation and social exclusion of the Dalit community is apparent from the non-beneficiary outcome from constitutional provisions and non-participatory state action in bestowing equal share in socio-economic resources and power positions.

The present paper gives synoptic view of a larger study to provide understanding of the conceptual and theoretical orientation about discrimination, poverty and social exclusion and their inter-linkages in general that in rural setting in particular. It also measures the forms and extent of discrimination, level of poverty and degree of social exclusion of scheduled castes in rural Maharashtra of India. That is, an attempts to examine various aspects of the “caste-based discrimination” practiced against the SCs or Dalits in rural areas and also investigates the practice in the forms of denial of social, cultural, civil, political and economic rights of the SCs, leading to their poverty and social exclusion from their participation therein.

The paper is descriptive in design with an analytical framework to explore the forms and extent of discrimination, levels of poverty and degree of social exclusion of the SCs in Indian society. The study is based on both the primary and secondary sources of data collection. This paper concludes with social exclusion as process in cyclic nature, continuous dynamic or static, active or passive, etc. This study shows crucial functioning of social institutions like caste, religion, marriage, family, economy, polity and education and the degree and extent to which they are discriminatory and exclusionary causing of social exclusion and their “outcome” in terms of level of poverty and discrimination.

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## **The Gender Dimensions Of Expenditure In India: Fiscal Perspective And Current Outcomes**

Devender Singh Hooda\*

Participation and consultation in the formulation of a country's budget is still often limited, however, so that the different priorities of women are not fully reflected in the way finances are actually allocated and used. This concise discusses gender dimensions of expenditure with the aim of identifying approaches that are likely to move on equality between different groups of women and men. It examines how public money can be used in more gender equitable ways.

Gender budgeting is ideally a fiscal innovation that translates gender-related goals into budgetary commitments and can help to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals with regard to gender equality. Gender budgeting efforts are intended to commit public budgeting to assess the benefits and costs of policies that would promote gender equality and girls' and women's development, and then to taking action in response to this appraisal.

The paper states that a lot of effort has been taken in GRB over the last decade in India. It reviews the trends of gender budget in India over the last decade. On the basis of Indian experience the paper attempt to assess the GRB initiatives in the country taking in to consideration the critical questions: First, has the GRB resulted in increased enough investments and budgetary resources for encourage gender equality? Second, has the GRB made governments accountable for their commitments to gender equality? Third, has it been able to bring about changes to policies and budgets that would raise the social and economic status of women and further gender equality? And fourth, given the degree of deprivation that exists in India, has the GRB as a tool of fiscal policy contributed to the creation of a agenda to study budgetary priorities for the most marginalized women? Identifying imperative issues that are limiting the potential of the approach, the paper also recommends important points that the government needs to take in to concern.

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## **Shifting To Small Ruminants From Large; A Way Forward For Livestock Dependents Of Climate Sensitive Indian Sundarban**

Sanjit Maiti\*

Adaptation to climate change and variability has recently become a subject of increasing importance with an objective to reduce the vulnerability of climate sensitive people. The present study was designed to identify and assess the adaptation strategies followed by the climate sensitive livestock dependents of the Indian Sundarban. A total of 90 livestock dependents, having more than 30 years of experience in livestock rearing of at least one livestock species; and having main income from livestock, were selected from 6 randomly selected villages of coastal south 24 Parganas district of west Bengal.

The study identified 16 adaptation strategies which were followed by the livestock dependents to cope up with changing climatic scenario. They also perceived that livestock are very much susceptible to heat stress. Therefore, most of the livestock dependents followed heat alleviating adaptation strategies like change in micro-climate in cattle shed/grazing area/stall, providing frequent clean and fresh drinking water and additional washing/sprinkling of cattle.

Livestock dependents also revealed that they used to sell sheep and goat as and when required, particularly after natural calamities. Hence, they considered small ruminants as their working capital. It is also a fact that the Sundarban region is the home tract of Garole sheep and Black Bengal Goat; and these species can withstand during devastating extreme climatic events like cyclone. Therefore, livestock dependents are gradually shifting from rearing of large ruminant like cattle to small ruminants like sheep and goat. Hence, emphasis must given in promotion of locally available breed during preparation of action plan for livestock sector to combat with changing climatic scenario.

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## **Empowering, Promoting And Recognizing Street Vendors - A Case Study Of Delhi**

Manoj Shukla\*

Street vending, a century old pan Indian business activity, is a source of livelihoods for millions of marginalized unskilled workforce, makes available food, goods and services round the clock to millions of dwellers and commuters conveniently and economically. Street vendors constitute a major share of self employed workforce in informal sector in the National Capital Region (NCR) Delhi, which includes New Delhi as well as areas surrounding it on states of Haryana, Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan.

The study has used both primary and secondary data. The study shows that Street vending is inevitable, as it is both an escape and opportunity for millions of migrants to NCR to earn more for survival as income through labor in other menial job is meagre, uncertain and intermittent. The survey establishes that street vending as an economic entity has high employment elasticity for unskilled masses, start up with minimum capital and provides high flexibility in terms of space, time and goods and services.

The paper brings out the limitations of Street Vendors' Act 2014 which has empowered the authorities of the vendors. The present endeavor aims to highlight obstacles street vendors face in making their business unit sustainable. The study explores that the Municipalities in collaboration with technical Institutions, micro finance companies and health authorities have to adopt a holistic approach towards street vending where issue is not the job creation but improving job quality. It will provide stability, social reorganization and sustainability to this self employed occupation and they in turn will provide product variety, improved quality, and street vending will become a respectable and productive source of employment for migrants and this can be leveraged for smart city initiatives.

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## **Dairy Vikash Kendra - The Harbinger Of Dairy Development In Rural West Bengal**

Sanchita Garai\*

Sumon Garai, Sanjit Maiti, Monoj Kumar Ghosh, K.S. Kadian & T.K. Dutta

Dairy Vikash Kendra of Eastern Regional Station of ICAR-National Dairy Research Institute, an innovative model of extension hub, was established on January 2014 at Muratipur village, Chakdah, Nadia district of West Bengal with the aim of conducting Farming System Research and Extension for the development of small holder dairying in rural West Bengal. This extension hub used to provide a base for organizing extension programme, encouraging farmers to adopt latest innovation in animal husbandry and dairy science by accelerating their knowledge and skill and providing an opportunity for the students, trainees to acquire skill in organizing field extension activities.

The present study was designed to trace out the impact of extension interventions through this Dairy Vikash Kendra in improving knowledge, attitude, adoption towards scientific dairy farming practices and improvement in milk production of dairy animal and income from dairying which will be resulted into improved livelihood of rural poor in Nadia district of West Bengal, India. An Ex-post-facto cause to effect research design was applied in this study. Therefore, 60 dairy farmers of experimental villages who were considered as beneficiaries from extension services provided by the Dairy Vikash Kendra and 60 dairy farmers of control villages who were considered as non-beneficiaries were considered for the study. These extension activities were assumed as treatment for this study. It was found that beneficiaries were having significantly higher score in all the pre decided indicators i.e. knowledge, attitude, adoption of scientific dairy farming practices, milk production level per household per day and monthly income from dairying except disease control and marketing component of adoption. Hence, it may be concluded that extension interventions through the Dairy Vikash kendra had a significant impact on improving livelihood of rural dairy farmers in Nadia district of West Bengal, India. It is established that Dairy Vikash Kendra is an innovative extension model for the long waited and much need model for livestock extension services. Replication of this type of model can change the scenario of dairying, in particular and livelihood of the resource poor dairy farmers, in general.

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## **Women Participation In Panchayati Raj In Anantnag Dist. Of Jammu & Kashmir**

Arsheed Aziz Khanday\*

This study is carried out in district Anantnag, South Province, of Kashmir during 2015. The basic purpose of the study is to analyze the role of women in Panchayati Raj system in the research area. The data were collected from 399 respondents selected through systematic random sampling method from nine polling stations of Anantnag district. Majority of women take part in political activities only during elections they think that casting vote is the ultimate exercise in political power.

The higher level of participation is “taking part in decision making process” which they generally trend to ignore. Actually it is because of election campaigns run by contesting parties, which drives women to participate in voting and feel that their demands will be fulfilled, but after the election is over, it all books befooling activities.

The study shows that there is hardly any active membership of any political party. Negligible active membership in the population implies two things. Either there is complete political apathy among people towards the political system or there is the lack of political consciousness. There were other modes of political participation. From general observation it was found that women were not encouraged due to cultural barriers to be active members of political outfits. Now a days Mehbooba Mufti the first woman Chief Minister of Jammu and Kashmir is going popular among women. She has made path for other women that want to acquire higher positions in politics.

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## **Thinking And Theorizing Gender Relations: A Transformational Approach**

Shaveta Kohli\*

Development represents the whole gamut of change by which an entire social system moves away from a condition of life widely perceived as unsatisfactory and towards a situation of condition of life regarded as materially and spiritually better. The question is whether development is taking place in real terms or is it really inclusive. Which section of society is benefitting more and which needs development more? Women are considered to be at the disadvantage level because of gendered power relations that perpetuate inequities.

Transformational development is a deeper reaching approach for addressing the issues of women in this inequitable society. The various dimensions halting development of women in society need to be curbed. All social, economic, political, religious, technological and environmental constraints need to be transformed into opportunities. In addition to this if we want a desired impact of policies and programmes on poverty reduction and development of women, then this transformational change should be an integral part of overall gender development and planning.

This paper proposes a way to comprehend how societal transformation might come about. It does so by showing how individuals become transformed, how societal transformation follows this same process, and what actions are required by different stakeholders for this transformational change.

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## **Issues Of Food Security And Implementation Of Mahathma Gandhi Nrega: A Study Of Jharkhand**

Jisu Ketan Pattanaik\*

The present paper is based on the following objectives; a) explore socio-economic conditions of the people living in rural areas of Jharkhand, b) examine the causes of poor implementation of MGNREGA in the State, c) study the benefits of MGNREGA and its impact on rural livelihood, d) analyse various food security schemes implemented by the state, e) provide suggestions to improve rural livelihood and food security for the socio-economic development.

The empirical study was conducted in remote rural-tribal village of Puggu in Gumla District of Jharkhand. The study adopted stratified random sampling method and based on exploratory cum descriptive research design. The study found that agriculture constitute major source of livelihood for the rural people in the village. Majority of the respondents belong to BPL category and depends on agriculture for their sustainable development. It is observed that introduction of the MGNREGA has not made any significant difference and change in the living conditions of people in the village. The respondents opined that due to poor implementation of the programme people migrate to urban areas in search of employment and delay in payment is one of the main causes for discouraging villagers to work under the scheme. There is an urgent need in the state to make Grama Panchayat more functional and active in terms of implementation of the schemes, monitoring and supervision.

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## **Empowering Women Pri Members In Jharkhand But Is It In Context To Pesa?**

Dipti Paridhi Kindo\*

The study is done in the Jharkhand; newly carved state with tribal dominating population Jharkhand, 28.4 per cent land is under forest and it has its own indigenous and primitive culture. The state cabinet cleared the amendments to the existing Panchayati Raj Act, including 50% reservation for women in both scheduled and non-scheduled areas. The importance of the study are; a) to analyze the present status of women members of PRIs in PESA districts, of Jharkhand., b) to analyze the role played by them during the implementation of different schemes., c) to find out the implication methods for improvising the situation.

The study is also the member of internal committee consisting of seven members of Panchayati Raj Department, Jharkhand for studying and suggesting the modifications in the draft PESA Act of Jharkhand.

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## **Women Empowerment: A Tool To The Social Changes**

Kavita S. Bevinamar\*

Rashmirani Agnihotri H.R.†

Mahesh Urukundappa‡

Women empowerment is an important tool to bring about the required social changes in the society and the mindset of the people. To empower any woman of a society it is pertinent to first make her aware of her rights and role.

The topic under research is the direct fallout of the ill-treatment meted out to women in India and the prevalent social situations adverse to women. It is a well acknowledged fact that the media has played a proactive role in highlighting women's problem and thereby compelling the policy makers to

It is unfortunate that women who constitute nearly half the population of our country are poorly treated and given such a low priority. This research should create awareness and prompt the present generation to use media positively in working towards the cause of women empowerment and girl child. This will ensure that women are not treated merely as an object to increase the sales of newspapers by focusing upon glamour and violence concerning women. It is high time that the print media puts more stress on dowry, female foeticide, rural women rather than focusing on page 3 celebrities and does its duty to the society.

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## **Gender Specific Inequality In Education, Employment And Income: A Study Of Haveri District, Karnataka**

Renuka. E. Asagi\*

Kavita Bevinamara†

The present paper study on occupational mobility among teacher respondents .to find out the employment opportunities in higher educational institutions for the people belonging to different gender, communities, caste and categories and to study community wise/ caste wise/ category wise gender inequality and finally to understand relation between educational and professional status and economic liberty of women. The universe of the study was delimited as all higher educational institutions of Haveri district and which are affiliated to Karnataka University, Dharwad . For the purpose of analysis both primary and secondary sources were utilised. The targeted respondents in the present study are equal in terms of education and earning capacity. Obviously, the present study does not find gender inequality in education and income at the root level. But inequality between men and women in several aspects like improving educational qualifications, chance of earning additional income, ownership of assets, economic liberty, saving and investment trends, etc. can be observed to a considerable extent.

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## **Evolving Corporate Sustainable Development – A Case Study Of Heidelberg Cement India Limited**

Alice Mani\*

This study analyses the corporate sustainable development of Heidelberg Cement India Limited from 1995 to 2011. The World Commission on Economic Development (WCED) asserted that sustainable development required simultaneous adoption of environmental, economic and equity principles.

This study was conducted using the model of Bansal (2005) wherein a study of Canadian firms in the oil and gas, mining and forestry industries were carried out from 1986 to 1995. The study found that both resources based and institutional factors influence corporate sustainable development.

The study is valid for use by industrialist to mandatory implement sustainability practices in its operations and to report the same by way of sustainability reporting to bring in awareness among the public and other industries. The study also introduces a decision-making framework to enable the polluting industries to assess the environmental protection practices implemented in its operations and to consider it in future planning.

The study found that independent variables with significant impact on environmental integrity and overall sustainability were number of states operating in and the fines, penalties, court cases (Total) involved by the company. On economic prosperity the independent variable with significant impact is the number of states operating in and media attention. For social equity the independent variable with significant impact are the current ratio, capital intensity and the number of states operating in.

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## **Youth And Substance Abuse: A Study In Gulbarga City, Karnataka**

Praveenkumar\*

The present paper is an empirical attempt to study the youth in urban slums and substance abuse with special reference to Gulbarga city of Karnataka state. It examines the psychosocial profile, substance use pattern and self-esteem among youth victims of substance abuse in slum. It also explored the relation of increasing phenomenon of addiction with several related factors like economic depression, poverty, unemployment, rural to urban migration, war, political instability, family breakdown and violence including physical, emotional and sexual abuse. This study was conducted in Gulbarga city in the slum of Indira Nagar.

In order to satisfy objectives of the study, it was adopted descriptive research design employing qualitative methodologies along with quantitative techniques. 30 youth were studied by adopting snow ball sampling method. Out of 30 respondents a majority of them 85% of belong to the Hindu religion; 64% of youths are illiterates and 70% of are working as labor in construction work. The common substances used by youth are; 90% of Tobacco, 86.7% of Alcohol, 13.3% of Cannabis and 30% of Inhalants. With reference to self-esteem 60% of youth substance users have low self-esteem. This paper also suggests the interventions to prevent the incidences of substance abuse and rehabilitation process.

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## **Utilisation Of Tribal Sub Plan, Thirunelli Panchayat, Wayanad District**

Vidya J. Mathew\*

In 1974 the Central Government implemented 'The Tribal Sub Plan' (TSP) which aimed mainly at the socio-economic development of the Scheduled Tribes and protecting them from all kinds of exploitations. The TSP stipulates that the funds should be allocated on ST population in a proportionate basis, for the welfare and development of ST's.

The development lag of tribal communities assumes great importance in the Kerala context as Kerala's development experience owes much to the enlightened state policies based on equity and public action. It is significant that despite of the continuing efforts and massive input made by the government in eventually removing the stigma attached to them the results have fallen short of expectation as only nominal benefits have reached the tribal.

The paper intends to make, a) to assess the utilization of funds earmarked for TSP and to evaluate the proportion of funds divided among the plan projects in Thirunelli Grama Panchayath. b) to analyze the effectiveness of plan projects implemented as a part of TSP in the Panchayath. c) to examine the extent to which representatives of tribal communities are participating in formulating and implementing the plan projects.

This paper not only intends to analyze the effectiveness and utilization of TSP, but also gives much emphasis to the extent of the participation of representatives belonging to the Tribal communities in formulating the development plans aimed at facilitating and enhancing the future of Tribal population. The paper also aims at enquiring whether the actual need of the people matches with the projects of the Panchayaths under consideration. In effect, this paper also tries to address the larger question of how decentralization process could accomplish in achieving inclusive development with special reference to the Tribal population of Kerala.

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## **Violation Of Tribal Rights In The Schedule Area Of Jharkhand**

Sunita Purty\*

Rio Principle 22 emphasizes the indigenous people rights in the conservation and sustainable management of the environment through their own knowledge system and traditional practices. It also recommends the states to recognize and duly support tribal to preserve their culture and traditions and effective participation in sustainable development. The current mode of development however, severely excludes the weakest communities from the endless race for economic growth.

The main concern for this paper is the violation of Schedule V areas as tribal land alienation by transferring land to the state government for the purpose of mining and industrialization without taking consent of the particular communities who reside in the schedule fifth areas. The provision of the 73rd constitutional amendment and certain unique characters of tribal societies and tribal areas should be kept in view since many tribal societies have their own customary laws, tradition, practices, community ethos, political and administrative systems among others. The life of tribals and other forest dwelling communities living within and near forest depends upon forest resources.

State advocates that the rights and concessions enjoyed by tribal should be fully protected by the forest legislative safeguards of constitution. The government of India passed the provision of the Panchayat (extension to the Scheduled V areas) Act, 1996 under the 73rd amendment of the constitution for empowering the Gram Sabha to be the owner of forest resources.

Many academics, administrators, even social activists working among adivasi communities argue that the institution of Gram Sabha is non-existent in most tribal areas and the law does not recognize the dramatic social and economic changes that have taken place in tribal society in the past two centuries. Without taking consent of Gram Sabha for the process of land acquisition in the Scheduled V areas reflects the violation of the PESA. As per the PESA (1996) Act, Panchayat should be empowered to look after the forest based industry, minor forest produce and land related issues but unfortunately so far Panchayat committees have not been given authority to execute any development work regarding these issues.

Most of the tribal region of Jharkhand is rich in mineral and forest resources as a result certain areas are identified as Special Economic Zones (SEZs) and becoming industrial hub.

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The tribal people have been continuing to be marginalized in the process of economic reform in term of industrialization and urbanization. Rights and entitlements which provided to the village Gram Sabha under the provision of PESA have not resulted in effective political participation at grass root level. This paper is based on ethnographic study which usually includes participant observation, archival analysis and interview.

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## **Marginalization Of Naka Construction Workers: Case Study Of Mumbai**

Vicky Jiyalal Nandgaye\*

The paper basically examines precarious employment among construction workers and mapping decent work deficits. Indian labour market explicitly concentrates on vast informal economy where unemployment is biggest challenge before larger masses who hope to get livelihood opportunity. Subsequently, this local labour market fails to maintain balance between “demand for labour” and “supply of labour”.

The study objects to identify whether social stratification affects poverty and marginalization among these Naka workers; identifying and analyzing that how decent work deficits prevail in this working section; and to understand living and working conditions of said group in the greater Mumbai city. The study is exploratory in nature which further explains “the precariat” as a class emerging in the country. Mumbai and suburban area is used as universe of the study. And data collection done through snowball sampling technique.

In these different local Nakas’ daily ranging 800 to 1000 construction workers used merely to come for sake of formality of attendance since no work or hardly 7-8 days a month working man days observed. On the other hand, “utilization of Cess amount” deposit with Maharashtra Building and Other Construction Workers Welfare Board under the Building and Other Construction Workers Welfare Act, 1996. More interestingly, at Naka premises almost all people are sharing similarity in their social, political, educational, and economic backwardness.

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## **Decentralisation And Rural Development In The Context Of Dalits**

Nikhil Suresh Walde\*

This paper studies decentralisation and rural development in the context of Dalits in rural Maharashtra. As stigma of lower caste attached to them, they have been ignored and excluded from the participatory and decision making process in this decentralised form of government at the village level. In this context it is very important to look at decentralisation critically to analyse the relationship between being dalit and participating in the decision making process of Gram Panchayat.

The paper also aims to examine the rural development which has remained only in the political imagination of some upper caste elite groups and could not become a reality in its social domain. The social reality of caste which is so complex and dynamic in which some elite groups enjoy the status of caste and majority of lower caste groups are the victims of it. In such condition imagining rural development through participation of all the groups and communities in the village where only the upper caste community hold the power and dominate in all the village matters, it is doubtful for the dalits in such situation that they have any decision making power under this decentralised government which can be explore in this paper.

This paper seek to study the experiences of local self-governance and rural development among Dalits and analyse how they perceive this system as to insure the equal participation and democratic representation of people in the panchayat irrespective of their caste. It further examine whether marginalised communities like Dalits are benefiting from this system or it just serve the interest of some upper caste political elites in the village.

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## **Drinking Water Scarcity & Drought A Lesson From Central India To Southern States**

Rajeevan A.K. \*

The present paper attempts to, a) Understand the catastrophic impact of climate change, and global warming., b) Bring clarity on various aspects of the increasing use of fossil fuel intensive motorized transport, construction activities and its impact on the ecosystem. c) An investigation into plundering of natural resources, resulted ecological imbalances. d) Wake up public consciousness on rainwater harvesting, soil water conservation for the sustainability of the earth and ecosystem.

The study is conducted in the central Indian states (Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra and Chhattisgarh). Focus group discussion is one of the tools applied in the field. The climatic contingencies in Central India are indicators for southern states on the situations they are going to face in future. Much attention needs to pay to the drinking water crisis Kerala, especially North Malabar region during last summer, where a number of wells had dried up and household members became panic by thinking about their hardly earned money spent for construction wells mostly attached to their two to three storied houses. In the first time in Kerala's history, largest selling of air conditioners also recorded.

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## **Decentralisation And The Rights Of Marginalised Groups In Jharkhand**

Digvijay Kumar\*

Jharkhand is one of the richest states in terms of mineral wealth but grappled with extreme rural poverty. Absence of proper functioning of decentralised system have kept the poor people away from the government policies and programmes in the state. Only five out of twenty nine subjects are working in the village. The present study likes to look in to, a) to understand the structure and functioning of the Panchayati Raj Institutions. b) to find out the role of decentralisation in deepening democracy and enhancing development. c) to find out the effectiveness of 73rd Constitutional Amendment for social upliftment of marginalized groups in the society. d) to identify the role of local bureaucracy, the elected representatives and the villagers in the process of decentralisation. e) to identify the problems and hurdles in the structure and institution of the local governance in the village.

The participation rate of the Gram Sabha members was less than ten percent of the total member. The trend was reverse in regard to participation of women and people from SC and ST groups. Social restrictions in participation often stigmatised with caste, tribe and gender status. It can be analysed from the respondents' views that caste, political networking and wealth are more important resources or bases to exercise power than the given formal positions or authority. It plays very a significant role in development of primary education, health, agricultural developments, women and child development and women participation in local government since the first Panchayat election took place in 2010.

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## **Corporate Social Responsibility: A Study Of Women Participation In Dairy Farming**

Sanket Shirsat\*

Shabnam Shaikh

This paper tries to examine dairy farming as a medium of livelihood generation in small- household families and to understand the level of women in decision making within the family in Gandhinagar district of Gujarat. The paper observes socio-economic condition of the small-household dairy farmers and the role of women in dairy farming. To analyze this paper uses method of semi-structure and open ended interviews. Further, paper argues that dairy farming is important to improve the economic background or income level of the weaker section of the society which can also help to empower women.

In 2013 the new companies act was passed with specific recommendations for spending on Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR). Because of this Act many companies are compelled to carry out development activities for the betterment of the society. This paper discusses that there should be an essential need of more and more CSR initiatives for the women empowerment in dairy farming and other livelihood too, based on agriculture and also suggests providing effective steps towards the women empowerment. This paper is written to understand the importance, trends and patterns of dairy farming and along with it evaluates the contribution of women in dairy farming engagement and socio-economic condition of dairy farmers. In general the paper tries to highlight some points which are, How the dairy farming is sustainable for the long run for the growth of family?, What is the role of women in dairy farming, and What type of essential steps CSR can take towards the women empowerment in this sector?

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## **Social Accountability And Panchayati Raj In India: Issues And Concerns**

Jitendra Wasnik\*

Social accountability focuses on the demand-side of good governance in aiming to strengthen the voice of citizens to demand greater accountability and responsiveness directly from public officials and service providers. As such, social accountability can be broadly defined as citizen-led action to demand accountability from providers. Social accountability is considered as one strategy of deepening India's decentralized governance. Some attempts have been made to empower local people to demand transparency and accountability from the local government system as required by law.

Social accountability increasing the responsiveness of governments through citizen participation and encourage Panchayati Raj to take initiatives for the development and welfare of socially backward communities. A number of social accountability tools are used by Panchayati Raj such as transparent and participatory beneficiary selection processes, participatory planning, activity mapping, social audit, in addition to some awareness raising workshops on accountability.

This paper reviews the current literature on social accountability as a means to achieve good governance and increased public participation in Panchayati Raj and explain its concept and tools. The purpose of this paper is to assess the effectiveness of the legal provisions which made room for social accountability but the weak capacity of local public representatives in terms of resources and their understanding of legislative provisions. It is thus recommended that service provision in local communities should have capacity-building components that promote social accountability. The paper aims at to discuss the status of decentralization and Social Accountability in India, Legislative provisions with social accountability components, and challenges to promoting social accountability at local level with other related issues and concerns.

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## **Scheduled Caste Atrocities And Exclusion From Mainstream : Marathwada Region Of Maharashtra**

Sunil Mandal Gaikwad\*

The paper examines nature, forms and consequences of social exclusion in the Indian society. It argues how social exclusion resulted in low development outcomes for SCs as compared to other social groups even having comprehensive constitutional safeguards. The paper attempts to analyse the underlying causes of atrocities on SCs in the framework of social exclusion, discrimination, vulnerability and rising assertiveness among SCs about their rights and dignity in Marathwada region of Maharashtra. It argues for new thinking and related actions altogether which could accelerate economic well-being of SCs at a faster pace, embolden the social reforms and intensifies cultural movements to change societal mindsets.

There are evidences which suggest that SCs still face discrimination in labour market, at place of work, in ownership of assets, in education, and in public health. There are rising cases of caste-related violence and atrocities on SCs and STs. The organisational scheme of the caste system is based on division of people in social groups (or castes) in which the occupations and property rights of each individual caste are predetermined by birth and hereditary. The assignment or division of occupations and property rights across castes is unequal and hierarchical. Some occupations are considered socially inferior (or polluting) with low social status for those engaged in them. The caste system based economy is maintained or enforced through the instruments of social ostracism (a system of social and economic penalties) with justification and support from philosophical elements in Hindu religion.

