



CHRONICLE 13

Quarterly

Newsletter

2008

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EDITORIAL COMMITTEE

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EDITOR'S NOTE

Three years after the first issue of the *CDS Chronicle*, those of us who have been involved with it can hardly help feeling a sense of achievement. In this period, the CDSC became a part of the institution's normal life; it was never once interrupted despite all our busy schedules. However, without change and transformation, nothing good endures, and so it is with the CDSC. It is time that we critically reexamine the CDSC so that we may give it a new shape. Hopefully, transform it totally, in form and content.

The CDSC was envisaged as not just a formal newsletter delivering information about academic activities at CDS, but also as possible link connecting all segments of the present CDS community, the alumni, and readers outside, including academics,

policy makers, and others. We do feel that it is time to reflect on whether the CDSC continues to fulfill this function, and whether there are ways of improving. As research at CDS makes new strides, how may we redesign the CDSC to adequately convey the new work to the world outside, bring fresh focus on the teaching programme, and continue to connect the many generation of researchers at CDS?

This month, we hope to initiate a round of discussion on these questions. Ideas and suggestions would be most welcome, especially from the readers of the CDSC!

I would be delighted to receive them at devika@cds.ac.in

J. Devika

M I L E S T O N E S

I came to CDS as a temporary typist in the UNICEF project under Prof P.G.K. Panicker in June 1982; the appointment was through Employment Exchange. During that time I used to do manual typing work for both the faculty and the students. Though it was tedious to type more than 50 pages a day, I enjoyed working with eminent personalities like Professors K.N. Raj, P.G.K. Panicker, T.N. Krishnan, P.R. Gopinathan Nair, E.T. Mathew and I.S. Gulati.

In 1986, I was given a permanent appointment here, a development that proved the turning point in my life. Later, in 1995, I was transferred to the P&SD section. Here I interacted closely with foreign students and many eminent demographers. There were ups and downs, of course — the death of my colleague Padmavathy Amma and of Prof PGK Panicker, who was my mentor at CDS, were rude shocks.

There was much greater interaction and friendship than today among staff and students, those days. Many students had their dissertations typed by us. Later, many of them joined as faculty here, who still

continue to be friendly. Community life in CDS peaked at that time; the Recreation Club was active and it conducted several cultural programmes and tours. Sadly, the intensity of interaction among the students and the staff seems to have decreased now. This is mainly due to technological advancement in the form of computers and internet facilities.



However technology has reduced my workload to a great extent and nowadays, there is more time to relax – time which I spend with books. The transportation facilities and the canteen services also used to be much better during the earlier days.

I have a debt of gratitude to CDS – for helping the building up of my life and my family. I wish to spend my retirement with my grandchildren, as a loving grandmother to them.

D. Girija

(Translated by Syam Prasad and Beena. S)

SEMINARS

Vinoj Abraham

(Centre for Development Studies)

**Growth and Inequality of Wages in India:
Recent Trends and Patterns**

4 January

The presenter argued that the pace of wage growth had declined between 1993-94 and 2004-05 for both regular employees and casual workers, through an analysis of NSS unit level data. The decline was particularly severe for regular workers, as there was indeed an absolute decline in wage rate during the period 1999-2004. Regional trends show that this slowdown is spreading to all parts of the country. Wage inequality does not seem to be accentuating among educational categories; but it has been widening within each category. Between the services sector and the other sectors too it has been widening. However, wage inequality between the manufacturing and agricultural sectors is on the decline. Inequality within each sector has been increasing in the services sector while it has been declining in the manufacturing and agricultural sectors. The paper concluded that these trends in wage rate growth and in disparities may be crucial in explaining the observed rise of self-employment and the worsening of income inequality. They may also highlight probable changes in the distribution of value addition. The discussant pointed out the need for the study to focus on sector-region specifics.

Vinoj Abraham

Professor Amitabh Kundu

(Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi)

**Formal Informalisation of Labour Market in a
Globalising Economy**

15 January

The presentation began by pointing to the labour market dynamics of developing countries under globalisation. The duality of the labour market is a

matter of concern in almost all these countries; India is no exception either. Some of the specificities and paradoxes of the Indian labour market, especially the paradox of the co-existence of increasing work participation and high unemployment rates were discussed. It was argued that the disappearance of the traditional sector jobs is a key factor for increasing unemployment. Prominent features of the Indian labour market, such as the increasing work participation of persons above 60 years of age and above, and the rising premium on education, an outcome of the positive relationship between education and earning, were highlighted. In the organised sector, however, neither the growth rate nor the employment opportunities are increasing. At the same time, even in urban context, the organised labour market is unable to absorb the increasing volumes of unskilled labour, which, therefore, languish in the informal labour market. But under globalisation, informal labour markets are responding in unique ways. The external assistance from NGOs and other agencies enable them to form their own organisations, and to act as 'formal informal' labour markets.

