



# CHRONICLE 9

Quarterly

Newsletter

2007

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## CHRONICLE

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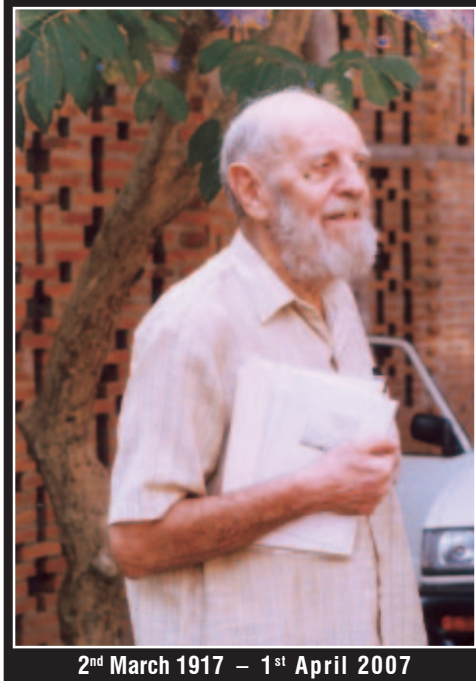
## EDITORIAL COMMITTEE

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***Laurence Wilfred Baker** (Laurie Baker) was born in Birmingham in 1917 and studied architecture at the Birmingham School of Architecture. He graduated in 1937 becoming an Associate of the Royal Institute of British Architects (ARIBA).*

*The World War II interrupted his practice and he became an anaesthetist in a mobile surgical team! Later he became involved in the treatment and control of leprosy in West China. He met Gandhiji in Bombay in 1944 while waiting for the ship to England, and was persuaded to live and work in India. In 1948 he married Elizabeth Jacob, a like-minded doctor from Kerala. Until the early-1960s they lived and worked in a remote Himalayan region where they built their own home, hospital, and schools and brought up their children. During this period Baker acquired insight into the actual conditions of rural India, and deep appreciation of indigenous architecture.*

*Meanwhile, with the advent of 'development' into the Himalayas, the Bakers decided to move to Kerala. They chose a remote mountain area to build another home and hospital. By 1970 they handed over their medical work to friends and settled in Thiruvananthapuram. In Kerala, Baker's style of architecture attained unique form and won considerable appreciation. He obtained Indian citizenship in 1989. In 1990, the Government of India awarded him the Padma Shri. Laurie Baker's architecture focused on retaining a site's natural character, waste-free indigenous construction, and the seamless integration of local culture. Thus it would be reductive to describe his style as merely cost-effective. Indeed, his buildings represent a different aesthetic and a different set of cultural values altogether.*

## FROM THE DIRECTOR

CDS is internationally known for its campus designed and built by Laurie Baker. Almost every week we have been seeing dozens of students of architecture from different parts of India and the rest of the world visiting the CDS campus to learn about the Baker style of building construction. Several members of the faculty and staff of CDS have known him as a colleague, an architect, a master builder and a warm human being for more than three decades. Many of them have been his clients too. We have seen him in action at close quarters and witnessed the process of sublimation of his life and work. He has influenced many of us

in our approach towards well-being and development. His passing away brought an end to his 37 years of involvement with the development of the Centre. The CDS family deeply mourns his demise and shares the grief of his wife Dr Elizabeth Baker, son Tilak Baker and daughters Vidya, Heidi and other members of the family.

This issue of the Chronicle contains a brief sketch of the life of Baker, and reflections about him by two of the senior most members of the CDS faculty.

**K.N. Nair**

### Time Cannot Efface Him... Remembering Laurie Baker

Laurie Baker, renowned architect, master-builder, humanist, Gandhian, quietly passed away in the early hours of dawn on April 1, 2007. He was 90. Much has been written and said about his life, architectural marvels, low-cost building technology, writings and paintings. He was to us all that he was to the world and much more. Baker belonged to us - and not just in that he was an Honorary Fellow on the CDS faculty. Creating the CDS campus was an opportunity to experiment with his ideas of "low-cost" technology on a large institutional project - thanks to Prof Raj's wider vision on development. He succeeded in creating the right physical ambience to suit the goals of CDS as a research centre of excellence on developmental issues. To Baker, CDS was an important project, a landmark in his career. To CDS, Baker's low-cost technology was a great boon as it allowed a saving on construction account, which helped in developing its library as one of the best collections of books and journals in the country. Baker knew more than a formal economist the real meaning of opportunity cost! To him low-cost construction technology meant not just private cost, but also the high social cost of using energy-intensive building materials like cement and steel. Attracted by the elegance of his designs and the economics of his low-cost technology, several members of the CDS community approached him and he built

us our dream-homes. He never charged a fee as a percentage of the total cost of the house from clients! The cost of his time was treated as the wage equivalent of a head mason! We work in his architectural masterpiece set in sylvan surroundings. Baker lives all around us; he is difficult to forget. CDS stands testimony to the world at large for the beauty, strength, and quality of Baker's low-cost construction technology, a lasting monument of his creativity and innovativeness.

