



CHRONICLE 17

Quarterly

Newsletter

2009

FROM THE DIRECTOR / SEMINARS	01
CONFERENCES / WORKSHOPS	02
TRAINING PROGRAMMES	04
ENDOWMENT LECTURE / EVENTS	05
THE CDS MPHIL: A TOUR / OUTREACH	07
INTOUCH	08
LIBRARY NEWS / CAMPUS NEWS	10
STUDENTSPEAK	10
PUBLICATIONS	11
POLICY POINTERS	12
INTERFACE	13

CHRONICLE

Volume 5. Issue 1. January - March, 2009

EDITORIAL COMMITTEE

J. Devika (Editor), A.P. Philroy, Tilak Baker, Vinoj Abraham
Praveena Kodoth, V. Ushadevi, P. Neethi, Dilip Saikia

Published by the Director, Centre for Development Studies
Prasanth Nagar Road, Ulloor
Medical College P.O, Thiruvananthapuram - 695 011
Phone: 0471 2448881-84 Website: www.cds.edu

Printed at St. Joseph's Press, Thiruvananthapuram - 695 014

For Private Circulation only

F R O M T H E D I R E C T O R

Towards an improved Ph D Programme

Right incentives and motivation are essential to attract bright students to the field of academic research in social science. But, it seems that Ph D programmes in University departments and specialised research institutes are passing through a difficult situation mainly because of poor incentives in the form of fellowships. Realising this limitation UGC and a few other agencies have revised the fellowship amount. However, despite several representations by students and institutes, ICSSR is yet to revise the fellowships. Even with relatively better fellowship amounts University departments and UGC funded research institutes find difficulty in attracting bright brains to join for PhD. Part of the reason lies in the lack of availability of job opportunities and attractive salary offered to fresh post graduates. With inadequate training facilities and supervision several PhD scholars - in some of

the institutes either drop out or submit poor quality thesis. Several committees appointed by the UGC and ICSSR have pointed out this sorry state of affairs repeatedly. But, unfortunately nothing substantial has been done so far to improve the state of affairs.

In this context, we at the CDS have initiated a few steps to address this issue. Firstly, the PhD programme has been reorganised to facilitate effective interaction between the scholar, his/her supervisors and other members of the faculty. Secondly, guidance, monitoring and review mechanism have been improved through periodic seminars and presentations before their mentor panels. Though we have made some progress in putting the Ph D programme in order, still there is a long way to go in terms of upgrading the quality and timely completion of the work. I, therefore, invite suggestions from all concerned for further improvement.

K.N. Nair

S E M I N A R S

Kajal Lahiri

(Professor, Department of Economics and Center for the Elimination of Minority Health Disparities. University of Albany-SUNY Albany)

Between-and Within-Racial/Ethnic Group Health Inequalities in the US: Estimates and Explanations

13 January
(email: klahiri@albany.edu)

Margaret Walton-Roberts

(Associate Professor, Department of Geography and Environmental Studies. Director, International Migration Research Centre, Wilfrid Laurier University, Waterloo, Ontario)

Social Legitimacy, Symbolic Gender Politics and Global Migration Circuits: Twenty-First Century Transitions in Kerala Nurse Migration

22 January
(email: mwalton@wlu.ca)

K.N.Harilal

(Centre for Development Studies)

Indiscreet Fiscal Equalization among States and Elusive Virtuous Cycle of Development in Kerala

23 January
(email: harilal@cds.ac.in)

Arindam Banerjee

(Centre for Development Studies)

The Triple Impact of the Global Financial Crisis on The Rural Economy In India

30 January
(email: arindam@cds.ac.in)

Giuseppe Tattara

(Professor, University of Venice)

Technical Progress with Industrial Clusters in Italy: The Experience of Benetton Group

4 February
(email:tattara@unive.it)

T.R. Dilip

(Centre for Development Studies)

**Educational Attainment in Kerala:
An Alternative Appraisal**

6 February

(email:dilip@cds.ac.in)

J. Devika

(Centre for Development Studies)

**The Rise (and Fall) of State-centric Civil Society:
Gender, Welfare, Consumption, and Politics in
New- Millennium Kerala**

13 February

(email:devika@cds.ac.in)

M. Parameswaran

(Centre for Development Studies)

**Productivity Growth in a Liberalising Economy:
Evidence from Indian Manufacturing Industry**

20 February

(email: parameswaran@cds.ac.in)

P.L. Beena and Hrushikesh Mallick

(Centre for Development Studies)

**Exchange Rate and Export Behavior of Indian
Textiles & Clothing Sector: An Enquiry**

13 March

(email: beena@cds.ac.in & hrushi@cds.ac.in)

Vinoj Abraham

(Centre for Development Studies)

**Wage Inequality in the Indian Organised
Manufacturing Sector: The Role of Information
Technology**

20 March

(email: vinoj@cds.ac.in)

K. J. Joseph and Vinoj Abraham

(Centre for Development Studies)

**Information Technology Agreement of
WTO and India's IT Sector**

26 March

(email: kjjoseph@cds.ac.in & vinoj@cds.ac.in)

C O N F E R E N C E S / W O R K S H O P S

National Conference on Challenges in Human Development in India

Co-ordinators: K. Navaneetham and
N. Vijayamohan Pillai

24-25 January

The human development scenario in India has been facing new challenges in the wake of the shifts in policy guided by globalization, liberalisation, and deregulation. More than ever before, the need for policy guidelines, which will ensure growth that is both sustainable and inclusive looks apparent. The conference took stock of the present theoretical and empirical state-of-art in diverse domains of human development in India.

