

INDIAN SOCIAL INSTITUTE

BENGALURU



ANNUAL REPORT | 2022 - 2023

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

The institute engages in 'Training of Trainers' and leaders of marginalized communities with a special focus on South India, through holistic and quality capacity-building training, enabled by research-based knowledge, networking, and advocacy engagements, to claim their entitlements and rights and to improve the quality of life.

PRIMARY STAKEHOLDERS

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

THEMATIC AREAS

Social Inclusion and Democracy
Labour Migration
Peace and Reconciliation

INDIAN SOCIAL INSTITUTE

BENGALURU

ANNUAL REPORT

2022 - 2023



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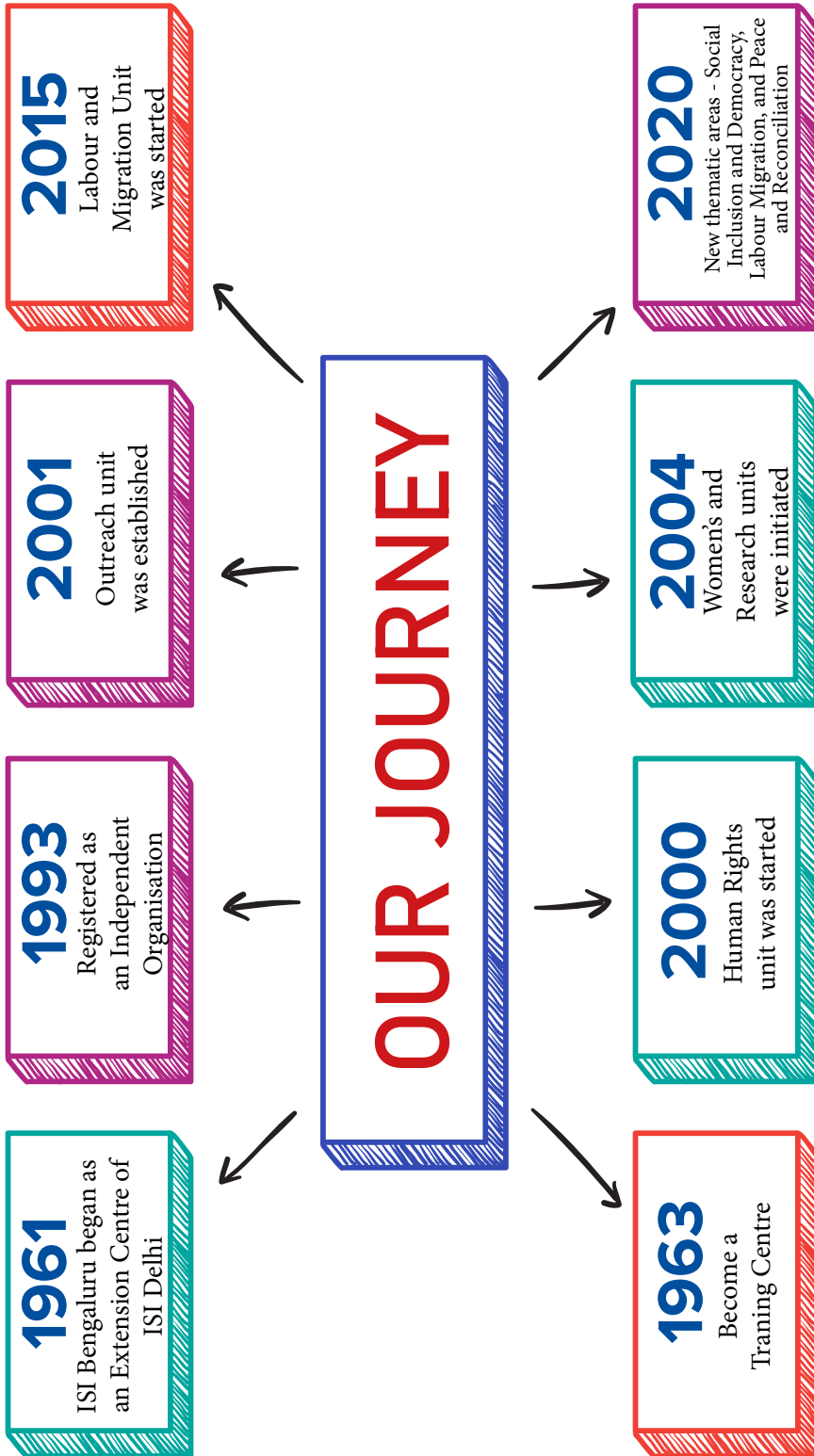
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From the Director's Desk

This year is a privileged moment for the institute as it is embarking on its Diamond Jubilee year. The institute was established in 1963 to contribute to nation-building from a bottom-up and rights-based approach, through context-based social interventions and empowering actions. Over the last 60 years, ISI-B has been engaged in interdisciplinary action research and training of leaders among the Dalits, Adivasis, Minority, OBC, Migrants, Women, LGBTQIA+, Lawyers, Activists, Students, and from other marginalised communities. The strength of the institute has been its ability to intentionally link social activism, academic discourse, and practical praxis, leading to grassroots advocacy and policy changes, in partnership with like-minded organisations. You are our witnesses as the institute had the privilege to walk with you in its mission of justice and reconciliation. Thank you!



