



**INDIAN SOCIAL INSTITUTE**

**BENGALURU**

## **IDENTITY**

Indian Social Institute, Bengaluru (ISI-B) is a 'Training and Resource Centre', enabled by research, facilitating advocacy engagements.

## **VISION**

To Build an Egalitarian and Inclusive Society by Promoting Socially Conscious Communities.

## **MISSION**

Indian Social Institute Bengaluru, as a 'Training and Resource Centre' engages in 'Training of Trainers', of its primary stakeholders with special focus in South India, through holistic and quality capacity building trainings, enabled by research-based knowledge, networking and advocacy engagements, to claim their entitlements, rights and improved quality of life.

## **PRIMARY STAKEHOLDERS**

- Dalits, Adivasis, Minorities, Unorganized labourers Fisher folk, Distress migrants, and Dalit Christians, with special focus on women and youth
- Community leaders, CSOs Peoples' Movements and Jesuit Social Centres

## **THEMATIC AREAS**

Social Inclusion and Democracy

Labour Migration

Peace and Reconciliation

# **INDIAN SOCIAL INSTITUTE**

## **BENGALURU**

# **ANNUAL**

# **REPORT**

## **2019 – 2020**



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**PUBLISHED BY**

**INDIAN SOCIAL INSTITUTE**

**24, Benson Road, Benson Town  
Bengaluru – 560 046**

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2015

Labour and Migration Unit was started

1993

Registered as an Independent Organisation

1961

ISI Bengaluru began as an Extension Centre of ISI Delhi

2001

Outreach unit was established

# Our Journey

2000

Human Rights unit was started

1963

Become a Training Centre

2004

Women's and Research units were initiated

2020

New thematic areas - Social Inclusion and Democracy, Labour Migration, and Peace and Reconciliation

## FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK

**I**ndian Social Institute, Bengaluru (ISI-B) has completed 57 years of its journey of accompanying the marginalized communities in varied ways and with innovative approaches, primarily focusing on 5 South Indian States and Puducherry, with a few national and international engagements.



There was change of guard. Dr. Joseph Xavier SJ took over the mantle from Dr. Selvaraj SJ, as the Director of the institute. The institute is grateful to Selvaraj for his affable and strengthening presence in the institute, especially in giving new orientation to the erstwhile Outreach unit.

### NEW DIRECTIONS FOR THE FUTURE

In 2019, mandated by the General Congregation of the Society of Jesus, set of Universal and Conference Apostolic Preferences were developed globally and in South Asia with bottom-up discernment processes. Responding to this development, the institute undertook a year-long discernment in common process with its stakeholders – the Jesuits, partner organisations in the field, CSOs, activists, academicians and members of the Governing Board. Structurally and programmatically, the future directions were realigned. In March 2020, the erstwhile Research, Human Rights and Training, Labour and Migration, Women and Outreach units gave way to new thematic areas: Social Inclusion and Democracy, Labour Migration and Peace and Reconciliation. Research, gender issues, legal and media will be the cross-cutting themes of the three thematic areas. The members also agreed that a combination of strong thematic and partner value-added human resource models would be the right way forward.

The outcomes of the discernment provide the staff and management with new opportunities along with new challenges. As we began this journey, the world was gripped with Covid-19 pandemic, opening up enormous challenges. With unflinching hope, we are determined to move forward.

## SOME HIGHLIGHTS

'National Seminar on SDGs: The Indian Story', was organised in collaboration with ISI-Delhi and St. Aloysius College, Mangaluru, at St. Aloysius College. Volken memorial lecture on 'Dry land smile in 1000 villages' was delivered by Dr. Rajendra Singh, the Waterman of India. Sensing imminent threat to the Constitution, the institute organised meaningful interactions with CSOs and student communities resulting in a number of action plans. Fr. Stan Lourdusamy's presence was a gift and grace to the institute.

The outreach units completed 3 more phases of cadre building training on Peoples' Entitlements, Women and Gender Equality and Ecological Concerns and Eco-consciousness. Labour Migration unit expanded its scope through a number of motivational sessions and consultations by inviting many religious congregations to get involved in migration issues. The unit organised workshops on 'Accompanying the Migrants'. National and international opportunities were effectively made use of, to highlight the emerging concerns of inter-state distress migrants. Human Rights and Training unit has been one of the nodal organisations of 10-day celebration of Human Rights in partnership with 25 organisations. The unit continued to be at the service of students, CSOs and religious congregations, by offering various capacity building programmes, collaborating in fact-finding missions and campaigns. Women's unit focused on land rights, gender sensitisation and SDGs with special focus on Goal 5 – Gender Equality.