Delivering the keynote address of the conference, Professor J.B.G. Tilak, NUEPA, maintained that the state has an important responsibility in funding higher education. He pointed out that the social economic and political effects of the present practices of funding higher education need to be critically and thoroughly

reviewed. While some measures may help in raising resources, they may actually exacerbate inequities. The papers, presented in a number of parallel sessions, covered a large range of issues, from the problems in finance and budgeting to ensuring gender equity in human development.

In his valedictory address, Professor Louk Box focused on some of the burning issues in developing countries like India from a very specific vantage-point – that of civic-driven change in achieving human development. A major concern that emerged from the conference was about rising inequalities in human development, between the rich and the poor. There was also concern about the emergence of vulnerabilities in the quality of life among marginalised social groups. It was recognised that the state needs to play a more substantial role in financing human development, and in assuring disaggregated affirmative action with special focus on backward social groups and women.

Arindam Banerjee

International Conference on the Role of New Technologies in Sustainable Development: The Case of Kerala

Co-ordinators: Sunil Mani, CDS, T.V. Paul,
McGill University, Montreal

(CDS, Department of Political Science, McGill University, Montreal, Canada, and McGill Centre for Developing Area Studies)

27-28 January

The conference, sponsored by the IDRC and the Foreign Affairs and International Trade Canada (DFAIT), discussed the nature and extent to which new technologies have diffused in Kerala's primary, secondary and service sectors.

Academic papers, panel discussions, and case study presentations were presented over two days to an audience of about 100 participants which included Professor K.P. Kannan, Professor M.A. Oommen, Professor Phil Oxhorn, (McGill Centre for Developing Area Studies), Professor Louk de la Rive Box (Rector of ISS, Hague), Professor Pulapre Balakrishnan (Nehru Memorial Museum and Library), Professor Chiranjib Sen (IIM-Bangalore) and Professor Pankaj Chandra (Director, IIM-Bangalore).

The session on the industrial sector was particularly engaging. Three successful innovators from Kerala's small but focused industrial establishment made presentations on their technological activities and on how they overcame the many constraints faced by entrepreneurs in Kerala.

The conference is hopefully the beginning of a long conversation on the issue of new technology diffusion in the context of Kerala. The theme of the 2010 conference will be 'Knowledge-Intensive Entrepreneurship from Kerala'.

Sunil Mani

National Research Programme on Plantation Development

(Round Table and Workshop Towards Evolving the Agenda for Policy Research)

6-7 March

The plantation sector of India, operating mostly in the

ecologically sensitive regions, is known for its high labour-intensity (of which women labourers constitute the majority) and contribution towards export earning. However, there are a number of challenges, both exogenous and endogenous, that confront this sector. To facilitate better-informed policy-making in the sector, the Government of India is supporting a National Research Programme on Plantation Development at CDS. The Programme will work under the overall guidance of a National Advisory Council.

The present workshop sought to identify crop-specific issues for policy research. It was inaugurated by Shri G.K. Pillai, Secretary, Department of commerce, Government of India. Sessions pertaining to different kinds of plantation crops from all over India were held. Each session began with a presentation by the respective commodity Board; the discussants were experts from academia and other stakeholder groups. The workshop was preceded by a roundtable which sought to gather ideas for designing the programme's research agenda. Sixty participants representing different stakeholders from different parts of the country and scholars from CDS attended the roundtable. Various issues relating to production, post-harvest operations, processing, marketing and prices, export and WTO, labour and employment, environment including global warming and climate change, agricultural research, extension and diffusion of innovation, taxation and financing plantation development, were raised. Many issues specific to India's North-Eastern region were also discussed.

K.J. Joseph

International Conference on 'India's Two Faces: the Haves and the Have-Nots'

(CDS-BNUIF Annual Conference 2009)

Co-ordinators: K. Pushpangadan, (CDS) V.N. Balasubramanyam, Lancaster University

March 23-25

The objective of the British Northern Universities of India Forum (BNUIF) is to develop an active professional body concerned with teaching,

research and advocacy, in issues pertaining to the Indian economy. The Forum organises annual conferences on selected themes every year. CDS was an active partner in this year's conference, and seven out of twenty presentations in the conference this year were by CDS faculty. One of the three days of the conference was set apart the presentation of proposals by a selected group of doctoral students from research institutions all over India whose research interests fall within the broad theme of the conference. The presentations were made after close interactions between presenters and an assigned group of scholars attending the seminar. The Capacity Building Programme for Doctoral Scholars was partly funded by ICSSR and was

planned and executed by K. Pushpangadan, CDS.

