

International Conference on
Deepening Democracy Through Participatory Local Governance
**LOCAL GOVERNMENTS AND
RIGHTS-BASED DEVELOPMENT**

15-17 May 2015

Hotel Samudra, Kovalam, Thiruvananthapuram

Anthology of Abstracts



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Local Governments & Right to Information

Rahul C

Indian Parliament passed the Right to Information Act in 2005 that aims to promote transparency and accountability in the working of every public office. This Act has enabled the common man to seek information held by a public authority and thereby paved way to strengthen democracy. Citizen participation is a part of good governance. Even though Panchayat Raj system aims at greater participation of people and more effective implementation of rural development programs through Grama Sabha, Neighborhood Groups, Development Seminar, Resource Persons etc., it is not so due to elite capture, corruption, patronage politics, local civil servants feel compromised etc. While PRIs are excellent initiatives in theory, reality has been less positive, and many PRIs have

been criticized for poor representation, failure to implement the participatory decisions of their constituencies and mismanagement of funds. The paper tries to study the effectiveness of Right to Information Act, its role for good governance and recommend a plausible guideline for optimum utilization of RTI Act for development. The methodologies of the paper are (1)analyzing the role of RTI Act in governance and development, (2)identification of pitfalls and recommendations for strengthening governance through RTI Act for development. It recommends SWOT analysis of the Right to Information Act. This paper concludes with plausible recommendation for improving governance through RTI Act for optimum development.

Development and Right to Information: Practical Implication and Challenges for Local Self Governments

Shahid NP

The objective of this paper is to analyze the Right to Information Act and local self governments in India especially in the context of the state of Kerala.

The Right to Information Act is an essential step in ensuring transparency and accountability in government system and process. Right to access information for citizen can be considered as precondition to good governance. It makes democracy more vibrant and meaningful and allows citizens to participate in the governance process of the country. Decentralization has emerged as key element in the present discourse of improving governance.

Kerala experience gave new meaning to the exercise of decentralization and signifies the diversity in implementing public policy towards decentralization in India. The effective and equitable provision of local public goods and

services depend on good governance by local governments. The right to information forms a crucial underpinning of participatory democracy. But the act has been criticized on several grounds. Corruption poses a serious development challenge in the political realm. It undermines democracy and good governance.

This paper is divided into four parts. First it will analyze connections between development and Right to Information Act in India. Secondly it will discuss the Right to Information Act and local self governments in India. Thirdly, it will analyze the practical implication of Right to Information Act in local self governments in Kerala. Finally, it will examine the challenges of effective implementation of Right to Information Act in the local self governments using the qualitative method of social science research.

e-Governance and Right to Information Act in Kerala: Retrospects and prospects

Nishitha Pankan & Dr.N.Radhakrishnan

India is considered to be one of the largest democratic and second largest populated country in the world. These twin features or aspects would make the country to be narrowed in giving services efficiently. Thus, to overcome the issues, the Indian Parliament has enacted the Right to Information Act in 2005 which performs as a powerful tool to the citizens to get information from the Government. This right has not only enabled the citizen to empower themselves but also to make the government transparent and accountable. The law is considered to be very comprehensive and covers almost all matters of governance and has the widest possible reach, being applicable to Government at all levels- Union, State and Local as well as recipients of government grants.

The RTI (Right to Information) Act acts as an important accelerator that takes

democracy forward. Digitalisation of all government documents, which is vital to strengthen e-Governance, is very important to address the information needs of citizens. Effective online services as such gives an average citizen instant access to Government services at a faster and convenient pace, which the RTI Act strongly and truly advocates. Undoubtedly so, the RTI Act could surely prove to be a boon for various e-Government initiatives in the country when implemented completely. It is equally important that citizens be made aware of their inalienable 'Right to Information', such that they demand access to the existing provisions in the RTI Act while acknowledging the fact that information cannot be monopolised now. This paper will address the questions such as how far the RTI can help in achieving goals of good

governance, how the e-Governance initiatives and RTI are connected and how it helps the citizen empowerment etc.

This paper is based on secondary data which have been collected from various published and unpublished sources including Economic Review (different volumes), a range of government official websites and other related

articles and journals. The impact assessment study carried out in this paper clearly shows that the Right to Information (RTI) has been considered to be a strongest and most modern weapon with the basic objectives to empower the citizens, promote transparency and accountability in the working of the Government, contain anti corruption element, and to make our state's democracy an efficient one.

Working of RTI in Local Governance in Odisha: A Case Study of Gram Panchayats

Susanta Kumar Mallick

It is generally argued that in modern society, information is power. It is also argued that by sharing information we can promote decentralization and participatory governance. We will discuss that the dominant discourse on the Right to Information is that it is a revolutionary enactment which has placed huge powers in the hands of the citizens of the country to demand a transparent and accountable administration. The most significant level of public service delivery is the grassroots level. For it is in the grassroots level that the success or failure of any policy or programme is determined. Moreover, the interaction of the common public whom the RTI Act intends to benefit is highest at the grassroots level.

Keeping this fact in mind my endeavour in the paper will be to show how local governance (i.e., panchayats) and right to information intersect with each other. We will explore whether the right to information has made Gram Panchayats more transparent and accountable institutions at the grassroots level. The objective of this paper is to describe how local governance is organized in Odisha, as per the local laws. This is followed by looking at the Odisha Right to Information Rules. It is followed by a discussion on the current provisions of both RTI and PRIs individually as they exist in Odisha. Then the paper will discuss critically the practice of RTI at Gram Panchayats(GPs), and will be followed by a conclusion.

Experiments to Make Better Informed Policies

Ms. Shivani Wadehra

Urban waste management is becoming a complex issue day by day. With rise in income leading to a change in the composition of waste effectiveness of institutions involved, both formal and informal, compliance to rules and social norms in place. The present methods of dealing with waste at the centralized level, which include land filling, waste to energy plants, incineration not only have a huge capital cost but also have emissions that pollute the air, water and soil. Even so, it is not so easy to find new landfill sites.

Thus, given the above scenario, management of household waste in urban context requires a more participatory approach. In order to develop a more informed and suitable policy it is imperative to understand the variables that model the household's behavior towards waste disposal.

Randomized control trials help to understand the impact of interventions and provide a rigorous measure to ascertain the program impact by assigning individuals randomly to groups that would receive treatments and those that don't.

The paper conducts a systematic review of the randomized control trials conducted in India. The authors searched 'Web of science' with the keywords—'randomized control trials' + 'sanitation' to select the studies, conducted within the timeframe of 2000-2015. Though the studies that qualified the criteria show that interventions adopted are not always successful in achieving the desired result, conducting an RCT does give us insights into the challenges and barriers that led to the failure of the intervention before they are scaled up, thus leading to a more informed decision making.

Local Self Governments and the RTI: A study on Transparency and Accountability

Aswati Anil Warriar

The present paper aims to develop a comprehensive strategy for citizenry for the usage of Right to Information Act to ensure good governance in Local Self Governments (LSG) by describing the status of the mandatory 'Right to Information Standards' of the Local Self-Governments in Kerala and identifying different models of Usage of Right to Information Act to ensure transparency and accountability in governance

The study basically follows a Meta-research design approach with elements of description and exploration. The status of 'Right to Information Standards' of LSGs is being studied predominantly through the secondary sources which covers the official panchayat statistics, official websites, and studies/reports done on the field. The models of Usage of Right to

Information legislation is developed through the case studies on RTI Activists on different issues. The thematic analysis of the cases leads towards different models of using RTI which culminates in ensuring accountability and transparency.

From the perspective of RTI Activists, the paper seeks to bring out critical elements involved in using RTI by the people towards ensuring transparency and accountability. The successful models which have been developed by constant creative use by these activists for ensuring maximum usage of the Act by the citizen is brought out. These includes utilizing the important provisions of the Act, usage of RTI as a tracking tool and using the court, media and other mechanisms for dissemination of the information obtained. It also highlights the

comparison between effect of The Kerala Panchayats (Custody of records and Grant of Copies of Proceedings or Records) Rules 1962 and the Right to Information Act in ensuring transparency in local governance institutions. The paper will also suggest the most effective strategies of usage of Right to Information Act for the citizen to make the panchayat a better governance structure.

Right to Information and Its Implementation in Jammu and Kashmir

Jahangir Ahmad Khan

Parliament enacted the Right to Information Act in May 2005. All citizens including residents of Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) can seek and obtain information under this law from public authorities under the Central and various State Governments. However this law is not applicable to the State Government in J&K or other public authorities under its control. The J&K Government enacted the Jammu and Kashmir Right to Information Act (J&K RTI Act) in March 2009 along the lines of the Central RTI Act but with a few progressive modifications. Residents of J&K can now use the J&K RTI Act to obtain information from the public authorities functioning in that State. Residents of J&K can also use the Central RTI Act to collect information from public authorities under the control of the Central Government which are based in J&K.

The presentation paper will try to find out the status of implementation of J&K Right to Information Act 2009. As regards the implementation of the Act it can be observed that people of the state are facing numerous problems in seeking public information from public authorities. Some of the problems are: harassment by public information officers (PIO) and public authorities; lack of additional staff with public information officers; improper records management in public offices; insufficient training of PIOs in handling RTI cases; no RTI handbook in Hindi, Urdu and local languages and penalty imposed on erring PIOs is quiet low. It has been observed that the government of Jammu and Kashmir is not making genuine and effective efforts for facilitating the smooth implementation of the Act in the state. J&K RTI rules 2009 have been reduced from 51rules to 13 rules 2012.

So it is clear that that government is trying to weaken the J&K RTI Act. My paper will also make recommendations for improving the implementation aspect of the Act so that it turns out to be a powerful deterrent in the hands of the people for improving accountability, transparency and responsiveness in the governance process.

Rural Infrastructure Development and Right to Information in Local Governance

Renukrishnan. G

This paper is intended to discuss the trends, patterns in relation with right to information of rural infrastructure in Kerala at panchayat level. It also throws light on the issues and challenges concerning resource mobilization and people's participation in grama sabha meetings. In spite of rural development being an important component in country's development, the infrastructural development of the rural areas, particularly Kerala is very slow in rural development. The key reasons behind slow development of rural areas include improper and inadequate provision of infrastructure and lacking of basic information compared to urban regions of the State

Kerala's more powerful mass social and civil movements (those promoting workers rights, rights of fisher folk, or environmental issues), in Kerala's media establishment, has there been focused

mobilization around the right to information. In 2001, Kerala became the first, and only State in India, to set up an Ombudsman office for local governments (district and below). In this context, this paper also attempts to put right the imbalance by focusing on the processes preceding the institutionalization and implementation of new policies. The objective of the study to analyze and assess to discern the level of autonomy enjoys the local bodies to ensure effective right to information. In addition, it analyzing the relative autonomy of village panchayat as well as the State government relation in Kerala since 1997.

The study thus explores the similarities and differences in rural local bodies' knowledge management in panchayat within differing contexts and imperatives. Secondary data in the study shows the accountability and

transparency of rural local bodies. The tables and graphs depict the trends in the resource utilization and mobilization of local bodies in Kerala. To discern and assess the level of autonomy enjoyed by the local government to ensure effective service delivery. To discern and assess the level of autonomy enjoy by the local government to ensure effective

service delivery. To discern and assess the level of autonomy enjoyed by the local government to ensure effective service delivery. While, conclusion of the report states that the mobilization of these resources is a major impediment in facilitation of infrastructural development in rural areas.

Right to Information and its Implications on Good Governance in Kashmir

Naseer Ahmad Wani

Right to information has been seen as the key to strengthening participatory democracy and ushering in people centered governance. Access to information can empower the poor and the weaker sections of society to demand and get information about public policies and actions. As citizens, we need to participate not only at the time of elections but on a day to day basis – when decisions on policy, laws and schemes are being made and projects and activities are being implemented. Public involvement not only enhances the quality of governance but also promotes transparency and accountability in government functioning. One way of participating is by exercising the right to access information from bodies which spend public money or perform public functions. The J and K Government enacted the Jammu and Kashmir Right to Information Act (J & K RTI Act) in March 2009 along the lines of the central

RTI Act but with a progressive modification. Residents of J and K can now use the J and K RTI Act to obtain information from the public authorities under the control of the central Government which are based in J and k. The J and K RTI Act recognizes that under a democratic government all information held by the public authorities ultimately belongs to the people and sharing of information by the Government with the people of the state is healthy and beneficial to the functioning of democracy. Secrecy should become a thing of the past; under the J&K RTI Act no resident of J&K can be denied information that elected representatives such as MLAs and MPs can get from the government. In this paper, it is intended to discuss and analyze the J and K RTI Act and its implications on the good governance in the context of Kashmir valley. The study is based on secondary sources supplemented by the field experiences and interviews.

Awareness of Indian Citizen towards RTI Act

Priyanka

Right to Information Act for Indian citizens is to secure access to information which is under the control of public authorities. The purpose of RTI Act is to promote transparency and accountability in the working of every public authority. RTI Act ensures timely and speedy response to information seeker. There is no prescribed format of application form for seeking information under RTI Act. The application can even be made on plain paper. The application should, however, have the name and complete postal address of the applicant.

Now a days, an applicant who desires to obtain any information under the RTI Act can also make a request through online web portal. First appeal can also be filled online. The application filed through web portal would reach electronically to the nodal office of

concerned department, who would transmit the RTI application electronically to the concerned CPIO (Central Public Information Officer).

The present study has made an attempt to study the extent of usage and importance given to the RTI Act by citizen of India. On-line and off line questionnaires are used for data collection. Final sample constitutes 280 respondents from different geographical areas of the country. Analysis of data has been presented in the forms of charts as well. Results of the study revealed that majority of respondents are aware of RTI Act, but more than 60 percent of the respondents have never filled RTI. There is a need to run various informative programmes by Government agencies to promote RTI throughout the country.

MGNREGA in Kerala: Right Based Approach on Work and Dignity of Rural Women

Saimudeen A

The rights-based approach to development stimulates a redefinition on the nature of the problem which is prevailing in Kerala due to large scale un-employment and the aims of the development enterprise into claims, duties, and practice mechanisms that can promote respect and adjudicate the violation of rights. RBAs can be distinguished from economic and social rights on the one hand the right to development on the other hand, because they suggest both a deeper level of mutually transforming integration between human rights and development.

Objectives of the study are to analyse both concepts Right based approach

and MGNREGS and how it copes up with Kerala, to understand the impact of MGNREGS in Kerala as a right based approach for work and to assess the participation of rural women in MGNREGS programmes in Kerala.

Methodology comprises the use of primary data and secondary data as well. It will include government reports, data and books, articles and journals on the part of secondary data.

The study will come to an end with a statement that the MGNREGS with right based approach helped as a tool for the social change and social justice.

Mumbai's Docklands – Framing Cultural Policy in Local Governance

Anurag Mazumdar

If Mumbai's docklands were to avoid being a sanitized space that will reflect only the cultural values of the rich and privileged, it will need to invest in rejuvenating and creating social institutions—schools, hospitals, libraries, art spaces, theatres, drama clubs. These need to be spaces with unrestricted public access, where people will build and nurture cohesive social structures and encourage differences. Enhancing the quality of life for marginalized residents won't happen by improving housing and livelihood options alone—most often, the right to housing is confused with the “right to the city”.

The paper will address some of these concerns in planning for the

marginalized in a state of flux—amid reconstruction and rejuvenation of the docklands. How can social institutions and cultural spaces be planned by local governments along with other prescient demands for the city? Can older institutions be revived in this process? Is there a conflict between more immediate needs and social institutions that are not believed to be inimical to the life of the poor and marginalized? Through interaction the community as well as practitioners, the paper will try to provide a workable model for understanding urban poor in a state of displacement and their need for cultural recognition.

A Study of Governance for Street Vendors in Trichy Corporation

M. Antony Stephen

The National Policy on Urban Street Vendors (2004) has pointed out the major problems and recommended policies for improving livelihood conditions, social protection, economic activity, organization or association for collective bargaining. The basic problem of street vendors is that the right to sustenance in the urban informal sector. Although this sector's contribution to the country's development is quite impressive, the opportunities for their financial accessibility are minimal. The Govt. of India has enacted the street vendor law in 2014 to address this problem.

In this background the study looks into:

- a) Study the demographic profile of street vendors in Trichy Corporation.
- b) Study the Financial problems (access to credit, income, savings, investments) of street vendors
- c) Study the awareness level of street vendors and their association, concerned Govt. Officials on street Vendor Policy
- d) Provide suggestions to Trichy Corporation to implement street vendor Policy in their corporation.

It is estimated that there are more than 10,000 street vendors in Trichy Corporation alone. The study covers 200 street retailers by using **three-stage sampling method** to draw 50 sample from each Zone.

Role of Panchayats in Right to Work: MGNREGA in Jammu & Kashmir

Shamasul Haque & Naseer Ahmad Wani

The Act known as National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (NREGA) created a justifiable “Right to work” for all households in rural India. This Act renamed as the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) is an unprecedented intervention by the Government in reforming and reenergizing the (rural) labour market both by way of correcting the prevailing anomalies and in providing livelihood security to millions of rural poor. In conflict-ridden Kashmir’s rural areas that are caught in widespread poverty, vulnerability and lack of basic infrastructure, the launching of the NREGA brought a lot of hope and optimism. As in our Kashmir society most of the rural poor are largely dependent on the prospects of agriculture sector which is facing the problems of productivity in absolute

and relative terms in contemporary times because of climatic and other environmental and socio-cultural concerns.

MGNREGA is also a glaring example which has ensured community participation in planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation (Social Audit). It also aims at enabling the local bodies to move towards good governance through the transparency, accountability and participatory mechanisms. However, after more than half a decade of policy implementation the only major available information source about the state – the “Government official figures” – do not show a healthy picture when compared to other parts of India and generate a lot of questions and ambiguity, addressing the dearth of ground level literature, which could have explained the myths and realities behind the

fluctuating and comparatively low performing official estimates.

The present study is a modest attempt in this direction to highlight the feasibility and contextual dilemmas of the MGNREGA in Kashmir with an empirical study of one of the most backward Districts of the Valley i.e. District Budgam. It also analyses the official figures and their limitations and provides field reflections on some of the limitations in the proper implementation of the scheme. In addition to this it highlights the issues

and challenges in the smooth functioning of the Panchayat Raj Institutions in the proper implementation of the scheme. The study has been carried out with a proper scientific methodology and to elicit the relevant information the researchers have also employed non participant observation and interviews with the stakeholders as the research methods. In summation from this study Policy conclusions can be drawn based on a general analysis of the set-up, past experience and the findings from the field study.

Rights of the Fruit and Vegetable Vendors: A Study from Goa

Naresh G. Shirodkar & Prashant V. Kadam

A major part of the workforce in developing countries in general and India in specific works in the informal sector. It is the largest sector which caters to the livelihood of the urban poor and also acts as a catalyst of urban poverty alleviation without government intervention. The most visible face of the informal economy in the urban landscape is that of the street vendors—a class of humans known but unknown. The street vendors struggle for legal recognition for social and economic contributions of their professions. The street vendors do not have access to social security or health services and their earnings fall below the statutory limits of minimum wages.

In this regard, the present study on society to the socio-legal-economic status and rights of the street vendors in the North Goa District. The study is mainly based on the primary data with

a sample size of 200 respondents (100 fruit vendors and 100 vegetable vendors). The necessary data is collected with the help of a structured questionnaire. The study depicts the deplorable conditions of the vendors, which are forced to accept, with no choice of their own. Neither have they organised marketing nor any redressal grievance mechanism to sort out their miseries. Amidst poverty and lack of a concrete mechanism, these vendors often become the victims of the corrupt government officials who not only evict them but also confiscate their fruits and vegetables without issuing any receipts.

The findings of the study depict that the street vendors in this activity earn unstable income and do not have access to basic protections and services. Majority of the respondents are migrants. They constantly live in the fear of eviction and have little recourse

to legal aid. Their working conditions are egregious and are also targeted by the general public for invading public space and thereby causing inconvenience to the public. Almost 80% of the vendors are deprived of their legal rights and other amenities towards a descent standard of living. This study has tried to cover certain socio-economic dimensions of the vendors and their legal rights which they either are deprived or are not aware of the same.

Participatory approach and Empowerment of Local Institutions under IWMP in Bihar

Ranjan Kumar Sinha & Rajesh Kumar Mishra

The present paper is based on findings of 'A Preparatory phase Evaluation of Projects of IWMP for 2011-12 in Banka District of Bihar' conducted by AER Centre, TMBU, Bhagalpur during 2014-15. Preparatory phase aims at building appropriate mechanisms for adoption of **participatory approach and empowerment of local institutions** i.e., Watershed Committee, headed by Mukhia (Gram Panchayat), SHGs and UGs.

This paper seeks to examine the status and performance of the preparatory phase of the IWMP, consisting of 07 variables/components viz., Entry Point Activities (EPAs), Village Level Institution Building (VLIB), Project Implementing Agency (PIA), Capacity

Building (CB), Detailed Project Report (DPR), Watershed Work (WW) and Fund Utilization (FU); and to suggest measures for improvement.

The method of evaluation includes review of records and reports, secondary data, focus group discussions with the beneficiaries, dialogue and multi stakeholders meeting and physical verification of activities with the help of a duly structured performance ranking.

More participatory, increase in quality and duration of the activities, SHG-Bank Linkage Credit Model, area specific plantation, levelling of undulated terrain, exposure visits to model watershed area etc. are the major suggestions.

Capacity Development Course: An Evaluation Study

Sarawat Rashid & Shaikh Shahriar Mohammad

Local Government Support Project (LGSP) owes its origin to Sirajganj Local Government Development Fund Project that was in operation during the period from 2001 to 2006. SLGDFP was undertaken by the Local Government Division of the Government of Bangladesh with the financial and technical support of United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). The focus of the Project was strengthening of the Union Parishads as institutions to deliver goods and services to the people.

The major objective of the study was to evaluate the imparting and implementation of LGSP training by the Upazila (sub-district). Resource Team members at the Upazila level; to document and assess the views of the course participants about the usefulness of the training received; and to analyse the views of villagers about LGSP generally. This was a population and facility based exploratory study using qualitative

methods. Researchers collected information from two Unions of each Upazila where LGSP course was completed in the relatively recent past or just before data collection period. Union Parishads were Jewpara and Shilmariya from Puthiya Upazila. From Godagari Upazila, Godagari Sadar and Mohanpur Union Parishads were selected. This study found five training batches consisting of 115 numbers of trainees.

LGSP is therefore not sufficiently accountable to the citizenry. The tasks of course organization and co-ordination should be more widely distributed among government officers and civil society members. For wider dissemination and acceptability of the learning and practice of the course, it should address the issues of greater of gender parity. Provisions should be made for keeping the person in their place of posting for a considerable period of time after their return with receiving training.

Local Governments and Rights Based Development: A Study from Rajasthan

Prabhakara Reddy Tada

It is a modest attempt in understanding the Vidya Bhawan Institute of Local Self Governance and Responsible citizenship, Udaipur which has been working with the Panchayats for quite some time and created model in the field of rights based development through institutionalization of grass root democracy. The initiatives include Panchayat Mela and Mahila Sammelan while facilitating ward sabha and gram sabha in the villages which are predominantly tribal areas with less connectivity with outside world. The study was conducted by using survey and non-survey methods in 11 blocks of the district and the data obtained was analysed for arriving at conclusions.

The preliminary results showed that the NGO has been successful in building the capacities of ERs and the members of SMC, VHSNC. As part of capacity building ERs and other stakeholders were taught about their rights and

entitlements with a focus on MGNREGS while imparting other aspects of decentralized governance. There were initiatives focused to improve the levels of participation of community in the development process; be it preparation of plans, ensuring gender equity, and monitoring the implementation of programmes which are rights based.

The end result is that the enlightened ERs and members of functional committees are able to get wage employment under MGNREGS, more importantly, women got higher share of the cake. Besides, the participation of people especially women increased in all the aspects of governance beginning from planning, designing and implementation of programmes. It is worth mentioning that after attending the Panchayat Mela and Mahila Sammelan the ERs began asserting for their due share from the government programmes.

Right-Based Development: A Study of Wayanad District, Kerala

Vidya S.

The 73rd Amendment Act envisaged some rights to the local people and sought to institutionalise villagers participation in rural local governance through Grama Sabha with the objective of providing participation to people in the decision making process : 33 per cent seats reserved for women representatives in local self governments. All these are constitutionally implemented right for people in our society. It opened a new pathway for the development and progress of the people. There are number of activities done by the government for the wellbeing of local people but, its effectiveness is questionable. As a good citizen in a democratically governed nation we have the duty to evaluate it. After the two decade of passing this Act, it is the need of the day to evaluate its performance in our society because, Kerala considered as one of the good example of effective Panchayati Raj System among the states.

This study is based on both primary and secondary data. Secondary data will be collected from Economic Review, Kerala State Election Commission Report and Report of Ministry of Rural Development and other Websites etc. The primary Data will be collected from two Panchayats in Wayanad District. The sample Panchayats are Vythiri Grama Panchayat and Meppadi Grama Panchayats. The major objective of this study is to evaluate the performance of 73rd Amendment Act, after the two decade of its implementation. This study is divided in to three sections; the first section relates to the overall performance of decentralised planning in Kerala. The second section analyses the performance of Grama Sabha, Kudumbashree, Elected women Representatives, Fund Allocation, working of MNREGP and Jagratha Samati of the selected Grama Panchayats in Wayanad District. The third section includes the major findings with summary and conclusion.

Decision Making in the Municipal Governance: A Study from West Bengal

Srabani Sengupta

This paper seeks to understand the determinants of performance of the municipal governments of West Bengal based on some case studies.

The proposed methodology contains the following:

Desk review, Review of relevant Municipal documents, Group Discussion, In depth Interview of Municipal functionaries. Specifically we propose to focus on documents related to municipal finance, quality and training of staff and records of physical works and procedural improvements carried out. In addition we plan to organize interviews, focus group discussions and/or surveys to estimate citizens' perceptions regarding municipal initiatives as well as concrete benefits received.

Analysis will be both qualitative and quantitative depending on the information obtained from review of documents and FGDs and surveys.

To give a brief idea about our predicted conclusions we need to explain our major hypotheses that there are three principal factors that affect municipal performance

- (i) The quality of municipal personnel, their qualification, training and capacity built up through previous experience,
- (ii) The independent sources of revenue from local economic activity in addition over and above the allocations received from central and state sources
- (iii) The access of the citizens to the municipality and the interactions of the staff with the citizens

To the extent that we are able to confirm our hypotheses our conclusion will be that the following will improve municipal performance

- Capacity Building and process reengineering will improve the efficiency.
- Long term Planning activities instead of short term adhocism.
- Trained Municipal cadre
- More financial power for the Municipalities.

Role of Pani Panchayats under BGREI Programme in Jharkhand: An Empirical Analysis

Rajiv Kumar Sinha

In Jharkhand, all the sub-zones are characterized by non-existence of perennial rivers, erratic rainfall, high soil erosion and lack of soil and water conservation practices. The data on Food Security Outcome Index (FSOI) in Jharkhand reveals that about 2/3 of the total districts are in insecure categories (IHD,2008). In view of it, Government of Jharkhand assigned as one of the interventions of BGREI (i.e,SSA) to the Directorate of Soil Conservation (DSC, Government of Jharkhand). The DSC has formed JHARKHAND RAJYA WATER (PANI) PANCHAYAT (JRPP) in 2011 at the beneficiaries level to execute the works of Birsa Pucca Check Dam (BPCD), Loose Boulder Check Dam (LBCD), and guard wall, and lift irrigation (LI) on cent-per-cent participatory basis. Number of JRPP under the scheme across the districts in Jharkhand was 232 in 2010 -11 and 175 in 2011-12.

To describe the concept, formation, term and functions of Water (PANI) Panchayats (PPs)

Examine PPs' role in promoting SSA as a component of BGREI

Explore PPs' effects on APY in respective command areas and

Suggested Observation-based Action Points.

Based on empirical analysis of *50 beneficiaries and 25 non-beneficiaries from five different rice ecology districts of Jharkhand, namely: i. Rainfed upland, ii. Rain shallow low land, iii. Rainfed medium deep water, iv. Rainfed deep water and v. Irrigated. As a part of the study entitled: "End-Term Evaluation of the Implementation of BGREI Programme in Bihar & Jharkhand" assigned to "AERC for Bihar & Jharkhand", 'TMBU' by M.OA, GOI, this paper will follow the statistical tools used in the study.

Replacing Interests for Rights - A New Approach to Justice and Development

A.P. Rajeesh

The right based approach led to the emergence of judiciary which ultimately led to the concept of justice synonymous to courts. Thus access to justice was interpreted to mean access to courts. Establishing courts at the vicinity, liberalization of locus standi, legal aid to poor etc were some measures in the move to facilitate access to courts. But in reality these measures were not actual steps in the direction of access to justice movement because the interests remained unnoticed. In court litigations the interests were modified to convert it into rights and the decisions are on the modified interests. Thus justice in the true spirit of the term could never be achieved in court litigation.

It is also necessary to inculcate an interest based rather right based

approach to development. Only an interest based approach to development could identify what we need from what we want. This distinction could be identified in all rights based approaches including gender rights, rights of special groups, environmental rights, right to food, right related to social justice etc. The present system can't achieve justice in the true sense of the term. To convert the present right based approach to development to interest based, a shift of present governance to more decentralization is required. The Grama Panchayats must be the focus of interest for developments. Only the local bodies could identify the actual interests behind the projected rights. A redefinition of development is required in this regard.

Urban Community Development: A Case Study of Social Work Intervention

Ms. Francina P.X

Community development is a process where community members come together to take cooperative action and generate solutions to common problems. Collective action ranges from small initiatives within a small group to large initiatives which involve the broader community. Community development seeks to empower individuals and groups of people by providing them with the skills they need to effect change within their communities. This study tries to unveil the outcome of the Social Work interventions initiated by the Loyola College of Social Sciences, Thiruvananthapuram in collaboration with the local self-government and collective action of the people.