The institute partnered with Caritas Germany and Caritas India and conducted an assessment study of 8-year community mobilisation engagements in 5 states. A report – 'Development as Community-led Journey: Learnings from Community Mobilization Processes' was completed. As a by-product, using the vast knowledge generated from the field, a handbook was also prepared – 'Development Anchored in Community Intelligence: A Handbook for Community Mobilisation'. The institute also published two training manuals, two compilation of seminar papers and a research study on 'Land Acquisition'. Kerala study report – 'Protection, Support and Integration of Inter-state migrants' was also published.



The institute has moved into a new way of connecting itself with partners and the public. A new website has been launched. The outcomes of the works undertaken and accomplished by the institute are presented in the form of change stories and videos and are regularly updated. The voices of the beneficiaries are amplified. Social media outreach is strengthened. The new website has attracted a greater number of colleges and interns to visit the institute. The institute staff have also been at the service of many NGOs, institutions, and religious congregations offering inputs on current issues, spreading human rights knowledge and providing consultancy services.

Along with academic units, the administration, finance, secretarial, library and support staff did a commendable job. The good use of the facilities brought necessary resources to the institute. 'Bring the best out of each one' was the *mantra* that guided us. Every staff was given job description and at the end of the year, each one was asked to assess their performance. Regular staff and management meetings, common celebrations, staff development programmes and improved monitoring systems paved way for a new culture of working. On one hand, there was a deep sense of gratitude and on the other, everyone was determined to learn new skills which could be used for the fulfilment of the mission of the institute.

As a faith-inspired organisation, the institute always hopes that the present scenario will change. With this indomitable hope, the institute continues its journey boldly and courageously to build an informed and engaged citizenry, upholding the Constitutional values towards social transformation.

**Joseph Xavier SJ**

Director

## PROGRAMMES

### A. CADRE AND CAPACITY BUILDING

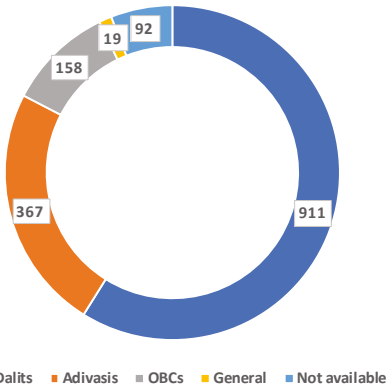
As a training and resource centre, one of the vital programmes of the institute is to train the trainers with knowledge, analysis, equip them with skills and capacities, especially youth, students, women, teachers, staff of CSOs and religious congregations who would be at the service of the needy wherever they work. Duration of these programmes range from 2 to 5 days, except for the flagship programme, Socio-cultural analysis ranges for about 15 days. Through these systematic trainings / workshops the institute has reached out to a good number of trainers – NGO staff, leaders of the priority communities and religious congregations, in partnership with like-minded organisations.





## TRAINING YOUNG COMMUNITY LEADERS

In 2017, at the end of perspective planning, the institute developed systematic cadre formation workshops with 10 modules to be offered to 600 cadres in the 5 Southern states – Andhra Pradesh /Telangana, Karnataka, Kerala and Tamil Nadu, which includes Puducherry, in partnership with 51 grassroot organisations – 28 lay men-headed, 7 lay women-headed, 10 religious men-headed and 6 religious women-headed. As per the plan, this year on three themes – Peoples’ Entitlements, Women and Gender Equality and Ecological Concerns and Eco-consciousness, workshops were conducted. Total number of participants were 1,547 (counted individually), 584 in Tamil Nadu, 513 in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana and 450 in Karnataka. About 70 per cent of the participants were regular and attended all three phases. Among them male participants were 49.6 per cent and female were 50.4 per cent.



Among the participants, 911 (58.9%) were from dalit communities, 367 (23.7%) from adivasis, 158 (10.2%) from OBCs and 19 (1.2%) general caste categories. For the rest 92 participants (5.9%) data was not available.

Apart from these, 5 workshops were organized on similar themes in Kerala in which, a total of 193 participated, 106 male and 87 female members.

