

## PROJECTS

*Local Water Supply Options and Conservation Responses with particular reference to the Palar and Noyyal basins in Tamilnadu*

supported by IDRC, Canada  
Dr. S. Janakarajan  
is in its second phase.

*Implementation of the Ten Point Program for Dalit Christians supported by Miserior, Germany*

Dr. M. Thangaraj  
should be completed within the next few months.

*Plantation labour in Tamil nadu*

supported by National Labour Institute  
Professor K. Nagaraj  
the survey has been completed.

Another study of Dr. Nagaraj is on "Abortions in Dakshina Kannada: Its socio-economic and medical underpinnings".

Professor P. Radhakrishnan is about to complete his work on the project supported by the MHRD which is on democratisation of access of different strata of society to the different streams of higher education.

Dr. S. Anandhi is completing a study on 'Women, work and Abortion practices in Kancheepuram District, Tamilnadu'

## NEW PROJECTS

*Intellectual property Rights for protection of Traditional Knowledge*

supported by South Asian Network for Development and Environmental Economics (SANDEE)  
Professor Nirmal Sengupta

*Rights, Representation and the Poor: Comparing Large Developing Democracies*

Professor K. Nagaraj

Professor C.T.Kurien, Professor Emeritus and Chairman of MIDS is the President of the Indian Economic Association for the current year

This project will document and analyse the impact of economic liberalisation and globalisation on the capacities of different poor social groups to organise, obtain political representation and solve collective social problems. It is a multi-country study covering Brazil, Mexico and India. The Indian part of the study consists of a detailed survey of three cities, Coimbatore, Bangalore and Delhi. MIDS will be in charge of the work in the two southern cities, Coimbatore and Bangalore. The survey work will start in January 2003. The project is funded by DFID and is done in collaboration with LSE and IDS, Sussex, and is expected to be over by the end of 2004.

*Utilizing The Radio As A Means To Disseminate Information On Panchayat Raj Institutions*

supported by Ford Foundation  
Dr. Kripa Ananth Pur

*Delegation Of Functions And Devolution Of Authority" In A Comparative Perspective Across Four States, Tamilnadu, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh And West Bengal*

supported by the Centre for the Future State at IDS, University of Sussex.  
Professor V. K. Natraj, Dr. V. Chandrasekara Naidu and Dr. Kripa Ananth Pur.

*Interface Between Customary And Statutory Institutions Of Governance In Karnataka*

supported by the Centre for the Future State at IDS, University of Sussex.  
Dr. Kripa Ananth Pur

*Formal and Informal Governance in India*  
Dr. Kripa Ananth Pur

Professor A.Vaidyanathan, Professor Emeritus was conferred a lifetime award by the *Financial Express* for his contributions to economics.

## Editorial

*Midstream*, is the quarterly newsletter of MIDS. We are pleased that this, the first issue, is being released on an important occasion: 21 November is the death anniversary of our founder Dr. Malcolm Adiseshiah and on this day we present the second Malcolm Adiseshiah Award for Distinguished Contributions to Development Studies to Professor Bina Agarwal.

The purpose of *Midstream* is to acquaint the wider public with our work. Although known for long as a premier centre of research we have perhaps fought

a little shy of publicity. We realized, though, that in the process we were not reaching out to the very people who, in a fundamental sense, are our principal support and to whom we are morally accountable. Even policy makers were not as familiar with our work as they have a right to expect to be. It is to correct this that *Midstream* is launched. We hope that this will be of benefit to all, who like us, are committed to the cause of objective inquiry which will lead us on the way to creating a more equitable social order.

We shall be happy to have your response to *Midstream*.

MIDS owes its origins to the foresight and generosity of Dr. Malcolm Adiseshiah who founded it as a private institute in 1971. Within a few years it made a mark as a leading intellectual centre and became a national institute recognised by ICSSR, Govt. of India in 1977. Dr. Adiseshiah visualized the need for such a centre in Tamilnadu and not only devoted his energies towards making it an enviable haven for intellectual inquiry but also generously endowed the Institute.

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MIDS acknowledges with gratitude:

- Reserve Bank of India for an endowment grant of Rs.1.25 crores
- Ford Foundation for an endowment grant of \$2,50,000
- INFOSYS for donating computer hardwares
- ICSSR for an IT infrastructure grant of Rs.20.25 lakhs

MIDS records its gratitude to the Govt. of Tamilnadu for a grant of Rs.20 lakhs towards modernising the Institute's IT infrastructure.

Library : Total number of Journals – 168. In the year 2001 (January-December) we renewed only 9 Foreign Journals out of 65 Foreign Journals. Books added from July 2001 – June 2002 (including bound volumes of Journals) – 1486.

### Faculty Research

Dr. K. Sivasubramaniyan is working on customary rights and how they relate to water management.

A key question Dr. Kripa Ananth Pur is inquiring is how customary institutions act as a 'gatekeeper' and play a role in controlling the participation of women in statutory institutions. She is also examining the role of 'informal' resource mobilization in villages.

