

# **ANNUAL REPORT 2021 - 22**



## IDENTITY

A 'Training and Resource Centre', enabled by research, facilitating advocacy engagements.

The institute engages in Training of Trainers and leaders of the marginalized communities, with special focus in South India, through holistic and quality capacity building trainings, networking and advocacy engagement, to claim their entitlements, rights and improved quality of life.

## VISION

To build an egalitarian and inclusive society by promoting socially conscious communities.

## PRIMARY STAKEHOLDERS

Dalits, Adivasis, Minorities, Unorganized labourers, Fisher-folk, Distress migrants, Dalit Christians with special focus on women and youth.

Community Leaders, Civil Society Organisations, People's Movements and Jesuit Social Centres.

## THEMATIC AREAS

- Social Inclusion and Democracy
- Labour Migration
- Peace and Reconciliation

**INDIAN SOCIAL INSTITUTE**  
**BENGALURU**

**ANNUAL REPORT**  
**2021 - 2022**



24, Benson Road, Benson Town, Bengaluru - 560 046

Tel.: 91.80.40867092/40124630

Email: [infoisibr@gmail.com](mailto:infoisibr@gmail.com), [isibengaluru@gmail.com](mailto:isibengaluru@gmail.com)

Website: [www.isibangalore.com](http://www.isibangalore.com)

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## FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK

It was yet another enriching and challenging year. Despite the Second wave of the pandemic forcing us to close the institute for a while, the pathos of the migrants moved us to transcend all odds and reach out to people in distress, especially the migrants. Our donor partners supported us in our efforts to reach out to the distressed migrants. It was also a year filled with sadness, as Fr. Stan Swamy passed away on 5 July 2021 in Mumbai. I will cherish his last conversation. On 28 June, from his death bed in the hospital he said, "I am like a child. I need assistance for everything. Take forward the struggles of the Adivasis for dignified life. I surrender myself". I was speechless. I believe this is the message the institute would like to imbibe and carry forward, a deep faith in God and his love for the broken humanity. Looking back, I am grateful to many people who walked with us during these troubled times. Despite all odds, the institute, adhering to its mission, substantially contributed to empowering the poor and the marginalised through research, publications, training, and various other services.



### RESEARCH AND PUBLICATIONS

The institute published four research works. 'Development Anchored in Community Intelligence – A Handbook for Community Mobilisation', published in English, was translated, and printed in 9 Indian languages. Similarly, 'Walking with the Migrants beyond Covid-19 Pandemic' was translated and published in Hindi. These studies were released in a National Conference on Community Mobilisation, in which all India social work networks, associations and colleges participated and benefitted. Several institutions are incorporating the handbook as part of the Social Work curriculum. These studies show how collaborative works can result in high quality outcomes. At the request of his friends, Fr. Stan compiled his writings and asked the institute to publish it. I had gladly agreed. Immediately after his death the book was published, titled, 'I am not a Silent Spectator'. The soft and hard copies have

reached a large number of people. The institute is happy to put on record that over a dozen researchers, in India and abroad, have taken up Stan's life and mission as their research topic. The Gender Pandemic: Domestic Violence during Lockdown has been yet another publication from the institute. Apart from these, at the request of the Jesuit Refugee Service and Udayani Social Action Forum, Kolkata, a baseline study to establish BSW in Afghanistan, Covid-19 impact study and Five-year Strategic Planning and process documentation of a 3-day roundtable conference of women networks were completed.

## SOCIAL INCLUSION AND DEMOCRACY UNIT

The concluding event of Batch I, on 'Capacity Building of Youth' was a culmination of four long years of training of 450 youth from 56 NGO partners from South India. On 19-20 March 2022, about 100 select youth and 32 heads of NGOs met in the institute, to share their learnings, articulate the changes in the community and to make a collective future commitment. The youth demonstrated extraordinary confidence, clarity of thought and commitment for social change. Despite the pandemic, the staff of the unit offered online and offline training on Panchayat Raj and Social Animation skills, the last two phases of the 10-module package. The Central hub organised a course on Socio-cultural analysis, a workshop for Dalit and Adivasi lawyers and 10-day long Human Rights Day events. The staff also organised consultations and motivational sessions on current issues such as, Human Rights Defenders, Gender violence, Migration, Fundamental rights, SC/ST Prevention of Atrocities Act, 1989 and Child marriage.