Neethi. P

N.Vijayamohan Pillai

(Centre for Development Studies)

**In Quest of the Distributional Properties of
Reliability Rate**

18 January

This presentation dealt with the theoretical aspects of the estimation of the reliability rate of a power system and the distributional properties of the estimator. It began with the definition of reliability rate (R), which in a broad sense refers to the probability that a component or system comprising components is able to perform its intended function satisfactorily during a specified period of time under normal operating conditions. In the case of a power generating system, its ability to meet the demand for power at any given time is

its reliability. The main focus of the presentation was the modelling of the maximum likelihood estimation of reliability rate. By analysing the distributional properties of the maximum likelihood estimators of reliability rate, Dr Pillai showed some interesting features of it such as the symmetric but wide U-shaped nature. Unlike most other common distributions, density falls as R ($0 < R < 1$) increases till $R=0.5$ and rises beyond that point. While deriving the first two raw moments and thence the mean and variance of R , he made it clear that only in very rare situations the series converge and thus difficulties in evaluating the moments arise. He concluded by saying that simulation might be a better alternative to direct analytic methods to study the distributional characteristics of reliability rate as the latter is less amenable to empirical estimation. After the presentation, a discussion followed on the feasibility and accuracy of the empirical estimation of reliability rate and the analysis of the properties of its distribution. A discussion specific to the question of application of the study to the case of Indian power systems also followed.

Atish Kumar Dash

Hrushikesh Mallick

(Centre for Development Studies)

**Government Spending, Trade Openness
and Economic Growth in India:
A Time Series Analysis**

25 January

The impact of aggregate public expenditure on growth rate of output, trade openness and gross private investment was explored in this presentation. The dynamic relationship among the three variables and the components of aggregate government expenditure, revenue and capital, was examined by estimating a Structural Vector Auto Regression model. The presenter also advanced the thesis that current expenditure is unproductive and capital expenditure, productive. An interesting finding is that the variation in the rate of output growth is explained by revenue expenditure and not by either

aggregate government expenditure or capital expenditure. Thus the view that some components of revenue expenditure need to be treated as productive was presented. Taxes, openness and private investment also turned out to be positively related to output growth.

Commenting on the paper, the discussant raised two significant points: the absence of a theoretical framework supporting the case of Structural VAR, and the need to specify the criterion employed for selection of variables. Issues raised from the floor included the problems of identification in the VAR model and of explaining growth by examining revenue and capital expenditure components, which are complementary in nature.

T.K. Subramaniam

Professor Biswajit Dhar

(Professor & Head, WTO Centre
Indian Institute of Foreign Trade)

**Agriculture Negotiations under WTO:
Implications for India**

15 February

How India could benefit from the increasing generation of income, characteristic of the present-day international agricultural market was the major focus of this talk. The presenter gave a brief account of the formation of WTO, in which special treatment was accorded to the agricultural sector to facilitate progressive trade in agricultural commodities — greater exports from developing countries than developed countries – through the Agreement on Agriculture (AOA). This agreement includes market access, domestic support and export subsidies.

In the Indian context, it was argued, the first two are more important since export subsidies are marginal in our case. It was expected that India would gain more from the world agricultural market in market access after it submitted its negotiating proposals to the WTO for the mandated negotiations under AOA in the areas of market access, domestic support, export competition,

and food security in 2001. However, the outcomes of the agreement were the reverse of these expectations. International agricultural prices declined sharply in the post-WTO period. It was suggested that organisational networks which enable developing countries to bargain with developed countries to reduce import tariffs and domestic support for farming communities in the latter, are absolutely essential if the former were to gain from the international agricultural market. Further, as exports become increasingly competitive, it is export promotion that depends increasingly on improving produce quality, efficiency and cost reduction. Therefore, it was emphasised that improvements in irrigation, transport, agricultural extension services and research & development, are necessary to make Indian agriculture competitive and profitable.

