

## Completed Projects

### Padmini Swaminathan

- 1<sup>st</sup> Phase: *Gender, markets and livelihoods in the context of globalisation: A study of the cashew sector in South India* (International Institute of Environment & Development, London)

### Thangaraj M.

- *Dalits and Panchayat in Tamil Nadu* (Centre for Study of Developing Societies, New Delhi and The World Bank)

### Vijayabaskar M.

- *Diffusion of Information & Communication Technologies in India: Labour market implications for developing countries* (Asian Media Informatics Centre, Singapore)

## Ongoing Projects

### Ganesh Prasad G. S.

- *Evaluation of SATCOM Training Programme to Elected Representatives of PRIs in Karnataka* (ANS SIRD, Government of Karnataka) (along with Prof. V.K. Natraj and Dr. Kripa Ananthpur)
- *Preparation of Pondicherry State Development Report* (The Union Planning Commission)

### Janakarajan S.

- *Facilitating negotiations over water conflicts in peri-urban catchments (NEGOWAT)* (DFID, UK)
- *Catalyzing action through effective communication: Disseminating results from the local water management project* (IDRC, Canada)

### Kripa Ananthpur

- *Formal and Informal Local Governance in India* ( DRC, IDS, Sussex)

### Lakshmanan C.

- *Television and Globalisation* (University of Victoria, Australia)

### Moana Bhagabati

- *A Study of Trade Facilitation Measures: A WTO Perspective* (Union Ministry of Commerce and Industry)

### Natraj V. K.

- *A comparative study of Devolution in Tamilnadu, Karnataka and West Bengal* (DRC, IDS, Sussex) (along with Dr. G.S. Ganesh Prasad)

### Padmini Swaminathan

- 2<sup>nd</sup> Phase: *Gender, markets and livelihoods in the context of globalisation: A study of the cashew sector in South India* (International Institute of Environment & Development, London)
- *Status of Women's studies in Tamilnadu* (M & E Adiseshiah Trust) (along with Dr. Anandhi S.)

### Venkatachalapathy A. R.

- *Tamilnadu: Academic Perspectives from Without* (M & E Adiseshiah Trust)

Fr. Antony Raj, Ph. D. candidate has been Awarded Ph.D. Degree for his thesis entitled 'A Study on Child Labour in Rural Tamilnadu: with special emphasis on 'Invisible' Child workers'. Supervised by Professor D. Jayaraj.

## From the Editor...

We are bringing out this issue of Midstream in conjunction with the presentation of the Malcolm Adiseshiah Award for distinguished Contributions to Development Studies. The awardee for this year is Professor Dipankar Gupta, noted sociologist at JNU. Professor Gupta will deliver the memorial lecture on: "Whither the Indian village: Culture and agriculture in rural India".

There has been one new recruitment during the past year. Dr. Jayaraj was appointed professor in August 2004. The Institute is the poorer for the voluntary retirement of Professor Nirmal Sengupta who is now with IGIDR, Mumbai and the resignation of Dr. Manabi Majumdar who is with CSSS, Kolkata. Midstream acknowledges the stellar role played by them in building up the Institute. Happily, Professor Sengupta continues to be associated with us by helping with the publication of the papers presented in a seminar on IT and social sciences, which he was instrumental in arranging in September of this year. Dr. Manabi Majumdar also continues her MIDS association through her work on the comparative study of devolution in three states of India.

Five research scholars have been selected for the doctoral programme. While it strains the Institute's space resources they will certainly add to making the research scholars more visible and attain a critical mass.

In the last week of August a Review Panel constituted, on our own initiative,

visited MIDS and held meetings with the members of the faculty, administration, members of the Academic Council and the Trustees. The panel consisted of Professors Andre Beteille, Sheela Bhalla and Malathi Somiah. Their report awaits discussion among the faculty and the Governing Council.

Owing to more regular releases of grants from the state government and ICSSR as well as money accruing from funded research our financial position is reasonably satisfactory. We have gained from the JSTOR facility being provided thanks to the Ford foundation. We express our thanks to the Foundation.

We are also making strenuous efforts to use Tamil in the Institute. Having bi-lingual boards and encouraging the use of Tamil in correspondence are some steps we have taken but obviously much more needs to be done. Happily there have been seminars in Tamil during the past year.

Finally, the present Director of the Institute will relinquish office on 31 January 2005.

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## Faculty Research

*Dr. S. Anandhi* combines work on history of the Dravidian movement with contemporary issues pertaining to gender and caste. Her work on women, work and abortion practices has been published. In addition to publishing on the women's question in the Dravidian movement, she has also organised a workshop on the Tamil Nadu State Human Development. She is at present revising her doctoral work for publication as well as collaborating with Prof. Swaminathan on the survey on status of women's studies.