## LABOUR MIGRATION UNIT

The institute received two gifts in the form of grants to reach out to distress migrants, from Caritas Germany and Missions Prokur, Germany. The unit staff effectively utilised these grants to reach out to over 4,200 individuals and families of inter-state, intra-state and returnees of overseas migrants in Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Kerala and Goa. The interventional strategies were: medical camps and health awareness, educational material support, motivational sessions and leadership training, livelihood support and emergency support, such as, distribution of dry ration, individual medical care support and transit support.



The unit also organised two national level workshops on Basic Legal Literacy and Psychosocial Care of migrants for the staff of NGOs and volunteers working with migrants. Two separate workshops were organised for the State Coordinators and staff of destination and source states and a common workshop in Pune to deepen the Migrant Assistance and Information Network (MAIN) model and develop strategies to elicit collaboration from various stakeholders as this model is built around the concept of networking and collaboration.

The institute organised a number of common events at the institute premises, such as, memorial events for Stan Swamy and Duarte Barreto, Human Rights Day and National Conference on Community Mobilisation. In these events, the entire community of staff were engaged. The institute also reached out to the poor and the vulnerable through the staff members in providing dry ration during the pandemic. The staff facilitated, participated and collaborated with CSOs on various issues of the dalits, adivasis, religious minorities, slum dwellers, street vendors and migrants. The institute premise is much sought after by the CSOs for its welcoming presence and ambience. In this regard, the role played by the admin and support staff has been commendable. They are the backbone of the institute.

The staff have been much sought after by the national level NGOs, CSOs, Jesuit institutions and religious congregations to offer inputs on social analysis, the Constitution, life and mission of Stan Swamy, to conduct motivational sessions and to provide consultancy services on apostolic planning. Founded in 1963, the institute has completed 59 years of its journey. The journey continues with minds and hearts focused on the big picture, the mission of reconciliation and justice as we march ahead.

**Joseph Xavier SJ**  
**DIRECTOR**

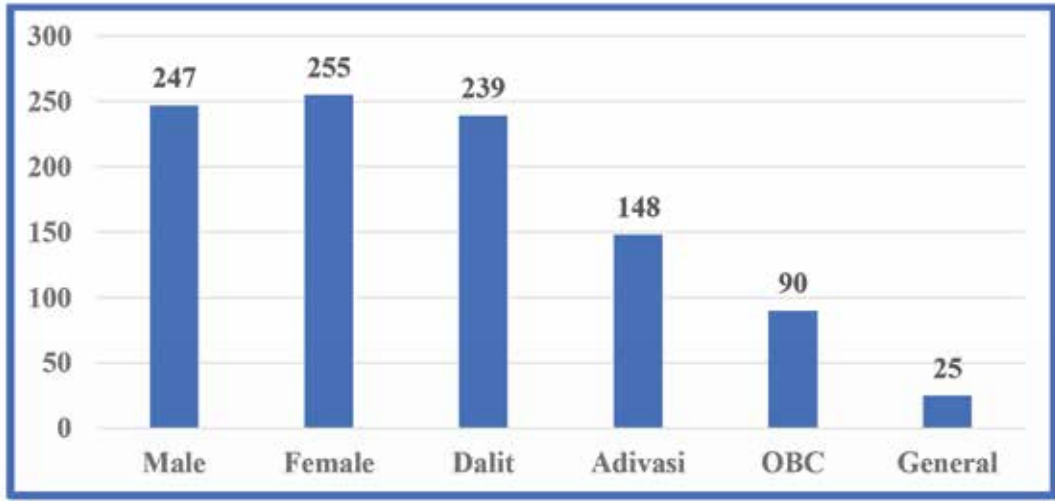
## A. SOCIAL INCLUSION & DEMOCRACY UNIT

The 10-module Capacity building training of youth was successfully brought to a closure with a 2-day concluding event for select youth at the institute premises. Though initially about 565 youth and 60 NGOs agreed to partner with us, at the end about 450 youth from 56 NGOs benefitted.