Papers were presented on (1) Regional disparity in economic Growth. (2) Quality of education, (3) Nutrition inequity by gender and age, (4) Influence of water on poverty using capability approach, (5) Trade and employment in unorganised sector; and (6) Product market competition and employment. The participants included, among others: K.L. Krishna, Delhi University, Pulapre Balakrishnan, Nehru Memorial Museum and Library, New Delhi, V.N. Balasubrahmanyam, Lancaster University, K. Sen, Manchester University, Nicholas Snowden, Lancaster University, Nicholas Forsans, University of Leeds, and Uma Kamphampathy, University of Reading.

K. Pushpangadan

TRAINING PROGRAMMES

Design and Evaluation of Innovation Policy (DEIP) at NISTADS, New Delhi

Co-ordinators: Sunil Mani (CDS), Adam Szirmai (United Nations University-MERIT).

2-7 February

This training programme was jointly organised by the National Institute of Science, Technology and Development Studies (NISTADS), Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), New Delhi, Centre for Development Studies, and the United Nations University-MERIT, Maastricht, The Netherlands at New Delhi. It targeted at senior and middle level officials of institutions involved in the formulation and implementation of science, technology and innovation policies in India. Personnel from private sector and non-profit organisations involved in innovation strategy-formulation and implementation were also eligible for participation. The programme took the participants through the nuances of designing innovation policies and evaluating their actual effectiveness, using conventional and non-conventional science, technology and innovation indicators. There were 22 lectures spread over a period of five and half working days; 48 candidates from all the major scientific agencies in the country

and 6 doctoral students from leading research institutions and universities participated.

Sunil Mani

Universalizing Socioeconomic Security for the Poor

ISS-SEWA-CDS Postgraduate
Diploma Training Programme

9-26 March

Co-ordinator: S. Irudaya Rajan

CDS has been teaming up with the Institute of Social Studies (ISS), The Hague, The Netherlands and Self-Employed Women's Association, Ahmedabad, India, every year for a post-graduate Diploma programme on *Universalizing Socioeconomic Security for the Poor* (USS). The programme imparts empirical information and guidance towards understanding issues related to the universalisation of socioeconomic security for the poor and socially excluded. This is a 11-week diploma course, which includes a 5-week study visit to India to gain field exposure to two different approaches to the universalisation of socioeconomic security: the movement-led approach of the Self Employed Women's Association in Gujarat and the state-led

approach pursued in Kerala. The syllabus provided a conceptual framework for policy analysis to address the challenges faced in universalising socioeconomic security. Students acquired skills in problem identification, policy analysis and programme design. At CDS, students attended lectures and interactive

sessions with academics, activists, elected representatives, bureaucrats and others, and conducted field visits. This year the programme was attended by participants from Switzerland, Nepal, Thailand, The Philippines and India.

Sabu Aliyar

E N D O W M E N T L E C T U R E

The Second B.G. Kumar Endowment Lecture on “Intersecting Inequalities”

Gita Sen

(Indian Institute of Management, Bangalore)

Professor Gita Sen’s lecture viewed the idea of human development as one intrinsically concerned with inequality. She emphasised the need to identify and comprehend multiple dimensions of deprivation as fundamentally reinforcing each other. Through a case-story she illustrated how individuals may be advantaged along one dimension but disadvantaged along others.

The major part of the lecture was devoted to the presentation of what she felt was a more robust methodology to study such intersections and its impact on health outcomes. Professor Sen discussed the major findings of a field study done across 60 villages in Koppal, a backward and poor

district of northern Karnataka. The results of the study indicated how economic class, gender and caste interact to affect treatment seeking by males and females, i.e., who gets treated for long-term illnesses and whose treatment is discontinued even if they are still ill. In Koppal, all women (including those from the highest economic groups) were less likely to receive adequate healthcare when ill. She finally emphasised the need to understand such intersections because targeting programs or policies that focus only on economic class can completely overlook the pathways through which gender discrimination operates within households.

In conclusion, the lecture highlighted the value of a holistic understanding of the interplay of various axes of disempowerment, and provided valuable insights on the workings of the politics of accommodation, negotiation, or cooptation.

William Joe

E V E N T S

Discussion on Global Financial Crisis and Indian Workers in the Gulf

3 February

The global financial crisis has severely affected the Indian expatriate workers in the Gulf. There are arguments that the decline in oil price that has come with the global recession will sharply stall the development process within the GCC Arab countries. The developers, investors, or the migrant workers are not equipped to face stagnation in the Gulf economy. Keeping this concern at the centre, the Research Unit on International Migration (RUIM), Centre for Development Studies had organised a round table discussion on the issue.

The Secretary of the Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs (MOIA), New Delhi Mr. Mohandas, IAS, stated that the Government of India was closely monitoring the potential problems thrown open by the global meltdown on the Indian workers who are in the Gulf region. He opined that however the government was handicapped by the shortage of information about the crisis and its effect on gulf migrants, except for the fact that there was a sudden decline by around 24 per cent in the number of emigration clearances granted during the last quarter of 2008.

