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Center for Research, Training and
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SUBALTERN

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Editorial

THE CHALLENGE OF WAVES OF COVID-19

The Covid-19 pandemic severely affected the lives and livelihoods of most people in the country ever since it began spreading from January 2020. The Government responded by suddenly announcing a lockdown in March 2020 and began lifting restrictions imposed by the lockdown gradually in a phased manner from June 2020 onwards. The sudden lockdown resulted in immense suffering to the people, especially migrant workers and those who were far away from home. The first wave of Covid-19 reached its peak of 93,617 daily new infections on 16th September 2020 and began declining in the subsequent months leading to further relaxations and life was almost retuning to normal. With the approval of the vaccines Covishield and Covaxin in January 2021, it appeared that the end of the pandemic was near in India. Elections were announced in 5 States and the Kumbh Mela with an estimated 35 million devotees taking a dip in the holy river Ganga went ahead as planned. However, the newly mutant delta strain of the COVID-19 virus began to wreak havoc from March 2021. The Government and its people were taken by surprise at the rapid spread of the virus across the country. There was a time in April-May 2021, when the entire healthcare system was so overburdened that there were no hospital beds, no oxygen, no medicines and no vaccines. The second wave peaked during

the first week of May with over 4 lakh new infections a day and over 4,500 deaths a day. Though there was no National level lockdown, there were lockdowns imposed by different States depending on the severity of the spread of the pandemic. Nevertheless, this wave brought along with it a trail of suffering and death to almost all sections of society. Over 3 crore people are reported to have been infected with the virus and over 4 lakh people have succumbed to the virus in India by the end of June 2021. The Government responded by increasing the production and procurement of vaccines so that the entire population can be vaccinated by the end of 2021. However, there are concerns of new variants of the virus causing a third wave later in the year.

The one and a half year experience of the waves of the COVID-19 pandemic has posed several challenges to us as individuals, communities, nations and the world at large. The first challenge is to focus on "care for others". The pandemic has taught us that one needs to take adequate precautions to protect oneself and others from the spread of the virus. It also challenges us to reach out and help the poor and needy in this time of crisis. The second challenge is to develop creative ways of working during the pandemic, such as working from home, and using virtual platforms for

conducting meetings, programmes, workshops, webinars, and so on. The third challenge has been to improve the education system by developing creative pedagogies for teaching and learning as online teaching and learning has exposed the digital divide between the rich and poor students, who have no access to computers, smartphones and internet. The fourth challenge is to improve governance with better health infrastructure and a robust social security system that is inclusive of all sections of society, especially the migrant population. The fifth challenge is to build one's inner strength by deepening one's spiritual life to deal with prolonged uncertainty and so much of suffering and difficult situations that have to be faced during pandemic times. The sixth challenge is the realisation that we are one global family and therefore there is need for global solidarity to evolve a new global economy that will protect the environment, promote sustainable development and sustain ecologically friendly societies. Therefore, just as the pandemic is a global crisis affecting all humanity, so also solutions such as production and equitable distribution of vaccines across the globe must be a priority for world leaders. Let us hope that after enduring the challenges of waves of COVID-19 pandemic, we develop sustainable ways of becoming a more resilient society in the future. □

Denzil Fernandes

IMPACT OF COVID-19 PANDEMIC ON SUBALTERN STUDENTS

Thomas Perumalil

One of the worst affected areas by Covid-19 pandemic is the field of education. In India, Covid-19 appeared unexpectedly very fast last year. And the Government of India took immediate steps to break its spread through a complete lockdown of the country. But the educational institutions were least prepared for the same. They had not completed the final year examinations and even the syllabus was incomplete to some extent. So, the only way to save the academic year for the school children was to continue the schooling from home. This meant online classes.

Online classes were something new to the field of education but very promising and attractive. A few digital platforms came to the fore like zoom and google meet. The idea was very good and online classes were just like offline classes since the teachers could interact with the students like in a face-to-face offline classroom. However, this new mode of education through online classes resulted in new challenges.

Online classes meant accessibility to technology. The students wherever they are should have computers/laptops or an android mobile phone with internet connectivity. This also meant availability of electricity. As of 2020, 67% of the population of India live in rural areas. The physical closure of 15.5 lakh schools due to the Covid-19 pandemic affected more than 248 million students of which at least 160 million are in the rural areas (NSSO, 2017-18). The online teaching-learning methodology affected very badly the subalterns, the economically very poor especially in the rural areas. They could not afford to have digital facilities which the affluent educated parents could ensure for their children.

Many of the children had to drop out from the schools because the migrant population had to leave cities and go back to their villages.

The children were forced to work in order to make both ends meet. Here again, the most affected were the girl students because parents preferred to educate the boys than girls. Girls dropped out of school to help in domestic chores.

As per National Sample Survey Office (NSSO) 2017-18, in rural areas, only 4% households have access to computers while only less than 15% households have access to internet. In the case of urban areas, 42% of households have access to internet facilities, while only 20% have access to computers. Looking at the percentage of currently enrolled students with access to digital infrastructure, we find that in rural areas only 5% have computers at home, and only 4% have access to computers with internet facilities. In urban areas, 11% have access to computers and 9% have access to computers with internet connectivity (NSSO, 2017-18). These differences can be attributed to the socio-economic and spatial disparities. Many students especially from the underprivileged and rural areas can't afford to have access to computers or mobiles and internet facilities. Those from the socio-economically very poor backgrounds are the most affected. As the disparity increases, the most disadvantaged children fall behind in their education.