Despite the pandemic, the state units completed the last 2 modules, training on Panchayat Raj and Social animation skills. A total number of 502 youth benefitted by the training on Panchayat Raj. Out of these, 49 percent were male youth and 51 percent were female youth. 48 percent of youth belonged to dalit community, 29 percent to adivasi, 18 percent to OBC and 5 percent to general caste communities.

### 10 TRAINING MODULES

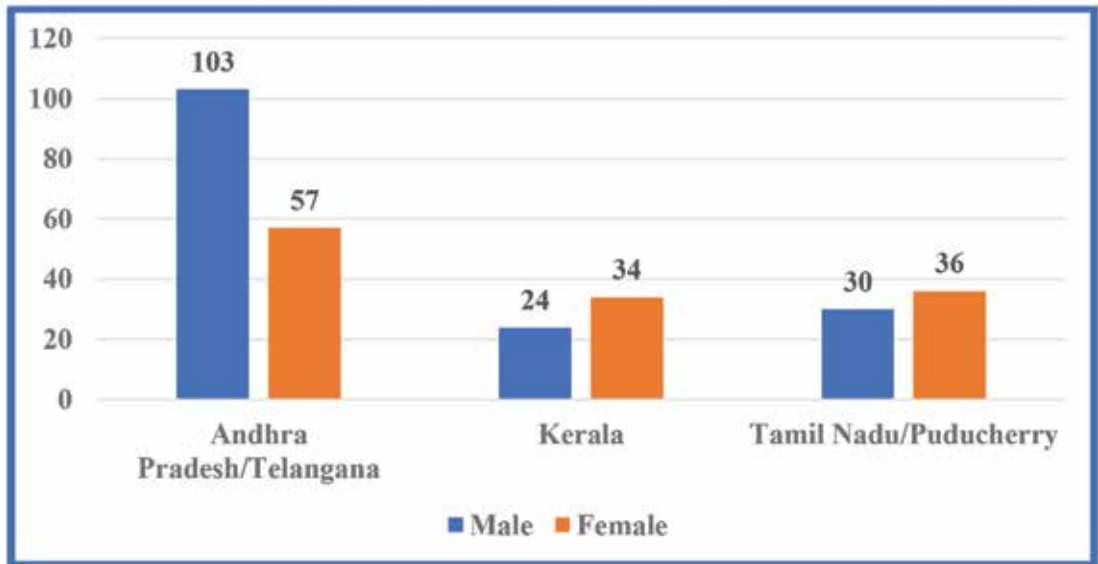
1	Socio-cultural analysis	6	People's entitlements
2	Personality development	7	Women and Gender equality
3	Social movements	8	Care for the environment
4	Human Rights/The Constitution	9	Panchayat Raj institutions
5	Legal literacy	10	Social animation skills



Training on Social animation skills was organised in three states. A total number of 284 youth participated. This training could not take place as envisaged due to the spread of omicron. Out of these, 284 participants, 55 percent were male, and 45 percent were female. 51 percent of youth were from the dalit community, 29 percent from adivasi, 15 percent from OBC and 5 percent from general caste.

Apart from these scheduled training sessions, Andhra Pradesh and Telangana unit organised special training on legal literacy, women and gender benefiting 47 youth, Karnataka unit organised a training for 17 participants on Self and society. Kerala and Tamil Nadu and Puducherry units organised state level concluding events to mark the completion of 1st Batch in which about 78 and 135 youth and heads of NGOs participated.





The Central hub organised a workshop on Socio-cultural analysis in which 13 Jesuits participated. Combating caste prejudices and empowering dalits was jointly organised by the Central hub and Karnataka state unit for lawyers and activists from dalit communities for 2 days. About 57 youth and leaders benefited from this workshop.

## MAJOR EVENT

The concluding event Capacity building training of you of Batch I was held in the institute premises on 19 and 20 March 2022. About 100 youth and 35 heads of NGOs from Andhra Pradesh and Telangana, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu and Puducherry participated. The youth shared how the 10-module workshops organised at the field level gave them confidence, new orientation in life and motivated them to serve the community. The dynamics of the event was carefully crafted to give space for every participant to share learning and transformative and change narratives. Though the youth were from different districts, they realised the importance of forming a collective at the state level to share and exchange information and express solidarity support as an ongoing process. The heads of NGOs have agreed to facilitate the future processes at the state level.