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## **Rice Yield And Climate Change, Evidences From Arunachal Pradesh**

Mun Yomcha\*

S.M. Feroze And Ram Singh

Agriculture, the main source of livelihood for 62 per cent of the people of Arunachal Pradesh, depends on climate. Any change in the climatic variables causes variability in the yield of crops and has the potential to become a threat to the food security of the state. Rice based agriculture is predominant in Arunachal Pradesh and West Siang has the highest area under rice cultivation in the state. Hence, the impact of climatic change on the rice yield in West Siang was estimated using various data base. The result shows that the inter year variability in monthly rainfall during monsoon period was very high. The monsoon temperature has shown significant increasing trend during the study period. August and September rainfall has a positive and significant effect on the rice yield. Similarly, average minimum temperature also has a positive significant effect on the yield.

It can be concluded that the variability in climatic factors affect the mean as well as variance in the yield. It is recommended that weather information should be made available to the farmers for proper crop planning and also, the government should formulate insurance schemes to safeguard the farmers during crop failure.

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## **Effects Of Climate Change On Crop Yield: Empirical Evidence From Mizoram**

Sheikh Mohammad Feroze\*

Koijam Johny Singh, Saidur Rahman, Ram Singh, Pyngbianglang Marboh, and Sao  
Evalwell Dkhar

Climate change is the reality of the day and the crop sector is badly affected by it in India. Moreover, the hilly regions are affected the maximum due to its fragile ecology. Primary data were collected from randomly selected 120 farmers of Lunglei district of Mizoram.

This study analysed the long term rainfall and temperature data. To estimate the impact of climatic factors on mean and variability on yield Just and Pope Model was used. The study reveals that the temperature has increased during 1990-2019 and rainfall has exhibited significant negative trend during the same time. The farmers of Lunglei perceived that the summer as well winter temperature has increased. Majority of the respondents perceived that monsoon rainfall has been in decline and the advent of monsoon rainfall has also been late over the years by 7-10 days. The estimated Just and Pope model reveals that technological progress in the form of new varieties, agro-advisories etc. has positively influenced the productivity of rice and maize in Mizoram. But inter year variations in productivity has increased in case of rice.

All the climatic factors in the variance function are positive and significant at 1 per cent level of significance which implies that they are risk increasing factors in case of rice. But in case of maize none of the factors in variance function are significant. Maximum temperature has negative and marginal effect on mean yield of maize in the state. The study concludes that change in climatic factors and its impact on yield is very clear in Mizoram, hence, implementation of planned as well as autonomous adaptation strategy is the need of the hour.

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## **Climate Change And Farm Livelihood: A Case Study Of Meghalaya**

Deotrephy K Dkhar\*

S.M. Feroze, Ram Singh And Lala I.P. Ray

The present study was conducted to assess the farmers' perception about climate change and its effect on farm livelihood. Primary data were collected from a sample of 80 farmers from 2 districts (40 from each district) drawn randomly from a cluster of two to three villages from both, Thadlaskein block of West Jaintia Hills district and Mairang block of West Khasi Hills in Meghalaya during the year 2015. About 65.00 per cent of the respondents reported that low rainfall or drought was the major stress that their farms experienced.

During the climatic variability the farmers could use the own farm produce for 10.46 months. About 42.31 per cent and 57.50 per cent of the respondents reported that the availability of water for irrigation and drinking purpose have declined, respectively during low rainfall/drought. The time spent on fetching drinking water has increased significantly from 0.55 hour to 1.31 hour/day during low rainfall/drought condition. But there was no migration (seasonal and permanent) in the study area during low rainfall or drought like conditions. Traditional knowledge (73%) was the major source of weather information for the respondent farmers in the study area. Only 8.75 per cent of the farmers have adopted hybrid rice and 31.25 per cent of the farmers used canal or channel irrigation facilities to cope with changing climate. It is suggested that government may put focus on minor irrigation schemes, dissemination of weather information and implementation of crop insurance scheme to avoid risk due to rainfall variability.

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## **Sustainable Agriculture: A District Level Analysis In Manipur**

Leishangthem Geetarani Devi\*

Rice farming is an important occupation and its sustainability is important for ensuring the livelihood and nutritional security of the country, India. Sustainable agriculture is the main pillar for sustainable livelihoods and food security. It integrates three main indicators i.e., economic, social and ecological indicators.

The present study examined the district level economic, social and ecological sustainability between hill and valley districts of Manipur, one of the North Eastern States of India. This study has been conducted in both hill and valley districts of Manipur, based on secondary data. Economic, social and ecological sustainability were computed by using sustainability index based on Human Development Index given by UNDP (1990). This study has found out that, economically, 80 per cent of the hill districts were moderately sustainable and 75 per cent of the valley districts were sustainable.

Ecologically, all the hill districts were sustainable and half of the valley districts were moderately sustainable. In terms of social sustainability, all the hill districts and 75 per cent of the valley districts were moderately sustainable. This shows that, in terms social and ecological sustainability, hill districts performed better than valley districts. But it was reverse in case of economic sustainability. In terms of overall sustainability, 60 per cent of the hill and 75 per cent of the valley districts were in moderately sustainable category and remaining 40 per cent of the hill and 25 per cent of the valley districts were in sustainable category. The hill districts over performed the valley districts in terms of overall sustainability which was due to better ecological sustainability of the hill districts. Hence, importance of ecological sustainability can be overlooked in the name development.

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## **Developing Rural Women Entrepreneurs - A Study Of Women Shgs Of Balasore, Odisha**

Sharmila Tamang\*

India is a home of largest banking financial system in the world. In spite of having large number of commercial, cooperatives, RRBs and Post - offices, India's half of the population do not have access to basic financial services. The non included or the person not having any account with banks or financial institutions are mostly from poor and vulnerable section of society constituting farmers, daily labour, self employed person and women.

In Odisha, 52.2 percent of farmer households are financially excluded and out of the total rural population of three crores only ninety two lakh rural population has bank account in the state. Moreover, women account holders in the state were mere 29.36 lakhs as against their population of over 2 crores.

The current study shows the development of rural women through SHGs activities financed by formal financial institutions. The study is executed over 2 Community development blocks of Balasore district of Odisha including 60 WSHGs members. In addition of highlighting their socio economic status attempts have been made to show the SHGs contribution in availing the benefits of financial inclusion, autonomous business option, entrepreneurship development, capacity building through training and changes in economic and social environment of sample households lives.

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## **Poverty Alleviation And Women Empowerment Through Tourism Development**

Priyakrushna Mohanty\*

Anu Chandran

The present paper attempts to bridge the prevailing gap in the current academic literature and build the theoretical constructs drawing upon tourism industry's potential to serve as a panacea to plug the problems related to poverty and gender inequality. This paper assimilates the leads and reflections highlighted in the path breaking academic works which are mostly scattered and provide some pragmatic dimensions. Certain case studies which underscore the initiatives in the realm of tourism for poverty alleviation and solution driven approaches through women empowerment has been reviewed to showcase the ability of tourism to solve the problems especially in the underdeveloped and developing regions. The extent to which the linkages between tourism, poverty alleviation and women empowerment can complement sustainable development endeavors are examined in the work.

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## **Raising Inequalities And Inter-State Disparities In India**

Ramesh Kolleti\*

Economic growth is only a process, an intermediate target of public policy-an inevitable means to achieve certain predetermined ends. Unless it leads to substantial economic and social development, growth does not make any sense. i.e. besides enhancing living standard and welfare for the entire population, the growth process must help solve inter-regional disparities. A great deal of interstate variation in growth performance and widening of disparities in per capita income of many states and rising inequalities in respect of so many variables/ indicators, have been observed by many reputed authors. They bear testimony to the fact that neo liberal economic order, has been hostile towards poor illiterate, and disadvantaged. Our paper tries to depict this scenario in the present India context.

Nearer home, in the Asian region, South Asia has suffered from rising poverty and growing inequalities. While China has been attempting to tackle it, with authoritarian regime, India, the largest democratic country is struggling to come to grips with all kinds of economic and social inequalities, despite its high growth profile in the last decade.

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## **Women Employment In Rural Punjab: The Post-Reform Scenario**

Jaskaran Singh\*

Punjab, the only Indian state, was named as food bowl of India after green revolution and recorded tremendous agricultural growth in seventies and eighties. But this achievement looks fade in terms of female participation in economic activities and even this remarkable growth in agriculture sector brought sharp decline of female work participation in farm-sector because of socio-economic reasons and mechanisation of agriculture. In nineties when major economic reforms were introduced in Indian economy, major sectoral shift was noticed in employment which resulted rapid shrink in number of agricultural workers in the state. Main objectives of the present study are: (i) to investigate recent trends in composition of rural employment in the state and position of female workforce in this new employment opportunities, (ii) to analyse gender disparities in rural employment of Punjab. To analyse growth compound annual growth rate was measured, gender gap was measured between proportions of male and female workers and differentials were calculated to estimate variation among employment categories in rural areas between male and female worker.

To show intra- state disparities district level composition of rural workers was also analysed. Whole study is based on Census data and 68th round of NSSO has been used which was conducted in 2011 to apportion the total rural workers of Punjab as per censes 2011 into various categories. Now when the economy of the state shifting from agriculture to non-agriculture sectors as for employment opportunities are concerned, equal participation of women and men in all economic activities becomes very important in rural area also. But the census 2011 figures do not present a significant situation for the gender equality in work participation in Punjab.

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## **Pollution Control Boards In Controlling Water Pollution: A Study Of Punjab**

Anu\*

The words like climate change, sustainable development and environment protection have gained wide accepted currency in recent times in wake of failure of global economic models to produce equitable and sustainable growth worldwide. Water pollution is one among other kind of pollution present serious challenge to all relevant stakeholders. India being developing nation-state is not an exception to such challenges.

India has a decentralized administrative structure in place to promote cleanliness of streams and wells in different areas of the States by prevention, control and abatement of water pollution, and to improve the quality of air and to prevent, control or abate air pollution in the country. The effectiveness of pollution control boards have been in question for long due to host of reasons. The Namami Gange Program started by Central Government for rejuvenating Ganga River speaks volume of about the effectiveness existing administrative machinery to deal with this serious problem. The present paper is focusing on the role and function performed by these bodies especially e working of Punjab Pollution Control Board with special emphasis on industrial areas. It is discussed on the basis of available secondary data. Given the small area of state and pretty small number of rivers the PPCB has to deal with, the efficiency of PPCB needs to be measured. There is need to ensure that these boards just not become one more government machinery which only give permissions to set any low or high level polluted industry in state . They must ensure that the element of social accountability is also percolated through their regulatory and preventive measures. Only then they fulfil the condition of being labeled as efficient decentralized machinery for dealing with river water pollution.

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## **Goods And Services Tax, Centralization And Marginalization**

Sandeep Kumar\*

The present paper highlights the increasing tendencies of centralization of power and marginalization under the grab of GST. The Constitutional (122nd Amendment) Bill, 2014 passed by both the houses of the Parliament and the rat race among states to ratify, is being hailed by one and all, as the watershed movement in the history of Indian tax reform. The unanimous support for the GST cutting across party lines is being seen as an end of confrontational politics. The passage of GST bill is also a direct attack on democratic decentralization. It is against the very ethos of Constitutional spirit and overly touted “co-operative federalism”. Consequently, bargaining power of states and incentive-based development will be at the mercy of the central government. There exist verifiable evidences, which categorically establish inverse correlation among centralization of power, authoritarianism and marginalization. The empirical evidences and the experience of developed nations suggest that in any progressive society the share of direct tax should be far more than indirect taxes. Therefore, income and corporate tax must be the primary source of revenue.

The GST being an indirect tax will push the already sidelined downtrodden people to more disadvantageous position beyond redemption for years to come. It will reduce the income of people, thus, their purchasing power parity of people (especially subaltern people) will be adversely hit. There is imminent danger of losing the much-advertised tag of “demand driven” economy.

It is in this sense that GST is an autocratic and anti-people legislation. The GST is a project pushed by big corporate houses under neo-liberal design. It’s passage will increase the monopolistic power of big finance-capital. Consequently, MSME will feel suffocated, which is a labour intensive sector. It will augment already unsustainable jobless growth and resultantly widen the already trench of inequalities in income and regional disparities. The passage of GST unfortunately has herald an era of merger of corporate power with state power in more open and direct way.

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## **Educational Status Of Scheduled Castes: A Study Of Muktsar District, Punjab**

Rashpal Singh\*

Punjab has the highest proportion of SCs. The SC population in Punjab has also been growing at a rate much higher than the rest of the population. The present paper is an attempt to examine the contemporary reality of schooling of children belonging to Scheduled Castes in Punjab. The results of the study are based on primary data which has been collected from Muktsar district of Punjab at various levels of education. The results of the study reveal that the enrolment rate of Scheduled Castes in education is low as compared to other castes in Punjab. The analysis also points out the fact that students belonging to weaker sections, particularly Scheduled Castes of the society still facing wide range disparities at various levels of education.

Equal access to education has been at the core of public policies towards historically disadvantaged or non-dominant groups in both developed and developing countries. Among developing countries, India has had perhaps the longest history of affirmative action to counter caste and ethnic discrimination. It is also a well known fact that it is not education as such which determines one's position, rather it is the social existence of the people which determines accessibility to education. At the time of India's independence, weaker sections had significantly lower literacy and school enrolment rates as compared to the rest of the population.

In the post independence decades, constitutional provisions, policy thrusts in education as well as parental aspirations for the education of their children brought an increasing proportion of these children into schools. However, at the end of the past century, it was found that barely 48 percent of Dalit children had completed primary schooling. Even today, the vast majority 'drops out' from schools well before they complete eight years of education. The forms of structural discrimination and abuse that Dalit students face is one major cause of their dropping out from school. Several incidents have occurred in institutions of primary, secondary and higher education where discrimination is practiced by upper-caste students, teachers, faculties, and administrations.

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## **Project On Rural Sustenance: Community Perceptions From The Beas Valley**

Tanveer Kaur\*

Snow fed rivers of Himachal Pradesh are essential for life sustenance of people in the region. Since long, these water resources have been catering to the needs of local communities in terms of water availability, agriculture, wheat grinding and religious rituals. However, these rivers and streams are diverted from their natural course of flow for the generation of electricity through the introduction of hydroelectric power projects. Undoubtedly these dams have played a stellar role in the economic development of many regions, but it has also resulted in altered ecosystem, affected wildlife and caused unrest amongst the locals.

The fragile nature of topography combined with large scale human intervention has further catalyzed the occurrence of various natural hazards such as landslides, flash floods and soil erosion. This limits their livelihood options and further aggravates the situation by exposing these communities to the threat of marginalization and poverty. It thus makes it imperative to analyze such impacts on the environment and the locals.

The present study focuses mainly on Parbati Stage Hydro Power Project which falls within the Kullu District of Himachal Pradesh. Since this project has been delayed by a total of nine years, a perception survey of the local communities is carried out, analyzing the reasons for the delay in the execution of the project and its effect on the locals, utilization of the compensation received, green economy expressing their dependence on the natural resources and frequent natural hazards damaging the biotic and abiotic components of the ecosystem.

The villages under sample study are selected in accordance with close proximity of the reservoir. Besides primary data, secondary data in this regard were an incessant source of information that strengthened the primary data. Received data was then codified and interpreted by applying appropriate statistical tools. The hydropower project can prove to be a true boon, if the implementation of such projects is undertaken with a holistic approach, assuring complete and transparent participation of the natives.

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## **Journey Of Woman From Point Zero Towards The Tiger Ladies**

Sundus Quyoom\*

Females across the globe are being marginalized and are always considered to be a secondary sex to their male counterparts. Even though feminism is a hot topic across the world but still females are being subjugated on the basis of gender. This marginalization of females is not restricted to physical pain but mental pain as well. The paper in this paper is trying to build a bridge between the marginalization done to females living in two completely different parts of the world; one in Kashmir (India) in the book *The Tiger Ladies* by Sudha Koul and the other in Egypt in the book *Woman at Point Zero* by Nawal El Saadawi. The two books shows different types of female discrimination done to the main female protagonists depending upon the region they belong to, but still what connects them is the pain which they suffers in the form of gender discrimination.

The paper is trying to explore that no matter of what region, religion or race woman belongs to, she has to suffer just because she is born with the tag of a woman. The researcher will not only show the subjugation but the emancipation of the main female characters of these two books. The researcher will use comparative and analytical methodology for this research paper. Even though these two books show the marginalization of women but in the end the protagonists opposed to their discrimination and got emancipated. So, basically these are inspirational books to help women to stop being passive and work for their emancipation.

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## **Women Empowerment: Ensuring Right To Water And Sanitation**

Anuja Mishra\*

The important objectives of the present study are, a) to examine the water and sanitation facility of Bandarsindri Village, Rajasthan., b) to explore the crime rates against women due to water & sanitation issues., c) to find out some innovative suggestions to meet out this awful situation of women.

The paper is based on the studies conducted in Bandarsindri Village of Ajmer District, Rajasthan. Though above literature has made it clear that the water and sanitation is a part of women empowerment at grass-root level. The responsibility and social behavior towards women related to household work kept them far from the decision making process. The millennium development goal which includes Water and Sanitation as an objective can only be achieved when these basic facilities are given to each household.

Improper supply of water and sanitation facilities is violently increasing the risks of various crimes against women. Without access to a toilet, women are vulnerable not only to physical, sexual but also psychological or emotional violence. It is social discrimination and economic exclusion of women from dignified society.

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## **Mahathma Gandhi NREGS: A Comparative Study Of Andhra Pradesh And Odisha**

Subhasmita Khuntia\*

The MGNREGA is distinguished in itself not only for its economic consequences elevating the purchasing capacity of the rural poor, but also for its socio-political prospects empowering the marginalized to actively partake in the gram sabha and social audit of the implementation of the programme. However the conduct of social audit has not been uniform across the country as many states still lag behind in having an effective social audit.

In this backdrop, it is imperative to assess and compare the quality of the implementation of MGNREGA in the states conducting effective social audit (Andhra Pradesh) with the states in which social audit has not been effective (Odisha). Besides, it would discuss the various challenges confronted in the whole process of implementation of MGNREGA and its social audit, with ultimate focus on policy recommendations. Thus the present paper intends; a) to evaluate the impact of social audit on the quality of implementation of MGNREGA., b) to ascertain the changes that social audit has caused in the socio-economic lives of the rural poor., c) to see whether social audit has raised the level of awareness of the people or not., d) to find out the impact of social audit on the participation of people in Gram sabha and decision-making process.

The achievements of social audit so far would be expressly discussed along with focus on the challenges confronted in the process of achieving the desired goal through social audit. This segment will highlight certain measures to be adopted to improve the social audit followed with policy recommendations in this regard.

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## **Psychosocial Intervention And Quality Life: A Sociological Analysis Of Hiv Positive Children**

T. Murugesan\*

The present paper describes the relationship between psychosocial factors and health related quality of life among HIV-positive children using items from the Medical Outcomes Study, HIV Health Survey to measure physical functioning, mental health and overall quality of life. Women with larger social support networks reported better mental health and overall quality of life of child. Women who practiced more self-care behaviors (healthy diet and vitamins, adequate sleep and exercise, and stress management) reported better physical and mental health and overall quality of life children.

An exploratory design was used in this study to find the relationship between psychosocial intervention and quality of life of positive Children in Madurai. Although the HIV infected people registered in Government Hospitals were high, it was difficult to find children among them. This is because of the prevailing high stigma associated with HIV/AIDS compounding multiple times when they are into sex trade. Therefore, the NGOs in the field implementing interventions for children were approached to find HIV infected children. 10% of sampling the researcher selected for total sampling. Every 10th person collected data, totally 50 respondents for the study.

The study reveals that even their own family members don't accept the affected people to be closely associated with them. It is purely because of misconception and the low level of awareness and myths which are away from reality. The inference drawn from the analysis is that none of the respondents were self consoled or confident in leading the remaining life happily.

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## **Political Exclusion Of Dalit In Local Self Governance: A Sociological Analysis**

D. Thirumalraja \*

The practice of caste-based exclusion and discrimination involves failure of access and entitlements to use Sen's words not only to economic rights, but also to civil, cultural and political rights. It involves what has been described as 'living mode exclusion', exclusion from political participation and exclusion from civil rights. Caste and ethnicity based exclusion thus reflects the inability of individuals and groups to interact freely and productively with others and to take part in the full political life of a community. In this context, the present study tries,

a) to examine the demographic profile of the respondents, b) to analyze the nature and extent of political exclusion of Dalit, c) to identify to what extent does Government policies help in overcoming the political exclusion of Dalits, d) to formulate policy measures for the social inclusion of Dalits for sustainable development.

Madurai district of Tamil Nadu has been selected for this study. Because more prevalent of social and political exclusion and caste based discriminations existing in selected district of Tamil Nadu. Social exclusion addresses the political nature of deprivation, in that it examines the links between people's lack of citizenship status and their levels of poverty. This often means that not all individuals are equal before the law, and that they do not all have the same access to public goods supplied by the state. Political aspects of exclusion can include the lack of political rights, such as political participation and the right to organise; alienation from or lack of confidence in political processes; and lack of freedom of expression and equality of opportunity.

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## **Marginalization And Livelihood Problem: Irulas Of Nilgiri District, Tamil Nadu**

M. Thamilarasan\*

The Irula tribe of the Nilgiris lives in the dark jungles of the lower elevation of the mountains. This might be one of the reasons that this tribe is called as Irulas which means 'one who comes from the darkness'. The main objectives of the present study to understand the socio-cultural practices, income generation, employment activities and marginalization, traditional livelihood system and its transition due to urbanization, deforestation, commercial agriculture activities and awareness of Irulas tribe on government tribal welfare policies, programmes and their level of participation.

Among the six primitive tribal groups (PTGs) in Nilgiri district namely Todas, Paniyas, Kurumbas, Kotas, Kattunayakkas and Irulas, Irulas are more vulnerable and marginalized group of people due to their primitive social system, way of life, livelihood pattern, urbanization, commercialization, deforestation, science and technology. The process of marginalization has been witnessed from several decades of socio- economic backwardness and problem of livelihood. The present study brought out their candid problem of livelihood through empirical fieldwork conducted among Irulas of Nilgiri District of Tamil Nadu

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## **Solid Waste Management: A Sociological Study In Chennai**

John Rajadurai P.\*

In Chennai the life and environment of the people is badly affected by dumping of waste. On the one hand the waste generates Toxic Gases that are inflammable on the other hand the Decomposition of waste releases toxic liquid called Leachate, which is affecting the ground water with poisonous chemicals and harmful bacteria and viruses and also destroying crops and vegetation of adjoining areas.

The objective of the study is to examine the effects on natural environment affecting the residents surrounding the garbage dumping areas and polluted water bodies due to the waste analysing the physio-psychological state and Socio-economic condition due to various Health hazards of people near the Garbage dumping areas.

The study suggested and concluded that awareness of waste segregation from household level to be initiated through prevention of the production of waste; by reducing, reusing and recycling the waste, regular and proper collection of waste which reduces the heaping of Garbage attracting insects & leading to spreading of diseases with sophisticated mode of transportation by Government Agencies. The government should emphasize strict rules and regulation in preserving Land and Waterbodies from solid waste dumping.

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## **Improper Waste Management In Chennai: A Critical Societal Exploration**

Menaka S.\*

The city of Chennai faces a vicious problem related to Land with its degradation due to garbage landfills and degradation and depletion of water resources due to improper dumping of solid waste and release of sewage effluents and toxic wastes. It is found that Chennai's recent flood was brought on by climate change, and that such extreme weather events are going to increase in frequency and impact. Chennai face another potential disaster in the form of a public health crisis.

The present study is an attempt to examine causes and types of man made disaster due to improper waste management, Psycho – Social, economic and health status of family residing in and around places affected due to Human/ Industrial Waste.

The study emphasises on awareness of reduction, recycling, and reusing of the waste within each household, also emphasising on administrating the waste management by the Government and local bodies in an effective and productive manner in converting waste to energy. The authorities have to check, mend and create new sewage cannels and block untreated effluents to enter water bodies and Land. The research also states that the storm water drain should be de-silted and every effluent entering other than rain water should be monitored to minimise Flood related disasters. Also it urges to dispose waste in a confined manner with no or minimal Pollution of air, water and land.

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## **Climatic Variables And Malaria Surveillance: Ramanathapuram District, Tamilnadu**

Katturajan K.\*

Mosquito-borne diseases particularly malaria is becoming most dreaded health problems in the Coastal Blocks of Ramanathapuram District, Tamilnadu, India. In Coastal Blocks of Ramanathapuram District, malaria is seasonal and unstable, causing frequent epidemics. For transmission of malaria parasite, climatic factors are important determinants such as rain fall, temperature relative humidity and wind that can negate climatic influences. In this background the present paper is aimed to find out the effect of climatic factors such as temperature, rainfall, relative humidity and wind on malaria incidence with particular emphasis to capture the essential events.

A set of transmission windows typical to India have been developed, in terms of different temperature ranges for a particular range of relative humidity, by analysing the present climate trends and corresponding malaria incidences. El Nino years were used to find out the relationship between the climatic variables and the incidence of malaria. Occurrence of El Nino may be a alarm for taking precautions. The climatic variables such as temperature, rain fall, humidity and wind speed correlate with incidence of malaria in the Coastal Blocks of Ramanathapuram District.

Climatic factors such as temperature, rainfall, relative humidity and wind are play major role on outbreak of malaria especially in the costal block of Ramanathapuram district of Tamil Nadu. More rainfall and El Nino years are becoming a alarm for precautions practice for the administrators. So this study may help administrators to take necessary action to control the malaria incidence.

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## **Social Exclusion Of Gujjar Tribes: Anantnag, Jammu And Kashmir**

Javaid Ahmad Rather\*

Social exclusion describes the process by which certain groups are systematically disadvantaged because they are discriminated against on the basis of their ethnicity, race, religion, caste, gender, disability etc. social exclusion have become the central focus in India today. India is home to tribal population of about 85 million, with more than 700 groups each with their distinct cultures, social practices, religions, dialects and occupations and are scattered in all States and Union Territories in India.

The scheduled tribes are the most socially, economically and educationally disadvantaged, marginalized and excluded groups in our country. The wide-spread discrimination against scheduled groups has long histories in India. The Constitution of India had recognized tribal population as weaker section of society based on their socio-economic backwardness and the age-old social discrimination and physical isolation that they had been subjected to. The Gujjar and Bakerwal tribes form the third largest ethnic group in Jammu and Kashmir after Kashmiri and Ladakhi constitutes 11.9 per cent of the total population of the state and 1.3 per cent of total tribal population of the country. They are nomadic, practice transhumance or seasonal migration with their livestock. The Gujjars mainly raise buffaloes and are pastoral in Jammu and Kashmir. Hence, they live mostly in primitive conditions, suffering from dismal poverty, illiteracy, political marginalization, backwardness etc. These Scheduled Tribes experience passive indifference that takes the form of exclusion from economic, political, educational opportunities and social participation. They are lacking the basic facilities of food, shelter, healthcare, education etc. most of the tribal hamlets in the farflung areas are yet to be electrified and are without road connectivity.

The present study is an attempt to depicts these conclusions with empirical support from the field. Our study gathers data from both primary as well as secondary sources was used. The primary data was collected from 420 household of four villages in Anantnag district by using stratified sampling method with the help of interview schedules. With this background, the purpose of this paper is (i) to examine the exclusion of Gujjar tribes from social respects and economic benefits. (ii) To access the awareness about the different welfare programmes among these tribals.