In a society that regards reckless display of wealth as the sign of progress, to get people to accept Baker's innovative low-cost construction needed a crusade. As a partner in institution-building, Baker joined hands with Achutha Menon and Raj in setting up and running the Centre of Science and Technology for Rural Development (Costford) for transfer, adaptation and diffusion of appropriate technology. Baker knew that learning by doing was the best way to achieve the diffusion of technological innovation. Through Costford, he took up several rural housing programmes assisted by trusted lieutenants and volunteer workers, masons, engineers and architects. The master-builder worked along with labourers at the construction sites. Thus several of his volunteers - irrespective of whether they were engineers or masons - absorbed the techniques and philosophy underlying his technology-innovations.

Baker wrote more than 10 technical books in simple style with illustrative sketches. He also edited the journal *People and Development*, a forum for exchange of ideas on appropriate technologies and social development between professionals and informed people. He also attempted to develop new eco-friendly technologies on alternative construction materials like mud. In more than one sense, Baker was technology-innovator par excellence.

Warm, friendly, jovial, unassuming and disarmingly

simple, he was accessible to all. Whoever you may be, you could just walk up and talk to him and he would listen. That was the greatness of this genius. He designed and built churches and temples; his clients belonged to different castes, communities, and social strata. To those who knew him close up, he was “Daddy”. To all of us at CDS, “Daddy” is the imprint of his work, values and philosophy, and will always be with us to make our life sublime.

**K.K.Subrahmanian**

## Baker gave me Shelter

I never wanted to put my bitter life experiences in writing. But an occasion has now come to do so a bit with the demise of Laurie Baker, who literally enabled me to live on. Since 1960, I had been living in rented houses along with my growing family, in different parts of Thiruvananthapuram – at Poojapura, Kunnukuzhy, Gowreesapattom, Valiyasala, Peroorkada and Kesavadasapuram. By 1971, my family had become really large and my wife a chronic paranoiac. I was getting despondent, dispirited, and dejected with life. I fervently hoped to find a place of my own to live in, a wish that had the remotest chance of realisation. I was finding it difficult to find rented houses for my family, because house owners began refusing me houses on rent because of my wife’s ill-disposition and the largeness of the family. I could not aspire to have a house of my own either, without a house plot and the amount for investment in building a house of the conventional type.

Then came CDS and my intimate association with the members of its faculty, the library and the administration. The CDS building was slowly coming up, piece by piece, which was of an entirely different mode from that of the conventional.

Fortunately for me, I was able to locate a plot of land, beyond the Prasant Nagar Housing Colony on the side of the Prasant Nagar-Pongummod road and find a source of financial help to purchase the plot. But, then, how to build a house? It is then that the Saviour appeared in the person of Laurie Baker.

I told him of my travails, my problems and my hopeless plight. He then promised me a house large enough to accommodate my family and advised me to seek some source of funds to meet the construction expenses. He also gave me a plan of the building he proposed to build for me. I really could not believe my ears. I began to explore possibilities of raising some money. I managed after strenuous efforts to amass a petty sum and handed it over to Baker. He started construction of the house building in right earnest. At that stage I also managed to procure the timber and prepare the doors and windows required for the building.

The building was completed in about six months. And then I enquired of Baker as to how much money more I had to give him by way of construction expenses. His reply was; “Oh, no. You occupy the house and live there happily. We have no accounts to settle at all”. Words that still ring in my ears. Words that could come only from Laurie Baker. I lived there happily since 1974, pursued the studies of my children and my own studies (preparing my PhD thesis), and held the weddings of all my girl children, till at last my wife expired, in 1998.

I have seen many a Baker building coming in different parts of the city and I am sure every building owner would have fond memories of his/her “business” dealings with Baker.

May his soul rest in eternal peace.