**WEBINARS AND CONSULTATIONS ORGANISED AT THE STATE LEVELS:**

**01** SC/ST Prevention of Atrocities Act, 1989

**02** Migration

**03** Tribute to Stan Swamy

**04** Mental Health and Psychosocial care

**05** Child marriage

These sessions were organised through online platform. Nearly 721 persons, largely youth and students benefited. Webinar on Mental health was attended by 180 participants.



*The Socio-cultural Analysis Course cum Workshop helped me to develop a critical consciousness, Leadership and Knowledge Development of the social realities. In a span of 10 days, I gained in-depth knowledge of structural analysis, challenges faced by women, especially dalit women, children and migrants, current political issues and Catholic Social Teaching - Kiran Leema.*



*When I came to Panchayat Raj training programme, I felt that I was like an empty glass. I had no knowledge about the topic. After attending a 3-days training programme I have acquired practical knowledge of the topic. I have not been speaking in front of a group, as I felt shy. Now I have gained courage to speak. I am surprised that I changed in 3 days. This has happened to me because of the training programme of the Indian Social Institute, especially the interactive and participative methodology followed during the sessions. As I participated in some activities, I started sharing my views easily. Slowly I gained confidence and on the third day I was looking for an opportunity to speak - Honnappa.*



## B. LABOUR MIGRATION UNIT

The institute received grants from Caritas Germany and Missions Prokur Germany to reach out to distress migrants. The unit staff effectively utilised these grants to reach out to over 4,200 individuals and families of inter-state, intra-state and returnees of overseas migrants in Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Kerala and Goa.

### MAJOR AREAS OF INTERVENTIONS:

- 01 Capacity building Training of Trainers
- 02 Promoting health care and health security
- 03 Educational support, Supplementary education and Educational assistance
- 04 Motivation, access to government schemes and leadership training for youth
- 05 Dry ration and livelihood support

The institute organised two national workshops for the staff of NGOs and volunteers working with migrants on Basic legal literacy and Mental health and psychosocial care (MHPSS). In the three day offline workshop on Basic legal literacy about 46 persons participated. MHPSS was offered for 5 days online. 55 participated in this workshop and benefitted. Apart from these, Covid-19 management and prevention was organised for 27 participants.

***I was very scared of vaccination as I had heard that some people died after vaccination. Awareness sessions has helped me in understanding the necessity of vaccination and alleviated my fear. Now I feel confident about taking the vaccination.***

***- Mr. Lal Babu, a construction worker.***

## MEDICAL CAMP, SPECIAL MEDICAL ASSISTANCE AND COMMUNITY HEALTH CARE ANIMATION

S. No	States / City	No of camps	Inter-state	Intra-state	Total
1	Bangalore, Karnataka	12	477	518	995
2	Chennai, Tamil Nadu	12	360	876	1,236
3	Goa	9	1,117	0	1,117
4	Calicut, Kerala	13	711	0	711
	Total	46	2,665	1,394	4,059

In Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Kerala and Goa 46 medical camps were organised benefitting 4,059 migrants. In order to effectively render medical services MoUs were signed with reputed hospitals such as, St. John's Medical College and St. Philomena's hospital. Similarly, IQRAA International Hospital & Research Centre, Calicut, JMJ hospital in Goa, Thomas Hospital in Chennai partnered with the institute. Over 70 individuals benefited from special medical assistance. Community health care animation was done during the peak of the second wave. Oximeter, vitamin and fever tablets were distributed to the communities and were taught how to identify the symptoms of Covid-19 and the precautionary measures to be taken. Over 8,151 migrants benefited.





## EDUCATIONAL MATERIAL SUPPORT AND SUPPLEMENTARY EDUCATION

Over 1,633 students were provided with various educational materials. 352 students regularly participated in the supplementary education. To enthuse the students various competitions, sports day and picnics were organised. Almost all these students have joined the regular schools with much interest and enthusiasm.