The prolonged lockdown and the second wave of the pandemic have negatively impacted the students in India, all the more the disadvantaged and rural students of India. It has widened the gap in educational inequality too. Some 32 crores of students have been negatively impacted due to e-learning besides the 3.2 crore children, who were already out of school before Covid-19. Most of them belong to the socially disadvantaged group (NSSO, 2014). If e-learning is the new normal, then it would be a real challenge to the

education providers to ensure equity and quality in education.

Another challenge faced by the rural population of India is the availability of electricity. Only 47% of Indian households get more than 12 hours of electricity and more than 36% of schools in India run without electricity. (Ministry of Rural Development Survey, 2017-18). Since technology requires electricity, students from the underprivileged backgrounds are affected by non-availability of electricity, inefficiency and lack of adaptation due to inaccessibility of technology. Besides these, e-learning has no one-to-one interactions and problem solving with tutors. Most of the teachers are untrained or ill equipped for online teaching using new technologies and interfaces.

Most children drop out of school because of economic factors. (NSSO 2014-15). 90% of the population is engaged in disorganized work. So when the Covid-19 pandemic and lockdown forced the migrant workers to go back home along with their children or had no money to send home, many children were forced to drop out of school. According to NSSO 2017-18, 15% of rural households had internet access and only 8.5% of female students could use internet. Girls were forced to take to domestic duties as they could not access online education or the prioritization of the education of male child by the parents.

The COVID-19 pandemic has exposed how rooted structural imbalances are between rural and urban, male and female, rich and poor, even in the digital world. In fact, India's digital divide due to the pandemic is likely to result in deepening the divide in educational attainment, 'learning loss' and higher dropout rates, aggravating existing equity gaps in education among other consequences. □

THE CHALLENGE OF COVID-19 AND TRIBALS

Anabel Benjamin Bara

The first wave of Corona virus was mostly confined to the urban areas and therefore rural areas including tribal areas were not much affected. Due to this reverse migration could be noticed in different parts of the country. Tribals living in the urban areas as daily wage workers lost their jobs and moved back to their villages. But they were suspected as the carriers of Corona virus by the tribal communities and therefore were quarantined outside the village in community centers, or schools, or Panchayat blocks, etc.

The second wave of Covid-19 has deeply impacted the lives of many in the world. According to the World Health Organization (WHO), the delta variant of the virus drove the wave of infections in India. This variant was identified in India in early March 2021. The impact of it could be seen in almost all the families in India including the tribals living in the rural belt. Despite putting the barricades, or quarantine centers, or home isolation, the virus made its way in the tribal families. WHO even presented a report about the possibility of airborne transmission of the Corona virus. It could be the possible reason that one could see the escalating number of cases of infected persons in urban and rural areas, particularly in the tribal belt.

Tribals were unprepared for the outbreak of the second wave of Covid-19. The tribal areas did not receive proper support in the form of doctors, hospital beds, ventilators, oxygen cylinders, etc. from the government. This resulted in the rise of the mortality rate. Seeing no hope, the tribals started using their indigenous medicinal knowledge to treat themselves, and many approached the traditional indigenous medicine practitioners to get the cure. To meet this crisis,

the Drug Controller General of India, Government of India (GOI) approved the emergency use of Oxford-AstraZeneca (Covishield) produced by Serum Institute of India and Covaxin produced by Bharat Biotech in January 2021. Recently Sputnik V was also approved by the GOI. But there were rumours that the vaccine was administered in tribal areas to kill them. This suspicion by the tribals increased when they saw some of their neighbours and relatives dying after taking the vaccine. Tribals now started running away from the doctors and health professionals who came to give vaccination in their villages. Lack of trust created problems for the government, and they were concerned about that area becoming a hotspot. Government officials approached community leaders to help them to spread awareness about the vaccine.

In urban areas like Delhi, the migrant tribals found it difficult to get access to the relief and food aid because they did not have ration cards or BPL cards. In rural areas the Public Distribution System (PDS) failed to provide ration in villages under the scheme of Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY). In the case of Assam, many villagers did not receive food through PDS, despite being promised by the government. The same could also be noticed in Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, and Odisha. Sometimes NGOs came forward to supply food and ration kits in the tribal villages. Although the government promised to provide financial aid to the poor during the crisis, but there were many tribals who could not take benefit from it because they did not have a bank account. Lack of access to food and financial resources resulted in starvation, death, and hunger among the tribal communities.

Women working in the urban

areas as fulltime domestic helpers were mentally, physically and emotionally exploited. Since they were not allowed to move out of home due to lockdown, they worked overtime. They were not paid more for the extra work. In many cases physical and sexual assaults were also noticed. These women wanted to make police complaints, but the lockdown prohibited them.