Professor K.C. Zachariah took the view that the increase in return migration was not the creation of the crisis alone. He observed that the return migration

flow will be more from Gulf countries to Kerala because of the 'Aging of emigrants'. After the age of 50 or 60 years people would like to come back, not because of any other reason, but they want to be at home in Kerala. Professor Zachariah added that people are still moving from Kerala to Gulf as they used to be.

"The bookings for the next couple of months do not indicate a mass return from Gulf. A slight fall has been reported in Dubai-bound passengers, due to crisis in the construction Industry," said Mr. Munaff, Station Manager, Air India. Dr. K.K. George, Chairman Centre for Socio-economic and Environmental Studies, Cochin said that, in the medium terms there need not be a panicky situation in the gulf because the Gulf countries have large foreign exchange reserves.

Professor Alwin Prakash, Chairman, Institute for Economic Studies, Trivandrum, Mr. Mathur K. Nanjunda, General Manager, Planning and Development, State Bank of Travancore, and Mr. S.M. Najeeb, General Manager, NORKA-ROOTS, Government of Kerala, and Mr. B. Vivek, President, Recruiting Agents Association of Kerala also participated in the discussions. Professor S. Irudaya Rajan, RUIIM, coordinated the discussion.

Sabu Aliyar

Women's Day Celebration

8-13th March

The four-day-long celebration of Women's Day on campus began with the screening of the documentary *Skin Deep* by Reena Mohan. The documentary is an exploration of body images and self-identity among contemporary urban middle class women in India. There was good turnout for the screening; an informal discussion on the issues thrown up by the film followed. On 11 March Dr. Seema Bhaskar, State Co-ordinator, Kerala Mahila Samakhyas Society, spoke on 'Beyond the agent of social development: Contemporary issues and challenges before Malayali women'. She highlighted the work of the Mahila Samakhyas Society in Kerala, and its efforts to promote gender education and interventions against gender inequality in Kerala.

The third event was a students' discussion on the 'Women's Access to Public Spaces and the Notion of Morality'. The two panelists were Sravanti

(PhD I year) and Justine (MPhil I year). Sravanti spoke on what public space meant in a democratic society, and the problems that women faced in accessing public space. She viewed the issue of Moral Policing as ensuing from frictions between ideas and ideologies and also reflected on whether we do need some amount of moral policing, and if so, who had the authority to take such decisions. Justine argued that societal behaviour and adaptability changes according to age structure. A standard is needed, he argued, but the problem arose when force is applied to obtain compliance. He stressed that a societal standard was needed because a 'good society' needed a 'checks-and-balance system', without which the society would fall apart. The discussion that followed centered upon the ideas of culture and ideology.

The last day saw the screening of the film *The Apple* by the Iranian film maker Samira Makhmalbaf. The film that was made when Samira was only 18 years old is a poignant yet witty depiction of restrictions young women face in Iranian society. Based on a true incident, Samira's film is a semi-documentary about two young girls' discovery of the world when a social worker forcefully locks them outside and lock their parents inside the house.

Neha Hui & Alice Sebastian

Achievements

Amarendra Das, Doctoral scholar, CDS, won the first prize in the Global Development Awards and Medals Competition under the category of Medals for Research on Development under the theme *Foreign Direct Investment and Natural Resources* for the paper entitled 'Do Firm Ownership and Competition have Bearing on Productivity? An Enquiry of Indian Mining Industry from 1988-89 to 2005-06' at the *Tenth Annual Conference of Global Development Network (GDN)* held during 3- 5 February, 2009 in Kuwait City, Kuwait.

Sunil Mani, Professor, CDS has been conferred an Honorary Visiting Professor title by the Faculty of Economics, University of Ljubljana, Slovenia. The title is for a period of five years beginning January 2009.

THE CDS M PHIL: A TOUR

(We hope to give our readers a birds'-eye-view of the M Phil Programme in Applied Economics at CDS through this series. In this issue, J. Devika writes about Module 104 – 'Methodological Approaches in Socio-Economic Research', which is part of Course I on Research Methods.)

For most entrants to the CDS M Phil programme, Module 104 covers unfamiliar ground. This is not surprising, as most entrants, despite their training in (largely) economics, are unfamiliar with the terrain of social science in general. The module was designed to remedy precisely such a lack. Such a lack is highly disabling in the present research climate which favours interdisciplinary approaches. Besides, interdisciplinary domains such as Women's Studies, International Relations, or Globalization and Development calls for a fresh orientation away from narrow disciplinary perspectives.

I like to think of Module 104 as a 'guided tour of the terrain of social science' conducted by a 'friendly neighbour'. A 'friendly neighbour' is someone who introduces a new citizen to the established boundaries, norms, and practices in the city without interfering in her daily life or preferences. As a 'friendly neighbour', Module 104 introduces students newly inducted into social science research to the different methodological and theoretical domains within social science, so that they may learn to deal with

each independently and according to specific needs.