Braja Bandhu Swain
Rajeev Sharma

Ms.Aaffka Marije Haringa

(Utrecht University, The Netherlands)

**Necessity Breaks The Rule:
Effects of International Migration on the Daily
Spatial Mobility of Women in Kerala**

21 February

The speaker discussed the effects of labour migration on the daily spatial mobility of women belonging to different socio-religious groups in Kerala. She argued that migration brings new challenges for women, either by the absence of husbands, which leaves many responsibilities with wives, or through opportunities of living and working abroad for themselves. Either way, traditional gender roles are challenged and women are faced with the opportunity and often the necessity to manage things on their own and to learn new things. Her study found that migration definitely has an impact on women's daily mobility, but with very different outcomes, depending on the women's attitude and personal situation. The speaker observed that the differences between religious groups concerning gender norms were not however very evident.

Among Christians, there was some more tolerance for going out in the evening and for leisure purposes, but not in all cases. Age was important in determining the degree of freedom of women: younger women are more subject to flirtatious gossip and need to prove their good conduct. The fact that some of their husbands hardly knew them, could also be a factor. The mindset of the family and neighbours was important in deciding whether they cared about what others said about them; this might also be related to education. The approval of mothers-in-law and husbands was important for women to be able to do what they want, whether it be working outside the home, travelling by themselves, learning to drive etc. This aspect showed no clear relationship with matriliney or patriliney practices.

William Joe

Professor Gavin Mooney

(Curtin University of Technology, Perth, Australia)

**Rethinking the Values Underpinning
Health Economics**

29 February

New paradigms in health economics were the subject of discussion in this presentation. The presenter expressed concern over the dominance of western individualistic values in health economics and argued that the discipline needs to respect better, values of other cultures too. The contemporary literature on health economics tends to heavily concentrate upon issues related to health care; certain important issues of equity and social determinants of health have received relatively much less attention. It was argued that both welfarism and extra welfarism are individualistic and consequentialist. The paradigm shift in health economics involved a move towards communitarian values in which *inter alia* there lies greater respect for different cultures for the ways in which both health and health services are constructed. The presentation was followed by a discussion in which issues pertaining to social heterogeneity and the political economy of the

communitarian approach were reflected upon.
William Joe

Professor Rajah Rasiah
(University of Malaya)

**Industrial Development and Ethnic-based
Equity Policies in Malaysia**
25 March

The presenter attempted to re-examine some critical issues related to the key drivers of per capita income growth and poverty alleviation in Malaysia. He began with the premise that growth and poverty reduction in Malaysia was achieved on the basis of explicit

policies to increase export-orientation and FDI inflows into manufacturing, and by incorporating specific instruments to guide poverty alleviation and redistribution. In this regard, he advanced three propositions: first, explicit policy instruments were important in stimulating export, manufacturing and foreign direct investment and in reducing poverty. Second, because of the small size of the domestic market, export manufacturing helped stimulate economic growth, labour force participation rates, and poverty reduction. Third, foreign direct investment was instrumental in stimulating export and manufacturing-led growth and in doing so assisted in reducing poverty.

CONFERENCES / WORKSHOPS

Activities under the Research Unit on Local Self Governments (RULSG)

A meeting on Good Governance was organised at CDS on January 31 as a follow-up of a decision by RULSG to initiate programmes in good governance on a pilot basis in Madikai and Chemnad Grama Panchayats of Kasaragod District. The presidents of the two Grama Panchayats and representatives from Centre for Development Studies (CDS), Centre for Management in Development (CMD), and Information Kerala Mission (IKM) who attended the meeting decided to start the exercise, emphasising computerisation of the Panchayats. An orientation workshop was organised at Chemnad on February 16 to present an overview of the IKM Programme of computerisation. A sizeable number of elected representatives and officials of both Grama Panchayats were present. A. Shaji, T.P. Sudhakaran and Sunilraj of IKM and G. Muraleedharan of CDS led the discussions.

On February 8, Dr K. N. Nair, Director, CDS made a brief visit to the RULSG office at Kanhangad to review the progress of group-farm activities in Madikai and initiatives on farmers, in Periya.

M .J. Joseph and P.K. Kurien from Planet Kerala interacted with Periya farmers during January 11-12 and February 14-15. A dozen farmers with whom RULSG has been working for about six

months are on the path of starting new activities to enhance their income. These include dairying, floriculture and mixed cropping. Manikantan, Technical Officer, *Krishi Vignan Kendra* of Central Plantation Crops Research Institute (CPCRI) interacted with the farmers on January 25 at their farms and gave necessary directions for their activities. On March 1, scientists from CPCRI explained the results of soil analysis in a meeting of farmers and emphasised the need for scientific approach in application of fertilisers. C. Thampan, CPCRI, expressed the institution's willingness to assist the farmers both technically and financially in soil and water conservation efforts. A team of scientists from CPCRI visited the farms of all the farmers to plan possible interventions.