The lockdown during Covid-19 was utilized by the government to bring changes in the policy such as Mines and Minerals (Development & Regulations) Amendment Act 2021, and introducing a draft Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) notification 2020 by Ministry of Environment Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC). These were highly criticized by the tribal activists, climate defenders, civil society organizations and NGOs. Cases of land acquisition in the 5th Scheduled Areas in various parts of the country for the corporates, without prior permission from the Gram Sabha were reported. There were violations of Constitutional rights of tribals, Forest Rights Act (FRA), and P-PESA Act. This was strategically done keeping in mind that open protest would not be possible due to lockdown.

Covid-19 brought many challenges for the tribal communities. Being marginalized and below national average on all the development indicators like health, education, nutrition, literacy rate, poverty, etc., the pandemic more severely affected the lives of tribals. Women and children were most vulnerable to this pandemic. After alpha, beta, delta, and delta plus variants of corona virus, another one that is lambda variant is knocking on the doors in India. How long will it go, and are tribals prepared for it is the question that we have to ponder. □

REFLECTION ON THE 2ND WAVE OF CORONA VIRUS PANDEMIC

Bokali Kasho

It's been more than a year since the World Health Organization had declared the coronavirus a pandemic. Like any other human, I thought a year ago that the coronavirus was just some small thing that was going to last only for a couple of weeks but it stayed on from weeks to months to a year and now it has been more than a year, and yet we are still not sure when it will completely vanish from the world.

Today, as I write this, I see that the world is still grappling with the coronavirus (Covid-19) pandemic. This time around while some countries have handled the second wave of Covid-19 quite well, in India, we just got out from the worst times of our lives, a nightmare is what most of us would call a 2nd wave of Covid-19, where almost all the families in the country have lost a family member or a friend to corona virus. The last few months had been devastating as there was uncontrollable deaths and infections. Along with it, another lockdown was announced which was yet another round of a blow to the people who have no means and resources to sustain their lives.

While there was hope that things will get better and normalcy will arrive, another lockdown during this 2nd wave of Covid19 pandemic placed the poor, widowed, daily wage earners, students, recently graduated and unemployed youth in hopeless state. It has not been easy for everyone not just because the pandemic occurred at an unprecedented rate, but because of the fears that the current

generation was facing, especially the graduating members of the Class of 2020 and 2021. From losing an opportunity to get a good job to getting an experience by coming out of the shell and engaging in normal physical work space to achieve the purpose of education that they have acquired, the pandemic has spared none.

The economic and social disruption caused by the pandemic is devastating. Without the means to earn any income during lockdowns, many are unable to feed themselves and their families. For most people, no income means no food, or less food and less nutritious food. For some with low and irregular incomes and a lack of social support, they are forced to continue working in unsafe conditions, thus exposing themselves and their families to additional risks. The lockdown during this pandemic has decimated jobs and placed millions of livelihoods at risk. Most of us have been struggling to find ways to tolerate stay at home orders. And above all, our stress and anxieties have peaked due to the fear of contracting coronavirus as we saw each day the numbers of confirmed positive cases and deaths.

However, amidst all this chaos and disconsolate feeling that erupted out of these situations, we have been witnessing a tremendous rise in the unity of the people coming together to help the poor, the less fortunate and those in need of help and support especially in this time, in the form of charitable acts and volunteerism within communities

and societies. This brought a spark of positivity and instilled in us a glimmer of hope in these difficult times.

From learning to live with a "New Normal" in our personal life and most importantly social life, the world has learned a lot this time. As the Covid-19 pandemic and its far-reaching implications continue to unfold globally and in our community we have no choice but to hope and believe in the silver linings that emerge through the sorrow and pain that we face today. Despite all these unprecedented circumstances that have taken place, there is something that we can all learn and carry with us through and beyond this experience. We have now come to know better the pain and sorrow, as well as the heartbreak of true isolation and losing someone dear to us. We have experienced the frustration that comes from being stuck in our homes. We have now lived with the anguish of loneliness, of not being in the daily presence of friends and neighbours, of not being able to share our joy and greetings with another human person in the form of handshaking and hugs.

Now the only way forward is to take a leap of faith and emerge from this pandemic more empathetic than ever to the reality, realizing that we need to recognize this opportunity to build back our lives to be better and stronger. I hope we all come out of this as a new person with a new vision and a new perspective for our future and so with faith shall we remember that "this too shall pass." □

THE MIGRANT CRISIS AND PUBLIC POLICY THEATRICS

Shabih Anwer

COVID-19 has had a catastrophic effect everywhere, infecting and killing millions while disrupting livelihoods and economies worldwide. It has affected internal migrant

households, especially the seasonal migrants, disproportionately, as a vast majority of them are employed in the informal sector in sectors such as construction, services, and

hospitality, with little to no job security and social safety nets. According to Census 2011, there are around 455 million migrants in India, out of which close to 42 million have migrated for

work/employment. Migrant workers are a large part of the informal sector which employs close to 93% of workers in India and contributes to nearly 50% of economic output. The internal migrants have been the first ones to lose jobs in large numbers, and even among those who have not, a majority live and work in precarious conditions, which put them at a higher risk of catching the highly contagious virus.