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## **Women Empowerment And Education In Jammu And Kashmir**

Mohd UMmer Jan Padder\*

M.P. Shanmugam†

The empowerment of woman has become one of the most important concerns of 21st century not only national level but also at the international level. But practically woman empowerment is still an illusion. About one –third of India’s population is currently functionally illiterate and about 50 per cent of entire adult female population cannot read and write. Empowerment is a process through which a woman is able to have the ability to make choices and decisions. This paper discusses the empowerment of women through education in Jammu and Kashmir. Woman education in Jammu and Kashmir has been core preoccupation of both center and state government as educated women can play a very significant role in the development of the country. Women education not only helps in the development of half human resources, but improving the quality of life at home and outside. Educated women not only tends to encourage education to their girl children, but also can provide better guidance to all their children and also helps in the reduction of infant mortality rate and growth of population. The government has announced various schemes of education such as Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, Kasturba Balika Vidyalaya, Mahila Samakhya etc in the state to uphold women empowerment through education for the upliftment of economic, social and political status of woman. Women empowerment involves the building up of a society, a political environment wherein women can breathe without fear of oppression, exploitation, anxiety and discrimination.

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## **MGNREGS And Dalit Women Empowerment In Madurai District**

P. Sathya\*

Dalits are the oppressed and most backward communities in Tamilnadu, India centuries. Women of these Dalit communities mostly illiterate and unskilled and live a life of most social backwardness, poverty and misery. A majority of the dalit women in rural areas of the country depend mainly on the wages they earn through unskilled labour. They are often on threshold levels of subsistence and are vulnerable to the possibility of sinking from transient to chronic poverty. While mgnrega with its rights- based approach within the design has “a space for the marginalized to exercise their rights. Mahatma Gandhi Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) in India one such social protection program MGNREGA has been much appreciated a social protection program as it has the potential to reach out to the most “needy” economic and social groups of the country. MGNREGA- one of the rural development program. It aims at enhancing livelihood security of households in rural areas of the country by providing at least one hundred days of guaranteed wage employment household whose adult members volunteer to do unskilled manual work. It has become a powerful instrument for inclusive growth in rural India through is impact on social protection livelihood security and democratic governance. Planning Commission (2008) conducted a survey in 20 states to study the impact of MGNREGA. The results showed a shift of low income groups (about 50%) towards high income category, significant increase in the expenditure on food and non-food items (6%) and change in the expenditure pattern, procurement of livestock (68%) and household articles (42%) and initiation of savings for the first time (2%), clearing of outstanding loans were some of the positive impacts of MGNREGA on rural households. The present paper will attempt to Understanding the impact of MGNREGA a the empowerment of Dalit women, To examine the impact of MGNREGA on the upliftment of the Dalit women. The methodology adopted in this paper is descriptive and is based on primary as well as secondary data.

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## **Exclusion Of Yanadi Tribe In Nellore, Telengana**

Kakani Madhava\*

This paper highlights the lives of the Yanadi tribes facing discrimination particularly in the fields of education, health and their exclusions from the political, economic, cultural and social spheres. This study tries to understand the socio-economic and cultural conditions of the Yanadi tribes in past and present in a comparative manner. It also deals with the relationship of this Yanadi community with the other mainstream society around them.

The Yanadi tribe lives by constructing huts at outskirts of villages, public places, field embankments, tanks and canal bunds and rarely surrounded various high-caste households especially those of agriculture. This community has been engaged in utmost dirty and disrespected jobs/works like scavengers, cleaning human wastage, cleaning roads, begging, and fishing. It is just because they belong to Yanadi tribe and moreover, most of them work for food instead of for money. Still, Yanadi tribes are leading semi-nomadic existing and they have been denied opportunities both in education and employment.

The following research questions are used to guide to write a paper, the questions are like. What extent the caste system and exclusion prevailed in the country even after 67 years of independence? What are the situation and social position of Yanadi tribe in Andhra Pradesh in present scenario? In how many ways the Yanadi tribes have been facing exclusion from the main stream society in Nellore district? The following objectives are used to analyze for the better understanding of Yanadi tribe to understand the concept of social exclusion in India. To examine the socio-economic profile of Yanadi tribe in Andhra Pradesh.

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## **Dalit Women And Political Participation: Local Bodies Of Telangana**

Ramachandraiah M.\*

Women's participation in mainstream political activity has important implications for the broader arena of governance in any country. Direct political participation of Dalit women in local governance is a central human right in itself and enables the realization of a host of other human rights. Caste has played an instrumental role in raising issues related to the more marginalized among women. In a highly hierarchical society, women belonging to the lower castes have lesser access to public fore, which is compounded by their gender. This exclusion makes it difficult for these women to represent and articulate the voices of their constituencies and their demands are often overlooked or subsumed by the dominant sections of the society. Recent legal and policy reforms in India to ensure the representation of marginalized social groups in decentralized governance, including Dalits and specifically Dalit women through constitutionally mandated reservations in Panchayat Raj institutions bring these issues to the fore. The present paper discusses to study the extent of participation of Dalit women elected representative in local bodies of Mahaboob Nagar in Telangana state.

Women's empowerment is one of the core objectives of the Panchayat in India. Women in India are awfully underrepresented in political institutions. The political power, access to decision making and authority are the critical prerequisites for women's equality in the process of nation building. It is a significant step in the political history of independent India. They demand analysis to determine, that the way dalit women are enabled to claim their right to political participation in local governance, and the extent to which this participation is an effective tool for empowerment and realization of human rights for excluded social groups. In particular, to make an impact at the policy planning and program administration level in each and every locality of our vast country.

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## **Caste As Social Capital Formation: A Study On Micro & Small Enterprises In India**

Matta Srinivas\*

Caste system being deep rooted in our social structure hierarchizes individuals and excludes them from any social interaction and also further impedes economic mobility. As per the National Sample Survey estimates, the percentage population of STs below Tendulkar Poverty line is about 45.3 %, for SC's its about 31.5% in 2011-12 whereas its mere 15% for 'others'. These statistics bring a crucial point that those communities that are socially privileged are economically privileged too. Thus Caste acts as a capital, a social capital.

It shows that caste embodies certain privileges in terms of accessibility and availability of resources. This social capital cumulatively has its effect on all other spheres thereby giving monopoly power to certain communities in all spheres of life and certain communities with none. The situation is the same even within the market economy. Market as an institution is said to be neutral as it emphasizes solely on efficiency. The situation also excludes certain communities altogether from markets. The present paper thus, deals with the following objectives: First, it tries to understand theoretically, caste as a social capital and its implications in the 'market'. Second, it tries to examine the Indian business sector particularly the India's Small, Medium and Micro Enterprises. For doing so, the paper relies on MSME Census to understand the characteristics of the enterprises established by lower caste communities in terms of age, ownership, profitability, sales, over time especially in the era of globalization. By doing so, this work seeks to understand the sustainability of those enterprises owned by lower caste communities. The paper seeks to examine if these channels exist so as to provide some scope for economic mobility. The paper also examines the presence of lower caste entrepreneurship in different industries be it growth oriented industries, cyclical industries, defensive or cyclical growth industries.

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## **Women Domestic Struggle For Life.- A Study In Hyderabad**

Errolla Srilatha\*

Behind every well-kept home and hearth are the unaccounted, unacknowledged and well-hidden efforts of domestic workers". Women domestics have their economic significance whether valued or not. It is particularly Women in this unorganized sector who constitute the core of weaker and marginalized sections.

The Objective of this paper is to highlight the status and problems of women domestics in unorganized sector. In this article, following aspects and issues will be discussed: a) Socio-economic status of Women Domestic, b) It is a subject of concern and investigation to analyze risky lives of unwanted daughters, c) The relationship between domestic workers and their employers.

This paper seeks to reflect that, if women domestics are so vulnerable in the society, why they have remained so and what can be done to help them? Women continue to be in marginal employment and acquire low level of skills, their contribution being largely "invisible". The concentration of poor women to take the occupation as women domestics is not due to their choice but because there is no other alternative for them and they are working all through their lives in such jobs. Women domestic workers often work under adverse conditions.

One of the major causes for increasing women taking up profession of domestic workers is the lack of opportunity in education, to acquire skills and training which could enable them for occupational shifts. Domestic workers are a section of working class. Still, they are not really recognized as workers. Therefore, there is a need for the government to ensure legal protection of domestic workers and also to execute and implement programmes and policies specifically addressing the problems of women domestics assuring social security to them so as to highlight social and humanitarian values in such a way as to acknowledge the domestic worker as a human being

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## **Development Intervention And Decentralisation: A Study Of Two Gram Panchayats, Dungarpur, Rajasthan**

Manish Vishnoi \*

Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRI's) is the key to development of rural areas communities of India. For PRIs to play effective role in rural development there is a need for devolution of powers. The 73rd Constitution Amendment Act and the 11th Schedule has mandates this devolution of powers. The litmus test success in implementing operative core of decentralisation is devolution of 3 Fs - Functions, Functionaries and Finance. Rajasthan has not done much devolution of policy in relation to functions, functionaries and finance.

This paper is an attempt at empirically studying the implementation of Backward Region Grant Fund Scheme (BRGF) in two gram panchayats of Dungarpur district in the state of Rajasthan. The scheme was implemented from 2006 -2012. This study has the following three aspects: a) presenting data on the works undertaken under BRGF in the two gram panchayats. b) assessing the BRGF works with reference to the removal of backwardness in the four gram panchayats and c) assessing the implementation of those works with reference to the exercise of powers by the gram panchayat.

Rajasthan has taken some steps in devolution of powers. Physical verification of BRGF assets indicates that assets have been created but the quality of the work is not very high. This provision is because local supervision was not very strong. This has implication on the devolution of powers to gram panchayats. Observation and discussion indicates that the Sarpanch is a key figure in decision making.

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## **Rural And Urban Local Self-Government: A Study In Tripura**

Jayanta Choudhury\*

Purbita Gupta†

Local Self-Government is one form of a decentralised system which is affected by the transfer of authority or responsibility for decision-making, management or resources allocation from higher level of government to its subordinate units. In every democratic society Local Self-Government has some part to play and in this context it is serving its role as a medium or a bridge between the system and people.

The Present paper is the eye-opening of Local Self-Government in Tripura where two types of legal frame of rural Local Self-Governments exist namely 6th Schedule Frame (Council areas that are governed by the provisions of 6th Schedule and Parts IX and IXA of the Constitution have not been extended so far) and National Frame (Non-Council area, covered under Parts IX and IXA of the Constitution). Urban Local Self-Government is also exists in the state and these all three distinct models of Local Self-Government are performing their role for economic and social development of people through enhancing people's participation in grassroots level.

The present study is descriptive in nature as it was based on secondary information; discusses overall status and differences of decentralised institutions in rural and urban Local Self-Government of Tripura, India.

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## **Tourism Development In Backward Areas: A Study Of Bishnupur, Manipur**

Shabina Hussain\*

Naushaba Naseem Ahmed†

Tourism industry can be a factor for the development of backward region where it has immense potential by offering diverse job opportunities to boost even the other economic activities. Economic activities include: transportation services, marketing system, accommodation services, communication system, entertainment, recreation and many more; and these are interlinked with the financial influx that supports the national income and increases the foreign exchange earnings.

The present study explores the attractiveness evaluation of nine tourist regions and examined the level of its supply at the destination by using observation method and schedule interview through visitors as respondents during field visit. Principal component analysis method has been used to analyze the determining factors of destination region and mean compare method has also been used. The finding of the study discovered the positive correlations between the demand and supply indicators; and provided the important implications for the development of robust tourism policies and promotional strategies.

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## **Climate Change And Its Impact: A Study Of North Indian Tea Growing Region**

Razia Bano\*

The problem of climate change has been felt by all over the countries. Climate change is an important environmental issue that impacts gradually over the Indian agricultural pattern especially on those crops that are dependent on consistent climatic condition like tea plantation. It impacts on the growth and production of tea because of mainly grown under rain fed mono cropping systems and weather conditions determine optimal growth. Changes in climate have socio economic impacts on the tea estates and plantations themselves as they meeting additional expenses to maintain production which cannot be addressed by increasing tea prices, if they want to compete in the international tea market.

The objective of this study is to show the declining trend in the terms of production and export in northern growing regions since last decade. The paper deals how and at what extent does climate change responsible on the declining trend. This paper is based on secondary data that has obtained from the various ministries report, magazines and online data sources whereas climatic data has been obtained from the metrological department. The analysis has been done with the help of statistical techniques such as correlation and percentage method, the results has been shown with the help of tables, graphical pictures and charts.

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## **Women Empowerment And Participation In Panchayati Raj: A Study Of Uttar Pradesh**

Faiza Nafees \*

Panchayati Raj came as a fillip to democratic institution in India. It was a process of decentralization or devaluation of power in local level mostly empowering of women in rural areas. As India has been a country of villages & mostly population residing in rural areas. So, the empowerment question was on anvil & the government of India with 73rd constitutional amendment act, which came into effect on 23rd April 1993 lead to a revolutionary step in that regard. This paper is an attempt to examine women empowerment in Panchayati Raj in Uttar Pradesh. This paper also emphasized on the various efforts of Indian government for the empowerment of women through Panchayati Raj Institutions.

With empowerment to the villages, another weaker section of the society that is women also found indirectly empowered through various schemes and training programmes. As rural women were mostly illiterate & has access to their rights & opportunities. The women also started participating in the activities of Panchayati Raj. Through active participation in Panchayati raj, now they are enable to eradicate their problems, ignorance and various issues related to women at rural level.

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## **Women's Initiative To Strengthen Panchayati Raj: A Study Of Shram- Jan Swaraj Abhiyan In Uttarakhand**

Ajay Kumar\*

Shankar Datt†

A Himalayan district Almora, in Uttarakhand, is being witnessed women's initiated Shram- Jan Swaraj Abhiyan (A campaign to strengthen Panchayati Raj) these days. In Uttarakhand, majority of male youth migrate to cities from the villages in search of employment, whereas women are left behind to cultivate the land and take care of the children and the older generation. As a result, the district is worstely affected with male outmigration. The situation brought about significant change in rural socio-economic structure and new status and roles are acquired. Shram-Jan Swaraj Abhiyan is also an outcome of the change. The Abhiyan is an initiative of a women's community based institution 'Creative Women Forum' to strengthen local self governance collectively. Abhiyan motivated rural women to unite and orgnize themselves in the 'Creative Women Forum' and working towards best democratic practices to strengthen Panchayati Raj. The paper assumes its importance in this background.

The Abhiyan has been contributing a significant role in strengthening Panchayati Raj system. The findings revealed that the situation of local self governance has improved as compare to base line. Two Gram Sabhas have already finalized their micro development plans and Gram Panchayats are negotiating with different government and non- government agencies to implement it.

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## **"Climate Change": A Study Of Local Perception And Adaptation In 'Debka Watershed' Of Uttarakhand**

Atithi Pant\*

Mountain communities are at the forefront of the battle against climate change with increased exposures and vulnerabilities of Mountains Ecosystem to weather extremes and indiscreet human actions, disasters become frequent in the area. Peoples from hills are migrating with an increasing rate towards the nearby urban centers due to limited livelihood options. Local resources including natural and socio-cultural, are lessening acutely. With these awful conditions it is becoming increasingly important to understand local knowledge, their perception to climate change and how these relate to resilience on managing the impacts of climate change (adaptation methods).

The present paper is based on all these aspects; identifying natural constraints in terms of changing weather conditions, its impact on local livelihood and local's perception about climate change. Three villages of Debka Watershed of Nainital district had been selected for study which are considered to be very sensitive in terms of climate change.

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## **Matriliny And Authority Relations: Experiences In Meghalaya**

Bhola Nath Ghosh\*

Social Scientists have questioned the dichotomous conceptions of Indian Society constructed during the colonial period. Though a distinction is maintained between 'Tribe' and 'Civilization', the two are treated as isolated but as being in interaction with each other. Tribal society has not been as static but as undergoing a process of change. Change has been conceived as moving in a number of directions.

The khasi tribe of Meghalaya is commonly known as matrilineal in which the parental lineage authority, title, inheritance, residence after marriage and succession are traced through women. So, it is presumed that they do not require any special effort to make them aware and get social, economic, political, psychological understanding and knowledge to establish their rights along with men in their society as they are automatically placed on an esteemed level.

The basic aim of the present study is to understand the transformation of khasi society. In this context, we are looking into the change in status of khasi women. The extent of continuity and discontinuity in their lives? What have been the advantages and disadvantages faced by women in these changed situation? Does attributing the society to be matrilineal accord the khasi Tribal women a high status? This is a misconception.

In the paper, we examined empowerment of rural tribal khasi women. We tried to examine, how much control a Khasi woman has over resources within and outside the family.

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## **Women In West Bengal: A Reflection From The Grassroots**

Sidhartha Sankar Laha \*

Gender and the empowerment of women had a prominent place in development discourse in India. The present paper is an attempt to analyze the status of women and their empowerment in terms of various indicators. The article discusses theoretical issues related to the measurement of women's empowerment, and describes findings from a recent study in the villages exploring the current salience of indicators. In the paper we discuss the types of social, economic, and political change that affect the measurement of women's empowerment; propose and explain a new set of indicators for the rural West Bengal setting; and discuss implications for measuring women's empowerment in other settings.

The main objective of this study is to know the prominence of women's empowerment and their socioeconomic status in West Bengal in the background of various socio-economic variables. Government has undertaken a number of steps the situation has remained gloomy mainly because the educated women are not forward looking and cherish the baseless age old customs. There is a need to create awareness towards achieving the desired goal of women empowerment in the state.

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## **Marginalisation And Degradation Of Life Strategy Of Tribal Women In Kerala- A Focus To Attappady Tribal Block**

Haseena V.A.\*

The indigenous population of the nation, known as Adivasi or scheduled tribes (STs), is among the poorest, vulnerable and most marginalized groups of the nation. Most of them remain at the lowest stratum of the society due to various factors like geographical and cultural isolation, low levels of literacy, primitive occupations and extreme levels of poverty. Health is a prerequisite for Human development and wellbeing of a community. The intensity of the malnutrition and related health problems are some of the most important issues facing the country. So the worst part of the victims will become the marginalised section of women and children. It is shocking to note that Kerala – a state with the remarkable achievements in human, and social (health) indicators – has excluded the tribal groups from its so-called achievements. So the basic facilities for Health and education itself are not inclusive for the tribal's at the time of emergency. For instance, more than 60 tribal infant/children died due to the combined impacts of loss of indigenous food items, poor public distribution system, unavailability of alternate nutritious food and the loss of employment opportunities, which led to widespread starvation along with high malnutrition and related health problems in the past 24 months in Attappady, the only tribal block in the state of Kerala. The livelihood of tribal people is closely and inseparably connected with the system of management of the forest by the state. The traditional livelihood system of tribal people has been based on shifting cultivation and collection of edible forest produce. Such a system was rendered sustainable by a level and pattern of utilisation of land and forest resources, which ensured their self-generating capacity. Development destroys their traditional, social, economic and cultural structures without offering better alternative systems. Tribals in general and those of Attappady in particular, are most backward among the under privileged groups in Kerala. Land, mostly forests, is the important natural resource and is under different uses, ranging from shifting cultivation to sedentary agriculture. Forest is not only a source of food, fuel and fodder, but also a part of their culture. A progressive decline of vegetative cover and loss of top soil due to unscientific management has had a disastrous impact, especially on watersheds and productivity of the soil. Added to this, encroachment by settlers and imposition of their cultivation practices has created a crisis in resource allocation in tribal settlements. Land degradation and marginalisation are interconnected phenomena which are threatening the entire life-support system of tribal communities in Attappady. Massive deforestation, land

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aquisition by settlers, progressive acculturation have all played a significant role in this matter. The life of the tribals especially who are residing in the interior tribal hamlets are deprived heavily even without a touch of notice.

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## **NREGA'S Mission Drift? Rigmarole Of Works On Individual Land**

Amal Mandal\*

The statutory guarantee of an open ended employment for the villagers and the comprehensive mandate and methodology all make the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) (hereafter only NREGA) sui generis. Notwithstanding the avowed objective of providing at least 100 days of work on demand, if the guarantee clause is accepted as the end-in-itself it is likely to be self-defeating truism. Mere man-days are likely to have trifling little influence on employment generation. Unless NREGA leads the Indian rural economy to labour intensive growth path through creation of durable and sustainable assets, the very programme will face overload of demands and will encounter constraints of unwarranted nature and scale. The ultimate success of NREGA is likely to hinge on the possible self-limiting nature of demand for works. While the policy has been harping on creation of durable assets, expanding the quantum of permissible works and the governing norms are affording project works on individual land of more and more groups like small and marginal farmers, the Gram Panchayats are preferring project works on individual land (Category IV in MIS database) – not less than 60-70 percent of total annual works at least in Bengal. Such a trend cannot evade few critical question like; what are the underlying motive for such inclination; what are the types of such projects being implemented; how are the beneficiaries selected; whether and what 'support services' are being provided; what are the survival rates (as in plantation) and what are the economic impacts on the livelihood of the beneficiaries concerned.

Though the debate over relative advantages of public (community) assets and private (individual level) assets remain inconclusive, it is unequivocal that public assets benefit more people, cover broader swath, serve larger social purposes and offer higher investment return. Private assets, on the other, are relatively well nurtured, maintained and contribute more to sustainable livelihood. However, the gut issue is how far individual level assets should receive eminence over public assets. Grounding on the secondary as well as primary data and information, this paper explores the nature, dimensions and outcome of NREGA works on individual land - otherwise known as IBS (individual benefit scheme) - in the select Gram Panchayats of Bengal and delves into their transient nature, political prevarication and ambivalent impact on livelihood option.

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## **Changing The Landscape Through MGNREGS – A Study From West Bengal**

Chanchal Kumar Mandal\*

The MGNREGA provides the multiple objectives of providing guaranteed employment to rural people for their earning and generating productive asset having durability for livelihood security in the rural area. It is a stellar example of rural development as per UNDP report (2014). Type of infrastructure to be created for the livelihood resource base in the villages falls under D category of the prescribed asset under the act.

Under this backdrop the present study aims at evaluating the nature of works undertaken for creation of infrastructure which contributing the economic prosperity of the Grampanchyat. Bhubanipur Grampanchyat under Debra block in the district of West Midnapur has been taken for the study. The primary and secondary data are gathered from the survey of the household as well as from the office of the Gram panchyat. The periods of study are taken from 2013-14 to 2015-16. The study reveals that the Grampanchyat concentrates mainly on the construction of Road connectivity, Restoration of moram and kancha road to the extent 35 percent but other areas are receiving least attention. Yet scenario of rural picture is getting a new shape. Opportunities exist for creation of other aspect of the infrastructure where GP can explore his capability in order to achieve the goal. In the light of the weakness observed during survey some proposals have been submitted.

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## **Reproductive Health Status And Poverty: A Study In Bengal Dooars**

Subhasis Bhattacharya\*

The present study based on a survey results on Western Dooars (Bengal Dooars) and try to identify the variables of reproductive health status which influence poverty. The methods based on groupings like early childbearing, maternal mortality and morbidity, unwanted or unintended pregnancy and large family size. The poverty linkage with reproductive health status analysed as an economic effects of an ailment episode on a household and by calculating out-of-pocket expenditure during such episode. The study based on two stage purposive sampling. One is selection of blocks and other is selection of village. In case of block selection female illiteracy considered as an indicator and in case of village selection the distance factor from the highest health facilities of the block is considered as another indicator.

The study reveals that the cyclic relation between poor reproductive health and poverty make the situation more intricate. The study added that pregnancy related death and disabilities are more severe for the Scheduled Tribe women in compare to common. Early childbearing and large family size reduces the monthly per-capita expenditure (MPCE) level. The infant mortality rate is also high among younger mothers. The income constraint and proximities of the service providing centres increases the dependence on unqualified practitioners and the nexus between rural unqualified practitioners and drug suppliers turns the simple ailments into a complex one. The study found both the forward linkage effect and backward linkage effect are remain powerful to explain the nexus between poor reproductive health status and poverty in the study area.

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## **A Study On Forest Management In West Bengal With Emphasis On Forest Rights Act**

Subhandu Patra\*

The aim of this paper is to investigate the effectiveness of decentralization in forest management in West Bengal, an eastern State of India. Forest has been played an imperative role in the livelihood of tribal people in India. Thus effective forest management is therefore has the prospective to convey significant economic benefits, especially to some of the marginalized groups in India.

The decentralization of Indian forest policy enacted with introduction of National Forest Policy of 1988 and after that Joint Forest Management of 1990 was consider as milestone in transferring forest rights to local communities. Despite all these efforts to ensure local people rights over forest resources, the scenario is not much improving. Struggle for livelihood rights of forest based tribal communities is continuing in different parts of the country. The present paper seeks to incorporate an empirical study on the impact of decentralization in forest management in West Bengal through the implementation of Forest Rights Act, 2006, as the act emerge as an crucial platform to give forest rights to the tribal's of India. The main objective of this paper is to investigate the practice of decentralization in forest management through the experiences of the local people. It will also examine the role of State government in decentralization of forest; it would identify the burdens that prevent successive implementation of forest decentralization.

Data for this paper were collected from ethnographic fieldwork in two villages of Paschim Midnapore district in West Bengal and from secondary sources like academic journals, various reports etc. The study argued that decentralization of forest in West Bengal is in very pitiable condition. The State is trying to retain its authority over forest rather decentralizing it. Lack of willingness and proper monitoring is some of the cause that prevents consecutive decentralization even after the introduction of Forest Rights Act.

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## **Patha Bhavana A Century Old Practice Of Child Rights In Education**

Amitabha Mukherjee \*

Teaching in Poets School the Patha Bhavana, proposing an educational idea outrageously new, being the product of daring inexperience<sup>1</sup> of the Poet laureate, demanded for the difference in genre of teachers for realization. The mentors concern in de-learning and re-learning, outrageously looks for shift in the conventional idea of a teacher, that is critiqued in the contemporary literature by Foucaultian rational of authoritative power in the classroom partitioned by colonizer/power centre and the victim.<sup>2</sup>

“I believe that we still have this true to a great extent. It is difficult owing to the fact that my colleagues with whom I have to work are brought up in a different manner, not having the same chance as I had to play truant when they were young and give up their school-days. They have their own ideas about education, and it is difficult wholly to get rid of them. And so something alien of the central ideal does creep into this institution through those who are there to help me. I had in the beginning to struggle very hard with my teachers, not with the students, as very often happens in other schools. But I had to take sides with the boys when they were punished for no fault of their own, but that of their teachers. I had to be firm and defend the boys, which offended my teachers. I tried my best to have some aspect in the school which they did not have in their orthodox schools. The teachers shared the common life with the boys it was a community life. In the sports and festivals the teachers and the students fully co-operated with each other. It was not like a cage in which the birds are fed from the outside, but it was like a nest which students themselves co-operated in building up with their own life, with their love, with their daily work and their plays. My School (Moscow, 1930)

And the tradition still continues even after 74 years of the mentors demise and our paper is an illustration of this experience. Such a system naturally seeks for a basis, a fixed foundation that is rather an issue worth investigating. Otherwise, every educational idea based on fixed foundation seeks for a society with a set of fixed foundation as a rule. Rabindranaths seeking for a society is an agenda with his idea of education too, but that is a futuristic projection of time. The contemporariness and the effectiveness of the system is yet another question dealt with here.

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## **Development And Participation: Reflection From Tribal Villages Of West Bengal**

Debatra Kr. Dey\*

In rural West Bengal, the average proportion of tribal population is 8% with high concentration in western and northern parts of the state. In spite of implementation of land reforms and decentralisation of development activities for almost four decades, the benefits from the process of development could not be garnered by the tribal people adequately. A hoast of indicators can corroborate this belief among the cross-section of people. The three tier panchayati raj institutions are intricately involved with the implementation process starting with identification of beneficiaries and ending with provisioning of the desired outcomes. Despite of such empowerment of the local bodies along with the representation of tribal people in these bodies as per the Constitutional mandate, it is difficult to say with confirmation that the tribal people get the desired benefits of the government programmes for sustaining decent living. The gaps in implementation and dissatisfaction among the target people lead to undesirable marginalisation, consequently the extremist activities in these areas. The present paper seeks to address these issues.