**P.R. Gopinathan Nair**

## SEMINARS

**Praveena Kodoth**

(Centre for Development Studies)

**Gender on the Margins of the Marriage Market in Kerala**

19 January

This illuminating presentation drew upon fieldwork in north Kerala among people who banished dowry transactions from their matchmaking, and sought to explore the ways in which women and their families accessed 'conjugal patronage' through payment of groomprice at marriage. The presenter began by discussing the ways in which dowry has been discussed in social scientific research in the Indian context, largely in anthropology and demography. Finding these explanations either partial or oblivious to gender power, she pointed to the history of changes in the political economy and emergent configurations of class, caste, and gender in Malayalee society in the course of the twentieth century, a process which has led to the emergence of 'conjugal patriarchy'. Strikingly, the spread of the new conjugal norm seems to have been coeval with the diffusion of social development in north Kerala. She further outlined the strategies through which marital stability was ensured, but at the woman's cost, and also the formation of a 'margin' inhabited by women found to be lacking in patriarchally-defined feminine attributes such as beauty or fair complexion.

Comments from the floor included suggestions about the possibilities of interdisciplinary inquiry implicit in the presentation, the new mediatory institutions like marriage bureaus, and issues of women's inheritance and agency in the vexatious persistence of dowry in 'socially-developed' Kerala.

J. Devika

**K. Pushpangadan**

(Centre for Development Studies)

**Agrarian Crisis in Kerala: A Diagnosis**

2 February

Low growth rates and rising incidence of suicides by farmers in many States of India have forced

considerable public policy attention on agriculture in the recent years. Why was there increasing inequality of income elasticity of expenditure in the recent years in India. The presenter argued that agriculture, the main source of livelihood of people in rural Kerala, has been in distress. The growth rate of agriculture declined from 8.31 per cent in 1985-86 to 2.70 per cent in 1995-96. Time series analysis was used to capture the seasonality in agricultural prices in the different districts of the State and to identify the crop combination with the highest risk. It was pointed out that income instability led to farmers' suicides. Mentioning three effects of income instability—the cropping pattern effect—the yield effect, and the price effect, the presenter stressed that it was the cropping pattern effect that led to farmers' suicides. Finally, he raised some issues for policy such as crop diversification, and the need for an appropriate model to handle income instability.

In the discussion that followed, comments were made mainly about factors determining income instability, like the output or the input markets. Questions were also raised on the role of financial intermediaries in causing farmers' distress. The need to consider psychological and sociological issues also emerged.

Braja Bandhu Swain and Syam Prasad

**Professor Penny Van Esterik**

(Department of Anthropology,  
York University, Canada)

**Breastfeeding and HIV/AIDS: Critical Gaps and Dangerous Intersections**

12 February

The focus of the HIV control programmes has largely left out HIV-affected mothers. This group calls for attention mainly because of the risk of the virus passing from HIV-affected mothers to their children through breastfeeding. At present HIV among women is treated as a sexual and reproductive health issue, while breastfeeding is

considered to be a maternal and child-health issue. But when it comes to the question of HIV-positive mothers, the question cannot be answered in isolation. Hence, the three issues of sexual and reproductive health of women, of HIV-AIDS in general, and of maternal and child health, should be analysed in an integrated framework. The presenter also highlighted the oppressive laws in certain countries which criminalise breastfeeding by a HIV-positive mother. Issues of availability, accessibility and affordability are argued to be crucial in advocating complementary feeding for the children of HIV-positive mothers because they often belong to poor households.

Comments from the floor were mainly on policy opinions of researchers from different disciplines, on HIV/AIDS. It was contended that a region-specific, rather than universal, policy would be more effective in this instance.

Rudra Narayan Mishra

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**Varinder Jain**

(Centre for Development Studies)

**An Inquiry into the Growth Dynamics of the Punjab's Unorganised Industry: A Labour Perspective**

28 February

The presentation was in two parts. The first part investigated the growth dynamics of unorganised manufacturing industries in the Punjab, pointing out that the share of emoluments in total Gross Value Added in the Punjab's urban establishments is the lowest among the high income states of India. Most importantly, the responsiveness of real wage elasticity to real gross value added is the lowest in the Punjab's urban establishments. These results were derived from an analysis of the NSSO (51<sup>st</sup> & 56<sup>th</sup>) rounds. The second part of the presentation concentrated on the issue of the 'quality of employment'. Here the focus was the way firms in their quest for growth contributed towards the vulnerability of the working masses. This question was examined through various issues like- recruitment strategy, wage

determination, working environment, and others. These results emerged purely from a primary survey, which was well appreciated.

The subsequent discussion touched upon both conceptual and empirical issues noticed in the presentation. Certain omissions in the review of literature were also pointed out; a few areas of vagueness in the linkage between the growth dynamics and labour relations were stressed too.