*Dr. Anantha Kumar Giri* explores alternate developmental possibilities through a moral critique of dominant developmental discourses. He has published on issues like revival of religion under globalisation, politics and ethics of consumption and on alternate research methods. He is presently editing two volumes, one on creative social research and another on social movements.

*Dr. V. Chandrasekara Naidu* has been working on the study of devolution of finances in Tamil Nadu, which is to be published shortly. He is also working on a detailed study of Tamilnadu's finances and has lectured in several forums on related issues. Of late he has taken up enquiries concerning the implications of WTO for Indian agriculture.

*Dr. G. S. Ganesh Prasad* continues to work on the project on fiscal devolution supported by DRC at IDS, University of Sussex. He is part of the team involved in production of the State Human Development Report for Pondicherry as well. In addition, he was a member of the MSSRF team that brought out the Atlas of the Sustainability of Food Security. He is also associated with evaluation of training programmes for elected Grama Panchayat members conducted by the State Institute of Rural Development (SIRD), Karnataka.

*Prof. S. Janakarajan's* work in convening and facilitating the Committee of the Cauvery Family has been successful in not only bringing the farmers together on a common platform, but has also provided a useful platform to undo apprehensions and create a mindset to resolve the tangle through dialogue. He has also worked, written and lectured on various

Amidst, the monthly discussion forum has been quite active over the year. The speakers include Prof. M. Anandkrishnan, environmentalist and historian Mr. S.T. Bhaskaran, activist and writer Ms. V. Geetha, art critic Mr. Sadanandha Menon, Mr. Sashikumar, Asian College of Journalism, and Prof. S. Sivakumar, University of Madras.

## Seminars by Visiting Scholars

Dr. Y. Subbarayalu, Malcolm Adiseshiah Visiting Professor, MIDS, *Socio-Economic Formation in Tamil Nadu, 5<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup> c. A. D. - I & II*, 10 November 2003 & 11 November 2003

Dr. Indranil Dasgupta, University of Nottingham, U.K., *Poverty and Community*, 20 November 2003

Prof. Jandhyala B. G. Tilak, National Institute of Educational Planning and Administration, New Delhi, *State, Households and Markets in Education*, 21 November 2003

Dr. Y. Subbarayalu, Malcolm Adiseshiah Visiting Professor, MIDS, *History and Epigraphy: A Critical Perspective*, 25 November 2003

Prof. Basudeb Guha-Khasnobis, ICSSR Research Fellow (UNU/WIDER), Helsinki (Finland), *International Trade and Development*, 9 December 2003

Dr. Mansoor Durrani, Banking Specialist from UK, *Development in Islamic (Interest Free) Banking & Finance*, 11 December 2003

Dr. Anirudh Krishna, Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science, Duke University, North Carolina, U.S.A., *Escaping Poverty and Becoming Poor: Results from Rajasthan, Gujarat and Western Kenya*, 23 January 2004

Ms. Karen Coelho, Ph.D. Scholar, Department of Anthropology, University of Arizona, *Bureaucratic Reform and New Concepts of Service in an Urban Public Sector Utility*, 30 January 2004

Dr. Ramduth Jadoo, Ex-Foreign Minister & Education Minister, *The Republic of Mauritius, Indo Mauritian Ties: Past & Future*, 16 February 2004

Prof. Martin R. Doornbos, Institute of Social Studies, The Hague, The Netherlands, *Identity and Power in Europe*

*and India: Some Comparative Dynamics*, 17 February 2004

Mr. Ben Powis, Ph.D Scholar, Institute of Development Studies, University of Sussex, UK, *Penetrating Localities: Participation and Party Building at the Grassroots in Andhra Pradesh, India*, 24 February 2004

Mr. B. S. Bhooshan, Architect and Urban Planner, Mysore, *Construction Industry, Architecture and Globalising Trends in India*, 04 March 2004

Dr. Balakrishnan Rajagopal, Ford International Assistant Professor of Law & Devpt., Director, MIT Program on Human Rights & Justice, MIT, Cambridge, *Social Movements and the Future of Human Rights*, 29 March 2004

Professor Chris Fuller and Ms Haripriya Narasimhan, London School of Economics, *The globalising middle class: a sociological inquiry in Chennai*, 31 March 2004

Richard Davis, Professor of Religion, Bard College, USA, *Teaching Hinduism in the Age of Hindutva*, 16 April 2004

J. Guhanandan, Education for Awakening of All, Chennai, Mayanaththil Thatththalikkum Manitharkal (Struggling Workers of Graveyard), 27 April 2004

K. C. Beliiappa, Professor of English, University of Mysore, *Why do Indians write in English?*, 25 June 2004

P. B. Anand, Director, PG Programme, University of Bradford, U.K., *Contested Water Entitlements and Disputes*, 24 August 2004

Nitasha Kaul, University of West of England, Bristol, U.K., *Economics and Identity*, 25 August 2004

Judith Heyer, Somerville College, Oxford University, U.K., *Rural Labour Markets in Coimbatore*, 01 September 2004

A. Marx, Professor of Physics, Presidency College, Chennai, *Hindutva Agenda in Governance*, 16 September 2004

undertaken for CSDS, New Delhi. He is presently the Director of the project on preparing the State Development Report for Pondicherry.