Looking back, I am grateful to many people who walked with us encouraging, supporting, guiding, and critiquing our journey. The institute, adhering to its mission, substantially contributed to empowering the poor and the marginalised through research, publications, training, and various other services.

The institute continues to draw inspiration from the founding stalwarts in journeying with the struggling masses for a dignified life. This year, the erstwhile Volken Memorial annual lecture was changed into the Volken-Stan Swamy Memorial lecture and the first lecture was delivered by Adv. Vrinda Grover on *Democracy and Human Rights Defenders* and the year culminated in a National Seminar on *Social Inclusion, Democracy and Human Rights* in collaboration with the newly born St. Joseph's University, Bengaluru.

Social Inclusion and Democracy Unit

Based on the conceptualisation of the thematic area, the institute developed a 4-year strategic operational framework for 'Capacity Building of Youth', with review and learning processes, and key performance indicators to monitor the development of youth as leaders of the communities and the partnership development process with

the NGOs. The programmatic strategy comprised six 3-day basic module workshops spread out over 2 years followed by five 5-day advanced module workshops in years 3 and 4 for select youth who have gone through basic module training sessions. The aim is to prepare young informed and knowledgeable leaders who will lead the communities. Currently, in year 1, the institute partnered with 56 NGOs and reached out to 550 youth. These youth have completed 3 modules of basic training. Two 5-day advanced workshops were attended by 35 youths, who had gone through basic module training of batch I, from 2017-2022.

The Central hub of the unit organised, Socio-Cultural Analysis in English and Kannada and a workshop on the Prevention of Atrocities (PoA) Act 1989 and Amendment 2018, for lawyers and activists, and on Electoral Democracy for youth.

Labour Migration unit

The institute worked on reducing the vulnerabilities of distressed migrants and capacitated youth with the necessary skills and knowledge to reach out to migrants. Over 4,000 individuals and families of inter-state, intra-state and returnees of overseas migrants were accompanied in Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Kerala, Goa, Andhra Pradesh, and Telangana. 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, and transit support.

The unit organised workshops on Capacity Building of youth, Basic Legal Literacy, Current issues of Migration and Psychosocial Care of migrants for the staff of NGOs and volunteers working with migrants. A 2-day National Conference on 'Untold Stories of Distress Migration' was organised in collaboration with Loyola College, Chennai.

Research, Publication and Consultancy Services

At the request of partner organisations, 4 studies were completed and published. 60-Years of Building Community Resilience and Journey Ahead, The Joy of Accompanying the Poor, a coffee table book and Rebuilding Lives and Livelihoods: The Covid-19 Humanitarian and Post-Recovery Response were completed and published by Indo-Global Social Service Society (IGSSS), New Delhi. Empowerment of Women: Integration into Society on Equal Terms was published by Udayani Social

Action Forum, Kolkata. Evaluation of Managing Institutional Development (MIND) was completed, a project supported by Misereor and implemented by IGSSS. The institute supported a research and campaign project ‘The Unspoken Diversity of Sex, Gender and Sexuality and its Importance.’ The Pastoral Plan of the Archdiocese of Nagpur was carried out and Strategic Planning for various commissions of the Conference of Catholic Bishops of India, comprising 132 Dioceses and Archdioceses in India has been initiated. Three staff members published articles in various journals and edited books.

The institute has gained visibility in the public domain by providing consultancy services for strategic planning, Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability and Learning (MEAL) and giving social orientation to dioceses, colleges, religious congregations, and NGOs. To provide handholding support to heads and treasurers of religious congregations, basic and advanced training on Finance management courses were organised. The institute in collaboration with CSOs organised 10-day Human Rights celebrations, the Karam festival and Duarte memorial lecture. The institute continues to get interns from various colleges and students of social work visiting the institute for learning. The institute’s newsletter, Critique, after a brief period of pause during the Covid-19 pandemic, has been resumed as an e-newsletter reaching out to over 2000 friends and partners.

The institute’s 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.