The migrant crisis because of the traumatic mass movement that occurred last year after the government enforced the sudden and one of the world's toughest national lockdowns starting from 24th March 2020, without a thought-out strategy and responding too late to the coronavirus till it became a crisis, unfolded into one of the biggest Indian tragedies, and the government only looked to push it under the rug. With transportation systems initially shut down, many had no recourse to travel back to homes and villages, resulting in harrowing journeys home. Those who could make it home found, in some instances, villages refusing entry because of fears of transmission. The shocking images and media reports of migrants forced to walk in desperation showed the enormity of the complete failure of the government to anticipate the needs of this group. The subsequent distress caused, made visible a large workforce who experience precarity of work and often live hand to mouth.

Come 2021 and the pandemic raged like never before. Reeling under the devastating second wave, the migrant workers are once again facing unemployment, food insecurity, a wipe-out of savings, and rising debts. Although the centre was more cautious in announcing lockdowns during the second wave, and let the states decide about it, it unsettled the workers who are yet to recover from the earlier jolt. Gripped with fear and panic, the migrant workers who re-migrated to the cities after the first lockdown, threw all Covid-19 caution to the winds and again rushed home in huge numbers. Unlike the migrant

crisis of 2020, covered extensively in the media, little attention was paid to the provision of relief and social protection to migrant workers during state lockdowns during the second wave.

According to a report by the Inferential Survey Statistics and Research Foundation of the migrants from Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Odisha, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal, about one-third of the migrants who returned to their home reported that they did not have work even after returning to their native place which led to a decrement of about 85% in their household income. About 63.5% of the workers returned to their destinations by February 2021, while the rest stayed. With the highest remigration from Bihar (approx. 92%), followed by Jharkhand (approx. 31%), it led to an increase in their income. However, there was still a contraction of about 7.7% as compared to the pre-lockdown phase.

In March 2020, in response to COVID-19, the government instituted the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Rojgar Abhiyan (PMGKRA). The scheme has been propagated in the media and the public as a new Rs. 1.70 lakh crore relief package to generate employment opportunities in rural India for migrant workers returning home amid the coronavirus outbreak and lockdown. A closer look reveals that there is nothing new in the scheme. It is just 25 existing schemes bundled together in the name of providing jobs to migrant workers. These schemes are already functional in rural India under different ministries and departments, and the new scheme only brings them together. Twelve different ministries are to come together to implement this scheme through their coordinated effort. Even then, its implementation challenges, which remain unclear and unsolved until the onset of the second wave, were coordination and coverage of PMGKRA within, and across, differing ministries and states; transitioning of multiple schemes into one integrated system that can be accessed anywhere within the country, particularly when the workers

are on the move; and issues related to the use of direct cash transfers to support people affected by the loss of livelihoods, where funds are deposited within bank accounts, when there are significant number of people who do not have access to banks.

As per a Parliamentary Standing Committee report, there were barely 86,000 enrolments versus the target of three lakhs across 116 districts from the six states covered under the PMGKRA, and not even a single migrant worker had completed skill training as proposed under the program, till Feb 2021. The good news was that the first lockdown saw a record 7.6 crore households receiving jobs under MGNREGA between April and June 2020. However, there were still 22% (or nearly 1.7 crores) who failed to get one by the first week of July 2020 with most of them from Uttar Pradesh followed by Bihar. The fall back option to MGNREGA by the migrant workers who had returned home, led to the drying of state funds, as governments were forced to overdraw wage allocations. Despite the positive role of MGNREGA in providing jobs to the returnee migrants, it is disheartening to see the centre's theatrics in showcasing PMGKRA and efforts to dilute the MGNREGA by decreasing budgetary allocation and diverting its funds to private enterprises to subsidize their wage payments. This reveals the government's intention of pushing for implementing the neoliberal agenda in key sectors.

What is needed for the welfare and security of the migrant workers is to emphasize the portability of entitlements and the provision of social security nets for migrants. A focus on skill up-gradation programs, like Project Unnati, for unskilled laborers under MGNREGA, to make households more self-reliant, and skill mapping of workers to help them get a job closer to their home. And, above all, the creation of a robust digitized migrant data, which would enable governments, policymakers, etc. to take appropriate welfare and social security measures in the long run. □

UNESCO selected Dr. Anabel Benjamin Bara for the Global Task Force from Asia for Making a Decade of Action for Indigenous Languages



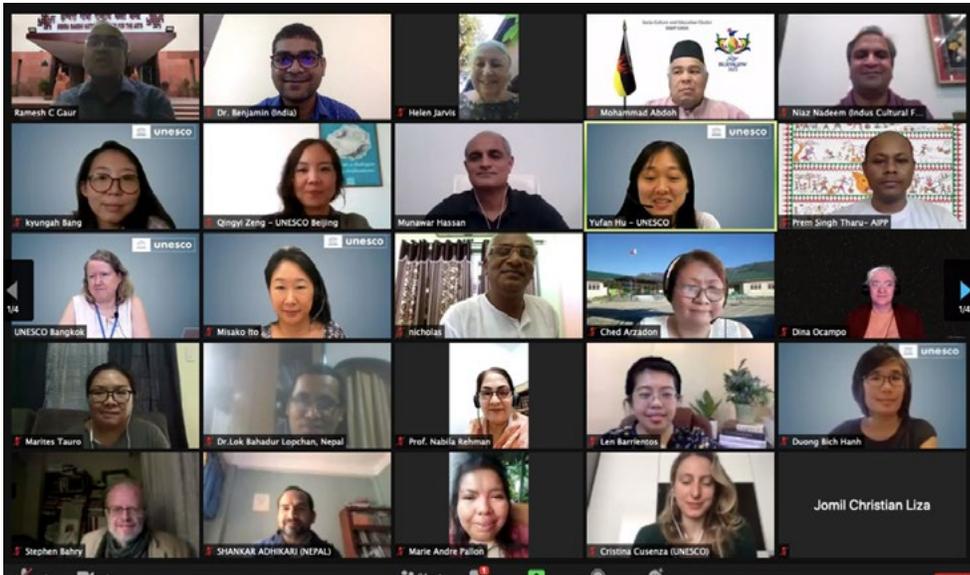
Dr. Anabel Benjamin Bara was appointed as the Member Global Task Force (GTF) and Head Steering