Dr. Kripa also works in the field of development communication and in this connection attended the

Radiocracy Conference in Durban in September 2001. She is also studying the interface between the formal and informal governance structures in rural Karnataka.

Dr. A. R. Venkatachalapathy specializes in studying the literary culture of Tamilnadu. He has been preparing critical editions of primary documents. The second volume of his critical, chronological and variorum edition of the works of Pudumaippithan has been published recently.

### Faculty Specialisation

*Demography*

*Labour Studies*

*Village Studies*

*Traditional Knowledge*

*Theoretical Perspectives*

*Decentralisation, Education, Governance and Civil Society*

*Positive Discrimination and India's Socio-Political Scenario*

*Gender and Occupational Health*

*Irrigation and Water Management*

*Identity Politics and discrimination*

*WTO, Regional Trade and Integration*

*Social and Cultural History*

younger age group the discussants were scholars with established reputations. A joint committee refereed all the papers. The response was overwhelming. The other centres will carry the programme forward in turn. ISEC, Bangalore is organising the second convention in January 2003.

### Teaching of Economics : A Symposium

As part of the D.R.Gadgil Centenary celebrations during February 16, 2002, MIDS organized a one-day symposium on the teaching of economics. Teachers in colleges and university departments made presentations. There was a presentation on the contributions of Professor Gadgil by Professor Debdas Banerjee and a personal recollection by Professor Sulabha Brahme. Several interesting questions pertaining to making the teaching of economics more contextually relevant emerged in the discussions and some new formulations were suggested. It is

hoped that this will act as an incentive to more detailed work which will lead to the economics curriculum becoming more socially sensitive. The Malcolm and Elizabeth Adiseshiah Trust and ICSSR supported this programme.

### Internal Seminar Series

Economic Trends of Intellectual Property Rights (IPR): K. Aparna Bhagirathy – 4.10.2002

Salinity in India – Nirmal Sengupta, 28 10. 2002.

### Seminars by Visitors and Affiliates

Once upon a Time in the West? Narrating Modernity in Kerala: Dr. Filippo Osella, University of Sussex and Dr. Caroline Osella, London School of Economics, 21.10.2002

Traditional Water Harvesting Methods – Er. K. R. Sivaraman – 7.11.2002.

The WTO Future: New Challenges: Ellen L. Front: Institute for International Economics, 18.11. 2002.

### Project Workshops

- o IDRC project on water management - stakeholders' dialogue, January 2002. Well- attended, it resulted in the formation of a social committee drawn from all sectors with a view to carrying forward the dialogue and arrive at a solution to the problems posed by pollution as well as excess withdrawal of water from groundwater sources.
- o Project on the Ten-point program for Dalit Christians, workshops December 2001 and February 2002.
- o Project on Fiscal Devolution, brainstorming workshop between faculty members of MIDS, IDS, University of Sussex, London School of Economics, Centre for Policy Studies, Johannesburg, research centres in Bangalore, as well as civil servants, April 2002

## Malcolm Adiseshiah Visiting Professors

Professor Uma Chakravarty was the first Malcolm Adiseshiah Visiting Professor and spent two weeks in January-February 2002. She gave a seminar and a public lecture in addition to having consultations with the faculty.

Professor Kaushik Basu, Cornell University was the next Visiting Professor under this scheme in July 2002. He visited the Institute in 24<sup>th</sup> July 2002 and gave a lecture on 'Rationality, Games and Social moves'. Another lecture on 'The politics and economics of child labour' on July 25<sup>th</sup> 2002.

## Seminars & Conferences

### SPECIAL SEMINARS

- ☞ Symposium on TN State finances
- ☞ Workshops on Traditional Knowledge
- ☞ Convention on Development
- ☞ Symposium on the teaching of economics

### Symposium on TN State finances

At the instance of the Government of Tamilnadu a one-day symposium was held on the State's finances on 30 November 2001. The discussion was based upon the White Paper on finances of the State government and a number of high-ranking officials took part along with specialists in public economics and finance.

### Workshops on Traditional Knowledge

Two seminars/workshops were organized on Traditional Knowledge which is fast becoming a major focal point of research in the Institute. The first one was in MIDS in August 2001 and drew an

enthusiastic response. Among the themes discussed were how to protect traditional/indigenous knowledge in the light of the evolving pattern of Intellectual Property Rights under the umbrella of WTO. The second was held in New Delhi and carried forward the discussion with a view to coming out with policy prescriptions. CSIR and The India International Centre supported this programme.

### Convention on Development

A landmark event was the Convention on Development held on 16, 17 and 18 November 2001 in MIDS. This was the first time that the five ICSSR centres in south India came together jointly to organize a programme. While the papers were largely from the

Mr. L. Venkatachalam, Ph. D. candidate has been Awarded Ph.D. Degree for his thesis entitled 'Regional Natural Resource Accounting'. Supervised by Professor Paul P Appasamy.

Dr. S. Anandhi has joined the Institute as an assistant professor. Her area of specialisation is gender, caste and identity politics. She has published four articles on gender, sexuality and identity politics and two monographs on Dalits in new social movements.