Dr. A. R. Venkatachalapathy's forays into cultural history of colonial Tamil Nadu includes published works on consumption of coffee and tobacco. He has also written and presented papers on print culture and canon formation in colonial Tamil Nadu in international conferences. His translation of an important Tamil novel has been published this year. At present, he is working towards publishing his doctoral work and a collection of essays on cultural history.

Dr. M. Vijayabaskar was a Charles Wallace Visiting Fellow at the School of Oriental and African Studies, London. He presented papers and participated in panel discussions in various institutions in the UK. His publications include constraints to dynamism in high tech clusters in low-income countries and labour market impacts of ICTs. At present, he is working towards publishing his doctoral work on flexible accumulation in peripheral economies.

JSTOR, an electronic archive of nearly 300 leading social science journals is now available to users of the MIDS Library

## Workshops

- *Aspects of India's Demographic, Socioeconomic, and Environmental Future*, Co-ordinated by Prof. S. Subramanian to coincide with the release of the book *Twenty-first Century India: Population, Economy, Human Development and the Environment*, ed. by Dyson T, R Cassen and L Visaria, Oxford University Press, January 8<sup>th</sup> 2004 (India Project, London School of Economics).
- *Experiments in Democratic Decentralisation in India and Brazil*, MIDS, January 31, 2004.
- *Formative Phase in South Indian History: The earliest Tamil (BRAHMI) writings and recent archaeological discoveries*, conducted by Prof. Y. Subbarayalu, Malcolm Adiseshiah Visiting Professor, MIDS, February 6 & 7, 2004.
- *Review of Tamilnadu Human Development Report*, Co-ordinated by Dr. S. Anandhi, 12 March 2004 (Tamilnadu Planning Commission).
- *Trade Facilitation*, Co-ordinated by Prof. Nirmal Sengupta and Dr. Moana Bhagabati, August 31, 2004 (Union Ministry of Commerce and Industry).
- *Information Technology and Social Science Research*, Co-ordinated by Malcolm Adiseshiah Chair Prof. Nirmal Sengupta and Dr. G. S. Gandesh Prasad, September 18, 2004 (MIDS).
- *Economic Dimensions of Security in Peninsular India*, Co-ordinated by Dr. Moana Bhagabati, 29 - 30 October 2004 (Centre for Security Analysis, Chennai)

issues relating to water management like inter-linking of rivers, privatisation of water, drinking water crises in Chennai and water conflicts in peri-urban catchments.

*Prof. D. Jayaraj* has published jointly with Prof. Subramanian on the 'agedness of population', the relationship between women's wellbeing and the sex ratio at birth, on interconnections between horizontal and vertical inequality and on the recent controversy on religion based enumeration in the census. He is also working towards publishing a volume based on his earlier work.

*Dr. Kripa Ananthpur's* study of the interface between informal and informal institutions in local governance extends into this year as well. Apart from her publications in this area, she has presented papers based on her ongoing work in UK and S. Africa. She is also involved in the evaluation of the training programme for elected representatives run by SIRD, Karnataka. She has lectured students at the University of Madras on development and mass communication as well.

*Dr. C. Lakshmanan* continues his work on political culture in India with special focus on Tamil Nadu. He also now works on the relationship between diffusion of media and implications for consumption, a study supported by University of Victoria, Australia. In

## Malcolm Adiseshiah Award

Dipankar Gupta is the recipient of the Malcolm Adiseshiah Award for Distinguished Contributions to Development Studies for 2004.

Among sociologists who have a continuing and creative engagement with the intricacies of India's social system and in particular its changing complexities Dipankar Gupta occupies a place of distinction. He has sought to unravel the origins of India's unique social stratification as well as its adaptability to changing socio-political constellations.

Dipankar Gupta has written extensively and incisively on a wide spectrum of issues which impact upon Indian society's attempts to redefine itself in consonance with emergent demands emanating from the forces of secularisation and modernization. What stamps his work with a refreshing touch is the conviction with which he critiques received wisdom. And there can be no better example than his well-anchored opposition to the accepted and widely-quoted belief that a single caste hierarchy commands universal acceptance from all castes. He has demonstrated that there are as many hierarchies as castes in our society. This he substantiates from the dissonance he observes between the textual view and ground reality.