*I was working as a caretaker in Muscat. I was repatriated to India in January 2020, due to the pandemic. Since then, I was jobless. I received training on starting entrepreneurship in India from JMMEx. After the training, I feel confident to start my own small business in my hometown. It will give me an opportunity to earn as well as stay with my family and take care of them - Ms. Selvi from Villuppuram, Tamil Nadu.*

## MOTIVATIONAL SESSIONS AND YOUTH TRAINING

Motivational sessions were organised in slums and residential locations of migrants on various topics, such as, Importance of Covid vaccination, Health and hygiene, Awareness on labour issues, Access to entitlements and government schemes, Leadership training, Adivasi rights, Awareness on E-SHRAM registration, Awareness on Drug abuse, Save Environment, Domestic workers' union and Important role of women in society and Gender Equality Today for Sustainable Tomorrow. In these sessions, 4,827 migrants participated. As part of the motivational sessions, Migrants' Day, Labour Day, and International Working Women's Day were celebrated. Over 62 young migrants from all the project locations participated in the youth training organised at the institute. This workshop provided an opportunity for the participants to share their stories, dreams and aspirations and to build solidarity support across states and organisations working with the migrants.

## DRY RATION AND LIVELIHOOD SUPPORT

S. No	States / City	Inter-state	Intra-state	Overseas	Total
1	Bangalore	439	302		741
2	Chennai	1,160	403		1,563
3	Goa	315	325		640
4	Kerala	1,047			1,047
5	Thiruvanamalai			269	269
	Total				4,260

Over 4,260 individuals and families of migrants benefited by dry ration distribution. Livelihood support was provided to 77 migrants to augment their income in the form of starting small business, learning driving and tailoring, and protective materials to do petty business.

Orientation, review and reflection sessions were also organised for the key staff who were involved in the project. These grants help the unit to make its imprint at the south Indian level and build a network among the Jesuits working among the migrants. The institute also supported and participated in various cultural events organised by the migrants. Students, religious and young priests were given motivational sessions on the issues of migrants.

*When I was 10 years old, my uncle brought me to Goa lying to my parents that he would give me good education in Goa. But after coming here I was made to work as a nanny at his house. At the age of sixteen, I was married. I had many complications during my pregnancy. Being uneducated and young, I could not understand what to do. Motivational sessions helped me to gain knowledge about my health and antenatal care.*

*- Ms. Shabana Hulswar*

*Covid pandemic lockdown has affected mental health of women and children in our area of work. Joblessness, poverty have increased domestic violence. This in turn is driving people into depression, with no safe space to confide. For some suicide has been the last resort. My work involves counselling. This course has given me an opportunity to listen to renowned psychologists and mental health experts. I will take the tips given by Dr. Emmanuel Arockiam to the field.*

*- Ms. Paromita Dutta, working with Udayani Social Action Forum, Kolkata.*

Three workshops were organised to anchor the Migrant Assistance and Information Network (MAIN) model for the state coordinators and staff of the destination states, source states and one common workshop.

## C. RESEARCH AND PUBLICATIONS

### BOOKS PUBLISHED (PRINT/E-VERSION)

1

Dr. Joseph Xavier (2021), Development Anchored in Community Intelligence, Translation works in Bengali, Gujarati, Hindi, Kannada, Malayalam, Marathi, Oriya, Tamil and Telugu, Caritas India, New Delhi and Indian Social Institute, Bengaluru.

2

Dr. Joseph Xavier (2021), Walking with the Migrants Beyond Covid-19 Pandemic, Hindi version, Caritas India, New Delhi, Indo-Global Social Service Society, New Delhi and Indian Social Institute, Bengaluru.

3

Stan Swamy (2021), I am not a Silent Spectator, Indian Social Institute, Bengaluru.

4

Dr. Joseph Xavier, Rosemary, Harshita and Shujayathulla (2022), The Gender Pandemic: Domestic Violence during Lockdown, Indian Social Institute, Bengaluru.

*Listening to the experiences and deliberations in the National Conference, I feel motivated to take up community work. The two-day conference has helped me to understand the opportunities and challenges and widened my perspective to proactively engage in community mobilisation processes.*

*- Ms. Aishwarya Topo, a student of Social Work.*

## E-PUBLICATION (REPORTS AND DOCUMENTATION)

1

Dr. Joseph Xavier (2021), Establishing Bachelor of Social Work in Shaheed Rabbani Education University - A Baseline Study, Jesuit Refugee Service and Indian Social Institute, Bengaluru.