The content of the module covers major debates around modern science around rationalism and empiricism, and then moves into major debates within social science, such as between objectivism and subjectivism and individualism and holism. Each lecture covers a topic and moves through the social science disciplines – political science, sociology, and anthropology. The lectures end with a series of discussions on major disagreements among social scientists, such as on fact vs. value, rationality vs. relativism, and quantitative vs. qualitative. The last lecture focuses on recent challenges to empiricist social science.

I have observed that students are nervous at the beginning but inevitably relax as the lectures move ahead. In class, the distinction is not between bright and less-bright students, but between those who are willing to engage with new ideas and research avenues, and those who seek the easiest possible route. I have also seen many students gain confidence to take on the challenge of interdisciplinary research at later stages. And many students who remained sceptic about the learning in the module have often changed their views, especially after exposure to wider academic gatherings.

J. Devika

Outreach

- J. Devika delivered the keynote paper titled 'Migration, Mobility, and Development-Rhetoric: Another Feminist Dilemma?', at the *workshop on Women and Migration in South Asia – Health and Social Consequences* organised by the University of Sri Jayawardanepura, Colombo on 9 February 2009. She also presented a seminar at the University of Colombo on 'Women, Community, and Marxism: Kerala in Arundhati Roy's *The God of Small Things*' on 12 February 2009.
- K.J. Joseph presented a paper on 'Industry University interaction in India' (co-authored with Vinoj Abraham in the *Seminar on Industry-University Linkages and Economic Performance*, held in Seoul National University on 27 February 2009 in Seoul, Korea. He also participated in the project-launching workshop of the EU-sponsored project on 'From Global Production Network to Global Innovation Networks' at Bologna, Italy.
- Sunil Mani's paper on 'The Growth of Knowledge-intensive Entrepreneurship

in India, 1991-2007, Analysis of its Evidence and Facilitating Factors' was presented, *in absentia*, at the *AEGLS kick-off meeting* at the University of Bocconi, Milan, Italy, January 14-15, 2009.

- Vinoj Abraham participated in the kickoff meeting of the project 'Impact of Networks, Globalization, and their Interaction with EU Strategies' conducted by *Fondazione Eni Enrico Mattei*

(FEEM), at the Bologna University, Italy during during 2-4 January, 2009. He also participated in the methodology workshop of the project 'Impact of Networks, Globalization, and their Interaction with EU Strategies' organised by Gordon Institute of Business Studies, Johannesburg, South Africa at the Zebula Lodge, Bela Bela, South Africa during 1-5 March, 2009.

Intouch

- P.L. Beena presented a paper titled 'Economic Liberalisation and Financing Pattern of Indian Industries' at the *National Conference on Corporate Sector, Industrialisation, and Economic Development in India*, at Institute for Studies in Industrial Development (ISID), New Delhi, during March 27-28, 2009.
- J. Devika was a resource person at the NRTT Annual Workshop for Doctoral and Post-doctoral Scholars 2009, the *Second Social Science Workshop* at CSSSC, Kolkata, on the theme 'Inequalities and Differences' held between 4-9 January. She spoke on the idea of 'development', specifically, on the conceptual shifts within several normative manifestations of 'development'.
- Khanindra Ch. Das, MPhil scholar, CDS presented a paper 'Risk Behaviour of Commercial Banks in a Regulatory Environment: The Indian Evidence' at *The 45th Annual Conference of the Indian Econometric Society* held during January 08-10, 2009 at Gauhati University, Guwahati, Assam.
- Krishna Reddy Chittedi, PhD Scholar, CDS presented a paper 'Indian Stock Market Integration and Cross Country

Analysis' at the 11th Annual conference on *Money and Finance in Indian Economy* held during January 23-24, 2009 at Indira Gandhi Institute of Development Research (IGIDR), Mumbai.

- K. Pushpangadan was Chairman of Session V on 'Ph. D Capacity building programme', at the CDS-BNUIF International Conference, on March 25, 2009. He also presented two papers, on 'Migration and Economic Growth: Exploring Kerala's Performance' on March 23, and 'Product Market Competition and Employment Growth in Indian Manufacturing Industries' (jointly with N. Shanta), at the same conference on March 24, 2009. He was appointed Advisory Committee Member for the Centre for the Study of Social Exclusion and Inclusive Policy (CSSEIP), Cochin University of Science and Technology, Cochin, and for the SC/ST Commission, Government of Kerala. He delivered the felicitation address to the Economics Association Government Women's College, Trivandrum, and a lecture on 'Paul Krugman's Contributions'.
- Sunil Mani was invited to be a member of the Steering Group on Foreign Direct Investment in Research and Development of Technology