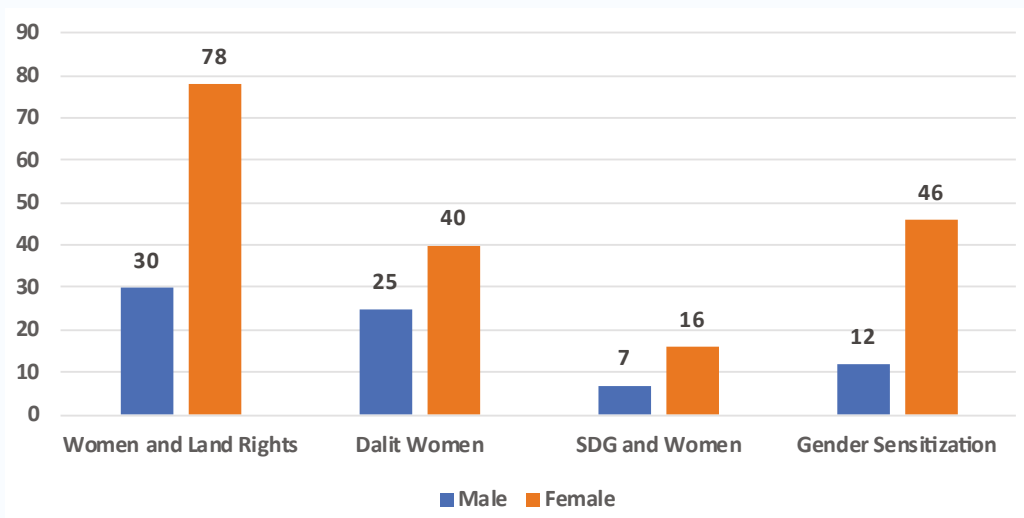
### GENDER MAINSTREAMING

On four specific themes related to gender mainstreaming, 8 workshops were organized which benefitted 254 persons, 74 males and 180 females, comprising of rural women and students.



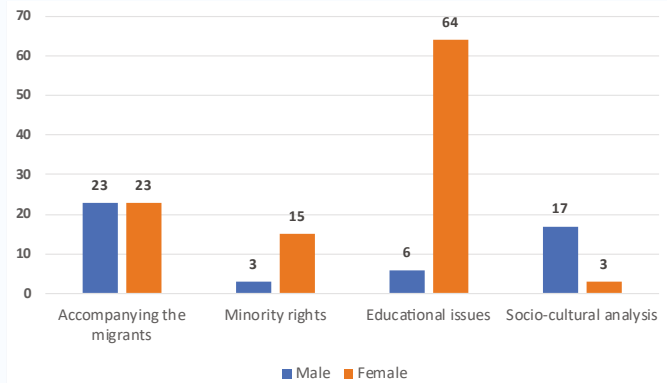
### HUMAN RIGHTS

108 participants benefitted from Socio-cultural analysis, a flagship course of the Institute, and courses on Minority Rights and Educational Issues.



**ACCOMPANYING THE MIGRANTS**

Two workshops were offered to staff of NGOs and members of religious congregations to upscale their capacities in accompanying the migrants for 46 participants.



**WE HAVE DRAWN OUR FIRST SALARY**

Dear Dr. Joseph Xavier,

“With grateful hearts, on behalf of 45 youth, we, Ramalakshmi and CH. Murali Babu, write this letter to you. We attended the 7 phases of training and these training programmes gave us self-confidence, knowledge of society, general knowledge, legal literacy and provided us with a unique opportunity to develop ourselves as leaders.

When the government of Andhra Pradesh announced that it was recruiting youth as Gram / Ward Volunteers, ANM and *Anganvadi* teachers in September 2019, we wrote the written examination. Later we were called for personal interviews. During the interview process, a few of us were asked how we gained knowledge on government schemes. We proudly told them that we were trained by Indian Social Institute, Bengaluru through their cadre and capacity building programme. The interviewers also recognized our passion to work for the most marginalised in the rural communities. 45 of us got selected and now we are working as government salaried staff”. *Ramalakshmi and CH. Murali Babu, Andhra Pradesh.*

**We proudly told them that we were trained by Indian Social Institute.**

**AGE IS NOT A BARRIER**

“I am a 38-year-old woman. I felt cadre building training on ‘Access to Peoples’ Entitlements’ helped me to learn central and state government social security



I am confident now that I could approach appropriate authorities to access scholarship and educate my eldest daughter.