The study depicts the impact of social work intervention in the slums of *Kaniyamkulam and Korakulam* in Pattom-Keshavadasapuram Area

Development Society (ADS) of Thiruvananthapuram District. The study focuses on the impact aspect taking into account three variables such as physical infrastructure, quality of life and social capital enhancement. The trainings offered, debt status, poverty level status and services offered (health, education, occupation, government schemes) come under the quality of life in order to analyze the changes regarding the same. Human relationships, NHGs, trust factor, community cohesion etc find space in social capital enhancement whereby the community bond is taken into detailed study.

The study brings into light many facts and figures which elucidate the impact of the social work intervention in the Pattom-Keshavadasapuram ADS of Thiruvananthapuram district. The study is a journey back into the causes and

reasons of the changes embraced in the communities through institutional intervention. The study brings out concrete findings regarding every aspect studied and unveils the challenges and critically looks at the lacunae in the changes brought about in the communities.

Role of Food Processing Industries: The Key to Right to Food

V. Jacqueline Raja Bai

The continuing food inflation in the country has brought in sharp focus “supply side” constraints, especially in the case of perishables. There is an increasing realisation about the need to increase agricultural production in the country and equally important to save each grain produced by reducing wastages. Thus a strategy to meet the twin national objectives of “inclusive growth” and “food security” is essential. A developed food processing industry will reduce wastages, ensure value addition, generate additional employment opportunities as well as export earnings and thus lead to better socio-economic condition of millions of farm families. This would ensure the achievement of the goal of right to food.

In this context, the programs of the Government of India for promoting Food Parks as well as Biotechnology Parks, Agro-Clinics, Agro-Business

Centres and Agro-Export Zones assume great economic and social significance.

The objectives of the study are: (1) to explore in detail the various programmes of the Government through the MOFPI. (2) to study and assess in detail the impact of MOFPI. (3) to highlight the role of MOFPI as the key to Right to Food.

The study aims to highlight the role of the Government through the Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MOFPI) in India in upgrading and expanding the functions of the food processing sector in India. A detailed assessment of the various programs and policies of the MOFPI - special reference to the XI Five Year Plan and XII Five Year Plan schemes is made - with regard to the formulation and implementation is undertaken in this study which highlights the role of the Government as the key to achieve the Right to Food.

Right to Food Among Marginalized Groups: A Study from Andhra Pradesh

Yeluri Ashok Kumar

In India, the right to food was brought under judicial domain by side stepping the entire debate with regard to the classification of the right to food under second generation rights by making it an integral faced to the right to life, an area with established judicial intervention. There are more than 200 million undernourished people in India, primarily women, children, Dalits and tribal who live in rural areas. Our objectives are, to study about the intake of food among the marginalized sections, to analyze nutritional needs of the sample respondents in the study area, to study distribution system providing food and to identify necessary intervention frame work and strategies for right to have adequate food.

The study has been proposed in slums, in and around Guntur city. A sample of 100 respondents is purposefully selected from the study area. A structured Interview schedule has been designed with 50 questions pertaining to food, availability of food physically and economically, among vulnerable children, aged, handicapped and infirm, suffering from medical problems and have no access to adequate diet.

The analysis has been carried out in order to examine the impact of the food security act on the vulnerable sections by using primary and secondary data. Descriptive Design adopted, Data has been analyzed using percentage method.

Right to Food and Local Self Governments in Kerala

Smitha P C

Right to food is part of an overall goal of achieving right to development. The rights based approach necessitates maintaining transparency, accountability, equity and non-discrimination in all the programmes. Public Distribution System (PDS) could be conceived as one of the programmes to achieve right to food implemented through the state governments

In this context, this paper tries to assess the role of Public Distribution System in ensuring right to food, in terms of availability, accessibility, adequacy and sustainability in Kerala and also discuss the role of local governments. The study is based on both primary and secondary data and the primary data collected from three districts namely, Thrissur, Palakkad and Wayanad.

There are a number of issues observed from the field visit in these districts. First, there is lack of transparency from the part of the Public Distribution System especially in displaying the

stock of items with ration shops in public. Second, the problem of accessibility; i.e., the rationed items are not properly and timely provided to the public. Third, there is anomaly in the distribution of Above Poverty Line (APL) and Below Poverty Line (BPL) ration cards, which is finalized and verified by the local governments. Therefore, it can be argued that the local self government has got a great role to address the above issues.

The local governments in Kerala can act as better institutions by forming monitoring committee incorporating members from the general public and ration shop dealers. Thereby the local governments can take a lead role in ensuring the access, transparency and accountability, which are important components of right based development. Hence the success of State provisioning to achieve the goal of right to food heavily depends upon the third tier of governance.

Diversion of Foodgrains under NFSA in South India

Jayan T

Diversion means the difference between the distribution of food grains to each household and the actual quantity the beneficiary household obtained from PDS. Earlier studies on PDS diversion (Reetika Khera, Gulati and Saini, Himanshu and A.Sen etc) was based on the off take of food grains from central pool. This analysis is unique as estimates of diversion are quantified based on central and state pool data. And also this paper attempts to analyze diversion of AAY, BPL and APL food grains among the original poor and non-poor.

Right to Food in Kerala: The Role of Local Self Governments

Sanoop.M.S

Right to food will be fulfilled when all people, at all times, have physical as well as economic access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food to meet their minimum daily requirement. Among the Indian states, Kerala is suffering from chronic food shortage. The state is producing only about 12 per cent of its requirements. The ratio between domestic production and demand has been deteriorating systematically over a long period of time, signifying the increasing food dependency of the state. The food requirement of Kerala has been met by other states. So Kerala continues to be a consumer state.

In the production scenario, rice production showed declining trends since 1980s and the lowest production is recorded in 2012-13. So over the years, large tracts of paddy fields in Kerala have been converted into land for the cultivation of crops such as coconut, banana, and rubber. Over the years, state and local governments in Kerala have initiated a number of

programmes targeted to benefit the agricultural sector. Kerala has a strong set of democratic institutions at the local level, and they have been a pillar of support in the agricultural sector in the state. So, the local government initiatives are not only concentrate on financial support to the agricultural sector, but also more support on non-financial initiatives like Karshaka Sangam, Padasekhara Samitis, Thozhil Senas, Kudumbasree, etc. It will lead to increase the agricultural production and area under cultivation and it led increase the value of the agro-based industries in the state. So it has more linkage in the forward and backward direction in the state.

The present study look into the issue through secondary sources; Economic Survey, Economic Review, CMIE reports, Kerala Development Report, Department of Economics and Statistics. To analyze the data, the appropriate statistical tools will be used.

Public Distribution System in the Eradication of Poverty in India

A. Janatha Selvi

The Public Distribution System (PDS) playing an important role in attaining higher level of household's food security. Public Distribution System in India is the largest distribution network in the world. Until 1992, the Indian PDS is universal to all the consumers. In 1992, revamped PDS was introduced, it limited to primarily drought prone, tribal, hilly and remotely located. Then it has been substituted by Targeted PDS in 1997, specifically focused on Below Poverty Line (BPL) people in all parts of the country but not in some states, such as Tamil Nadu.

The objective of the paper is to study the impact of Public Distribution System in eradication of poverty in India. For analyzing the impact of

Public Distribution System in reducing poverty, secondary data was collected. The reasons for dividing into two periods is on the basis of before and after WTO policy the changes occur in food off take of poor people. The researcher collected data from 1973 to 1995 and 1996 to 2014 for principal off-take namely as rice and wheat. Finally, the study it is observed that the principal off-take of rice & wheat have been increased not in a consistent manner over the period, but still there are people sleeping every day without two square meals a day and living with malnutrition. So, keeping this in mind, the policy makers have to increase the off-take in a consistent manner and distribute it to the real needy.

PDS in Chhattisgarh: Tribal Women's Struggle towards a Universal Right to Food

Ekta Singh

The state of Chhattisgarh has been hailed as a role model for the impressive overhaul and revival of Public Distribution System (PDS). It also became the first state to enact the State Food Security Act in 2012 even before the Centre passed the National Food Security Act. Contrary to what is commonly believed the reform of PDS in the state was not initiated by the state government.

Based on fieldwork in Manendragarh block in Koriya district and Abhanpur block in Raipur district of Chhattisgarh and interviews with the officials of Food department and Right to Food activists, the paper highlights the crucial and often unacknowledged role of grassroots mobilization in the revival and overhaul of PDS in Chhattisgarh eventually leading to a universal Right to Food. It is the synergy created by the backing of a political class which grasped the

political importance of food in winning elections and the cooperation between civil society activists, timely intervention by Supreme Court and a committed and responsive bureaucracy that brought the change. The revival had been the result of prolonged litigation and struggle which involved among other things, the deprivatisation of Fair Price Shops in 2005.

Based on fieldwork, especially the activities of Right to Food Campaign, the findings point to a space being created for effective mobilization and demand of welfare rights from state. It comes out that unlike the NGOs and other voluntary agencies which ended up neutralizing political discontent by stepping in to do what state is expected to do resulting in depoliticisation of issues, the new forms of campaign are training people to confront the state and demand their rights.

An important aspect of the work of *AdivasiAdhikarSamiti*, a tribal women's organization in the Koriya district had been to break the barriers of caste, tribe and gender and create a more egalitarian local environment and thereby foil the attempts of the political class to bifurcate and fragment the beneficiaries. The organization has been engaged in training local women to target the local state apparatus and demand their entitlements. The findings suggest that the success of any government scheme cannot be understood in isolation from the local setting.

Healthcare and Bakarwal Tribe Women of Kashmir

Aneesa Shafi

Contemporary India is debating on inclusive development, with food security, safe housing and sanitation being the rights of every citizen. Health is closely linked to these prerequisites of living. The health status of tribals living in India is in need of special attention. Being among the poorest and most marginalized groups in India, tribals experience extreme levels of health deprivation. The tribal community lags behind the national average on several vital public health indicators, with women and children being the most vulnerable.

Existing literature on maternal health depicts a poorer nutritional status, higher levels of morbidity and mortality, and lower utilization of antenatal and postnatal services among tribals. Even though the government has made available the establishment of Primary Health Centres in tribal areas for every 20,000 population and sub-centres for

every 3,000 population, better healthcare is not accessible to the majority of tribals particularly when we talk of tribes of Jammu and Kashmir State.

This study aims at exploring the context, reasons and options in patterns of healthcare-seeking behaviour of the women of Bakarwal tribe (2nd largest tribe of the state) of Jammu and Kashmir and to present the obstacles and challenges faced in accessing healthcare provision by such women.

Heavy workload and poor nutrition make matters worse for women. The low literacy rate amongst girls and early marriages are other issues which need to be addressed. Health issues affecting children are also a cause for concern. All these factors have a bearing on the health and wellbeing of women. Besides the carelessness towards healthcare has given rise to increased infant mortality rate among the mentioned communities.

Effectiveness of Mid Day Meal Program: A study in Haryana

Yogesh Verma

With a view to enhancing enrollment, retention, attendance and improving nutritional levels among children, the national programme of nutritional support to primary education (NP-NSPE) was launched as a centrally sponsored scheme on 15th August 1995, initially in 2408 blocks in the country. Under the scheme free food grains is provided by the Govt. of India @ 450 calories and 12 gms proteins for primary stage and 700 calories and 20 gms proteins for upper primary stage are provided on all school days with the condition that a particular recipe should not be repeated within a week.

The present paper has made an attempt to study the effectiveness of mid day meal programme in Haryana state. The study is focused on different blocks of Hisar district of Haryana state. Data has been collected from various primary and secondary sources. Questionnaire and interview methods are used for primary data collection. The result of the study represents true picture of mid day meal programme run by government. The study also focuses on some of the areas which needs improvements for effective running of mid day meal programme.

Public Distribution System: A Micro Analysis in a Taluk, Kerala

Sindhu B.S.

This paper is a case study and is an attempt to go into the effectiveness of the Public Distribution System acting as the nodal agency for providing food security to all especially the marginalized in Chirayinkeezhu Taluk.

Major objectives of the study include, to evaluate the effectiveness of the policies and practices of the PDS in Kerala especially in the Chirayinkeezhu Taluk, to analyse the Socio-economic status of the Population under study and to suggest remedial measures to improve the PDS on the basis of the findings of the study.

Primary and Secondary data were used for the study. Survey method was adopted to collect the information from the BPL card holders using questionnaire. The sample of the study primarily comprised of 100 BPL card holders. Out of 100, 70 were selected from Mudakalpanchayat (rural) and the remaining 30 from Varkala municipality (Urban) in the Chirayinkeezhu Taluk in Thiruvananthapuram district. BPL card holders belonging to forward and backward community came under the study.

Mdm–Scheme, RTE Act and Status of Primary Education : Reflections from West Bengal

Dilip Kumar Chatterjee

The SSA , the flagship programme introduced nationwide in association with another flagship programme preceding it, the MDM or Mid-Day Meal Scheme could achieve of late the target of nearly cent percent enrolment of all the eligible children of the country into the primary education process.

This perception at the community level, observed through informal interviews, and the absence of any linear relationship between infrastructural facilities and quality of education imparted in government primary schools, as revealed in DISE data, together generate such a situation where private players flourish at the institutional level and growing social competition gets on widening the purview of private coaching. During last two decades or so, privatisation of primary education has taken an off the track shape in West Bengal, particularly in rural belts and recently it has been speeded up. Unrecognised primary

schools are coming up in semi-urban centres, sometimes 15 to 20 in number in each rural block with enrolment of 200 pupils on an average. Pupils admitted in these unrecognised primary schools are simultaneously enrolled in government primary schools also to avoid any future complications while getting admission in post primary classes.

It is observed from various reports and data, that any difference between a privately managed primary school and a government primary school regarding quality of education is ultimately determined by parents' level of care and consciousness , managements' monitoring level and the level of concern instead of knowledge of the teachers. Grass root reality of the country in most cases precludes any scope of utilising the finer pedagogical skill developed by a professionally trained teacher.

Incidence of Malnutrition and Starvation: A Study on inaccessible scheduled areas of Maharashtra

Sandu Trimbakrao Shirsath

The following factors are responsible for the poverty in tribal communities; dependency on conventional production resources; undeveloped farming and negligible participation in jobs; unawareness of detachment from the remaining world and unavailing of government scheme. These Tribes mainly suffer from hunger and malnutrition. Our study shows that they have to face starvation frequently. Tribals starvation is a grave issue mainly because of their dependency on traditional foodstuffs, natural vulnerability and isolation from the outward. Some improvements have taken place because of governmental efforts. However, comprehensive efforts are needed to uplift the tribal.

In the last decade, Govt. of India became more aware about Tribal Development and especially Tribal's participation in

Local Governance. The Panchayats Extension to the Scheduled Areas (PESA), Act-1996 has further increased the representation of tribals as well as women giving them more powers.

This research is depending on case study method and the area of research is inaccessible tribal areas of ten districts from fifth scheduled area of Maharashtra State. The present research undertaking makes an attempt to; search how tribes and tribal women in India are excluded from the development process especially incidence of malnutrition and starvation; evaluate efforts and pattern of inclusive development for tribal health right by the government of India for tribal betterment and focus on the problems of tribal Malnutrition and starvation in the light of Inclusive development process.

Assessing Groundwater Quality: A Study of Puducherry Region

S. Jeevendran

The present study showed results from large water quality data of Puducherry region analyzed using multivariate statistical techniques such as Cluster Analysis (CA), Discriminant Analysis (DA) and Principal Component Analysis (PCA) with the objectives of determining the spatial variability of groundwater quality and to identify the sources of pollution that presently affects the ground water sources in Puducherry region. DA as a data reduction techniques was used to evaluate spatial variability in water quality, as it uses only 5 parameters (Temperature, pH, EC, chloride, SO_4) affording 85.19 % correct assignment to

discriminate between the clusters using stepwise mode from the original 13 water parameters. While stepwise mode yielded 67.90 % correct assignment in spatial analysis of four different places in the region.

The main factors obtained indicate that factors influencing groundwater quality of the clusters are mainly linked to natural hydrological process, point of source form municipal wastewater, industries and non-point of source pollution (agriculture) in the region. The results of this study clearly show the usefulness of multivariate statistical techniques for ground water quality analysis in Puducherry region.

Health Impacts of a Municipal Solid Waste Dumping Site “Kammiyampet”, Cuddalore

Abraham Lingan and Poyyamoli

Solid waste (MSW) in Indian cities has created severe environmental and health problems due to improper management. Air Pollution is one of the major environmental concerns in India due to open disposal and burning of SW. In the present study, suspended particulate matter (SPM), respirable suspended particulate matter (RSPM), sulphur dioxide (SO₂), oxides of nitrogen (NO_x) and carbon monoxide (CO) were investigated in four sites around Kammiyampet open dumping ground and a control site in Cuddalore, India. The result was indicated that the concentration of SPM and RSPM in all the study area were higher than NAAQS and there is an urgent need to regulate and monitor the ambient air quality in Cuddalore, especially around the dumping sites.

The Air Quality Index (AQI) calculated for all study sites shows that moderately polluted which is a cause of acute health impacts to the habitants. The result of self reported health survey indicated the higher prevalence of health risks. Though this self reported health outcomes suggested significantly higher health risks in the target group, the survey did not indicate the actual causes of health outcome and associated factors. Despite, the study result has indicated causally the genuine links between the health of the population living around target area, open dumping site. An important finding was that the exposure to health risk was higher among female respondents compared to males in target group and this gender difference needs to be investigated further.

Right to Health and Role of Mental Health Institutions - Kerala

V. Shaharban

The paper discusses the issues of right to mental health, health care facilities offered through various mental health institutions and to suggest suitable measures to enhance mental health through various institutional intervention. The objectives are to examine the issues related to right to mental health, to describe the mental health care facilities available in Kerala and to suggest suitable measures to promote mental health care at various institutional level.

The materials of the study are based on the analysis of quantitative data obtained from World Health Organization, National Institute of Health and Family Welfare, National Human Rights Commission, National and Kerala State Mental Health Authority, National Crime Records

Research Bureau (N.C.R.B), Statistics for Planning, Govt. of Kerala and primary information collected through case study of private mental health institutions operating in Kannur District.

In Kerala, Mental health is not given adequate importance in public health agenda. The State is suffering acute shortage of investment, number of psychiatrists, shortage of professional manpower and training programmes. There is poor commitment of the government, psychiatrists, and community at large. To attain the "Mecca of Good Health" better provisions are needed to advocate, promote, prevent, treat and rehabilitate the mentally deprived sections in the State.

Decentralised Governance and Right to Health: The Kerala Experience

K.P Vipin Chandran

Kerala, the southernmost state of India stands apart from other states with a consistently higher level of human development comparable with that of many advanced countries but with a much lower per capita income. Kerala's relative success in empowering local bodies following the 73rd and 74th amendments of the Constitution in 1993 has been a recurring theme in any national discussion on decentralized governance. The imperative role of decentralised institutions in the context of dual responsibilities and controls in public health care system has made a positive impact on rural health scenario of Kerala. The state of Kerala is experienced by the diseases of poverty and life style diseases, the diseases of affluence.

Public health system is struggling to meet the health requirements of poor,

where the growth of the private sector and rise in health care cost are quite high. There is a good scope for the integration and convergence of different agencies of health sector. A strong decentralised institution system can provide different forums and platforms for discussing health needs of people and formulating health plan in Kerala. These forums can include Gram Sabha, Panchayats Committee and subcommittee. It will be appropriate for each state to strengthen Panchayati Raj Institutions to address health needs of people.

This study is based on secondary data sources. It is an attempt to analyse the impact of decentralised institutions on health care system in Kerala and provides a plan of action to strengthen the public health care system in Kerala.

Health Infrastructure and Decentralized Governance- Kannur, Kerala

Rahiyath C

Since there are effective decentralized governance mechanism to improve the accessibility of health care institutions and facilities to the rural people at the grassroots' level, a study to understand the progress of health infrastructure in these institutions after decentralization is highly relevant. The proposed paper will be an empirical effort in this line.

Objectives include to examine the progress of health infrastructure in primary and secondary health care institutions in Kannur district and to study the effectiveness of decentralized governance in the infrastructure development mechanism and healthcare development.

The present study is based on the secondary data compiled from

Panchayath Level Statistics of Kannur District by Directorate of Economics and statistics.

Decentralization helps in enabling direct accountability of Public Health Institutions, more efficient management of resources, better linkage between information and planning and interagency coordination the natural capability to respond to the immediate needs of the community, etc. There is a great progress in the health infrastructure facilities in primary and secondary health care institutions of Kannur District. But there exists some sort of inequalities in the infrastructure development in certain areas. Thus there should be an appropriate attempt is needed from the part of decentralized authorities.

Rights of Urban Slum Dwellers: A Study of Bhubaneswar

Jisu Ketan Pattanaik

Based on historical and comparative evidence, it is argued that the city has, indeed, been at the very centre of western civilization from its beginning and we believe strongly that human civilization takes on distinctive qualities in the city. In the character of the modern city, saw a wholly different style of life, in which the meaning of existence shifted from the group to the individual.

Against this backdrop, the present paper is based on following research objectives:

- To analyse socio-economic background of Slum Dwellers in Bhubaneswar city
- To explore challenges and opportunities of urban development in the context of slum development.

- To examine problems and prospects of slum dwellers in Bhubaneswar city
- To critically examine urban governance and evaluate local self government.

The present paper is based on exploratory research design and the City of Bhubaneswar constitutes the population of the research study. The researcher used various reports, documents and literatures pertaining to the study area and tried to understand challenges of slum population in the city. The paper also highlightes some case studies relating to the best practices in the areas of sanitation, urban waste, functioning of urban local self bodies in the city.

Mental Health: Evidences from Youth in India

Tushar J. Savarkar

Youth constitute almost 31 percent of India's total population. It is the huge demographic dividend of the country. But unfortunately, it is suffering from the numerous issues i.e. substance use, mental health and other health related issues.

The aim of the present study is to identify the factors contributing to substance use and vulnerability of mental health among youth in India. The paper is based on data from the survey - "Youth in India: Situations and Needs Study"- conducted in 2006-07 in six states. It is a sub-nationally representative study, using sample of youths from six Indian states i.e. Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand, Maharashtra, Rajasthan and Tamil Nadu. The purpose of selection of these states was to present different geographic and socio-cultural regions which represent 39 percent of the country's population.

The study has jointly been done by the International Institute for population Sciences, Mumbai and Population Council, New Delhi. The Youth study covered tobacco, alcohol and drug use. It also focused on characteristics of those who reported use and consumption of substance. Cross Tabulations and Logistic regression has been used in the analysis. The preliminary findings show that socio-economic factors have significant impact on the substance use among youth. Although, mental health depends on the numerous factors but substance use has the negative impact on it. It has also come to know that educational level, place of residence (rural - urban) and socio-economic factors have significant impact on the substance use and mental health of the youth in India. There is a strong correlation between substance use, violence and mental health of youth.

Local Governments and Right to Health: A Village Study

Sambhaji Mahadev Nikam

The principal aim of the study is to assess the role of Local Governments and right to health which retain the development, in Kognoli village. Its objectives are to study the education level and income level of sample households, to study the expenditure on health facility and education of households, to assess the percentage of utilization of funds for health by Gram Panchayat and to assess the availability of health infrastructure for villagers.

The study is based on the primary as well as secondary data that was made available by the Gram Panchayat. This study analyses the secondary data on socio-economic profile of village. Similarly secondary data on income and

expenditure of the BPL families has also been made available. A primary survey was also conducted in the Kognoli village to capture the effectiveness of the functioning of the Gram Panchayats. The information on the functioning of Gram Panchayats as per the provision of the Karnataka Panchayat Raj Act was collected by the field investigators from at least 50 BPL families. This was done through a structured questionnaire.

Keeping in view the objectives of the study some appropriate statistical techniques such as percentage, average, mean, pie chart etc were used in this research paper. The statistical techniques help to predict the results for future.

Sexual and Reproductive Health Practices: A Study of Muthuvans in Edamalakudy

Reji V Joseph

The present study attempts to understand the challenges that the Muthuvan women face while passing through different experiences as the adaptation process occurs in . The process of continuity and discontinuity is perceived in terms of shifts in people's experiences in the changed contexts. In a community that lives together and interacts with one another in close proximity, interactions facilitate knowledge sharing, acceptance of others perceptions and sharing of experiences leading to a modified way of processing the system. This helps to develop a mutual inter dependence within the system, which is fostered through interaction and negotiation.

The study explores the role of cultural components in sexual and reproductive health practices of Muthuvan women. Sexual and reproductive health practices of an indigenous community are important in understanding their

conceptualisation of each practice and ritual associated to this area. An attempt was made to capture these interactions and to examine the various implications in their everyday life.

To analyse the dynamics of change in sexual and reproductive health practices among Muthuvan women Due to the influence of external bodies their cultural practices related to sexual and reproductive health are undergoing changes. In the interface with external world, their local practices are changing and women face challenges in their sexual and reproductive health practices.

The study was conducted among the Muthuvans of Edamalakudy, Idukki district, Kerala. Edamalakudy is a Tribal Panchayat which consists only of Muthuvans with a population less than 2000. They reside inside forest and away from transportation and other facilities

like communication and electricity. The primary research participants are the Muthuvan women and the other key informants are prominent male members from Muthuvan community, health workers, Panchayat members, Panchayat employees, and all other Government employees who are associated with Muthuvans. The objectives of the study demonstrate the need for a qualitative research methodology using multiple methods for data collection that suits an ongoing process of induction. The main methods used in the study are participant and non participant observation, informal conversations and event observation.

Determinant of Reproductive Health: A Sociological Study

Navdeep Kaur

This paper attempts to describe factors that influence the reproductive health of women the reproductive age. The data has been collected from primary and secondary sources. Primary data has been collected through case study method and secondary data from journals, reports, books etc. Reproductive health is considered to be complete physical, mental and social well being of a person. One should have capability to make decision regarding reproduction, that is when and how. Often because of various factors, women are not able to enjoy the very fundamental human right of reproductive health. There are multiple factors that affect women's health in all phases of her life. Women's health issue includes menstruation, contraception, maternal health etc.

Trends in Health Reforms : Issues and Challenges

Sidhartha Sankar Laha

India as a nation has been growing economically at a rapid pace particularly after the advent of New Economic Policy of 1991. However, this rapid economic development has not been accompanied by social development particularly health sector development. Health sector has been accorded very low priority in terms of allocation of resources. Public expenditure on health is less than 1 per cent of GDP in India.

This paper explores the meaning of Health Sector reforms (HSR), and some practical implications of changing pattern of public and private health expenditure in pre and post reform periods in India. This study measures the efficiency of fifteen major states of India, using the stochastic frontier methodology for time series data.

Based on the finding, it can be argued that economic reforms affect negatively under adverse macroeconomic conditions on public health expenditure of central and states and combined all states. In case of central government it affected positively. In case of major states public expenditure as a share of total expenditure and as a share of NSDP has decreased, while in growth rates of per capita public health expenditure some states show an increase during the reform period.

Analysis at the state level shows that growth rate in per capita health expenditure in some low income states is recorded negative and significant. Interestingly, some of the high income states found unable to maintain significant positive growth rate in health expenditure.

Health and Solid Waste Management: A Study of Solapur City

Sangmeshwar Jagadev Appa Neela

Among the important indicators of health, one major element is environmental indicator. Man is living and working today in a highly complicated environment, which is getting complex with the passing of time, and he is becoming more ingenious and technologically advanced. If this trend continues, the quality of life, people cherish may also be endangered. The other side of the population lives and works (farms, factories, industries, mines, quarries, hospitals etc.), in most deplorable conditions. A safe and healthy working environment is the basic right of every worker. However the global situation falls for short of this right.

With the rapid urbanization and uncontrolled growth rate of population in cities, municipal solid waste management (MSWM) has become acute problem in India. Municipal solid waste management is given low priority among all urban environmental problems. Lack of financial resources, institutional weaknesses, lack of proper advice, guidance and control, improper choice of technology and public apathy towards municipal solid waste (MSW) has made this service far from satisfaction. The current practices of the uncontrolled dumping of solid wastes on the outskirts of towns and cities have created a serious environmental problem and a threat to the public health.

A Study of NRHM in Kashmir Society

Salima Jan

National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) is a core intervention aimed at bringing about dramatic improvement in the health system and the health status of the people. Jammu & Kashmir under this Mission is focusing on empowerment of people through effective mechanism of *Rogi Kalyan Samities* (RKS), decentralized planning and implementation, strengthening of physical infrastructure and ensuring fully functional facilities at the doorstep of the people not withstanding odds of topography and situational constraints.

The present study is conducted in two districts of Kashmir valley i.e. Srinagar and Budgam during the year (2014-2015) and has qualitative as well as quantitative dimensions and generally pursued interdisciplinary approach. The study explores that government of Jammu and Kashmir has put cart before the horse with the introduction of programmes and schemes without primary institution for implementation (PRI's) in place. Although this is a modest attempt in this direction but policy conclusions can be drawn based on a general analysis of the set-up, past experience and the findings from the study.

Local Governments to sustain the Right to Health

K. Narayanan

The basic objective of the paper is to examine the role of the local governments in ensuring 'Health for all', both at the national and international levels. This will help our country to meet the challenges in the field of health, particularly in view of the increased health challenges due to climate change as a result of the environmental degradation. Health issues can no longer be tackled at the macroeconomic level. An effective policy will have to address it at the grass roots level of governance so that people receive the right support at the right time and also to promote the optimum utilization of finite resources.

The methodology being adopted will be basically a detailed study of the relevant literature and also a case study of the Udupi district.

The analysis will primarily focus on the weakness of the prevailing system as existing in India in general and Karnataka in particular with reference

to the state of affairs of the health facilities prevailing in the country. It will make recommendations based on the experiences of other countries where the local governments have achieved significant progress in providing health to the entire populace. The analysis will also focus on the need to develop a culture in which health will be at the heart of integrated planning and services in which all the stake holders will understand the strategies to be adopted to better the public health outcomes.

The paper will dwell upon the special efforts required at the local governance level to ensure that the elected members, health and social care workforce make efforts to make public health everyone's business.

In conclusion it can be stated that the Local governments have the potential to make very significant contribution to health and wellbeing by controlling the avoidable diseases and health inequalities.