In Bedadka Grama Panchayat, the much awaited green signal for Watershed management has come from NABARD. K. Premkumar and N. Vikram, NABARD, along with Programme Officer, RULSG visited the Water Shed on 26-02-08 and had wide-ranging discussions with office bearers of the Grama Panchayat and inhabitants of the WS. During March 6-7, A. Latha and her colleagues from River Research Centre, Thrissur visited the WS to delineate the area for the capacity-building programme. They are in the process of preparing the detailed plan for the programme.

A second batch received training in 'Appraisal, Monitoring and Evaluation of Projects' during February 21-28 at CDS. Twenty participants, most of them from State Development Departments were highly appreciative of the CDS initiative in this most neglected subject. The inauguration of the Workshop was done by N. Remakantan, Director, KILA, at a simple function chaired by K. N. Nair, Director, CDS.

On February 28, Madikai Panchayat organised a Harvesting Festival at Keekamkottu rice field. T.P. Sreedharan, Project Officer, in his address summed up the efforts of RULSG in organising the farmers into a cohesive group for rice farming. Group farming here has been able to enhance production through co-ordinated action by the Panchayat, the Agricultural College, and the farmers, with RULSG acting as a facilitator.

Nine participants of the ISS-CDS Programme on universalising social security visited Madikkai and Ajanoor Grama Panchayats on March 14-15 to take a look at various poverty alleviation programmes being taken up. A number of *Kudumbasree* micro-enterprises and institutions like the Public Health Centre and the *Anganwadi* were visited by this group which comprised members from Africa, South America and Asia.

T.P. Sreedharan

Workshop of the Research Programme 'Illegal but Licit: Transnational Flows and Permissive Polities in Asia'

24-25 January

The Workshop was held at the Centre for Development Studies, Thiruvananthapuram between 24-25 January 2008 in collaboration with the Amsterdam School of Social Research, University of Amsterdam.

The interim workshop of the research programme took stock and discussed empirical and methodological dimensions of three of the four component projects, which examined practices shaped through transnational movement of people and goods in the context of globalisation and poverty in select regions of Asia (Bangladesh, India, China, Israel, Dubai). The programme is funded by WOTRO

and the projects are being conducted by two post doctoral fellows (Bindhulakshmi P and Barak Kalir) and doctoral fellow (Malini Sur) with support from institutions in each of these countries and from the University of Amsterdam. The projects discussed at the workshop engaged with the complex questions of il/legality and il/licitness as they are produced and negotiated by states, societies and people in three distinct geographical, legal-political and social contexts, a) that of women domestic workers from Kerala who go to work in Dubai, b) the network of trade and livelihoods sustained through the systematic 'illegal' movement of men, women and goods across the border between Bangladesh and Assam and c) the entirely male labour migration from China to Israel. Each of the three researchers presented two papers, which a) analysed the theme of the programme using material that their multi sited field work had generated and b) grappled with methodology largely in terms of the researchers' experience of doing fieldwork. The presentations generated rich discussion and raised many questions including some regarding the scope of the initial framework of the programme – 'Illegal but licit'. On the second day, two eminent scholars – Diana Wong and Hastings Donnan made presentations on new developments in the field and V.J Varghese, faculty at CDS brought in the much needed dimension of state policy in a presentation entitled 'Promoting or Proscribing Women's Movement? Overseas Recruitment system in India'. After lunch the group visited a fishing village, where they had interactions with a group of men and women who had been to West and East Asian countries in search of work.

Praveena Kodoth

Two-day Southern Regional Workshop on Local Governments and Decentralized Governance

(Organised by the Commission on Centre-State Relations, New Delhi at the Centre for Development Studies, Thiruvananthapuram)

10-11 March

CDS hosted the Southern Regional Workshop on 'Local Government and Decentralised Governance' of the Commission on Centre-State Relations,



Government of India during 10-11 March, 2008. The Commission had formed nine broad subject/theme groupings for systematic analysis on a wide range of issues arising out of its Terms of References. While the Task Forces comprising experts and relevant stakeholders are being constituted on each of these subject areas, the regional workshop was held to stimulate stakeholder interest in identifying and articulating issues and questions on local government and decentralised governance which have a bearing on the task of the Commission. The sixtyfive participants comprised researchers, experts and practitioners from research institutions, and multiple tiers of governance namely; at State, District and Sub-District levels from the Southern States of India.