2

Dr. Joseph Xavier (2021) Covid-19 Impact and Five-year Strategic Plan: A study in Five Blocks of West Bengal, Udayani Social Action Forum, Kolkata.

3

Dr. Joseph Xavier (2022), Strengthening Feminist Strategies for Building Women's Resilience, Udayani Social Action Forum, Kolkata.

4

Shujayathulla and others (2021): Criminalizing practice of faith - A fact-finding report on the attacks on Christians in Karnataka.



## ARTICLES PUBLISHED

- ▶ Joseph Xavier, (2021). Pandemic and Peace, Pax Lumina 2(4)/2021/11-12.
- ▶ Joseph Xavier, (2021). Stan's Martyrdom, Indian Currents, July 12 – 18, 2021/15-20.
- ▶ Joseph Xavier, (2021). Stan's Martyrdom, The Examiner, Jul 17 – 23, 2021/7-9.
- ▶ Joseph Xavier, (2021). Johar Stan, Jivan, August 2021/7-8.
- ▶ Joseph Xavier, (2021). Stan Lives in the Hearts of Many, FORUM, August 2021, 10.
- ▶ Joseph Xavier, (2021). Adieu, Stan! Kalyan Lantern, August 2021/4-6.
- ▶ Joseph Xavier, (2021). Mother Teresa Strove for Human Dignity, Fr Swamy Did Too – Albeit Differently, The quint, 26 Aug 2021.
- ▶ Joseph Xavier, (2021). Stan Swamy: A prototype of Incarnational Spirituality, IGNIS 2021/2,7-21.
- ▶ Martin Puthussery (2021). Covid-19 and Challenges of Distress Migrants in India, St. Xavier's College Kolkata, Special Newsletter, Ignatian Year celebration, Vol-2.
- ▶ Shyjayathulla, (2021). Spirituality of Islam: Humanitarian Practices and Human Rights Principles in Action, Book clinic, Chhattisgarh, India.

## ONGOING RESEARCH

- 60 Years of IGSSS and Reimagining its Future.
- The unspoken diversity of sex, gender and sexuality and its importance.



## D. EVENTS AND CELEBRATIONS

# 1

The institute and the Director played a crucial role in the last days of Stan Swamy. The Director in collaboration with CSOs organized an online condolence meeting on 5 July 2021 on the same day of the demise of Fr. Stan, in which over 1000 persons participated. On the following day, he was one of the celebrants of the funeral service, held at St. Peter's Church, Bandra, Mumbai, which was watched by over 40,000 people. On 15 July, a memorial event was organized for Stan Swamy in which GB members, partners, friends, well-wishers and some students who benefitted from the social analysis course conducted by Stan while he was in the institute, participated and paid rich tribute to Stan, motivated the participants to take forward his legacy. The Director participated in over 15 memorial events organized by different institutions, CSOs and Christian groups and shared his thoughts on Stan.



## 2

ISI-B in collaboration with Caritas India organised a two-day National Conference on Community Mobilization at ISI-B. About 80 representatives from social work colleges and social work associations, academicians and bureaucrats, diocesan social work directors, religious and students participated. Development as Community-led Journey – An Assessment Report and Development Anchored in Community Intelligence – A Handbook on Community Mobilization in 10 languages were released. The Hindi translation of Walking with the Migrants beyond Covid-19 Pandemic was also released. Archbishop Peter Machado, Archbishop Sebastian Kallupura, Mr. Peter Seidel from Caritas Germany and Mr. S.M. Vijayanand, IAS (Retd.), Former Chief Secretary, Government of Kerala appreciated the work done jointly by the institute and Caritas India.

## 3

As part of the celebration of Ignatian year, the institute organized sessions on Ignatian insights every month for staff.



## 4

On 23 November, a memorial event was organized for Mr. Duarte Barreto along with friends of Duarte at the institute premises. Duarte served the institute as a staff member for over 20 years.



5

The 10-day long Human Rights celebration jointly organized by a consortium of colleges, NGOs and CSOs culminated with a public event on 10 December at the institute premises. About 120 students from various colleges and NGO representatives participated.