Committee, Asia by UNESCO for the International Decade of Indigenous Languages (IDIL) 2022-2032 on 19th March 2021. He will be representing indigenous peoples and organizations from Asia.

The United Nations (UN) declared 2019 the International Year of Indigenous Languages (IYIL), to raise awareness and sensitivity of the consequences of the endangerment of indigenous languages across the world. Looking at the rate of

extinction of tribal languages, the UN General Assembly adopted a resolution to declare 2022-2032 the IDIL on 18th December 2020. Dr. Benjamin hails from Gumla, Jharkhand and is currently working with Indian Social Institute, New Delhi, in the Department of Tribal Studies. According to him, every two weeks one language goes extinct and most of them are of the indigenous communities. □

UNESCO Regional Consultation Asia on Global Action Plan for International Decade of Indigenous Languages (IDIL) 2022-2032. 10-11 May 2021



range of stakeholders, including representatives of Governments, organizations representing indigenous Peoples and languages, scholars and experts in the fields of linguistic diversity and multilingualism, for a dialogue on indigenous languages and related issues. Dr. Anabel Benjamin Bara, UNESCO Member Global Task Force and Steering Committee Asia, also attended the session representing Indigenous Peoples and organizations from Asia. The meeting

A Regional Consultation on the Global Action Plan for the International Decade of Indigenous Languages (IDIL) 2022-2032 in Asia was facilitated by UNESCO on 10-11 May 2021, together with UNDESA, according to the indigenous socio-cultural regions determined by the

United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (UNPFII), in cooperation with the Global Task Force for Making a Decade of Action for Indigenous Languages, UN entities, and other regional and national partners. The consultation was held to bring together a diverse

focused on three aspects such as issues and challenges faced for the protection, promotion, and revitalization of indigenous languages, how those could be resolved, and what could be done to make a decade of action for indigenous languages. □

Anabel Benjamin Bara

National Webinar on Covid-19 and Tribal Lifestyle: Impact and Way Forward

A national webinar was organized by the Adivasi Samanway Manch Bharat, in collaboration with the Department of Tribal Studies, India Indigenous Peoples and other indigenous organizations across India, on 'Covid-19 and Tribal Lifestyle: Impact and Way Forward.' The Chief Guest in this virtual platform was Madam Anusuiya Uikey, Honorable Governor of Chhattisgarh. Eminent doctors, Indigenous organizations, tribal youths, scholars, activists, from nineteen states also attended the session.

In her speech Madam Anusuiya emphasized that the Covid-19 vaccine is the cure to fight against Corona virus. She urged all

the participants and volunteers to go in the villages and motivate tribals to take vaccine. There were rumours, misinformation, doubts, and fear among the tribals in the village over vaccines.

Dr. Shantikar Vasava one of the expert panelist cleared all the doubts of the participants related to Covid-19 and vaccination. Dr. Sunil Parhad told about the practice of indigenous medicines and the role it played to cure people from the virus. Youth who participated in the meeting were glad and appreciated the initiative



to raise awareness. The webinar was moderated by Dr. Anabel Benjamin Bara which was relayed through Youtube channel and Facebook. It ended with a vote of thanks by Mr. Nakhtaram Bhil, President, Adivasi Ekta Parishad. □

Anabel Benjamin Bara

International Webinar on the Commemoration of Birsa Munda Martyrdom Day



An international webinar was organized by Adivasi Samanway Manch, Bharat in collaboration with the Department of Tribal Studies of Indian Social Institute, New Delhi, India Indigenous Peoples and other tribal organizations of India on 9th June 2021. The Chief Guest of the webinar was Madam Anusuiya Uikey, Honorable Governor of Chhattisgarh. The special guests for this event were Mr. Phoolman Chaudhary, Vice Chairperson of the United Nations Permanent Forum

on Indigenous Issues (UNPFII), Mr. Omkar Singh Markam, Ex-Minister of Tribal Affairs, Government of Madhya Pradesh, Mr. Ramesh Tavadkar, Chairperson ST Commission Goa, Mr. Dhananjay, MLA Assam, and Mr. Rajkumar Raut, MLA Rajasthan. Tribal youth and organizations also joined the program. In her speech, Madam Anusuiya said that Lord Birsa Munda gave his whole life for the community and for protecting the rights of the tribal peoples. She also said that one should also be ready to

help those in need and to stand for what is right.