Local Government Interventions and Right to Health

Arun k Joseph & Aleena George

This paper focuses on the various means by which local self bodies should ensure the right of people to have good health. As we know health problems are increasing day by day. The main reasons are the frequent establishment of wells, bore wells, quarries, crushers and development of so many industries. In my panchayath I know due to the establishment of saw mills, rice mills and quarries resulting in water scarcity in that particular ward. Local government should take up this matter more seriously. Also, local government should monitor the work of ASHA workers in each ward. ASHA workers should give proper training in safeguarding the health of local people. Also local government should check the efficiency of working of PHCs and availability of medicines. Effective

interventions provided by JHI in panchayats will ensure complete good health status. Also a proper monitoring system should develop in each ward so as to warn those who spit in the open ground and for those who excrete in open spaces.

The main objective of the paper is to analyze the efficiency of local government interventions in providing good health. This paper is a conceptual one based on our observations and inferences. This paper is based upon the independent interviews with the beneficiaries of various health services especially in Kalady grama panchayath. This paper will throw light on the views and opinion of local people about the services and also some innovative changes.

Solid Waste Management and PPP: Lessons from Mamallapuram Town Panchayat

Ramkumar G

Solid Waste Management is a growing concern in India. As per NIUA statistics, 20 to 50 percent of the Local body budget is spent on Solid waste management . However, the SWM practices which includes, collection and disposal systems are largely, unsatisfactory due to improper technology and lack of infrastructure .In the recent past, the urban local bodies are moving towards, public private partnership (PPP), as feasible alternate solutions. In India the concept was under scrutiny and both government and academia were watchful on the issue. Post 2000s there has been acceptance of the PPP model, due to success of it in some Indian cities.

The objectives of this paper are (1) to understand the role of NGOs in SWM

practices, (2) to find the issues faced by the SWM workforce and (3) to develop feasible solutions to solve these pertinent issues. In-depth interviews were used to elicit information from the participants (namely, NGO staff, SWM workers and local community).

The findings reveal that, the NGO have played a vital role in segregating the solid waste, processing the food waste, creating awareness among the communities, etc. Some of the issues faced by the SWM workers include, lack of proper wages, safety and infrastructure challenges and occupational health hazards. The author concludes with providing innovative solutions, to tackle the issues faced by the NGO and workforce.

Strategies for Strengthening Local Government's involvement under NRHM

Anuradha Gupta & Ritumoni Das

The objective is to study the impact of participatory communication strategies for strengthening local government's involvement in increasing health entitlements under National Rural Health Mission. The study was qualitative in nature and used non-probability purposive sampling method. The tools used for data collection were focus group discussions, key informant interviews and Participatory Rural Appraisal. The sample size for the study was hundred respondents from Sambalpur district of Orissa. The responses were coded according to the themes identified and integrated in the relevant chapters. The transcripts of the interview were thoroughly studied and coded according to the themes developed.

The study sought to improve health-seeking behaviour of all, particularly the marginalized, disadvantaged and vulnerable women and children in rural areas, and ensure that quality health services were available and accessed by them. It engaged with the local district government machinery and the rural populations by addressing the communication barriers from both the demand and supply sides, using communication for social change approach. The results of the study show that effective communication strategy used by the local self governments significantly improved the demand of health entitlements and increased awareness regarding their health rights.

Migration and Urban Spaces Living Conditions of Migrants in Thane District, Maharashtra

Noli Nivedita Tirkey

Migration is one of the important paradigms of population change. Migration is a central issue with regard to the 'right to the city'. To promote awareness and representation of migrants within the city is another important concern. When the migrants come to the city, they try to negotiate with regard to the city life.

The main objective of the present study is to examine the socio-economic, demographic, cultural and health related factors influencing living conditions of the migrants at the place of origin and destination (Thane) and to explore whether migration narrow down or added more to the benefits and rights of the migrants when they move to the city.

A sample survey approach of 160 households of marginalised community

was conducted in the peripheral region of Thane District, Maharashtra. Both qualitative and quantitative methods were used for the study. However, in order to study the objectives and the roots of the migrants, a case study of Piswali Village was conducted.

The present study reveals that the movement of people has shifted to the peripheral region due to the fact that cost of living is low and industrial set-up is tremendously increasing in these regions. Government policies and programme are silent on the issue of migration and protecting their rights. The findings shows that there are factors such as employment, income, education, health benefits, quality of life, facilities at the place of living and civic amenities which are influencing them to move to the city.

Assertions of Urban Poor: Challenging the Spatial Plan in Chandigarh, India

Richa Bhardwaj

The countries of the Global South are increasingly becoming urbanized; one of the biggest challenge they encounter is inclusion of large number of urban poor within this urbanization process. Increased polarization and differentiation based on class, caste, religion, ethnicity, region and gender create an urban space filled with contestations over land, resources and inclusion. Urban inclusion is most often practiced as a vertical process promoting linear relationship between the State and the poor, in turn ignoring the agency of the poor to impact change.

This paper examines seemingly parallel trajectories; the first section contains a brief history of urban poor settlements and government's spatial planning

processes for the poor in Chandigarh. The second section elaborates the negotiations and strategies of the urban poor asserting and challenging the structural spatial planning process. Henri Lefebvre's concept of Spatial Triad forms the basic conceptual framework for understanding and analysing these trajectories.

The paper concludes by highlighting that urban inclusion is best understood as an interface between the State and the urban poor where both are impacted by various factors. It further raises certain pertinent questions as what factors influence this interface and how in turn do they expand or limit the scope of urban inclusion in turn constantly re-defining the urban poor's Right to the City.

Urban Housing: Reconsidering the Right to Property

Mohmad Saleem Jahangir

The number of slums and homeless people is growing in all urban centres due to neo-liberal policies. The marginalized and the poor live mostly in the urban centres. Nearly 85 million are said to be living in slums and destitution, mostly below the poverty line.

This present paper traces the genesis of the recent growth of homelessness in urban India to the following three structural changes that occurred in the 1990s in association with economic globalization: (a) a shift from a manufacturing to a service economy, (b) urban redevelopment, and (c) government policy shifts toward deregulation and privatization. Besides, the present paper also aims to understand the patterns of livelihood of

the urban poor of India vis-à-vis their shelter, housing and other major aspects of development. While doing so, the present paper would contest for the institutionalization of right to property, although with proper restrictions.

What needs to be considered is the idea that the ever-increasing pace of globalization has portrayed a cosmopolitan character to the cities wherein labourers, vendors, hawkers and working women and children are necessarily required. As such homeless dwellers' question is not only a housing question. It has socio-economic consequences on the life of more than 25 percent of the urban population who are forced to rely on such homeless and slum dwellers.

Right to Housing: A Critical Review of Urban Housing

Yacoub Zachariah Kuruvilla

The 'Right to City' has been an important theme in urban studies in recent decades reflected in many theoretical debates around this framework and its usage for critical examination of different urban policies in fulfilling the needs of urban citizens in diverse contexts across the globe. This paper argues that Right to City should be understood as convergence of a package of rights for all urban citizens among which the most critical is the 'Right to Housing' in urban areas because it is a necessary condition in fulfilling many of the other rights in this package.

The paper then proceeds to review the performance of Basic Services to Urban Poor (BSUP) and (IHS DP) housing programmes which were a part of Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM) through an analysis of secondary data. The paper argues that performance of these programmes were far from satisfactory especially in the more urbanised states

of the country. It critically evaluates their contribution in furthering the agenda of 'Right to City' and 'Right to Housing' for urban poor and working classes of cities and towns. It examines the role of urban local governments in these programmes and finds that they have been mostly neglected or ignored in formulation and implementation of these programmes. In view of this important finding, the paper provides an outline of 'Right to Housing' agenda for urban local governments particularly in India.

The paper finally concludes that we require fundamental changes in designing urban housing programmes by promoting more bottom-up, participatory, flexible and inclusive approaches if they have to realise the 'Right to Housing' for marginalised and oppressed sections of the urban society and eventually lay the foundation of achieving the goal of 'Right to City' for all urban citizens.

Cities as the Site of Capital Accumulation and the Spaces of Dissent

Aparna Agarwal

Historically, cities have been focus of capital accumulation. And in order to carry out this process, there is a politics behind designing of cities from administration, to spacing of the cities, to the governance of the city. The reproduction of capital passes through the cities in myriad ways. However, capitalist class domination of the cities is not only over state apparatuses but also over the whole population. This process of accumulation and urbanization comes to dominate the psyche of the citizens and non citizens state subject in way of their labour

power, cultural and political values, and as well as their mental conception of the world. Citizens become a subject of surveillance and governmentality.

The aim of the paper will be to look at the process of urbanization of capital across cities and the role of the citizens and their take in this process of urbanization. Those who are at the margins (slum dwellers) of the city, do they have any right to the city? Does the strategic city planning gives enough space for dissent and accommodates voices of the others within the city?

The Right to City in Neoliberal Times: The Vending Zone Experience: Odisha

Pradeep Nayak

The paper seeks to analyse the contested right to the capital city's space by the street vendors in the context of the state government's policy for developing Bhubaneswar as one of the so-called smart cities with investment destination. The paper is based on the insider experience and empirical studies on the quest for a street vending right as a progressive step in the face of relentless demolition drive by the urban authorities and the rising pressure of urban population.

The recent innovation of Vending Zone policy by Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC) has caught the imagination of scholars, urban policy planners and civil society activists advocating for the rights of street vendors both inside and outside the state and the innovation has also been documented by several formal and non-formal agencies as one of the "best practices" in inclusive governance.

The paper attempts to examine the role of state, CSOs, and market in development and implementation of the vending zone policy in Bhubaneswar city of Odisha and identify various limits and constraints to these actors in securing the rights of the street vendors in line with the National Policy of Street Vendors, 2009. In the process, the paper would explain why the much acclaimed vending zone policy of the BMC has been a non-starter in the context of the state's contradictory policy objective of promoting Bhubaneswar as so-called investment. The paper finds that experience of vending zone in Bhubaneswar has raised many interesting policy issues like even after creating a favourable legal and institutional arrangements, can we secure rights of street vendors in a city and their right to city as place to secure their livelihood and change the image of the city as inclusive and participatory

and at the same time reduce the city as space for capital investment destination? The paper also examines the reasons behind the state's (here the urban authorities) policy preference for parking slots on thoroughfares to setting up vending zones and the crisis of public place in the capital city by analysing larger development of the political economy of urban development in the context of neoliberal-governance paradigm.

The Emergence of Urban Slums in Kerala

Unnikrishnan Namboodiri K

Kerala has been witnessing rapid urbanization since 1980. As we know towns and cities are heroic engines of growth, not only creating skills and wealth for the nation but also generating employment for migrants, along with this, the fastest growing cities face a lot of problems like, faulty urban planning, urbanization with poor economic base. etc. Most of the cities are suffering from urban poverty, unemployment, housing shortage, poor and inadequate infrastructural facilities etc.

In Kerala urbanization occurs due to many push factors, which is not supported by adequate level of industrialization. The Social and economic base in urban centre lead to several problems to the poor people in urban areas especially slum dwellers. The poor people are forced to live in slums, where facilities for a healthy life are absent. Poor housing, lack of availability of drinking water, lack of

power energy, lack of facilities for toilet, poor waste disposal facilities, lack of availability of other public utilities and highly polluted environment are some of the problems faced by the people in slum areas. Among the many problems associated with urban growth, an increase in the proportion of slums and squatters especially in metros and other large cities has been prominent.

This paper is purely based on the secondary data. The paper analyses the trend and pattern of urbanization in India and Kerala, the rate of growth of towns and the growth of slums in Kerala. While concluding the paper it is noted that, there is an increasing trend in urbanization, city growth and slums. The issue of slum is very complex and it cuts across numerous disciplines, it concerns dwellers directly and indirectly to local and national economies. It needs to be tackled as an integral part of economic development.

Urban Homeless and Right to City: Experience from Kolkata

Moumita Laha

The increasing figures of homeless population in almost all the cities are a big concern where these population including the women and children live with constant threat of eviction, abuse, violence etc. These sections of people are not covered under any government facilities and their rights over the cities are denied over time due to not having any identity of citizenship. The paper tries to highlight the issues of the homeless population in urban cities and their demand for inclusion and their right to city. Homeless people were first recognised under the night shelter which was done based on the Supreme Court verdict where the states were given the order to make provision for

night shelter for the homeless people. In West Bengal a Rapid Assessment Survey was conducted in three cities of Kolkata, Howrah and Asansol with more than five lakh population which took into account populations living in 'open air' and 'under plastic cover' in all three cities in 2011.

This paper used a case study of an NGO named "The Calcutta Samaritans" who is working with the homeless population in Kolkata Municipal Corporation for more than ten years and helping the people to demand their rights. They successfully helped the community for inclusion in the scheme like Rajiv Awas Yojana, Antodaya Yojana, Aadhar Card, Voter Card etc

Democratic Decentralization and 'Gorkhaland Territorial Administration'

Sibtosh Bandyopadhyay

The paper is based on a study with the objective to locate the actual pattern of people's participation at Gorkhaland Territorial Administration (GTA). The present study at one level would be an attempt to find out the problems and possibilities of peoples participation at GTA. On the other, it would be a modest attempt to enquire the social structure representatives of District Council administration. The following are the main quarries, which have been discussed in detail:

To describe different tribal right, To make an assessment of these rights in developing the philosophy of social justice, and Problem and prospect of enjoying tribal rights in GTA.

The study will be based on Survey research and archival research.

- (i) Structured interview from political representatives of GTA by using an interview schedule. The survey research will be based upon random sampling basis.
- (ii) State Government and Hill Council records.
- (iii) Documents and reports of the political parties regarding their assessment and understanding of GTA in terms of democratic decentralization; apart from these newspapers reports, relevant books and journals may be used.

Dalits in the Panchayats of Maharashtra

Kamble Sushil Sahebrao

Panchayat Raj institutions have always been considered as a means to good governance. The 73rd Constitutional Amendment was effected in the hope that it would lead to better governance and provide political space to the disadvantaged section of the society like SC's, ST's and women. This Act marks a new era in the federal democratic set up of the country and it provides constitutional status to the Panchayati Raj Institutions. Similarly, this Act provides reservation of the seats for SCs and STs at all levels. In spite of that members or the Sarpanch of the Panchayat, belonging to Dalit community always seems helpless and

fragile to exercise their powers in the policy making procedure, due to their political minority and lower socio-economic condition in the most of the villages from the Maharashtra. This elite capture and the resultant skewed benefit distributions continued for a very longtime. As result, PRI institutions could not enthuse participation of broader sections especially dalits.

In this context the present paper critically analyse the conditions of Dalits in the Panchayats of Maharashtra, their role in the decision making process and deciding factors of lack of performance of Dalit representatives in the Panchayats.

Panchayati Raj and the Rights of Scheduled Castes

Jitendra G. Wasnik

Scheduled Castes (SCs) people have a long history of being discriminated, exploited, and placed at the bottom of society. The panchayati raj, after the enactment of the 73rd Constitutional Amendment Act (CAA), brought in measures to overcome these past indignities, and provided and mandated that the compositions of panchayat councils include reservation for SCs, applies to delegate and chair positions in the panchayats at all three levels.

In this contest, this paper explores that the effects of the SCs reservation really

address their interests at the local level. As a result of the reservation, over a million SCs now become elected representatives. However, has the increased presence of SCs had the desired effect? This paper will address two related questions: 1) Are SCs really *participating in panchayati raj* politics, or are they merely *present*? 2) Do the rights make a difference in agenda setting and policy outcomes? Because it may be early to judge the effect of reservation on policy outcomes, this paper will explore whether rights based policies can address SCs deeply rooted problems.

Decentralized Planning for Social Justice: Human Capital Formation of Dalits and Adivasis of Kerala

Abdul Jaleel CP

By using data from National Sample Survey 64th round (2007-08) and Census 2011, this paper will see the status of educational attainment by the youth of Dalit and Adivasis of the state of Kerala. This analysis is to understand whether the state of Kerala which is known for its substantial progress in social sector development succeeded in addressing the needs of all sections of its population. Further, the state has successful in implementing decentralized planning and governance.

The objective of this paper is to understand how far the state catered the educational need of the people who are at the bottom of the society. This paper will also analyse inter and intra-caste inequality existing in educational attainment by youth of Kerala. Inequality assessment will be done through Concentration Index (CI). The paper will provide empirical evidences or future directions for more regress actions to realize inclusive development.

Caste as an Impediment for Participation in Local Development

Kavya Nirman

Caste in India is still very much embedded in the society. The dynamics of caste might have diluted in the urban setting to some extent. But in villages of India, dalits are still struggling with their low caste untouchable status to assert their rights and their will to be heard. Simultaneously development in India has had its own phases and followed a trajectory that depended on national and international atmosphere. The need for a bottom-up approach was felt due to the inability of top-down approach to reach the grassroot level. For decentralized development to be successful participation of the locals in development related activities was considered very essential. What we tend to forget here is that village of India

don't have a homogenous community. Dalits are still being harassed on purity-pollution lines.

Through this paper by operationalizing the concept of participation, we wish to see how caste is an impediment for localized participatory development in panchayats for dalits. Thus by taking the case of dalit women in panchayats as the reference point I wish to argue that localized development will only be successful if the participation of dalits is in a dignified way without humiliation. This possibility of social exclusion within the caste system is coming in the path of inclusive development, where some voices are still getting marginalized.

Caste Violence and Atrocities: A Study of Gujarat and Andhra Pradesh

Lakum Rajeshbhai Govindbhai

This study attempt to critically examining notions of caste violence and atrocities on dalits peoples in India. The dalits face the paradox of being such as humiliation, polluted, socially excluded and marginalization. Caste-descent based discrimination of the growing human rights violence apart the society and a menace to the unity and integrity of the Indian people.

The objective of the present study is to qualitative exploration of the issue of caste violence, their changing the social status to the awareness of dalits and their relation. The particular focus of research caste violence that the productive role of in the dynamics of caste relations. The project will involve a study of caste violence and atrocities on the dalit community. The study will be set in the

Gujarat and Andhra state of India. The data is proposed to be collected by conducting interviews with the respondents.

The study will use purposive sample and exploratory method to collect the data. Politics of Gujarat is dominated by upper castes and they control the administration, police and also media. So rising violence against dalits and then self-assertion creates itself among the dalits. Forms of caste violence to moved awareness of political participation among dalits and the state and society response in Andhra. Powerful domination of orthodoxy and the caste system in India, therefore, a part from that the rising question of social democracy and transformation, then marginalize democratic process?

Problamatize the City: A Case Study of Development Projects of Dalit Colonies

Maya K S

The present study is trying to highlight the feeling of alienation that has become the keynote of Dalit living in society or Dalit colony. I argue that the colonies to serve as an index of their inferior social status. It serves more for their ghettoisation than for their empowerment. This is the continuation of the age old practice of caste discrimination and deprivation that kept them away from the mainstream

while appropriating their people for the general development of society.

This paper concentrates on these two major concepts .The first concept aims to look at the socio-economic changes in the Dalit colonies during the period of study such as day today life, living conditions, religion, culture, social structure in connection with development progress. Urbanization and caste are the major focus areas study.

Interrogating Democracy: Evaluative Study of Dalit Jan Sunwais

Ram Kumar Thakur

The present paper would like to argue that Democratic Governance in India has been dominantly understood in terms of its constitutional commitments to the marginalized. However if we were to evaluate the everyday realities of the people at the margins, be it Dalits, Adivasis, Women and Minorities, we will realize that the institutionalized form of procedural rights, justice, democratic assurance and governance eludes much of their lives. As such Jan Sunwais become important social and political avenues whereby the marginalized people try to reclaim their own lives, critique the limitations of existing experiences of democracy and

further they try to create substantive democracy by adding newer meanings to it, be it through Right to Information, Right to Food, livelihood, Education, Panchayati Raj Governance, etc.

Dalit Public Hearing creates conditions whereby the participants/victim can make the Jury 'hear' within their own local idioms which might be very much unlikely in even Panchayats, Police station or Courts. Hence speaking 'truth' on their own terms reshapes the contours of failed experiences of democracy. Through Dalit Jan Sunwai new experiences of democracy are created and laid forward which are more accessible, accountable and just.

Study on Local Government and the Rights of Special Groups

Raghava Das Gorle

Decentralization increases public access to services, and their availability, thereby promoting economic and social rights. In many cases, poor and excluded people also benefit. The political commitment of officials, their administrative competence and their political skills, all obviously influence outcomes. It must also be acknowledged that there are limits to what local government can do.

Local civil society, including human rights defenders and national human rights institutions, have an important watchdog role to play. Donors can also ensure that processes they support systematically integrate human rights.

Despite this, local government and human rights are rarely linked human rights activists normally focus on central government while local government reformers tend to apply development and governance models. The study suggests how human rights principles and methods can strengthen public accountability and participation and assist official to plan, implement and evaluate services for which they are responsible used thoughtfully, the framework provides practical, specific tool can here local governments to be effective.

Inclusive Development and Social Justice

Shabeer Ahmad Bhat

Inclusive growth demands that all social groups have equal access to the services provided by the State and equal opportunity for upward economic and social mobility. It is also necessary to ensure that there is no discrimination against any section of our society. In India, certain social groups such as the SCs, STs, OBCs and Minorities have historically been disadvantaged and vulnerable.

The present study deals with the efforts made for the socio-economic development of these groups and the new initiatives that have been taken by

the govt. since independence. If the developmental processes and developmental agencies will not take into consideration the interests of these weak and unprivileged sections then there will be no inclusive socio economic and political development in our country in a holistic manner. The focus of this paper is to throw light on the role of centre as well as state governments and semi government organizations. For uplifting and improving the status of vulnerable groups which may include SCs, STs, minorities, persons with disability and aged or elderly.

Empowerment of Dalit Women: Study in a Panchayat in Kerla

Deepthi.M.U

The introduction of Empowerment Mechanisms such as, Women Working Group, Special Group in Grama Sabha and Development Seminars, Kudumbashree at Panchayat level, special chapters for Plan Documents and Development Documents, Gender Status Study and Jagratha Samithis have strengthened the decentralised system. But the question that how far these initiatives have succeeded for reshaping the gender attitudes and reducing the gap existing in Kerala society still remains.

The present study aims to understand the level of empowerment women have

achieved by studying 60 Dalit women of Desamangalam Panchayat. It is both qualitative and quantitative in nature.

The study has been conducted on the basis of five important dimensions of female empowerment and opportunity, based mainly on the findings of UNIFEM, concerning global patterns of inequality between men and women, i.e., economic participation, economic opportunity, political empowerment, educational attainment, health and well-being. Appropriate changes have been made wherever necessary, specifically understanding the geographical, socio-economic peculiarities of the study area.

Social Exclusion of Scheduled Castes: A Study In Ganjam, Odisha

Dasarathi Bhuiyan

This paper proposes to explore the issues of social exclusion of scheduled castes in decentralized local governance institutions. It analyzes the various dimensions of the interrelated concept of inclusion and exclusion. Further it assesses the marginalized groups' awareness of Panchayati Raj, their level of participation as functionaries and as beneficiaries and the extent to which they are benefited in different areas of operation of Panchayati Raj institutions.

For the research work scientific method of study has been applied. A research design has been created for the fulfillment of the objective. The study is based on primary and secondary data.

Decentralisation of power is nothing but transfer of power from one tier of governance to another and, in same way, from one segment of population to another. Power moves from the dominant to the oppressed, men to women, caste Hindus to Dalits, upper castes to lower castes and bureaucrats to people's representatives. Power will not move on its own. It has to be made move. So a driving force is needed. The task is not as easy as may be envisaged, particularly in an extremely unequal society. In order to make democracy more meaningful and protecting the rights of the marginalized people almost all states have passed conformity legislations following the 73rd Constitutional Amendments.

Right to Education and the Underprivileged Girls

Soma Kundu

The Right to Education Act (2009) has recognized education as a fundamental right. By adding Article 21a to the Constitution it has sought to secure right to education to every child in the age group or 6-14 years. The Act has laid down certain basic parameters to ensure quality education for all specially for children from socially and economically marginalized communities. It tended to transform the quality of schools specially government schools to enable children from underprivileged and marginalized sections of society to acquire quality education. This paper seeks to focus on the state of primary education in west Bengal and the problems and difficulties experienced by underprivileged girl

childs for securing their right to education.

The study is based on both documentary and field study methods for collection of data and analysis. Secondary source materials have been supplemented with relevant inputs from field.

Right to education for marginalized and underprivileged sections of girl students have difficulties like household chores, parental apathy and ignorance pushing many of them to depend on private tutition. These attending problems need care and solution for significant improvement in delivery of education at public schools of state.

Decentralisation and Social Inclusion: Assessing PRIs in Uttar Pradesh and Kerala

Jawed Alam Khan

The 73rd Constitutional Amendment Act (CAA), legislated in 1992, has been a milestone in terms of providing autonomy to the Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) for preparing the local plans and projects related to economic development and social justice. One of the main activities among the 29 subjects given to PRIs listed in 11 schedule focuses on welfare of marginal communities and promoting social justice.

The present paper attempted to study the role of PRIs in the implementation of plan strategies for disadvantaged communities in Uttar Pradesh (UP) and Kerala through primary and secondary sources of data. It is found that most of the disadvantaged communities have

not been included in the processes of planning, implementation and monitoring of the development programme at the level of PRIs. At the PRI level, except Kerala decentralised planning on SCSP and TSP is absent in most of the states which was mandatory as per the provision in article 243 ZD.

Kerala has been able to implement SCSP, TSP and Gender responsive budgeting through its local budgeting and decentralised planning but it not the case for UP. After more than two of decades of 73rd CAA, PRIs in UP have not been able to initiate the process of local budgeting and decentralised planning to implementation the plan strategies for disadvantaged communities.

Effects of Rights-Based Development among the Scheduled Castes in Tamil Nadu

D. Venkatesan

The present paper has been proposed to attempt and highlight (i) Various types of rights envisaged in the Constitution of India for the development of the SCs; (ii) Effects of the changed development indicators among the SCs; and (iii) Effective redressal measures to reduce the level of atrocities against the SCs and safeguarding the rights of the SCs.

The economic and political dependency on the non-SCs has been reduced and the non-SCs have been pushed to experience greater difficulty due to non-availability of labour among the SCs. The so called "jajmani system", though disappeared, could not be forced by the

non-SCs. The socio-economic and political development of the SCs could not be tolerated by the non-SCs which have led to experience various types of atrocities against the SCs. There were incidents of atrocities on the SCs by the non-SCs, both physical attack and arson on the properties of SCs, in the recent past. To mention a few major such incidents were in Dharmapuri and Cuddalore districts in 2012, Tirunelveli and Sivanganga districts in 2013 and Theni and Namakkal districts in 2014, where the SCs were physically attacked and their properties were destroyed including houses.

Participation of Dalit Women in PRIs in Gujarat

Neepa Gandhi

The Indian society having a unique social structure in the world has been an oppressor of women folk in almost every sphere of life due to its denial of equal status to them since centuries. After attaining the independence many efforts have been made by the government and some voluntary agencies for redefining the identity of women, schedule casts and schedule tribes. People of the schedule castes have a long history of being discriminated against, exploited and placed at the bottom of the caste society. After the 73rd Constitutional Amendment Act passed in 1992 brought new reforms in the Panchayat Raj Institution. It had a relatively positive

impact on the participation and empowerment of SC/ST and women in rural India. But after this act participation of women in politics began to assume importance only in the 20th century, more particularly after the October revolution. In an unequal society it is not possible to ensure real representation and participation of Dalit women.

This paper looks at some of the consequences having a quota for the scheduled caste women for the post of president in the Gram Panchayat of Gujarat with the concept of legitimacy to consider the perception of the male as well as the participation of the schedule caste women in panchayat.

Decentralization and Political Inclusion

Surjith Moorkoth

Democratic Decentralization is largely seen as a 'magical elixir' to bring about changes in local governance, and it seems to provide tremendous opportunities for the political inclusion of the hitherto under-privileged sections in society. Against this backdrop, the present paper looks at what the decentralization 'experiments' actually produced; the ideals of the inclusion of tribal people, the most marginalized and the least powerful section in the social fabric of Kerala.

The present paper has intended to explore largely the extent of political inclusion of the culturally distinct tribal

communities in the local democratic institutions of rural Kerala giving special focus on the inclusion of numerically predominant two tribal groups in Northern Kerala namely the *Paniyan* and the *Kurichiyar*.

The present study is essentially a cross-cultural comparative study based on the epistemological tradition of anthropology. The study was mainly conducted using in-depth field research using participant observation in its quasi form. In addition to this, qualitative methods including case Studies, FGDs and Textual Analysis were largely employed.

Tribal Customary Laws and Women's Right: A Study of Oraons in Jharkhand

Anurag Augustine Ekka

The concept of women's right in a tribal society has assumed a greater significance in understanding the position of women in the said society as well as in the mainstream. The study on tribal women and the struggle for recognition of their rights to land and movable property have started to arouse the interest of all concerned. Tribal society in the post-Independence era has been witnessed unprecedented change, which has been most marked in respect of culture, modes of making a living and social differentiation. Its impact on women's status in society and gender relations has been far-reaching.

The present paper focuses on three things, (i) the State's idea of tribal law and its influences on the Oraons, (ii) the effects of religious laws (like Christian and Hindu laws) to which most of the Oraons practice at present along with their traditional religion, and (iii) the

implications of all the different forces subject to the idea of women's right. A Case Study of dispute resolution mechanisms available to Oraons has been undertaken which include Parha Panchchayat, National Legal System and Religious legal systems. The study attempts to analyze the arguments between the tribal leaders, feminist and social activists and different voices regarding the status and laws regarding tribal women.

The Oraon Adivasis in Jharkhand try to combine allegiance to the formal legal system of the Indian Constitution with adherence to their traditional or customary law in their civil, social and cultural life. A site of legal pluralism (existence of two or more legal systems in the same social field) thus becomes visible in the present scenario of Oraons.

Forest and Tribal Rights in West Bengal: An Ethnographic Analysis

Subhandu patra

The aim of this paper is to explore the rights of forest resources of tribal peoples and how their livelihood depends on forest from an ethnographic analysis. Indeed forest has played an imperative role on the economic-cultural-religion life of tribal people.