The study is based on primary as well as secondary data. Primary data have been collected from two blocks of Paschim Medinipur district with the highest concentration of tribal population. The study reveals that apart from the socio-economic backwardness, tribal people in large sense have been marginalised in terms of opportunities also. Even they are not interested to participate effectively in people's forum like Gram Sabha or Gram Sansad of the gram panchayats in the panchyat structure. They do not have choice (as they mostly are not allowed to speak) but to accept whatever has been given through government programmes for their sustenance. They are completely missing out from the trajectory of growth as they have no voice also.

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## **Child Rights And Education: A Study On Tagore’s Principle Of Education.**

Divyashree Mukherjee\*

In a democracy every child has the right to develop to his fullest potential. It is therefore, obligatory on the part of educator to help him/her in this process and this is only possible when an effective instructional strategy is adopted. In India both the Mudaliar and the Kothari Commissions recommended diversified courses. So the challenge of our today’s teaching in all subjects is to make learning effective and thus effective instructional teaching strategy is essentially needed. The great educator Rabindranath Tagore in his experiment on classroom instruction used Drama and Theatre Arts’. He wrote in his essay, ‘The Art of Movement in Education’ – “In children the whole body is expressive. It is going to school that we take our first false step. There we are required to think sitting. We must not move our arm. To our teacher we present so many masks. All the time we are forced to control those physical and parallel lines of movement that would be the natural accompaniment to our thoughts”. Keeping the above in view, this study intends to carry out with two teaching strategies to estimate their comparative effectiveness in classroom instruction at the secondary level.

According to Tagore, Drama and Theatre Arts makes the learning joyful and students get fun, freedom and joy and this method makes the learning without burden. Tagore upheld the principle of joy as inseparable from the principles of fullness and freedom. Free life in Nature, Vital relationship with reality, the activity based curriculum, the principle of curiosity and interest in learning abundant creative activities – all are emphasized in pursuance of this fundamental principle of education.

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## **Aspects Of Social Exclusion And Discrimination: A Study Of Transgenders**

Aditi Basu\*

Transgender persons are facing discrimination and social exclusion all over India. Socially excluded people are not able to participate in societal mainstream activities. Social exclusion focuses attention on a broad range of factors that prevent individuals or groups from having the same opportunities that are open to the majority of the population. Social exclusion is relatively a newer approach to analyse deprivation of disadvantaged groups. The main objectives of the present study are to: (1) know the socio-economic and legal status of the transgender persons; (2) identify the different aspects from which transgender persons are socially excluded; (3) analyse the causes of being socially excluded;

To know the socio-economic profile, focuses were given to transgender persons' educational background, job profile, nature of family etc. Different aspects of social exclusion for transgender persons were identified: education, labour market (income), social relationship etc. causes and consequences of their social exclusion were also analysed. Social stigma is the root cause, which has been attached to the transgender persons' gender identity, of being socially excluded.

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## **Climate Migrants: A Study Of The Narratives Of The Sunderbans**

Sandip Ain\*

The two most contested terms with regard to studies related to climate change are 'climate refugees' and 'climate migrants'. Globalisation and industrialisation had sought to destroy man's relation with his physical environment, so that his culture and knowledge systems have become essentially anthropocentric. The negotiation of the subaltern people with their own physical environment promotes a more traditional view of nature.

In this paper, we like to analyse the essential tropes of ecological criticism - the relationship of man and his dwelling, man and the wilderness, man and animal, and thereby I would try to establish the proposition that wilderness can be protected not by mere conservationist policies, political ideologies and ecological awareness, but possibly through the more traditional approach, where man would become aware of his natural surroundings through his lived experiences. The paper also focuses on the strategic importance of the Sundarban area, where climate change severely affects the lives of people who are often considered to be the poorest in the world. The Sundarbans consist of an archipelago of islands situated in the delta where the three rivers, namely the Ganges, the Brahmaputra and the Meghna meet the sea. It is the largest halophytic mangrove forest in the world with one-third of it falling in the state of West Bengal and the remaining two-third in Bangladesh. This paper is primarily based on literature regarding the Sunderbans, like that is Amitav Ghosh's 'The Hungry Tide and The Great Derangement', Shivsankar Mitra's 'Sundarban Samagra' etc. We also try to focus on why traditional ecological knowledge needs to be incorporated in formulating conservationist policies so that the lived experiences of the vulnerable sections of society can be taken into consideration

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## **Social Exclusion And Tribal Rights: A Reading Of Select Works Of Mahasweta Devi**

Rohan Hassan\*

Mahasweta Devi's texts offer scathing critique of rapid modernization and unrestrained globalization of the uber- progressive civilization vis a vis its direct impact on ecology. She has meticulously portrayed how the sanctified geo-cultural domains of the tribal people have witnessed incessant and unwelcomed intrusion from the outside world and how such capitalistic campaigns in their aftermaths have mostly left the indigenous social orders highly destabilized often posing direct threats to the social and cultural existences of the aboriginals. Devi however is not fiercely foolhardy to oppose advancement. She rather argues in favour of sustainable development concept so that the progress can be made without ecological devastation that is being perpetrated by industrialists and government officials. The present paper would like to attempt a re-reading of some select works of Devi and focus on how she deals with issues related to rights of the tribal people and their calculated social exclusion from the mainstream advancement of the nation.

It also becomes pertinent to make a comparative analysis of the condition of indigenous people in colonial India and in independent India. From the revolt against colonial exploitation to resistance against oppressive state machinery and neo-liberal policy of development by dispossession, Devi skilfully chronicles the complex contour of the tribal life through her works.

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## **Poverty, Prosperity And Inequality: India After Twenty-Five Years Of Economic Reforms**

Nirupam Hazra\*

The New Economic Policy of liberalization, privatization and globalization was embraced as the panacea of India's economic crisis. Initial resistance to these drastic changes was assuaged with the promise of a better future free of poverty, unemployment and corruption. As the reforms started to take shape, the welfare state began to 'roll back' and market started to take command. But the full impact of these reforms took time to manifest. The twenty-fifth anniversary of economic reforms is an opportune occasion to assess the impact of economic measures taken two and a half decades ago. It becomes more necessary considering the changing realities both within the country and around the world. The twenty-fifth anniversary of economic reforms coincides with the re-assessment of neo-liberal policies at the international level.

This paper, by interpreting the existing literature and using the data from secondary sources, would examine the impact of economic reforms on Indian society. The widening divide between the rich and the poor makes it imperative to explore the causes behind the asymmetrical distribution of the benefits of economic reforms. This paper will also try to find the link between two apparently irreconcilable realities of reforms - extreme poverty and unrestrained profligacy and suggest possible changes that may require to make Indian society more inclusive and equitable.

While in post-reform India, poverty has declined to a significant extent, on the darker side, the country has also witnessed the rise of inequality to an outrageous degree. The most of the multitudinous contradictions that characterize the present socio-economic conditions of India are directly or indirectly linked with the impact of economic reforms. At one hand, India has emerged as one of the fastest growing economies and ranked as the seventh wealthiest country; on the other hand, it also earns the dubious distinction of having world's largest poor population. Poverty in India is not relative in nature, nor is it confined to low-income. Various global development indexes clearly show that a huge population is still deprived of basic and essential components of well-being like nutritious food, primary health care and elementary education. The biggest challenge for post-reform India is to strike a balance between growth and development.

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## **Grama Sabha In Grass Root Planning : The Case Of Odisha**

Ashok Kumar Behera\*

Even though the Article 243G of the 73rd Constitutional Amendment Act, 1992 empowers the panchayatiraj institutions for preparation of plan with the objective economic development and social justice, the ground realities envisages a contrast picture, especially in the Odisha State where the breathing of PRIs have invariably been suppressed by the mighty of the State Government and its so called political stakeholders. The devolution to PRIs i.e. the 3 F's of the principles of decentralization has been done only in pen and paper and not in true letter and spirit. In the consequence, 'planning' which is regarded as one of the important keys for inclusive development has been mostly neglected and victimized.

With the above backdrop, the study conducted in Majjihara GP of Khordha district of Odisha which represents the rich and developed coastal part of Odisha reveals a very dismal picture about the people's participation in the planning process at the grass root level. The awareness of the common man about the planning process is most surprising and disheartening as more than 75 per cent of the voters of a Panchayat, especially the youth population never participates in a Gram Sabha nor are they informed by the stakeholders. People have their grievances, largely unaddressed in terms of selection of beneficiaries for social upliftment schemes and programmes and finalization of proposals for village development. Say it the implementation of the largest employment programme of human history MGNREGA or functioning of the DPC, most of the key components of the development has been deliberately restrained by the political dominance or bureaucratic control throwing the spirit of democratic decentralization at bay.

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## **Climate Migration: A Study Of Satabhaya Village**

Kirti K. Kalinga\*

Climate change may significantly affect human migration in three different ways. First, warming of the atmosphere in some regions will reduce the agricultural potential and undermine the ecosystem services such as fertile soil and water affecting peoples' livelihoods. Second, increasing extreme weather events will generate mass displacement. Third, sea level rise will destroy the low-lying coastal areas and millions of people who will have to relocate permanently.

The present study is a combination of descriptive and exploratory research design. A multi stage sampling procedure was followed; purposive sampling for selection of study area and random sampling for respondents. The study area Satabhaya is a cluster of hamlets located in Rajnagar block of Kendrapada district in Orissa and is selected on the basis of literature review which accords these locations as intense disaster prone and climate change areas. Satabhaya, once comprised of seven villages has already lost five of them to the surging waters of Bay of Bengal in the last 35 years and only two villages are remaining, Satabhaya and Kanhupur. Most have barely 40-50% of their lands intact. The people of Satabhaya village are waiting with fear for their turn as every year, sea is engulfing nearly 50 meters of land mass of Satabhaya region.

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## **Marginalization And The Pri System- A Study Of The Deprivation Of The Tribal Girls In Sundergarh, Odisha**

Manas Behera\*

The PRI system has the potential to bring radical changes in the life of the masses living in rural areas, particularly the life of the deprived and marginalised like the tribals. But the functioning of the PRIs is not independent of the larger political, economic system of the state in which it operates. The trafficking of young tribal girls from the district of Sundergarh in the last decade is a sorry tale of the failure of the development policies in the state to provide food and other basic necessities like health and education to the young tribal girls and their families. The PRI system in this tribal dominated district does not have enough democratic space for the marginalised tribal. According to an estimate about forty thousand tribal girls, mostly of about 14 years of age have been victims of trafficking in this district. Their experiences throw light on the mechanism of trafficking of the tribal girls that is in operation there.

The present paper analyses the causes of trafficking of young girls and the role of PRIs in preventing it. It studies the role of women movement in preventing it and in mobilizing GPs to take action in this regard. The study has interviewed the victims of trafficking as well as the representatives of the PRIs through a structured questionnaire and has tried to identify the means to find a solution. Democratisation of the GPs and more participation of women in gram sabhas can act as a prevention to the trafficking of tribal girls.

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## **People's Struggle And Developmentalism In Adivasi Regions Of India**

Dinabandhu Sahoo\*

Dhiraj Kumar

Capitalist development and its fall out dispossession have been contested by various place-based struggles in India. It has intensified capital accumulation enforcing the vast majority of population, particularly the Adivasis in resource rich territories to displace and has affected their livelihoods by accumulating their cultural rights to land, water and forests. The pre requisite capitalist logic of investment induced dispossession have been contested in various place-based local struggles raising important questions about mass mobilization, resistance, politics of protest, identity and solidarity.

The present study provides theoretical and empirical insight of the interrelationship between culture, power and politics of corporate state developmentalism and the way it work in Adivasi resource rich region. By discussing how different ploys and tactics employed by corporate to establish clientelistic relation with nature backed by the state through policy has led poverty, dispossession of the commons.

The paper argues that accumulation for the growth and nation's development subsumes various discourses facilitated by different players involving populist belief and intention which gradually develop a class character that correspond with dialectic of the capitalism under the rubric and politics of imperial stage of capitalism. Based on ethnographic fieldwork and case study, the paper explores the process of how the Adivasi as a class encounter neoliberal capitalist development in Kalinga Nagar Industrial Complex and West Singhbhum. Initiatives as everyday resistance 'from below' in response to corporate land accumulation for developmental projects have further enhanced the ecological politics and class politics that also be discussed in shadow of different theories of political economy and critical agrarian studies.



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## **Decentralization And Practices Of Participatory Governance**

Ankitha Cheerakathil\*

A common definition of decentralization in India involves granting more powers and decision-making abilities to local bodies of government, as opposed to limiting all executive and deliberative authority with the central and/or state government. This paper proposes to view decentralization as the act of granting a voice to citizens and taking into account their feedback in different aspects of governance. Objective of the study is to demonstrate that decentralization can occur in an informal manner in India without constitutional amendments laying the ground further. We shall discuss in brief common practices corresponding to the above definition of decentralization. One of the most talked about in recent years is that of participatory budgeting. The process is peculiar in that it has so far been limited to lower levels of governments such as city municipalities, thus becoming almost synonymous with decentralized governance. Municipal corporations in many countries around the world conduct participatory budgeting process in order to make decisions about how to allocate their budget with maximum consensus from the citizens they represent.

But participatory budgeting may not be the only structured form of participatory governance available or found in practice at the lowest levels of government. Consulting citizens and gathering their opinions in a structured manner on critical questions that arise during the implementation phase of a development or infrastructure project, impact assessment of government schemes implemented by the state or the centre by taking into account the feedback of target beneficiaries can also be categorized as participatory governance and thereby lead India towards informal decentralization. For the purpose of examining possibilities of participatory governance. The paper focuses primarily on local government bodies in India such as municipalities and panchayats with the assumption that they are the most representative bodies of local government for citizens, as well as the most accessible.

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## **Fiscal Decentralisation Of Urban Local Bodies In Kerala: A Study Of Thiruvananthapuram Municipal Corporation**

C. Anilkumar\*

The basic objective of urban decentralization is to empower the ULBs administratively as well as fiscally enable them to render public services responsive to local needs. However, it is documented that the continued efforts of decentralized governance in the country over the last two decades did not bring forth that much effectiveness as expected in the delivery of public services. The emerging trend in urbanization and progress made towards fiscal decentralization warrants a detailed study on its extent of fiscal decentralization in ULBs, Kerala. The present study examines the extent of fiscal decentralization of the Urban Local Bodies (ULB) in Kerala and selected Trivandrum Municipal Corporation(TMC) as a case study.

A sound fiscal decentralization policy remains an important determinant of effective Public service delivery in ULBs. The devolution of finances and its extent in the study area are estimated using Fiscal Decentralization Index which takes into account both fiscal autonomy and fiscal importance of subnational governments. To analyze the revenue and expenditure performance of TMC, the study used both normative and standard approaches.

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## **Decentralised Governance In Agriculture: A Study Of Paddy Cultivation In Panamaram, Wayanad**

Gokul M. A.\*

Decentralisation is one of the easier methods to the governments to reach among people and by people to the government. This closest version of government to the society is responsible to fulfil primary needs of the citizens by engaging them largely. In this way Kerala Model of Decentralisation is unique before rest of the practices. In terms of devolution of fund, function and functionaries local governments in Kerala stand outstanding is the true inspiration of this study in exploring its performances over paddy cultivation.

The present paper attempts to analyse the advent of local governments in the state how deeply reflected in the paddy sector and among reshajahanlated communities. This also addresses the available solutions that can be stood up on the revival of the sector. By analysing the linkages of degree of devolution of fund, function and functionaries in this sector and the possible genuine outcomes that people already received or expect to be received would energise the study when stakeholders associated to the paddy cultivations also being opinioned.

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## **Decentralized Planning And People Centric Development**

M. G. Kalidasan\*

The system of administration inherited by India from the British was centralised in nature. However, the introduction of the planning process after the independence added a new discussion to the governance in India. The Five Year Plans focused on growth and well being in a balanced manner but ignored peoples participation. The period 1960- 70 saw a significant social development. Emphasis was given to the basic needs during 1973-80 and the liberalisation period 1980- 90 affected the 'trickle- down' effect. The nineties witnessed substantial changes with the strengthening of local self governments with 73rd and 74th Constitutional Amendments. People began to participate in governance.

Kerala's achievements in decentralisation is very notable. Health, education, sanitation, agricultural development, women and child development, small enterprise development etc. have become important activities energised by the Peoples' Plan Campaign. Community Governance by means of strengthening Grama Sabhas and Grama Kendras have become a significant phenomenon in decentralisation in Kerala. The paper concludes that participation of the people ensure inclusion, sustainability, equity and efficiency.

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## **Marginalization, Protest And Development**

Debal K. Singha Roy\*

Marginalization is a composite social phenomenon that produces protests and invites state intervention for alternative development strategies. Despite varieties of state sponsored development initiatives the quantum of socio-economic denial and deprivation, political and cultural subjugation and domination of the marginalized sections of people continue unabated in one form or the other in Indian society. Contemporary India experiences a phenomenal shift in its economic foundation from predominantly agrarian to non agrarian sectors. It has been accompanied by a sharp technological shift with penetration of ICTs and shift in the developmental discourse especially in the wake of neo liberal globalization. These shifts have brought new forms of interconnectivity, new patterns of economic activities, marginality, protest and new areas of collective action for development.

This paper is to elaborate the changing intricacies between the broad processes of economic transformation, marginalization, protests and development in the society based on micro and macro level data. It elaborates that along with broad economic and technological transformation marginalization has acquired both socially relational and historically cumulative dynamics for vast section of population in India; that contemporary economic transition and the state sponsored development initiatives have not been effective enough to break the barriers to marginality, rather it has brought into being new forms of marginality, invited new forms of protests and rejuvenated new forms of collective mobilizations; and that local self governance has been an effective tool for such collective mobilization to break the barriers of their social exclusion, denial, subjugation and deprivation for the marginalized in the interconnected ICTs enabled interconnected society. Through selected case studies it elucidates the emerging facets of protests, collective mobilization and integration of marginalized with the development dynamics of the society.

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## **Fiscal Decentralization To Local Governments: The Case Of India And China**

Jawed Alam Khan\*

Qianjin Zhang†

Fiscal decentralization involves the transfer of decision making power of revenue collection /generation and spending to local government. Decentralization of fiscal power to lower levels of government has been the agenda of global development movements for a long time. The motivation behind this comparative study of India and China was that both the countries fall in the category of developing countries, have large share of world population and faced whole lots of similar development challenges such as, inequality, poverty, malnutrition and poor quality of education. In terms of governance system, India follows democratic and multiparty system whereas China has one party based centralized system led by the Communist Party.

The objective of the paper is to assess the political, fiscal architecture, level of fiscal decentralization to local governments and role and relevance of local governments in local development in India and China. In terms of methodology and data sources, data has been gathered from both primary and secondary sources for the completion of the present paper.

In India, Constitution provides for clear cut assignment of responsibilities with regard to development among Centre and States. There is a Centre List, State List and Concurrent List enumerating the division of power to legislate on different subjects as well as revenue collection and spending power. China is a unitary country emphasizing centralization of authority and local government is not a political entity without any characteristics of sovereignty. According to Constitution of China, there are four levels of local administrative division: province, autonomous region and direct-controlled municipality; prefecture, autonomous prefecture and municipality; county or district; and township. Respective level sets up People's Congress and local government exercising political power and administrative functions.

In sum, the local government (rural and urban) is considered to be the third tier in Indian federal polity but from analysis, it is evident that federal finance is still based on the

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two-tier model in India. In the case of China, the share of local government expenditure in terms of GDP and consolidated public expenditure at 20 percent and 85 percent respectively in 2014. India is far behind other countries including China in terms revenue sharing with local government.

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## **The Green Belt Movement: An Effort To Alleviate Poverty And Marginalization Of Women**

Anju Aggarwal\*

Kenya's Green Belt Movement, a social movement with a difference was founded by Wangari Maathai (Noble Prize Winner), in 1977 as a way to empower poor women. With over one-lakh members, this civil society organization believes in bringing the socio political change by consensus instead of traditional conflictual approach.

The first decade of the movement focused on transforming the social arena through reforestation and education. The next five to six years of Kenya's Green Belt Movement were openly challenging the political arena. Later, it expanded its wings in many African countries as the Pan African Green Belt Network and also as Green Belt Movement International. It integrates the principles of sustainable development into country policies and programs; tries to reverse loss of environmental resources and works for the promotion of gender equality and empowerment of women.

Its branch 'Women for Change' helps young girls and women to face the challenges of growing up, making complex decisions about their sexual and reproductive health, and gaining knowledge and skills to protect themselves from HIV and AIDS (UN).

It provides different ways to promote bee-keeping, economic empowerment, and healthy eating habits of indigenous food crops. This paper tries to analyze the contributions of Kenya's Green Belt Movement and also examines the issues raised and strategies adopted in relation to the goals sought.

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## **Socioeconomic Condition, Poverty And Marginalization Of Tribals: A Study In Odisha**

Kiran Dungdung\*

Odisha occupies a special position in the tribal map of India. Odisha has one of the highest percentage of tribals in the country, next only to Nagaland. In Odisha, District wise distribution of Scheduled Tribes population (ST) shows highest proportion (57.4percent) in Malkangiri district, followed by Rayagada (55.8percent), Mayurbhanj (56.6percent) and Sundargarh (54.6percent). The paper has tried to map the socioeconomic condition and marginalization of the tribals. The study area concentrates in and around the deep forest pockets of tribal villages which comes under Sundargarh Biosphere Reserve Forest area located in Sundargarh Districts of Orissa, India. It studied the conditions of eight different tribal groups namely Bhuiya, Gond, Kumbhar, Kharia, Kisan, Lohara, Munda and Oraom communities through survey research method.

The study reveals deplorable living conditions of the tribals as compared to the national and state averages. Nearly, 90 percent of the population lives below the poverty line and their quality of living i.e. housing, access to sanitation and safe drinking water, basic and tertiary education and health care delivery system, mean-income, saving and expenditure pattern, food consumption pattern are in a gloomy state. They eke out their livelihood by performing multiple activities, such as agriculture, casual labor, hunting, forest food gathering, tribal art and craft work, etc. A colossal percentage of them are the marginal land owner and land holding is insufficient to provide sustainable livelihood. They are still in the primitive stage of development and faraway from the modernity. The author has suggested the ways and means for eradication of these social, cultural and economic problems among eight different tribal communities could possible through inclusive development like irrigation facilities that government should linked-up with river with lift irrigation system, Rural employment facilities- MGNREGS, Skill Development activities for rural youths and develop good marketing system for NMFP (Non-timber minor forest products) etc. which reduce unemployment, therefore Government should make special drive for tribal areas.

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## **Professional Training For Cooperatives; A Public Relations And Media Perspective For Effective Image-Building**

Sanjay Kumar Verma\*

It is well-known that cooperatives are important institutions of decentralized governance with participatory and membership based approach. In India with more than six lakh cooperatives with 100% coverage in the villages, the cooperatives have an extensive network and reach and presence in almost all the areas of socio-economic activities. However, it is seen that despite their commendable growth, the cooperatives have not able to emerge as professional enterprises and build a strong image.

Viewed against the above perspective, the objective is to explore the areas in which the PR and media aspects of cooperatives are weak in India, and find out how through a professional training approach the cooperatives will be able to improve their image. Having exploratory analytical approach, the methodology will be based on study of the secondary sources related to media and public relations, as public relations and media literature related to cooperatives is almost non-existent.

Analysing further, it needs to be highlighted that the cooperatives do not have a well-crafted internal communications approach in communicating with their members regarding their activities, programmes, achievements, etc through professional publication of cooperative literature due to which the members do not feel connected with their cooperatives.

The people involved in media and public relations in cooperative organisations are not able to develop their expertise due to which a specialised PR and media work force is not able to emerge. There are almost non-existent opportunities of training in this field. The paper provides a strategy framework through which a professional approach to cooperative media and public relations through training will help in building up the image of the cooperative sector.

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## **Voices Of The Poor: Lessons For Policy Makers**

Pamela Singla\*

The paper is based on empirical research with focus on the importance of listening to the experiences of poor and connecting to their lives for appropriate policy making to alleviate poverty. Subtle voices of the poor which may otherwise get ignored are shared to reflect on the importance of considering poor as co-partners in policy making and not just objects.

Taking forward the voices of the poor, the paper echoes the dire need of the policy maker to get into the skin of the various categories of the poor to the likes of the scavenger woman, the baiga tribal and the impoverished mother, for better understanding of their psyche for deciding on the specifics of the 'to be framed policy'. 'No sensible person will clean anyone's dirt (referring to night soil) even when given handful of money' say the scavenger lady and then gives a long pause when counter asked 'what if the same job is made sarkari (government)?'. Human worth and dignity further get tarnished when the mohallas (community) are gifted by the scavenger mothers to their daughters during marriage. Human well being gets questioned when the mother has to get up in the early morning to cover the window panes with sacks lest the sun rays enter the room thus waking up the hungry children or the grandmother places moistened bricks one upon the other only to remove them after few days to pick up the worms which would serve as food for the day.

Policy makers would also benefit through observations and patient communication that the six yards sari given to the baiga tribe woman in the remote hills of Chattisgarh is not of any use to her if it is not 8-10 yards long and is not of good cotton as she needs to tie her child on her back during work. What use is a pressure cooker to those poor families when they only thing they can do is stare at it wondering why the government did not give them dals or potatoes instead of the cooker.

The paper concludes with local level initiatives for poverty alleviation which have enhanced the choice of whether to eat Chowmein (noodles) or samosa (Indian snack); and secondly strengthened the family as a unit, and managed the school dropout rate.

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## **Two Decade Of Panchayati Raj System In India : An Assessment Of Functioning And Road Map For Deepening Democracy.**

Mahi Pal\*

The enactment of the 73rd Amendment to the Constitution (hereafter referred to as the Central Act) was a watershed in the field of decentralization as it, inter alia, provided certainty, continuity and strength to the Panchayati Raj System (PRS) in the country. Later on, PRS was also extended to the Scheduled Areas by the Provisions of the Panchayats (Extension to Scheduled areas) Act 1996 (hereafter referred to as the Extension Act). Two decades has elapsed after the enactment of the 73rd Amendment to the Constitution and more than 15 years have elapsed after the enactment of the Provisions of Panchayats (Extension to Scheduled Areas) Act 1996. In this backdrop, the present paper review the functioning of the Panchayats from the point of view of ascertaining as to what extent these institutions have emerged as institutions of self governments as envisaged in the Constitution in terms of devolution of functions, finance and functionaries across the country, enabled the people's participation particularly vulnerable sections like Scheduled Castes (SCs), Scheduled Tribes (STs) and women in preparation and implementations of decentralized planning by these institutions and in the light of experiences, suggest road map for further deepening grassroots democracy in the country.

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## **Social Construction Of Marginalization And Institutional Exclusion: Case Of Disabled In India**

Mudasir Yousuf\*

The research paper attempts to understand the concept of marginalisation, exclusion as a social construction in existing academic marginalized discourses and various other factors which brand a particular group as a marginalized. It attempts to identify different groups in general and disabled people in particular who face marginalization and exclusion in various fields of life.

The research paper proposes to argue that people with disability is one of such marginalized groups who are victims of marginalization, institutional exclusion, discrimination in light of education, employment opportunities, community participation, academic fellowships and social movement juncture. It attempts to show that they are not treated at par with abled people and are assessed in terms of physicality rather than the rights and talent they do possess.

