

WORKSHOPS

The First Finish Workshop in Chennai , 1 and 2 November 2009

The First FINISH Workshop in Chennai was held on 1st and 2nd November 2009 at the Institute. It is an Indo-Dutch Collaboration jointly organised by MIDS (India), Waste (Netherlands), UNU-MERIT (Netherlands) and FIN(India). The FINISH Programme focussed on the adventure of building a million sanitation systems, (A toilet + safe disposal/recycling + hygiene/hand washing). The Chennai workshop brought together international organizations, firms, researchers, NGOs and citizens joining hands to win a challenge that they have set for themselves – to build a million toilets largely mobilizing funds from the end-users themselves instead of providing sanitation as a ‘charity commodity’, free of charge. It is their conviction that complete sanitation coverage is necessary for sustainable development and improvement in the quality of life. They also want to explore strategies and financial tools by which funds can be mobilized from end-users towards investment in toilets. Prof. S Janakarajan delivered the welcome address and made the presentation on behalf of the Institute.

Workshop on Climate Change, 26-27 August 2009

A two days workshop on “Climate Change, Vulnerability and Livelihood Resilience: Towards Transport Water Policy & Water Governance” was held on August 26-27, 2009 at the Institute. This was funded by IWMI-TATA Water Policy Programme. The seminar was chaired by Dr. S. Janakarajan.

PROJECTS

Dr. Ajit Menon

- *Popular - Public policies and local practices in tree and forest management in Central Western Ghats of South India*, Funded by ANR, Government of France.
- *Building capacity for sustainable governance: Well being and interactive governance in fisheries*, Funded by Institute of Development Studies, Sussex, UK.

Dr. S. Anandhi

- *Caste out of Development: Civil Society Activism and Trans-national Advocacy on Dalit Rights and Development*, School of Oriental and African studies, University of London, Funded by Institute of Development Studies, Sussex, UK.

Dr. G.S. Ganesh Prasad

- *Mid term appraisal project 11th Five year plan- Puducherry*, Funded by Planning Commission.

Dr. S. Janakarajan

- *Adaptation and Livelihood Resilience*, Funded by IDRC, Canada.

Dr. Karen Coelho

- *DRC Future State: Opening Up or Ushering In? Interrogating discourses of public consultation and citizen participation (PC & CP) in urban governance*, Funded by Institute of Development Studies, Sussex, UK.

Dr. M. Vijayabaskar

- *Transforming livelihoods: Work, migration and poverty in the Tiruppur garment cluster*, India, Univ. of Sussex.
- *The Politics of SEZs in India*, Centre de Sciences Humaines (CSH), New Delhi.

From the Director...

Greetings! I like to take this opportunity to share with you a few important developments at MIDS. First, as part of the celebrations of Prof. Malcolm Adiseshiah Centenary, besides the two major workshops, i.e., ‘Climatic Change, Vulnerability, and Livelihood Resilience’ and ‘Imaging Dalit Reality’, six public lectures were organized not just at MIDS but also at other institutions such as Madras Christian College, Annamalai University, Kandasamy Kandhar College, Paramathi Velur, Stella Maris College and Lady Doak College,

MIDS owes its existence to the commitment and generosity of Dr. Malcolm Adiseshiah and his wife Elizabeth, who founded it as a private institute in 1971. In 1977, it was reconstituted as a national institute jointly sponsored by the Indian Council of Social Science Research, New Delhi and the Government of Tamilnadu. Dr. Adiseshiah’s vision has helped MIDS to develop as a forum for critical thinking on development issues.