Since time immemorial time different tribal communities in India lived with a close proximity with the forest. The relation between forest and tribe is unified and mutually supporting. However, these way of rights over the forest enjoyed by tribal population traditionally are now threaten and in a critical period. The Indian State started to exclude tribal people from the forest in the name of public purpose with the help of imperialistic laws.

Though the State has legalized its right over the forest resources, the tribal community believes that forest belongs to them and it creates the antagonistic relationship between the forest

department and tribal community. Ironically over 60 percent of India's forest is spread over 187 tribal districts which reflect tribal's notion of conserving the forest. The problem of forest rights of tribal people in contemporary India has been a major concern for Government as well as for policy makers and social scientists. Since a large section of the people entirely depend on forest produces, forest rights is a sensitive issue to tribal people. In this context, the present paper argues that even after the introduction of various acts to ensure tribal forest rights; the State in India has preserve its sovereignty, power and influence on natural resource like forest and denied forest rights of tribal people.

The data for this paper were collected by ethnographic field experience of the author in West Midnapour district of West Bengal and secondary sources like newspaper articles, academic journals etc.

Middle Class Tribal Women in Revenue Generating Activities: A Study from Madhya Pradesh

Sunil Goyal

The present paper looks at the increasing involvement of new middle - class Nimari tribal women in various types of informal revenue-generating activities supported by PRIs and studies how their social liberty is changed through their work outside home. Nimar region of Madhya Pradesh, a medium-sized tribal dominated population centre of India, has a tribal history of conservative tradition.

The study is based on ongoing empirical research in the region the conducted via extensive field visits and repeated personal interviews with individual tribal women. The data used in the work are mostly primary in nature. The study asserts that, while the changes brought about by tribal women through such informal work are difficult to perceive easily, they

nevertheless emancipate and empower tribal women to a great extent. The methodology used in this study is empirical and qualitative, based on the ethnographic method of personal response. Here we are concerned with the study of tribal women in their own time and space, in their everyday life, and, as such, are studying subjects in their natural habitat as opposed to the unnatural setting of the formal interview or laboratory. In total, we studied the cases of 50 tribal women. Attempts were also to focus on the narrations of six new middle-class tribal women of Nimar region of Madhya Pradesh. The six stories were selected because we feel they represent a wide diversity of situations and chosen jobs, and a cross-section of new middle-class tribal women in Nimar region of Madhya Pradesh.

Industrial Induced Displacement of Tribals: A Study in Odisha

Ashok Kumar Patra

This paper highlights industrial induced displacement of tribals in Odisha and discusses the role of Panchayati Raj and especially the Gram Sabhas regarding their Forest Rights, Forest Resources, Rehabilitation, Alternate Livelihood etc. The objectives of the paper are to evaluate the tribal development programmes and the role played by the PRIs, to analyze the socio-economic profile of tribal community in Odisha with special reference to their rights, to assess the magnitude of displacement and role of the PRIs in the process of industrialization.

This research is based on descriptive and analytical methods. Both primary

and secondary data are used in the study. Secondary data collected from archival records, records of government gazetteers, State Museum, reports of Planning Commission, Newspapers and so on.

In this regard the role of panchayat and especially Gram Sabhas deserves a special mention. This include access to and ownership of minor forest products, grazing rights, habitat and habitations for primitive tribes, settlement for old habitations and un-surveyed villages, and community rights to intellectual and traditional knowledge relating to forests and cultural diversity.

Land Rights and Tribals: Initiatives in Odisha

Minaketan Behera

The skewed nature of land distribution in India is reflected in the fact that approximately two per cent of landholders own 25 per cent of the land. Alienation of land is a serious problem faced by the scheduled tribes. Land is the mainstay of the tribals and more than 90 per cent of them are dependent on agriculture and allied activities. Hence, land is the only tangible asset of a tribal community, and they are emotionally attached to it.

The objective of the present paper is to focus on land rights and land holding status of these marginalized groups particularly Scheduled Tribes. It traces the history of land reforms in Odisha

followed by status of Forest Rights Acts. Finally, the paper provides concrete suggestions to improve access of the poor to land and highlights the need to arrest processes that are promoting land alienation. Both primary and secondary data is used for the paper. The finding reveals that the major problems for our vast majority Schedule caste population is the inadequate or non-existent access to land, therefore, landlessness becoming the best predictor of rural poverty and food security in India. Therefore, without secured land rights, efforts to use natural resources sustainably and thereby achieve food security will remain a nonstarter.

Right to Indigenous Community Resources

Manikandan A.D.

This paper introduces the Right to Common Property Resources (Right to Commons or RTCs) for protecting the Common Property Resources (CPRs) with special emphasis on the rights of indigenous people on common properties. Forests, deserts, fishery sector, etc., are known as the common pool or property resources. Indigenous communities like the tribals, fisherfolk, etc., are historically depending on the CPRs for their livelihoods – centuries or even millennia. So, they should get a right over these resources.

It is in this context, the main objective of the Right to Commons or RTCs is to ensure the certain amount of share of common pool resources to the indigenous people. This is because they are using common pool resources for centuries or even millennia - without destroying the delicate resource base on which individuals and their future offspring depend for their livelihood. Forest Right Act (FRA) will protect

forest not the CPRs in the country. However, there is no right to fishing act in India.

The paper calls for a common law what we called RCTs that ensures not only the conservation, preservation and benefit sharing of all the common property resources such as forest, fishery etc., but also the sustainability of such resources and thereby livelihood security of all indigenous groups such as the tribals, fisherfolk, etc. It is in this context, the indigenous groups should get the constitutional right of the common property resources for protecting their socio-cultural and historical rights over the common property resources, and also of way of getting livelihood and nutritional securities from such commons. Basic idea of this right is the rules and regulations of using natural resources like forest, or fishery by the indigenous groups should be legalized.

Tribal Participation in Democratic processes: A Study in Manipur Valley

John Gaingamlung Gangmei

Tribals in India may enjoy the Constitutional protection and privileges of the State. However, they haven't free from land alienation, discrimination and subjugation. There are cases the Scheduled Tribes peoples who were compelled to be with the dominant group of community due to various historical elements.

This paper attempts to understand the historical account and lived experiences of the Rongmei tribe situated in the Manipur valley. They are major scheduled tribes settled across the four valley districts of Manipur. Moreover, they are in dilemma in the process of identity politics and the tension share by the ethnic conflict.

Objectives of the study are to understand the Manipur valley in the

context of welfare, and development for the tribal and to study the socio-economic, political scenario of the Rongmei tribe of Manipur valley.

A mixed method approach is used for this study. The quantitative and qualitative data will be merged into one large database to reinforce each other. The researcher based the inquiry on the assumption that collecting diverse data from the households of two Rongmei villages, the community member, civil society organisation (CSO) and government officials of the Tribal Affairs and Hills Department to find out the issues of welfare and development for the tribe in Manipur valley.

Tribal Governance and Rights Based Development: A Village Study, Manipur

Nemthiangai Guite
N.T.Thomas

Tribal Governance in Manipur particularly in the context of 'Kuki' tribes has its own village council and tribal associations to run the law and order situation among them. It is out of the purview of the Panchayati Raj Institutions or the Sixth Schedule.

The present study is on the Kuki tribe in Churachandpur district of Manipur. This is looking into the process of participatory decision making in local development and also on community spirit among the people, improved transparency in village administration and mechanisms to resolve conflict of interest between the better off in the community.

The broad objective of the study is to explore the efficacy of village councils as a unit of local self-governance. The specific objectives were to develop guideline for ensuring participatory decision making in local development; to generate public awareness, galvanize the administrative machinery and open

up access of rural poor to local governance administrated by the village council.

The study include desk review of secondary information of relevant past research, acts and provisions of central/state Government on tribal governance, field based data collection from village chiefs, chief association, Kuki Inpi leaders, Kuki women human rights organization and other stake holder.

The methodology adopted were; in-depth interviews, semi-structured interview and focus group discussion.

The broad findings of the study highlighted that there is discontent among the village chiefs and the people in regard to development work of the State Government. There is lack of awareness on rights based approach to development. There is no active participation among the people in local self-governance due to poverty and most of them strive for right to sustainable livelihood.

Decentralisation and Tribal Health: A Study in Idukki, Kerala

K. Smrithilal

Kerala is one of the most discussed states in India due to her significant achievements in the field of health, education, social reforms and so on, even while per capita incomes were low. However, there are some marginalised communities viz tribes, dalits and fisher folks where these development experiences haven't reached when compared to other communities of Kerala society. The present paper is an attempt to analyse the role of decentralization on health issues of Tribes in Idukki district. The rationale in selecting Idukki is that the district which has largest forest cover in Kerala

and it is the district which has got second highest number of tribal population in the State.

Present paper also finds that tribal community in Idukki district is largely heterogeneous and each community has separate practices and beliefs. The paper further finds that lack of proper infrastructure; social custom and beliefs are major reason for the backwardness of tribes in health developmental aspects. The paper suggests that there is an urgent need to develop appropriate corrective measures in health sector to rectify these issues.

Child Rights of ST's in MP and the Role of the NGOs

Ramani Swarna

Scheduled tribes are known for their indigenous knowledge and traditions. However, one can notice that there are no ways to recognize and understand their difficulties and problems. In this paper, an attempt has been made to understand their role in the society. There would be certain questions inquired with respect to their culture and study them from the angle of human rights. What kind of practices is prevailing in their culture? Are these appropriate ones and accepted in our own society? What kinds of rights are present for them? Who recognizes such rights? Is there any shift in this respect? Is there any need for us to raise our voice and recognize their own rights or not? What is the role of the NGOs? What is the role of the Government Bodies? What is the role of the various educational institutions? What are various steps taken to promote the rights for such tribes in India? The research methodology is empirical by nature and focused on primary data only. Various interviews and surveys were conducted to understand and need of such rights with the help of local bodies.

Adivasi and Self Rule: A Critical reflection on Indian State

Joy Prafful Lakra

In order to satisfy the Adivasis residing in the entry of the alien power into their areas, the British created excluded and partially excluded areas, with minimal interference. Thus the inaccessible hilly tracks of the North Eastern region came to be known as the North Eastern Frontier Province (NEFA), which required an inner line permit to enter into. The British government continued with the policy of exclusion of the tribes/ tribal areas, which later was incorporated into the Constitution of India. Legislation passed by the government were not directly applicable to these areas.

The present through empirical data presents a critical reflection on the nature of Indian State. There is a disjunct between spirit of the state and its action towards tribes. The state reaches to the Adivasis through the local self governance, whereas the Adivasis claim their Rights through the Adivasi Autonomy. There is constant conflict and negotiation between the two. Making the distinction between these two, the paper explores how the Indian state is trying to manage the tribes.

School Dropouts: Issues of Adivasi Children in Kerala

Manojan .K.P

The dropout rates among the tribal communities in India are still in alarming conditions. In each attempts of the state and central polices on education have given priorities in combating this issue in several domains such as in terms of infrastructural reforms and schooling environment. Studies in India across region had a consensus that the formal schooling knowledge is located in the milieus of mainstream imaginaries and which are drastically deviated from the life of tribal children. The varied habitus of culture, language and their contradiction with the modern education system has been a locus point of debate in the new sociologies of education and in critical pedagogy across the globe.

This paper attempts to carve out the rights issues in the phenomena of

creating dropouts in the schooling process. The analysis has been derived from an ethnographic account done among the Paniya tribes in Wayanad, Kerala 2012. The development indicators in Kerala, mainly health and education have improved standards compared to other states in the country. On the contrary the case of tribal education has a lower rate of progress, than in the case of non-tribal students. The findings of the study derives the argument that these acts of humiliations have a strong stake on the concerns of freedom and genuineness associated with the pedagogical operations within the schooling and in turn, the process of schooling results in conditions of rights violations and arise questions of social justice of the marginalised in the society.

Enforcing Right to Education: Initiatives Among the Learners of Tribal Families

Dr. Sujit Kumar Paul

Education and development have common grounds in the process worthy human existence. The educational approaches among the tribal population are varying in nature.

Despite several efforts made by Government, illiteracy among the tribals continues to be an area of national concern. The Right to Education Act has made free and compulsory education a fundamental right of every child between 6 to 14 age group. Providing free and compulsory education to tribal children is really a big challenge.

The present study is based on the project entitled "Education of First

Generation Learners of Tribal Families". The project area is situated in Illambazar block of the Birbhum district of West Bengal. The funding agency, Sir Ratan Tata Trust has been the partner to implement this project Nayantara Memorial Charitable Trust (NMCT). Gradually the trust has been able to build their base by doing some excellent development work in the area. A detailed discussion has been made with the members and workers of the NMCT about the project. A detailed survey work was conducted in the project tribal villages. Considering the whole facts and dynamics, the study has been designed.

Social Exclusion of Tribals in Vidarbha: A Study in the Context of PRIs

Virendra B. Shahare

Decentralization and local governance are increasingly recognized as basic components of democratic governance, since they provide an enabling environment in which decision making and service delivery can be brought closer to the people. Vidarbha holds two-thirds of Maharashtra's mineral resources, three quarters of its forest resources and is a net producer of power. Still it is less economically prosperous area when compared to the rest of Maharashtra. In this context the present paper deals with following objectives:

- To study the decentralized governance as tool for empowerment of Tribals in Vidarbha;
- To understand the socio-economic, educational condition and livelihood patterns of Tribals in Vidarbha;
- To examine the impact of decentralized governance for the empowerment vis-vis development of Tribals in Vidarbha;
- To study the Panchayat (Extension to Scheduled Areas) Act, 1996 (PESA) and its impact on livelihood issues of Tribals in Vidarbha; and
- To critically evaluate decentralized governance and social exclusion of Tribals in Vidarbha region.

The research paper is based on secondary data collected from various government reports, census reports, websites, magazine articles, books and other published reports. The paper is also based on primary data through interaction with few elected tribal members in Gram Panchayat and government functionaries.

The paper delineates about the Tribals accessibility to political power and the challenges they face in decentralised governance and also evaluates the socio-economic condition and livelihood means of the Tribals.

Livelihood Promotion of Disables: Community Based Rehabilitation

Kochurani P.J

Non-discrimination in all spheres lies at the heart of the Constitution of India. The Persons with Disabilities Act envisages equal opportunities and full participation to persons with disabilities. Yet disabled people continue to be excluded and marginalized. Mainstreaming the disabled into critical areas such as employment, education, livelihood and barrier-free access remains lacking.

The present study is conducted at selected Gram Panchayaths in Ernakulum, Kerala. An intervention programme commenced with five phases. The services were for screening, detection, assessment, training, management, care, vocational training, job placement and income generation

programmes for persons with disabilities at the grass root level.

The objectives were enhance the sustainable livelihood through the income generation program and improve the economic status of the families with persons with disabilities, to provide sustainable livelihood to the women with disabilities, to improve the quality of life, economic conditions and provide source of income to the target families, to minimize their problems and needs related to the financial matters of the persons with disabilities and to build the capacity of the Persons With Disabilities. The results of the study reveal that, there is a remarkable improvement in promotion of rights and livelihood of PWDs through Community Based Rehabilitation.

Local Government and Education to the Disabled Children

Seena Narakathil

This paper focuses on the role of Local Governments in accelerating inclusive education of differently abled children. Every society that values social justice is anxious to improve educational facilities to its differently abled children. One of the important social objectives of education is to equalize opportunities. A sound educational policy and its dynamic implementations are the need of the hour. Democratic decentralization provides ample opportunities to local governments to ensure human rights to all citizens. Local governments have to play great role in nurturing development culture based on rights. The context of new educational landscape demands constant support from the Local Government for its development.

This paper analyses the need of inclusive education, its definition, major disabilities and their issues. The particular focus of the paper is on present scenario of the Local Governments in the field of inclusive education and how to empower the differently abled. It also studies how to ensure enrolment of differently abled children and how to track them till they reach to earn his/her bread. Analyzing the annual plan of panchayats, the paper intends to bring forth deficiency of funds for the marginalized section (differently abled) for education. It tries to provide guidelines for sufficient allocation of funds and how to tackle underperformance of these children.

This paper tries to propose some administrative reforms such as posting a nodal officer for welfare of the disabled children.

Rights of Persons with Disabilities: A Gender Perspective

Parmeet Singh

The main focus of the paper is on the marginalized position of women with disabilities. The paper is primarily dealing with these concerns.

- Among the major initiatives taken by the State and Local Governments for the persons with disabilities, how much they are concerned particularly with Women and gender issues?
- What are the disparities among the educational and professional status

of male and female with disabilities. How does the apparatus of Local Government deal with the issue?

To seek attention towards the issues of female with disabilities which are extremely important for their inclusiveness and development and to recommend possible way outs through which, apart from the legal provisions and policies, Local Governments can play a constructive role through the proper implementations of national policies.

Rights of Differently Abled Children: Socio-Legal Issues

Jasmine Alex

Article 23 of the UN Convention on Rights of the Child 1989 provides special rights to disabled children. This Convention had made it a point that the recognition of rights especially meant for disabled children would never mean to treat them as 'simply a vulnerable category' of children. It means that they should be a dignified category which deserves special treatment.

This paper intends to identify the real definition of 'differently-abled' child, the problems associated with the well being of such children in the local societies, need for reasonable accommodation, upholding & supporting parental responsibilities, need of rejuvenating the education pattern etc.

The National Policy of Education (NPE) 1986, The Plan of Action 1986 and 1989

Central Scheme for Integrated Education proposes to provide educational opportunities for the disabled in regular schools. Programme of Action 1992 lays importance on the implementation of the project 'Integrated Education for Disabled'.

The advocacy for differently abled children continually plays a vital role in attaining positively new goals in favour of them. The special education paving way to integrated education facilitates the recognition of their special abilities. Further the access to goods, facilities and services shall be made easier to the disabled group as a whole, especially our disabled children. By law it should be made unlawful for a provider to discriminate against a disabled child.

Rights of Children with Disabilities: A study with reference to Haryana

Sultan Singh

Disability is one of the major public health problems in India. It is not only complex but multi layered in nature. It has been termed with different names such as handicapped persons, people with special needs, physically challenged people, differently abled and so on.

The present study focuses on the right based society for these people to live life independently. The investigator interviewed 50 professionals working in the field of rehabilitation from the state of Haryana during a workshop at Bhiwani.

The objectives of the study were to find out the importance of the rights for these people and identify the problems faced by them. Segregation, discrimination and stigmatization became normalized in the management of persons with disabilities. The present

paper make suggestions for improving the rights of children with disabilities in society to lead their life.

According to World Health Organization, "Disabilities are an umbrella term, covering impairment, activity limitations and participation restrictions". Impairment is a problem in body function or structure. In India the law recognizes seven types of disabilities from within a narrow medical context. It is important to every individual has the rights to access as their rights mentioned in constitution. Same rights have for persons with disabilities or intellectual disabilities, those with visual, hearing and speech impairment and those with restricted mobility or with so called medical disabilities all encounter different barriers, have different ways of dealing with them.

Enrolment of Differently Abled Children in India

V. Sathish Kumar

The disabled children are an integral part of our society and in needs of special care and facilities to promote their educational standard and who have the same right as other human beings. In 1995, the Government of India enacted persons with disabilities act (Equal Opportunities Protection of Rights and Full Participation). This act clearly states that every child with a disability has access to free education in most appropriate environment from 6 years till he attains the age of 18 years.

In this view, the researcher plans to study with the following objectives:

1) To evaluate the educational enrolment of differently abled children based on population census 2011.

2) To study the educational enrolment of differently abled children in selected states of India.

The present study is based on secondary date collected from the population Census 2011 and simple average and percentage techniques have used to analyses the data. The overall finding from the study concluded that the educational enrolments of differently abled children are very low rural areas than the urban areas. Therefore, the government should bring changes in education in order to increase the educational enrolment of differently abled children and improve the quality life of their standard of living and also their development.

Local Government and the Right of People with Disabilities

Janaka Hemathillaka

Disability has become a social issue in the modern world. Persons with disabilities face severe challenges when compared with “normal” population. Disability becomes a problem for social institutions of the persons with disabilities as well.

In Sri Lanka, the regular statistical collection by the Government and other national bodies produce conflicting data and there is no reliable official figure. The general perception is that around 4% of the population of Sri Lanka is affected with disabilities. Therefore, approximately 800,000 persons with disabilities are there in Sri Lanka.

The purpose of this paper is to review and understand the roles and responsibilities of local authorities in

addressing the rights of PWD’s especially on the area of accessibility rights. It also highlights the need and the requirement of local level attention to contribute to the rights of PWD’s. Consequently, this paper intends to share interventions taken by LG’s to afford the accessibility right.

During last two decades Sri Lanka as a country in line with the world scenario is paying attention to address the rights of PWD’s. Accordingly, to protect the Rights of PWD’s, Sri Lanka Government has unanimously passed the Parliament Act, No. 33 of 2003 on National Policy on Disability for Sri Lanka. There, 26 sectors with activities were recognized by the national policy to address the right of PWD’s.

Health and Capability Deprivation of Elderly Women: A Study in Chennai City

P.V. Laavanya

The increasing population of elderly is perceived as a challenge rather than a celebration. This is mainly due to the responsibility it puts on young people and the challenge it brings on care, social security, safety and overall well-being of the elderly. It is found that elderly women constituted the most vulnerable group among the urban population as they are dependent on others for food, clothing and health care. The present paper describes the situation of elderly women in India.

The objective of this study is to understand elderly women's experiences, capabilities, functioning

and deprivation in terms of health and health care. The study used hermeneutic phenomenology. The findings reveal that the elderly women have related ill-health with disease and their current employment status has strong influence on their capability to have functional access to health care, irrespective of their caste, marital status and education. The study also brings to light that spousal death and spousal illness can reduce elderly women's health capabilities creating dependence on family members and also reduce their motivation to improve one's own health status of life.

Protection of Rights of Elderly: A need for intervention of the local bodies

Aditya.V.Nair

India had more than 91.6 million elderly in 2010 and it is projected to reach 158.7 million in 2025 and is expected by 2050 to surpass the population of children below 14 years. The problems encountered by the elderly are multifold. From failing health, economic insecurity, isolation, neglect, abuse, fear, lowered self esteem, loss of control, lack of preparedness; the elderly in India face innumerable dilemmas. Even the basic needs and rights of many of them are not addressed.

This paper makes a brief study of some of the interventions made by local level governments, in many of the western countries, which have made huge difference in the status of the elderly there. The dynamic role played by the local bodies in Denmark, Finland,

Sweden, United States etc sets a role model for the contribution that can be made by such bodies as data show that their endeavors have been commendable.

In India, it is disappointing to note that the local bodies have played a minimal role in this matter. The lack of awareness amongst the people of the existing measures and also the lethargy in implementation can be itself be addressed with the help of local bodies. The researcher puts forward some suggestions on how the local level governments can contribute to the welfare of the elderly. India urgently requires an inclusive social security for older persons at grass root levels amongst other assistance. This can materialize only through a more proactive approach of the local bodies.

Integrated Elder Care Model for Local Self Governments: An Asset Based Approach

Babu Varghese

Kerala, is becoming an Olds own country with a growing number of elders. People above 60 constitute 13 per cent of the state's population of 3.34 crore compared to the national figure of 8.2 per cent (2011 Census). Kerala finds itself facing a huge human development challenge in the form of its elderly population.

A concerted effort is required to formulate appropriate strategies to address the health and social needs of the ageing population in a cost effective and sustainable manner. For this, we need to put all systems in place to handle their increasing requirements of care and support well-coordinated by a helpdesk (Elder's hub) by utilizing locally available resources and personnel including training and integration with existing infrastructure.

This can be done at Local Self Governments (LSGI) level in collaboration with all stakeholders, including government and non-governmental organizations, voluntary and private partnerships.

The widely acknowledged Kerala model of health care, which is a remarkable achievement at par with that of many developed countries, may also prove to be the best launch pad to develop a cost effective comprehensive elder care model through local self-government institutions and partnerships. This asset based approach advocates an innovative approach to efficient utilisation of existing resources with which integrated elder care can be more accessible and reliable for the senior citizens at the grass root level.

Single Elderly Persons: A Study of Chandigarh

Bindu

Aging is referred to a multi-dimensional process of physical, mental and social change. Population aging, the shift in age distribution towards older ages, is of immense worldwide concern. In India, the proportion of the population aged 60 years or more has been increasing consistently over the last few decades.

The elderly persons are considered as a vulnerable group, mainly because they are at a risk of reduction in participation in various domains of life through the loss of paid work, a decrease in income and an increase in health problems. Among the elderly, single (widowed/divorced/never-married) are more vulnerable than the other. Both single elderly men and women are discriminated on the basis of age in the

family and society as well. So, there is a need to secure the single elderly population by providing them special rights and status.

The present study is conducted in Union Territory of Chandigarh. The data is collected through primary and secondary sources. For the primary data, 50 respondents were selected for interview. The main objectives of the paper are to identify the major issues faced by single elderly persons in Chandigarh and to offer an insight towards elderly human rights. This paper also highlight some specific for policy makers and decision makers so that issues concerning single elderly persons could be given due importance at grass root level in future.

Palliative Care: Analysis of the role of the States

Minakshi Biswas

Palliative care is about helping one to relieve his suffering and making him live comfortably till he is alive. It is about improving the quality of life of patients with excruciating pain by means of drugs that could also control symptoms. It is about caring for the diseased whose illness cannot be cured in totality but can be controlled with regard to the progression of the symptoms and pain. Palliative care not only concerns the patient affected with an incurable disease, it also takes note of his family and aims at extending psychological support towards it. It aims at providing 'active total care' that includes physical, social and psychological care for both the patient and the family.

The objective of present paper is to look into issues of right to health and the

place of palliative care for the terminally ill within it. The present paper would deal with the area of palliative care in India and whether the Indian state has taken steps for its promotion and taking care of the right to health of those suffering from terminal illness.

The paper would also provide a brief account of the Kerala model of palliative care and how far its emulation at the national level could prove beneficial for the Indian state as a whole. The paper would rely on both primary (Judicial Verdicts, Medical and legal documents and government of India reports) and secondary literature (books and articles). The paper would arrive at how and why it is extremely essential for the state to promote healthcare in general and palliative care for the terminally ill in particular.

Palliative Care, Community Health and Decentralization : Case Studies of Local Self Government in Kerala

Piyush Kumar

Community-based palliative care has gained much legitimacy as a biomedical model particularly because of its approach that is specific to the cultural and social setting. In this paper, through case studies and qualitative analysis, the researcher explains that palliative care creates active stakeholders in the community and helps large sections to have affordable primary healthcare while at the same time, complementing other rights (like the right to livelihood, by freeing working members of families from care responsibilities) that characterize the rights-based approach to development. The involvement of local-self-governments in Kerala in palliative care

interventions since 2008 has greatly widened its scope but the question of retaining the spirit of initiative from the community despite government intervention will be analyzed through case studies from north Kerala. The researcher also argues that by bringing community to the centre stage in public health delivery, decentralization can be effectively achieved. The available literature on palliative care has not addressed the issue of fixing the relations between the rights-holders and the duty-bearers (if at all conceptual clarity on this can be brought out in this context) and attempts to do so would be made in this research paper.

Stigma and Discrimination with People Living with HIV/AIDS: Violation of Human Rights and Social Justice

Seema Bohet

In India stigma and discrimination related to HIV/AIDS is a major problem. Stigma here plays a very crucial role in both categories which have knowledge about HIV and even if they do not have any personal stigma, they fear of social stigma attached with HIV. Though the ART treatment has converted this fatal disease to manageable disease but people still do discriminate against people with HIV/AIDS. It has become a serious matter of human right and social justice as far as right to health is concerned.

Finding out the impact of stigma and discrimination on people living with HIV/AIDS in special context of human

rights and social justice. Focus group discussions were held with PLHIVs taking treatment from the different hospitals in Delhi adopting purposive sampling. Despite huge awareness programmes on HIV/AIDS , ART treatment , the disease is still considered as fatal and especially the people living with HIV/AIDS are being stigmatized and discriminated everywhere ,in the family, workplace, society in different ways. In order to make the ART treatment success and to provide PLHIVs a meaningful life it is important to work upon on minimizing stigma and discrimination of PLHIVs. To promote social work social justice is essential.

Assessing the Developmental Role of Higher Education: A study from Jammu and Kashmir

Mujeeb Hussain Gattoo

The developmental role of education/higher education is theoretically as well as empirically well grounded and has been the one of the central threads of the economic analysis. Economic literature has pointed at different channels through which education leads to development. It has been argued that education leads to development by producing strategically needed human skills, providing country specific solutions, promoting faster technological catch-up and by improving country's ability to maximise its economic output. However if development is defined as the expansion of capabilities and freedoms, education is at the heart of it.

The present paper is an attempt to discuss the 'development problem' of the economy of Jammu and Kashmir and describe that how education can resolve this specific problem. An attempt will be made to look at different factors at the policy and planning level that act as

hindrances for the education/higher education to play its developmental role. It is argued that role of elementary education/higher education in resolving this development problem has been limited by poor demand for skilled due to absence of robust industrial base and by schizophrenic educational policy, due to which elementary and higher education are regionally, locally and socially disengaged.

There is a need to integrate economic planning, manpower planning and educational planning keeping in view the local sensitivities. Similarly in conflict ravaged regions and fragile contexts, imparting tools of conflict transformation to populace via curriculum ought to be included and practiced. The learning content, teaching methods, pedagogical tools etc. are to be made responsive to the conflict for ensuring the overall development and psychosocial protection of children.

Women Participation in Development and their Rights

Anoop Kanoujia & Bindu

In our country women are facing discrimination that still continue to exist in various forms and stages. Gender is a common term but gender discrimination is meant only for women, because they are the only victims of gender discrimination in India and worldwide as well. The present paper which is based on secondary data highlights gender discrimination at all ages in the society, Importance of women participation in development and their rights. Any denial of equality, gender and opportunity on the basis of gender is gender discrimination. Nature does not discriminate women from men but they are victim of the inequality not only in terms of socially, politically but economically as well. A country like India makes its women habitual of the discrimination at all stages of life. Women are not even aware of their rights, privileges and freedom. For the development of the country there is a need of participation of women in various fields (political, economic, social, educational, etc.). For this, they need some specific rights and privileges to get their position enhanced and with also contribute in the development of the country.