Soman Nair

ACHIEVEMENTS

Atish Kumar Dash (M Phil Scholar), won the “Best Young Researcher Award” at the Seventh Development Convention (February 20-22) hosted by the Institute of Public Enterprise, Hyderabad for the paper “India’s Success in Attracting FDI: A Comparative Analysis with other Major FDI Seeking Asian Economies”

National Workshop on ‘Training on Handling Large Scale Survey Data’

(Organised at Indian Institute of Technology, Chennai in collaboration with Centre for Development Studies, Thiruvananthapuram)

The three-day national workshop on ‘The Training on Handling Large Scale Survey Data’ was organised at the Department of Humanities and Social Sciences at Indian Institute of Technology, Chennai with the collaboration of the Centre for Development Studies, Thiruvananthapuram. Two students from CDS participated in the workshop. It started with a concise prologue by U.S. Mishra, CDS on survey research and a practical session by T.R. Dilip, CDS. The workshop was enriched by the presence of a wide variety of scholars and experts from various fields representing the planning board, the ministries, and the academia. The response on the part of the participants was enthusiastic. The method of using large-scale data and the processes of extraction of particular data from large data sets were certainly an addition to prevailing knowledge. The presentation of Dr. Umakant Dash (IIT, Madras) and Prof V.R. Muraleedharan (IIT, Madras) on NSS survey on health was highly informative. This programme helped the participants to understand the scope of the research in the field of health and related areas, covered by NSS and NFHS survey. Besides, the excellent programme was thoroughly enjoyed by all the participants.

Siddik R

TRAINING PROGRAMMES

Training Programme on WITS Software

Dr. Shahul Hameed (UNCTAD India)
15 February

The training programme on using World Integrated Trade Solution (WITS) was conducted in CDS on 15th of February 2008. The major objective of the training was to familiarise the participants with different trade data sources and the possible uses of WITS software for research purposes. The training session started with an overview of WITS software and the different databases that can be

accessed through WITS. WITS is a software which gives access to trade, and tariff-related statistical information. It also includes some simulation and analysis tools. The presenter introduced three major databases that can be accessed through WITS. The first is the Commodity Trade (COMTRADE) database maintained by the United Nations Statistical Division (UNSD), which gathers data about annual trade flows reported by 120 to 140 countries or areas. The second database namely TRAINS (Trade Analysis and Information System), is maintained by the UNCTAD, which gives data on tariffs and

import flows by origin for more than 140 countries. Finally, WITS also includes WTO's Integrated Data Base (IDB) and Consolidated Tariff Schedules (CTS).

K.J.Joseph

CDS- ISS Training Programme

Co-ordinator: S. Irudaya Rajan

3-20 March



CDS co-hosted 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 8 participants - activists, officials, and researchers - from Uganda, Kenya, Peru, and The Philippines, besides India.

U.S.Mishra

Short Duration Programme on Using Internet for Applied Development Research

Co-ordinator: Sunil Mani

26-28 March

The fourth version of this annual event was held, as usual, in collaboration with the Indian Institute of

Information Technology and Management-Kerala, Technopark during March 26-28. There were 15 participants from across the country representing a range of disciplines and professions. Lectures took the participants through the various stages involved in applied development research and acquainted them with a number of newer tools available on the Internet. Thus the participants were trained in efficient browsing, searching, downloading and collaborating and communicating with other researchers. A separate module on data analysis was also available. The programme continues to keep in touch with its alumni through its blog, <http://uissr.wordpress.com>. Mr. J. Muraleedharan Nair and U.S. Mishra, CDS, Professor K.R. Srivathsan, and Sunil Mani, CDS were the resource persons .

Sunil Mani

RESEARCH PROGRAMME ON PLANTATION CROPS SECTOR

The plantation sector in India has been facing several challenges following the liberalisation of the Indian economy. The sector has been losing external markets and the domestic market is facing increasing import competition. The erosion of international competitiveness on account of low productivity, inadequate processing, and market infrastructure, and low level of value addition is posing a grave threat to the sector. Greater integration with the world market has also led to sharp decline and instability in prices of many crops. As a result, the plantation sector, which generates massive employment especially for women, and is located largely in ecologically fragile regions, has also become economically and socially vulnerable. This has induced the Ministry of Commerce to undertake various measures to help enhance the competitiveness of the plantation sector.

However, it was felt that there is a dearth of research input for informed policy-making in India while commercial crop cultivation in developed countries like the US receive policy input from professors at Ivy League Universities. Hence, a research unit is proposed to be set up at CDS at the instance of the Minister of State for Commerce,

Shri Jairam Ramesh, to undertake policy-oriented research on all aspects of the plantation sector.