Madurai. As these events were very successful, I like to appreciate the time and efforts of Prof. Janakarajan and Drs. Lakshmanan, Vijayabaskar, and Ajit Menon, who organized/coordinated these events. Second, the pre-PhD course at MIDS, which evolved over the last three years, has reached a full-fledged stage and notably, it is now recognized by ICSSR as a formal part of PhD program. The immediate benefit of this recognition is the extra six-month fellowship that ICSSR has sanctioned for students, starting with the present batch. This means that they will have an additional 6-month fellowship to cover the coursework period, besides the 2+1 years of regular fellowship that starts with their successful completion of the course work. As

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this is possible thanks to the constant efforts put forth by the faculty, especially the PhD coordinators, who designed and perfected the course, I like to appreciate the works of Drs. Anandhi, Vijayabaskar, Ajit Menon, Venkatachalam, and Karen Koelho. *Third*, our Journal, *Review of Development and Change*, which was delayed during 2009, has finally come out as a double-numbered special issue on: '*Cultural Encounters at Tranquebar: Past and Present*'. I thank Prof. Venkatachalapathy and Dr. Jacob John for its timely preparation and release. *Fourth*, I am sure you have noticed the tremendous improvement both in the content and look of our website. More information has been

added even while updating some of the key components such as publications and projects. For this, Mr. Dharumaperumal and his team deserve our full appreciation for their commitment and continuing effort. *Fifth*, our colleague Prof. Venkatachalapathy has won the prestigious VKRV Rao Award given by ISEC, adding enormous credit to MIDS. *Finally*, despite these happy developments, there is also a sad aspect. This is due to the large intellectual vacuum created by the retirement of two of our renowned colleagues: Prof. P. Radhakrishnan and Prof. K. Nagaraj. I like to place on record their extraordinary contributions to MIDS and also wish them the best in all their future endeavors!



Malcolm Adiseshiah Awardee Dr. C.P. Chandrasekar with Professors R. Radhakrishna, C.T. Kurien, R. Maria Saleth and Mr. N. Ram

Malcolm Adiseshiah Award 2009

C.P. Chandrasekar, professor at the Centre for Economic Studies and Planning, JNU, New Delhi is the recipient of the Malcolm Adiseshiah Award for Distinguished Contributions to Development Studies for 2009. He has served on the Standing Committee on Industrial Statistics of the CSO, and currently chairs two technical advisory committees constituted by the GOI for developing indices to capture movements in the prices and production of services, respectively. He is a founding executive committee member of international development economics associates, and plays an important role in managing its outreach activities. He is a regular columnist for *Frontline* and *Business Line*.

The Malcolm Adiseshiah Memorial Lecture for 2009 was delivered by him on the theme: '*Global Imbalances and the Dollar's Future*'. The author argued that SDR may be good as a supplementary reserve that aids diversification of the composition of reserves of individual countries. But it falls short of the requirements that a true reserve currency must meet unlike the dollar. While the dollar lacks the legitimacy to serve as the world's reserve, it dominates because the time for its substitute is yet to come. He asserted that some form of international currency union or institutionalisation of global economic coordination would be necessary for an independent global currency to serve as reserve.

The Award function was jointly organised by the M&E Trust and MIDS held on November 20, 2009 at the Adiseshiah Auditorium.

Appointment

Prof. R. Radhakrishna, Chairperson of MIDS, has been appointed as the Chairman of the National Statistical Commission. This honorary position carries the status of Minister of State.

Web Upgradation

The MIDS web site plays a vital role in disseminating the Institute's academic activities. In recent days, we have modified the web design and updated the content in a major way. The individual profile of faculty, staff and students are also, more, or less, completed. Now, we are in the process of updating the abstracts of our working paper series and books published by MIDS faculty members. The e-journal resources and the online databases subscribed by the Institute are also routed through the Institute's gateway. The members can access these resources round the clock from the following link: <http://www.mids.ac.in/ejournal.htm>.