Founded in 1963, the institute has completed 60 years of its journey. Adhering to the framework of Universal Apostolic Preferences of the Society of Jesus the institute has drawn up its priorities and measurable strategic plans. As a training and resource centre, reaching out to youth and preparing young leaders who could lead the marginalised communities is given top priority. With your support, collaboration, and constructive challenges, we hope to realise progressively the mission of reconciliation and justice that is entrusted with the institute.

Joseph Xavier SJ
Director

A. SOCIAL INCLUSION AND DEMOCRACY UNIT

In 2022, the institute put in place a new strategic operational framework for the capacity building of youth. The framework comprised 6 basic modules (3 modules in 2022-23 and 3 in 2023-24) and 5 advanced modules for selected youth who participated in the Basic module workshops from 2018-2022 (2 modules in 2022-23 and 3 modules in 2023-24).

Basic Modules	Advanced Modules
Year 1 - 2022-23	Year 1 - 2022-23
3-day workshop on each theme	5-day workshop on each theme
Self and Society	Leadership, Social Animation and Social Media
Democracy and Citizenship	Socio-cultural analysis
People's Entitlements	
Year 2 - 2023-24	Year 2 - 2023-24
Reducing Vulnerabilities	Legal Literacy
Women and Mother Earth	Globalisation, Corporatisation and Fundamentalism
Participation and Accountability	Organisational and Management skills



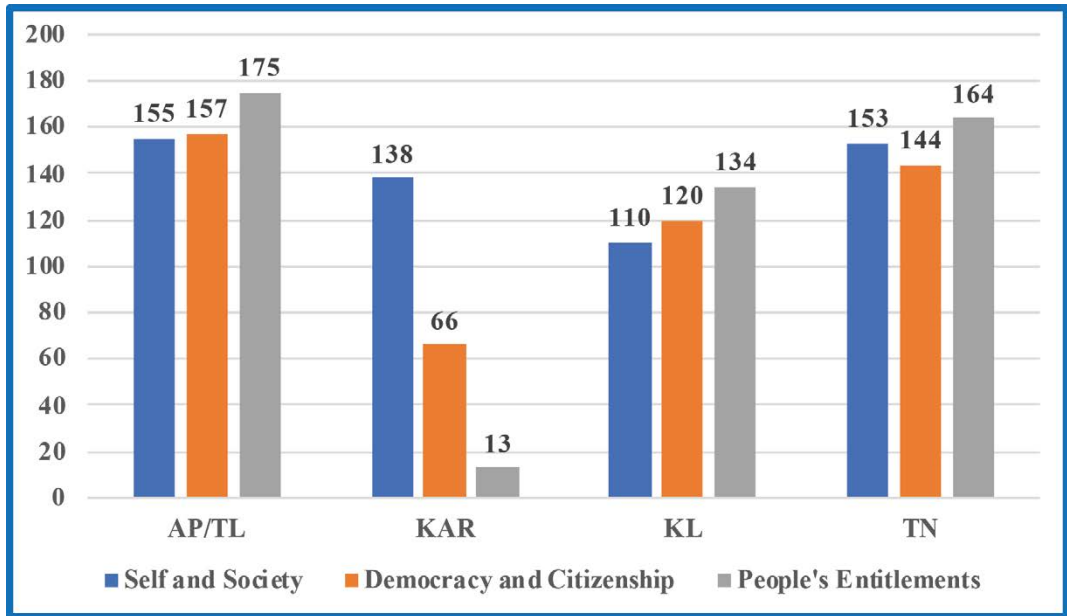
In capacitating youth of Batch II, on 6 Basic modules, the unit began its new journey by partnering with 55 NGOs and identified 550 youth from all 5 southern states, and Puducherry. The year began with a daylong workshop with responsible persons from each NGO partner, to explain the partnership model, and to develop an understanding of what the institute expects from the NGOs and in turn what the institute would offer.

About 55 NGO heads participated and signed an MoU with the institute. Currently, in Andhra and Telangana, we have 14 organisations in 4 zones; Karnataka has 14 organisations in 3 zones; Tamil Nadu has 14 organisations in 4 zones; and Kerala has 14 organisations in 4 zones. As per the plan, the units completed 3 basic modules, except Karnataka which postponed module 3 to the next financial year.

Modules	Sex		Social Categories			
	Male	Female	Dalits	Adivasis	OBC	General
Self and Society	316	240	348	86	115	7
Democracy and Citizenship	268	219	294	81	94	18
People's Entitlements	221	265	288	74	104	20
Total	805	724	930	241	313	45
%	52.6	47.4	60.8	15.8	20.5	2.9

It is not an easy task to organise capacity-building programmes for people aged 18-35 years. But ISI-B is doing it. Motivating girls to participate in the training might be a tough task since some parents may not agree to send them. Keeping girls and boys together in the programme will be also a challenge, but we will not give up. We believe that this programme will bring sustainable and lasting changes among the youth. Through the youth the whole village will benefit - Ms. Shesharathnam, Women Association for Gender Equality, Andhra Pradesh.