It may be recalled that Shri Jairam Ramesh had visited the Centre on April 30, 2007 when he expressed considerable interest in the research being carried out at CDS. He announced support to set up a Research Unit here and pursued the proposal, which resulted in the final announcement by the Hon'ble Finance Minister of India allocating Rs. 5 crore for the unit during 2008-09.

The unit will *help transform the Plantation Crops Economy of India to become an Internationally Competitive and Sustainable one* by undertaking research on all aspects of plantation economy at the regional, national and international levels. It aims at:

- Promoting Policy advocacy – at the regional national and international levels - to influence particularly the national and State level policies;
- Facilitating networking of all relevant stakeholders, and
- Helping capacity building of all concerned at the regional and national levels

An Advisory Committee would be constituted by CDS by drawing nominees of the Ministry of Commerce, Commodity Boards, UPASI and State governments to finalise the programme activities and review the progress of the programme. The CDS Director would chair the Committee and the co-ordinator of the Programme would be the member-convenor.

K.J.Joseph

Outreach

- K.J. Joseph made a presentation on 'Innovation in Developing Countries: Do we need a Southern Perspective?,' at the UNESCO High-level Expert Working Group on Technology and Development, Manchester Institute of Innovation Research, University of Manchester, 27-29 February. He also presented a paper 'IT Industry in India: Past Performance and new Challenges,' at Lancashire Business School, The University of Central Lancashire, on 27 February, 2008. He also participated in the preparatory meeting of the Research Project on 'Innovation Systems for Inclusive Development: Lessons from Rural China and India' organised by the National Science Foundation, China and IDRC, Canada, 24-26 March 2008, at Beijing.
- Pinaki Chakraborty presented a paper 'Equity Issues in Taxation,' at the Department of Economics and Social affairs (UN DESA), New York, on March 4, 2008. He also presented a paper 'Tax Incidence Analysis,' at IRDC , Canada, on March 6, 2008. In addition, he also participated in the high-level consultations of the Thirteenth Finance Commission at Chennai, on February 25, 2008.
- Pimaki Chakraborty was appointed Member, Technical Committee, Ministry of Panchayati

Raj, to advise the Sub-Committee of the Council of Ministers of Panchayati Raj Institutions in the preparation of a Joint Memorandum on behalf of PRIs of the country to the 13th Finance Commission.

- K. Pushpangadan attended a conference on 'India's Economic Development since Liberalisation' organised by the Northern Universities India Forum and presented a paper on 'Kerala's Development Experience: 1960-2005' at Lancaster University, UK, on February 8, 2008. He also presented a paper entitled 'Dynamics of Competition in Indian Manufacturing Industries at a conference held

RULSG –New Publication Series

Under the Research Unit on Local Self Governments (RULSG) a new publication series 'Policy Notes on Local Governance' has been initiated. The action research of the unit has generated material that needs to be communicated to a wider audience including planners, policy makers, representatives of the local self-government institutions and the public at large. This is the context for the publication of this series of policy notes. Details of the three policy notes published this quarter are given in 'Policy Pointers' on page 13.

at Liverpool University, on February 11, 2008. Besides, a paper titled 'On the Measurement of Sustainability of Rural Water Supply in India: A Supervaluationist - Degree Theory Approach' was presented by him at a conference held at Manchester University, UK on February 12, 2008.

- Sunil Mani delivered a lecture on the 'Evolving sectoral system of innovation of the Indian Biofuels Industry' at the German Development Institute, Bonn, on January 16, 2008. He also presented a paper at GDI, Bonn on 'Prospects for technological catch-up: India in comparison with China,' Asian Drivers of Global Change: Challenges for Europe' on 17-18 January. He also delivered the 2008 San-Ei Gen Lecture on 'India, an Emerging High Tech Giant. But does she have feet of Clay?', at The Management School and Economics, University of Edinburgh, Edinburgh, UK, on January 24. Another lecture on 'The Integration of India's Economy with rest of the World, Indicators, Facilitating Factors and its Effects,' was given by him to the MSc students in International Business and Emerging Markets, at The Management School and Economics on 22 January. A further presentation made by him was on 'Explaining Divergent Stories of Catch-up in the Telecommunication Equipment Industry, in Brazil, China, India, and Korea' at the Catch-up Workshop at UNU-MERIT, Maastricht, The Netherlands, on 14-15 February.
- Sunil Mani participated at the Netherlands-India Co-operation Meeting organised by the University of Maastricht, The Netherlands on February 13, 2008.
- Sunil Mani delivered 15 lectures at the compulsory course on 'Innovation and Technology Policy' at the Post-graduate Programme in Public Management and Policy (PGP-PMP) at the Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad, during 20-29 February, 2008.
- V.J. Varghese made a presentation on 'Land, Labour and Migrations: Understanding Kerala's Economic Modernity', at the conference on 'Interrogating Transitions:

Culture, Economy and Society', Centre for Historical Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi during 11-13 March, 2008.