Neethi.P

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**Sunil Mani**

(Centre for Development Studies)

**Facilitating Globalisation of India's Economy (Facets of the Telecommunication Revolution in India)**

2 March

The Indian communication revolution of the past decade and a half was the focus of this presentation. The presenter built his arguments on seven important dimensions of the telecom revolution - the substantial growth in the telecom network in the past fifteen years, India's premier position in the world in the ratio of mobile phones to fixed line connections, the multi-dimensional competition among service providers as well as among mobile phone technologies, the increasing privatisation of the network. Fifth, the pressure of competition having spurred the state-owned BSNL to improve performance, the rich policy and institutional support for this revolution and last probably the highlight of the revolution, that the prices of all types of phone-calls have fallen significantly.

Three rather troubling facets of this revolution were also discussed: the regional variations in distribution and access to telecom; the erosion of self-sufficiency in the development of telecom equipment, and the slower diffusion of the Internet in India. However, the presenter also mentioned a 'silver lining', the rise in privately funded R&D for telecom, and India's growth as a manufacturing hub for high-technology telecom equipment.

Anant Kamath

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**Riswana Soundardjee**

(University of Montreal)

**Gender Bias in Children's Health Care  
Consumption in Rural Community in Kerala**

3 March

**K**erala is known for a favourable sex ratio for women and fair treatment of female children compared to other States in India. But the presenter's preliminary findings from a study of 439 episodes of severe illness among 879 children (441 boys and 439 girls) of age 0-15 years in the Kottathara Panchayat of Wayanad district of Kerala found that the gender bias still prevails in the State, especially in rural Kerala. Information on the symptoms, duration, and types of care sought over the past one year of children's illness (starting from March 1, 2003) was collected through innovative means. The preliminary study found that the waiting period before seeking clinical care is higher for female children, that private health care is more likely to be sought for male children, and also that the average expenditure for male children is marginally higher than for female children. Gender difference seems to be governed by the composition and the socio-economic status of the household — the poorer and the more marginal the household, the worse the gender difference.

Comments from the floor emphasised the need for more rigorous analysis of the ways in which income and caste of the household, availability of health infrastructure and knowledge about the illness, play a crucial role while giving differential treatment in health care for female and male children.

Rudra Narayan Mishra

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**Hrushikesh Mallick, Vinoj Abraham**

**M. Parameswaran, Dilip T.R.**

(Centre for Development Studies)

**Discussion on State of the Economy  
and the Union Budget**

5 March

**T**he Union Budget 2007-08 was presented against the backdrop of Indian economy's impressive growth rate of 9 per cent per annum

consecutively for three years coupled with an annual surging inflation rate of over 6 per cent. The budget focused on sustaining the high growth rate during the eleventh five-year plan, containing the inflation rate, and rescuing the agriculture sector from its present sluggishness.

The discussion on the budget and the state of the economy conducted by a panel of four CDS faculty members concentrated on the monetary sector, agriculture, industry, and the social sector. The presentations were sweeping, and the stress was on the elaborate presentation of the present economic scenario. However, many areas, especially the taxation proposals, were left uncovered. The discussion could have highlighted the lack of a coherent strategy for action towards the achievement of the multiple goals set by the budget. Also, an extension of the focus to the ways by which the present levels were attained, and to the adequacy and appropriateness of the various measures suggested in the budget, would have made the discussion livelier.

Questions from the floor were on the neglect in the budget of infrastructural development, especially of the power sector. Other issues like the problems arising from large inflow of FDI and the excess liquidity within the economy, the extension of fiscal incentives like reduction in tax rates and declaration of tax holidays for promoting R&D, the underutilisation of funds by States on schemes like SSA, were also raised.

T.K. Subramanian

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**Katia Mohindra**

(University of Montreal)

**Self-help Groups Re-examined:  
A Health and Vulnerability Perspective**

7 March

**T**he presentation focused on a case study of self-help groups in one of the Panchayats in the Wayanad district of Kerala, and was aimed at capturing the potential incidental health consequences on the participants of the self-help group. The *raison d'être* for choosing self-help

groups for studying health and vulnerability aspects was the existence of anti-poverty measures, which could be pro-health, and of various schemes initiated by health departments in the State. The participants' self-perceptions of their health were collected and presented in a scale, which ranged from bad to excellent. Variations in health perceptions were compared, especially, those between the early and the later participants of the self-help groups.

During the discussion, questions were raised about the use of self-perceived health status and regarding the exclusion of Paniya tribes from the sample. Also, issues were raised regarding the influence of SHGs in local government and the effectiveness of SHGs in deriving health benefits for members. Concern was also raised regarding the instrumental role of women in poverty alleviation.