Women's Rights: Study on their changing needs and prospects

Divya Amrohi

This paper highlights the present scenario of the condition of women's right in India and what should be the approach of tackling the issue of violation of women's right. It is multi-faceted problem rooted in deep social malign and its solution also lies in the society directed by multidisciplinary approach. Author will try to substantiate its thought with secondary data such as reports, books and research journals and some suggestions shall be documented based on the inference of the research paper.

Women have always been victims of various social and cultural challenges

since ages, though in vedic era they have enjoyed reverence but with the advent of time their social status and role have been deteriorating which is eroding the social fabric of the society. These acts as hindrance to equitable access the economic opportunities and also in exercising their human rights eventually leading to skewed development of any nation. With the change in the social conditions the problems of women have changed now they are exposed to different type of challenges and issues then the earlier times so does their needs and the requirement.

Right Based Social Justice: Issues and Challenges

Vijaykumar Bhaskar Rao Waghmare

Universal Declaration of Human Rights, Article-two, mentions – Everyone is entitled to all the rights and freedoms set forth in this Declaration, without distinction of any kind, such as race, color, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth other status forms of discrimination and racism have been manifested in the Indian caste system as well as in the ancient Greek and Chinese conceptions of cultural superiority.

The objective of the paper is to review and discuss various provisions and measures taken by national, state and local governments regarding social Justice. The doctrine method used to this study and review taken through the secondary data sources. Issues of social

Justice are participation of Women, SC/ ST, OBC's in politics, employment and education. Caste discrimination, issues of minorities are still out of focus. Issues of elderly, disabled, Aids victims, Homeless or street people are in process of stream lining in the policies and execution. Social justice is non material indicator of human development. Right based social Justice concept is yet to streamlined in Indian focused interventions by state and non state actors required to just equitable society.

Social Justice is justice in terms of the distribution of wealth and privileges within society. In India various constitutional provisions made for Social Justice or Scheduled Castes, Tribes, Backward classes persons with disabilities, senior citizens and so on.

Disaster Risk Reduction: A Right Based Framework

Rajeev.M.M.

Local governments have an important role in bringing disaster risk reduction through leadership, communications, advocacy and technical support, and by partner with other institutions such as schools, religious organizations, CBO's that can reach to the very centre of local communities. The active commitment and leadership of a local government is important for the implementation of any local disaster risk reduction measures to deal with different stakeholders and multiple layers of government.

Risk reduction at the local level depends on good local governance, particularly in political decision-making, formulation of policy, and enforcement relating to land use planning, regulatory controls, zoning, and construction standards.

The *Objectives* of the study are to highlight the significance of LSG's in the

disaster risk reduction programme, to find out the role of LSG's in understanding local risks and vulnerabilities, to understand the various obstacles faced by local bodies in coordinating DRR activities in the community and to find out the ways to improve the functioning of LSG's in addressing DRR in the local level.

The *Methodology* adopted for this study is qualitative and the data collection was done through FGD's, One to one interaction and Qualitative interviews. The researcher used purposive sampling method for selecting the samples. The *findings* imply that, the efforts will be made to minimize vulnerability of disadvantaged groups like women, children, elders, physically and mentally challenged, and other marginalized groups.

Public Private Partnership: An Innovative Tool to Strengthen PRIs

Amirullah

The 73rd Constitutional Amendment gave power to Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRI) and provided 29 functional items within its purview for the overall socio-economic development of rural areas. But, due to budgetary constraint, corruption and lack of expertise, it still suffers from poor infrastructure, sanitation, poverty, malnutrition, migration to urban areas, etc. Moreover, most of the schemes and programmes are being initiated by the central and state governments without the participation of local people. Public Private Partnership (PPP) should be regarded as an option amongst a range of possible tools to be applied for the overall development of PRI in India. PPP are used for a wide range of activities, mainly to build and operate roads and bridges, water and sanitation plants, hospitals, schools,

telecommunication, public buildings, solid waste management, skill development and a host of other services.

The major objectives of the study are to:

- Study the PPP initiatives and experiences in the implementation of 29 functional lists. (e.g. roads, power, health, tourism, skill development, rural BPO, etc.)
- Does PPP increases people's participation in plan formulation and implementation.
- Can PPP strengthen PRI in India.
- Does it help in better utilization of rural resources and sustainable development of rural areas.
- Evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of PPP and suggest

suitable ways of making PPP an effective participatory governance tool for local areas.

The methodology for this study is based mainly on secondary data. The data are taken from government documents,

draft PPP policies and guidelines, seminars, workshops, research studies, case studies, newspapers and other secondary sources to generate a comprehensive idea for the analysis of this study.

Elementary Education and Panchayat Raj: An Experience of Kashmir Society

Gazala Firdoss & Shamasul Haque

This study is a modest attempt to explore how effective and competitive the institutions of Panchayats to make elementary educational structure functional and vibrant. How Panchayat members can help in changing the attitude of ignorant parents towards the education of their children, which is one of the dominant reason hindering the dream of fulfilling the objective of universalization of elementary education.

The present study apply qualitative techniques in order to gain a deeper understanding of the nature of obstacles that hinder children's education and the role of Panchayat institutions thereof.

The study also involved collecting information from parents, community members, teachers, children and others stakeholders like Village Education Committees and Panchayat Raj Members in order to draw the relevant inferences.

'Kanyashree' Scheme in West Bengal: An Appraisal

Nirupam Hazra

The 'Kanyashree' scheme of West Bengal Government is an initiative to bring substantial change by promoting education of adolescent girls in rural Bengal. Conceived with technical assistance from UNICEF, the scheme was launched in 2013 with the primary objective to arrest the high drop-out rate among adolescent girls through conditional cash transfer. The broader aim of the scheme is to ensure overall development of women by indirectly touching upon issues like child marriage, trafficking, adolescent health and maternal health. By providing annual scholarship to adolescent school-going girls and one-time grant for those pursuing higher education, the scheme tries to ensure a longer educational engagement for girls. Since its inception in 2013, around two million girls

between thirteen to eighteen years age group have been enrolled under this scheme while more than one lakh girls received one-time grant. The scheme received international appreciation and also finds place at Girl Summit 2014 for its significant impact. The present paper is an attempt to find out the greater implications of the scheme with the help of empirical evidence from various parts of the state. It would also examine the major challenges faced in the course of implementation of the scheme along with its various limitations. Apart from this, the paper would primarily analyze the entire scheme within the framework of right-based development and would like to suggest possible scopes of improvement and explore the possibility of its replication at national level.

Impact of Integrated Child Development Services

Rani A K

The Integrated Child Development Services(ICDS) integrates several aspects of early childhood development and provides supplementary nutrition,immunization,health check-ups,and referral services to children below 6 years of age as well as expecting/nursingmothers and adolescent girls.

Objectives:

- To know about the satisfaction level of ICDS beneficiaries
- To know about the performance of the ICDS Programme
- To evaluate the efficiency of Anganwadi Centres(AWCS) under ICDS
- To analyse the degree of success of the six basic services derived under ICDS

- To study about various features/ activities/services of ICDS
- To asses the health and nutritional status of women and children and the extent of ICDS

The study was conducted in Nedumbassery grama panchayat.This study is based on both primary and secondary data.For primary data collection a sample survey is conducted in Nedumbassery Grama Panchayat.In this survey 30 ICDS beneficiaries are selected and personally interviewed.The secondary data is collected rom various journals books and internet.

The Success of the ICDS scheme will depend upon the Angan Wadi Centers(AWCS).If AWCS works efficiently the ICDS scheme will be developed very fastly.

Political Rights of Women in Decentralized Governance: Issues and Challenges

Rajib Alochan Mishra

The present study examines the status of empowerment in the context of Panchayati Raj Institutions, to the conceptual and material bases of women's historic exclusion from the formal arena of politics. It also analyzes strategies adopted around the world, to promote women's political participation. The study used both primary and secondary data. Primary data which was the base of our study was collected by interview schedule. In order to select the respondents from the different wards of the village Stratified Random Sampling method was used.

The data was collected by the investigator from field. Simple statistical tools were used in the while tabulation and analyse of the data. Secondary data was collected from various government records and other sources. Although, reservations have helped strengthening the position of women in PRIs, but reservation alone cannot carry forward this democratic process; the provisions for education and employment by the state, will help raise capabilities and awareness among, together with political mobilization through civil society and political parties.

Gender and Local Governance: A New Discourse in Development

Shriram Yerankar

The present study of the Panchayat Raj Institutions has brought to the fore some emerging issues at the grassroots level. The reservation given to women seemed to be quite inadequate as far as their empowerment was concerned, since the number of women who came to power exceeded even the 33 percent mark in most of the states in India.

The study is broadly an attempt to analyze the emerging scenario of women leadership at local politics by focusing on the elected women representatives of PRIs of India.

The study focuses on the gender issues in the reconstituted local government system in India and the extent of devolution of power to women and men

in the 73rd amendment of the constitution.

The study was limited to two districts of Maharashtra. The primary sources of data were a combination of qualitative and quantitative methods such as interview using structured interview schedule, group discussion, case studies and observation. Statistical information was processed, analyzed. Electoral democracy at grassroots level is the focus of this paper which includes women's political participation as candidates, motivation for joining politics and problems faced during elections and overall obstacles encountered by women representatives, as well as training needs and interventions for capacity building.

Panchayats and the Rights of the Poor

Dilip Kumar Kundu

Rights based development approach posits development as a comprehensive economic, social, cultural and political process which aims at the constant improvement of the well-being of the entire population. It also aims at fair distribution of benefits and opportunities resulted from development. This approach seeks to emphasize certain basic principles like equity, non-discrimination, transparency, accountability and participation.

The present study aims to focus on elite mass dichotomy in Indian society and its fall out on participatory right of the poor and marginalized at PRIs in different states and regions of the country. It also seeks to explore suitable remedial measures for strengthening the participatory right of the poor and marginalized at PRIs.

One of the significant features of autonomous self governing institutions is their accountability to local people.

Community Rights over Common Property Resources: The Case of Veeranam Irrigation Tank, Tamil Nadu

S. Balamurugan

Common Property Resources (CPRs) are meant to benefit the local communities that highly depend on the resources for livelihood opportunities. The main characteristic of CPRs is that nobody can claim property rights over the resources. Everyone from the local community has equal right to access the resources. Due to this weak property right of local community over Veeranam irrigation tank, state government forcibly diverts water from the tank to Chennai city to meet its increasing water demand.

Secondary data collected from concerned Public Works Department proves that irrigation water supply from

the tank has been declined gradually after the state government started diverting water to Chennai city.

This paper aims to address the conflict between farmers and the state government as income of farmers and other stakeholders of Veeranam tank has been significantly curtailed due to reduction in water availability. Further, this paper tries to conceptually explain how the conflicts can be resolved by strengthening the property rights of the local community without affecting water diversion process thereby creating a win-win outcome to both local community as well as the urban water users.

Ombudsman : A Tool of Good Governance: Study from Kerala

Noufal Konnakkattil

An essential prerequisite of good governance is the systemic institutional capacity to ensure accountability in the functioning of the state, its various organs and vital institutions of public interest in and outside the government. In order to fight against corruption and corrupt practices started pervading the administration of local self government institutions (LSGIs), Government of Kerala through 'the Kerala Panchayati Raj Act of 1994' created the institution of Ombudsman. The focused objective of the institution could be stated as eradication of corruption.

This study focuses on answering the question how effective the ombudsman institution in Kerala acts as an external control mechanism. This study is chosen to look at the democratic governance, independent of the institution, jurisdiction and powers, financial resources, accessibility, and co-operation with the government and other bodies. The more general objective therefore is to improve the body of knowledge on the institution. Furthermore, the intention is to produce information on the role of the Ombudsman in promoting Good Governance.

Citizen Charter in Service Delivery: An Appraisal

Biju S.K.

The 73rd and 74th Constitutional Amendment Acts paved the way for improved service delivery with greater citizen participation and accountability of service providers at the local level. As part of the commitment, the Government of Kerala directed the LSGIs to declare their commitment towards the citizen in service delivery in the form of "Citizen Charter (CC)". The Charters were supposed to incorporate Vision, Mission Statement, details of the business transacted, details of clients, and details of services provided to each client group, details of grievance redressal mechanism and method to access the system and expectations from the clients.

The purpose of CC can be achieved only if the four process viz. systematic preparation, wide dissemination, tuned operationalisation and timely grievance redressal. It is pathetic that the purpose for which the preparation of charter made mandatory was not yet achieved. The preparation and renewal are only for preparation sake and the effectiveness is not yet achieved. Before the Charter is launched ground should be prepared. The policy of the Government of Kerala, to equip the LSGIs for achieving ISO certification of Quality Management System (QMS), provides a ray of hope that the effectiveness of CC can be achieved.

The Issue of Housing: A Study of Palakkad Municipality

Binu Francis

74th amendment to the constitution mandates poverty alleviation and urban housing as one of the basic functions of the Municipality. Palakkad Municipality is one of the oldest urban local bodies in Kerala, having 150 years of existence and having more than 1.3 lakh of people. It has rich tradition and heritage. Palakkad Municipality has also implemented various housing scheme, including state and centre sponsored scheme, in addition to its own housing scheme. Still there are number of families without their own shelter.

The present study intends to enquire, why the Municipality fails to achieve the goal of housing for all, even if there are plethora of schemes to this effect. The study relayed on primary data as well as secondary data. The issues analysed are stringent provisions in policy/guideline for financial assistance, beneficiary selection, awareness among

the local people, intervention of councilors/Kudumbashree workers, size of subsidy, deprivation of beneficiary, apathy of ULB, expectation of higher assistance in another scheme, lack of feasible scheme, intervention of the government, non-availability of fund etc.

The study report shows that all the above factors contribute to the failure of the ULB, in achieving the desired goal, in addition to the lack of concerted effort from Municipality. If the Municipality has a well defined strategy, it can achieve the goal viz., house for all within 10 years. But concrete and concerted initiative or efforts are not coming up from the Municipality. The study also put forward some suggestions/recommendations, so as to improve the system, by which the ULB can achieve the goal with in a particular period.

Management of Primary Education : Role of Local Self Government in Jharkhand

Sanyukta Priyadarshni

In the last decade Jharkhand has made impressive progress towards universalising access to primary education. In spite of various initiatives taken by the central and state government to achieve the goal of Universalisation of Elementary Education (UEE), evidences indicating vast disparities in terms of quality, access and participation in Santhal Parganas of Jharkhand.

These disparities threaten to undermine efforts to achieve education for all in the state. Increasingly, empirical evidence suggests that enrollment in school does not automatically ensure learning. Participatory Management of Schools involving the communities has been recognized as crucial at policy level. The active involvement of communities would facilitate the identification of specific education issues, take direct action and part of decision-making processes. There is a consensus that the

success of primary education depends critically on the participation of local community and efforts of local self-government at grassroot level. With the passage of Right to Education (RTE)-2009 Bill, the government tries to strenghten the implementation of the primary education, particularly in terms of quality, efficiency and effectiveness, through decentralisation and scope for people's participation.

The current paper focuses on the need of micro level planning and management of elementary education to the local communities and local self government within the overall framework of School Management Committee (SMC) and goals under RTE act to provide quality education for all to all children of Santhal parganas of Jharkhand. The study also highlights key issues that need to be addressed in order to improve children's learning outcomes.

Child Labour and Violation of Child Rights: A Case Study of Gujarat

Awkash Kumar

The present study has been conducted in the urban localities of Gujarat state. The study focuses mainly on the factors, which compel the children to adopt occupational roles at a tender age, how their elementary rights are violated, scenario of child labour in India, socio-economic profile of child labour in the State of Gujarat. Children involved in labour work are more vulnerable to crime.

The study of child labour in the state of Gujarat is based on both primary and secondary data. Primary data have been collected by conducting a survey various cities of Gujarat. Secondary data is compiled from books, journals,

census reports, published records and other reports. Further the study has analysed all aspects of child rights and child labour in graphs and tables.

The study has concluded on the basis of findings that Child labour has been in practice in India from time immemorial. Children are employed in more than 300 kinds of jobs such as household work, brick-making, stone breaking, selling in shops and in streets, bike repairing, garbage collecting and rag picking. Many children work on farms, plantations or in houses. The most disadvantaged sections of the society supply the vast majority of child labour.

Local Self Government and Promotion of Child Rights; Kerala

Rahul S & Jincy Elsy George

This paper tries at one plane to profile the nature and type of violations happening to children in Kerala and the efforts going on to address those issues. On the second plane looks into the efforts made both functionally and structurally by local self-government in the area of child rights. Finally an enquiry into how the local self-governments are woven into the larger efforts for child protection which is actively working in the state.

The study generally follows more elements of description and some elements of exploration. The data on the child rights situation is collected from official records, reports and previous studies in the area. The data on the local self-government's role in protection and promotion of child rights is collected

from the primary sources, which forms from three panchayats and one municipal corporation. The Data on the same will be collected from the official records and official websites of other panchayaths across the state. A semi structured interview schedule is used for collection of primary data while a checklist is maintained for the collection of secondary data.

The study suggest the structural changes to be made in the state level mechanisms (like SCPCR, Child Line etc) for child protection to be more linked up with the local self-governments. The issue of child protection has to be taken up seriously under the welfare schemes of panchayats and adequate representation has to be given to matters of child welfare and protection.

Right to Education: Observations from the Child Workers in Cotton Fields

R. Rajendran & K. Chitra Vel Sankari

Present study probes into the magnitude, causes, impacts on child labour in cotton fields, and the impact of child labour use on right to education. Main objectives of the study are: to ascertain the labour requirement of different operations in cotton cultivation of the farmers; to assess the usage of child labour in cotton cultivation by the cultivators as well as agriculture labour households; to examine the impact of child labour usage in cotton cultivation in terms of absence of schools, school drop outs, and health problems; to identify factors responsible for use of child labour in cotton cultivation by the agriculture and agriculture labour households; and to provide suggestions to withdraw child

labour from the cotton cultivation and protect their right to education, with the help to local self governance.

The study is conducted in two villages, each one from *Villuppuram* and *Cuddalore* districts of Tamilnadu, where the cotton cultivation is carried out in a significant proportion of farm land. One hundred and twenty rural sample households are taken for the study. A survey schedule is employed to collect necessary data. Collected data are analysed with appropriate analytical tools, including logistic regression. The study provides policy suggestions to improve the right to education of the rural children with the help of efficient local governance.

Proactive Measures to Ensure Child Rights

Shaly Joseph

This paper focuses on the right of the child to have quality education for sustainable development. The paper discusses the issue in the context of quality of education with a focus on employability and skill formation.

Paper covers the issues related to the facilities provided in the school as well as the commitment of teachers in providing quality education to the children. Childhood is the stage where the overall development of the child take place and the future of the child depend on the input received at this age. Recognizing the potential of the child and equipping the children for the future is mainly based on the education we are imparting to the children. The need of the well balanced content in the

educational system to serve this purpose is inevitable to make our nation a super power as visualized by us. The paper also describes the pro active measures which can be used at the policy level and at the grass root level.

Timely intervention is needed from authorities, parents and society to minimize the loss associated otherwise. A well thought policy and programmes with proper supervision and monitoring will bring quality in education. Intellectual input of the experts should be used to frame effective policies. Study of effective educational system in developed countries also can be referred to come up with effective educational policy.

Rights of the Child in Local Areas: A Study from Kerala

Mohammed Rafi .M.T.

The UNCRC outlines the fundamental human rights that should be afforded to children in four broad classifications that suitably cover all civil, political, social, economic and cultural rights of every child those classes are **Right to Survival, Right to Protection, Right to Participation and Right to Development.**

This paper attempts to find the process of implementation of child right in Kerala. The study will focus on the classifications of UNCRC as mentioned above, whether the children of Kerala enjoy their rights

or they are denied of it. This study will spread the light on the current situation of children in Kerala with regard to their rights and will provide suggestions.

It is expected that this paper could cover the all areas of major concern in child rights in Kerala with special attention on examples caused by the break and absence of adequate functioning and implementation of the related laws in this field. In addition to the above mentioned, the suggestion of the needed solution also will included in this paper.

Child Rights and Emancipation of Child from the Child Labour

Kappey Yadagiri

Child labour is the practice of having children engaged in economic activity, on part or full time basis. The practice deprives children of their childhood and is harmful to their physical and mental development. In millions of households in rural India children's are sent to work because survival of the entire family is at stake. The International Labour Organization (ILO) suggests poverty is the greatest single force driving children into the workplace. For some families in the rural areas income from their children's labour is between 25 to 40 percent of the household income.

Major objectives of the study include, the major causes for prevalence of child labour in the rural areas even after enactment of many laws and policies, assessment on the gaps and challenges of implementation of child labour eradication policies and programs in the rural areas and critical analysis on the

Roles and involvement of government and local community ways to forward.

To realize the goals of objectives and study selected two mandals Aiza and Ghattu from Mahabubnagar district of Telangana state. The district itself recorded as low level literacy rate in the state (56.66%) and the study mandals were recorded as very low level literacy areas in the district with prevalence of more school dropouts and child labour

Our country unusually strict labour laws are often seen as a tough challenge by players in the formal sector they are constantly looking for ways and means of lightening the burden. Paying result? The work has shifted to the unorganized informal sector. And this chaotic scenario there is an ever growing demand for cheap labour. There is the need we to discuss how and who is meeting this demand.

Choosing Childlessness: Study of an overlooked Reproductive Right

Chandni Bhambhani

The studies on recognition of reproductive rights emphasise on the timing, number and spacing of children. In addition, the right to reproductive health also envisages the right to decide if reproduction is suitable for someone, or not. The right to non-reproduction has been overlooked in Indian context since reproduction constitutes the chief contributor in continuing the legacy of a family and society. Growing up in a culture where womanhood is considered at par with motherhood, women tend to foresee themselves as future nurturers.

This paper aims at elucidating the path and the underlying reasons behind women's choice of voluntarily childlessness. It also brings forth the research gap by reviewing the literature on the reproductive choice of not having children. Despite childlessness

being considered as a taboo in our society, the participants of this study chose to remain childless. Passing through the intricate and ambiguous course participants narrate their confrontations and conflicts with the societal child bearing norm that they reject. The grounded theory approach of Glaser and Strauss was utilised to explore the overlooked lives of childless by choice women.

The idiographic nature of the grounded theory approach allowed conducting intensive study of the phenomenon of decision making of voluntarily choosing childlessness. The line to line open coding interview transcript was done in order to trace the emergent codes. Furthermore, by axial coding the codes that emerged from open coding were interrelated through the categories that emerged from the data. Thus a theoretical model entailing (i) the

reasons for choosing not to reproduce, (ii) the underlying context behind choosing voluntary childlessness and, (iii) the role of spouse in choosing childlessness emerged. This study reveals the complexity of choice that is shaped by various social, cultural, economical, political and individual aspects. Making and exercising the choice of not reproducing entails within it an overlooked dimension of women empowerment.

Visually Impaired Girls and Academic Exclusion: A Case Study

Abhishek Thakur

Women with disabilities suffer a twofold discrimination, both on the grounds of gender and of impairment. The social status of disabled women varies according to individual circumstances and to the community in which they live. There is ample evidence that women with disabilities experience major psycho-social problems. Women with disabilities face unique experiences of exclusion in educational systems.

The purpose of this study is to understand exclusion of visually impaired girls in academic community in Delhi University. The paper attempts to examine two major areas of exclusion attached to the life of visually impaired girls. These two areas are: (i) to understand the way of exclusion for visually impaired girls. (ii) To explore

how exclusion negatively affect psycho-social wellbeing of visually impaired girls. The study is qualitative in nature. The purposive sampling method was used in the data collection process. Indepth interviews and case studies were the primary data collection tools of the study. Data was collected through structured interview of ten visually impaired girls of Delhi University. In addition, five case studies were also conducted to get more in depth understanding of the subject.

In this backdrop, the paper argues that higher education continues to be a challenge for visually impaired girls. The problems of visually challenged girls are far intense than their male counterparts. There are multiple factors affecting the exclusion of visually impaired girls in academic community such as gender, personality, family background, social

attitudes, food habit and social life. Those factors negatively affect their overall personality. Those girls feel the pressure to fit into a view of society and the world that excludes their unique experiences as belonging simultaneously to blindness. Finally, the

paper discusses some of these unique disadvantages that are exclusively faced by visually impaired girls in Delhi University, and suggests possible strategies to overcome these disadvantages through social work intervention.

Right of Children to Education: A Study from Guntur District

Kodikanti Somasekhar

In spite of several educational policies formulated and implemented still in the age group of 6 to 14 years around 8 million are out of school in the country. Which is very alarming situation. In this scenario through 86th amendment to the constitution that made Right to Education (RTE) a fundamental Right under which free and compulsory education should be provided to all children of India in 6 to 14 years age groups.

Against this back ground an attempt is made in this paper to examine the implementation of RTE to ensure right of children to education with the following objectives - to assess the progress and performance of Right to Education Act in India, to analyze the role of the local governments in the implementation of RTE Act and to examine the impact of RTE Act on enrolment and reducing drop out rate from the schools.

Multistage Sampling method was followed for the conduct of the present study. At first stage Guntur District was chosen and second stage it was decided to select three Mandals each from four revenue divisions based on purposive sampling. Again three villages from each of the Mandal were chosen, thus 48 villages has been covered in the study. In each village information has been collected from the local government functionaries' i.e. respondents by administering Interview Schedule to study the issues relating to RTE in the study area.

The data collected from both the primary and secondary sources was processed and analyzed using appropriate statistical tools. The Analysis was done in such a manner has to throw light on the impact of Right to Education on children.

Violent Armed Conflicts and Children's Rights: Evidence from Jammu and Kashmir

Falendra Kumar Sudan & Ishita Singh

The present study examines the social and economic consequences of armed conflicts on children and investigates the status of children's rights in non-Kashmiri (the non-Kashmiri speaking population from the hills of districts of Rajouri, Poonch, Udhampur, Reasi, Doda and Kistwar) displaced camps in Jammu and Kashmir State and recommend some policy measures to mitigate their sufferings. The social and economic consequences of violent armed conflicts on non-Kashmiri families in displaced camps has been analysed using primary data and information collected through a baseline census survey in three non-Kashmiri displaced camps located at Belicharana, Khanpur (Nagrota) and Talwara in Jammu region of Jammu and Kashmir. A census survey of total of 905 households has been carried out in three selected camps viz Belicharana (284 households), Khanpur (215

households), and Talwara (406 households).

The study reveals that more female than male babies were born in these camps and of them 52.56% of births have been registered. Proportionately, more male births (47.22%) than female births (13.33%) have been registered, which reflects gender bias in birth registration. Even in cases where birth has been registered, in most cases birth certificates has not been issued. Immunization of children against preventable diseases is very low. Only 51.28% of the new born children in the three camps have been immunized completely. More than one-half of the children above the age of 5 years are attending schools at various levels. About 38.16% of children above 6 years and below 14 years are engaged in different remunerative occupations outside the home.

Armed conflicts induced displacement inevitably takes its toll on children's education and increases the pressures on the young children to work, possibly at the expense of their schooling and also leads to under-nourishment and malnutrition, which has caused poor physical growth, inability to learn and poor work performance.

Despite barriers, there is a clear need for appropriate vocational training for young children to eliminate the menace of child labour and forced begging. Child focused participatory research should be promoted to understand children's views, experiences and aspirations in depth.

Right Based Approach on Child Development: Issues and Challenges

Shashi Rani

India has the largest child population in the world. Children (0-14 years) comprise one third of the total population. Since independence different efforts are being made by the Government of India for the development and welfare of children. Significant policies and programmes are implemented by central and state governments through ministries and institutions in order to secure the basic rights of the children. The constitution of India very clearly laid down rights of the children in the form of fundamental rights and through its directive principles of state policy directed state government to create safe and healthy environment and society for each and every child of the country in order to deal with the factors of exclusion and exploitation of the children.

The social legislations are in force for protection and safety of children. All these provisions of government focussed on three aspect of child life namely child survival, child development and child protection.. The adolescent population is also exposed to marginalisation and vulnerability when it comes to the issue of quality education, reproductive and sexual health, and safety. Also the issue of declining sex ratio posed serious threat to some of the states and Indian society at large. In view of all this the budgetary allocation and system need to place for realisation of the rights of the children.

Therefore, there is strong need to have discussion and deliberation involving policy makers, civil society actors, and policy implementing agencies to review

the country's approach towards the overall development of the children. The present paper aims to critically review policies and programmes of the country and highlight the issues and challenges in relation to the rights of the child for their development and growth with the focus on role of different stakeholders in achieving the common goals and the need of changes in approach of government programme and policies.

Training for Child Rights Protection – An Intervention Study

Vijayalekshmi.V.A.

Child Right is the right of every child for survival, development, protection and participation. Children face some of the toughest challenges in their life while they are growing up. They have to get enough opportunities for their psycho social development. The current scenarios in Kerala ask ourselves a question *whether the children are enjoying these Child rights.*

Life skills training act as a tool to safeguard these rights of the children by empowering and molding children towards the development of their fullest potential. Life skills based education is now recognized as a methodology to address a variety of issues of children such as child abuse, suicide, relationship issues, and emotional outburst, problem with communication, assertiveness, conflicts, bullying, and sex abuse and so on. It also addresses the developmental needs of the

children. Practicing life skills leads to qualities such as self esteem, sociability and tolerance, to action competencies to take action and generate change, and to capabilities to have the freedom to decide what to do and who to be. These outcomes of life skills training enable the children to ensure their rights and live life in its fullest sense.

The present paper portrays the Loyola's intervention in the realm of child rights through life skills training. LiveLab, the life skills training centre of the college working among the children by addressing the developmental needs, challenges they are facing in the present context, their rights and responsibilities, life skills as prevention of child rights violation. Life skills' training is the tool for the LiveLab which complement the current education system which contributing the wellbeing, capacity building and over all development of children.