schemes, especially scholarships available to educate children from the marginalised communities. I am confident now that I could approach appropriate authorities to access scholarship and educate my eldest daughter Malliga to realise her dream to pursue her higher education. My learning has increased my

knowledge and confidence level. Now, I could guide my community members and teach them how to access various government schemes and the procedures involved in this process". *Ms. Pushparani, AHAL cluster.*

### I AM INSPIRED TO STUDY LAW

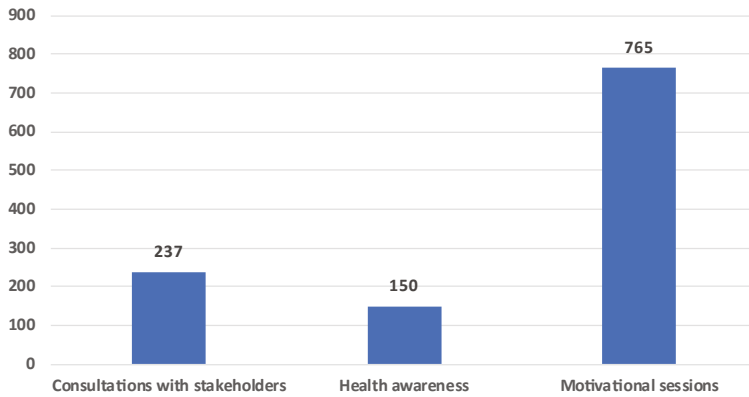
"At the end of the three-day workshop on minority rights, I have become more aware of my rights of minorities and minority institutions. I was very uncomfortable and frightened whenever the officials visited my school, as I was not aware of the rights of minority institutions. Now I will not. Knowledge of law and of minority rights will help me to be more watchful in case anyone deprives me, or my institution of the rights guaranteed by the Constitution of India. I can now speak legal language and assert my rights. This workshop also inspired me to study law, which I will use to help people in need". *Sr. Manjari.* Indian Social Institute collaborated with Nyay-Darshan Vadodara to organize this workshop.

I can now speak legal language and assert my rights.

### ACCOMPANYING THE MIGRANTS

"The workshop was enlightening and encouraging and helped me to understand practical ways to kindle hope among the migrants. The resource persons helped us to develop deeper understanding of issues and challenges of distress labour migration. The session on accompaniment was practical and enlightening" – *Participants.* There were 28 participants from 11 organisations.

## B. RAISING AWARENESS AND STRENGTHENING NETWORKING



The institute organises on-going awareness raising sessions and consultations to create interest, motivate the participants to get involved in social issues and to offer innovative methodologies in social action. The duration

of these sessions lasts from one hour to five hours. Such efforts also help the institute in broad basing its mission, reach and build networks.



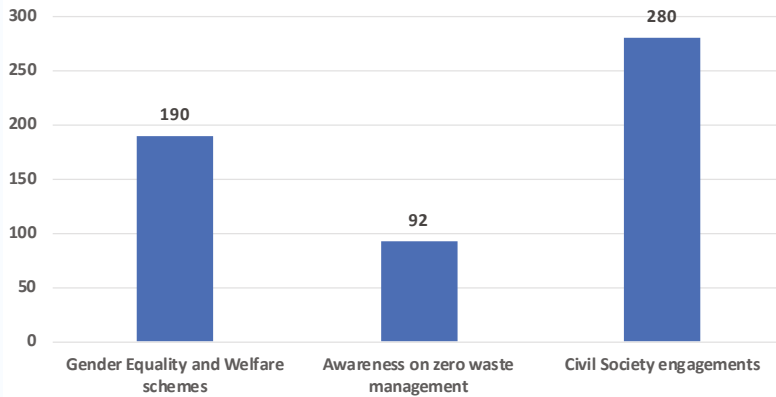


The staff of Labour Migration unit travelled across different states, such as Goa, Jharkhand, West Bengal and organised motivational sessions and consultations. Partnering with hospitals was explored to offer medical camps to the migrants.

Leaders of the CSOs find the institute as a 'space for all'. The institute periodically organised interactions with CSOs and NGOs on current social, economic, political, ecological and human rights violation issues, especially on Citizenship, Conversation on Human Rights and National Education Policy.

"When an individual takes the responsibility for the waste he/she generates, that's the beginning of change and this journey towards zero waste begins at home" said Ms. Wilma Rodrigues, the CEO and Founder of Saahas Zero Waste during a sharing on 'Promoting and Building Zero Waste Communities'. Echoes from participants: "We would try to reduce and eventually eliminate the use of disposables in our community". Though I'm bothered by the increase in the use of disposables and how we have become very comfortable and so much dependent





on disposable items, yet I go back more convinced to reduce and lessen the use of disposables.” The institute organized this event as part of promoting Universal Apostolic Preferences (UAP) of the Society

of Jesus. (For details on UAP visit: <https://jesuits.global/en/about-us/universal-apostolic-preferences>).