The Chart provides details on the number of youth participants in each state on all three themes.



Mr. Ekalavyan, a trainee from Kerala: We are all citizens of India and we have certain rights and entitlements, we will give awareness to all others. From now on we will not allow ourselves to be divided in the name of religion, caste, language, or any other category. Rather, we will commit ourselves to transform ourselves and society.

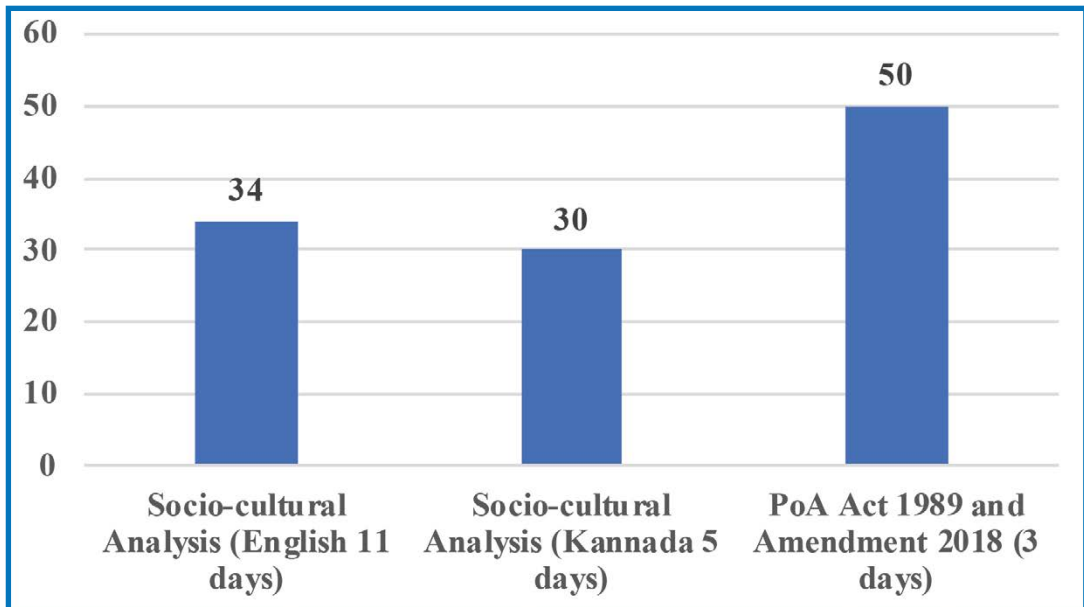
Mr. Laxman, a trainee from Andhra Pradesh: Knowledge of the Right to Education was my strength and I supported about 60 poor children below Class 5 to access quality education freely. I succeeded in motivating many dropout children to return to school. All this was possible because of the 'Rights based Approach' I developed during the training sessions.

Two advanced module training sessions were conducted in which about 35 youth from Tamil Nadu, Puducherry, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, and Telangana participated. These modules aimed to prepare the youth as trainers who could eventually become leaders of their local communities. Accordingly, several practical and demonstrative sessions were organised. In between the modules, online sessions were organised to help the youth experiment with their learning in their communities. It was observed that the growth was substantial.



On being drilled in many skills, Ms. Suganthi from Tamil Nadu said, “I learnt how to conduct online meetings using the google meet platform. I will now use this skill professionally. Now I am a more confident and optimistic person. It was a great learning for everyone who participated in the advanced workshop.”