- S. Irudaya Rajan and V.J. Varghese participated in the 'Transnationalisation, Migration and Transformation' (TRANS-NET) project meeting and took part in the deliberations to finalise the research project at the University of Tampere, Finland during 28-29 March, 2008.
- S. Irudaya Rajan visited the Georgetown University School of Foreign Service in Qatar and delivered a lecture on 'Kerala Emigrants in Qatar' on 5th February 2008. He also visited the Indian Embassy, Qatar, in connection with the ILO-MOIA project on governance of labour migration during 6-8 February, 2008 and the Indian Embassy in Bahrain in connection with the ILO-MOIA project during 15-20 March, 2008.

Against the backdrop of the budgetary announcement in 2006 that the Government shall be entrusting the work of State level gender audit to the CDS Unit on LSG, Lekha Chakraborty has prepared a Report titled "ANALYSIS OF KERALA STATE BUDGET 2007-08 THROUGH A GENDER LENS" and submitted it to the Finance Minister on February 2008. This CDS Report not only attempts an ex-post gender analysis of Kerala State Budget 2007-08, but also provides a roadmap for institutionalizing gender budgeting within the Department of Finance, Government of Kerala, thereby introducing a *Statement on Gender Budgeting* in the budget documents. A significant move in this direction has begun in Kerala with the announcement of the Finance Minister in his Budget Speech 2008 that from next year onwards a special *Statement on Gender* would be submitted to the legislature along with the Budget as is done at the Centre, along with other policy announcements for institutional mechanisms.

LIBRARY NEWS

The CDS library has switched over to barcode based circulation system from April 1, 2008. Bar-coded membership cards are being issued to the members. Retrospective conversion of catalogue, technical processing of uncatalogued books, entering the bibliographic and member details in the Libsys database, and bar-coding of books, working papers and back volumes were all done by our Library Staff. It was indeed a laborious process and we are proud to acknowledge that no part of the work was outsourced. Thanks are due to the team work and spirit shown by the Library Staff to complete the work with the limited available staff. We have completed the bar-coding of the working papers, save a few back volumes and some unused books.

During the past quarter 235 books and 236 working papers were added to our collection, making the total 123234 and 21009 respectively. A visit to the Fifth International Book Fest and Modern Book Fair 2008 was arranged on 6th March. Faculty and students participated in the book selection process. A list of duplicate copies of books received as gift during 2007 was prepared and displayed and the books were distributed to the Internal members.

CDS has been admitted as an Institutional Member of DELNET. A presentation of SCOPUS database (an abstract and citation database of research literature and quality web sources) by Mr. Suresh Narayanan, Senior Manager, Elsevier South Asia was arranged during the free trial period. Emerald Group Publishing Limited (UK) provided complimentary access to Emerald Management Xtra Database consisting of more than 150 titles in 21 subject disciplines from 1994 onwards during 19 February to 20 March 2008, as an initiative towards a consortium-based approach to accessing e-resources.

Our proposal to start an Intranet Library Portal that provides single-point access to the online/ offline resources (library catalogue, online subscription databases, e-journal alerts, digital library resources etc.) and support to library users in all aspects of their learning and research, has been approved by the Library Committee.

During the past quarter, 4 internal memberships, 6 external memberships, 2 alumni memberships and 1 project membership were issued. Reference membership was granted to 173 new members. An exhibition of books and working papers was arranged in the reading room during 3- 20 March in connection with the International Training Programme on 'Universalizing socio-economic security for the poor'. A library orientation session was also given to the participants. The bibliography on social security has been updated.

Practical training lasting a month was given to ten Library Science students (CLISc programme) who came from the Kerala State Library Council. Students in the CLISc programme in the S.D. College, Alappuzha also visited the CDS library.

V. Usha Devi

CAMPUS NEWS

On 24 March, Holi was celebrated on the CDS campus with pomp and gaiety. The students welcomed the spring season with different hues. They went around the campus, spreading the colours of joy to the faculty as well. Sweets were distributed. The joyful day ended with a sumptuous dinner.