Mr. Phoolman congratulated the organizers and urged the Government of India to ratify International Labor Organization (ILO) 169. He told the participants to know and spread awareness about the UN Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP). He also asked for tribal support to make the UNESCO International Decade of Indigenous Languages (IDIL) 2022-2032 successful by involving themselves and the community to protect, promote, and revitalize indigenous languages. Other eminent speakers and youth also delivered their thoughts and made the event successful. The event was moderated by Ms. Juhi Priyanka Horo and Dr. Anabel Benjamin Bara, and was live aired through YouTube channel and Facebook. □

Anabel Benjamin Bara

Jesuit Collective's COVID Relief and Response in Delhi



Covid Relief work at Geeta Colony & Laxmi Nagar

The second wave of COVID-19 pandemic has been devastating in India with the number of new cases going up to 412,095 in a single day on 5 May 2021. The country recorded 4522 fatalities on 19 May, which surpassed the US record of 4468 COVID deaths on 12 January. With COVID cases going up each and every day, many states started imposing lockdown. Although required to check the spread of

the pandemic, the lockdown has been a severe blow with no jobs and source of livelihood to millions of poor, especially the migrant workers across the country.

The Jesuit Collective led by the Indian Social Institute (ISI-Delhi) and MAIN (Migrant Assistance and Information Network) sprang into action in Delhi with the active support of the Xavier Network. The Collective reached out to the people

in distress in slums, colonies and other informal settlements and distributed nearly 1020 dry ration kits and 1060 medical kits comprising face masks, sanitisers, vitamin tablets, BP monitors, oximeters and thermometers. Migrant workers, refugees, poor and vulnerable communities in Srinivaspuri Leprosy Colony, Defence Colony, Burari, Uttam Nagar, Palam, Shahabad, Balaswa, Lakshmi Nagar in Delhi, and Kanhaiya Nagar and Shamja Colony on Delhi--Gurugam border were provided dry rations and medical kits. Apart from these, 25 rickshaw-pullers were also provided financial assistance of Rs.1000 each as some of them were in want of basic facilities to even cook food. The Collective is continuing with the COVID relief and response interventions in Delhi, and also in 12 States across India. □

Shin Kallungal

Farewell get-together for Mr. T.V. Antony

On March 31st, 2021, the Institute organised a farewell get-together to Mr. Thekkekara Vincent Antony (Mr. T.V. Antony) who rendered nearly 36 years of valuable services to the Institute. The programme was attended by the staff members of CDO, JRS, SJES and MAIN along with the staff of Indian Social Institute. The event was moderated by Mrs. Satya Srinivasan. Mr. T.V. Antony was accompanied by his wife and his elder son on this occasion. Two of our former staff members were also present as special invitees on this occasion. Dr. Denzil Fernandes, the Executive Director and Fr. Shiju Mathew, the Head of Finance, Administration and Residence, thanked him for rendering valuable services to the Institute in their messages. The colleagues and the



guests expressed their gratitude in their farewell messages and shared their memorable moments spent with Mr. T.V. Antony. There was an online message by his younger son from Canada also. Mr. T.V. Antony's professional journey was showcased in a short video film prepared by Mr. Ruben Minj titled, "The Golden Moments of T.V. Antony". The farewell evening was brightened

by musical performances by our Executive Director who sang an English song and the staff members who sang a Hindi farewell song. Mr. Antony was presented a gift and a Greeting card duly signed by the Management and the staff of ISI. The farewell programme concluded with a Vote of Thanks by Mr. Dilip Kumar followed by refreshments. □

Satya Srinivasan

IN LOVING MEMORY OF MR. ANIL KUMAR DHIR

On 23 May 2021, Mr. Anil Kumar Dhir, passed away at the age of 48 in Park Hospital Panipat-Haryana after battling for 27 days with Covid-19. On behalf of the staff and Management of Indian Social Institute we express heartfelt condolences to his bereaved family members.

He was born to Mr. Sultan Singh and Mrs. Savitri Devi on 15th December 1972 at Jonmana Maha village in Meerut, Uttar Pradesh, He was married to Mrs. Anita Dhir and he has two daughters Anna Dhir and Alina Dhir. He has a younger brother Anuj Kumar Dhir.

He graduated from the University of Delhi and obtained degree of Engineering (Electrical).

