

Editorial

I am indeed very happy to present this new volume of Loyola Journal, the first one under my editorship. I thank the Loyola management for having entrusted me with this responsibility. The current issue focuses on themes of empowerment and marginalisation. There are topics on Empowerment of Rural Women, Inter-state Migrants, Traditional Fishing Women, Skill Based Social Work Practice and Training as well as role of Cooperative movement in poverty alleviation.

The first paper on Interventive skill areas in social work practice in India by Jasmine and Joseph challenges the logic of specialisation in social work education in the country. Emphasising a competency-based approach the authors identified 10 core interventive areas (CIAs). They followed a rigorous methodology for their study covering 15 social work practice settings and 21 sub-settings, interviewing 224 social workers in 100 organizations across 16 cities, to reach into their conclusions. The paper gives critical insights to both social work practitioners and social work educators by way of suggesting a skill-based approach to the practice and training of social work in India.

The empirical study by Rajesh on Impact of Micro-finance on Women Empowerment in Kerala gives a description of the dimensions of empowerment experienced by rural women through the micro-finance scheme. The author attempts to explain the various forms of empowerment experienced by the women in terms of economic, socio-cultural, political and skill achievement. The findings of this paper provide valuable insights to managers and corporate practitioners of Micro Finance Companies to manage the challenges of women empowerment initiatives in a better way.

The third paper authored by Sunilkumar and Pramod portrays the Plight of Inter-state Migrants in Kerala, probing in to the fundamental problems of alienation. Adopting a mixed research design, the authors explained the alienation experienced by Inter-state migrants from "Malayalee Society", government officials, employers and contractors. It brings out certain very disturbing revelations about the treatment of migrant labourers by Keralites which in turn gives a space for vigilant policy interventions at one hand, behavioural and cultural interventions

on the other. The authors have also put forward, a host of preventive and curative measures for interventions by various stakeholders concerned.

Another paper in the present issue is entitled *Modernisation, Vulnerability and Coping Strategies: A Study on Koli Women in Mumbai* authored by Bhagyasri and Sunil. This paper explains the story of the transitions experienced by the Koli women, one of the traditional fishing communities in India. Viewing from Marxist Feminist perspective, the authors have followed a unique methodological approach to describe the modernization and consequent vulnerability of these women. The various coping strategies adopted by these indigenous women was also portrayed from an ethnographic angle. The conclusions of this study are extremely relevant for social scientists and policy makers.

The final article "The Cooperative Movement as a Transformative Response to Issues of Poverty: A Global Perspective" by Satyanarayana is a conceptual paper with a global perspective. The author has attempted to cover the objective, ideologies and history of the global cooperative movement. It discussed the role and impact of cooperative movements across the globe in alleviating poverty as an emerging concern. The critical analysis of the magnitude and coverage of cooperatives in various countries would be really a useful input for researchers.

I place on record my sincere thanks to Dr. Saji P Jacob, the Chief Editor and all the reviewers for their efforts in bringing out this volume of Loyola Journal.

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