In the second week of March a few CDS students planned a trip to Munnar, and went on a memorable three-day trip. The sleepy campus came to life with this. The trip was truly refreshing to tired minds. Kudos to the organisers, Harilal and Anand.

C. Sranvathi

From the Administrator's Desk

Shri V. Ramachandran, Honorary Fellow, CDS and Member, Governing Body and Dr Bina Agarwal, Member, Governing Body, CDS were conferred Padma Bhushan and Padmashri respectively by the Government of India. The honour was conferred on Shri Ramachandran for his contribution to the civil services and Dr Bina Agarwal for her contributions in social science research.

PUBLICATIONS

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POLICY POINTERS

In their paper '**ICT and Employment Promotion among Poor Women: How Can We Make it Happen? Some Reflections on Kerala's Experience**' (Working Paper No 398, February,

2008) P. Mohanan Pillai and N. Shanta examine the interventionist ICT policy undertaken by *Kudumbasree* (an innovative women based participatory programme by the State poverty alleviation mission) in Kerala. The major part of the study is a survey of *Kudumbasree*-supported micro enterprises scattered across the State to understand the nature and characteristics of the enterprises, activity pattern, and performance parameters. From the evidence gathered, it may be concluded that the ICT initiatives under the umbrella of *Kudumbasree* have vast potential for empowering poor women; given the basic literacy level of the state, engendering ICT for poor women is feasible, provided the right organisational support is given. If this good beginning has to be sustained, there is a need for continuous up-gradation of skills and capacity building particularly in the context of fast changing technology in the IT sector. While the agency has concentrated on the supply side, the demand side has largely remained ignored. For obtaining optimum results both supply and demand need to be tackled in an integrated manner.

V. Santhakumar in his paper '**Procedural Changes Required for Making Local Self Government's Role Effective in Rural Housing in Kerala**' (Policy Notes on Local Governance, No. 1, February, 2008), analyses the implementation of housing schemes for the poor through the Panchayats in Kasargod District of Kerala. The paper brings to light the severity of the housing problem in this part of the state. As panchayats have been spending substantial amounts of resources on housing during the past decade, such a finding was unexpected. There is also a general feeling among policy makers in Kerala that housing is not a major problem any longer. The study indicates that such an assumption may not be realistic in many parts of north Kerala. Moreover, the study highlights severe procedural constraints in the effective implementation of housing schemes through LSGs. It may be underlined that mere provision of fixed subsidy is far from adequate to solve the problem of housing in rural Kerala.

V. Santhakumar and Pinaki Chakraborty in their note on '**Is it Desirable to take a World Bank Loan for Strengthening Local Governments in Kerala?**' (Policy Notes on Local Governance, No. 2, February, 2008) analyse the desirability of a World Bank loan for strengthening local governments of Kerala under two scenarios. First is the case in which the loan supplements the resources of local governments in addition to the funds they are entitled to from the state government during the Eleventh Plan. In this scenario, the spending ability and effectiveness of local governments are important issues of concern. The paper identifies certain areas in which additional resources may be required for the local governments. The second case is the one in which the state government directly or indirectly substitutes a part of the resources that it has committed to give to the local governments, with the proposed loan. In this scenario, the cost of borrowing of the state government is the prime concern; in this context there are significant advantages in taking a loan from the Bank. The paper also considers a similar loan provided by the Bank to the State of Karnataka to strengthen its local governments and the conditions it came with, and deliberates on the appropriateness of such conditions in the context of Kerala.

V. Santhakumar in his paper '**Rethinking the Conceptual Foundations of Kerala's Decentralization in the Light of the Experience During the Past Decade**' (Policy Notes on Local Governance, No 3, March, 2008) points out that though the decade-long decentralization in Kerala has made remarkable achievements in terms of consistent devolution of financial resources, and improvement in the implementation of poverty eradication schemes, there remain many glaring limitations. These include the tendency to take up many unviable projects, lack of proper monitoring and evaluation, inadequate functioning of *grama sabhas* and beneficiary committees, continuing lethargy in service delivery, very slow progress in computerisation, etc. In this context, this note draws an outline of a more realistic conceptual foundation for decentralization. It calls for using the concept of 'local market failure' in deciding the activities of LSG, treating *grama sabhas* and beneficiary committees as mechanisms to exercise citizens' rights in extreme or emergency situations, enhancing local resource mobilization, and instituting incentive systems so that local resource allocation becomes both autonomous and efficient.



CDS
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