The Central Hub organised the following workshops

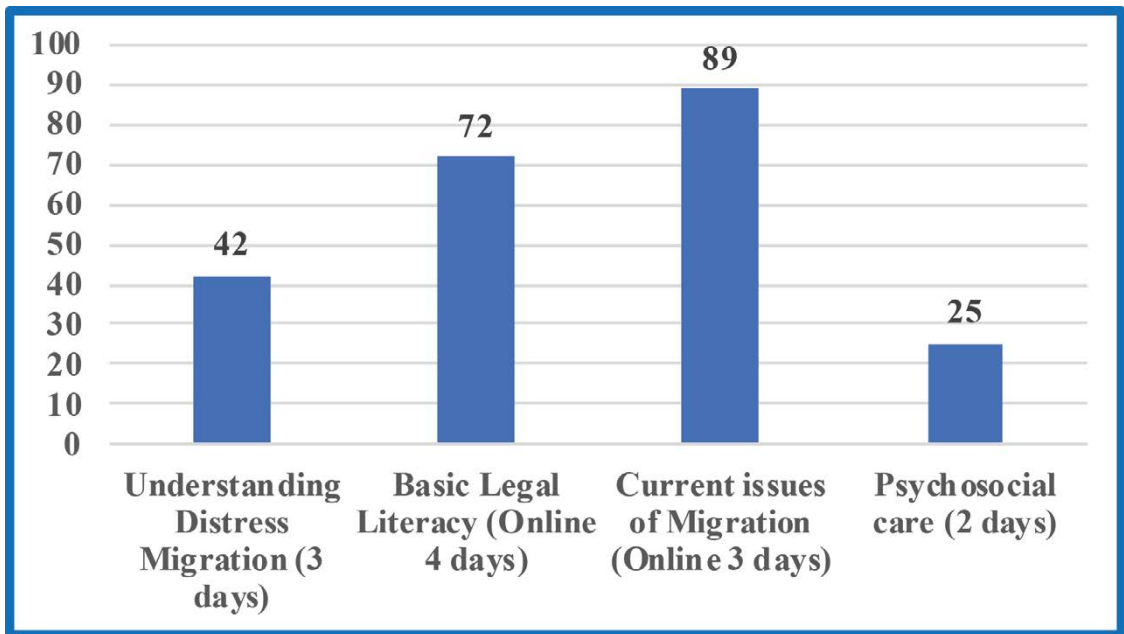


To engage in social change, scientific, cultural and historical understanding of society in all its complexities and opportunities is very much needed. As I delved deeper into society and its structures I truly understood the realities. Indian Social Institute provided me with that knowledge and inspired me to be an agent of change. I'm very grateful for this opportunity – Sch. Amal Bosco, Madurai Jesuit Province.

The hub also organised sessions on ‘Youth and Electoral Democracy’ for 180 persons, in Karnataka. The unit staff actively participated in various programmes organised by the CSOs and supported them. The staff were invited to offer sessions on social issues and current challenges by colleges and CSOs.

B. LABOUR MIGRATION UNIT

The objective of the unit is to capacitate persons working with migrants, staff of NGOs and those who are interested in reaching out to migrants with knowledge, skills and capacities with an empathetic understanding of the distress scenarios of the migrants at the national level, with a special focus on South India.



I am a student of social work. I have been enriched by the capacity-building workshop. Interaction with academicians, a high court lawyer, social activists, a police officer and field workers helped me to understand violence, discrimination, confinement, wage theft, accident, and at times death, endured by the migrant workers as day-to-day scenarios. I was guided on what legal help I could provide to the victims and how social media can be used to reach out to the migrants - Ms. Anjali, a student participant.

Medical camps

S. No	States/City	No of camps	Inter-state	Intra-state	Total
1	Bengaluru, Karnataka	6	488	252	740
2	Chennai, Tamil Nadu	18	971	1,074	2,045
3	Goa	7	735	78	813
4	Calicut, Kerala	6	427	0	427
	Total	37	2,621	1,404	4,025

Organising medical camps for the distressed migrants in their living localities, slums and congested location, would not have been possible without the collaboration of committed hospitals. St. Philomena's Hospital, St. John's Medical College Hospital and St. Martha's Hospital in Bengaluru, St. Thomas Hospital and Sai Healing Trust in Chennai, IQRAA foundation in Calicut, and JMJ and ICM sisters in Goa were our collaborative partners who served the migrants with compassion and treated them with dignity.

I work as a helper on a construction site. I cannot visit a hospital given my work schedule. When I heard that Indian Social Institute, Bengaluru is organizing a free medical camp, I took special permission and came to the medical camp. It has been worth it. I had developed chronic body pain due to the nature of my work. The doctor intently listened to my story and suggested some physical exercises and gave me some medication for pain - Ms. Basanti, working in Bellandur, Bengaluru.



Educational Assistance and Supplementary education

S. No	States/City	Total no of children	Inter-state	Intra-state	Male	Female
1	Bengaluru, Karnataka	140	120	20	80	60
2	Chennai, Tamil Nadu	309	133	176	150	159
3	Goa	205	205	0	104	101
4	Calicut, Kerala	150	150	0	82	68
5	Tiruvannamalai	10			4	6
	Total	814	608	196	420	394

Education was focused as many migrant children lost motivation for education due to the Pandemic. We reached out to 814 children with educational material support. The institute continues to monitor the progress of 333 children through supplementary education in Bengaluru (189) and Chennai (144). The children who are part of supplementary education are also provided with extra-curricular training, training on soft skills and personality development training. Increased motivation among children is seen and hardly a few dropouts could be seen in the migrant locality, where we are working.