New Affiliates

Gabrielle Kruks-Wisner, Ph.D. Candidate, Department of Political Science M.A., Urban Studies & Planning, International Development Group Massachusetts Institute of Technology, *Building Bridges: Local Governance & Public Goods in Rural India*, Guide: Prof. A.R. Venkatachalapathy

Dr Sarah Hodges, Associate Professor, Department of History, University of Warwick, Coventry, UK, *The History of Waste Management in Chennai, 1990-Present (with special reference to Bio-Medical Waste)*, Guide: Prof. Padmini Swaminathan

Ms. Wee Teng Soh, Ph.D. Student, University of North Carolina, USA, *The Regional History And Development Of Organic Farming In Tamil Nadu*, Guide: Prof. K. Nagaraj

MIDS SEMINARS

FACULTY AND VISITORS

A Head Count View of Multi dimensional Deprivation, S. Subramanian, Professor, MIDS, 12-08-2009.

A Double Wounding? Aid and Activism in Post-tsunami Srilanka, Professor Malathi de Alwis, Faculty of Graduate Studies, University of Colombo, Sri Lanka, 25-11-2009.

STUDENTS

29-07-09

- *Some aspects of socio-economic change in the rural Arani with special reference to silk weaving*, N.A. Arivukkarasi
- *Economics of Adaptation to Climate Change: What we learn from Impact and Vulnerability Literature*, C.S. Chandra Sekhar Bahinipati
- *History of Muslim women's Education in Colonial Tamil Nadu*, Abida Begum
- *Impact of Measuring Water Pollution Induced by Industrial Effluent on Human Health*, Michael Venish

- *Gender and Environment: A Critical Analysis with Special Reference to Wayanad, Kerala*, Nitha G. Nair

30-07-09

- *Land in Economic Theory: A Review of Studies on Land Sales Markets and the Kerala Scenario*, V.P. Nirmal Roy
- *Commodity Futures trading and Agricultural Sector in India: A Case of Pepper and Rubber*, B.S. Sumalatha
- *Special Economic Zones: Contributions and Controversies*, A. Bhavana
- *Economic Valuation of Health Impacts of Industrial Pollution in Noyyal River Basin, Tamil Nadu*, P. Chandrasekaran
- *Growing Urban Stress, Lack of Long-term Policy and Fragmented Institutions: The Study of Chennai Urban and Peri-Urban Areas from Environment and livelihood Perspectives*, S. Vanathy

Skills for employment in apparel manufacturing: An evaluation study

The project is partly funded by MoRD, GOI, implemented by IL&FS Cluster Development Initiatives and monitored by NIRD. The project director was Dr. K. Sivasubramaniyan. In India, rapid economic growth has led to a huge demand for vocational skills across all levels of Textile Industry. But, there is a significant shortage of skilled manpower, due to gaps in skill availability and skill needs. The project evaluates the efforts by the IL&FS to train and place 30000 rural below poverty line (BPL) people. The twin objective is to meet the skill requirements of the apparel industry and rural poverty alleviation. Trainees are mostly women in their late teens to mid 30s with 5th Std and above from rural BPL families. The programme is implemented through 66 centres in 12 States in India. As on November 1, 2009 there were 29,864 placement of trainees where centres have been equipped with imported Juki, Pegasus, knitwear and woven machines for various skill requirements. The skills are technical skills and soft skills – health & hygiene; social security; self-management; workplace etiquette, group/team behaviour etc. Placement linkages are arranged with apparel and export companies.

FOCUS OF FACULTY RESEARCH

Dr. S. Anandhi, is currently co-ordinating a research project along with Prof. David Mosse, Department of Anthropology, School of Oriental and African Studies, London known as “Caste out of Development: Civil Society Activism and Transnational Advocacy on Dalit Rights and Development”. The project is funded by the Economic & Social Research Council (ESRC), England. Dr. Anandhi, along with two research assistants, Dr. Meera Devi and Ms. Padmavathy will conduct a detailed ethnographic survey of Dalit Women's Organisations in Tamilnadu using various qualitative methods of data collection, organising the research agenda setting workshop, research methodology workshop, interim and final research -sharing workshops and interacting with research partners/ collaborators.