Child Rights and Child Friendly Practices in Two Grama Panchayath in Kerala

Geethanjali

Kerala faces many challenges in the child development sector nowadays. Malnutrition, social and health challenges including suicide, depression, substance abuse, alcoholism, stress etc are the common problems faced by Kerala society. Accordingly, a comprehensive approach for addressing the range of children's needs and issues is particularly relevant in Kerala. Integrated development of the children can only be achieved through standardization of services centres for children and local Govt led or community led initiatives.

The present study undertakes child centric activities and child development practices of two grama panchayath (Mala and Annamanada Grama Panchayath, Thrissur) in Kerala. The focal point of the study is to analyse the child development practices of grama

panchayath from a 'right' based perspective. (*based on the rights mentioned in the UN International Convention on Child Rights, 1989*). The study list out the child friendly activities of the pachayath and assess whether these activities had an impact on children. It throws light on the '*childrens grama sabha*' conducted in the grama panchayath analyses its link with participatory planning process of grama panchayath.

The researcher applied case study method to conduct the study. The experience of these panchayaths reveals that with expanded array of functions, funds and functionaries, the LSG can formulate and implement their own child development plans through grassroots participatory mechanisms and also allow them to go for policy changes that reflect the needs and concerns of children.

Ensuring Child Rights: A Prerequisite for Realizing Democracy

Archana Kaushik

Certain cultural norms and practices of the Indian social structure pose barriers in realizing child rights. The present paper traces the journey of ensuring rights of the children in the villages of Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh, India. The socio-cultural milieu of the area of intervention was largely characterized by discriminations based on caste and gender. In Varanasi, a village called Belwa, was divided into various ghettos. In the central part, lived the upper caste (Brahmin and Thakur) and in the periphery were lower caste groups collectively called the Dalits. The situational assessment of the village was done using child-rights framework such as documenting the number of children 'not immunized', 'not linked to Anganwadi Centres', out of school children, and locating reasons for the same. Adhering to the conceptual framework of UNCRC, detailed plan of intervention were chalked out based on violation of the rights of the child. The paper depicts the experiences gained so far.

Ensuring Women's Right: A Study of 'SPARSAM' in Kerala

Hameeda C. K.

In 2010, the Government of Kerala had launched the "Sustainable Poverty Alleviation and Reformation of the Seabelt Area of Marad" (SPARSAM) project aimed to generate employment opportunities for women in the strife-torn areas of Marad in Kozhikode. Nonetheless, within two years of the functioning of nationally acclaimed SPARSAM Project fizzled out due to paucity of funds, which caused lackadaisical maintenance of damaged equipment due to seaside corrosion. By bringing women from the two communities (Hindu and Muslim) to work at various industrial units under one roof not only ensured the rights to work and livelihood, but also brought communal harmony.

The present paper, we focused to analyze the objectives and implications

of the SPARSAM Project among the women of fishing community in Marad. The paper analyze on what factors added fuel to scuttle the project initially, and then made a demand to start it again. The study also focused whether SPARSAM like projects help to ensure the constitutionally bound rights like rights to work, food, and livelihood of the marginalized communities along with their civil and gender rights including the dignity of women. Thus the paper brings out an overall socio-economic and humanitarian aspects of the women in Marad fishing community. The study uses both ethnographic and project evaluation techniques to understand the length and breadth of the focused projects like SPARSAM.

Women's Leadership in Democracy: Realities and Rhetoric

Vijender Singh Beniwal

This paper depicts the impact of women's presence at grassroots governance in deepening democracy and development. Explicitly, the study strives to answer the following questions. Are women in India able to participate effectively in local governments? What problems do they face in politics? Does their participation bring any changes to local people?

The paper has utilized qualitative case studies in four districts (Fatehabad, Jind, Rohtak and Sonipat) of Haryana to appraise the impact of women's leadership in deepening democracy and development at local echelon. The enquiry reveals that despite the provision for reservation of one-third of seats in local governments, women

members are not able to participate effectively. Indisputably the reservation policy has created opportunities as well as social legitimacy for women to represent their issues, and thus strengthened their voice.

Female representatives are speaking out on hitherto neglected issues such as drinking water, education, health, domestic violence, child marriage and so on. In fact, in some cases women sarpanch have successfully challenged the orthodox tradition of ghunghat (veil) which is obligatory for every Haryanvi bahu (bride). As the 'ghunghat system' is not only hindering women's mobility but most importantly, it robs them of their identity as an individual.

Gender Equality and Education : An Exploratory Study

Praveen Kumar K

Women emancipation or equality is part of general development plans but Government action can neither be effective nor adequate unless women themselves become more aware of their rights and the corresponding responsibilities. But one would raise the question how can they aspire for equality either in the private or public sphere without education. Constitutional provisions which accentuate the right to live i.e. the insertion of Article 21A in the section which is prominently for right to live in the Indian constitution portray the necessity of education. But why did it take so long for the government to realise the significance of education. Freedom of speech and expression which form the basic rights of a human being cannot be fully put to use in the right sense, unless one is educated. The common perception of role of gender has been persistent enough over the

centuries without any significant reduction in the gender inequalities.

The present paper concentrates its analysis on how far education has played a substantial role in bridging the gap. Secondly is it entirely the responsibility of the State? Do the Parents have a significant role as well?

Significant primary and secondary data pertaining to the topic along with in-depth interviews have been conducted in order to strengthen the study. The recent scheme Beti Bachao Beti Padoo launched by the government clearly illustrates the importance of raising awareness about the gender equality and save the girl child from grave depravity.

More awareness has to brought among the parents that the child be it girl or boy has right to live, the most fundamental for every human being. In most of the drop out cases parental pressure has been identified as the major cause.

“Kerala Model of Development” A Gender Perspective

Thushara Roy

The paper attempt to highlight the problems relating to women empowerment. To what extent education has enhanced the status of women in Kerala? What is the true meaning of development? Is Kerala a desirable model to emulate? What is so much in quality of life, when a woman is deprived of basic freedoms? Where her dignity is at stake despite of being an earning member. In many cases, she is not a party to decision making. What is the value of literacy if it is not actualised into her freedom of speech and expression, her freedom to lead a dignified life. Ironically, she enhances her family's quality of life sacrificing her own life fulfilment.

The paper tries to showcase the irony, the contradiction persisting in the State

resorting to both Primary Data and Secondary Data. Primary Data is collected primarily through interviews with social welfare agencies, NGOs and Government officials. Secondary Data are collected from both Government and other sources. The paper tries to incorporate a few case studies in this context. It tries to evolve practical solutions for the problem that our State is confronted with, that would actualise the 'Instrumental Freedom' that the Kerala women have presently to 'Actual Freedom'-making Kerala, the true model. As is rightly said , Kerala needs a new contract between the state and its people to move ahead and build upon its enviable gains.

Women Rights and Struggles for Equality

Bharti Chhibber

The present paper examines how well the issues of gender rights are addressed at the level of local governance in India. In this context, the paper analyses women political rights in the form of 73rd Constitutional amendment and other critical programmes like *sarva shiksha abhiyan*, mainstreaming women in agriculture and health services.

The paper begins with a brief understanding of women rights which are violated in day-to-day life, in family, households and public domain. Violations of women human rights include violence against women whether in the form of bride burning, female foeticide, infanticide, child marriage, domestic violence and lack of

education. Most of the time women suffer in silence in a patriarchal society deprived of personal liberty and bound by rules made by so-called 'superior male'.

The paper further argues that with the 73rd Constitutional amendment, India moved towards a big change in institutional framework of governance. With 33 per cent reservation for women at the local level i.e. panchayats it was a new beginning for women empowerment and their political rights. Through the participation in politics, women are making use of power and resources to work for basic human rights including poverty reduction, water scarcity and education.

Gender Equality and Right to Work

Ashok Kumar Behera

The MGNREGA, 2005 is undoubtedly a remarkable initiative by the Government of India which provides a legal guarantee for one hundred days of employment in every financial year to adult members of any rural household willing to do public work related unskilled manual work at the statutory minimum wage as prescribed by the concerned State Governments subject to be modified from time to time. As a significant mandate of the MGNREGA, there is no discrimination between men and women.

Conducted in the Khordha district of Odisha, the study indicates a very poor status of women job card holders under the MGNREGS in relation to the provisions of the Act i.e. wage rates, payment pattern, participation of women in project planning, provision of basic facilities for women in the work

sites, grievance redressal mechanisms, etc. Although there has been enormous enthusiasm among women to exercise their right to work and right to employment, the role and contribution of key stake holders like the District Administration, DRDA and PRIs seems to be unimpressive mostly due to the factors like gender-bias, male-domination, socio-cultural taboos.

The study however finds the key issues and concerns and makes an attempt to provide policy-specific and programme-specific suggestions for better improvement of the MGNREGS, especially to ensure gender equality. The role and responsibility of PRIs including an effective 'Grama Sabha' to ensure women's participation in planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of MGNREGS projects, have been strongly emphasized in the study.

Ensuring the Rights of Women: A study of Chetanalaya

Lata Jayraaj

Women play a significant and crucial role in development of a country, and the nature and extent of women's involvement varies greatly. Women are vital resource in improving the quality of life, but at the same time, there is an unequal gender status that continues to subordinate and oppress women especially the poor and marginalized communities.

Self Help Group is one way to empower women and brings awareness to their rights and sustainable human development. Through SHGs, there is

just not an improvement in their economic status which enables them to spend more towards health and education but it brings awareness of their rights.

The intervention of women SHGs, in the recent past witnessed alleviating poverty through economic empowerment, enhancement of skills, knowledge, social for realizing equality.

The paper is on ensuring the Rights of Women and empowering them through Self Help Groups – A Analytical study of Chetanalaya.

Gender Rights and Sexual Offences Against Children

Sindhu Thulaseedharan

The child sex abuse exists in diverse forms as sexual offences. The objective of the paper is to analyse the limitations of legislations in evading sexual offences and in ensuring gender justice. The methodology adopted is analytical upon secondary data.

The study identified the fact that those occurrences of sexual violence and sex trafficking had resulted in every adverse physical, psychological and moral consequences for the victims, which were a denial of justice. It proposed for a strong preventive strategy starting from the grass-roots to the topmost. Further strategies for protection, rehabilitation and re-integration were also recommended. But the issue of sexual violence against children had not been prioritized by the governments in an effective manner.

Social attitudes, perception and lack of acceptance of victims have resulted in victims being further victimized. The gender injustice is seen reflected through the poor rate of conviction of perpetrators. A proper Gender Sensitization and Awareness Campaigns need to be implemented by LSGs through departmental convergences and through implementing centrally sponsored schemes like Integrated Child Protection Schemes (ICPS). The LSGs can also intervene to bring in effective prosecution for punishing the offenders. The legal reforms shall be oriented towards ensuring gender justice through including in law adequate provisions for building a strong case against the perpetrators.

“Maternal Allowance” Programme and the Role of Union Parishad: Bangladesh

*Shaikh Shahriar Mohammad &
Sarawat Rashid*

Union Parishad is the lowest tier of Local Government system in Bangladesh. Since 2007, Union Parishads implementing Maternity Allowance Programme (MAP) all over the Bangladesh to achieve Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) for reducing child and maternal mortality. This is a countrywide programme and currently covering districts. The main purpose of MAP, as envisioned in the policy document, is to improve nutritional status of women during pregnancy, and after delivery especially poor women without any regular source of household income.

The objectives of the study are to: i) review the targeting and selection process of the poor mothers or beneficiaries, and ii) assess the disbursement process of maternal allowance programme. To attain the objectives, the study applied three track

methodology: i) analysis of available statistics on programme content, allocations and coverage; ii) household and community level survey to examine the targeting, selection and disbursement process of the MAP at the beneficiary level; and iii) in-depth interviews with service providers and local government representatives and administrators (UP Chairman/member, Upazila level government officials etc) to identify grassroots/policy level linkages and voids.

The present paper is based on both primary and secondary data; primary data were collected in each seven Divisions across the country. In each Division, the sampling frame was comprised one District, two Upazilas and four Unions. Thus, 04 Unions from each Division and a total of 28 Unions from seven Divisions were selected for this study.

After analyzing the findings; the study suggested that database of the pregnant women in every Union should be prepared, and then priority-based selection can be made. After listing pregnant women, at a given point in time, beneficiaries can be selected through lottery system. The number of cards should be considered based on extent of disadvantaged area and type of diversity of groups (e.g., islands, cluster village, single or sick destitute mother). In conclusion it may says that selection procedure should be free from any political influence and for this local elites/ civil society members can be involved in the selection process of the beneficiaries.

Women Component Plan: A Study on Selected Panchayats

Layana Aanand

The present paper is an attempt to review the Women Component Plan in the selected panchayats of Malappuram district. For this 10 panchayats were randomly selected. Women Component Plan for the financial year 2012-13 were analysed. Along with that one member of each panchayat whom is in charge of WCP projects were also interviewed. The impact of Women Component Plan in the lives of women in each panchayat were also analysed in detail.

The result of the study shows that need identification were not done before framing projects for WCP. 90 per cent of the projects were focused on practical gender needs. The funds under the WCP in majority of local bodies are mostly divided among the SHG's. Most of the gender related projects are in the form of conventional women development programmes. Large

amounts earmarked for anganawadi building, feeding, honorarium, children's festivals etc.

Difficulty in formulating projects that addressed the social status of women-data from studies and resource maps not linked to plan preparation. Major limitations identified in implementing WCP projects were as follows: Absence of a gender framework for project planning, budgeting auditing and evaluation of the plan. Limiting the concept of women's development concerns into the pigeon hole of the self help group and by extension the Kudumbasree was one of the major strategies adopted by panchayat. Plan preparation and Budget preparation are done by different groups and no joint activity. WCP is considered to be the concern only of the women elected representatives.

Local Governance in Women Empowerment: An Analytical Overview

Majid Ahmad Masoodi

Every section of women being more vulnerable to multiple forms of violence such as sexual, physical and emotional abuse, the issue has become the subject matter of various socio-cultural circles. In the absence of any comprehensive and clear cut legislation, the women community today find themselves at the loggerheads and totally victimized at the cruel hands of deviant male community.

This paper aims at investigating the role of local governing bodies in terms of tackling the issue keenly. The present study is an attempt to assess the outreach and impact of local governance focused to women in particular and on certain public sectors in general. This article analyzes the outdoor participation potential of women; the process of women's empowerment; and the interrelationships

of women participation, empowerment, gender equality and their functional dependency on age, education and income and the role of local governance in terms of women empowerment.

The present study was initiated with the objective to study the changing role of local governing bodies for the welfare and empowerment of marginalized sections in general and women in particular in Kashmiri society in the present scenario. With the inception of Panchayat Raj institution in 1950s there has been a paradigm shift in the governing processes in the whole sub continent.

This paper is an attempt to sociologically analyse shift from general upliftment to women empowerment for which Panchayat Raj has laid a mile stone all across in the rural India in general and in Kashmir in particular. Systematic

interview and observation are used to understand the basic social realities pertaining to the issue under evaluation. Finally an attempt will be made to through light on the obstacles which are hindering women participation in decentralized and decision making processes.

Discourse of Gender in Neoliberal Politics

Zahoor Ahmad Wani

This paper would critically dissect how and why neoliberal discourses are gendered (but also sexually configured) through historically and diverse specific conventions and rules. How gender is made intelligible in order to better serve neoliberal ideals of marketisation. The study would apply a “gender lens” to the analysis of political and policy processes and, by deploying the insights gained from feminist theory. Also, it provides a gendered account of the ways in which liberal rights, and ideas of democracy and justice, have been absorbed into the political agendas of women’s movements and states.

The issue of gender is automatically a political issue. Because, it involves the unequal distribution of resources

between the two genders, arising out of male domination of the political system which allows men to allocate to women the heavier burden of labour and the more menial tasks, but to men more leisure and the larger share of rewards and benefits. Gender is not something that is inside a pre-existent essence, waiting to find bodily expression. There is no inner truth, awaiting authentic or proper realization in bodily or material acts. In the context of increasing hegemony of neoliberal ideology, states are shrinking their developmental budgets, seeking new ways to economize and gender policies are of course implicated of these changes. How does gender affect political understanding?

Gender Inequality in Taxation: Is it a Violation of Women's Right ?

Chandini S Gopi

Fiscal policy including taxation has a prominent role in mobilization of resource in Kerala. It is the foundation upon which a State can develop and prosper. Over the decades, many countries have embarked on extensive reforms of their tax systems, with some achieving lasting improvements and others managing only short-term or transitional improvements that are gradually undone. To date, however, neither the tax literature nor public debates have adequately addressed how gender-based differences in behavior affect tax equity considerations and outcomes. The main objective of this paper is to find out the violation of women's right in taxation. The principle of gender equality in taxation has been continuously violated. The principle of gender equality is actually enshrined in

the Indian Constitution in its Preamble, Fundamental Rights, Fundamental Duties and Directive Principles. The Constitution not only grants equality to women, but also empowers the State to adopt measures of positive discrimination in favor of women. So, considering revenue collection and taxation as a strategy in work for women's rights and poverty alleviation is important for several reasons.

The way the government raises revenues have a different impact on women and men. From the analysis it can be concluded that in taxation there exists clear cut violation of women's right that is violation of the principle of gender equality. This paper is concentrating on the gender inequality of taxation that is, the violation of women's right in Taxation in Kerala.

Gender Rights Participation: A Study From Ernakulam District

Namitha Mohan

Empowerment denotes reorientation of all the existing external forces, values, beliefs, etc. so that they can support and liberate the person who is under subjugation. Empowerment could be playing role in the sense that the governmental support is extended to the voluntary sector as well as in the fields of implementation and policy formulation. Existing power relations that place them subordinate economic, social and political positions. The equal participation of men and women in decision making have been identified as an important prerequisite for attaining equality through democratic means and leading to fair and transparent governance and to the development of the masses.

The objective of this study is that to give a conceptual framework to locate and explore whether a quantitative rise in the representation of women in decision

making bodies and political arena can transform in to qualitative changes in the social status of women as a community. The study mainly based on the elected women representatives in local governance in Ernakulam district in Kerala.

The study also investigates on what all ways this women representation in the decision making bodies make an impact on local people and also emphasized on the areas of women empowerment, local government, service delivery, gender balancing and sustainable development at the local level. Major findings of which came out from the study is that the reservation of women in the local bodies can be an important driving force to women's empowerment in Indian scenario but at the same time it is also not guaranteed the idea of freedom in its broader sense.

Gender Right and Local Government: A Bangladesh perspective

Sayeedul Huq

Throughout the developing world, women not only constitute half of the rural population they hold the majority among the rural poor. Burden of poverty falls most heavily on women. In poor households, they bear more of the workload than men, have less education and lower health and nutritional status and are confined to less remunerative activities. Women face all manners of cultural, social and legal and economic obstacles than the poor men. They typically work longer hours and for lower wages. In many developing countries, the rural female-headed households are the poorest of the poor. The present paper discusses this with the name of Bangladesh. Historical method is used to write this paper. Data is collected from secondary sources like books and journals. There will be an analysis of relevant legal

documents like act, rules, regulations and executive orders of the government to supplement these facts.

This is to be mentioned here that there was no provision of voting right for the women in these acts. After the partition in 1947, the East Bengal government brought about some significant changes in several laws relating to local bodies in the province. The amendment in 1957, brought some major changes, among these, one significant change was every adult person of the age of 21 years and above was entitled to be a voter. After this change the women of the country got the opportunity to elect a representative. In course of time, there were many changes in the local government laws. At present, there is a provision of reserve seats for the women at different tier of local government of Bangladesh.

Local Governments and Livelihoods Rights in the PESA Regions

M. Gopinath Reddy

The passing of 73rd and 74th Constitutional Amendment Act in 1993 and the passing of Panchayat Extension to Scheduled Areas Act (in 1998) were hall mark legislations in post Independent India aimed at strengthening local democratic regimes both in scheduled and Non-Scheduled areas. There are nine states in the country where PESA is in operation. PESA Act has far-reaching impact on the livelihoods of the tribal and adivasi communities.

This paper looks at the working of PESA in the Scheduled Areas of AP & Telangana in ensuring livelihood rights to adivasi communities and also protection of their cultural and religious rights. The erstwhile AP State, even though passed PESA Act in 1998, brought the Rules of the Act after a gap of 15 years. Whatever the limited experience of the PESA in its operation, will be the scope of this paper. Further

the paper also brings out the other dimensions of natural resource governance by the involvement of panchayat's in scheduled areas.

PESA is intended to protect adivasi rights, in particular their livelihood rights over minor Forest Produce / NTFP and other forests rights through strengthening the institution of Gram Sabha. This is unique feature of PESA regime unlike in non-scheduled areas where the institution of Gram Panchayat is given precedence over gram sabha in most of the states. It is proven fact gram sabha are rarely that functional in non scheduled areas. On the contrary in the PESA region the pre-eminent role of the gram sabha in ensuring livelihood rights to tribal communities is well established by the provisions of the Act. PESA Act in conjunction with Forest Right Act-2006 become formidable instruments in the hands of tribal people living in tribal and forested land scopes to protect their rights.

Rural Livelihood Programme and Engagement of CBO's

Bharat Dasharath Khandagale

Right to live being guaranteed in any civilized society implies the right to food, water, decent environment, education, medical care and shelter. The word 'life' as employed by Article 21 takes in its sweep not only the concept of mere physical existence but also all finer values of life including the right to work and right to livelihood. This right is a fundamental right guaranteed to all persons residing in India, citizens and non-citizens alike. Right to life including right to livelihood and work as guaranteed by Article 21 is not reduced to a mere paper platitude but is kept alive, vibrant and pulsating so that the country can effectively march towards the avowed goal of establishment of an egalitarian society as envisaged by the founding fathers while enacting the Constitution of India along with its Preamble.

The present paper is based on case studies of the selected villages of Jalgaon

district of North Maharashtra where performance of CBO's are accountable in MSRLM. The objective of the study is to discuss the role and engagement of CBO's in livelihood generation at village level. Results of study is capacity building of CBO's lead to social mobilization and building strong institutions which develop sensitive support structure for livelihood initiatives. It improve inclusion of the poorest, and transparency and accountability of all processes and institutions.

Every person have right to achieve livelihood with dignity and state should have to provide such opportunity. National Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM) is one of the initiatives of government to reduce poverty by enabling the poor households to access gainful self-employment and skilled wage employment opportunities, resulting in appreciable improvement

in their livelihoods on a sustainable basis, through building strong grassroots institutions of the poor. To ensure all there is need of quality governance and institutions, these are the vehicles with which societies realize their aspirations. The participation of local institutions and community is very important to implement and sustain every programme.

Handicrafts As an Option for Tribal Livelihood: A Study in Jharkhand

Bhuwan Bhaskar

The Ministry of Textiles, Govt. of India is implementing Baba Saheb Ambedkar Hastshilp Vikas Yojna (AHVY), a flagship scheme since 2001-02 with an objective of need-based integrated development of potential handicrafts clusters across the country with a focus on empowerment and sustainability of artisans owned community managed livelihood enterprises through interventions support like design, technology, credit and marketing. As per the policy, the scheme is also implemented in the state of Jharkhand for the promotion and development of handicrafts as a source of sustainable livelihoods for artisan community as a whole and tribal community in particular.

This paper is based on a field study conducted to study the performance of AHVY cluster in Pakur, a tribal dominated and left-wing extremist

affected district of Jharkhand. The present study focuses on, firstly, the impact achieved for the inclusive social-economic development of the tribal artisans through promotion of community managed craft enterprises, secondly, to identify the critical gaps in implementing the scheme in order to suggest appropriate mechanism to correct the deviation in planning and management of the cluster, and, finally, the role played by the local panchayat in effective implementation and monitoring of delivery mechanism of the scheme in the study area.

The 12th Five Year Plan's vision for the handicraft sector includes creation of globally competitive handicrafts and provision of sustainable livelihood opportunities to the artisans through innovative product designs, better product quality & use of technology

while preserving traditional art. The handicraft industry embodies the traditional wisdom and rich cultural heritage of India demonstrated by over seven million artisans, majority of whom are from poor and marginalized sections of society. It is an unorganized, decentralized, labour intensive cottage industry with unlimited potentials and ample opportunity for self-employment and income generation activities in non-farm sector.

Jhum Cultivation and Livelihood Rights - A Study from Arunachal Pradesh

Sukamal Deb

Jhum cultivation is in sheer conflict to the principles of sustainable development. The critical perspective is that debarring them from the practice of Jhum cultivation otherwise is a betrayal to their livelihood rights as so far it is life sustaining activity to them. The paper will try to bring out a policy prescription with appropriate option to the Jhum practice thereby drawing a balance in between these two conflicting issues.

The study will be with reference to the State of Arunachal Pradesh in particular. The sources of data are secondary, which were obtained from various journals, reports and websites. The data obtained are processed, interpreted and analyzed through numerical calculations and graphically.

Arunachal Pradesh is one of the 25 “Bio-diversity Hotspots” in the world with 83,743 sq km area (2.5% India’s geographical area) and a population of 13, 82,611 (0.11 per cent of the population of India) .But 65.20 % of them are in the BPL category. The four fifths of the State are covered by forests - evergreen and semi-evergreen constitute 69% of the geographic area. There are innovative ways by which the Jhumias can be diverted from this practice, maintaining an ecological balance, yet their livelihood rights will not get defeated. The paper attempts to bring out a realistic approach, innovative ideas, rural entrepreneurship that may be handy to the lawmakers in framing people-centred policies.

Livelihood in the Margins: Migration and Disenfranchisement

Nidhi Prabha

Seasonal and circular migration of labour for employment has become one of the most durable components of the livelihood strategies of people living in rural areas. Migration is not just by the very poor during times of crisis for survival and coping but has increasingly become an accumulative option for the poor and non-poor alike.

In the paper the hunch would be to look at the question of Migration from a Rights-based approach, and argue that the livelihood of the migrants is largely quarantined. The methodology would

be a mixed one, and would like to base on arguments both on empirical data as well as secondary resources.

The central argument in the paper would be that Migrants constitute one of the most marginalized section in the cities and it is in the peripheries of the city that they lead a highly disenfranchised life and therefore any discussion on deepening democracy needs to include a vibrant consideration on the existence of these near no-rights-bearing citizens and therefore disenfranchised.

The Right to Livelihood of farmers: A case study from Odisha

Chitta Ranjan Mishra

Since the independence, it has been initiating various developmental projects across the country. In the name of economic development, it is facilitating the several private companies to establish their projects at the cost of the poor people. Many fertile lands have been transforming into the non agricultural purposes, which are the lifeblood for the poor farmers.

This paper is going to critically examine the current notion of development and try to reveal how this model violate the right to livelihood of the farmers in India with reference to Odisha.

Due to the establishment of the various developmental projects, people are displaced from their native place and become more marginalized. They lose their right to live and right to livelihood. In the process, many farmers have been displaced from their own land, which is like lifeblood for the them.

In the name of development many people are sacrificing their source of livelihood. This model is responsible for the crisis in the life of poor people. Therefore, the exiting model of development encourages discrimination, inequality and violates the rights of the people.

Fruit Cultivation in Kashmir Valley: Prospects and Status

Shahnaaz Rather

Jammu and Kashmir economy depends mostly on traditional forms of occupation. The state is affected by continued violence and insurgency, and backward private sector. Therefore the economic activities like farming, animal husbandry and horticulture form the backbone of the economy. Majority of population (80 per cent) live in rural areas whose main occupation is agriculture. Stagnant growth and less commercial avenues in agriculture sector, fruit cultivation has become a viable option to farmers for crop diversification.

The study highlights the trends and patterns in major fruits with regard to production and exports from the state, impact of fruit cultivation on socio-economic conditions of the people involved directly or indirectly in fruit cultivation.

Kashmir valley has suitable climatic conditions and occupies the major portion of the total area under fruit cultivation in the state. During the last decade or so the diversification towards to the cultivation of high value horticulture fruits has taken place at large scale. Fruit cultivation in Kashmir valley has great potential and status in terms of its contribution to state's Domestic Product and providing employment opportunities to the people on large scale. Among total contribution to Gross State Domestic Product from the agriculture about 7 to 8 per cent is contributed by the horticulture sector. Horticulture crops provide food and nutritional security, generate employment from various angles, and provide raw materials for agro-processing industries.

Farmer's Financial Rights: Role of Local Self Governments

Faisal .C

The improvement in human well being, is central to all human rights. It is true that many marginalized farmers in India are borne with debt and die with that debt. We need a better system to address that issue than giving blanket loan waivers.

Many farmers are not aware about the basic financial rights. As an organization working at the lower level of democracy a local government institution can create awareness among farmers in basic financial rights. Which may result in the magic of inclusion of excluded marginalized groups and make financial progress. The objective of the study here is to analyse methods to create financial right awareness among farmers and to understand role of local governing institution in addressing financial rights of a farmer

Data collected for this study is through newspapers, magazines and interview with farmers and elected local government members. The basic financial rights include:

- Rights to get debt and credit facility from organized institutions
- Rights to get advice from a financial counsellor
- Right to create self help group
- Rights to get crop insurance
- Right to get protection from financial hazards due to natural calamities etc.

To achieve above rights a local government institution can perform a better role. This study tries to analyse roles that can be performed by a local government institution to change the present financial status of farmers.

Right to Forest and Livelihood: Study among Tribal Women, West Bengal

Sujit Kumar Paul & Anindita Gupta

Forest plays an important role in environmental stability and contributes significantly to the process of economic development. The Sustainable Livelihoods approach favoured by DFID defines livelihoods as 'the capabilities, assets and activities required for a means of living'.

The present study reveals the extent of dependency of the Santal of this region on forest as well as the range of economic benefits received by the women-folk from the same. It can be undoubtedly concluded that we get a very significant view in Ramnagar village where the tribal women make sincere efforts of economic upgradation

through the activities of JFM succeeding to possess a better standard of living along with conservation of the forest.