Shalini Rudra

**Chinnappan Gasper**

(Centre for Development Studies)

**The Public and Private Cost of Graduation in Medical Education**

16 March

The presentation analysed the costs and financing of graduate medical education in India with particular reference to the State of Tamil Nadu. Based on a survey covering 1178 medical students from different streams of education, it found that total recovery of cost from students is only 4 per cent. Thus it was argued that the continued subsidisation of medical education was not reasonable, given that the private returns are considerably high and the private demand for it continues to rise monotonically. The study proposed a cost-recovery policy, as students expressed willingness to share the cost of education. It was found that 95 per cent of the total cost is spent on salary alone. Another finding was that the pre-admission expenditure incurred by students varies across different social groups.

In the subsequent discussion the purpose of the study was questioned. Questions were raised about

confining the study to government institutions and ignoring the private sector, certainly important within allopathic medical education. It was also remarked that including salary bills wholly within the costs may be misleading, and that it was necessary to differentiate between capital and current cost.

Alice Sebastian

**K.J. Joseph and Vinoj Abraham**

(Centre for Development Studies)

**ICT and Productivity: Evidence from India's Manufacturing Sector**

23 March

In this presentation, the effort was to quantify the effects of use of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) on productivity in the organised manufacturing sector in India. ASI data was used to assess the impact of ICT investment on labour productivity. Industries were classified into low medium and high level of technology according to the level of technology adopted. The results showed that the elasticity of labour productivity to IT investment per worker is positive and highly significant, and the growth of labour productivity from IT investment per worker is more for high tech industries. There also seems to be industry-specific variations in the returns to ICT investment per worker. Secondly, the effect of ICT investment on the estimated index of Total Factor Productivity (TFP) was looked into, using the Multilateral TFP Index. This relation turned out to be positive and significant.

The discussant, Dr Pushpangadan, and the floor largely focused on the issues like the measurability of ICT investment when the technology is embodied, accounting for productivity gains through organisational changes due to ICT investment, measuring the stock of ICT investment, and capturing the lagged effect of ICT investment on productivity. The presentation was also lauded for being the first macro level attempt to measure the productivity impact of ICT investment in India.

Nadhanael. G.V

**Harilal M.S**

(Centre for Development Studies)

**Home to Market : Commercialisation  
and Professionalisation of Ayurveda  
from 1830s to 1920s**

26 March

This presentation traced the history of the modernisation, professionalisation, and commercialisation of ayurveda as a system of knowledge, curative practice, and industry, between 1830s and 1920s. It highlighted the shifts through which ayurveda successfully withstood the coming of biomedicine, achieving a ‘negotiated modernity’ — through the phenomenal shift in the production of ayurvedic drugs from individual specific to mass production, the introduction of professionalism in ayurvedic training, attempts to adopt the framework of modern medicine, and the adoption of certain production techniques for mass production of ayurvedic drugs and innovations in drug manufacturing by some ayurvedic physicians. It proposed a periodisation of the production of ayurvedic drugs from the home - based system through petty production to mass scale.

The discussant, Dr K. N. Panikkar, observed that it was necessary to review closely the factors that enabled this ‘negotiated modernity’. To what extent have political and intellectual factors contributed to this shift? Some pertinent points raised from the floor were regarding the specifics of professionalisation and modernisation of ayurveda in Kerala, especially the exclusions through which it was constituted as legitimate knowledge and as an acceptable profession. Problems related to standardisation of ayurvedic drugs were also raised.

T.K. Subramanian

**N. Vijayamohan Pillai**

(Centre for Development Studies)

**Loss of Load Probability (LOLP)  
of a Power System Kerala**

29 March

This presentation introduced a new measure for examining the loss of load probability (LOLP)

of a power system – a tool much needed for assessing the reliability of a power system. The thrust of the presentation was not only in explaining this new measure of LOLP in theoretical terms but also informing the audience about the feasibility of using this measure to examine empirically the reliability of a power system. This piece of research, with the data inputs of forced outage rates for various power plants in Kerala over the period of 1978-79 to 2003-04, provided a diagnosis of the implicit unreliability of the power utility in Kerala. The presenter was able to offer a truly mind-boggling estimate of the economic loss incurred by Kerala’s power system due to its inability to cater to the peak load electricity requirements of its consumers in the state.

Comments from the floor urged the author to carry forward this analysis of LOLP by examining the underlying factors behind such high incidence of forced outages in Kerala power system. There was also the suggestion that a more realistic picture of the LOLP in Kerala power system can be had by accounting for the yearly rainfall patterns and consequent reserves of water in the reservoirs.