Archbishop Peter Machado and CSO leaders Ms. Akkai Padmashali, Ms. Kathayayini, Mr. Ravi and Ms. Margaret graced the occasion. The event culminated with an Oath taking.



6

A two-day concluding event of 4 year long Cadre Building Training was organized by SI&D unit at ISI B. About 100 cadres and 32 NGO heads from Andhra/Telangana, Tamil Nadu/ Puducherry and Karnataka participated. The focus was on Learnings, Changes and Future Commitments. Highly satisfying even for the unit staff and the participants.



7

A national level webinar was organised on SC/ST Prevention of Atrocities Act in collaboration with NCDHR in which about 200 persons participated.

8

Women's Day was celebrated on the UN theme, 'Gender equality today for a sustainable tomorrow' in collaboration with St. Aloysius College Bengaluru, JMJ College Shiggon, JMJ College Sirsi, and St. Philomena's College of Nursing, Bengaluru.

## E. SERVICES

1

The institute reached out to about 275 poor and migrants with dry ration through the staff members.

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2

Fr. Paul Moonjely, the Executive Director of Caritas India defended his PhD thesis, guided by Joseph Xavier.

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3

Offered sessions on current socio-cultural realities organized by Karnataka Jesuit province for the key stakeholders of colleges and schools in 5 batches and Over 1,000 students of Bangalore Jesuit Educational Society (BJES) benefitted by 5 online sessions on Forming Women and Men for Others.

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4

The staff contributed to webinars on Universal Periodic Review, Defend Democracy, Kandhamal memorial event, and orientation and motivation sessions on social realities.

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5

Safe evacuation of two Jesuits from Afghanistan, Frs. Jerome and Robert, was facilitated.

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6

17 JRS staff were oriented on an 8-week module in two batches.

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7

The Pune Jesuit province was animated to come out with a province apostolic plan.

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8

Consultancy service was offered to 7 FMA provinces for developing projects and facilitated the annual meeting of social delegates in Kolkata.

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9

Facilitated and documented Round Table Conference on Strengthening feminist strategies for building women’s resilience in which 45 Indian partners of Calcuto Ondoan and Alboan participated.

10

The institute gratefully acknowledges the services of Fr. Pankaj Kujur who served in the Labour Migration unit for 3 months.



## INTERNSHIP AND VISIT TO THE INSTITUTE

Despite institutions being closed due to the pandemic 6 MSW students, 3 boys and 3 girls, interned with the institute from Bengaluru City University and Bengaluru University. About 190 MSW students from Bengaluru University, SFS college and Acharya college visited the institute and were introduced to various works of the institute in the social arena. The students appreciated the orientation received.

# OUR HISTORY

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

## THE BEGINNING

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. The Extension Service was shifted to Delhi in 1966. With this change, ISI-B began its journey as a 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’. The 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 the 70s, the Freirean philosophy and methodology dominated the training of ISI-B.

## THE EARLY FOCUS

Soon after the 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 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 interrelated objectives:

- 1 **To align with the marginalized people for facilitating their empowerment**
- 2 **To network with sectoral, secular and democratic movements, and**
- 3 **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 the **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 Outreach 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, a **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 for the distress of 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 recommendations of the evaluation, 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 outreach 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, a 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**
- 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. Stanislaus D'Souza SJ - President

Fr. James Joye SJ – Vice-President

Dr. Joseph Xavier SJ - Secretary

Fr. Francis D'Souza SJ - Member

Prof. Babu Mathew - Member

Ms. Brinda Adige - Member

Dr. Danis Ponniah SJ - Member

Dr. Denzil Fernandes SJ - Member

Dr. Dionysius Vaz SJ - Member

Mr. Lukose Vallatharai - Member

**SUPPORT STAFF**

Mr. Anthony Raj

Ms. Faridha

Mr. Francis Xavier

Ms. Lakshmi

Mr. Sandhyagu

Ms. Sagaya Mary

Ms. Selvi K

Mr. Shiva Gowda

Mr. Velan G

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

Tel.: 91.80.40867092/40124630

Email: [infoisibl@gmail.com](mailto:infoisibl@gmail.com), [isibengaluru@gmail.com](mailto:isibengaluru@gmail.com)