## C. RESEARCH AND PUBLICATIONS

### BOOKS PUBLISHED

Arulnathan, S. SJ., Lourdunathan, S. (2019). *Land Acquisition: Perspectives from the Marginalized Communities*. Bangalore, India: Omega Book World.

Lourdunathan, S., Arulnathan, S. SJ. (2019). *Social Engagement: Dalit Engagement*. Bangalore, India: Omega Book World.

Lourdunathan, S., Arulnathan, S. SJ. (2019). *Research Methodology for Social Action Communication*. Bangalore, India: Omega Book World.

Arulnathan, S. SJ., Lourdunathan, S., Fernandes, D. SJ. (2019). *Minorities and Nation Building*. Bangalore, India: Omega Book World.

Arulnathan, S. SJ., Lourdunathan, S., Shujayathulla, E., (2019). *Education Empowerment Emancipation*. Bangalore, India: Omega Book World.

Chiramel, B., Martin, P.O. (2019). *Protection, Support and Integration of Inter-State Migrants in Kerala*. Bangalore, India: ISI, Bangalore Publications.

Joseph Xavier, A., (2020). *Development as Community-led Journey: Learnings from Community Mobilization Processes*. New Delhi, India: ISI, Bengaluru and Caritas India. (In press)

Joseph Xavier, A., (2020). *Development Anchored in Community Intelligence: A Handbook for Community Mobilization*. New Delhi, India: ISI, Bengaluru and Caritas India. (In press)

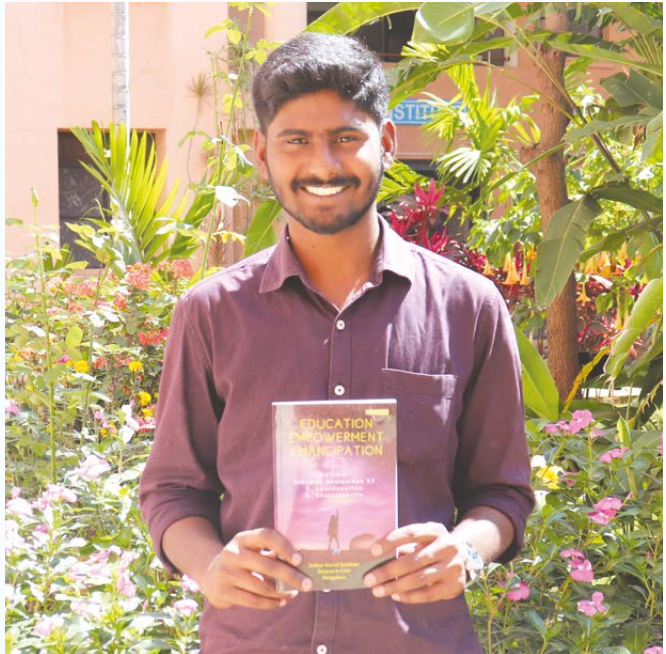
### ARTICLES PUBLISHED

Shujayathulla, E., (2019). Discrimination and Exclusion of Muslims in Education. *Education Empowerment Emancipation*, pp. 97-106.

Arul Prakasam, R., (2019). Contribution of Christians Missionaries to Tamil Literature. *Minorities and Nation Building*, pp. 235-243.

Joseph Xavier, A., Sunnybhai, (2019). Lok Manch: Exploring Opportunities – Experiencing Graces, *JIVAN*, November 2019.

Joseph Xavier, A., (2019). Walking with the Excluded: Call for a Multi-dimensional Response, *Promotio Justitiae*, n. 129, 2020/1. (In press)



### THANK YOU FOR PUBLISHING MY FIRST RESEARCH PIECE!

“My perceptions changed when I presented a research paper in a seminar organised by the Indian Social Institute. My joy doubled when my paper was published in the edited book titled – Education, Empowerment and Emancipation. It was a special moment in my life. My classmates appreciated me and felt proud of my achievement. On receiving the first copy, I called my mentor, LT. Akshay