Varinder Jain

**National Seminar**

**Indian Economy: Historical Roots and  
Contemporary Development Experience**

31 March - 1 April



The National Seminar funded by the ICSSR as part of the commemoration of the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the First War of Indian independence

held at CDS was a rich tribute to the tradition of research into economic history at this institution. Fourteen papers were presented in four technical sessions. K. G. Balakrishnan, Honourable Chief Justice of India, inaugurated the seminar.

An edited volume of essays presented at the national conference held at Thrissur in October 2004 in honour of Dr K.N. Raj, titled *Institutions and Markets in India's Development: Essays for K N Raj* was released at the inaugural function. Professor Kaushik Basu delivered the Joan Robinson Memorial Lecture: "Performance of the Contemporary Indian Economy and its Historical Roots" on the occasion. Over 160 participants attended the inaugural function.

The papers presented at the seminar examined the

long-term changes in India's population and related characteristics, followed by an analysis of the impact of changes in population on land use, agricultural expansion and food supply. The expansion of infrastructure, and socio-economic overheads, and of education and health was also examined. The evolution of legal and social institutions and planning and economic policy during the colonial period and after formed another key theme of discussion. The papers highlighted the inter-regional variations on the various topics under consideration and brought out the organic links between contemporary development experience and the historical processes during the past 150 years.

D. Narayana

## CONFERENCES / WORKSHOPS

### Workshops Under LSG Unit

The LSG Unit organised several workshops on housing in Kasaragod during the past quarter.

A two-day workshop was organised at CDS during 15-16 January to discuss the findings of the housing survey conducted in Kodom- Belur Panchayat. Experts from CDS and other institutions and representatives from the Panchayat attended. The survey revealed that 38 per cent of the houses in the panchayat are in an utterly dilapidated condition; 58 per cent have no toilets; 66 per cent are not electrified, and 65 per cent are bereft of drinking water facilities. Strategies to address these issues were at the core of the workshop discussions. Another two-day workshop on 20-21 January on housing was conducted for five panchayats at Kanhangad. The problems discussed related to transparent and foolproof beneficiary selection, implementation of programmes with people's participation and involvement of

beneficiaries at every stage of implementation. Institutions to be created within the panchayats for implementing the housing schemes and the sources for financial assistance were also deliberated upon. These discussion and implementation workshops were followed by Panchayat-level project preparation workshops.

The projects thus prepared were presented before experts on 10 March at CDS. On 12 March the President and the Vice-President of the Chemmad Grama Panchayat presented the project report on Animal Husbandry and Dairying at CDS. The Kodom-Belur Panchayat organised a function at the Panchayat hall to hand over its project report on housing to P. Karunakaran, MP, on 25 March.

The students in the ISS-CDS Academic Programme visited two Panchayats in Kasaragod to gain first-hand knowledge of the various social security measures implemented in them.

T.P. Sreedharan

## TRAINING PROGRAMMES

### Training in Handling Large Scale Socio-Economic Survey Data Sets

10-12 January

This three-day workshop mainly focused on the conceptual and practical issues of handling the NFHS and NSS data sets. U. S. Mishra, T. R. Dilip, and Priyajit Samaiyar led the discussions. The issues regarding the extraction and use of NSS (both the 55<sup>th</sup> and the 60<sup>th</sup> rounds) and NFHS data were discussed. The idea was to highlight unexplored areas in data analysis and motivate students towards research in these areas. Lecture sessions were combined with practical exercises on all the three days. More than 20 students attended the workshop.

Syam Prasad

### CDS – ISS Training Programme

Co-ordinator: S. Irudaya Rajan

5-23 March



CDS has been co-hosting a short-term international training programme on “Universalising Socio-economic Security for the Poor” with the Institute of Social Studies, The Hague and SEWA, Ahmedabad. This three-month Diploma Programme starts in January at the ISS, then moves on to SEWA during February and its last leg is held at CDS.

The segment at CDS involved exposing the students to Kerala’s experience of social security initiatives like various welfare funds and social security arrangements for unorganised sector workers. Besides lectures and interactive sessions with academics from within and outside CDS, activists,

elected representatives of local governments and bureaucrats, a few field visits of short and long duration were also organised.

This year there were 16 participants - a mix of social activists, officials and researchers - coming from Ecuador, Ghana, Honduras, Kenya, Pakistan, Peru, Sri Lanka, The Netherlands, Uganda, and U.S.A., besides India.