Information, Forecasting and Assessment Council (TIFAC), Government of India. He was keynote speaker on 'Challenges of Innovations in a Developing Country Context' at the International Seminar on *Innovations, Enhancing the Quality of Life*, at Loyola College, Chennai, January 12-13, 2009. He also presented a paper with V. Santhakumar on 'Diffusion of New Technologies and Productivity in Growth in Kerala's Agricultural Sector: Coconuts vs. Natural Rubber,' at the *CDS-McGill Conference on Role of New Technologies in Sustainable Development: Case of Kerala*, at Centre for Development Studies, Trivandrum, January 27-28 2009. He chaired a session on 'Specific Governance Aspects of Biotechnology and Nanotechnology in India' at the *conference on Emerging Technologies in Developing Countries: Capabilities and Governance Issues*, The Energy and Resources Institute, New Delhi, February 4, 2009. He was external examiner and chaired the viva voce of the Fellow Programme thesis on 'Internationalisation of the Indian Pharmaceutical Industry- A Study on Export Performance,' at the Xavier Institute of Management, Bhubaneswar, February 19, 2009 and was invited to deliver the 16th ICSSR-IPE Distinguished Lecture at the Institute of Public Enterprise, Hyderabad on 'Is India Becoming more Innovative since 1991?, An Analysis of its Evidence and some Disquieting Features,' at the Institute of Public Enterprise, Hyderabad, March 20, 2009. He presented a paper on 'Technical Education in Kerala since Liberalisation: Has Significant increases in Enrolments

Transliterated into Actual Supply of Engineers?' at the *International Seminar on India's Two Faces: the Haves and The Have-Nots*, Trivandrum, March 23-24, 2009 and the keynote paper on 'The Technological Dynamism of India's Private Corporate Sector Since 1991,' at the *National Seminar on India's Industrialisation*, at the Institute for Studies in Industrial Development, New Delhi, March 27-28, 2009.

- V.J. Varghese made a presentation entitled 'Outside and Inside the Nation: Narratives of Malabar and the Making of a Productive Citizen,' in an interdisciplinary *conference on Non-Metropolitan Modernisms* organised by the Department of English, Delhi University, 25-27 March, 2009 at the Delhi University. He also presented a paper entitled 'Reclaiming the Region to History: Renditions of Malabar Migration and Modernizing Space' in the *UGC National Seminar on Revisions of History: Region, Literature, Culture*, organised by the Department of English, Maharaja Sayajirao University Baroda, 20-21 March 2009 at the M.S. University of Baroda.

OBITUARY

Shri R Krishnan Kutty, Messenger, Library passed away on 23rd February, 2009 after a brief illness. He is survived by his wife Smt Indira Kutty and two sons, Shri Santhosh and Shri Rajesh.

A native of Trivandrum, Shri Krishnan Kutty joined the Centre on 1.8.1982. He handled the reprographic services extended from the Library and he is fondly remembered by researchers for his valuable help in getting the background materials ready for their research work in time.

LIBRARY NEWS

We lost our colleague Mr. R. Krishnan Kutty on 23 February. His departure was quite unexpected and a great shock to us all. Krishnankutty was in charge of our photocopying unit. Users – both old-timers and freshers – have always been appreciative of his promptness and gentle ways. He has been with CDS since the last 28 years.

An analysis of the periodical circulation data shows that there is an increase in the number of periodicals borrowed for home reading. During 2008-2009, 714 periodical issues were lent out, compared with 306 issues in 2007-2008. Also, an increase in the number of Reference Memberships is noted in 2008-2009. It rose to 531 in the present year from 465 in 2007-08.

Mr Ameer Ali attended a two-day National Workshop on 'Creation of Institutional repository/Digital library' at the Institute of Economic Growth, New Delhi.

T.K. Subramoni

CAMPUS NEWS

The flag-hoisting ceremony on sixtieth Republic day of India was conducted in front of the main building of CDS. The Director, K Narayanan Nair, hoisted the flag and addressed the gathering. An M. Phil student, Vachaspati Shukla, also spoke on the occasion.

On Wednesday, March 11 Holi, the grand Indian festival of colours, harmony and friendship was celebrated with gaiety in the campus. Boys and girls with colour-smearred faces and clothes enthusiastically wished others happy Holi and a colourful and bright year ahead. In the evening a community dinner was organised by the recreation club with the support of students, teaching and non-teaching staff. The food-items, much appreciated by the guests, were cooked by the students themselves. Brightening the event was the presence of participants of the ISS-SEWA-CDS training programme.

Atish Kumar Dash

STUDENT SPEAK

Pollution, its control at Kolaghat Thermal Power Station, West Bengal

The Development index of any country is directly proportional to the per capita consumption of electricity; this however, contributes to pollution. Pollutants from the thermal power stations are of two types: fly ash and discharged water/oil/other liquid pollutants. Such pollution has now led us into the threshold of environmental disaster. Besides pollution, burning fossil fuels raises the danger of exacerbating global warming. All these indicate that the running of thermal power plants need to be efficient; efficiency, here, becomes a prime responsibility to humanity.

I would like to share my observations about a thermal power station, the Kolaghat Thermal Power Station (KTPS) under West Bengal Power Development Corporation limited, a Government of West Bengal undertaking. The power station is situated on the

bank of river Rupnarayana in the district of East Midnapor and uses its water as a raw material. The electricity is generated by burning coal in pulverized coal-fired boilers; fuel oils are also used sometimes. The coal consumption of KTPS is 15000 tones per day if all units are run.