The study explores as to how people with disability historically face marginalization and exclusion from the centre of avenues and opportunities controlled by abled people. It lays emphasis on the element of marginalization, people with disability face in domestic and public sphere. Efforts would be put in to come up with the idea that they are often subjected to institutional forgetting which fail to raise and address their issues and concerns. The marginalisation of disabled people has never become the attention of state institutions. The lack of political representation leaves their issues unattended and unaddressed which makes them outsiders from official marginalised classification. They do not avail the benefits of citizenship in the sense of participation in election process because of normal friendly infrastructure at voting places and the technology employed. They are multiply marginalized for they experience exclusion on account of their different body structure, gender and their disability.

For this study the data have collected from secondary sources for example 2001 and 2011 census, NSSO reports, World Bank disability report, Intentional Labour Organisation disability employment report and other civil societies based studies.

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## **Participatory Development: Who Participates**

Pratichi Majumdar\*

Today, 'community participation' is invoked in most national and international development projects. It is seen as almost a magic spell that will cure persisting poverty, continuing and rising levels of inequality, and other symptoms of underdevelopment. However, inspite instances of 'community' involvement, these policies and programmes have had very little success at the ground level.

This paper shall propose that a major reason for this is that these projects see the community as a homogeneous, static unit. What they fail to recognise is that the community itself is a highly fragmented, complex and dynamic entity. As a result, more often than not, it is the dominant groups within the communities who actually make decisions and participate in the development process. The primary objective of this paper is to critical evaluate participatory development and to understand the role of the community in the development process. The paper tries to analyse the complexities within the community and the power relationships which affect the relationship of the community with the development process.

This paper maybe located within a framework of critical development theory, bringing together multiple perspectives within the development discourse. The attempt is not only to critically evaluate existing discourse but also to construct an alternative.

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## **Does Decentralisation Address Allocative Efficiency At The Local Level? Evidence From Jomoro District Assembly In Ghana**

Christopher Dick-Sagoe\*

Decentralisation, according to the classical theorists, Oates and Musgraves, improves allocative and productive efficiencies at the local level. Whereas many studies have been conducted on decentralisation and poverty reduction, service provision and citizens' satisfaction, few studies on the impact of decentralisation and allocative efficiency have been done. Available studies approached allocative efficiency of decentralisation from increased satisfaction of local residents through meeting local needs and preferences. District Assemblies in Ghana, just like any country, are created to improve the living standards of local residents through the provision of services and goods such as roads, health and education. It is also to enhance participation and decentralised decision making, providing grounds for efficient allocation of resources, thus allocative efficiency.

This study falls on the revenue and expenditure of records of Jomoro District Assembly in Western Region of Ghana to measure allocative efficiency. The idea is that District Assemblies prepare Medium Term Development Plans which documents the needs and preferences of the local people in Jomoro. Efficient provision of these needs and preferences requires adequate amount of revenue. Revenue meeting budgeted expenditure is considered as enhancing allocative efficiency. Using a panel data of revenue and expenditure records of the District Assembly over a period of three years, the study achieved the following specific objectives. These are to examine the relationship between actual revenue and estimated (budgeted) expenditure, relationship between actual expenditure and estimated (budgeted) expenditure and to assess the contributions of revenue source (own-source revenues and transfers) to actual expenditure. Employing robust statistical tools (regression and correlation analysis), the study finds out that, from revenue and expenditure data, Jomoro District Assembly has not done well in meeting the needs and preferences of the residents, as outlined in their budgeted expenditure, since actual revenues hardly meets budgeted expenditure.

Transfers have been the major source of revenue to finance expenditure (making an average contribution of 80 percent) over the period under study. A situation which is lively to create problems with ownership and accountability from local residents of local goods and services, which are prerequisites for improved service provision at the local level.

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Recommendations made for policy intervention in redesigning governmental transfers to encourage own-source revenue mobilisation levels.



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## **A Sociological Study Of Education And Ethnic Contestation In Conflict Zone, Manipur**

Sapana Devi Karam\*

This paper makes an attempt to analyze the process of education in the conflict zone, Manipur and explores the contestation along the lines of diverse ethnic group. The existing literatures in the Indian context, have not adequately discussed the linkages of education and conflict and the role of the state as a mediator among diverse ethnicities.

In this regard, the study has addressed this gap by selecting the case of nature of education system in a conflict ridden state, Manipur. Violent conflict is not a new phenomenon in Manipur and has been experiencing for the last many decades. Conflict has been manifested in the form of bandh, blockade and strike in the state. Frequent occurrence of these conflict activities hampered the academic environment of students. Nevertheless, Manipur has its own paradoxes if we look at the scenario of education. Manipur accounts for high literacy rate despite experiencing multiple of issues. This can be attributed to private education and the missionary schools. However, the mode of education system seems to be the features of valley region. Despite ninety percent of landscape has covered by hilly area, the education sector in hilly areas has not given much attention by the government. This brings the huge gap and imbalance between hilly and plain areas in getting and maintaining quality education. The study has found that the education has reproduced social inequality and marginalization of people and it also generates conflict among diverse ethnic group.

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## **Panchayat Raj System In Kerala: Lessons For Jammu And Kashmir**

Farooq Ahmad Waza\*

With regard to panchayat raj, Kerala has a chequered history. The pre-73rd Constitutional Amendment scenario (1956-1992) is characterized by either weak or no panchayat raj system. This was partly due to political instability and due to the lack of political will. However, after passing the Kerala panchayat Raj Act, 1994 in conformity with 73rd CAA, Kerala not only became pro decentralization state but it is widely hailed model state of panchayat Raj in India. The process started with the Peoples campaign for decentralized Planning for the IX five year plan 1997. By virtue of (PCDP) planning has been made participatory through people's participation. Panchayats were meaningfully empowered with the devolution of functions, finances and functionaries together with the capacity building of both panchayat representatives and the staff transferred to PRI. Besides the PRIs have a requisite institutional support.

Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) is often called as the miniature India, owing to its poly-ethnic character. It is composed of three distinct geographical regions, Jammu, Kashmir, and Ladakh. The State is extremely diverse in terms of geo-climate conditions, endowment of natural resources, ethnicity and politico-economic aspirations. Establishing an effective panchayat raj system is indeed a big governance challenge in J&K. This is where the paper sees that the state can look towards Kerala as there is a lot that J&K can learn from Kerala.

The objectives are a) to study as to how Kerala moved from virtually no panchayat raj to best performing panchayat raj state in the country, b) to study the impediments responsible in the way evolving an effective panchayat Raj System in Jammu and Kashmir, c) to study what lessons from Kerala can be emulated/ replicated by Jammu and Kashmir to strengthen its Panchayat Raj System. Kerala's Big Bang approach to decentralization –whereby panchayats were meaningfully empowered with - functions, finance and functionaries (3Fs) and capacity and capability building of panchayat representatives is what enables a very effective functioning of PRIs were it is known what are the functions, what are the fiancés and who are the functionaries. Whereas in J&K there is a gap in theory and practice with respect to powers and working of Panchayats. Putting in place an effective panchayat raj system in J&K is indeed an uphill task as it is likely to face stiff opposition given the fact that

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the state of J&K had no practicing Panchayat Raj till 2011. However, a determined political will is needed to affect these reforms.

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## **Marginalisation Of Tribes In India: A Systemic And Systematic Policy Analysis**

Kiran A. B.\*

Anilkumar M. & Chetan B. Singai

The spirit of ‘unity in diversity’ is reflected in the Constitution of India, however, in praxis the contradictions across myriad social-political-economic hierarchies challenge the very spirit of it. Irrespective of transfer of power from colonial rule to independent India, the state policy towards Nomadic Tribes (NT) and De-Notified Tribes (DNTs) has been one of exploitation, omission and exclusionary in nature. The erstwhile colonial rulers had included these groups under Criminal Tribes Act, 1871-for their parochial administrative purpose. The present policy continues to be discriminatory, inadequate and lacks clarity leading to socio-economic-political deprivation and exclusion.

In this background the present paper makes an attempt to depict the present situation. The objectives of this paper is to: a) develop a comprehensive policy analysis framework on marginalised communities, b) systematically map all the committee recommendations on NT-DNTs since independence (The Criminal Tribes Inquiry Committee, 1947, to the Renake Commission Report, 2008), and c) systemically analyse their relative emphasis at different levels of granularity. In order to address these objectives, the paper adheres to qualitative research methods. The authors present an ontological framework illustrating the ‘big picture’ of social groups. The textual analysis of various committee reports are operationalised here to study the proposed objectives.

To this end, the authors have mapped all the policy reports and recommendations onto a comprehensive policy-framework covering six dimensions, namely: (a) Scope, (b) Effect, (c) Social Group, (d) Empowerment, (e) Instrument, and (f) Social Outcome. Each dimension comprises of a taxonomy of its constituent elements. Each combination of elements from the six dimensions is a possible policy initiative component. There are 40,500 possible combinations encapsulated in the ontology.

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## **Decentralisation And Participation Of Marginalised Groups In MGNREGS: Evidence From Karnataka**

R. Manjula\*

Decentralisation is advocated as a better intervention to facilitate participation of people in the governance by bringing them closer to the government. Decentralised governance is advocated as elected leaders have an incentive to incorporate the needs and preferences of the people in the planning for and implementation of development works. Decentralised planning is expected to facilitate the participation of marginalised sections, which, will in turn, lead to undertaking of need-based activities and their successful implementation.

An important problem faced by the marginalised sections such as Scheduled Caste (SC) and Scheduled Tribe (ST) is inadequate wage employment. Given that Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) is to be implemented by Grama Panchayats, it is reasonable to expect that the decentralised government will facilitate the greater flow of benefits to these sections. Against this background, it will be interesting to examine whether decentralised government has helped the marginalised people to participate in this employment guarantee scheme. In this context, this paper aims to discuss: a) the provisions made in MGNREGS to secure/ promote SC/ST participation in Karnataka; and b) analyse the extent to which the SC/ST participate in the programme at the Karnataka state level as well as in different districts.

In order to address these objectives, the paper depends mainly on the secondary data. The participation is seen in terms work participation and person days of employment obtained. The paper also uses the NSSO data to compare the participation across the different social groups.

Based on an analysis of these data, the paper arrives at the following conclusions. a) there is inverse relationship between MGNREGS expenditure per SC/ST person and the incidence of SC/ST population. b) participation of SC/ST households in MGNREGS tended to be high in those districts where their incidence is high. c) a large proportion of SC/ST households demanded for MGNREGS work and participated in the scheme.

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## **Poverty And Climate Change: Role Of Governance**

Amitabh Shukla\*

There is a good correlation between poverty and climate change and therefore climate change affects the poor in every corner of life. In Asia and Africa, climate change makes huge loss in production and consumption. The scarcity of food and water will surely may cause vulnerability. The association between poverty and climate change is a general problem and to fight against poverty is to fight against climate change. A strong, honest and farsighted government must have policies on the poverty-climate change nexus.

This paper endeavors to study on the poverty, climate change nexus, and the role of governance in managing the climatic conditions for the broader welfare of human being, as it has become abundantly clear that climate change is not only our greatest environmental issue, it may be our greatest human rights issue.

The World Bank now estimates that as many as 2 billion people will lack sufficient drinking water by mid-century as a result of climate change, with 100-400 million people experiencing severe poverty. A new report by GCCA and Realizing Rights delves into the interconnection between poverty and climate change.

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## **Local Government And Employment Of Rural Youth In India**

Supriya David\*

The 2011 census estimates about 69% of the country's total population continues to live in rural India that neither have adequate land holdings nor alternate service opportunities to produce or procure essential commodities. In the absence of adequate employment opportunities, the rural people are unable to generate enough wages to sustain their livelihood.

The present study is an attempt a) to analyze the role of local governments in the employment of rural youth in India., b) to suggest possible ways for their employment, role of NGOs and Government schemes. The important issue here is, whether the programme brought about a marked improvement of lives of rural youth? The real scenario is that rural India is faced with multiple developmental challenges before rural youth, which will be highlighted in the research paper.

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## **Impacts Of Climate Change On The Livelihoods Of Artisanal Fisherfolk: Role Of Local Governance Systems**

Devendraraj M. \*

In coastal Tamil Nadu, the local institutions play major roles in all the social, cultural, economic and political lives of fisherfolk. Their roles in providing steady and sustained support against the emerging threats to the livelihoods of fisherfolk have not been studied much.

This paper focuses on the two coastal fishing villages in Tamil Nadu and explores how the local institutions face the impacts of climate change associated with climate variability on the livelihoods of fisherfolk. Also it makes an attempt to discuss the activities and local governance of local institutions in the fishing villages and how these activities have been adequate or not adequate to support the livelihoods of fisherfolk. This paper mainly addresses two research questions. i) Do the activities and local governance aspects of local institutions in the fishing villages support the artisanal fisherfolk to cope and adapt the broad impacts of climate change associated with climate variability? ii) What are the positive aspects, limitations and the factors that obstruct the local institutions in making coping and adaptation strategies to face the impacts of climate change? The research sets out in two small coastal villages of Nagapattinam district, Tamil Nadu. These two coastal villages were affected due to Tsunami in 2004.

It has been found that the local institutions effectively act as bridges between the fisherfolk and the governmental authorities and thereby facilitates coping and adaptation collectively to face the impacts of climate change. But it has also been found that the overall activities and some socio-cultural factors of the local institutions ‘possibly’ obstruct the coping and adaptation activities and thereby makes the fisherfolk vulnerable to the broad impacts of climate change. Finally the paper offers some insights and suggestions to overcome the barriers and to build coping and adaptive capacities of the local institutions.

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## **Grassroots Motivation Potentials: Local Governments In Kerala**

Biju A. V.\*

Heera S. Kumart

The major objective of the study is to identify the motivation of the parties involved in undertaking the schemes to address the local issues by utilizing the available resources base of the area. The other objectives include to identify a tentative set of major and sub-variables in combination would stand for 'grassroots motivation' potential, to develop predictor equations and to frame a motivation model of the grassroots motivation potential of the functionaries in Local Governments. The study obtains factor structures on grassroots motivation in terms of experimental variables for different categories of people at grassroots in the Local Governments and for the total sample.

The study is empirical in nature. Based on various research studies conducted in the area of motivation, tentative sub-components (items) are identified. The items are grouped based on similarities of their characteristic features under independent variables viz., Growth Potential Governance Strategies, Flexible Local Environment, Monetary Incentives, Recognition for Capabilities, Changing Complexities, and the dependent variable is Grassroots Motivation Potential. Seven variables including nine items of personal profile altogether forming 109 items were finalized.

A poor rating is seen for Training effectiveness, Quality circles, Autonomy, Reservation Policy, Fiscal support, Organisational conflict, Job status, Linkage on performance, Social security measures, Scheme monitoring, Communication skills, Social Networking, Values, Working conditions, Performance feedback, Organisational network, R & D activities, Retention policy.

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## **Migration And Social Attitude: Scheduled Castes In Metropolitan Cities Of Maharashtra**

Jagan Karade\*

Traditionally, the Scheduled Castes lead their life on the outskirts of villages; they were forced to live at par from the main village settlement and as such they could not find entry into the larger community. As the Scheduled Castes community people started getting educated and migrated in the city areas. They find entry into the larger community due to caste system in India. The result is that the Scheduled Caste still tends to cluster together in some of their own colonies secluded from the localities of non-Scheduled Caste people. While selecting samples, the selected were from the non-Scheduled Castes or mix colonies.

The selection of samples were based on four type of occupation e.g. educational sector, govt. administrative sector, business sector and political sector and those are staying in different parts of the city and mixed caste group. We have thus found that the educated and upwardly mobile members of these groups left their secluded caste-bound localities and found residence in different parts of the Metropolitan city.

This paper is an empirical study and it tried to analyze migration, attitude, changing interaction pattern of the Scheduled Caste those who are residing at metropolitan cities in the state of Maharashtra with reference to Pune, Mumbai and Nagpur cities because these cities are very helpful to Scheduled Castes for mobility as well creating identity in the society. Majority of the Scheduled Caste people have preferred these cities for education and searching the jobs. The researcher has selected 75 samples from each city and total sample size is 225. These data indicate that education brings about a change in the interaction pattern of the Scheduled Castes and their social interaction pattern is more important for nation building.

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## **Social Capital And Human Capital: Elected Representatives In Local Self Governments**

Rahul S.\*

By the virtue of the constitutions itself welfare is placed at the heart of the all pillars of our democracy. Decentralization of the democratic system is one of the major highlights of the Indian democracy. The level and extent of decentralization in the country varies but it forms one of the central nodes of welfare Implementation. It is observed in common parlance and also in academic terms that there is a wide gap in the performance of Local Self Governments (LSGs) even though the structure, mandated functions, process followed and resource allocated are more or less same. An enquiry into the reason for the same is exciting and very relevant. Addressing the factors that affect the governance and performance Social Capital emerges as an important factor.

The paper is an attempt to locate the concept of Social Capital and Human Capital within the framework of LSGs and identify the major factors of social capital and human capital of elected representatives and the relation among the identified factors. The case study of Karakulam gramapanchayat where elected representatives from 1995 is carried out. Rotated component factor analysis of the concept of social capital and human capital elicits the factors of both the concepts and correlation analysis of the obtained factors points towards the relationship between the identified factors.

The paper has identified the major factors of the social capital and human capital of elected representatives. It is observed that Network and Trust with structures and functionaries in a panchayat raj system, network and trust in organized groups in a panchayats, conditions to be followed in beneficiary selection, people's involvement in Grama Sabhas, organization of Grama Sabhas, elected representatives level of involvement in local politics and asocial with the political leaders for the major factors of social capital of elected representatives.

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## **Marginalization In Slums: Political Leadership And Administration Of Development**

Rajesh Kaduba Mokale\*

This paper tries to explain the binary between the voter – the adult franchise in Indian democracy and the political leadership - the elected representative. From the empirical data, the paper tries to explain the situation of working population of slums, the marginalization through limiting the spaces from work to home and home to work, absence of welfare, time based analysis of leaders and their behaviors from elections to winning and winning to service.

This paper also elaborates whether democratic processes are just limited to a day to affair or leads to any developmental change in the lives of inhabitants living in the area of elected representative. The paper also analyses various processes of democracy, development and social justice. Also, these processes reflect into centralization and decentralization of resources and power. The major variables for study are processes, people and the associations. The local government's areas are analyzed through the responses of the slum dwellers and the differential power factors are analyzed to understand the tringle of poverty, marginalization and decentralization. The social stratification and its role has been identified in poverty reduction.

The methodological variables are found and framework is designed to decide methodology. On the basis of it, qualitative methodology is used for collecting the data from respondents. The qualitative data is formulated from the responses collected and the secondary data available through various sources of governmental, non-governmental organization and independent researchers.

The outcomes are formulated and shown through the variables for triangular connect. The concluding remarks shows the challenges in front of democracy from socio-political-economic-cultural perspectives. The results are accumulated and shows the current role of above mentioned three roles of people in democracy from the developmental perspective.

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## **Sustainable Development Of Puducherry: Case For Strengthening Local Governments**

A. M. Ravindran\*

This paper attempts to analyse the development experience of Puducherry economy in general and the need for strengthening democratic decentralization initiatives in Puducherry in particular so as to achieve sustainable development. The study is based on secondary data collected from different sources, agencies and institutions. The study which is divided mainly into four sections indicated that development experience of Puducherry economy witnessed drastic changes especially in recent years.

Historically Puducherry had very vibrant local administration under French decentralized Municipal Governance since 1880. However after gaining independence from French and taking measures like establishing Local Administration Department (LAD) in July 1963 and passing the Puducherry Village and Commune Panchayat Act, 1973 and the Pondicherry Municipalities Act came into force from 26 January 1974, the elections to local bodies were conducted only in 2006. Obviously there exist strong case for reviving and developing decentralized development in order to achieve sustainable development as well as minimizing the adverse effects of too much bureaucratic control in beneficiary selection of welfare schemes intended to the marginalized sections of society as reported by some activists. In any case attempt towards neglect of the environment and basic necessities of life to the marginalized sections of the society should be effectively addressed by evolving a multi pronged strategy towards healthy decentralized and sustainable development.

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## **Climate Change Policy, Federalism And Developmental Process In India**

Nisikant Nayak\*

India is a federal polity which address issues of any nature through established federal mechanisms prescribed by the Constitution of India. Distribution of power between the Centre and states has been provided in the Constitution of India for the smooth running of the government functions and policy. The propose study broadly aims to assess climate change as an overarching policy issue in Indian federal system and how such an emerging issues are being debated and tackled in various institutional and policy frameworks in the country since 2008 with the unveiling of first ever the National Action Plan on Climate Change. The study further seeks to analyze the role of the constituent units of federalism, i.e., the States in India, in mitigating the challenges of climate change with the roles assigned under the constitutional framework and also within new policy parameters enacted by the Centre to centralize climate change governance in the country.

Climate Change as a major public policy issue has moved to the top of world's governance agenda. Due to its severity and wide implications, it is now assumed that the issue need to be dealt with multipronged approach and mainstreaming in nation's developmental agenda. The mitigation and adaptation strategies should be integrated in developmental frameworks at national, sub-national and local levels. Decentralization of authorities in planning, resources management, and implementation are considered as mainstay of policy strategies in tackling climate change. The practice of federalism in India provides the scope for such integration of climate concerns in national, sub-national and local levels.

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## **Decentralisation And Poverty Reduction In Jharkhand: Issues And Challenges**

Sachchidanand Prasad\*

S. N. Ambedkar

For a long term, the worsening poverty levels in Jharkhand are explained principally in terms of well economic performance and externally prescribed economic remedies of the policy prescription. Kerala is best example where, the state government has given power to the local government to make decision and grant discretionary budget of 30 percent of the state's development expenditure to valuable effects. The main problem of Jharkhand is lack of grass root implementation of policy formulation for poverty eradication in rural areas.

The aim of the study is to examine the role of local governance of Jharkhand in the term of economic performance and policy formulation in poverty reduction. Empirical study consist of Hisri-Chauli village of Ranchi district. Sources of data are both primary and secondary including field finding, government reports, international institution gazettes, article, journal, books, etc. This study seeks to analyse the poverty reduction strategies in local-village level governance simultaneously concentrating on the anti-poverty programmes in rural areas. This study will find out the issues, challenges and required action to be taken by the Jharkhand government for the holistic approach of development would eliminate the scope for regional and sub-regional bias.

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## **Decentralised Climate Change Mitigation Framework In Rajasthan**

Inderjeet Singh Sodhi\*

Climate change is a global phenomenon that will have varying regional impacts. These impacts are projected to intensify as global atmospheric concentrations of greenhouse gases continue to rise. Nowadays cities in India are facing a biggest problem on climate change. Various studies have shown that the State of Rajasthan falls in areas of greatest climate sensitivity, maximum vulnerability and lowest adaptive capacity.

The issues that the present paper would like to raise are; a) what has been the role and influence of the international community and Central/State government on the process of decentralized climate change mitigation framework in Rajasthan? To what extent have decentralisation structures enhanced local capacities to address vulnerabilities to climate change impacts in the city? How can urban responses to climate change be facilitated or constrained by decentralisation and its impacts on urban planning and governance?

Some policies/plans formulated at the central/state level, but being implemented by the decentralization institutions like Indian Network for Climate Change Assessment (INCCA), Rajasthan Action Plan on Climate Change (RAPCC), Climate Change Action Programme (CCAP), Climate Change Agenda for Rajasthan (CCAR), etc. are helping for climate change mitigation. Similarly, there is an urgent requirement to prepare a City Resilience Plan (CRP) that would address city specific vulnerabilities.

Within the decentralized framework of mitigation strategies, while the central government formulates policy approaches at the national level, the actions are realized through the local authorities in their respective jurisdictions. It is expected that the decentralized climate change mitigation framework with the support of NGOs, research institutions, will control climate change impact at the local level.

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## **Dalit Women And Globalization: A Study In Tamil Nadu**

C. Petchi\*

M. Buvaneswaran†

The present study is attempting to address these issues with the following objectives, a) to find out the socio- economic, cultural and political status of Dalit women in Globalized era., b) to analyse the employment opportunities for Dalit women through Globalization., c) to examine the formation of political identity and Political Participation of Dalit women in Globalization era., d) to assess the impact of globalization on the health and sanitary condition of Dalit women., e) to analyse the changes of familial situation of Dalit women in the context of globalization.

Globalization has created opportunities for all social groups in India for their participation irrespective of their caste and creed in social life. The opportunities provided by Globalization have taken new routes to penetrate the age old system of caste in India. The social and religious disorders which restricted individuals and groups to mingle with each other on occupational choice, denied the basic rights of the marginalized and depressed groups. Globalisation is often paraded as a custodian of enormous ‘opportunities’. But such ‘opportunities’ are and whom they benefit is a question that directly concerns the Dalits. But the interests of the have-nots, a large majority of whom happen to be low castes, socially excluded, tribal, women, and other vulnerable sections of the society, are often neglected. Globalisation process which creates lot of opportunities for some categories of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes who are deprived of jobs, and face great difficulties in accessing housing, drinking water, food, health care, education, and employment.

In a caste-based hierarchical and graded social setup where lower social, economic background seems to be social status plays an important role in determining one’s economic and social status. The logic of globalization favors rich at the same time it’s creates lot of employment through industrialization.

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## **Participation In Waste Management:A Study On Tamilnadu**

Sreeja K.\*

Waste management is an important function of Local governments in India. Effective waste disposal and sanitation activities are the basic indicators of urban development. As India has transformed into a consumer society, the quantity of materials being thrown away has also increased. For the disposal of waste, most of the places do not have scientific disposal methods and as a result of which health and sanitation problems arise.

This paper is an attempt to highlight the extent of public participation in solid waste management system in the Thakkolam Town ,vellore district Tamilnadu. The study covers various aspect of public participation in solid waste management in the grass root level. Such a micro study can highlight the problem and issues in public participation in solid waste management in Local level and suggest way forward. The study is descriptive in nature. It tried to describe the extent of public participation in solid waste management in Thakkolam TP.

The level of public participation in solid waste management at present in Thakkolam Town Panchayath is low. There is a structure that allows for a more synergistic relationship between the public and the Town Panchayath authorities. The people do not possess knowledge on the benefits to the environment and consequently sustainable development when the volume of waste is reduced. For the better sustainable solid waste management of the town panchayath people participation is needed. There is some level people are willing to participate. They are ready to play their role in solid waste management, but as they unanimously agreed that they cannot mange on their own, they need the support from TP. Collaboration are thus very important for success of any project and solid waste management is not an exception. The willingness among the people to work together with one another and with the authorities for a common good is a starting point for a synergy which will move a productive relationship and sustainable SWM. The findings of the study will be helpful in contributing inputs for policy makers.

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## **Women Empowerment Through Micro Finance : Self Help Groups In Tamil Nadu**

V. Arockia Amuthan\*

The main aim of the study is to evaluate the performance of the self-help groups in Tamil Nadu and analyse the impact of micro-credit on socio-economic empowerment of women in the Tamil Nadu in general Thoothukudi District in particular. The study measured relationship between income and expenditure pattern of individuals before and after joining self-help groups in study area. Various functional forms of linear regression model were used to estimate the cause and effect relationship between income and expenditure pattern of the respondents.

This study found that socio – economic status of the SHGs members had increased in the form of family recognition, literacy and educational status. Majority of the women's belong to 35 to 45 age group, 98.5 per cent of the SHGs members were from other than the higher castes. Among the respondents, 48 per cent of the women's are house wife they are depends on husband earnings. Data revealed that more than one third of the family's decisions were being taken by their husband. However, all the respondents have saving accounts the major purpose of savings reported to food security, children's education and medical expenses.