U.S.Mishra

### Short Duration Programme on Using Internet for Applied Development Research

7-9 March

CDS has been collaborating with the Indian Institute of Information Technology and Management-Kerala (IIITM-K) in conducting a short duration-training programme on the use of Internet for research in social sciences. The third updated and revised version of the programme was conducted at IIITM-K. This year a number of new tools for searching, downloading, networking, data analysis, report-writing and referencing were added and the programme was thrown open to participants from across the disciplines. As a result, there were 18 participants from diverse disciplines such as Clinical Medicine, Economics, English Literature, Engineering, History and Sociology. Another feature of this year’s version was that participants came from as far as Delhi and Hyderabad. As usual, the course team continues to interact with the participants through the blog, <http://uiadr.wordpress.com>. In fact, two of the participants were selected to maintain this blog. The programme was co-ordinated by Sunil Mani. J. Murali, U. S. Mishra and K. Sreenivasan (IIITM-K) were the other resource persons. A leading publisher has come forward to publish a full-length book on the programme and the manuscript is under preparation. The launching of tool-specific workshops as a follow-up to this programme is planned. For instance, the first in the series will be on podcasting to be launched in November 2007.

Sunil Mani

## Short-Term Training on Research on Migration Issues

5-9 February; 26-30 March

**Co-ordinator: S. Irudaya Rajan**

This programme was designed and offered by the Research Unit on International Migration set up at CDS by the Ministry of Indian Overseas Affairs, Government of India. Offered two times this year, this programme aimed at enhancing the research capacities of young researchers, working on migration issues from diverse disciplinary backgrounds. It also sought to widen the scope and focus of migration research from its narrow demographic character to its manifold dimensions having a bearing on socio-economic dynamics at large.



Researchers were introduced to emerging issues in, and consequences of, internal and international migration. They were also familiarised with the methods and tools of conducting surveys and assessing the magnitudes, characteristics, flows and implications of migration, based on different types and sources of data. Fourteen young researchers from all over the country participated.

U.S. Mishra

## LIBRARY NEWS

The CDS library acquired 244 books and 66 Working Papers in the past quarter. Students and staff attended the book fairs organised by Modern Books and D.C Books, the leading booksellers in the city, to select titles.

An exhibition of books on social and economic security was arranged in the Reading Room of the Library in connection with the ISS-CDS-SEWA Diploma Programme on Universalising Socio-Economic Security. The bibliography of books on social security was also updated.

NASSDOC and ICSSR have taken the initiative to form an E-Journal Consortium subscription among the Social Science libraries in the country. CDS has expressed its willingness to participate in the consortium and supplied the sponsors with a list of 474 journals to be considered for consortium subscription.

The Library had suggested the digitisation of CDS Working Papers Nos. 1- 278, which are currently available only in print (later Working Papers are accessible on CDS website). The Faculty Committee has approved of this suggestion. Hopefully, the proposed digitisation will begin soon.

Bar-coding of books and back volumes of periodicals is progressing, though staff shortage is proving to be a serious snag.

During the past quarter, 12 external and 2 alumni memberships were granted.

V. Usha Devi

## CAMPUS NEWS

International Women's Day was celebrated in the campus on 8 March with a screening of *When Four Friends Meet* directed by renowned documentary maker Rahul Roy. The film explored the expression and construction of masculinities in an urban setting by closely following the everyday life of four young men. The screening was followed by a brief discussion initiated by Dr Vineetha Menon, which touched upon the role of the director in the film- narrative, the effect of socialisation in constructing masculine stereotypes and the implications of being sympathetic to the trappings of masculinities for feminist politics. On 20 March, Pedro Almodovar's acclaimed film *Volver*, a gripping melodrama and exploration of family and tragedy, and a gorgeous story of women's friendship and camaraderie, was screened.

Mythri Prasad

## PUBLICATIONS

### Articles/Chapters in Books

Devika, J. and Binitha V. Thampi. 2007. 'Between 'Empowerment' and 'Liberation': The Kudumbashree Initiative in Kerala', *Indian Journal of Gender Studies* 14 (1), 33-59.

Devika, J. 2007. 'Lust for Life: Desire in Lalitambika Antaranam's Writings', in Nivedita Menon (ed.), *Sexualities: Issues in Contemporary Indian Feminism*, New Delhi: Women Unlimited.

Mani, Sunil. 2007. 'Revolution in India's Telecommunications Industry', *Economic and Political Weekly*, Vol. XLII, No: 7, pp. 578-580. (Review article)

Sharma, R.K. and Vinoy Abraham. 2007. 'The Growth of Services Sector Employment and Income in India: A Regional Analysis', in *Indian Economic Journal*, Vol. 53, No.3 January.

### Book Review

Devika, J. 2007. 'Politics and the People', *Book Review XXXI* (1), January, 15-7.

## Achievements

**Anant Kamath**, currently completing his M Phil dissertation at CDS, has been offered admission with fellowship to the Ph D Programme in the Economics and Policy Studies of Technical Change at the UNU-MERIT, the Netherlands, commencing September 2007 at Maastricht, the Netherlands.