Motivational and Leadership Training

S. No	States/City	No of sessions	No of beneficiaries	Inter-state	Intra-state
1	Bengaluru, Karnataka	10	257	170	87
2	Chennai, Tamil Nadu	59	4,150	2,083	2,067
3	Goa	5	213	180	33
4	Calicut, Kerala	15	852	852	0
5	Tiruvannamalai	10	803	0	0
	Total	99	6,275	3,285	2,187

The following motivational sessions and leadership training sessions were provided. About 6,275 migrants benefitted. The sessions were on Psychosocial care, Rural health services, Understanding migrant's rights, Celebration of Peace Day and Homeless Day, Personality development and life skills, Leadership development,

Ill effects of the use of drugs, Youth problems, Wage theft campaign, Motivation for entrepreneur skills, Inspirational leaders, and Registration under medical and insurance schemes and E-sharam.

Skill Training/Livelihood support and Emergency support

S. No	States/City	Skill/ Livelihood	Emergency support
1	Bengaluru, Karnataka	8	14
2	Chennai, Tamil Nadu	15	21
3	Goa	12	6
4	Calicut, Kerala	3	13
5	Tiruvannamalai	8	40
	Total	46	94

27 young migrant adolescent girls learnt tailoring in Chennai and Goa. In other places, migrants were assisted to get driving licences, buy tailoring machines, learning tally, basic computer courses, and wood carving, buying cows or setting up petty shops.

Emergency support was provided to accident and death-related cases, buying dry rations, travelling to native places, purchasing tarpaulin and supporting sick persons to buy medicines.

We left our homes, kith and kin and came to Goa in search of work to fulfil our basic needs, to educate our children and to take care of the needs of the elderly in our homes in Jharkhand. As some of us were falling ill we were looking for assistance with a basic medical check-up. Without our asking, you came to us, assessed our health condition and advised us to go through a medical check-up and organised a medical camp in our locality. As you organised the camp with professional doctors and nurses in our locality about 180 of us, working in farmlands as daily wage labourers in Goa, were able to benefit. This medical camp has been a gift to us. We speak Hindi. When we go to meet private doctors, language has been a barrier. You got translators for us. On behalf of the Adivasi community, I want to thank you for your care and concern - Mrs. Jayanti Lakra.



My husband, Mr. Louis, was working overseas in Dubai since 2010. His salary was low. He moved to various places in Qatar, and Kuwait in search of a better salary. After working in Qatar for four years, unable to find a decent job, he returned to India and started painting work in the village. That is when a contract agency in Nagercoil gave him an offer to work in Cambodia. We arranged and paid the agent Rs. 2,80,000 to get his visa and work permit. The agent had promised to place him in an office as a supervisor but finally, he was put in menial jobs with a low salary. He wanted to run back home. I had to arrange money for his return to India. We had lost all our savings to the agent and had no other way other than to borrow money from moneylenders with high interest. This incident broke him mentally and he suffered paralysis in August 2020 during the Covid-19 pandemic. As our debts increased I had no choice except to mortgage my house. The education of my children was at stake. At this moment, Jesuit Migrant Ministry External (JMMEx), an organisation run by the Jesuits came forward and supported me with Rs. 25,000 to start a small shop. It has been a few months and my business has already gained momentum. I am grateful to JMMEx for extending solidarity and standing by me in my darkest hours - Ms. Julia Mary

C. RESEARCH AND PUBLICATIONS

BOOKS PUBLISHED (PRINT/E-VERSION)

- Joseph Xavier (2022), 60-Years of Building Community Resilience and Journey Ahead, Indo-Global Social Service Society, New Delhi.
- Joseph Xavier (2022), The Joy of Accompanying the Poor, Indo-Global Social Service Society, New Delhi. (Coffee Table Book)
- Joseph Xavier (2022), Empowerment of Women: Integration into Society on Equal Terms, Udayani Social Action Forum, Kolkata.
- Joseph Xavier (2022), Rebuilding Lives and Livelihoods: The Covid-19 Humanitarian and Post-Recovery Response, Indo-Global Social Service Society, New Delhi.



E-PUBLICATION (REPORTS AND DOCUMENTATION)

- Joseph Xavier (2022), Evaluation of Managing Institutional Development (MIND), Indo-Global Social Service Society, New Delhi.
- Joseph Xavier (2022), The Pastoral Plan of the Archdiocese of Nagpur 2022-2030.
- Ondede (2023), Attention, please! Sex, Gender, and Sexuality in Kannada.