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## **Dalit Women And Political Participation: A Study Of Telangana**

Ramchandraiah M.\*

Women's participation in mainstream political activity has important implications for the broader arena of governance in any country. Direct political participation of Dalit women in local governance is a central human right in itself and enables the realization of a host of other human rights. Caste has played an instrumental role in raising issues related to the more marginalized among women. In a highly hierarchical society, women belonging to the lower castes have lesser access to public fore, which is compounded by their gender. This exclusion makes it difficult for these women to represent and articulate the voices of their constituencies and their demands are often overlooked or subsumed by the dominant sections of the society. Recent legal and policy reforms in India to ensure the representation of marginalized social groups in decentralized governance, including Dalits and specifically Dalit women through constitutionally mandated reservations in Panchayat Raj institutions bring these issues to the fore. The present paper discusses the extent of participation of Dalit women elected representative in local bodies of Mahaboob Nagar in Telangana state.

Women's empowerment is one of the core objectives of the Panchayat in India. Women in India are awfully underrepresented in political institutions. The political power, access to decision making and authority are the critical prerequisites for women's equality in the process of nation building. The 73rd amendment has mandated representation of at least one-third women through election instead, of the earlier token one or two women nominated by the government or co-opted by the predominantly influential, powerful male membership/ leadership of these Panchayats. It is a significant step in the political history of independent India.

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## **Exclusion Experienced By Yanadi Tribe In Nellore District**

Kakani Madhava\*

This paper highlights the lives of the Yanadi tribes facing discrimination particularly in the fields of education, health and their exclusions from the political, economic, cultural and social spheres. This study tries to understand the socio-economic and cultural conditions of the Yanadi tribes in past and present in a comparative manner. And it also deals with the relationship of this Yanadi community with the other mainstream society around them.

The Yanadi tribe lives by constructing huts at outskirts of villages, public places, field embankments, tanks and canal bunds and rarely surrounded various high-caste households especially those of agriculture. This community has been engaged in utmost dirty and disrespected jobs/works, cleaning human wastage, cleaning roads, begging, and fishing. It is just because they belong to Yanadi tribe and moreover, most of them work for food instead of for money. Still, Yanadi tribes are leading semi-nomadic existing and they have been denied opportunities both in education and employment. Their status has been decided on the basis of their caste and job in India.

The following research questions are used to guide to write a paper, the questions are like. What extent the caste system and exclusion prevailed in the country even after 67 years of independence? What are the situation and social position of Yanadi tribe in Andhra Pradesh in present scenario? In how many ways the Yanadi tribes have been facing exclusion from the main stream society in Nellore district? The objectives are used to understand the concept of social exclusion in India and to examine the socio-economic profile of Yanadi tribe in Andhra Pradesh.

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## **Double Discrimination: A Gender Perspective Of Disability**

V. S. Sumi\*

Gender discrimination has been an important topic for debate in all the spheres like education, employment, societal role. When the term disability is connected with the gender it is getting worse and attracts the whole world to discuss upon these two. The term “Double Discrimination” is connected with discrimination experienced by a woman with disability. Both disability and gender are physical constructs which we can say that totally ignore the person. When we talk about gender, the topic clearly mention it’s about women and girls. The term gender discrimination is getting normalized in the society because the society is contextualizing the role of women as of stereotypic nature. When a women or girls have a disability there is no need of any more description that what will be the future of that individual. In India when we talk about women empowerment, the issue of gender and disability come in to focus. Though many of the gendered perspective of disability is seems to be invisible for the main front of any debate and discussion, it has in its arena of discrimination. This paper discuss about the gender perspective of disability, the status of women with disability with that of disabled and individuals without disability, measures for mainstreaming the disabled. There is a need to take into account and to address the concerns of women and girls with disabilities in policy-making. Special measures are also needed necessarily at all levels to integrate them into the mainstream of development.

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## **Empowerment And Democratic Decentralisation: Best Practices, Issues And Challenges**

Syed Tahseen Raza\*

The modern world with all the visible facilities seems to have progressed a lot in terms of providing amenities to the different groups and categories of people. The sad reality, however, is that the fruits of development till now, have not been able to percolate down at least evenly if not at all justly to different groups of society. Women as a group happen to be one of the most severely disadvantaged lot in most societies of the world. In the third world countries particularly, their plight is extremely vulnerable.

As a result of the efforts of different agencies - like the United Nations and various women organisations, issues surrounding the status of women has started getting increasing visibility: like the series of World Conferences by United Nations , Commissioning of reports specially on this issue by various governments, like the famous Towards Equality Report by the Indian government etc, - yet the status of women still continue to be deplorable.

This paper will be an attempt to understand the reason for this deplorable plight of women in the half hearted democratic functioning and will try to find solution to better their condition in the process of democratic decentralisation. Surveying the best practices in different countries of the world, an attempt will be made not only to decipher the link between decentralisation and Women empowerment but also to find out ways to further improve this process. Cursorily going through the available literature exploring the theoretical aspect of democratic decentralisation and its impact on local development.

This paper will try to specifically bring forth the issues related to women's empowerment through the process of decentralisation. With the overall aim of finding out the most appropriate ways of raising the status of women and empowering them through decentralisation, the paper will try to add to the literature intending to bring policy orientation towards a gender just political system.

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## **Coverage Of Climate Change In India**

Nayeem Showkat\*

Climate change has been emerging as one of the burning issues of mankind. Fourth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC 2007) dispelled many uncertainties about climate change. Warming of the climate system is now unequivocal. It is now clear that global warming is mostly due to man-made emissions of greenhouse gases. Apart from affecting the crop production, causing food insecurity and loss of livelihood, climate change will make monsoons unpredictable in India. Media plays a very crucial role in our society as its purpose is not only to inform the public about current and past events, but it also determines what we think and worry about. Theory predicts that information provided by print media reflects the media's incentives to provide news to different types of groups in society, and affects these groups' influence in policy-making. Here, media can play its part. The current paper analyses the role played by the print media in covering the paramount issue of climate change. The study used data produced by the different newspapers pertaining to such issues. There is little research available on how much information related to climate change is reaching the poorer communities across the globe. Climate change journalism can protect people and promote sustainable development. Content analysis is proved to be instrumental in analysing the content of the major Indian English dailies. This study used content analysis to unveil how much importance newspapers have been giving to climate change issues in India.

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## **Why Do Developmental Projects Fail? Explaining The Unintended Consequences Of Participatory Development Project In Kerala, India**

Abhilash Babu\*

In India, caste plays a decisive role in the distribution and access to resources. There are many caste taboos over drinking water and access to water is often mediated by caste. Control over water resources is inherently part of caste domination. Many a times, well-designed and well-meaning projects fail to achieve their goals, not because of the weaknesses of the project but because of the external constraints that are particular to the social context. In India, it is the spurious combination of caste and gender factors that become a formidable barrier to development implementation. The study unveils multiple factors that block the successful implementation of developmental projects in general and the Jalanidhi Project, a World Bank assisted rural drinking water project by the Government of Kerala, a southern state of India. The present study, examines how Upper Caste and patriarchal interests intervene in the process of implementation of the Jalanidhi Project and make use of the Project, if not blocking the very implementation of the project, for their own economic benefits or for consolidating their social power over the marginalised sections; mainly Dalits (the ex-Untouchables) and Dalit women. Through the case study of Jalanidhi Project, the researcher tries to explore the linkages between the role of 'project resistance' or 'project appropriation' by the dominant communities in the failure of project implementation. For successful project implementation, what is needed is not just participation of the local populations, but the marginalised sections of the local population. The study would explore the possible ways for involving the marginalised sections, especially the Dalit women, for not only preventing project diversion for the benefit of dominant groups but also for the empowerment of the marginalised.

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## **Agrarian Work, Climate Change And Food Security: Alternative Farming Of Uttarakhand**

Aradhana Singh\*

This paper attempts to bring forth how the practice of alternative farming has transformed the lives of a large number of farmers including women farmers in the northern Indian state of Uttarakhand. This paper discusses the agricultural vulnerability to climate change particularly on farmers and their perceptions of climate change impact, adaptation and coping strategies. This paper also examines how the institutional support has contributed to the empowerment of women in the farming sector by looking at three key variables –access to farm inputs, marketing opportunities, and control over land, which influence their abilities in terms of negotiating the male-dominated institutions of the market. The paper also talks about those institutional constraints that restrict these women farmers from participating equally in the market and make them vulnerable in a number of ways.

This study is based on a field work. The farming community in Uttarakhand has been facing loss and stability in productivity and overall food production is declining as a result of climate variability. To deal with the risks posed by climate change, farmers have decided to increase livelihood options through diversification of crops. As a result of diversification of agriculture, the farmers are getting three to four crops in a year. The paper concludes that against the current scenario of climate change, this subsistence production is crucial for the food security of the household. This produce will reduce the rural poor dependence on market purchases. Moreover, rural households continue to value the pursuit of farming activities for home consumption.

In Uttarakhand the number of households engaging in agriculture as a main source of food is declining, but there is a considerable increase in the number of households that engage in subsistence production to supplement market purchases. This further shows the important role that households attach to subsistence production as a source of food, thus reducing the pressure to generate income. However, the subsistence agriculture sector's productivity is known to be very low, and thus there is a need to significantly improve the productivity of the sub-sector if it is to achieve a significant impact on food security.

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## **A Study On Marginalization Of Youths In Kashmir**

Rabiya Bazaz\*

Mohammad Akam

Education is recognized as an important tool for bringing constructive and inclusive changes in society. It is considered crucial for socio-economic and political development. This rosy image of education is often criticized by Marxist, subaltern, feminist and other critical school of thought. Indian social structure is characterized by sharp socio-economic and spatial disparities. These disparities also get reflected in the educational system. There is large section of student population who back off from education at some point, due to various socio-economic impediments. They remain deprived of decent job and the kind of education they receive often uproots them from their traditional bases.

The objectives of the present study are a) to analyze the magnitude and impact of educated unemployed in Kashmir. b) to identify the sectors with large employment generation potentials in Kashmir. c) to know how decentralization of curriculum can make education more productive for marginalized group of Kashmir. d) to know how local self government can play an important role in management of such schools.

For this study information is collected from related literature and secondary data. Empirical studies and government reports have also been used. Rising educational employment in India and particularly in Kashmir reveal the malaise of the education system. The total number of unemployed in Kashmir is 1.3 lakhs while the registered job seekers are 4.48 lakh, majority of these job seekers are junior and senior higher secondary pass outs. Although government has introduced some training cum placement programmes like Udhaan, Himayat but they have not put much constraint on unemployment. Schools in Kashmir need some upgradation in their curriculum. Besides general academic skills, school curriculum should also impart knowledge of local skills through new courses. Management and content of such courses should be determined by the local self government. The curriculum for each trade should be in line with the need of the local enterprise. This necessitates vocalization of curriculum and autonomy of the local government in implementing vocational education at junior and senior secondary levels in Kashmir. This initiative can make education more productive and help in combating marginalization of youths in Kashmir

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## **Work And Deprivations: Marginalisation Of The Migrant Construction Workers**

Mohammad Akram\*

Construction sector, India's second largest generator of employment, has attained the status of industry but most (more than 90%) of the workforce is comprised of manual workers (contractual or daily wage) that largely come under unorganised sector. Millions of unskilled or semi-skilled rural migrants enter this sector through personal or contractual networks. This study explores the lives of these MCWs in the urban settings of western Uttar Pradesh. The study intends, a) to understand the trajectory of migration and explore living spaces and work conditions of MCWs, b) to assess the income, health and education related deprivations of MCWs and their family members, c) to assess the policy gaps and implementations deficits which promote insecure contracts causing multiples deprivations, d) to suggest policy corrections on how local self-government bodies could make meaningful interventions.

A multi stage cluster sampling was used to select small and medium sized housing and real estate construction sites from six districts of western Uttar Pradesh. Three hundred MCWs were selected by six (3 male & 3 female) trained fieldworkers randomly and interviews were conducted by making use of semi-structured interview schedules.

The migration trajectory that starts with economic deprivations seldom culminates in affluence. The children and women are the worst victims of circumstances. A process of marginalisation is very visible in social, political and even economic spheres of life. The policy measures to protect the interests of MCWs are ineffective because of poor bureaucratic surveillance, corporate insensitivity, corruption and incessant profit motives of builders. This paper suggests how civic amenities and entitlements could be ensured to MCWs through local self-governance and decentralized development trajectories.

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## **Economic Growth, Skill Development And Poverty Reduction: A Study Of Uttar Pradesh**

Dushyant KUMar\*

Monika Mehrotra†

Development Economics was considering that the “Trickle down Effect” of growth oriented GDP will help to eradicate poverty gradually. But, despite the rapid growth in GDP achieved by country economy, poverty continues to afflict a large section of population across the states. Economic growth contributes most to poverty reduction when it increases employment, productivity level, skillness and quality of life, rapidly. Apart from economic growth, low rate of employment generation and lack of skill remains major problem persist in poverty reduction.

The present paper is making an attempt, a) to analyze the economic growth performance and poverty level in U.P., b) to determine the factors responsible for poverty and unemployment, c) to evaluate the employment generation programme and d) to elaborate Skill Development programme for sustainable growth in India.

The present study is based on secondary data and information collected from a variety of sources. An attempt has been made in the present study to make a systematic analysis of changes in the size and structure of poverty ratio over last few years. This analysis is useful to understand the employment opportunities and skill development initiatives and the implications of recent policy changes adopted by Government. Collecting and compiling data and information from various available sources, relevant ratios and percentages have been calculated and analyzed to find the answer of research question.

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## **Women Empowerment And Sriniketan Experiment**

Subhrangsu Santra\*

Rabindranath Tagore started Sriniketan experiment in 1922 under the leadership of Leonard K. Elmhirst with the active involvement of local administration and local self governance. The area of women empowerment got adequate attention since then. It is also reflected in his many writings. Even he established a girl's primary school at Shilaidaha in 18th century for women empowerment.

His ideal of women empowerment came in to existence first by Pratima Devi after formation of a Mohila Samiti at Bhubandanga. All adult women of the village can be the member of the Mohila Samiti. Tagore's ideal was not only to involve women in the process of direct economic activities rather to realise the importance of women for the development of the society. At present eleven (11) Mohila Samities are functioning in eleven villages. The main objective of formation of Mahila Samiti is to reach all women in the village irrespective of castes, communities and economic classes. He tried to maintain communal integrity as well as to share the knowledge of educated women to all.

The present paper is an attempt, a) to study the steps of formation of Mohila Samiti and its functioning, b) to find out the activities of the Mohila Samiti and its impact on poverty alleviation, c) to find out the role of Local Panchayat in process of functioning of Mohila Samiti and find out the way to replicate the model in other villages.

All Mohila Samities (11 in numbers) with concerned Panchayats will be studied. Ten members from each Mahila Samiti will be interviewed. Qualitative as well as quantitative methods will be applied to analysis the data. The PRA method(s) will be applied for impact assessment study. Findings shows that the role of panchayats in the process of functioning of Mohila Samiti is remarkable different from other villages. Poor families got support in terms of kind during lean season as they all are member of same association. It has also found that other social development indicators are much better than the other surrounding villages.

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## **The Role Of Ict In Strengthening Local Governance: A Study Of Two Gram Panchayats In West Bengal**

Kunal Bandyopadhyay\*

West Bengal is considered as one of the foremost state in the areas of local governance and decentralisation in India. Since the late 1970s, West Bengal has pursued an alternative approach to rural development based squarely on institutional reforms, involving land reform and decentralized governance. A functioning three tier systems of rural local governments (panchayats) elected every five years was instituted since 1978, well in advance of the 73rd Constitutional Amendments in the early 1990s which mandated such a system throughout India. The use of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) in governance and public service delivery systems in the recent time has added a new dimension to strengthen local governance. In West Bengal, processes of decentralisation and institutional issues were assisted by special projects like SRD (Strengthening Rural Decentralisation) and ISGP respectively supported by DFID (2005-2011) and World Bank (2011-ongoing).

This paper analyses the effectiveness of these measures in addressing issues of accountability and transparency in the Gram Panchayats. The research is done in two World Bank funded Gram Panchayats in the District of Birbhum to understand how the effective implementation of ICT measures impact on the overall institutional strengthening of Gram Panchayats. For the purpose and the rigour of the study the GPs were selected on the basis of identified socio-economic and other important methodological indicators. Elected Representatives and local residents were selected as respondents randomly. Gram Sansads were visited for this purpose. For the collection of data structured questionnaire, personal interview, FGDs and case study methods were also used.

The finding shows that the role of ICTs in the rural local governance process is limited. The day to day administrative practices, monitoring of planning cycle, GPs financial management has improved undoubtedly but it is not a panacea as viewed by some experts.

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## **Women Empowerment And Grassroots Democracy: A Study Of Gram Sansad, West Bengal**

Anil Kumar Biswas\*

United Nations defines empowerment as the processes by which women take control and ownership of their lives through expansion of their choices. The World Bank has suggested that empowerment of women should be a key aspect of all social development programme (2001). Since the 1980s the Government of India has shown increasing concern for women's issues through a variety of legislations promoting the education and political participation of women. The 73rd Constitutional Amendment Act, 1992 gave ample scope for the empowerment of women through Panchayati Raj Institution. Gram Sabha have been bestowed with enormous power in the decision making process under this act. In West Bengal Gram Sansad at the Constituency/ward level of a Gram Panchayat is occupying important place in the decision making processes under West Bengal Panchayat Amendment Act, 1994. Gram Sansad consist all registered voters of a constituency within the area of a Gram Panchayat. In a sense, it is a legal entity at the grassroots level below the Gram Panchayat. So people participation in Gram Sansad is very important for the success of participatory development. Women's share on population in our country has near about 50%. So their direct participation is very important for country's development. Gram Sansad has given this scope to women.

Keeping the above views the paper aims to study the nature of women participation in Gram Sansad. This aims to study the various dimensions of women participation in grassroots democracy. This paper also has trying to show the causes behind the non-participation of women and also trying to give some suggestions for increasing real participation of women.

The major concern of this paper is to explore the nature of women participation in Gram Sansad. For this study researcher collected secondary and primary data. As secondary data researcher collected official documents from respective Gram Panchayat offices and reviewed existing literature. He collected primary data from 11 Gram Sansad as sample. He used simple statistical methods for compiling data.

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## **The Marginalized First Generation Learners In West Bengal: Local Self Government In Backward Districts Of Westbengal**

Debasish Nandy\*

In West Bengal, there is a great challenge for first generation learners to get minimal education. This is not meant that government has not taken any step. The socio-economic factors are responsible for this backwardness. The first generation learners are likely to lack knowledge of time management, school finances, and bureaucratic operations of higher education. They have been found to less likely to encounter a welcoming environment on campus. Entering the school means for them that they are entering into an alien physical and social environment which they, their family and their peers have never experienced. They are faced with leaving a certain world in which they fit for an uncertain world where they know they don't fit. In fact, first generation learners may find themselves “on the margins of two cultures” and have to offer renegotiate relationship at school and at home to manage the tension between the two. As a result, they become the highest risk students for dropping out. Against this backdrop a comparative survey had been conducted to chalk out the home and school level variations of the first generation communities and non first generations. The emphasis is appropriate on two reasons, viz., firstly, students from first generation are among the least likely to be retained through degree completion, secondly, strategies that are effective for increasing persistence of first generation learners are also successful for increasing the persistence rates of general student population as well.

The paper is divided into four sections. Section I represents the comparative profile of home and school perspectives of the first generation learners relative to the non first generations. The study deals with the various facets of first generation learners with few objectives, firstly, to compare and analyze the socio-economic as well as socio-cultural conditions between the first generations and non first generation learners'. Secondly, to explore the role of local self government in spreading education among the first generation learners. Finally, to suggest ways and means so that the barriers of access and success can be overcome making the goal of securing universal elementary education a success through the help of local self government.

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## **Role Of Microfinance In Empowering Women**

Nandita Deb\*

Microfinance is a type of banking service that is provided to unemployed or low-income individuals or groups who would otherwise have no other means of gaining financial services. Micro finance through Self Help Group (SHG) has been recognized internationally as the modern tool to combat poverty and for rural development. Micro finance and SHGs are effective in reducing poverty, empowering women and creating awareness which finally results in sustainable development of the nation.

In this paper the role played by Microfinance in women's empowerment are considered into three dimensions namely psychological, social and economical. The objectives of the study is i) to understand the performance of SHG's in West Bengal, ii) to analyze the freedom women members get in SHG's, iii) to study the problems women members face in SHG's, iv) to analyze the empowerment of the women psychologically, economically and socially and v) to offer suggestions for the betterment of women's empowerment in SHG's.

The study is undertaken in rural areas of West Bengal. Primary data is enumerated from a field survey in the study region. Secondary data is collected from NGOs' reports and other documents. The researcher has used percentage method, simple correlation coefficient, paired t test and cross tabulation for analysis purpose. Analysis showed that there is a gradual increase in the all the three factors among rural women of West Bengal.

From the interaction among the respondents it is noticed that some members are expecting the NGO to come up with more training sessions in income generating activities. All they need is a way to develop their skills and talents by participating in various training programs. This particular study has throw light to the fact that there is a definite improvement in psychological well being and social and economical empowerment among rural women as a result of participating in micro finance through SHG program.

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## **Strengthening Urban Governance - Experience From Odisha**

Rashmi Patel\*

Decentralization and devolution of power have become the essence of good governance for the local self-governance system in the country with the constitutional mandate for the panchayati raj institutions and the urban local bodies. Encouragement for greater participation of citizens is the focal point of 73rd and 74th Amendments of the Constitution of India. But it is observed that participation of the community in development process in the urban local bodies is not very encouraging compared to the grass-root governance system in the rural areas. Exercising one's franchise to elect a representative to the local body is not the only criteria for participation of people in governance. Ensuring democratic rights of all sections of the society, promotion of equal opportunities, and service delivery by public institutions for welfare of the people / communities are other crucial factors, which need to be planned and monitored by the community. In the process elected representatives, public officials and institutions are to be made accountable to the citizens in delivering goods and services. Collective voice of the community is an important aspect for addressing the problems of the people.

The present paper "Citizen Engagement for Urban Governance and Infrastructure Services" highlights the key issues and challenges with Urban governance in India in general and Odisha in particular and also experience of Odisha in a successful attempt to address the issue.

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## **Tending To The Last Mile: Governance And Equity In Kerala**

Akila Radhakrishnan\*

Fundamental lessons in Physics told us that an apparent force caused by the inertia of a rotating body may make it move towards or away the centre of rotation. It is interesting to contextualise this phenomenon in Kerala's vibrant political administration set up, basically defined by its decentralised system of governance over the last 20 years. It is especially interesting to explore whether and how Kerala's democratic decentralisation could address development with social equity, for reducing marginalisation, poverty and backwardness among tribal pockets.

Kerala's deep devolution of funds, functions and functionaries have considerably shifted the power-centre to more than a thousand rural and urban local government bodies / local self-governments (LSGs). What has this meant for the last mile pockets of development – typically the tribal and hard to reach highlands of entrenched socio-economic backwardness? Do the state's well-intentioned multi-level mechanisms of decentralisation and operational guidelines touch the lives of the marginalised groups? How could decentralisation improve the lives of people, who are staggering in the last mile of the state's development? What are the promises and challenges for panchayats to ensure children's rights in such hard to reach areas? This paper will deliberate some of these concerns, using the tribal block of Attapady in Palakkad district as a case in point. In unfolding this argument, the paper will throw light on what has been the status of Attapady's local governance? What are the promises and challenges that must be addressed to make its LSGs effective and efficient? How can the strategy of child friendly local governance help to fill the gap? What is the way forward for this tribal block to benefit from the Kerala's model of development?

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## **Scope Of Local Self Governments In The Energy Sector Of Kerala.**

Joseph A.D.\*

After decentralization of planning, the role of Local Bodys has touched every sphere of socio economic life. Its role in Production, Service and Infrastructure sectors were widely discussed and well recognized. Although some model schemes were implemented, the energy sector was not received adequate attention decentralized planning. In this paper attempt is being made to assess the scope of LSGD in the Energy Sector of Kerala. The paper tries to, a) study the functions and responsibilities of local self-Governments with respect to the Energy Sector, b) study the present items/schemes that can be under taken by the Local Self-governments as per the Micro sector codes and find out the gap, if any, c) highlight some of the best practices found in the sector for replication, d) discuss the methodological issues, found, if any.

LSGD can significantly contribute in the energy sector since sufficient space is there for the local bodys to contribute in Production, Distribution, Conservation and infrastructure areas. However, Local bodys in the State are currently taking up only very few number of schemes in the energy sector.

Presently their interest was restricted to the schemes like Electric line extension, Street Lights and its repair, and distribution of solar lamps to SC/ST families. Technical incompetency, lack of interest of the Panchayath committees, lack of sufficient fund is some of the reasons to it. There is also a need to induct modern and innovative schemes or items in the sector wise list.

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## **Women Empowerment In The Context Of Decentralization: The Case Of Kerala**

Sandhya P.\*

Decentralization emerged as an important development agenda with a view to focusing on governance and human-centered approaches to human development in Kerala. Decentralization and women empowerment are closely related. Womens empowerment has several dimensions, political participation as being one of them. Women can be empowered by political participation through different ways. An equal participation in decision making process and policy formulation can bring empowerment for women in both formal and informal ways. Without political presence of women in national, regional and local level can enhance the power of men only which make them marginalized in every sphere of life. Thus, empowerment of women largely relies on political participation. It is obviously clear that empowerment is closely related to the concept of political participation. In the case of Kerala, democratic decentralization can provide greater opportunity for women to be empowered as it is considered as good governance. The present study makes an attempt in the context of the development experience of Kerala.

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## **Deprivation In Child Health Care: Need For A Local Governance Approach**

Vipin Chandran\*

Kerala state occupies a unique position among Indian states in the fields of education and health. At present, the health care system in Kerala is moving through a very turbulent period. Certain disturbing trends have emerged in Child development in recent years. Several previous studies reveal that prevalence of large disparities in district wise analysis of child nutritional status in Kerala.

Though Kerala has been successfully implementing all nutrition oriented programmes and related programmes of housing, sanitation and potable drinking water, the state could not achieve the nutritional level of best performing states. The set of issues and different perspectives would naturally give rise to several questions on the child health and nutritional deprivation in different parts as well as Kerala as a whole. A clear perspective would call for a verification of the level of child health and nutritional status across income groups, religion, caste and region and also their causes and policy imperatives in Kerala.

The present study is an exercise to illuminate future policy through local governance focusing both on outcomes and indicators for child development.

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## **Health Infrastructure In Primary Health Centres After Decentralisation: A Study On Kannur District Of Kerala.**

Rahiyath C.\*

Kerala model of health sector development is well-known globally. The state initiated the innovative process of democratic decentralization in 1995 accordance with the 73rd & 74th amendments to the Constitution of India. The state has taken the longest stride than any other state in putting Panchayathi Raj in the ground and more importantly in the hands of the people (Jain, 2005). The state followed a big bang approach with devolution of resources, functions and functionaries to Local Self Governments.

As decentralization is considering as an efficient mechanism for the health sector development and infrastructure development is a necessary factor for the smooth delivery of health care services, a study to evaluate the progress in infrastructure facilities of these transferred institutions after the two decades of decentralization was relevant. The present study is a microscopic attempt to understand the scope and challenges in development of health infrastructures and health care service delivery in the primary health centres of Kerala. The data on health infrastructure facilities were collected from various health centres (DHs, CHCs, PHCs, and SCs) in Kannur district of Kerala. The study found that Sub centres were the immense player for the health sector development in rural areas, lack of human resources in health centres is a great challenge for the smooth delivery of health care services.