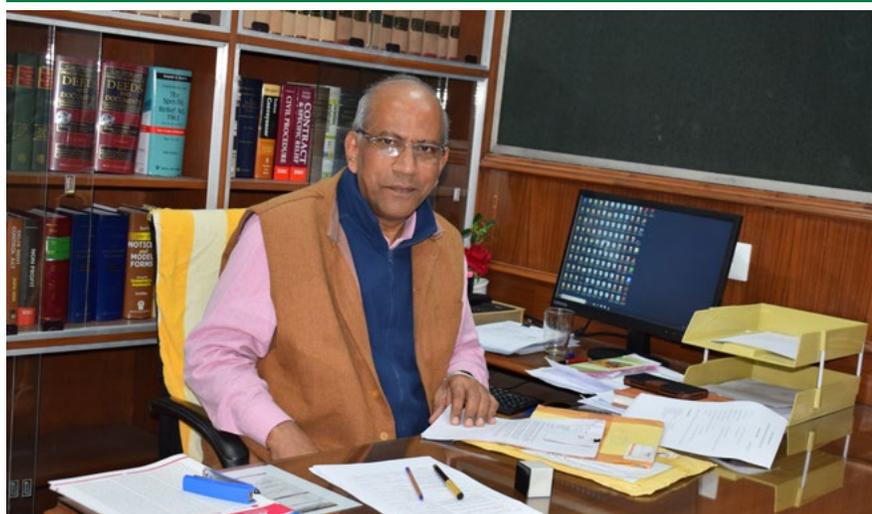


After his graduation, he joined Indian Social Institute on 12 September 2000 as Junior Technical Officer: Computer In charge - looking after the technical aspects of computers and its maintenance in the Institute: Internet services, LAN system and email from 2000 to 2009. He was transferred to Conference

Department in 2016 to look after digital display of the programmes, supervising arrangements of meeting rooms and making reports. In 2017, he was transferred to Publication Department to engage in operating software package, subscription, and participating in book fairs. He was very friendly with the staff members and ready to help anyone in need.

He was the President of the New Capital Cooperative Thrift & Credit Society (N.C.C.T & C.S. Ltd) who helped the staff in financial needs during emergency. His demise is a big loss to Indian Social Institute especially to the Publication Department. May his soul rest in peace. □ **John Kullu**

FR. JOYKUTTY A. KARAYAMPURAM SJ (1955-2021)

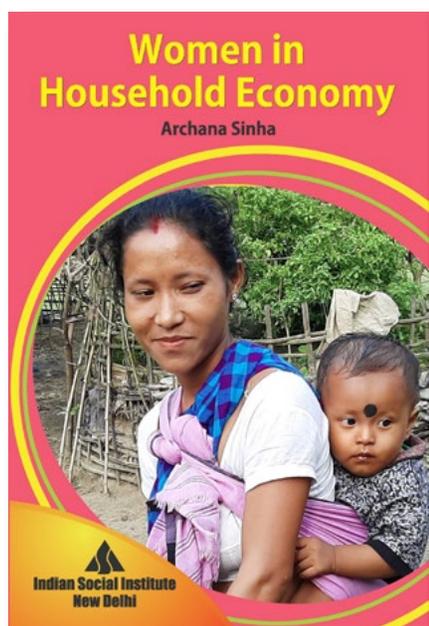


Fr. Joykutty A. Karayampuram SJ was born on 22nd September, 1955, in Kerala. He joined the Patna Province of the Society of Jesus on 14th July, 1979. After completing his Jesuit formation, he was ordained a priest on 31st December, 1991. His first assignment as a young priest was in Ratanpurwa in West Champaran District of Bihar, where he worked among bonded labourers and landless people. Ever since,

he was known to have special love and commitment to the poor and deprived sections of society. He studied law and completed his LL.M. from National Law School of India University, Bangalore. He practiced in the Patna High Court and was a member of the Lawyer's Association. He was Rector of KR High School, Bettiah, before being appointed Provincial of the Patna Province in 2006. After he

completed his tenure as Provincial, he was appointed Superior of the Indian Social Institute, New Delhi in May 2013. He was Head of the Training Unit of the Institute and he established the Centre for Human Rights and Law (CHRL) in 2018. He was the editor of the monthly magazine "Legal News and Views" and also coordinated the peace building project "Shanti Sadbhavana Manch" that animated nearly 300 peace clubs in 7 States in India. He promoted the Legal Education Series booklets and conducted several legal training programmes throughout the country for lawyers, social activists and grassroot organisations. He continued his work till he was appointed Rector of Xavier Teachers Training Institute (XTTI) in November 2020. Unfortunately, he was infected with COVID-19 and succumbed to it on 29th April, 2021. The staff and management of Indian Social Institute, New Delhi, deeply mourn his untimely demise and pray that his soul rest in peace. □

NEW BOOKS

**Women in Household Economy**

Editor: Archana Sinha

ISBN:978-81-89762-78-0, Year: 2021, Rs.1100, Page:534

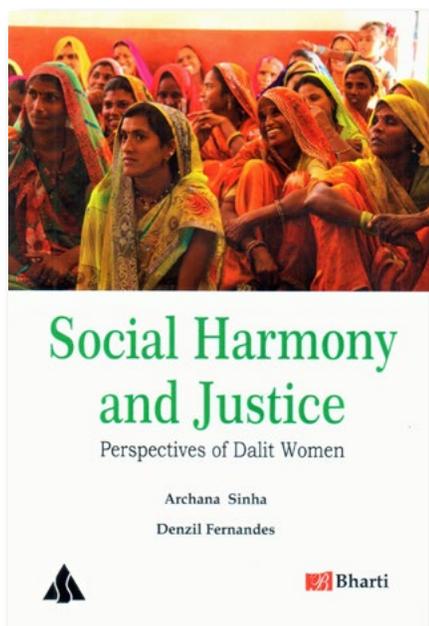
About the Book

Promoting gender equality and empowerment of women has been one of the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals. Though Constitution of India provides certain constitutional safeguards to protect the dignity of women yet the ground level the situation is grim, dismal, male dominated and disadvantageous to women. In this context, this book "Women in Household Economy" by Dr. Archana Sinha aims to understand issues and challenges of gender equality of contemporary India. Over the past decade, gender equality has been explicitly recognized as key to the social and economic development of women. It impacts their access to resources such as education, employment, and income, and their power over decision-making and freedom of movement.