ARTICLES PUBLISHED

- Joseph Xavier, (2022). The Style of Governance of Fr. Arturo Sosa SJ, INI, July 2022.
- Joseph Xavier, (2022). Religion and Development of the Poor: A Socio-ethical Perspective, Jeevadhra, Vol. LII, No. 311, September 2022.
- Joseph Xavier, (2022). Take Forward the Struggles of the Adivasis, Indian Currents, 27 June – 03 July 2022.
- Joseph Xavier, (2022). Stan Swamy-A Living Legacy, Pax Lumina 3(4) / 2022 / 36-39.
- Selvin Raj M G, (2023). Building Up Social Capital Among the Migrants is an Untrodden Path Towards Development, IJRAR March 2023, Volume 10, Issue 1.
- Selvin Raj M G, (2023). Unsavoury Hindutva Politics in India, IJRAR March 2023, Volume 10, Issue 1.
- Shujayathulla E, (2023). Urbanization, Pandemic, intermittent lockdown: Its impacts on Migrants in India, Forced Migration: Problems, Challenges, and Theological Responses, Christian World Imprints, Delhi.
- Shujayathulla E, (2023). Covid-19 Lockdown and the Plight of Migrants: Challenges and Responses, Forced Migration: Problems, Challenges, and Theological Responses, Christian World Imprints, Delhi.

D. MAJOR EVENTS

1. On April 6, 2022, Social Inclusion and Democracy Unit organised one day workshop for 55 new NGO partners who agreed to collaborate with the institute and expressed willingness to accompany 550 youth of Batch II in building their capacities. MoU between the institute and partner, Organisational profile, undertaking by youth, and 2 policies of the institute were explained.
2. On 9 and 10 April 2022, 70 young migrants, mainly interstate migrants from Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Kerala, and Goa participated in sharing and learning workshop at the institute as part of Leadership training. On 26-27 April, Caritas Germany partner's learning and sharing workshop was organised.
3. Rechristening the erstwhile Volken Memorial Lecture as Volken-Stan Swamy Memorial Lecture, on 9 July 2022, the institute organised the Memorial on Democracy and Human Rights, delivered by Adv. Vrinda Grover and chaired by Adv. Henri Tiphagne. About 220 persons participated.



4. A 10-day Human Rights Celebrations 2022 was jointly organised by 28 CSOs and NGOs, under the theme, Yuva Hakku: Bengaluru Youth for Diversity, Inclusion, and Human Rights, reaching out to 10,000 students.
5. A two-day National Seminar on Social Inclusion, Democracy, and Human Rights was jointly organised by the institute and St. Joseph's University from 23-24 February 2023 in which 28 research papers were presented by PhD scholars, professors, NGOs, and students, attended by 280 students and professors.
6. Untold Stories of Distress Migration – A two-day National Conference was jointly organised by the institute and Loyola College Chennai from 3-4 March 2023. 25 papers were presented by scholars and social activists and attended by 300 persons.

Adv. Vrinda Grover, delivering the Volken-Stan Swamy Memorial Lecture, said, “Stan Swamy, was a model human rights defender for his courage and strength in espousing the nexus between the state and the corporate lobby. Swamy through the court of law fought for the liberty and dignity of thousands of Adivasis languishing in jails. But, the reality is stark. Today, human rights defenders are silenced. The criminal justice system in these challenging times is degenerating into rule by law, and not rule of law. Hence, critical interrogation of law is very necessary today.”



E. SERVICES AND CELEBRATIONS

1. The institute staff were oriented on Ignatian resources, such as Discernment and Spiritual Conversation.
2. The institute jointly celebrated International Women's Day 2023, "DigitALL: Innovation and technology for gender equality, with 300 students and parents at St. Aloysius College, Cox Town, Bengaluru, with CSOs and women domestic workers at the institute premises and with 80 women in a nearby slum, at Nethaji Nagar.
3. A 5-day workshop on the Basics of Finance Management was organised by the institute for the benefit of present and future treasures of various religious congregations. About 29 persons benefited. This workshop was followed by an Advanced Finance Management workshop in which 20 persons benefited.
4. Social orientation sessions to JESCOL (Jesuits and Collaborators) – Staff of Karnataka Jesuit educational institutions, volunteers of Mercy Mission, Asha workers, Nurses, Dalit women, 3,000 students at St. Joseph's Commerce College and 2,000 students at St. Joseph's University, students of Loyola High School Sindagi, staff of Shimoga Social Service Society, to social workers of religious congregations such as CST, ICM, CJ, Redemptorists, and Priests, religious and lay collaborators of Patna Regional Forum.
5. Socio-cultural analysis to scholastic of Gujarat and Sama Foundation, and workshop on Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability and Learning (MEAL) for the staff of Udayani, Kolkata
6. Organised motivational sessions, and medical camps for migrants, provided livelihood support, generated awareness of the Migrant Assistance Information Network (MAIN) in colleges, participated in the development of MAIN and attended to the distress call of migrants.