**My classmates appreciated me and felt proud of my achievement.**

D. Mandlik to thank him. He expressed immense joy and expressed his gratitude to the young researchers of St. Joseph’s College, Bangalore, who supported the venture of ISI Bangalore. I will cherish those moments for long”. *Ms. Roopika R Nair, St. Joseph’s College, Bengaluru.*

## D. MAJOR INSTITUTE EVENTS

### NATIONAL SEMINAR ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS: THE INDIAN STORY

A two-day National Seminar was organized in partnership with ISI-Delhi and St. Aloysius College (Autonomous), Mangaluru. Paper presenters focused on six SDG thematic areas: Leaving No One Behind – End Poverty and Hunger, Promoting Good Health and Well-being, Ensuring Quality Education, Access to Gender Equality and Justice, Enhancing Decent Work and Reduced Inequalities and Now or Never-Climate Action.

The seminar had vivid and critical presentations from 19 assistant professors, students and research scholars from Bangalore, Goa, Delhi, Kolar, Udipi, Mysuru, Mangaluru and Uttara Kannada. Among the presenters, 12 were women and 7 men; 13 were assistant professors, 3 research scholars and 4 of them were students. To take pride, women presenters outnumbered men.

Each session concluded with question and answer session, which created an interactive platform for students, paper presenters and co-participants and opened up many perspectives for discussion on the topic. About 250 students attended the National seminar from 13 to 14 February 2020.



## STATE-LEVEL SEMINAR ON EVOLVING STRATEGIES FOR COLLABORATION & NETWORKING FOR PROTECTION, AND INTEGRATION OF INTER-STATE MIGRANTS IN KERALA

On this occasion, Kerala study report was launched in the presence of academicians, activists and migrants in Press Club, Trivandrum. There were about 120 participants in the seminar. The participants felt that their concerns were voiced in the seminar.

## VOLKEN MEMORIAL LECTURE

The institute organised 10<sup>th</sup> Fr. Henry Volken Memorial Lecture on 'Dry Lands Smile in 1000 Villages', by Dr. Rajendra Singh, the Waterman of India on 31 January 2020. About 175 people participated in the lecture. The lecture was on livestream benefitting about 300 persons who could not be physically present. It was a moment of working together for the staff of the institute.





“The lecture by the Chief Guest Dr. Rajendra Singh, broadened my awareness on global water crisis, and helped to understand that water scarcity is one of the reasons for migration. It also motivated me not to waste water. The audience left the hall with a sense of awe and wonder”. One of the participants said, “If we had a few more personalities like Dr. Rajendra Singh, the world would be different”. The conversation mode adopted by the speaker was appreciated by the audience.  
– Ms. Joyce, ISI-B.

## **E. CELEBRATIONS**

Celebrations added value to the mission and provided opportunities for the staff and people we serve to grow together. Apart from celebrations at the institute, a number of common celebrations were also organized in collaboration with CSOs.



## SAVE THE CONSTITUTION

The institute, in partnership with St. Joseph's College of Commerce, organized a book release celebration – The Constitutions of India, written by Justice H. N. Nagamohan Das on 28 August 2019.

## INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

Wish to be born again as women if there is 'rebirth'

"When I joined the institute as a housekeeping staff, I never knew the value of education. Every day I was watching so many educated people coming to the institute for various programmes. I decided to motivate my children to study even



though I did not enter the portals of education. My son is an engineer, second daughter has completed B. Com and other two daughters are pursuing B.Sc nursing. I have not saved money. I have invested in my children. I am proud of this achievement", said Ms. Selvi. "The women staff of ISI made the day beautiful by boldly sharing their authentic life-stories", observed Fr. Joseph Xavier, the Director.

## CELEBRATING WITH THE MIGRANTS

Santhal gathering, International Women's Day, Christmas and International Indigenous Peoples Day were organized by the staff promoting cultural identity of the Adivasi migrants.

"On 1 September 2019, about 600 adivasi unorganized migrant workers, mostly from Assam, Jharkhand, Odisha and West Bengal, joyously participated in the celebration organized at Jigani, an emerging hub for Hindi speaking migrant workers in Bangalore. Colourful display of diverse tribal cultures through dances, especially of women and men of Oraon and Santali tribes were a real treat for all participants."

## HUMAN RIGHTS DAY

Every year on the occasion of International Human Rights Day, Indian Social Institute, Bengaluru joins hands with many students, human rights activists, educational institutions and civil society organizations to defend, promote and celebrate human rights. This event 'Human Rights Celebrations' is packed with talks, discussions, seminars, competitions and cultural events, lasting ten days, 1-10 December.