In Dipankar Gupta's work there is a constant movement, a fruitful one, between theoretical sophistication and the hard world of empirical reality. He is, therefore, able to state without equivocation that castes should at one and the same time be looked upon as discrete categories and as those that can allow for the formation of multiple hierarchies. Reinforcement for this flows from his other studies which highlight the importance of understanding the nature of mobilizations taking place in India and he illustrates that evidence militates against the conventional Brahmanical version of an unchanging society.

He is the editor of the prestigious journal, *Contributions to Indian Sociology* and has held visiting appointments in well-known centres abroad such as the London School of Economics, University of Toronto and the University of Strasbourg.

addition, he is working to contribute to the debate on corporate social responsibility and reservation in the Indian private corporate sector. His work also feeds into debates on nature of Indian democracy and human rights issues.

*Dr. Moana Bhagabathi's* joint study on the trade facilitation (TF) measures in India along with Prof. Sengupta, and sponsored by the Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Govt of India, is nearing completion. She has completed two interim reports of the above study, and co-authored a paper on trade facilitation for the India Development Report, 2004. She has also conducted a workshop on socio-economic dimensions of security in peninsular India.

Prof. K. Nagaraj has completed his report on contractual arrangements in the plantation labour market of Tamil Nadu. He continues to direct the project on Rights and Representation, a cross-country study on the effectiveness of political representation in enabling the poor to influence state policy. He offered a course on Deprivation at the Asian College of Journalism, Chennai. He also serves as a member of the Commission on Farmers Welfare set up by the Andhra Pradesh government.

Prof. V. K Natraj heads the comparative study on fiscal devolution in Tamil Nadu,

Karnataka and West Bengal funded by IDS, Sussex. The project is in its final stages. In addition to giving talks and lectures in several institutions, he has also written on caste and modernity. Apart from being involved in the evaluation study of their training programme, he is also a panel expert for interaction with grama panchayat members, SIRD, Karnataka.

Prof. Padmini Swaminathan now works on the second phase of the project on livelihood impacts along the cashew supply chain. A section of completed work has been published. She has also published a monograph on the nature of poverty in India, and on burden of paid work for women. She has completed and published the study on noon meal scheme of Tamil Nadu. Her ongoing work includes a collaborative examination of courses in women's studies in Tamil Nadu as part of a larger effort by Indian Association

#### **New Doctoral Candidates and areas of research**

Ms. Ann George: Issues on well-being.

Ms. Jayashree K: Enhancing Capability through Public Policy.

Mr. Kumaran S: Public Expenditure in Tamilnadu with Special Reference to Social Sector Development.

Mr. Rajakishor Mahana: Bondo Highlanders at the Crossroad of Development and Change: A Critique and A Plea.

of Women's Studies (IAWS). Malcolm and Elizabeth Adiseshiah Trust supports this study.

Prof. P. Radhakrishnan continues his work on education and affirmative action and has participated and presented papers on the theme in conferences. He has also written on religion and globalisation. At present, he is editing a book on 'India's Transformation Traumas' and working towards publishing his work on affirmative action and human resource development in India.

Dr. K. Sivasubramaniyan's work has diversified into other areas of water resource management. His publications in English and Tamil include studies on efficiency of water use in agriculture and on tank irrigation. Apart from participating and giving talks in conferences organised on such themes, he, at present, collaborates with Prof. A. Vaidyanathan, on estimation of productivity of irrigated and unirrigated crops in the major Indian states.

Prof. S. Subramanian's work at WIDER, Helsinki as a Visiting Fellow has led to publication of many papers in the UNU-WIDER research paper series. His other publications this year include a paper in the Journal of Development Economics on measurement of literacy, an outcome of his continued engagement with welfare

#### **Founder's Day Lecture**

The Founder's Day Lecture was instituted this year as a mark of our respect to the memory of our founder Dr.Malcolm S.Adiseshiah but for whose vision and munificence MIDS would not have been established. The lecture was delivered by the well-known writer and critic Professor U.R.Anantha Murthy, former Vice-Chancellor, M.G.University, Kottayam, retired professor of English in the University of Mysore and Chairman, Sahitya Akademi.

He chose a theme uniquely appropriate to the occasion: "Globalisation and its portents for Indian culture". The lecture was very well attended and among those present were several leading Tamil writers. This will be an annual feature.

economics. While continuing to collaborate with Prof. Jayaraj, he is also working towards publishing a collection of his earlier work.

Dr. M. Thangaraj, presently at Dr. Ambedkar Centre for Economic Studies, University of Madras, has published an edited volume on the politics of land reforms in Tamil Nadu. Another important work of his is a paper on Dalits in the Panchayats of Tamil Nadu, a study