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## **Social Exclusion: The Challenges Of Transgender Persons In Kerala**

Aneesh M. S.\*

Social exclusion refers to the processes in which individuals and entire community of people are systematically blocked from rights, opportunities and resources. Exclusion is directly or indirectly affected the status of transgenders. Transgender is an umbrella term used to describe people whose gender identity or gender expression differ from their assigned sex [sex that determined at the time of infant's birth]. Broadly, anyone whose identity, appearance or behavior falls outside conventional gender norms can be explained as a transgender.

Transgender individuals in India are broadly known under different names like hijda, thirunankai, arvanies, etc. The word transgender is derived from two different languages the Latin word `Trans` and the English word `gender`. There are preconceived notions that transgenders are `neither male nor female`. Transgender peoples are mostly born with male physiology and adopt feminine gender identity, women's clothing and other feminine gender role.

The present paper shows that gender minorities are facing so many problems from the society and family, that clearly proves that transgenders are the most excluded persons in the society. The main areas of exclusion faced by transgenders are in education, health care, family and others. In Kerala, social justice department implemented a new policy for the betterment of transgender persons. No clear statistics was available in the number of transgenders living in Kerala but the transgender policy revealed that more than 25000 transgenders are living in Kerala. Various social schemes should be framed for their development and inclusion in the society. Most of the transgenders are not under any health care schemes because there is no way to access the insurance and the other reason is lack of knowledge. This paper is mainly focus on the impact of exclusion in the life of transgender people and the challenges that they are facing in the society.

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## **Science Of Poverty: Poverty Of Science**

Anish Mathew\*

This paper argues that how a fertile range of staple food cultivation of a region degraded with the natural calamity as major problem of production. As considering rice is staple food of Kerala, Kuttanad has a historic role in the production of rice. Land of Kuttanad is unique with its geography and fertility. So she had a hegemonic legacy in rice production in Kerala. From the origin Kuttanad faced different problems in the cultivation of rice namely social, economic and environmental. But the people of Kuttanad recovered all these labyrinths with their indigenous knowledge and experience. Among these difficulties Kuttanad's monsoons get with them the permanent crisis of floods, delivered by the four foremost rivers namely Pampa, Manimala, Achenkoil, and the Meenachil flows to Kuttanad, also spark floods caused by bountiful summer rain in Kuttanad past times have affected serious harm to rice cultivation.

Because of the accretion of floodwater, the water level in lower part of Kuttanad inured to rise further than controllable limits. Number of scientific studies conducted in this area long past eighty years. From the inference of these studies lot of remedial measures were suggested and implemented. Mainly they are Thottappally spill way, Thannermukkam Bund etc and also development programmes like roads and bridges across the heart of Lower Kuttanad Region. So this paper searches presently how the remedial measures/ productivity improvement implementation programmes affected the production, is it positive or negative? Could control the flood? Has it been helping the livelihoods of the area? What is the present production scenario from there; how peoples experiencing the effect of most modern remedial protection of cultivation?

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## **The Panchayati Raj System In Goa**

Pratiksha Chandrakant Shirodkar\*

Decentralization has assumed an important role in matters of governance in the developing world over the last few years. In most of the developing countries, decentralization reflects a broader process of political and economic reform. The interest in decentralization as a mechanism for transforming society is not new.

Decentralization and participatory democracy gained importance after the passage of 73rd constitutional amendment which is the landmark in the history of India. The Goa Daman & Diu Village Panchayat Regulation was the first of its kind in the history of Goa to envisage development of rural areas and to transfer power to the people at the grassroot level.

This paper focuses on the various aspects of decentralization and discusses about the unique history of institutions of local self government dating back to ancient times of Goa and also gives brief account of the two tier system of Panchayati Raj in Goa. It discusses the role local government can play in making democracy strong and powerful in the world in general and Goa in particular. It also discusses the risks of decentralization in order to develop strategy to overcome them so the working of the Panchayati Raj system in Goa & the country can be improved. Good governance is considered as the key to human development . Participation, accountability and transparency serves as the pillar of good governance. The 73rd constitutional amendment act of 1992 brought a significant change in the administration of local areas and in small states like Goa. These institutions play a significant role in the overall development of the area. Decentralized governance enables government to make policy successful.

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## **Entrepreneurship And Women Empowerment**

Sreeja V\*

It is the fact that when there is the development of women, the family develops, the society develops and the country develops. Unfortunately in many communities worldwide, women lack a highly stable employment history. We often fail to consider women as a human resource. Even to meet her day to day expenses she has to depend the male members of her family. Lack of skills or lack of opportunities to earn skills is the main obstacle in front of them. But when she is able to be skilled it will definitely make a positive change. Here we often face the question, what type of livelihood is feasible for a woman? For a highly educated one or a rich this question is insignificant. But it becomes crucial in the case of a poor illiterate woman whose choices are comparatively limited. Here we can utilize the possibilities of micro enterprises as a tool of empowerment and skill development.

Empowering women through entrepreneurship has become an integral part of our development efforts. When women are economically free they will have an individual status of their own and their intellectual, creative abilities are also improved. When a human being is capable to find a livelihood and earn something in terms of money or skill, that transformation from a mere dependent to a contributor and to an active human resource, makes the things better. The present study explores the role of microenterprises in the socio economic empowerment of women at the regional level with special reference to Shoranur Municipality of Kerala. The study shows that microenterprises are efficient and effective for enhancing managerial capacities, communication skills and productivity of women.

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## **Right – Based Approach: Instrument For Strengthening Decentralization**

Vinukumar N V\*

Nation states that have agreed to these basic human rights have a legal and moral obligation to guarantee and realize these rights for all people. They are the legal ‘duty-bearers’ of these rights and must honour their obligation, to their citizens. Likewise all people are ‘right holders’ who are entitled to the freedom and security set out in the human rights agreements. A nation state is not necessarily the only duty-bearer for there are also ‘moral duty bearers’ such as private companies, non-governmental organization, institutions, community leaders etc. with responsibilities towards safeguarding and ensuring the rights of individuals or whole communities are upheld. There is a centralized and decentralized regime in the states.

This paper has made an attempt to study how the rights-based development approach affects the decentralization process in India. All the states in the world gave more attention to the preservation and conservation of human rights of their citizens. The nature of this treatment of each state are varying from one another. In a decentralized regime gave more attention to the rights of grassroots people. In such regime human rights principles guide programming all sectors such as health, education, governance, nutrition, water and sanitation, employment and labour relations and social and economic security. Every empowerment programme has recognized the importance of integrating rights. The use of right language in development work has increased in recent years. In India 73rd and 74th constitutional amendment act reinforce the concept of decentralization process. Through the devolution of power the policies and programmes of government reach at every corner of society. But in application of devolution of power has witnessed some practical errors. As a remedy for to correct these errors, the government recently gave the priority to its policies and programmes on right-based development approach. After the 2005 in India appearing a new kind of ‘golden acts’ like RTI, Right to Health, Right to Education and Right to Food etc. These acts accelerating the decentralization process in India. In a participatory democracy the role of local level institutions are more important. Only the local bodies could identify the actual interests behind the projected rights. So the right-based development approaches important in the deepening of democracy.

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## **MGNREGS Among Tribal People: Study On Mampad Panchayath**

Rincy K.\*

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In 2005 UPA Government implemented Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Program (MGNREGP) to provide minimum work for rural people. This program is a poverty eradication measure and at the same time an empowerment measure for the rural people. It is not simply a work generating programme, but it is a movement to make the marginalized people economically self sufficient and brings them forward. By providing 100 days of work, it can make the people economically more sufficient. This programme provides relief in the life of tribal community. The objective of this paper is to address the impact of MGNREG programme in the tribal area. It attempts to find out whether such policies and schemes favour and satisfy the livelihood needs and uplift the social behaviour of tribal society. The study becomes more relevant as it finds out whether MGNREGS is an effective tool for economic empowerment of tribal community. Karikkattumanna ward in Mampad panchayath is selected as the study area. The sample is taken from the Paniya and Muthuva community.

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## **Concept Of Socialist Democracy And Decentralized Planning: Experience Of Kerala Panchayath Raj**

Vysakh K. S.\*

Village model of system existed in Kerala even before the decentralization got proper structure and order. The 73rd and 74th constitutional amendment give formal structure to the self government concept and it give devolution of power, authority and responsibility to villages. The concept of 'people's participation and development' is discussed in the local self government. Now development is promoted from below instead of imposing it from the center, the principles of socialist democracy can be seen in the decentralized planning. The socialist democracy in a wider sense develops the thinking of individual to community, decentralized governance is purely a community development it build self stable villages, welfare and social development. In a socialist aspect the socialist democracy is socialist rule by democratic means. The paper deals with how far the concept of socialist democracy is inborn to decentralized democracy and how much we achieved so far.

The objectives are, a) to find out how much related is the concept of socialist democracy and decentralized governance in Kerala, b) to check that the decentralization of planning is justifying the socialist democracy, c) to find out the Kerala experience in decentralized planning.

The study adopts a theoretical, descriptive and analytical case-study design. The study is primary based on secondary data though government documents and various reports. It is basically an analytical study and analyses the problem based on secondary data. The concept socialist democracy and principles can be found in the basic idea of decentralized governance and decentralized planning in Kerala. Social development equality and classless society are the basic idea of socialist democracy which can be seen in the decentralized planning. Decentralized planning in the Kerala was installed through various steps of planning and the implication of decentralized governance can be seen as a way to socialist democracy.

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## **Paradox In Strategies And Practices: Two Decades Of Decentralised Health Experience In Kerala**

Sunitha B Nair\*

Two decades have passed since the model state of Kerala went through decentralised planning and it is in this context that there is a need to analyse the impact of decentralisation policies on health sector in Kerala. To be specific this paper would like to analyse some salient questions such as-how far it has increased the accessibility of health services especially to primary health centres? What are the administrative or managerial changes in the functioning of Primary Health Centres? How far the local self governing institutions could effectively intervene to improve the performance of primary health centres? What are the perceptions of the people regarding the primary health centres in delivering preventive and curative care including medicines? The study is based on both primary and secondary data. The present study would focus on two primary health centres in Kannur district for the analysis. Funds received under various head and multiples sources would be collected from concerned PHC's. Detailed interview with key personnel's working in PHC's, panchayat representatives who are part of various committees formed to guide PHC's under NRHM initiative, in-depth interviews with beneficiaries of PHC's would be the main primary data sources for the study. The study provides a number of insights into the current scenario of public health at the grass root level which are important for a review of policies.

It is argued that intersectoral coordination is happening to some extent lack of resources remains a constraint to improve the performance of PHC's in terms of provision of curative care. Ever since the implementation of NRHM, in the initial phases most of the funds remained unutilised whereas it is observed that most of the NRHM funds which are untied is used for beautification of hospital premises or making superficial changes in the institution and not to improve the preventive or curative care. Further PHC's are still struggling to mobilise resources either through user charges or through some other means with the help local self governing institutions.

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## **Gram Sabhas In Managing Biodiversity : REview Of Gadgil Committee Report**

Afsheer A.\*

Dilip Diwakar

Management of bio diversity should be vested in the hands of real stake holders, i.e., the local population. Since independence, India is following a top down approach in the management of biodiversity and environment. The consequence of this approach was devastating; studies found that from 1920 to 1990, 40% of original vegetation cover was lost in the states of Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Karnataka.

A slight departure from this approach was seen when the Government of India passed Forest Rights Act in 2006. It paved the way for the management of bio-diversity in the hands of the local tribal population. To study about the effects of human activity in the Western Ghats and to suggest recommendations for conservation, protection and rejuvenation of bio-diversity, the Government of India appointed an expert committee headed by Dr. Madhav Gadgil. The committee submitted its report. This paper attempts to bring into limelight the path breaking recommendations of the Gadgil Committee report on the Decentralized management of environment and bio-diversity and the potential roles that could be played by the Gram Sabha and Panchayath Raj institutions in the management of the ecology. The findings and recommendations of the committee witnessed huge public outcry. 15 Taluks in Kerala were listed under Ecological Sensitive Zone 1, in which severe restrictions on the developmental activities were recommended, which lead to public opinion going against the report. Many of the good recommendations of the report were overshadowed by controversies. One of the main recommendations was the departure from the current top down approach to a more participatory bottom up approach. It recommended a participatory management of bio-diversity, giving a huge role to Gram Sabha. The report strongly advocates for the Gram Sabha as the ultimate institution in deciding the ecological sensitive areas and the nature of development that can be undertaken under the jurisdiction of Gram Sabha. The study conducted by Dr. Madhav Gadgil found that traditional biodiversity management followed by the indigenous and local population in India is far more sustainable and effective than the scientific management of biodiversity.

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## **Decentralised Planning And The Manufacturing Sector**

Vipin Kumar R.\*

Kerala is a forerunner among many Indian states, the way in which it has devolved powers, functions and resources to Local Self Government Institutions (LSGIs) after 73rd and 74th Constitution Amendments. The Kerala Panchayat Raj and Kerala Municipality Acts of 1994, empowered LSGIs in state as vital institutions for local economic development.

Evaluation studies on decentralised planning experience in Kerala observed that productive sector intervention under LSGIs found to be less effective as compared to service and infrastructure sector. It is important to ask why such initiatives became less effective? The objective of the study is to analyse factors that influence the sustainability of manufacturing units under Grama Panchayats (GPs) in Kerala. The present study argues that GPs have limitation to intervene in local economic development in a neo-liberal market regime. The study analyses experience of two food processing units. The study observed that product nature has crucial role in determining the sustainability of manufacturing units formed under GPs.

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## **Implementation Of Pollution Control Laws In Kathikudam, Kerala: The Role Of The Panchayat**

Arif P.T.\*

The experience of the people at Kathikudam for the last three decades where the Nitta Gelatin factory is located is an example where the people have been struggling to protect the environment from the pollution. Deadly diseases, intolerable odor, poisonous gases, pollution of the river and agriculture land etc continue to affect the common life of Kathikudam. The Chalakkudy river flows through Kathikudam, an agricultural village in the Thrissur district of Kerala. On the banks of the river stands NGIL, which has been using river water to clean animal bones and chemicals to produce Ossein, a precursor to gelatin. Kerala is a state where decentralization of power is efficiently instituted under Panchayath Raj Act. The company has been running without panchayath permission, trading on the rights of residents. It may be assumed that a constitutional crisis is evolving around this issue. By allowing the factory to function many laws and policies are violated. An important constitutional provision in the 73rd amendment is also not safeguarded. This paper is an effort to highlight such contradiction and propose means to better the situation through empowering panchayathiraj system.

The company is spoiling the rich bio-system of Chalakkudy river by letting out the polluted water which makes water resources in the neighborhood polluted. A Report in 2010 has exposed the details of pollution and possible dangers. The company earns more than one core annually selling the bio-fertilizers it produces illegally. As the case of Union Carbide Company at Bhopal the Nitta Gelatin Company buried and collected waste effluents within the premises of the company. Already the region is found to be victim of pollution as a result of the absence of laws and limited power of decentralized institution to handle natural resources and its maintenance.

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## **Do Retail Sector Economically Empower Women; A Theoretical Perspective**

Juvairiya V.\*

Empowerment of women means equipping women to be economically independent, self-reliant, have positive esteem and enable them to face any difficult situation. It is essential for ensuring not just their personal or household welfare, but also the wellbeing of the entire society. Strengthening the economic role of women is also critical which promotes women's ability to achieve their rights and well-being, and helps in reducing household poverty, improving health and education, increasing economic growth and productivity, and increasing efficiency. In a country like India where women constitutes approximately 50 percent of the total population, it is essential to give an equal importance towards their economic development which can lead them towards decision making process in family and in society. This leads to a more inclusive and sustainable economic growth of the nation.

This paper makes an attempt to explore the role of retail sector in empowering women in India. It is viewed that retail sector can play an important role in improving the economic conditions of Indian women by providing them employment and income generating opportunities. With the emergence of online market places such as Amazon, Snapdeal, and Flipkart, thousands of women are gaining financial independence by selling products across categories such as healthcare, home furnishing, jewellery, handicrafts and fashion apparel. But the women's participation in retail sector remains low as compared to men in the country. The information and Communication technology is increasingly providing new opportunities to access market information, communicate with customers and provide a new channel for buying and selling products.

This paper is descriptive in nature and based on secondary data only. This paper also aims to examine the current status of women retailers in Indian economy and discuss the major opportunities available in the retail industry in India for women. It has been found that training, education and information have an important role to attract more women for participating in the retail sector and create awareness among them about the benefits and prosperity they can acquire through it. They have to be trained to take up administrative responsibilities and require support from family and government which will encourage them to participate and improve their self confidence.

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## **Development And Deprivation Of Marginalized Communities: Perspectives On Kerala**

K. Gangadharan\*

Kerala has been often identified as a state with high human development despite faltering economic development. Kerala continues to rank at the top among Indian states with respect to human development index as per 1981, 1991 and 2001 estimates. Development indicators like high literacy, better demographic traits, Government spending in the service sector, remittance income, etc., which were pivotal in the “Kerala Model” have played only a limited role in the development of tribal communities. Irrespective of high social development and reform movements, inter-caste disparity is still prevalent in Kerala and scheduled tribes have been the most marginalized among all groups.. A large number of tribal communities are extremely backward and some of them are even in primitive stage of development. The index of deprivation is based on four necessities of well-being, such as housing quality, access to drinking water, good sanitation, and electricity. The tribes in Kerala are highly deprived in these basic indicators.

In order to elicit the intensity of deprivation, the objectives proposed by the study are: to examine the multi-dimensional determinants of deprivation affecting human development of tribal households. It also aims to study, the district wise human development deprivation status of tribal households in Kerala .The study is Descriptive and Analytical. The study is based on secondary data mainly the Census data of 2011 and also the report of Socio Economic Survey of Scheduled Tribes prepared by the ST Dept. of Govt.of Kerala in 2010. The study constructed an index of deprivation of tribes in all districts of Kerala. The deprivation score is calculated on the methodology devised by UNDP for measuring human poverty Index.

The analysis of data reveals that the human development status of tribals is very deplorable and and it cannot be compared to the general population of Kerala. There is high deprivation and marginalization in all development indicators among the tribes in Kerala which needs immediate attention of proper time bound planning for tribal upliftment.

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## **Climate Change And Western Ghats: The Role Of Panchayats In Prevention And Mitigation**

Anoop P.V.\*

Conservation International has declared the Western Ghats Mountains as one of the 34 global biodiversity hotspots in the world. Human activities over the last few centuries have released green house gases at levels that is destroying the climate . The rise of average surface temperature on earth is increasing day by day.The paper discussed the following objectives how dose Western Ghats influence climate change. How does Kerala panchayath raj act as a barriers for climate change. What are the strengths and weaknesses of Panchayaths in Kerala in dealing with climate change.The purpose of the the paper is to analyse the role of decentralization in addressing environmental problems.

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## **Public Libraries And Integrated Information Services In Kerala**

A.T. Francis\*

Economic and social well-being of the people in a modern society is highly depend on the accessibility and utilization of information and knowledge. The library and information system comprised of all types of libraries; right from the school libraries at the bottom level and the public libraries at the top level; have specific roles to empower the individuals, institutions and societies. The public libraries are considered as “people’s universities”. But, the demand for information and knowledge resources of the public libraries are also based on the quality of education and the economic and social functioning of the society. The efficiency of libraries in schools, colleges and universities has direct bearing on the utilization of public libraries.

The public library system in India has contributed significantly towards literacy, health, career development, etc. But, in order to effectively cater to the varied information needs of the people, the library system should be improved very much, especially on the lines of networking, resource sharing, consortia based operations, etc. Though Kerala has high living standard and socio-economic indicators comparable to the developed and many western countries, much improvement is essential on its library system, especially on the school and public libraries.

This paper depicts the strengths and weaknesses of the present system of public libraries in Kerala and suggests an integrated model for agricultural and village information system in which all types of libraries, academic and research organizations, government and non-government organisations, etc. could participate. It is envisaged that the establishment and effective functioning of such a unique system will ensure proper Return on investment (ROI) not only from the library/education sector but also from all other sectors of the society.

The paper reveals that presently only a very small percentage of residents are availing the services of any of the public libraries in Kerala. That means, most of the people in the state are out of coverage of the public library system. Poor quality of school education, inadequate spread of public libraries, lack of improvement in basic infrastructure of the libraries, inadequate information resources, unscientific management, etc. are the major reasons for the situation.

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## **Dalits And Kerala Model: Land, Politics And Governance At Chengara**

Vipitha V.\*

‘Caste - class identity’ being ‘an inherent feature of the socio - economic relations in Kerala’, still continues to be a major factor of deprivation and hinder upward mobility in several respect. The contemporary land question in Kerala has rooted on the question of caste in which the ‘outliers’ are left out of the domain of public action and public policy. The communist - led land reforms of the early 1970s were exclusionary in nature in that they denied dalits productive land. Instead, they were provided only minimal land grant for housing. Besides, the land reform policy in Kerala, as it shaped over the decades between the Communist and the Congress - led governments and in the light of constraints imposed by the Central government, contained decisions contrary to the radical spirit, the communists sought to imbue it with. Chief among these was the decision to exclude the plantations from its purview. This led to the huge concentration of land in the plantations.

The present paper examines the emergence of fresh conflicts which culminated in the landless of Kerala advancing a stake in the plantation land. Thereby, they rejected the solution proposed by the neo - liberalist welfarism embodied by decentralized governance. First the paper sketches the conflict for land at Chengara in the light of the problem of exclusion of the Dalits and Adivasis in the Kerala Model. Secondly, it explores a major question of the socio-economic position of the marginalized that came into the fore in the wake of the Chengara land struggle which is in clear rejection of the solution of welfare proffered by the Panchayati Raj institutions through responsabilized welfare. Thirdly, the social history and the origin of this group (who are termed as the squatter-poor in the paper) and the governance there are taken up in order to reflect on their claims to land. The paper used primary and secondary source of information.

The study found that the squatter poor have passed through age-old deprivation and poverty. The squatter women are the victims of domestic violence and assaults. These groups of people are plagued by historical disadvantage, suffer stringent forms of control and engage in forms of resistance against it. They lack legal status which denies them access to basic amenities and make them insecure. They lack the support of political movements through which they could have asserted their claims to citizenship. They were dependent on their

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leader (a form of caste headmanship forming an alternate government there) which actually diminished their citizenship and binds them to him in a patron - client relationship. However the squatter poor develop distinct kind of resistance in. They subvert the authority of their leader in different forms since they do not possess democratic rights. It appears now that such pressure has now gathered into open resistance –recent reports from Chengara are of the dethronement of the leader by the ranks. So it can be concluded that informal form of power may seize resources for the poor, but it does not guarantee democratic ethos and this seems to apply for rural, on –slum communities with Ambedkarite ambitions too.

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## **State And Social Movements In Manipur-Approaches And Responses**

Rino Mathew\*

The present study is an attempt to depict social, economic and political influence of current struggles in Manipur. The study explains the historical background of the Social Movements in Manipur and its influence in their life. It also tries to analyse the role played by the state and civil society actors in addressing issues of civil rights question in Manipur.

The study is set in historical, analytical and survey method based on primary and secondary sources. The primary sources include various official reports and documents related to the study. Secondary sources include books and articles relevant to the topic.

It is not that social movements are inherently an expression of popular democracy or that civil society always represents a cooptation of dissent. As we shall see, there are enormous regional variations in the social realities and political histories described by these phrases and the intellectual frameworks and political contexts within which they are deployed. Civil society and social movements often have complex and contradictory practices and relationships which do not always fit within easily definable categories.

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## **Environmental Governance & Conservation Refugees: The Kerala Experience**

Anju Lis Kurian\*

The present paper is an attempt to assess the ground realities and socio-economic and political reverberations with regard to environmental governance initiatives in the state. Environmental governance refers to the processes and institutions through which societies formulate decisions that impinge on the environment via a normative dimension of sustainability. Prior informed consent of the stakeholders is the cornerstone of governance and conservation agenda irrespective of geographic realm. Stakeholder access to information, adequate funding, transparency and accountability, are other critical aspects of proper environmental governance. Kerala, nestling on the foothills of Western Ghats is home to awesome biodiversity and environmental governance modalities. Kerala has a tradition of conserving nature from time immemorial. Various policies and rules are also enacted by the state for conserving the precious natural resources. However, enactment of laws and acts without ground level discussion and stakeholder consultations like the Ecologically Fragile Lands Act (EFL), Ecologically Sensitive Areas (ESA) and Community Reserves (CR) has resulted in conservation refugees in the state.

The displaced people will be referred to as “conservation refugees” who are thrown out from their homeland for conservation. The small and marginal farmers are the real victims of the EFL Act which is draconian in nature. The notification of 123 villages in Kerala as ESA without prior informed consent of the stakeholders has resulted in political turmoil in the state. The declaration of new protected areas and national parks has also aroused tight situations in the state.

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## **Ict And Women Empowerment: Study Of Kerala Village**

K.S. Ragini\*

There has been a lot of interest during the last two decades in employing Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) for achieving development. Many of these initiatives have benefited rural women by way of access to new information and new employment opportunities. This paper explores the role of ICTs in empowering women in rural areas. There is immense potential for ICTs to create new employment opportunities for rural women and to contribute significant gains in efficiency and effectiveness in rural women enterprises. Women's access and use of ICTs and empowerment clearly depends on the vision and operational agenda of the organization applying the ICTs. Besides generating locally relevant content and enhancing the capacities of rural women in accessing ICTs, efforts are also needed to bridge the different types of digital divide (rural-urban; men-women). Gender sensitivity is the precondition that must prevail and be strengthened at all levels. Women's development is now inextricably associated with technology. Thus, technological intervention undertakes a greater and more vital role, especially when viewed globally. It's potential to sweep across political, geographical, economic and social barricades are just the leverage that women need to build for themselves a new distinctiveness and a more honourable place in society.

The advent of new information and communication technologies is contributing to the rapid transformation of the world into a "Global market place". This paper describes the dynamics of collective action in this new environment thus contributing to women emancipation as well as to the society's empowerment. Particular attention is given to how women use information and communication technologies (ICT) to foster connection, action and sustainability.

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## **Social Mobility And Contemporary Inequalities: Evidences From A Midland Village In Kerala**

Mijo P. Luke\*

Change is inevitable in any social system. Social change in each region may be driven by very different sets of factors. This paper is based on a micro study conducted in a mid-land village of Kerala namely Kavakad in Ernakulam district. The aim of the study was to trace the patterns of human mobility across three generations in selected families and the implications for the upward mobility of different groups in relation with changing rural life.

The study traces the intergenerational human mobility across various communities of the village namely Syrian Catholics, Izhava and Pulaya. The level of social mobility of these communities reflect on the contemporary inequalities and social exclusions in the Kerala. The intergenerational mobility is traced in relation with education, occupation and spatial mobility which doubtlessly, is crucial in determining the shape of social and economic inequality. The empirical exploration suggests that Syrian Catholics have gained mobility through the transnational migration and remittance flows while the deprivation of Pulaya communities in terms of lack of productive resources continues in the Kavakad village.

The study shows that the spatial mobility of the people is considerably reflected on the social mobility of the communities. The results show that the intergenerational educational inequalities across various communities in the village are persisting while occupational inequality is increasing. The interesting fact is about the transformation of local politics and political mobility of Dalits in the village. The political presence of the Pulaya community and infrastructure development of the Pulaya settlement took place. Historically, local political culture was shaped by the conservative civil society based on the church trustees and institutions in the village.

It is evident from the study that decentralization and other local level changes have benefited the deprived communities while dominant communities benefit from external changes. However, it is also evident that the welfare distribution by the state may not significantly decrease inequalities; when such huge gap exists in the ownership and control of vital resources exist between Pulayas and Syrian Catholics.