7. Supporting CSO platforms working with invisible and informal workers, assistance to get voter's Id, rights of BBMP workers, rescue operation of bonded labourers and Lok Manch.
8. Supported 5 scholars who undertook research on Stan Swamy and delivered memorial lectures at St. Aloysius College and Suvidya College, MSFS, Bengaluru, and shared the life and mission of Stan Swamy for the benefit of various faith-based, secular, and academic institutions.
9. Planning workshops were carried out to Staff of Kalangarai, Nagapattinam, Tamil Nadu, Pune Jesuit Province, Sacred Heart Brothers, FMA sister of Chennai and Mumbai Provinces, Nagpur Archdiocese, Jesuit Chennai Province and the Justice, Peace and Development Office of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of India (CBCI) and initiated Strategic Planning for the Conference of Catholic Bishops of India (CCBI).



10. Critique – Triennial Newsletter of the institute is published as an e-newsletter.
11. A banner was put up demonstrating the core mission of the institute in alignment with Universal Apostolic Preferences and a brochure was printed and made available to all visitors.
12. The institute supported a dance drama performance by Ms. Nayana Sooda, in generating awareness on issues of transgenders and sexual minorities. The programme was hosted by Ondede and performed in 11 venues, reaching out to Judges, bureaucrats, police, media, college students, transgender communities and the public.
13. Facilitated participation of CSOs in UPR IV.
14. 15 Jesuit Refugee Service staff were accompanied through an 8-week online orientation course in two batches.
15. The institute celebrated the Feast of Ignatius, Christmas, and Deepavali.
16. The staff members went on an annual tour to Mangalore for two days.

INTERNSHIP AND VISIT TO THE INSTITUTE

About 180 students and faculty members from Madras School of Social Work, St. Joseph's College, Cuddalore, Don Bosco College, Bengaluru, St. Xavier's College, Palayamkottai and Bengaluru University visited the institute for orientation sessions and to learn the contribution of NGOs in nation building.

Apart from these, the institute received 22 interns (13 male and 9 female students) from 7 Colleges and Universities - Bengaluru City University, Bengaluru University, Madras Christian College, Chennai, National Law School, Bengaluru, Oxford College, St. Joseph's University, and St. Claret College from Bengaluru.



I had migrated to Chennai from Bihar ten years back. My husband works in a manufacturing company as a security guard. I was working there as a cleaning staff. Two years ago, I was diagnosed with a tumorous cyst in my left breast. I did not have enough money for surgery due to the contractual nature of my job. I did not have a health insurance card. I had to get it operated on not just once but thrice due to its recurrence in St. Thomas Hospital and Royapettah Government Hospital under the reference of Jesuit Migrant Services. I have resumed my work after surgery. I can't express my gratitude enough for lending me lifesaving support and helping me lead a normal life again – Ms. Anima, a 32-year-old migrant woman.

I am in Kerala for the past 12 years. I have been earning Rs 1,100 to 1,200 per day. On 25 July 2022, I met with an accident while working and my lower back and spine were injured. I met a doctor and had a long treatment for four months. Still, I was not able to go to work due to severe pain. The Doctor advised me to rest for three months with a belt around my waste. Though my companions were kind and helped me with food and lodging, I was getting into depression and disappointment. That is the time my roommates brought me to a motivational training organized by Jeevika Migrant Outreach Service (MOS), at Poolakadav, Kozhikode. These sessions helped me to gain self-confidence and to believe in my potential. My pain is decreasing, and I am hopeful of resuming my work soon. The Jeevika team also provided me with a dry ration kit. This assistance made me think that I am not a liability to my companions. I deeply realized during the motivational session that positive thinking is helpful – Mr. Intajul Mulla, aged 30, worked at a construction site in Kozhikode, Kerala.

OUR HISTORY

Indian Social Institute, Bengaluru (ISI-B) celebrates the Diamond Jubilee in December 2023, 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 Beginnings

In 1961, Fr. Jim Berna SJ and Mr. Ryan started the work of the *Extension Service* of ISI-Delhi, intending to support the Diocesan Developmental activities which had just taken off, in a big way in most of the dioceses. The 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. The 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 the context of the Asian Seminar on ‘Structure

Analysis’ organized by Houtart and others, there was a radical shift in the understanding of development work. The economic crisis and the political developments 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 Lourdusamy 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 the Indian Social Institute also started functioning from Bengaluru giving massive intellectual input to 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:

- 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 impacts with dire

consequences the working classes, the poor and the weaker section, destroying 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 a 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 of rights, campaigns, 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, the *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 feeding 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 the "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 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, as 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 and
- c. Peace and Reconciliation

Owing to the Covid-19 impact, Peace and Reconciliation unit could not be initiated. Providentially, this unit will be inaugurated in 2023, the Diamond Jubilee year. ISI-B has been engaging in the search for relevance responding to the signs of the times. This process will go on until the priority communities are part and parcel of the mainstream society with rights, dignity, and improved quality of life.

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