The plant generates approximately 1.85 million tonnes of ash in a year at present level of coal consumption. And much of it, generated in form of slurries, is pumped from the ash-handling plant to ash ponds where the solid material settles. From the ash pond ash is transported to various places for land development, clay/brick making and road construction. Presently the dry ash system has been introduced. In this system the dry ash is collected in a closed container which is transported to various factory manufacturing systems. Corrective measures have been also been launched to tackle the large quantity of fly ash emitted through the chimneys which is responsible for pollution in the nearby

localities through the renovation of the ash evacuation system. Beside ash pollution there is pollution due to discharge of processed water in the near by natural water source. This source of pollution has been arrested by recycling the contaminated water in the system, a process known as zero discharge system.

As for the effluents discharged from the plant, environmental monitoring at KTPS works to control the quality of effluent discharge and stack emissions. A cement factory is under construction near the periphery of KTPS which will use these as raw materials for the production of cement.

KTPS Township has 13 water tanks. These tanks, combined with a green-belt cover created on 50 acres of land, now provide an unique environment for different types of birds, some of which are winter-migrants.

Thus it is evident that serious threats of pollution may be met through effective counter-measures. Keeping these on the agenda of industrialisation as vital components of this process helps economic advancement; we can no longer afford to neglect them as unrealistic or unimportant.

Swati Dutta

PUBLICATIONS

Articles/Chapter(s) in books

Chakrabarti, S. and Kundu, A. 2009. 'Rural Non-Farm Economy: A Note on the Impact of Crop Diversification and Land Conversion in India,' *Economic and Political Weekly*, Vol.XLIV, No.12. March 21.

Das Amarendra . 2009. 'Regulatory Authority over Minerals: A Case for Review,' *Economic and Political Weekly*, Vol XLIV. No. 10. pp. 105-109.

Devika, J. 2009. 'Bodies Gone Awry: The Abjection of Sexuality in Development Discourse in Contemporary Kerala', *Indian Journal of Gender Studies* 16 (1): 21-46.

Joseph, K.J. 2009. 'IT Industry in India: Past Performance and Challenges Ahead,' *International Journal of Public Affairs* (Special Issue: The New Economy of the United States: Possibilities and Anxieties) Vol 5.

Kundu, A and Chakrabarti, S. 2008. 'Some Micro Economic Aspects of Informal Sector Enterprises: Field-based Evidence from West Bengal,' *Artha Vijnana*, Vol. L, No.3, September.

Navaneetham, K. (with A. Dharmalingam and Krishnakumar, C.S). 2009. 'Nutritional Status of Mothers and Low Birth Weight in India', *Maternal*

and Child Health Journal, February 7, Online First [Epub ahead of print].

Prasad Aleyamma, Mythri. 2009 ' Spatial Strategies and Sojourner Workers: Mapping Roadwork in Kerala' in Janet Seeley and C R Abrar (eds.), *Social Protection and Livelihoods: Marginalised Migrants of South Asia*, Dhaka: University Press Limited.

Pushpangadan, K. 2009. 'Agriculture Policy and Performance in India: A Post-reform Analysis' in B.A., Prakash, (ed.), *The Indian Economy since 1991: Economic Reforms and Performance* , Pearson Education, Delhi.

Pushpangadan, K and N. Shanta. 2008. 'Product Market Competition and Employment in the Organised Manufacturing Sector in India,' *Indian Journal of Labour Economics*, Vol. 51, No. 3, July-September.

Sebastian, Alice. 2008. 'Gender, Education and Employment: An Analysis of Higher Education and Labour Market Outcome in Kerala', *Indian Journal of Labour Economics*, Vol. 51, No.4.

Book Review

Joseph, K.J. 2009. 'Beneath India's IT Advantage,' *Book Review*, Vol. 33. No.3

POLICY POINTERS

Sunil Mani in his paper **‘The Growth of Knowledge-intensive Entrepreneurship in India, 1991-2007: Analysis of its Evidence and the Facilitating Factors’** (Working Paper No. 409, February, 2009) points out that one of the outcomes of the marked improvement in India’s overall economic performance since 1991 is the growth of innovations in the country. This was accompanied by or caused by the emergence of a number of knowledge-intensive enterprises. The paper takes a critical look at the available quantitative evidence on the growth of knowledge-intensive entrepreneurship. It then looks at five factors that facilitated this phenomenon — the existence of increased market opportunities, availability of financial support schemes in the form of venture capital funds, existence and enlargement of a number of government programmes, a number of private sector initiatives and education and training leading to the supply of technically trained personnel. The three major policy conclusions emanating from the study are: (i) the government must enlist the support of market-based agents such as industry associations for starting entrepreneurship training programme in colleges of engineering and business schools. The aim of these training programmes would be to, *inter alia*, sensitise the students to the various facts of establishing a company in the Indian context; (ii) the state must further ease the procedures for establishing companies. Although many of the individual state governments in the country have moved towards a ‘single-window clearance’ type of system, difficulties are galore especially at the level of districts within a state and (iii) access to external finance is still a major constraint and the current global financial crisis has made this aspect even more unhelpful. Establishment of state backed venture capital funds with capabilities for due diligence of the type that is required can be a solution to this financial barrier.