**Harilal M. S.**, currently doing doctoral work at CDS, has been awarded the Sarai-CSDS Independent Fellowship 2007 for his work on the shaping of the ayurveda industry in Kerala.

**Sumalatha B. S.**, who is completing her M Phil dissertation, has been awarded Sarai-CSDS Student Fellowship for her work on the casual links between urbanisation and space for stock market service providers in Kerala townships.

## ALMA MATER CALLING

*Dear friend*

*CDS teaching programmes are now past three decades and we take pride in having you among our galaxy of alumni from the M Phil, Ph D and P&SD programmes. Looking back, CDS has been supported by an enviable crop of academics/researchers/and other staff, who gave their share for its present strength.*

*With a view to strengthening the association with all of you, CDS intends to have a formal venue of interaction.*

*We would tentatively term it CENTIZENS (till we find a better term).*

*As a first step, we propose annual reunions, indeed with appropriate academic content. We shall have the first of these on May 12- 13, 2007, as a fitting tribute to Dr K.N. Raj, who turns 84 on 13 May. We hope to discuss the possibility of publishing your contributions as a festschrift to Dr Raj.*

*For further information, please do contact us at [centizen@cds.ac.in](mailto:centizen@cds.ac.in)*

*As our information about CDS alumni is incomplete, we would greatly appreciate it*

*if you could help us to contact other alumni with whom you are in touch.*

*With warm greetings to you and your loved ones,*

**K. Narayanan Nair**  
Director

MEMORY

**Growing Up Near CDS**

I grew up in the 1980s near CDS. It defines the landscape and mindscape of my childhood memories. We grew up playing shuttle badminton and walking in the beautiful, cool, tree-lined campus surrounded by the incessant construction of a burgeoning middle class neighborhood.

While in college I acquired a coveted membership of the CDS library mostly for the pleasure of being in the gracious circular building and the amazing view of the city of Thiruvananthapuram from the top floor through Laurie Baker's hallmark *jaalis* than for reading or studying. Serendipitously I also acquired a number of intellectual friends, with whom I spent innumerable hours in discussions in the quaint open-air seating areas scattered around the campus, the unusually shaped cozy hostel rooms, the cottage-like ambience of faculty quarters, the *jaali*-walled canteen opening to a lush green courtyard....all quaint, unique, Bohemian; the antithesis of my bourgeois middle-class life.... Intellectuals visiting Thiruvananthapuram made their mandatory admiring visits to CDS watched by a bemused local population who continued building elaborate concrete houses keeping with their rising status, living by the exacting norms of an unforgiving Kerala society. Though somewhat tamed by the relentless Kerala society, CDS continues to stand as the bastion of unconventionality (physically and intellectually)!

CDS was not merely a physical space; it was my refuge from the narrow-minded Malayalee attitudes and my bulwark to validate subversive (!) thoughts and ideas. I associated freedom of thought, movement, and rebellion with CDS. The progressive profs and radical and would-be-radical students in mixed groups had evening *chai* over heated discussions (on thinkers and philosophers I had never heard of till then) from the local tea shop; they were not shy to visit the

local toddy shop on an occasional weekend, either.

Years later, as beautiful as ever, one with nature, aging gracefully with some cracks showing up (*jaalis* that leak, damp walls), the red bricks peeping through the verdant green of Kerala, the sometimes impractical paved walks slippery with fallen leaves, CDS endures as my favourite haunt in Thiruvananthapuram. *Chai* with my one friend remaining in campus and the slightly furtive walk to avoid the ubiquitous campus security guard (which any self-respecting Indian campus has to have) continue to delight me.... I have always thought that the beautiful space created by Baker embodied creativity, freedom of thought and intellectual growth without boundaries....

L. Sreedevi

*(L. Sreedevi left Thiruvananthapuram to work for the public sector and the corporate sector. She now lives in the US where she has gone back to University for a Masters in Sociology. She is also active in various civil society groups.)*

**Outreach**

K.J. Joseph presented a paper 'Hastening Catching up: Lessons from India's ICT Sector' at the international workshop on Managing Global Governance: Major Challenges and Main Actors, organised by the German Development Institute, Bonn, during 5-8 February 2007.

Dr P. K. Michael Tharakan, formerly with CDS, has been offered the Shri Ramakrishna Hegde Chair in Decentralization and Development at ISEC, Bangalore. Dr Tharakan has made significant contributions towards widening our understandings of Kerala's history, and contemporary political and developmental processes. We extend our warm congratulations to Prof Tharakan.



CHRONICLE 9  
January - March 2007

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