Dr. Ananta Kumar Giri visited Academia Sinica, Taiwan in May and spent nearly two weeks visiting several universities and doing a bit of fieldwork as well. He visited China in July-August which is also leading to some potential collaborations. In November-December he visited Vietnam and Thailand and organized a seed workshop on “Social Theory and Asian Dialogues: Cultivating Planetary Conversations” in Bangkok which was dedicated to the enduring legacy of Dr. Malcolm S. Adiseshiah.

Dr. Ajit Menon continues to do research on the politics of forest policy and practice in the Nilgiris, Tamilnadu with focus on the material consequences of environmental policy making. One recent output of his work is a joint publication entitled ‘Competing Visions: Domestic Forests, Politics and Forest

Policy in the Central Western Ghats, India’ in *Small Scale Forestry*. He has been a visiting faculty for the M.A. in Environment and Development at Ambedkar University, Delhi.

Professor S. Janakarajan organised the 12th Cauvery Family Meeting at Thanjavur on July 28, 2009.

Professor D. Jayaraj continues to do applied work relating to wellbeing of the population in general and that of India's in particular. One crucial aspect of wellbeing of a population is households' asset/wealth holding status. In a paper published (with S. Subramanian) in the *Indian Journal of Human Development* a critical assessment of the India's household wealth data is provided. He has also published (with S. Subramanian) a paper titled, “A Chakravarty-D' Ambrosio View of Multidimensional Deprivation: Some Estimates for India” in the *Economic and Political Weekly*. In this paper: (1) a simple procedure for sensitizing both the identification and the aggregation problems to the range of deprivation; (2) a graphical device called the D-curve which serves as a representation of ‘binary-valued’ multidimensional deprivation, and a measure M based on this curve and (3) empirical estimates, employing National Family Health Survey data, of multidimensional deprivation experienced by India's population in the years 1991-92 and 2005-06 are presented. At present he works on inter-regional migration of families in India.

Dr. C. Lakshmanan delivered a lecture at the School of Social Sciences, Mahatma Gandhi University Kottayam, on July 7-11, 2009; On Caste, Patriarchy and Hindu Code Bill

for the Consultative Workshop on *Women, Law and Public Domain* organised by Department of Politics & International Studies Pondicherry University, December 3-4, 2009. He presented a paper on “Higher Education and Social Mobility of Dalits with Reference to Special Component Plan” for a National Seminar on “Social Mobility in South India”, September 24 and 25, 2009, Department of Sociology, Pondicherry University. He also coordinated *Dalit Women’s Capacity Building Workshop* on October 16-18, 2009 at Vagamon, Kerala. Besides he has evaluated an M. Phil. Dissertation entitled: “Contemporary Dalit Mobilization for Land”, School of Social Sciences, Mahatma Gandhi University Kottayam, Kerala. He was a member of screening committee for the Development Convention held at ISEC in January, 2010.

Professor **R. Maria Saleth** continues to work in the areas of water resource management, institutional economics, agricultural policy, and impact assessment. He has completed three papers: (a) Land Dominated Approach to Water Policy: Influence, Effects, and Relevance, and (b) The Impact of Multiple Policy Interventions on Food Security, and (c) Institutional Response to Climatic Change in India. Recently, he has also joined as a member of both the Board of Governors of the India Water Partnership and the Executive and Program Committees of the Indian Association of Social Science Institutions.

Professor **Padmini Swaminathan** has presented five papers in various seminars and conferences. The focus has been on ‘Higher’ Education from a Gender Perspective; Emerging Challenges in Higher Education;

Regulating Industrialisation through Public Action and Legal Intervention: Interpreting an Ongoing Experiment in Tiruppur; on Gender and Development: The Saga of Women’s Unpaid Labour; and on Development leading to Deprivation. She has been a resource person for an orientation course for newly recruited Government College Teachers; Economic Empowerment of Dalit Women and Building Teaching and Research Capacities in Women’s Studies. She was a panelist for a discussion on *UNIDO’s Industrial Report 2009* and for a National Convention on Making Growth Inclusive: Opportunities, Scope and Challenges at the State Level.