"It was a great experience to learn from the resource persons, participate in activities, travelling around the city to spread awareness. This experience inspired and challenged me to fight for the fundamental rights of every citizen of this country" said M Gnanavelu a student of St. Joseph's College.

## F. PARTICIPATION

Participation of staff in regional, national and international fora expands the horizon and expands networking and collaboration potentials.

### REGIONAL AND NATIONAL

- \* Participation in discussions on right to food, development of minorities, hate speech, National Education Policy, Democracy and Dissent and Freedom of Religion.
- \* A close collaboration is established with St. Joseph's College and periodic exchanges take place.



- \* Participation in Seminars and Workshops organized by various organisations on human rights and migration related issues and participation in celebrations organized by NGOs.
- \* Factfinding missions on atrocities against dalits, mid-day meal scheme.
- \* Presentations on issues of migrants organized by different organisations and colleges.
- \* Fr. Alwyn D’Souza is the zonal nodal person for Lok Manch network, representing the institute.
- \* Contributions to Jesuit networks – JESA and Church bodies – Archdiocesan Commission for Migrants, CBCI Secretariats and Think-Tank of Caritas India.

**INTERNATIONAL**

As Global Ignatian Advocacy Network Coordinator of South Asia, Fr. Martin Puthussery participated in the following conferences:-

- \* Jesuit Conference of Asia Pacific Migration Network Meet 2019, Seoul, South Korea.
- \* International Catholic Migration Commission Annual Seminar on Migration, Bangkok, Thailand.
- \* 2020 Civil Society Forum, United Nations, New York.







As a delegate and presenter, Fr. Joseph Xavier participated in the Second Social Apostolate Congress, Rome.

## G. SERVICES

### Training support to Organisations / Colleges

- \* Training on Human Rights to MSW students of Kristu Jayanthi College and Sacred Heart Sisters, Bengaluru.
- \* Sessions on Advocacy and Lobbying and Rights-based Approach to SHG leaders of BMSSS.

### Assessment and planning workshops

- \* Assessment of Status of Live, Mission and Governance – FMA Provinces of Trichy and Mumbai.
- \* Apostolic Planning – FMA Provinces of Bangalore, Trichy and Chennai and Sacred Heart Sisters of Bengaluru
- \* Facilitating Annual Meet of 7 FMA Provinces engaged in Social Ministry.
- \* Planning sessions for Hope Trust, Nagercoil to reorient their programmes.

## INTERNSHIP

15 interns spent 3 weeks to a month in the institute, learning about the organisation and taking up micro studies in slums, lynching and graveyard workers. 8 were female and 7 were male, studying BSW, MSW and Law. 13 students were from private colleges and 2 from government colleges.

## VISIT TO INSTITUTE

From 10 different colleges and organisations groups of students along with their staff, visited the institution to understand, the mission, organizational matters and current engagements. Among them, 8 groups were from South India (Karnataka - 3, Kerala - 2 and Tamil Nadu - 3) and two groups from abroad, Spain and Zurich.

Apart from these, a small group of students from Holy Cross College, along with their faculty was with us for a month. All these members were guided by the institute staff and shared their knowledge and expertise.



## OUR HISTORY

**I**ndian Social Institute, Bengaluru (ISI-B) celebrated its Golden Jubilee in December 2013, a celebration of a journey that we began in 1963, with the mission of ‘accompanying the marginalized’ as an Extension centre of Indian Social Institute, New Delhi (ISI-D).

### THE BEGINNINGS

In 1961, Fr. Jim Berna SJ and Mr. Ryan had started the work of the **Extension Service** of ISI-Delhi, with a view to support the Diocesan Developmental activities which had just taken off, in a big way in most of the dioceses. Lack of trained personnel in the development sector persuaded them to initiate a Training Centre as well. It was in 1963, with the arrival of Fr. Henry Volken SJ, the training centre took off in its full swing. Extension Service was shifted to Delhi in 1966. With this change, ISI-B began its journey as Training centre responding to the massive changes/challenges in the developmental sector. Initial focus of the Training Centre was on ‘Community building among the poor, skill courses on agriculture, kitchen gardens, poultry, nutrition and accountancy’. Community Development approach of the Government of India added fervour to the efforts of ISI-B. Constant study of the changing environment and reflection on the changes made the team alert to creative ways of conceiving programmes and training activists. In 70s, the Freirean philosophy and methodology dominated the trainings of ISI-B.