In his paper **‘Peasant Classes, Farm Incomes and Rural Indebtedness: An Analysis of Household Production Data from Two States’** (Working Paper No. 410, March, 2009) Arindam Banerjee points out that crisis and stagnation in Indian agriculture have persisted for over a decade and do not show any signs of reversal. Falling real product prices faced by primary commodity producers has been one of the central causes for escalating farm indebtedness. The gradual shrinkage of formal credit institutions in rural areas has simultaneously caused increasing dominance of private players in the credit market, rendering producers all the more vulnerable. A class analysis of household-level farm production data from two states reveals the pattern of income decline and rising indebtedness in rural areas. The deleterious implications that these processes have for future agrarian development call for effective price stabilisation operations and, in the short run, a comprehensive debt-relief policy.

I N T E R F A C E



Professor Jandhyala B.G. Tilak is Senior Fellow and Head of the Educational Finance Unit at the National University of Educational Planning and Administration, New Delhi. He was recently at CDS to attend the National Conference on Challenges in Human Development in India. **Chinnappan Gasper**, CDS talks to him on higher education in human development in India.

What is the importance of secondary and higher education in human development?

Higher education is mostly ignored in the literature on human development; primary education and literacy receive much attention, and secondary education, a little. This is based on the assumption that higher education is not poverty-reducing, and does not have any effect on other indicators of human development. It is also assumed that higher education, in fact, worsens income distribution and promotes inequities. This is the case in the literature on female education as well.

While literacy and primary education are important, they provide only a foundation; they do not provide livelihood skills. Moreover, most of the literacy and primary education programmes are found to be not imparting literacy that is sustainable. Secondly, primary education and even elementary, i.e., upper primary education rarely serve as a terminal level of education. Thirdly, even if primary education imparts some valuable attributes in terms of attitudes and skills, and even if primary education is able to lift people up from below poverty line, it is possible that this gain could be precarious – they could be just above poverty line. It is secondary and higher education that consolidates such gains and provides useful and marketable skills that could keep people above the poverty line. In sum, it may be claimed that it is not just primary education, but it is secondary and more importantly higher education that forms a ‘human capability’ and allows ‘human freedom’ that Amartya Sen refers to — a freedom that helps in attaining other ‘freedoms’.

Does the research show any evidence of the importance of higher education in human development?

Yes, though relatively limited, the available research on Asian and other developing countries provides robust evidence. Higher education is also found to be related significantly with gender empowerment and other

indicators of human development. However, more empirical studies that examine the role of higher education in human development are needed.

So is the problem one of primary education versus higher?

It is often stated that we do not have resources to all segments of education. Obviously, the Constitutional mandate is to provide universal elementary education to all.

However, it is wrong to assume that the three levels of education are independent of each other. Not only are they strongly inter-linked, each level depends heavily on the other. Poor quality primary education leads to poor secondary and higher education; poor quality higher education produces poor quality teachers and researchers, and thereby, poor quality primary and secondary education. This simple truth is often forgotten.

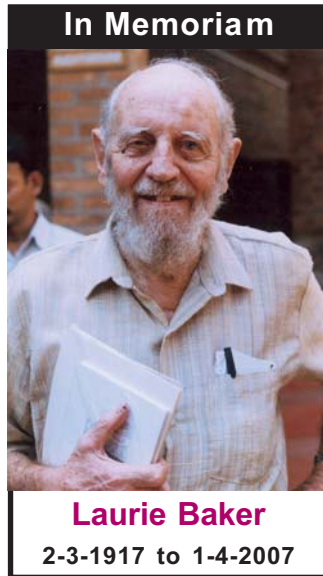
Further, the three levels are also related from demand side. In a sense, the demand for primary education is dependent, *inter alia*, on the supply of secondary and higher education. So even the goal is to concentrate narrowly on the goal of providing universal elementary education, secondary and higher education requires serious attention.

How important is the economics of Education as an area of study?

Education has become an important concern for economists ever since Theodore Schultz’s human capital theory. However, in India, Economics of Education as an area of study is still not very popular. Very few universities offer Economics of Education as a special paper. However, with the increasing interest in human development, interest in economic aspects of education may also be expected to grow. After all, human development and the core aspects of economics of education, like the human capital theory, are closely related, as Sen observes.



CDS
CHRONICLE 17
January - March 2009



CENTRE FOR DEVELOPMENT STUDIES

Prasanth Nagar Road, Ulloor, Thiruvananthapuram 695 011, Kerala, India
Tel: +91-471-2448412, 2448881 Fax: +91-471-2447137 Website: www.cds.edu

Please send your contributions and responses to the editor: devika@cds.ac.in