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## **Health And Wellbeing Of Informal Worker's Households In The Context Of Occupation Based Marginalization In Malappuram District, Kerala**

Nandu K T\*

Informal workers are highly heterogeneous in various aspects, of which labour mobility is one strong aspect. By analyzing the labour mobility in Kerala three major categories of informal workers were identified as; workers migrated to foreign countries (Emigrant worker), local casual workers in the state ( Local casual worker) and workers migrated from other states (Domestic Migrant Labour)

Further marginalization of the already marginalized informal workers is due to the multiple disadvantages faced by certain group of workers. Through the analysis it can be found the Local Casual Workers and the Domestic Migrant workers are those groups who face such multiple disadvantages and become the most disadvantaged within the marginalized. The study looked in to the formation of these categories among informal workers in Kerala and the reasons behind it. It further explores the reasons for marginalization of certain groups and its effect on the households. Specifically it studies the quality of life of the Local Casual Workers and their families under the impact of the socioeconomic changes due to occupational marginalisation and compare this with the quality of life of the domestic migrant workers and the emigrant workers [who are informal workers] in the Tirur taluk of Malappuram district. A total of 160 households were interviewed to collect primary data and extensive literature review has done to explore the issue. Further the study will look into the role that local self government can play to positively engage with the issue of occupational marginalization among informal workers.

The qualitative data collected through in depth interviews and focused group discussion were translated and transcribed first and further analyzed under various domains. High unemployment rate in the state, large poverty ratio, Gulf economic boom, migrant relatives in Gulf countries and Gulf policies for migrant workers are major factors leading to the formation of 'emigrant worker' category. However, not having enough resource to migrate, lack of family contacts in Gulf countries, lack of education, lack of regular employment and poverty were reasons for a large number of 'local casual workers' to stay back in Kerala.

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As expected there is a gradient in the socioeconomic status of worker categories. When most of the emigrant's households gained from the migration the situation of local casual workers and DML remain similar in terms of housing and land holdings, health status, health care utilization, education and employment. Compared to other informal workers Gulf migrant workers now enjoy good housing, greater land holdings, better education and health care facilities, better health and educational status.

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## **Efficacy Of Local Government's Mechanisms For Tackling Violence Against Women: A Study Conducted In Three Selected Districts Of Kerala.**

Deepthi M.U.\*

Gender disparities exist even in countries which don't manifest glaring male domination outwardly. A growing realisation among the countries worldwide regarding the gender issues is quite welcoming, but it is disheartening to note that in spite of having made many attempts by different agencies and organisations in different levels, the picture is still appalling. The programmes designed for an inclusive development by incorporating the gender concerns in different stages of development, have, for sure, resulted in constructive transformations in Kerala society. Many such programmes have addressed participation of women in the social, economic and political sphere and thereby have tried to enhance status of women in society. At the same time, there are certain mechanisms which are involved directly in tackling violence against women. Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act (PWDVA) 2005 was a milestone in bringing about justice to women who face various types of atrocities inside the four walls of house. Whereas PWDVA is an Act applicable to the whole country, mechanisms such as Bhoomika, Kudumbashree Gender Corner etc. which are unique to Kerala. This study deals with such mechanisms which function exclusively through the local governments of Kerala. Kudumbashree Gender Corner, Nirbhaya and Jagratha Samithi are the three mechanisms dealt by this study. The study has been conducted in six Grama Panchayaths namely, Edava and Kuttichal of Thiruvananthapuram district, Adat and Mundathikode of Thrissur district and Morayur and Thriprangode of Malappuram district. The objective of the study is to understand and analyse the activities undertaken by the LSGs to tackle violence against women through these mechanisms. The study is both exploratory and descriptive in nature. Data have been collected through, primary and secondary methods. The study finds that these mechanisms are succeeding in fulfilling its objectives even though not up to the optimum level, in some panchayaths whereas in some others it is totally inactive. Even in the panchayaths they do work actively, there are serious issues which need to be addressed immediately.

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## **Fund, Function And Functionaries Devolved To Local Governments In Kerala: An Analysis**

Vinod S.\*

Decentralisation in Kerala has received national and international attention due to its big bang approach in devolving functions, functionaries, and funds. State's unique feature of launching decentralisation through Peoples' Plan Campaign (PPC) has acclaim it the status of Kerala Model of Decentralisation. The participatory planning methodology introduced during 9th Five Year Plan through Peoples' Plan Campaign (PPC) has continued in the State, irrespective of the political parties in reign. Steps have also been taken by Kerala to institutionalise the local governance system in the State. Twenty years have elapsed, since decentralisation was introduced in Kerala. Despite the initiatives for strengthening the local governance, there are concerns that the Local Governments in the State are yet to function as Institutions of self governance due to the various issues on decentralisation. Is it due to the issues on 3 F's? If so, what is the status of devolution of 3 F's in Kerala so far and what are the issues? Did the functionaries and funds devolved were sufficient enough to perform the functions shouldered on Local Governments? Are the Local Governments capable of performing the functions devolved to them? If not what are the issues? What measures are required to ensure devolution in the State in its letter and spirit? This paper analyses the sufficiency of functions, functionaries and funds in detail.

As the state transferred powers and resources to LSGIs, the imbalance and dual control creates many problems, some are resolved and some still exists. The analysis of the pre and post KPRAs and KMAs and the discussions with the officials of LSGIs and elected representatives reveals that the functions devolved are not clear. For example what are the role in connection with cooperation, Public Distribution System, licensing of dogs, providing infrastructure to education and the like are not sufficient to maintain quality in service delivery. Those programmes already devolved to the local governments should not be duplicated by the department. The dual control system should be removed and officials shall be the complete control of the local governments. Create vision for the LSGIs in general and the same shall be under aware of each and every officials, elected representatives and transferred institution officials. Ensure all activities are towards the attainment of overall objective of the LSGI.

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## **Marginalizing Care Givers: Anomaly Of Care Professionals In Kerala**

Saji P.Jacob\*

This study has evolved within a background which is very much typical to Kerala. Kerala is widely known for its enviable position with reference to many a number of socio-economic indices and that has even brought into being, what can be called a ‘Kerala Brand’ development model. At the same time, there are large scale debates going on around the question of sustainability of this model. The achievements in the fields of health, education, women empowerment, are all quite remarkably referred to very often than not. These factors, however, require continuous interventions and the evolving policy orientations, which caters to the idea of increasing privatization is making those interventions impossible. Large scale privatization of sectors like education and health, especially in the professional stream has already started to expose the weaknesses.

The events attracted the attention of scholars and planners from different backgrounds. The government also took some interest and constituted committees to look into the disturbing events in this sector. The study reports were submitted. Nothing much has happened afterwards. The nurses continue to face a lot of agony and pain. Large majority of them are very much underpaid and subjected to exploitative working conditions. This research was formulated with the objective of documenting this situation. The study was framed under the logic of an evaluative objective of assessing the working contexts of the nurse professionals in Trivandrum region based on the theme of Decent Work Agenda, proposed by International Labour Organisation (ILO). This theme was evolved by ILO as a tool of self assessment and monitoring to ensure certain standardization of the status of labour, especially in the informal sector. The theme was evolved around ten basic parameters. The present research, adopted these parameters as the variables for assessment of the labour status of nurse professionals in the private and public sectors within a comparative framework. The results of the study show that, the parameters are largely missing from both the private and public sectors, although, the situation in the public sector is a little better with regard to some parameters. The study also points to the problem of increasing informalisation of nursing labour and argues that, the most fundamental consequence of all these is an ever decreasing ‘quality of care’ in Kerala’s health sector, which is indeed very important to address in the context of good governance and wellbeing.

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## **Budgeting Process Of Local Self Governments: Practice And Pragmatism**

Biju S. K. \*

The Local Self Governments (LSGs) in Kerala has to prepare and pass their budget for next financial year before 31st March every year. The transfer of funds, functions and functionaries on a scale un-witnessed hitherto, resulted in huge changes in the funds of the LSGs necessitating efficient financial management. Budgeting, being one of the pillars of financial management, need to follow systematic procedures adhering to the provisions of the Act and Rules. The objective of this study is to analyses the present budget preparation and presentation process and to understand the roles and responsibilities of Officials and Elected Representatives with respect to preparation of documents and statements included in the Budget.

The provisions of section 214 (1) of the Act demands that the Secretary, Implementing Officers and Heads of allied institutions shall submit budget estimates and proposals to the Standing Committees concerned. The Chairman of the Standing Committee for finance shall present the budget before the Panchayat in a special meeting convened before the end of first week of March by considering the proposals submitted. Section 175 (1) of the Act stipulates that the Panchayat shall prepare every year a development plan for the next year in the form and manner prescribed. The development plan shall be submitted to the District Planning Committee (DPC) before the date prescribed. Where the DPC directs to make changes in the draft development plan, be bound to make such changes.

As the budget is a need based one, which analyse the situation and on the basis of the situation analysis root causes can be identified. On the basis of this identification of causes for problem, projects are prepared to solve the issues. The data analysis and discussion with the officials it was found that the process is going on mechanical basis. There is an argument that the budgeting process lay down by the KPRA and subsequent GOs are only in paper and the works of preparation are done by one uber clerk in the office of LSGIs. It may be made by some addition in the previous year's budget without making the situation analysis. There is no organic link between the budget and project preparation. The budget in LSGIs is for budget sake and the purpose is jeopardised.

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## **Women Empowerment And Poverty Alleviation: Kudumbashree In Thennala**

Shajahan Thavalakuzhiyan\*

Minha Mariyam Thappy†

The proper way to alleviate poverty is discovering its sources and find solutions. These kind of activities forms the key decentralization process. Kudumbashree is one of the element program. As part of this programme, Kerala could alleviate poverty through various entrepreneurship, empowerment initiatives. Such a model can be seen in the activities of Kudumbashree CDS at the Thennala Grama Panchayat in Malappuram district.

What ThennalaKudumbasree has done is to undertake the bare paddy fields of the area through land bank (Bhoo bank) register and cultivate the land, subsequently commercializing the product by value added products. They have opted a brand in the name 'Thennala Rice'. The land bank (bhoobank) constitute with the aid of Panchayath. Then the cultivation was started by organising the JLGs. Rice produced nearby private mill and marketed. Good ensure an increase in income through the participation. All Neighbourhood Groups in Grama Panchayat were engaged in cultivation. Gradually, they could acquire the credit of the non-barren village. In the beginning 7 JLGs has been engaged. By 2016 which increased to 123 in numbers. Subsequently cultivation was expanded from 145 to 1340 acres. As a result, the availability of the paddy, the major raw- material for the production of 'Thennala Rice', was enhanced. Moreover, the presence of the company caused avoided the interference of the mediators. It also becomes a part of women empowerment as the women are the undertakers of the processes indicated above. Majority of involved women were from Muslim community. So it helped to gain social development indirectly.

The study was completed by collecting primary data through the interviews with CDS, JLG members of the Panchayath and the secondary data collected from various sources. This paper presents the socio-economic conditions of women empowerment activities so far took place in the local area as a part of the works done by Thennala Grama Panchayath Kudumbashree.

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## **Social Empowerment Of Women: A Study On Kudumbashree**

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‘Women empowerment’ in our society has become a significant topic of discussion because the Economic empowerment and Social empowerment will create a higher position to them, which in turn results in gender equality. Today the woman’s participation in different areas of operations is not negligible at all.

‘Kudumbasree’ was one of the fruitful women empowerment schemes that gave a positive energy to women to become independent through opportunities. It is a female-oriented community-based, poverty reduction project of the government of Kerala, which is helping women to empower their strength by forming self- help groups and encouraging their entrepreneurial or other kinds of activities. This study is trying to explore about the benefits resulted by ‘Kudumbashree’ to the members, to their attitudes and to the acceptance range of such benefits in society.

The primary objective of the paper is to study the economic empowerment of women entrepreneurs through Kudumbashree. The social empowerment of women is analysed in terms of their satisfaction with regard to various facilities provided by Kudumbashree , and the usability of different works related wth the Kudumbashree project. like production, agriculture, animal husbandry, and service sector etc. Their degree of satisfaction is measured by using percentage such as satisfied or do not. and the diagrammes are also used for showing the answer.

The study shows that Kudumbashree has a major role in the economic empowerment of women enterepreneures in present scenario. The study says most of the participants are satisfied with their work. Government of Kerala extends helping hands towards Kudumbashree to make a stronger women community in Kerala. The Kudumbashree helps to improve social and economic sound of women in kuala.

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## **Marginalisation Of Adivasis: A Study Of Malnutrition Of Sholayur Panchayath, Attappady**

Renjith K. R. \*

Adivasis, the primary inhabitants of India, faces the consequences of marginalization. Industrialization and tourism developments have been taken their land, life and slowly displaced from their own territories. Now they are under severe poverty. They are the natural inhabitants of forest, but never tried to own them. So the government and the private industries easily excluded them from their own resource rich area. Gradually tribals lost their direct access to the forest and lose their main sources of livelihood and food. Thus poverty and malnutrition affected them severely. Attappady in Kerala is also tribal area and they experienced the miserable conditions of malnutrition and many children died due to anemia. This very pathetic situation because, it is happened in Kerala which is well known for its welfare measures, awareness about health and education, standard of living and above all its Kerala Model Development. Lots of projects and money spent in Attappady, but incidents repeated. So we need a comprehensive approach to overcome this crisis.

The objectives of the study are to examine the marginalization of Adivasis in recent decades, to understand the problems of Adivasis in Attappady, to study the impact of marginalisation on malnutrition of infants in Sholayur Panchayath and to propose alternatives to inclusion and enhancement the quality of life of Adivasis The study will be historical and analytical mainly qualitative and quantitative data will use this study. The study is focused on the impacts of marginalization on the poverty and malnutrition of Adivasis in Sholayur Panchayath in Attappady. This will primarily be descriptive in nature with minimal attempts of analytical works also be used. Primary source of data and information has been collected by the methods of interview and survey. Semi structured participatory interview method will be used for this study. Interview of different activists and government servants will be taken during research work. A survey among tribal hamlets of Sholayur Panchayath also will be planned for this study. Secondary source of data has been collected from the books, articles, and government and panchayat reports.

There are many schemes and provisions for Adivasis, but there is a lack of effective and comprehensive policy to help the tribes to overcome their poverty. The weak health of children and women will affect generations. Effective awareness campaign and strengthening

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of decentralization especially Grama Sabha will change the situation. Lack of tribal involvement has been the cause inefficiency of all programmes. Development will not serve any useful purpose without the active involvement and participation of the tribal groups. So we need an inclusive policy to eradicate the malnutrition deaths of children and for the well-being of Adivasis.

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## **Role Of Kudumbasree In Political Empowerment Of Women: An Experience From Wayanad District Of Kerala**

Prasad M V\*

Jipson V Paul†

Kudumbasree, or Poverty alleviation programme launched by the Kerala government in late 1990s was a unique programme in the debate on governance, particularly the role of local self-government and strengthening democracy at international level. Because this project has been functioning with the participation of women and the method adopted for the whole affairs of Kudumbasree is primarily based on the principle of democracy and this style of decision making is unique and unparalleled in the human history as it follows the fundamental principle of democracy at grass-root level. This is in contrast to the limited female participation and representation of women in national decision making that has got serious consequences for women and legitimacy of the institutions. The participation of women in politics should be as equal to the population of women in the country. Or else it shows deep flaws in the political system as there is a skewed representation of dominant gender in the governance structure of the polity. This is unfair and unhealthy for any modern democracy. However, the Kudumbasree project in Kerala has contested this conventional wisdom and redefined the entire debate which has become a model for the rest of the nation and world. Representation means not just acquiring positions in the office, but the elected people has a responsibility to act on behalf of the constituents, especially women, who have elected them for filling up their ideas and aspirations. The Kudumbasree experience empowered them vulnerable sections of the society to meet the challenges of both political and developmental aspects of human life. The success of this programme is important because the nation's progress in this respect is relatively poor and low. For example India ranks a low 134 among 187 countries in terms of the human development index (HDI), which assesses long-term progress in health, education and income indicators, said a UN report. Activists want government to empower poor people including women by legislative measures and welfare programmes. Empowerment is the process by which the disempowered or powerless people can change their circumstances and begin to have control over their lives.

As far as Wayanad is concerned, the district is predominantly an agrarian district with agriculture labour constituting a major occupational group. Further, this area is constitution

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largest number of tribal population in the state as well. However, today the district is narrating the story of social, economic, and political changes due to the implementation of Kudumbasree among women folk and their progress has been commendable in all these fields and it is interesting to map the role of Kudumbasree and empowerment of women in Wayanad within the framework decentralization in Kerala, particularly in the context of two-decades. This paper try to analyse notion that socialist welfare-orientated states automatically fabricate gender equality in terms of female participation, including decision making, in the political field.

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**Widening The Horizon Of National Service Scheme(Nss) As  
Community Based Organization (Cbo) With Local Self  
Government(Lsg)- Special Reference To The Nss Technical Cell,  
Kerala**

Beena Lawrence\*

The objective of this descriptive paper is to throw light into the enormous possibilities of NSS in the field of community development and a search for the potential of NSS to deepen the Democracy at grass root level. This is being analyzed with a case study of the activities and achievements of NSS, Technical Cell, Kerala, which is the INDIRA GANDHI NSS AWARD winner of 2015.

Community-based organizations (CBO), synonymous to community work, community development and community mobilization, community organization, operating as a function of organizing within communities are defined by geographical location, shared work space, and/or shared experience or concerns. It is a democratic instrument to create sustained social change which covers a series of activities at the community level aimed at bringing about desired improvement in the social well being of individuals, groups and neighborhoods. The factors like interaction, integration and co-ordination of the existing institutions, interest groups and their activities energizes the evolution of new “bottom-up groups and institutions, WALTER W. PETTIT in 1925 defined it as “Community organization is perhaps best defined as assisting a group of people to recognize their common needs and helping them to meet these needs.”

The concept of national service is based on the Gandhian concept of students should learn how to impart their social responsibility. In 1958 the then Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru took initiatives to implement social service as a part of curriculum and the NSS came into being on 24TH Sept 1969. In India the beneficiaries of NSS are the local society and the volunteers who earn a firsthand experience in their life for the overall development of their personality. In Kerala, all the poly techniques and engineering colleges together constitute the Technical cell. All their activities and novel projects are the best practices which have to be replicated by all the NSS units all over the country. The principles and impact of NSS is similar to that of a CBO, which enhances community development if it closely associates with the LSG.

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## **The Impact Of In- Service Training On Improving Service Delivery**

Kuku Prakash\*

Anitha S†

S. Sajeev‡

Good Governance and strong institutions are necessary to foster economic growth. It has been widely accepted that the first essential to good governance is the quality of human capital. The efficiency and effectiveness of public institutions in turn depend on supportive framework of rules and procedures which enable the bureaucracy to discharge their functions in a citizen centric and responsive manner. This needs highly committed, well-trained and experienced human resources which can undertake and implement policies and programmes of Government. In the absence of such resources, it is necessary to raise the skills levels and increase the versatility and adaptability of current personnel. State Training Policy (STP) implemented in the State aimed at strengthening human capital to improve civil service and strengthen governance. Government have formulated a people-centric Service Delivery Policy for Kerala in 2003. This is a major attempt by the state government to enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of service delivery and ensure the sustainability of Kerala's unique social and economic development.

Department of Treasury under Government of Kerala, plays an important role in ensuring financial governance in the state and is rendering an array of services to general public like disbursement of pension, payment of salary, savings bank/fixed deposit transactions, sale of stamp and stamp papers etc. The department is equipped with employees having direct contact with the general public.

A study was undertaken to analyse the impact of in-service training programmes on better public service delivery with special reference to the accountant /counter staff of Treasury department. Objectives of the study were to study and evaluate the system/methodology adopted by Treasury Department in identifying, designing, implementing and evaluating training intervention, analyse the perceptions of various stake holders on the services rendered and to suggest measures, if any, required to enhance the quality of training

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interventions for enabling improved performance of employees. The study was conducted in 10 selected Treasuries viz., District Treasury Thiruvananthapuram and Kattakkada, Pension Payment Sub Treasury, Thiruvananthapuram and Neyyattinkara, Sub Treasuries, Kazhakuttam, Attingal, Varkala, Nedumangadu, Vizhinjam, and Parassala.

The study revealed that in-service training had great influence on capacity building of the employees and enhanced their confidence in discharging duties. It was also observed that training had positive influence on personality development and helpful in managing the work pressure/stress. Training positively changed the attitude towards the superiors, colleagues and customers and helped to improve the profile / institutional pride. According to employees opinion training and efficiency are co-related. Supervisory officers could see a general improvement in the functioning of office after training. Training to the accountants made pension payment much more customer friendly. In order to achieve the ambitious target of better service delivery and good governance, periodical review of Training policy is mandatory. The study stressed the need to roll out need based training to the employees. From the study it was concluded that skilled and well-versed trainers are essential for capacity building initiatives that results substantial improvement in service delivery.

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## **Changing Societal Mindset: Key To Women Empowerment**

Devaki R Menon\*

Given the present scenario, Indian women not only are empowered but face discrimination and violence too. According to the National Crime Records Bureau in India, a woman is raped every 20 minutes. A key factor in India contributing to these statistics relies with the mindsets of both men and the society—especially for those in poverty-stricken areas. Mindset is the established set of attitudes held by someone. There are individual and collective mindsets. National Mission for Empowerment of Women aims for the holistic empowerment of women through various projects. Economic and social empowerment, health & nutrition, gender based violence, gender budgeting, mainstreaming and gender audit and empowerment of vulnerable and marginalized groups. Local Self Governments are also continuously taking effort to empower women in various ways like exposing them to higher education, providing opportunities for employment and self-development.

Objectives of the study are to identify factors influencing women empowerment, to classify and segregate the factors coming under social mindset to suggest measures for improving mindset of society and women themselves. The study is conducted by collecting primary data from women and the people of residential localities covering different sections of the society in selected Municipalities, Panchayats and Tribal areas of Kerala. Data is being collected by way of cluster sampling method using a structured questionnaire in local language.

Total Empowerment can be achieved when change in social mind set interventions ride parallel to education and employment schemes. Reality is like an illusion and empowerment in actuality is about the encouragement, motivation, participation, communication, interaction, health and fitness, freedom of choice that women enjoy within the family and society as a whole. This study will help in identifying the factors and suggesting methods of improving the mindset that will improve the above said factors.

Intervention to change the social mindset is a challenge as they are soft variables. The local government need to take initiatives in nourishing the running programs in order to make the state completely women friendly and gradually focus on making India a Women Empowered Nation (WomEN).

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## **Impact Of Decentralization On Sheduled Tribe Development In Kerala**

Ravindranathan.M.K.\*

Kerala known for its " Kerala Model of Development" has devoluted the 3 Fs in sufficient quantities to the three tier Panchayats and Municipalities as per KPR & KM Acts of 1994, as a result of 73rd & 74th Amendments. The Act has given ample powers to the Grama Sabhas/Ward Sabhas for Planning , decision making, priority setting, Beneficiary selection etc. Besides, various people's and Institutional Committees, including NHGs of various types also been functioning. Decentralization in Kerala mainly aims at, to provide Economic Development and Social Justice to its people, through their Local Five Year and Master Plans, as per the Act insist. Here the 9th plan(1997-2002) began as a big campaign which equipped the Local Governments to prepare their own plans after discussing it in various people's Committees and finally in the Sabhas. There are People's Committees, named as "Working Groups" to deal different subjects for plan drafting including STs, SCs, Poverty Alleviation etc. Kerala has an ST population of 4,84,839 which amounts 1.45 % of population spreading throughout the State, distributed in 37 different communities. When compared to other forward Communities, though reservations are there, they are far behind in every sphere of like especially in availing Basic needs, Health, Education, Sanitation Employment etc. Before Decentralization various Government Departments were the key people for ST Development and the decision making were done in the highest level and were not need based , hence without any impact on their development. The working Group for the Scheduled Tribes, formulated their Tribal sub plan to solve the problems came from the "Oorukootams" and "Grama Sabhas", after discussions, priority setting and conductions of a convergent workshop. But even after the lapse of 20 years of Decentralization, we cannot claim commendable and intended progress than that of the Centralized Governance. Large quantities of funds had been pumped for their Development through various Departments, Agencies and Local Governments in the past years after Decentralization. The Census Surveys of 2001,2011, the detailed survey conducted by KILA in 2008 and the sharing of experiences among SC Promoters, Oorumithras as trainees in KILA reveals this. The lack of enough will power, vision, sincererity, and willful negligence in empowering "Oorukootams", Grama Sabhas, Working Groups, untouchability persisting between the Departments and Local Governments affecting the formulation of a "Comprehensive Plan under the working Group level, as per the Guide Line insists and the motive for Centralization of powers of the

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Elected ones are the main handicaps that delayed the desired Development. Only a people friendly, transparent, will powered Local and State Government who can take stringent measures to do away with the above impediments is to emerge, to resolve the issues facing ST Development in Kerala. All laws are there, the only thing needed is to develop the needed Political and Administrative will power. Otherwise even the Local Governance cannot put an impact in ST Development as we expected, exploiting the possibilities emerged from the much discussed Decentralization in Kerala.

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## **Traditional Livelihoods On The Decline – A Study Of Potter Communities Of Kerala**

Aravindh P\*

The potter communities and their traditional livelihoods have received very little interest from the academic community of Kerala, with only a few reports such as Jaitly (1997) and a few unpublished studies documenting their lives. This research paper aims to highlight the general state of the Kumbhara community in Kerala with regard to their standard of living, and understand the issues faced by them in persisting with the traditional occupation. The results – based on primary field surveys conducted in potter villages of Malappuram, Palakkad and Thrissur districts – have been congregated on the basis of the researcher's observations from the field, detailed personal interviews with experienced potters, and focus group discussions with the community members in general.

Originally brought into Kerala by erstwhile local rulers and landlords, the potter communities have established themselves here over roughly the past three hundred years or so, but they have not completely integrated into the society of Kerala. The communities have their own language – a mixture of multiple Dravidian languages – which does not have a script, separate places of worship and festivals which are distinct from the Brahminical underpinnings of Hinduism, etc., which maintain them as separate entities within the social fabric of the state. Multiple factors such as this distinct cultural identity, an exclusive profession handed down from generation to generation, a history of caste based segregation in Kerala, and fear of breaking psychological barriers has contributed to the marginalization of the potter communities.

Even today, a poor standard of education and strictly average living conditions prevail among these communities. From the field survey, it was observed that a majority of houses in the potter settlements were tiled or thatched with inadequate amenities. The community members are also poorly educated in general, with many members of the older generation being illiterate or just being able to read and write with no formal education. Their traditional livelihood of making pottery is also on a steady decline today, with the artisan community living in a precarious state owing to the overwhelming cost of production and lack of proportional returns from the sale of terracotta products. Factors including rampant exploitation by middlemen and an apparent lack of knowledge about lucrative markets leads

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to marketing failure for the products. The present day climate is thus unfavourable for those individuals who consider their traditional livelihood and cultural identity to be sacrosanct, further leading to their marginalization.

Attempts by the Khadi and Village Industries Board to revive the traditional industry during the 1970s and 1980s had failed, after which the community found Governmental support to be lacking. Of late, the potter communities have demanded their inclusion among the scheduled castes, a change from their current status as OBCs, to the Government of Kerala. However, they are held back by a lack of political leverage. Economic turmoil within the industry, low levels of human development and lack of state support have combined to hinder the traditional livelihood of the potter communities, and the situation will not improve unless serious action is brought in by the policy makers.

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