### THE EARLY FOCUS

Soon after Emergency, in 1975, and in the context of the Asian Seminar on ‘**Structure Analysis**’ organized by Houtart and others, there was a radical shift in understanding of development work. *‘The economic crisis and the political developments had brought home the fact that the massive poverty of the Indian people had deep roots in the politics of the country, and that the solution, had to be of a political nature.’*

Fr. Stan Lourdasamy SJ took charge of the Institute, as Fr. Volken moved out, and there began an intense period of training social activists for political intervention through courses ranging from three months to shorter periods. The participants were activists with grassroots contact, deeply conscious of the political dimension of poverty and the need for a structural change. Meanwhile the Documentation Centre of Indian Social Institute also had started functioning from Bengaluru giving a massive intellectual input to the activists all over India. In 1993, ISI-B became an independent institute. Since then, it has geared its activities/programmes based on three inter-related objectives:

- i. To align with the marginalized people for facilitating their empowerment
- ii. To network with sectoral, secular and democratic movements, and
- iii. To collaborate with macro social forces.

### **IN THE POST-LIBERAL ERA**

The vision of empowering the powerless towards sustainable development in the context of the market-ushered economic order premised on privatization, liberalization and globalization adversely impacting with dire consequences the working classes, the poor and weaker section, causing destruction to the eco-systems, became the dominant view of ISI-B in the 1990s. The emergence of ultra-right-wing fundamentalist forces with a communal agenda, operating covertly and overtly, co-opting the marginalized sections has been posing a great threat to the secular and inclusive social fabric of the nation.

ISI-B has been trying to develop critical awareness of these realities among the trainees and staff and thus enabling them to strengthen the Constitutional goals of Socialism, Secularism and Democracy.

### **AT THE DAWN OF THE MILLENNIUM**

In 2000, the Institute introduced **Human Rights Unit** focusing on awareness on rights, campaign and advocacy at national and international levels. As the NGOs and activists preferred field-based training, especially in vernacular languages, in 2001, the **Outreach Unit** was initiated to strengthen peoples' organizations and movements of marginalized groups. Training and capacity building programmes organized in collaboration with field-based organizations and networks became

the core activities of the Out-reach unit. In 2004, **Women's Unit** came into being with a desire to integrate gender sensitivity into all the engagements of the institute. In the same year, **Research Unit** was introduced, focusing on knowledge generation through action-research and to feed the outcomes into training programmes to promote advocacy efforts.

In the post-neoliberal era, as South India became the destination point of the distress labour migrants from the northern states, the institute in 2013, conducted a study on "The Status of Unorganized Labourers in Bangalore City". The outcomes of the study led to the dawn of **Labour and Migration Unit** in 2015.

In 2015, an 'external evaluation' was conducted. Based on the evaluation recommendations, the institute revisited its vision and mission and thrust areas. It worked on *Perspective Strategic Planning (PSP)* which clearly gave an orientation towards the future. "Cadre Formation and Capacity Building" introduced in 2017, became a flagship programme for the out-reach units. The institute brought together about 75 NGOs and peoples' organizations under an umbrella of cadre formation, preparing Training of Trainers (ToT) at the grassroots who could be at the service of the village communities.

### **Universal and Conference Apostolic Preferences**

In 2019, mandated by the General Congregation of the Society of Jesus, set of Universal and Conference Apostolic Preferences were developed globally and in South Asia with bottom-up discernment processes. Responding to this development, in March 2020, the erstwhile Research, Human Rights and Training, Labour and Migration, Women and Outreach units gave way to new thematic areas:

- a. Social Inclusion and Democracy
- b. Labour Migration and
- c. Peace and Reconciliation

Thus, ISI-B has been continuously engaged in search for relevance in its social engagement responding to the signs of the times. This process will go on as long as our priority communities are part and parcel of the mainstream society with rights, dignity and improved quality of life.

**GOVERNING BOARD MEMBERS**

Dr. George Pattery SJ - President  
 Fr. James Joye SJ - Vice-President  
 Dr. Joseph Xavier SJ - Secretary  
 Fr. Francis D'Souza SJ - Treasurer  
 Dr. Stanislaus D'Souza SJ - Member  
 Dr. Danis Ponniah SJ - Member

Dr. Denzil Fernandes SJ - Member  
 Fr. Jebamalai Stanislaus SJ - Member  
 Prof. Babu Mathew - Member  
 Mr. Lukose Vallatharai - Member  
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