The livelihood pattern of the population throws a searching light on the economic and social life of the area. Livelihood means "the occupation that generates income". Tribal population constitutes a considerable percentage in our country. Forest is an integrated part for the survival of the tribal. The social, economic as well as the cultural life of the tribal revolves round the forest. The active involvement of rural and tribal people living in and around forest is crucial for the ultimate success of forest protection, regeneration, development and management.

Right to Livelihood: A Study of Beggars in Aurangabad, Maharashtra

Mukhtar Shaikh

The objective of this study is to find out socio-economic profile of beggars, to explore whether they are aware of and have access to various government schemes designed for them. The study would also analyze and assess various rehabilitation schemes implemented by local government administration for this marginalized community.

The present field study was conducted on primary data of one hundred beggars, using random sampling method, in Aurangabad City of Maharashtra state in India. Interview and observation tools were used. The interview has been conducted at Central Bus Stand, Gajanan Maharaj Temple, Jama Masjid & Aurangabad Railway Station of Aurangabad city. The present study is based on secondary data and information collected from the variety of sources like books, newspaper, articles, websites etc.

It has been found that right to livelihood to this section has been continuously denied and they are always humiliated by the society. They use to capitalize their disability and religious sentiments of the other people. Local governments are not serious towards their right to food, right to shelter and specially right to health. The schemes such as Shraavanbal Yojana, common orphanages, old age homes, and shelter homes are established by the government, but are not operational as per standards and in adequate in number.

The rehabilitation and livelihood should be provided to these people through proper policy implementation. Provision of the education of these children is required on the large scale. And special measurements have to be work out for female beggars.

Impact of MGNREGA on employment, livelihood and social asset

Sheeraz Ahmad Alaie

The objective of this paper is to understand the impact of NREGA scheme over various socio-economic features like employment, sustainable livelihood and social ness creativity within the individuals. It will attempt to find out whether such policies and schemes favours in sustaining livelihood and result in changing the social behaviour of individuals and societies involved in working in the scheme. What is the role of such schemes on gender perspective of the country whether their exist equity or not? Women in rural areas are not so much literate as compared to urban area; the simple source of income for them is to work as labour, mostly as unskilled one. It is necessary that the work should be gender wise as per the technological determinism with every field.

India being one of the huge populous countries in world needs to provide

livelihood for all the people to survive, as the human capital determines the development of a nation. Everyone wants to be economically and socially good, civic engagement, and health and psychological well-being. But it is limited to a few people as per the income is considered. NREGA as one of the schemes in India has aimed to carry out such processes in which most of the unemployed persons get engaged to get income. The linkages between the rural people and government bodies acting formally are mostly weak. Hence, it needs strengthening of rural governance through greater transparency and accountability. In the research paper the work based is qualitative type in which secondary literature has been used to conceptualize the employment process of NREGA within the context of socio-economic features.

Tourism and Local Biocultural Resources: A Village Study From Kerala

Sabitha C.V.

The purpose of this paper is to illustrate the features and linkages of rural tourism and local bio cultural resource management for sustainable local livelihoods in Kumbalangi Village. The local bio cultural resource based livelihood practices, which constitutes basic village tourism factors such as back water tourism, agro tourism, aquaculture and fish farming, home stays, performing arts, traditional cultivation, migratory birds, gastronomic lights etc. underlines the features of the linkages between rural tourism and bio cultural resources management of resources for sustainable livelihood.

To meet the objectives of this study, methods of qualitative data collection and analysis were designed under the conditions of rural tourism activities in

the studied area. Secondary data related to the background of Kumbalangi village tourism promotion was collected from local government officials. Primary data was collected from key informants and villagers whom were interviewed about the roles of rural tourism in bio cultural resource management and sustainable livelihood.

The case study also records the rural tourism management practices, such as organic farming, home based biogas plants, mangrove restoration practices, aquaculture practices etc, as an adoption of integrating bio cultural values with addressing the constraints in biodiversity, ecology, environmental and conservation practices in Kumbalangi rural tourism.

Discourses on Development: Inclusion, Participation, and Empowerment

Shailesh Yadav

The objectives of this paper is to understand the functioning, accountability, and transparency of local self governance in U.P. through focusing on strategies used in inclusion, participation, and empowerment of rural poor. Through this paper the author would like to bring the unethical and unprofessional practices of grass-root organisations (local self-governance institutions) in inclusion, participation and empowerment. This study is based on observations, interviews and focus group discussions of author for more than one and a half year in western part of U. P.

The terms 'inclusion', 'participation', 'empowerment', and social transformation are very common in the documents of organizations(CBO's/ NGOs) of development sector. Now,

government has also adopted this 'jumla' since the UPA regime and it is echoing in this Modi's regime too. The local fixers are determining inclusive approach of local self governance institutions. The 'error of inclusion' and 'error of exclusion' is very common in procedure of selection of APL/BPL families, housing policies as well as other social welfare schemes.

Inclusion is an opportunity for people to participate. Participation has multiple dimensions. The author sees participation from the social work perspective as the process of empowerment that enables the powerless and voiceless to gain power and voice; where social change, liberty, and empowerment for well-being are the central theme of discipline based on the premises of social justice and human

rights. The result of this study is opposite to the objective of institutions. It is witnessed that local self governance institutions are elected through the democracy but their way of functioning, is devastating to democracy. As a result of which local self-governance institutions are nothing more than the hub of corruption in the views of marginalized and vulnerable people of society.

Local Governance and Livelihood: The case of bamboo weavers

Madhu Narayanan

Bamboo basket weavers are one of significant traditional occupational communities in Kerala. Basket weaving is an occupation based on natural resources, thus it is interface with the aspects of social ecology. The traditional bamboo basket weavers are belonging to the Scheduled caste. They are distributed to all Panchayats of Thrissur district of Kerala. They have been depending on local forest for bamboo as their raw material. Due to the enactment of various forests laws and subsequent interventions made by various social agencies including Kerala State Bamboo Corporation, the bamboo based livelihood of traditional weavers has changed. To overcome many of "livelihood crises" the community have attempted many strategies, such as formation of co operatives, interlinking with allied industries such as betel leaf exporting trade etcetera. Under this background

this study looks into the interaction between a Local Government and occupational community at various levels in the context of right to livelihood.

The objectives of the study are to a) Understand the relationship between local government and traditional occupational community in addressing issues of livelihood. b) Describe the emic-view of the traditional occupational community on local government and livelihood initiatives. c) Inquire whether the traditional occupational community were able to get the local government evolved programmes for preserving their interests as 'development' programmes.

The study is a qualitative in-depth anthropological inquiry using an ethnographic approach. Quantitative data based on primary and secondary surveys have been used for explanatory

purpose. In the study, one of the Panchayaths in Thalapilly Taluk of Thrissur district in Kerala is selected as the base locale of investigation. The study is based on applied anthropological analysis, tools were such as inductive approach used for explaining the complexities of simple home based occupation. It is also scrutinise ramification characteristic of local development process.

The study reveals that the traditional occupational community is excluded

from the chain of natural resources as the primary, local producers. It is also shed lights on the paucity of technological adaptation with 'market' interventions at local-global level. The study also significantly exploring that the possible meeting point between local government and the need of traditional occupational communities. It is also urges for a 'policy on traditional occupation' at local government level which is sustainable in the context of decentralized governance.

Community rights over Common property in India: Issues and challenges

Abhilash Babu

Common Property Resources are usually non-exclusive resources to which rights of use are distributed among a number of co-owners, generally identified by their membership in a community or a village. In the context of Indian villages, common property resources include community forests, common grazing grounds, tanks and their beds, foreshores, threshing grounds, rivers and riverbeds, where well-defined property regime may not exist. Common property resources are those resources which are accessible to the whole community or village and to which no individual has exclusive ownership or property rights. The common property resources can be subjected to individual use but no individual can claim ownership over them as it is used by a number of stakeholders who have their own

independent right to use. In the pre-British India, a large part of the country's natural resources was freely available to the rural population. These resources were largely under the control of the local communities. Gradually, the extension of state control over these resources resulted in decay of the community management system and in this process, the common property resources available to the villagers declined substantially over the years. Nevertheless, it has been widely recognised and agreed upon that common property resources still play an important role in the life and economy of the rural population.

The present paper to explore the traditional common property rights in India in the post independence period. It looks in to the community rights over common property and its conflicts with the existing legal and policy frame work.

Coastal Pollution and Responsibility of LSGs : A Study on Thalankara Coastal Area, Kerala

Renjith K.R

We must secure the coastal environment to protect the sea and save the unique ecosystem. In the case of securing coastal environment, the local self-governments can play a decisive role to the effective implementation of waste management system. So the present paper tries to examine the coastal pollution of Thalankara region, effects of the pollution to the sea and the role of local self governments to reduce it.

The objectives include:

1. To study about the reasons coastal pollution
2. To observe the situation of coastal pollution in Thalankara area of Kasaragod

3. To find out the solution to reduce the pollution and save our seas
4. To examine the role of local self-governments to protect the local environment in Thalankara region

The study will be analytical and used quantitative as well as qualitative data. The data will be collected from primary and secondary sources. Analysis of government reports, publications, will be useful for this study.

Hence the paper argues for to reduce the pollution through an effective waste management system by Local Self Government Institutions can safeguard coastal areas of Kerala.

Effects of Climate Change on Women and Children in Urban Kerala

Shilujas M

It is well evidenced in climate change discourses that those who are most at risk of environmental decay include marginalized populations due to geography, age and gender. Different manifestations of climate change increase challenges to women's and children's health and survival. There are more chances for additional vulnerability on women and children. They are suffering largely, from problems such as diarrhea, under nutrition, malaria, poor health and from the harmful effects of extreme weather events, including floods or drought in developing country like India.

This present paper explains in detail on the major rights and livelihood-related impacts of climate change on women and children in urban Kerala on the basis of existing environmental laws and Acts. To analyse the role of local governments in adaptation and

mitigation measures favorable to women and children of urban Kerala. It is an attempt to summarize how far their basic human and environmental rights are undermined in the planning implementation process.

The present study concentrating 6 municipalities of Malabar region as its field of study. Interview method is used for gleaning primary data and Municipal Laws and Acts and other documents including news reports and articles are used for the secondary data.

While women and children have made comparatively small contributions to global warming, they bear the brunt of the health effects of climate change. Among these groups, pregnant and lactating women and children will be particularly vulnerable. Efforts to prevent, mitigate and address the effects of climate change should therefore

include integrated action plan to address these ill-effects on women and children. Better and sustained funding of women's and children's health is essential to protect them from the negative effects of climate change. Women and children must be able to participate in climate change mitigation and adaptation strategies at the national and local level.

Role of Panchayati Raj Institutions in Environmental Decision Making

S. Sureshkumar

Environmental rights and human rights are inseparable concepts centring around social, political, economic and environmental entitlements of the people. The 20th century has witnessed a host of activities at the local level to sensitize the impact of water and atmospheric pollution on health and economic activities. A consensus has been building up on ensuing impacts of climate change at global level, especially after the publication of the assessment reports by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). This necessitated a horizontal shift to include the environmental rights in the basic tenets of human rights framework. In a democratic set up, the enforcement of

environmental rights could be achieved through the enactment of appropriate laws and its enforcement at local level. The enforcement at local level becomes a bone of contention as the global environmental pollution is the resultant of activities at local level.

This paper is attempting to examine the effectiveness of 73rd and 74th Constitutional amendments in exercising environmental governance and to ensure the implementation of environmental rights, at the Gram Panchayat level. The existing environmental laws and the functions of the existing environmental enforcement agencies are also examined in this regard.

Constitution and Environment in Relation to Sustainable Development: A Capabilities-Based Assessment

Alluri Venkata Nagavarma

This Paper considers India's uneven development across the rural urban axis through the lens of the capabilities framework developed by Amartya Sen and Martha Nussbaum. The capabilities approach argues for universal human rights based on recognition of each human being "as an agent and an end" and calls for a "threshold level of each capability" below which citizens are not truly functioning as humans. Nussbaum also refers to equality as an aspect of capabilities, linking it in particular to dignity and seeing it as a salient concern in relation to core socioeconomic rights, such as those to health care and education.

In using a capabilities frame for assessing India's approach to rural development, this paper attends particularly to the life, bodily health, and education capabilities, arguing that India should aspire to a degree of parity across the

rural-urban axis in providing these foundational capabilities. Further, the research Article analogizes reality to disability and gender as a crucial characteristic to which government should attend in programming to meet the needs of rural citizens. The Article also considers briefly the potential of the Indian Constitution to mitigate distributive inequities associated with government's relative neglect of rural populations.

Finally, the research Article discusses what is at stake for India and the rest of Asia in staking out a path of sustainable development that explicitly considers the rural-urban axis. This path should move beyond the parallel tracks of urban planning and rural development so that development and planning go hand in hand along the rural-urban continuum and across the nation.

Protest Movements and Livelihood: A Study of UAIL Project in Odisha

Geetanjali Naik

The environmental movement in India involves wide ranging issues. These relate to production, extraction, ownership and control of natural resources. Unlike in the west, a significant characteristic of environmental movements in India is that they have mainly involved the women, the poor and disadvantaged masses who have been directly affected by or are victims of environmental degradation.

Objectives of the study are :To evaluate the role of people's agitation against Alumina plants which lead to the Environmental degradation and protest movement against it and the impact of state interventions on the livelihood base and structure of both PAP/DP.

Since it is a complex phenomenon and to understand the process we have to

study multiple sources. To achieve the larger objectives, the study will be based on both primary and secondary sources. Primary or firsthand data will be based on the fieldwork in those villages from where people have participated in the movement against UAIL. The secondary sources include available literature related to the problem, in various books, journals on development policy and resettlement of affected people etc. Apart from this, in order to assess the movement, a case study method will be adopted.

The raw data collected from the study will be classified into different sections. Depend upon the nature of the data (qualitative or quantitative) I will use descriptive statistics and content analysis. Like semi structured/ unstructured interview, may give both qualitative and quantitative data type,

for focused group discussion its mostly qualitative data. So, for quantitative data will be followed by descriptive statistic and for qualitative data its content analysis or narrative explanation's.

The reality in Kashipur, Rayagada District in Orissa where the people's dependence on the environment understood as land, forests, biodiversity, water resources and knowledge

systems is very high, so is their level of education but investment in employment generation in the secondary sector is low. The purpose of the present research is to study about tribal struggle against mining industry and their major concern about the land, water, and forests (Jal, Jamin, Jangal, Jantu and Jan) and all the natural resources of the locality, which is the only source of their livelihood.

Right to Environment: A study of Residents Living near the Garbage Dumping Site, Tiruchirappalli, Tamilnadu

K. ChitraVelSankari & R. Rajendran

The present study examines the environmental issues faced by the residents of Ariyamangalam area of Tiruchirappalli City Municipal Corporation. This five decade old composite dumping yard sprawls in about 47 acres on the national high way which connects central and eastern Tamilnadu. Tiruchirappalli City Municipal Corporation dumps about 400 tonnes of solid waste at Ariyamangalam garbage yard every day. Present study is conducted with the following specific objectives: to understand the major health hazards faced by the residents of Ariyamangalam, a waste dumping site of Tiruchirappalli City Municipal Corporation of Tamilnadu; to observe the level of recognition by the residents

on air, water and soil pollution created by the dumping site; to examine the level of understanding on right to environment by the residents of the affected area; and to examine the degree and variability in exercising the right to environment by the residents in terms of recognition of their rights, seeking information, supporting the voices raised for them and participating in decision-making.

A survey is conducted among 140 randomly selected residents who are living near by the dumping site. Collected data are analysed with appropriate statistical tools in order to find solution for the environmental problems through enhancing the awareness and exercising right to environment by the stakeholders.

Environmental Rights in the Western Ghats: A Study on Local Governments and Communities

Huchhe Gowda & Nisha J

The present study analyze associations between attitudes toward state controlled forests (Reserved Forests) and (i) To study the Socio Economic conditions of local communities in Western Ghats. (ii) To evaluate the local government and community attitudes towards the forest preservation in the Study area (iii) To examine the awareness about the Forest Right Act and World heritage sites tag in the Western Ghats region in Karnataka. We collect information with a structured questionnaire among villagers living under three different land tenure and management regimes: (1) Reserved forest (2) National Parks and (3) Private Coffee Plantations, and other regions in the Western Ghats of Karnataka.

This study is largely based on primary data, along with some amount of secondary data. The study proposes to use SPSS for data analysis. Data will be

analysed using mainly Descriptive Statistics Regression Analysis using both quantitative and qualitative Variables. People and local government participation has to be recognized as an effective method of forest conservation as the government policy has failed to conserve forest resources. Further conservation of forest needs to be linked with meeting the basic needs of local government and communities. Therefore, new policy initiatives for conservation of forests need to be undertaken to address deforestation and environmental degradation. These emerging issues have necessitated a careful research for clear understanding and articulation and to find some suitable measures. Therefore, the present study examines the interface between forests, environment and local government along with community in the context of Western Ghats region in Karnataka.

Concerns of Enabling Environment for Women Panchayat Leader in Bihar

Kirti Arya

The present paper explores the theoretical insights from 'politics of presence' and their interrelationship with key concepts of participation and local democracy with special reference to Women in Panchayati Raj Institutions of Bihar. It also aims to investigate the issues related to historical underlines of Panchayati Raj Institution in Bihar alongside the socio – economic backwardness and attempts for social change in the state. The paper derives its arguments and builds upon its inferences on Secondary data primarily. The arguments comprise qualitative as well as quantitative secondary data on the subject under study. The data used in this review has also been taken from Provisional Census.

The paper attempts to follow a critical approach, analyzing diverse scholarly and empirical works on politics of presence and local self-governance in India with special reference to women's presence, participation and performance in the villages of Bihar.

The paper reflects the remarkable changes witnessed in the social fabric of Bihar with regard to gender relations after implementation of its historical reform of reservations at local self-government. The study also reveals that this 73rd amendment has definitely empowered women in terms of numbers. From the miniscule figure of 2-4% in most of the Indian states, the amendment has for the first time brought 33-40% of rural women in the sphere of the decision making process. But, being in large numbers is not enough as reservation provides only the possibility of a voice for women it does not guarantee it. This is also because the backdrop in which the reservation has been introduced in the country is marked by such factors as illiteracy, casteism, male – dominance, feminization of poverty etc. With this background, the paper also underlines the implications for future research and practice.

Environmental Issues & Rights

A.Sankarankuty Nair

This present paper examines in detail on all the environmental issues faced by Kerala including climate change and the Acts formulated, with site specific examples from the spatial setup of different Local Self Government's. An attempt is also envisaged for providing solutions to many of these environmental issues coupled with traditional knowledge base and the available modern scientific inputs.

The decline in environmental quality has been evidenced by increasing pollution levels, loss of vegetation cover and biological diversity; concentration of harmful chemicals in the ambient atmosphere, the hydrological regime and in the food chains; excessive withdrawal of groundwater, mining of river sand, other building materials,

minerals of various types and hydrocarbons; growing risk of environmental accidents and threats to life support systems. Occurrence of cyclones, landslides, floods, droughts and diseases have almost become a regular phenomenon world over wherein which huge loss of human life, animal life and resources of various kinds year after year. These have raised a great concern over the need for the protection of Environment, the world over since the sixties. The international community's resolve to protect and enhance the environmental quality, found expression in the decisions arrived at the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment held in Stockholm in June 1972.

Constitutional Environmental Regulations in Municipalities

N Vijayakumar

Urban Local Bodies are supposed to be formed as democratic institutions based on the principle of self-government and should represent people's desires and strengths. Due to massive urban growth during the past two decades, quality of urban life has deteriorated; creating an urgent need for vibrant and efficient ULBs that can deliver adequate services and improve living conditions. Not only is the social life deteriorating but the environment also. The right to life guaranteed under Article 21 of the Constitution of India includes the right to decent environment.

The present study intends to analyse the constitutional environmental legal frame work of Urban Local Bodies and

explore the legal possibilities of ULBs to promote their effective service delivery in the context of Decentralisation, without creating much harm to our Environment.

The Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 also provides a holistic framework for the protection and improvement to the environment. In terms of responsibilities, the Act and the associated Rules requires for obtaining environmental clearances for specific types of new / expansion projects (addressed under Environmental Impact Assessment Notification, 1994) and for submission of an environmental statement to the State Pollution Control Board annually.

Peoples' Resistance for Environmental Rights and Social Justice :A Panchayat Level Study from Kerala

S. Mohanakumar

Pallichal Grama Panchayat (PGP) is situated in the south of Thiruvananthapuram district. The PGP has a population of 52000 and a geographical area of 21.70 sq.km divided into 23 Grama Panchayat constituencies (ward). *Mookkunnimala*, meaning three hills lying adjacent to one another, has a height of 250 metre and 1.25 sq.km breadth. Even though the GP is not formally included as part of Western Ghat region, the PGP has been a part of the Western Ghats development Programme of the Planning Commission.

Mookkunnimala hills play a vital role in the micro climatic conditions of the area. There has been intensive granite quarrying in the *Mookkunnimala* hills posing serious threat to the life and livelihood, clean air and water to the people in the valley and surrounding area of the hill. Besides, the

Mookkunnimala hills is an important part of the watershed area of the Karamana river, which is the major source of drinking water in Thiruvananthapuram city. Against the land quarrying and crusher units in the *Mookkunnimala*, primary victims of land quarrying have unleashed intensive struggle for more than a year while the PGP, using the state apparatus, has been trying to quench the peoples' struggle for social justice and environmental rights.

Against the backdrop, the present study has focused on unearthing and examining economic, political and social factors in force in PGP which help the authorities to constantly deny the rights and justice to about 10000 primary victims and millions of secondary victims of land quarrying in the valley of *Mookkunnimala*. The study approaches the issue of denying social

justice and environmental right enshrined in the 73rd constitutional right to the struggling primary victims from an insider's view. Important findings of the study are: (i) The PGP has failed to ensure the environmental rights and social justice enshrined in the Kerala Panchayat Raj Act by hobnobbing with the capital engaged in the mining industry; (ii) elected representative of the PGP along with officials are under unsmashable unison and bonding to share the loots from the granite mining industry; (iii) there exists little checks

and balances within in the system of local body administrative mechanism to ensure environmental rights to people. The study recommends that intensification of the struggle of the victims is the way ahead to democratize the policy decision making process to ensure social justice and environmental rights in the valley of *Mookkunnimala*. The experience of *Mookkunnimala* throws up light on an issue which has been a menace in several other areas in the state of Kerala.

Human Rights Approach to Environment and Development

Sureshkumar .V

The objective of this paper is to highlight the linkage of human rights to the environmental issues. Article 21 of Indian Constitution about the right to life and protection of personal liberty has been liberally interpreted so as to have extensive environmental links. The right to safe and clean environment is an essential component of right to a dignified life. This approach has been emphatically stated in most of the international human rights documents. Right to health is violated in cases of environmental pollutions.

Methodological approach in this paper is based on the theoretical and analytical review of literature. Right to access to clean and safe water, right to food, right

to shelter and housing, right to work, right to culture, family life and rights of indigenous people. Right to equity and non-discrimination, women and children's rights are for examples which are providing a sample of many connections between human rights and environmental protection. Other substantive areas that combine human rights and environmental conservations include humanitarian law, environmental refugee's issues and the effect of development projects funded by banks. The United Nations Human Rights Council linked human rights to the issues of climate change thus making climate change a human issue.

Environmental Awareness and Quality of Life of Tribals: A Study From Kerala

Suja Molelimattathil Kuttappan & Jinson Joseph

The present paper makes an attempt to study the environmental awareness and quality of life of tribals living in the vicinity of Peppara Dam in Trivandrum district of Kerala state in India. The environmental awareness is based on the proposal to increase the height of the dam.

The objectives are to study the socio-demographic profile of the respondents, to know about their environmental awareness, their level of Quality of life and the factors that affect the quality of life.

Research Design used for the study is descriptive in nature. Data was collected in the year 2014 using convenient sampling method from 60 respondents residing near the vicinity of Peppara Dam in Trivandrum, Kerala

State. The Tool for data collection is a semi-structured interview schedule. It included Environmental awareness scale prepared by the researcher after extensive literature review and discussion with experts. The schedule also includes the socio-demographic profile and a standardised scale namely WHO Quality of Life Scale

The findings reveal that most of the respondents have below Rs.2000 as monthly income, they mostly depend on agriculture and are from nuclear family. 90 % of population are aware about the proposal of height increasing and that the dam is situated in pristine forest area. 93.3 % are saying that Construction of Dam had already affected the biodiversity of the area.

Attaining Social Justice: Ombudsman-cum-Policy Devising Institution

Avinash Singh

Decentralization remained a far distant dream for Indian democracy and thus the concept of local governance didn't developed in the same path and manner that it was ought to and therefore many miniscule yet significant fault were left that always hindered the right based approach for development. This condition remained for years and yet with several right based approaches being adopted by government, inclusive development remains far-flung goal for the citizens.

The paper analyzes the need OPDI as the means to eradicate the problem of frequent abuse of discretion and misguided policy at the local level. Either it is establishment of the park, roads, parking space, slum

regularization or any other such issue for which mere a directive may or even may not be positioned by state or central, compliance of which is in the hand of local public servants. Making an OPDI will solve such minor issues that bring to a standstill the way of development at local level of which consequence can be seen at the national level as country is a united form of such local administrations prevailing everywhere.

Present paper only relies on the concept of making OPDI on urban area based implementation success of which would also continue to the rural areas. Also doctrinal methodology is used in the paper.

Municipal Bodies in Social Housing – A Case Study Across India

Maggie Paul

This paper explores – with the aid of extensive secondary data analysis and primary data collection through observation and unstructured interviews – the theme of participatory planning by municipal bodies in social housing projects especially slum redevelopment/ rehabilitation processes or low income housing stock– with a focus on Mumbai. Participation here would refer to various dimensions such as choice of location, the content of policy, the various stages of the process and the design/maintenance aspects of the projects.

It would also compare the case of Mumbai with other Indian cities – Delhi and Kochi (more to be decided through

extensive literature review) – to draw parallels and differences.

The focus of the paper would be to highlight the role of the Municipal bodies in each of these cases, the history of political decentralization in each context, establishment of participatory processes under the 74th Constitutional Amendment Act and the role of an active or empowered citizenry, thus, in shaping the form and overall content of social housing projects for people of low incomes. This would help draw broad characteristics of urban municipal bodies which facilitate a participatory approach to social housing for the urban poor – for the general benefit of all future actions towards this respect.

District Human Development Report: An Analysis

Aljo C Cheriyan & Biju S K

There is an established methodology for Human Development Report (HDR) developed by UNDP, based on which inter-national, national and regional/state HDRs are prepared. However, the methodology for District Human Development Report (DHDR) is at an evolving stage. The objective of DHDR as envisaged in the Guideline of UNDP, states that:

- i. Preparation of a DHDR helps in preparing, designing and implementing district plans from a human development perspective, and
- ii. It gives an opportunity to gain deeper understanding of the issues at the district level through analyzing the status of human development attainment and key human development challenges faced with a special focus on efficiency of delivery systems and financial allocations.

Preparation of DHDR would help to gain a deeper understanding of the issues at the district level and also intra-district disparities. The purpose of preparation of a DHDR is to ensure that district plans are designed and implemented through a human development prism.

The scope of the preparation of DHDR mainly lies in the decentralized planning process of local governments.

While analyzing the intra-district variation on human development, the analysis of data was made in four forms viz.

- (i) Scenario Mapping,
- (ii) Human Development Index (HDI),
- (iii) Overall Positional Score (OPS), and
- (iv) Human Development Radar (DR).

Scenario mapping of the district were made by collating whatever secondary

data available. This is to provide an overview of the district and intra-district regarding the major segments. Following can be the segments on which scenario mapping is made viz. Profile, Education, Health, Living Conditions and Livelihood, Gender development aspects and Local governance

Human Development Index (HDI) is computed keeping in mind the three attainments envisaged in the methodology of UNDP viz. education attainment, health attainment, and economic attainment.

The main constraint is Human development indices rely on limited

variables only. Eg. Education is equated with literacy alone. Hence an alternative approach – Overall Positional Score (OPS) - is also attempted.

The OPS is computed based on the ranking matrix developed from some of the major variables on education, health, economic, gender and local governance aspects. The OPS is computed on these four aspects separately as well as combining the four aspects. (i) Overall Education Score (OES), (ii) Overall Health Score (OHS), (iii) Overall Livelihood Score (OLS), (iv) Overall Gender Score (OGS), and (v) Overall Local Governance Score (OLGS). The OPS is computed by combining all these together.

Implementation of social welfare schemes: A Maharashtra experience

Sunil Mandal Gaikwad

The paper is dealing with the social welfare schemes initiated by the Government of Maharashtra. As the issue of social justice is widely discussed and widely criticized in the academia and on the government level. The constitution of India has offered the fundamental rights for the safe guard of the individual liberty by that the other side of the duty of government has also come in to light. It is very significant to take note of the 65 years

journey of the Union and State Government

The paper further focuses on the practices of the Department of Social Justice Government of Maharashtra the Schemes initiated and the application of the policies and decisions as there are many policies and schemes but the paper is dealt with security measures for the SCs and STs to protect them from the atrocities.

A Critique of Right to Education Act (2010) and its Implementation

Sazzad Parwez

This paper examines the implications of Right to Education Act was passed by the Indian Parliament for Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2010. This paper try to explore various issues related to Right of Education Act (RTE) for overall inclusive growth. The RTE Act deserves due recognition for articulating in an unambiguous terms the State's commitment to education. However, it is also true that many gaps persist in the existing formulation of the Act as it include few key areas not addressed by the legislation as well as policy and implementation level loopholes.

This study is based on secondary data and will attempt to explore key lacunae of the RTE Act and suggest improvements to address them. We

shall also discuss the supporting mechanisms, administrative imperatives and implementation challenges that need to be addressed if it has to yield results on the ground. Achieving the goal of equitable, quality education for all requires progress along multiple dimensions – better policies, stronger political commitment, superior implementation, enhanced funding and higher community involvement among many others. Some preliminary findings suggest that the implementation process has been inadequate and, more importantly, that there is a need to work out a comprehensive mechanism to enforce this legislation. There are many issues in education that are not related to the RTE Act or indeed to the realm of policy in general.