Professor **S. Subramanian** has been engaged in routine research pertaining to his areas of interest – socioeconomic measurement, welfare economics, social choice. Some part of the work done has been in the nature of completion of research initiated earlier, and some part of it in the nature of fresh work begun during the period under review. As an Associate Editor of the *Journal of Human Development and Capabilities*, a part of his time has been devoted to journal-related work. Over August 18th and 19th 2009, he was in Delhi, at the invitation of the ICSSR, to attend a conference organized to discuss the Reports of the Expert Groups on the Equality Opportunity Commission and the Diversity Index that had been set up by the Union Government.

Dr. **K. Sivasubramaniyan** has completed one monograph (No.8 in MIDS), one short-term project (4 months) sponsored by the IL & FS, Cluster Development Initiative Limited, New Delhi; one impact evaluation study, IWDPII batch – Vellore Watersheds, for GoTN, a lecture on, “Teaching and Research – How to Motivate Students and

Equip Teachers”, Orientation Programme to Newly Recruited College Teachers (TRB) in Economics given at the Department of Economics, University of Madras, one seminar paper on “Ecological Sustainability and Development of Tank Irrigation: Future Prospects” held at DHAN Foundation, Madurai; participated as a discussant in “Economic Dimensions of Youth Empowerment: National Colloquium on Strategies for Youth Empowerment”, held at RGNID University, Sriperumbudur; and a half an hour talk given on “Agriculture in Tamil Nadu”, All India Radio, (IGNOU-GYANVANI FM).

Dr. **M. Vijayabaskar** during the half year ending in December 2009, worked on writing up and data analyses for two of his ongoing research projects ‘Transforming livelihoods: work, migration and poverty in the Tiruppur garment cluster, India’ and ‘The Politics of SEZs in India’. In addition to presenting papers and delivering talks at the Sacred Heart Seminary, Chennai, Asia Floor Wage Campaign, N. Delhi, and the Institute of Developing Economies, Tokyo and Osaka, he was also invited to attend the seventh annual conference of Agence Française de Développement (AFD) and the European Development Research Network (EUDN) in Paris. He also co-organised a national workshop, *Opening Up or Ushering In: Interrogating Discourses of Public Consultation and Citizen Participation (PC and CP) in Urban Governance*, Puducheri, 25-26, July 2009. He has published 2 papers, one on Limits and Possibilities of Middle Class Associations as Urban Collective Actors, with Lalitha Kamath, *EPW*, Vol XLIV:26-27, June 27 (2009), and on *Indhiya Arasin Porulaadhara Kollgaiyum Tamizh Naattin poruladhara maatramum, Maatru Veli (2009)*.

VKRV Rao Award

Prof. A.R. Venkatachalapathy was awarded the VKRV Rao Prize in Social Sciences (History, 2007) instituted by ICSSR and ISEC. The award carries a prize of Rs.25,000 and a citation. The award was conferred by H.R. Bharadwaj, Governor of Karnataka on 20 January 2010 at ISEC.

Ph.D. Awarded

- Ms. K. Kalpana, Ph.D. candidate has been awarded Ph.D. degree for her thesis entitled “Rural Credit” supervised by Professor Padmini Swaminathan.
- Mr. Mahendra Nayak, Ph.D. candidate has been awarded Ph.D. degree for his thesis entitled “Irrigation Institutions and Water Governance in Orissa” supervised by Professor S. Janakarajan.
- Ms. Gayathri Balagopal, Ph.D. candidate has been awarded Ph.D. degree for her thesis entitled “Migration in Kerala: A Historical Project” supervised by Professor K. Nagaraj.

Internship

Mr. V. Gandhiraj, our Ph.D. scholar has received an Internship from the International Water Management Institute (IWMI), Regional Office for South Asia, Hyderabad during April 15 – July 15, 2009.