Despite the fact that gender inequalities have diminished in some aspects of life, they remain deeply rooted in others. The vast majority of women around the world do not enjoy equality in economic participation, access to financial resources or earnings. Closing gender gaps requires

policy interventions that enhance women's economic opportunities and outcomes.

This book dwells upon the multiple linkages between invisible work and conventional macro-economy that would make it necessary to expand the boundary of conventional macro-economics so as to incorporate unpaid work. □

**Social Harmony and Justice: Perspective of Dalit Women**

Editors: Archana Sinha & Denzil Fernandes

ISBN:978-93-90818-19-8, Year: 2021, Rs.630, Page:146

About the Book

This book "Social Harmony and Justice: Perspectives of Dalit Women" by Dr. Archana Sinha and Dr Denzil Fernandes based on a symposium is an outcome of a qualitative research study "Dalit Women in Social Conflict : The Case of Haryana". Dalit women carry the burden of representing community's dignity and pay for it by facing violence. Lack of adequate resources exposes them to violence which is a result of social conflict. When gender-based violence is discussed in the context of social conflict and violence faced by dalit women, most of the times it is overlooked though it doesn't occur in isolation. This book aims to look at the personal, social and psychological bases of inter-group as well as intra-group biases and social conflict resulting in violence; and further intends to consider how greater understanding of these processes can guide interventions to reduce bias and social conflict and facilitate social integration and social harmony. The main intent is to purposefully behold various dimensions of violence against Dalit women, which is the extreme manifestation of social conflict,

including causes, reactions and role of stake holders among others. This book will further add to the debate where feminists tried to emphasize on the idea that private space of home is not sacrosanct and what happens inside house should be of concern in public domain. It will bring to the fore the role of state actors in violence against Dalit women and also raise the questions on whether state actors can be seen as representatives of the state or should just be seen as individuals with social prejudices and biases. □

NEW BOOKLETS ON LEGAL EDUCATION SERIES

<p>LEGAL EDUCATION SERIES NO.39</p> <p>WHAT IS FIR?</p> <p>JOY KARAYAMPURAM ADVOCATE</p>  <p>INDIAN SOCIAL INSTITUTE NEW DELHI 110003</p>	<p>LEGAL EDUCATION SERIES NO.64</p> <p>JUVENILE JUSTICE (CARE AND PROTECTION OF CHILDREN) ACT 2015</p> <p>TRESA PAUL</p>  <p>INDIAN SOCIAL INSTITUTE NEW DELHI 110003</p>	<p>LEGAL EDUCATION SERIES NO.86</p> <p>THE PROTECTION OF CHILDREN FROM SEXUAL OFFENCES (POCSO) ACT, 2012</p> <p>SHALU NIGAM</p>  <p>INDIAN SOCIAL INSTITUTE NEW DELHI 110003</p>	<p>LEGAL EDUCATION SERIES NO.90</p> <p>THE MENTAL HEALTHCARE ACT, 2017</p> <p>DR. ALANA GOLMEI</p>  <p>INDIAN SOCIAL INSTITUTE NEW DELHI 110003</p>
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The Manager, Department of Publication
Indian Social Institute, 10 Institutional Area, Lodhi Road,
New Delhi-100 003
Email: publication@isidelhi.org.in Ph: 011-49534132/133
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Farewell to Dr. Paul D'Souza SJ

The staff and management of Indian Social Institute, New Delhi, express our heartfelt gratitude to Dr. Paul D'Souza SJ for his contribution to the Institute for the last eight years (2013-2021). He joined the Institute in January 2013 and he held positions of Research Director and Head of the Department of Dalit Studies. He conducted several researches and published articles and books. His last book was "Corona Crisis: Perceptions and Practices". He was Superior of the ISI Jesuit community and Vice-President of the ISI Governing Board. We wish him all the best as he returns back to Gujarat. □

Hearty Welcome

Dr. Thomas Perumalil SJ



Dr. Thomas Perumalil SJ has been appointed Superior of the ISI Jesuit community. He belongs to the Patna Jesuit Province. Indian Social Institute wishes him all the best in his new assignment. □

Dr. Alwyn D'Souza SJ



Dr. Alwyn D'Souza SJ has been appointed as a Research Scholar in Indian Social Institute, New Delhi. He belongs to the Karnataka Jesuit Province. Indian Social Institute wishes him all the best in his new assignment. □

Dr. Lancy Lobo SJ



Dr. Lancy Lobo SJ has been appointed as a Research Scholar in Indian Social Institute, New Delhi. He belongs to the Gujarat Jesuit Province. He is the founder Director of Centre for Culture and Development, Vadodara. Indian Social Institute wishes him all the best in his new assignment. □

BOOK POST

SUBALTERNS

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