Violence, Political Change and Local Governance: The Case of West Bengal

Suman Nath

West Bengal represents a state of far reaching social change through a three tier panchayat system. Panchayat system has flourished under Left Front Government's (LFG) leadership which has ruled the state for 34 years.

This paper addresses three related issues, a) the ways in which political polarisation and intolerance leads to deteriorating performance of formal forums such as *Gram Sabha*, b) how panchayat machinery is being used to sustain armed battle between Maoists and its counterparts and c) in the ways even after the rise of counter publics and a political change over that ends. Left rule in the state, Panchayat machinery continue to perpetuate skewed allocation of resources under the dictatorship of Local Leaders.

The eventual absconding of the Left Front leaders and a mass civil movement against the long-term political violence under the banner of Trinamool Congress (TMC) that escalates the political changeover in state, nevertheless does not give the autonomy to village panchayats. Rather, Panchayat system continues to allocate resources according to the decisions taken by the new political leaders completely by passing formal forums of *Gram Sabha* and *Sansad Sabha*. The paper argues that a well-functioning panchayat system demands people's active participation and a conscious civil society, occasional rise of counter publics that might even escalate a political changeover but cannot ensure RBA to development.

Educational ideas and Human Development

Patel Nirav .H

The paper tries to analyze the Human Rights perspective by examining Gandhi's idea on Education and how his philosophy provides a solution for the problems basically Human Rights issue. The paper is based on the secondary data from books, articles, web sources.

Education is one of the major solutions of the many problems. Many scholars have immensely contributed in educations, i.e. Tagore, Maharishi Arbindo, J. Krishna Murty, Gijubhai Badheka, Swami Vivekananda, etc.

Gandhi has acquired the top most position in among all these. His views on education are precious. He has sacrificed his life for education to educating people. Gandhi's teachings about education have not only been in his words and talks but also in his writings which say about the overall personality development of a human being. His idea on education not only based on for the educating people but also his idea is like a solution process to solve the many problems in the world.

Sacrificing Quality at the Altar of Quantity in the Realm of Primary Education in India.

Prabhavathi Prabhakaran

The paper attempts to focus on the skewed priorities and perception of the policy makers that impact the next generation citizens. It also attempts to highlight the by and large attitude of indifference of the teachers towards imparting the basics of education to the children of government schools.

This Paper makes an endeavor to explore the extent of implementation of the aforementioned Act and also delineates the discrepancies that exist between what is mandated by the Act and the ground realities an analysis of the various issues and challenges that confront the student and the teaching

community gives an understanding of the crisis situation.

The Paper reflects tragic flaws of the system as even after 68 years of independence, many citizens are not able to exercise the Rights that were envisioned by the founding fathers of our Constitution. The Public Education system continues to portray a despondent and miserable picture, possibly amidst the other economic ambitions. Therefore, we have to deliberate, identify the pitfalls and take colossal strides in the right direction, to res-shape the destiny of the child through sound implementation of the RTE Act in word and spirit.

Enforcing Rights-Based Development: The MGNREGA Experience

H.S. Shylendra

The MGNREGA Act of 2005 was hailed as a path breaking which helped make rights-based approach (RBA) a reality at least in ensuring minimum livelihood security for the needy through employment guarantee. By design MGNREGA is a parliament enacted legal measure compelling the state to commit itself on grounds of social justice to deploy the needed resources and work towards enforceability of minimum days of employment. Some studies on MGNREGA is ridden with issues of targeting but seems to have played a crucial role in providing the much needed basic security for the poor and underemployed. Certain other positive

outcomes like significant reduction in distress migration, increased wage rates and creation of productive assets have been identified as incidental benefits of MGNREGA. However, MGNREGA has thrown-up hugely varied performance across states and districts.

This paper aims at critically examining the above questions including critiquing the RBA framework under which MGNREGA has evolved. The paper would draw upon the findings of available studies-official and others including the one carried out by the author, to examine the objectives and arrive at relevant implications about MGNREGA as a rights-based intervention.

Consumer Rights in India: A Gender Based Study of Kashmir

Mohammad Rafi Bhat

In view of the socio – economic changes which have taken place in the lives of the people it is imperative to build up a strong and broad based consumer movement which may give impetus and bring about socio- legal measures necessary for consumer protection. To counter the problems faced by the consumers in the market 'The Consumer Protection Act, 1986' came into existence. The Act is to be treated as a milestone in the history of socio-economic legislation to protect the interests of the consumers in India. The Act is also intended to provide simple, speedy and inexpensive redressal to the consumers' grievances, and relief of a specific nature and award of compensation wherever appropriate to the consumer.

The paper is based partly on a field work conducted in university of Kashmir/ Srinagar where 100 female respondents were enquired about consumer protection and partly on reading of secondary sources including newspapers, journals, reports and books. The paper explores the awareness of women in Kashmir about the consumer protection, the rights given in the Consumer Protection Act and their usage. There is a dire need for the State Governments to give deserving priority to Consumer welfare and gear up themselves to meet the challenges thrown up by market economy. Involvement of trade and industry, civil society organizations and above all consumer themselves are vital for betterment of consumer welfare in the years to come.

Human Rights and the Role of State: A Study of Kashmir Valley

Mohd Aarif Rather & Sushma Devi

Prior to the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights in 1948, the States were subjected to treatment in relation to a territoriality and sovereign determination without having any impact of outside intervention.

Human rights are now viewed as rights of great moral salience that are universal, in that they belong to all human beings in virtue of their humanity, overriding in that they ought to be given the highest priority in the organisation of social and political life, and, perhaps, absolute, in that they can never be infringed or taken away from any person. Human rights are particularly

associated with law, both in relation to domestic human rights law and international human rights law.

In this context, the paper would attempt to analyse the conception of human rights vis-à-vis role played by the state in either guaranteeing or abusing such rights. It will try to depict the different divergent notions and how these rights differ from society to society. The paper would also take the study of Kashmir valley from the perspective of human rights violations and the institutional mechanism behind them.

Right to life and water under Panchayati Raj system

John M.Itty

Water and air are the basic elements needed to sustain the life of humans, animals and plants and it is to sustain this life, that nature has provided water in air for all as a free gift. Therefore, free access to water is the birth –right of the people. Further, water is not the product of human labour. Because of these reasons, neither the government nor any individual/company has any right to exercise control over peoples’ right to water. In fact it is the duty of the government to uphold right to water as a fundamental right of the people. Instead of doing this, by linking the right to underground water to the right to ownership of land, the legal framework in the country deny the right to water to the people. Further, the policy of commercialization of water turns water as a commodity for sale in the market; and the National Water Policy (2012) does not make any commitment to recognize peoples’ right to water

Although the 73 rd amendment of the Constitution visualizes control of local resources by the Panchayats, all the facts referred to above show that they have no power to exercise control over water. Instead, the government seeks to make use of the Panchayats to make behavioral changes among the people to facilitate recharging of water and its conservation by minimizing its use.

Therefore, the strategy to raise the level of underground water and conserve water through peoples’ participation under the Panchayati raj system can be taken only as a clever strategy to strengthen the process of capitalist accumulation through appropriating more water by the capitalists. This situation calls for a re-look on the need for changes in the legal framework on the right to water and the power of the Panchayats in controlling water in favour of the people.

***“State-Society Synergy”*: Formal and informal Community Organizations in Kerala**

Jyothi S.Nair

Social capital is widely conceptualized as an input for the emergence of institutions which serves the purpose of regional developmental initiatives. The present paper tries to examine the different formal and informal Community Based Organizations (CBOs) in the state of Kerala which functions as developmental agencies for building trust and coordinated actions. Several empirical studies have provided evidences on the role of Community Based Organizations (CBOs) like Self Help Groups, sponsored and abetted by different organizations, in increasing the norms of reciprocity among women in Kerala.

The paper purports to analyze the nature of the Social capital generated in these different types of Community Based Organizations. The research study was conducted among CBOs in Kerala

promoted by Governmental, Non-Governmental, Caste based organizations and by Political Parties. The field work spread across three districts of Kerala, has brought out rich empirical and ethnographic data which was analyzed in detail to unveil how different strategies were employed by the CBOs for regional developmental interventions. Almost all the CBOs have cultivated different norms and values for achieving group objectives, problem solving, network bonding, conflict management thus ensuring solidarity and resilience of the groups formed.

The most significant outcome of the study was the finding that informal relations among the members of the CBOs have very often laid foundations for strong social capital creation which in the due course of time was leading to very effective models of state-society

synergy. The paper also incorporates the life history of a woman who is simultaneously working in Governmental, Non-Governmental, Caste based and Political party based Community Organizations in her effort to survive in the society and to reinforce her role in community building.

Realizing Social Justice through Affirmative Action

Dilip Kumar. R

Incidents in the recent past has given a shocking evidence that, dominant class still finds it difficult to accommodate dalits in the main stream of life. In such a scenario the only potent tool in the hands of the administrators are those of Constitutional provisions which are still living, at least on papers. But the even more alarming threat is the way the dominant class views these affirmative action (Constitutional rights regarding reservations). They believe reservations are a blockade on the development of society and a mere discrimination against innocent non dalits who are nowhere part of the drama that were upstaged centuries ago. This mindset has posed a serious situation for the administrators and policy makers to effectively implement those affirmative provisions in the true spirit.

In this background this paper attempts to analyze the rationale behind the affirmative action (Constitutional rights regarding reservations) enshrined in the Indian constitution for dalit empowerment.

The methodology adapted for this study is content analysis. The study has Indian Constitution as its base besides the writing of eminent thinkers on fundamental rights and dalit issues. It would begin by describing the nature of affirmative action guaranteed in our Constitution and continues to discuss the need for such policies in the present scenario. It would also deal with the role of local government and other policy making bodies in the realization of ultimate social justice in our country.

Right to Gram Sabha: Reflections on Beneficiary Selection Process in Kerala and West Bengal

Amal Mandal

Based on analytical investigation this paper reflects on the extent, nature and process of Gram Sabha in Kerala and West Bengal. The focus here revolves around the interest evinced by the members concerned and the process impacts (transformation of inputs into outputs). And the postulate is that because of conducive conditions and objective ambience existing in these two states, Gram Sabha here has, in relative terms, the pragmatic prospect to culminate into one assembly of the villagers and for the villages.

Whereas the track records of Gram Sabha in most of the states are far from enviable, peeking into the working of Gram Sabha in Kerala and West Bengal is likely to be indicative mainly because

these two states have few noteworthy exclusivities which arguably can rekindle and petrify the functional expanse of this institution. Unlike other states, the inhibiting social dynamics are almost absent in these two states.

The political commitment to patronise and promote panchayat system (either for electoral purpose or for ideological inclination) is more pronounced in these two states. Moreover, a substantial support base of Left parties- CPM in particular- in both the states is yet another commonality, one derivative of which is the intensive as well as continual political mobilisation drives that in turn is likely to fructify people's participation in the process of Gram Saba.

Right Based Approach to Development: A Study on Puducherry Economy

A.M.Ravindran

The paper intends to discuss the important initiatives undertaken by the Government of Puducherry and NGOs include initiatives for Rights to Health, Education, Employment, Clean Environment Rights of Women, Children, Persons with Disabilities and Displaced persons given large scale effort. The analysis is based on secondary data collected from various sources pertaining to Human

Development, Education, Health and GSDP (Gross State Domestic Product) etc.

There has been substantial development in education and health infrastructure in terms of institutions number of physician's nurses and hospital beds. But in order to sustain inclusive growth and make it more right based revival of Local self Governments of Puducherry assumes utmost significance.

Local Government and the Protection of Human Rights

Surendra Kumar Rath

Most basic services for citizens are provided by local governments. The aim is to improve their ability and capacity to become better administrators, raise revenue and deliver high quality services to accelerate progress. The civil society can promote peace and reconciliation at the local level. They can build conscious through dialogue, promote trust and integrate conflict prevention into programs and services. As local leaders engage with marginalized groups and promote human rights accountability, inclusion and participation, the representation of citizens will enhance democracy. The work also addresses access to information, integrity, accountability, transparency, human rights, gender equality, leadership, critical choice capacities and knowledge management. Local governance should initiatives focus on indigenous people.

Local governance may inform local policy and strengthen local accountability with right information. Local government assessment also may be useful at national level in order to enhance decentralization polices and strengthen capacities for protecting human rights. It is important to keep in mind that source for assessing the human right situation. These biases can arise from methodology as well as politics or ideology.

To capture different situations and experiences of women and men, it is essential that indicators be constructed in a gender sensitive. Both women and men understand if men and women difficulty achieving different types of human rights, as particularly civil rights are not implemented for women in many contest.

Local government looks after to protect and amendment if require the human rights for the purpose of people.

Right to Work and Local Government: A Comparative study of Nigeria and Kerala

Akah Lawrence

The right to work at local government perspective differs from country to country, defining how deep democracy has gained ground in such countries. The global mission for world peace is only effective through democratic deepening by nations which translates into good governance. By decentralization, there will be greater people's participation in political and developmental process of every nation, without which, democracy is null.

Nigeria federalism, through presidential system, has just three tiers

of government, the central government and the federating units/state and their local governments, meaning that government is still far from the local population when compared with India which has six tiers of government, the union government and the federating states with their local governments, having three more levels of governments reaching to the grassroot called panchayats as here in Kerala.

You can now judge which of the two countries is better at deepening democracy.

Constraints in Social Assistance for the Vulnerable; The way forward

Sabyasachi Sarkar

In today's global economy, social security is considered not only as moral and social obligation but also an economic necessity. It is becoming an increasingly accepted view that equitable distribution of social and economic development requires social security and it is also an effective way of addressing poverty. Social security arrangements promote not only human well-being, safety, equity, dignity, inclusiveness and social justice, but also strengthen democratization process and empowerment of people.

The social assistance schemes intended for the helpless and destitute must be planned and designed in such way so that "the right benefit gets to the right person at the right time". Legal

framework including rules and regulations and operational guidelines should correctly and clearly spell out the criteria for eligibility, procedures for entry into and exit from the scheme, the roles and responsibilities across different levels of governance and individual stakeholders.

The present paper attempts to identify the limitations of delivery mechanism in implementation of social assistance programmes, particularly of different pension schemes, for the vulnerable segment of the society and to propose some corrective courses including the roles of local governments that could improve the operational efficiency of the programmes.

Human Development through MGNREGS & KUDUMBASREE

Sameera Pulikkal

Kudumbasree project was started in Kerala in 1998. Gender equality and empowerment of women is recognized globally as a key element to achieve progress in all areas. The aim of the Kudumbashree scheme is to improve the standard of living of poor women in rural areas by setting up micro - credit and productive enterprises. It opened a new string of expected events in our development history.

‘India lives in village’ and therefore the Sustainable Human Development in

the country like India can only be achieved if there is sustainable improvement in human development in rural areas. For that PRIs in their own areas can play a very vital role. So this paper prove that the Role of PRIs in Human Development Processes through MGNREGS & KUDUMBASREE. This is based on Primary Data collected by field visit of two GPs & secondary data of the state of Kerala.

Fiscal Decentralization and Rural Development: A Case Study from UP

Harinam Singh

Two major aspects of decentralization are examined here - fiscal decentralization and the status of decentralization. Effective fiscal decentralization requires that local sources of revenue should be matched as closely as possible to local expenditure responsibilities and this, in turn, promotes efficiency and accountability in the provision of services at the local level.

In India, the 73rd Constitutional Amendment Act (CAA) 1992 has attempted to facilitate a meaningful rural fiscal decentralization through provisions for functional and financial empowerment of rural local government or Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs).

The paper highlights the milestones in the evolution of Panchyati Raj Institutions (PRIs) in India. It evaluates the fiscal success of recent efforts

towards reforming and strengthening rural governments in India through the process of rural decentralization initiated with the 73rd Constitutional Amendment Act in 1992. It also examines various State Finance Commissions (SFCs) performance, and indicates the policy options for their improved functioning of the government of Uttar Pradesh. It measures the extent of fiscal decentralization that has taken place in order to evaluate how far the rural governments have effective control over expenditure decision-making.

The study examines the prospect of building a decentralized rural administration at the District Level and Village Level. It also analyses the fiscal decentralization process to the local government of Uttar Pradesh in the light of the recommendation of the Fourteenth Finance Commission of India.

Access to Financial Services for Women Vendors: A Study from Mumbai

Sunita Kumari

Street vending in India have been the major source of income for the majority of people falling in the purview of informal sector. At this stage, the space of women as vendors has not been of utmost importance. They play the roles of homemaker as well as a bread winner for the family

The main problem which the women vendors face is the lack of better financial services especially when they start the business. Moreover, there is a need to bring more effort and clarity on the rights of women vendors. The review of literature gave the ample opportunity to discover the livelihood space of women in this domain. The review gave the broader outlook of thoughts on the financial aspects in the lives of these women.

The objective of the study was a) to know the financial accessibility of the

women vendors especially vegetable and fruit sellers; b) to know their financial needs for meeting their business and other requirements and; c) Their awareness for different credit cooperatives societies and other financial institutions. The study area limited to certain parts of Mumbai like in Chembur area which included Panjra pole, Chembur station both east and west, Govandi station, and Vijaynagar and in Kurla it was Nehrunagar.

The methodology was both qualitative and quantitative in approach. The questions formed basically focused on the personal information of the women vendors to their access to the various formal credit facilities. Under the Qualitative domain, open-ended question were formulated, in depth interviews were conducted in order to gather different ideas.

Rights of Domestic Migrant Laborers (DML) & Problems and Prospects in Kerala

Srikanth A & Gireesh Kumar

The number of domestic migrants from other states to Kerala is increasing day by day. Lack of employment opportunities in their home states, better income for employment etc are the major reasons for migration. Unfortunately we don't have any statistical or socio economic data pertaining to migrant. Exploitation by the employers, unhealthy living conditions, persistent abuse, high prevalence of communicable diseases, movement of anti social elements and criminals among the migrants etc are some of the threats that the migrants and the society are facing. Timely intervention is needed to sort these problems and settle the reaching consequences of the issue. In this paper problems and prospects and the denial of their rights to enhance their standard of living are discussed. Human rights

mechanisms, such as the Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights of Migrants and the Committee on Migrant workers, have been clear in stating that the country have an obligation to respect, protect and fulfill the human rights of all individuals under their jurisdiction, regardless of their nationality or origin and regardless of their status. Human rights violations against migrants, including denial of access to fundamental economic and social rights such as the right to education or the right to health, are often closely linked to discriminatory laws and practice, and to deep-seated attitudes of prejudice and xenophobia against migrants. Migration is also an important means for migrants and their families to improve life conditions and realize their human rights.

A Case Study of Migrant Construction Workers in Delhi

Chandrakanta

Seasonal migration towards the urban centres is one of the survival strategy practiced by the poorer masses of rural India and construction workers are such migratory groups that move from one city to another and from one site to another within the city.

This paper addresses the socio-economic conditions of migrant construction workers and overall background of their origin. The pattern, duration and reasons for leaving the origin as well as the pull factors working behind the migration have also been focused.

This study used government reports as well as sample based primary survey of construction workers at four selected

construction sites in the south district of Delhi to enquire about the issues. Multi stage cluster sampling is done for site selection and the individual workers (both skilled/unskilled and men/women) were randomly selected for the interview.

Construction workers offer a good case study as they are found in substantial number in mega cities like Delhi. The present study found that they are pushed from the origin due to vulnerable conditions and leave them in another ambience of poverty after migration. Push factors are working behind the out-migration and pull of network decides the place of destination and occupation they will choose.

Human Rights and Migrant Labour in Kerala: An Observation

V. Rajendran Nair

Data shows that there is an influx of migrant labourers to Kerala from other parts of India. The migrant workers are placed in almost all sectors, most commonly in the construction sector. The number of in-migrants to Kerala was merely 2.3 lakh in 1961 and at present the number has grown to 25 lakhs. Labour migration has shown positive as well as negative impact in Kerala society. Positively, it has caused to reduce the crucial problem of lack of labour force, especially in the field of construction and agricultural sectors. On the other side, it is observed that the abundant number of migration is generating serious problems of social insecurity and Human Rights violations.

In this context, the present study examines the major trends and pattern of internal migration in Kerala and the emerging Human Rights violations

based on study conducted at Thiruvananthapuram District.

The objectives of the study include: to evaluate the impact of the thriving level of labour migration in the State, to observe the working conditions, health issues, Human Rights violations and the real life situation of migrant labourers in the district and to promote discussions on the necessity of appropriate initiatives from the part of the LSGs to facilitate the working and living conditions of the migrant labour and prevent violations of Human Rights.

The present paper is the outcome of an empirical observation and analysis of data received through opinion survey and interactions with the incumbents, representatives of migrants, contractors and brokers associated with selected sites and residential camps at Thiruvananthapuram District.

Right to Work and In-Migrant Labourers in Kerala

Sojin P. Varghese

This paper intends to throw light on the labour in-migration into Kerala and to analyse the role of Local Governments in this regard with special focus on Right to Work.

The paper will present an analysis of secondary data to study the inflow of in-migrant labourers into Kerala. Researcher will Conduct a case study in a Local Government Body to explore the possible roles of Local Governments with focusing on Right to Work of in-migrant labourers in Kerala and to understand their working and housing conditions etc.

Over the past decade, Kerala has experienced a shortage of skilled labour owing to its increasing literacy levels, inclination for international employment and preoccupation with white-collar jobs that come on account

of higher expectations and rising standards of living. The shortage of manual labour has affected production and service sectors, reflecting in wage increase, low productivity, etc. In response to this situation the inflow of in-migrant labourers (IMLs) from the North and North-east of the country during the last decade was a great boost to these sectors and in general to the economy of the state. The volume of IMLs in Kerala is on the increase. As per the study report by Gulati Institute of Finance and Taxation, 2013, the population of IMLs in Kerala is estimated at about 25 Lakh. This accounts for about 5% of the total population (GIFT- 2013).

It seems that the government may have to play here an effective role in order to ensure the well being of IMLs. Local Governments have better reach to IMLs

as they are concentrated to their jurisdiction. Kerala Panchayat Raj Act empowers the Local Governments with respect to building sites, health and sanitation etc. The study aims to analyze the scope of Local Governments in intervening with In-Migrant Labourers (IMLs) in Kerala.

Rights of Internal Migrant Workers: A Case Study of Paralam Panchayat, Kerala

Vinukumar N V

Migrant workers have become indispensable to the state's remittance economy. As its own workers toil in the Gulf, labourers from other states are filling the gap. For them, Kerala is a land of promise – of employment that gives them the withal to fight abject poverty back home. With those traditionally engaged in labour-intensive manual labour, such as road and building construction, moving to Gulf or to other job avenues within the state, Kerala has been experiencing a shortage of manual labourers for the past two decades.

One of the striking features of the labour market in Kerala in the past decade is the increasing presence of migrant workers from other states. These migrant workers, single as well as families can be seen engaged in skilled, semi skilled and the unskilled jobs.

Kerala which proudly holds up the title of God's own country and the slogan of 'aditi devo bhava', meaning guest should be treated as gods, is keeping a blind eye on the injustice, discrimination, exploitation and rights violations towards the migrant workers. They are discriminated in the payments of wages as they are paid much less compared to the Malayalee workers for the same work. They work for longer hours and their real wages may be lower as they have incur a higher cost of living in Kerala on food, shelter and transport. They live in shanty houses or rooms in slums. They have limited access to sanitation facilities and safe water. Their practices of waste disposal pose problems of public health. They have no good education and health opportunities. They enjoy very limited protection from the labour laws. They also face the problem of social

integration. There are reports of a large number of human rights violations.

The major objectives of the study are to find out the problems of migrant workers especially problems relating to their rights and the study also focusing on the social exclusion of migrant workers in Kerala. The methodology adopted for this study will be analytical, empirical and observation. This study primarily based on indepth interviews with migrant workers, labour contractors and native people in the Paralam panchayath. The study helps to understand the identity and status

of migrant workers in Kerala. In spite of higher wage, better opportunities for life, in compare with the conditions of their native places, the (in) migrants in Kerala faced multifarious problems it ranges from linguistic, cultural, psychological, social, sexual, economic, health, educational etc. Even for claiming we are progressive people, the attitude of Kerala society towards migrants still continuing unchanged. This paper analyse the vulnerability of the rights of migrant workers in Kerala with the focus on the life of migrant workers in the Paralam panchayath of the Thrissur district.

Participatory Governance and Development : Lessons from the MGNREG Act

Inayat Anaita Sabhikhi

The Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) puts forward an employment guarantee for rural citizens. In addition to availing a 100 days of work in a year at notified wage rates, the law also mandates a participatory planning approach to development works to be taken up under the MGNREGA at the Gram Panchayat. The past year, the Ministry of Rural Development which administers the Act has initiated for the first time since inception, an intensive participatory planning exercise across 2500 blocks of the country. Apart from planning for works, peoples demand for work under this program and its seasonality is also being estimated.

The objective of this paper is to analyze the point of departure of this approach from earlier systems being followed, if

any. We will focus on the techniques used to facilitate participation as well as attempt to analyze if participatory planning can indeed be enforced. We will put forward a preliminary assessment of this exercise in 2500 blocks based on the reports generated on the prospective plans to be undertaken. I will explore the divergence, if any of this approach for a right based approach to entitlements. Further, comparisons between selected and non-selected blocks will be attempted both within a state and nationally.

The impact of this exercise will only be demonstrated in the next financial year. However the study concludes by analysing the significant gains already made and put forward a framework within which the full impact of this exercise can be ascertained.

Right Based SHG Approach: A Study in Burdwan, West Bengal

Anindya Mitra

In West Bengal, SHGs have been entrusted with the responsibility to intervene in planning and implement process of various development programmes for which they are now being equipped with in terms of resources, experience and capacity. There has also been a major initiative in West Bengal to institutionalize deeper and penetrative structures at the village level of Village Councils (Gram Unnayan Samitis) along with the obligatory five Standing Committees (Upa-Samities) on specific issues and sectors including Children and Women (Nari O Shisu Upa Samity) which have a separate plan and budgetary allocation.

The SHGs are made an integral component of these village level institutions and created an opportunity

for communities and particularly the poor and marginalized to address their needs through the institutions and processes of Local Self Government in planning and implementing initiatives. In this way, the capacities of underprivileged and marginalized women are enhance and they are able to work towards social justice and their own livelihoods with dignity as well as strengthening the grass root governance.

So, the main focus of this paper is to assess the role of SHG approach in strengthening the grass root governance within a right-based framework. The present study has been carried out in Burdwan District of West Bengal. The information was collected by applying Interview and PRA method from four sampled Gram Panchayats of Burdwan district.

Employment Pattern And Social Security Measures of Informal Sector in India

Deepa V D

This paper tries to focus on the growth of informal sector employment in India, employment pattern and social security measures provided by the government. The paper concentrated on the secondary data sources like International Labour Organization (ILO-2011), various rounds of National Sample Survey Organization (NSSO,) like 61th (2004-2005), 66th (2009-2010), and 68th (2011-2012), National Commission for enterprises in the Unorganized Sector-2007, 2008 (NCEUS). The paper is broadly divided in to four sections. Apart from the introductory section, section two briefly touches upon the concept of informal sector using NSSO data. Section three discusses the various social security benefits, vulnerability of workers as well as the employers in the unorganized sector in India. The paper found that

social security is not an end in itself; it is in fact a means towards rising the living standards and human security for the population. Employment and income securities however remain the most important instruments of social security and social protection in India.

In a country like India, where nearly 92 per cent of the workers are still engaged in informal employment, the need of social protection to workers is paramount importance. The concept of development paradigm, nature of employment and social protection are originally linked with each other. A high proportion of socially and economically underprivileged sections of society are concentrated in the informal economic activities their proportion in terms of wages, working condition and social security is of utmost importance for the development of any economy. The

provision of social protection has also been enshrined in Article 38, securing a social order for the promotion of welfare and people. The informal sector comprises a subset of production units engaged in the production of goods and services with the primary objective of generating employment and income to the persons concerned. The government has to provide various social security measures provided by the organized sector workers. The workers in the unorganized sector practically have no social protection.

Migrant Families and Child Right

Praveen Kumar

This paper examines the health and educational status of the migrant children. The main objective of the study was to assess health and the education status of the children in the migrant families. By doing so the study wanted to suggest the social work intervention for the health and the educational related problems faced by the migrant children.

The study is descriptive in nature and the researcher used the semi structure interview schedule to collect the data. A sample of 50 migrant families was interviewed for the purpose of data collection in and around the Gulbarga city. Focus group discussion and in-depth interview method also used for the supportive data collection.

The study result shows that majority of the respondents (44%) belongs to Hindu; small proportion of respondents

(36%) of the respondents are from Muslim community and (24%) of the respondents are from Christianity. The illiteracy among the parents of the children is the main reason for not sending the children to school. Only 34% of respondents are sending their children's to school and 66% respondents are not sending their children to school. While asked about the reasons for not sending their children to school majority of the respondents are facing problem with their migration and that's why they could not send their children to school.

The result shows that the education and the health awareness among the migrant families in Gulbarga is very crucial and they need to be educated about the importance and the need of health awareness and the educational facilities.

Local Governments and Fisheries in Kerala: Issues of Livelihood and Sustainability

Jyothis Sathyapalan

Kerala's achievements in human development is legendary. However, there are people who are found to be excluded from the mainstream development. Fishermen are a section of the society which is found to be excluded.

Absence of proper governance is the major reason for this phenomenon. The issue is directly related to the management of common property resource of fisheries. Though Kerala is known for its achievements in participatory planning and cogovernance, the fisheries sector is yet to become a vibrant area. Since the larger issue - the issue of common fisheries resource management which is in turn facing challenges from globalisation and environmental

degradation - remaining as a dark area the present paper is an attempt to understand and analyse the role of local self governments and to make suggestions for sustainable management of fisheries sector.

In view of this the paper looks into: 1. the problems of management of fisheries resources 2. the role of local bodies in promoting the livelihood of the fishers 3. to make suggestions for developing a comanagement system led by local bodies in fisheries.

The study has been based on both primary and secondary data. The secondary data mainly collected from the government publications and the primary data collected by conducting interviews and focus group discussions.