Professor Padmini Swaminathan spent three weeks as Visiting Professor at the Centre for Modern Oriental studies in Berlin in the summer where she gave public lectures and also presented a paper titled "The Interface between Industrial development and Higher Education: What are the issues, where do we stand and does gender matter?"

Professor Padmini Swaminathan conducted a study for ILO on the conditions of women workers in the Chennai export promotion zone the results of which were published as a working paper. She was part of a team representing India at the International Women's Health Coalition meeting held in Toronto, Canada. She has also contributed a paper on "The Violence of Gender-biased Development: Going beyond Social and Demographic Indicators" to a volume brought out by Kali for Women. This paper was commissioned by the World Bank.

Professor Padmini Swaminathan is part of a nation-wide exercise to look at state budgets from a gender perspective.

One of Dr. V. Chandrasekara Naidu's village resurveys has been published

## Malcolm Adiseshiah Award

*The Malcolm Adiseshiah Award for distinguished contributions to Development Studies was presented to the first awardee Professor Abhijit Vinayak Banerjee, MIT. After the presentation the awardee delivered the Adiseshiah Memorial Lecture. The function was held on 7 January 2002.*

The Malcolm Adiseshiah award for distinguished contribution to development studies for 2002 is being conferred on Dr. Bina Agarwal, Professor, IEG, Delhi. The jury comprising of Professor R. Radhakrishna, IGIDR, Dr. Patricia Oberoi, IEG, and Professor Manoranjan Mohanty, Delhi University unanimously recommended that the award should be given to Professor Bina Agarwal.

In the words of the jury "Scholar in feminist economics who has made pioneering contributions to the study of gender and land rights and also significantly contributed to the fields of poverty, food security and environmental studies". The presentation ceremony will take place on November 21, 2002 when the Memorial lecture on 'Gender Inequalities: Neglected Dimensions and Hidden Facets' will also be delivered.

as a working paper. He has also published a working paper on food security. He is a member of the working group on "Agricultural Marketing and WTO".

During the past year Dr. Naidu has been working on Tamilnadu's finances. As part of this work he has furnished a detailed report to the Staff and Expenditure Commission of the Government of Tamilnadu and plans to bring out a working paper on the subject.

Professor K. Nagaraj has just completed a project on "Female and Child Employment in a Household Industry: A case study of Beedi industry in Karnataka and Tamilnadu". It has thrown up a number of interesting questions relating to the nature of the industry and will provide policy pointers. This was sponsored by ILO.

The second phase of Dr. S. Janakarajan's project on water management is nearing completion. Many of the results have come out or are in the process of being published in the Institute's working paper series. He has also presented them in conferences and seminars. An important facet of his activity is in dissemination and activism.

A book in Tamil based on the papers presented at the stakeholders' meeting is to be published shortly.

Professor S. Subramanian with Dr. D. Jayaraj is working on women's well being and the sex ratio at birth. Their joint paper in EPW on child labour has been received very well.

Dr. D. Jayaraj's preliminary findings appear to indicate that in the past two decades females in India have experienced sharper decline in mortality rates in all age groups compared to men.

Dr. M. Thangaraj's project on Dalit Christians is well under way and much of the data has been collected although given the sensitive nature of the subject it has taken longer than originally envisaged. It is expected that the work will be completed in six months.

Dr. M. Thangaraj has completed editing a volume for the National Academy of Administration, Mussorie, on *Land Reforms in Tamilnadu*.

Dr. Ananta Kumar Giri has been continuing his inquiries into social movements such as the Swadhyaya movement as also the experiments in Orissa on integrated education.

The State Government sought the assistance of MIDS in preparing material to be furnished to the Supreme Court in connection with its writ petition against the Union government seeking to establish the right of the state to be consulted on matters such as agriculture before any agreement with WTO can be signed.

Dr. V. Chandrasekara Naidu was a member of the working group constituted by the State Planning Commission on "Agricultural Marketing and WTO". He has also lectured to officials of the state government on the implications of the WTO for Indian agriculture.

Dr. Ananta Kumar Giri is currently spending a few months in Israel and the Netherlands on Sabbatical leave.

Dr. Moana Bhagabati's research is oriented towards the specific aspects of the WTO's rules relating to Regional Trading Arrangements. She also plans to inquire into a new area in Regional Trading Arrangements, namely, their role in diplomacy. Professor Sengupta along with Dr. Moana Bhagabati is actively involved in leading an inquiry into trade facilitation measures.

An emerging area of work which is becoming increasingly important in the Institute relates to Traditional Knowledge and Indigenous Knowledge Systems. Research relating to traditional knowledge is also sought to be integrated with the work on intellectual property rights and WTO related issues. Professor Nirmal Sengupta is working in this area. He participated in three workshops held in Hongkong and Bangkok.

Prof. V.K. Natraj was a Visiting Fellow at the Institute of Development Studies, University of Sussex, U.K. and is presently a member of the Managing Committee of the Centre for the Future State in that Institute.

He is a member of the Expert Committee of the Government of

Karnataka on Panchayat Raj. Also is chairman of the Working Group on Decentralisation for the Tamilnadu State Planning Commission.

Dr. Manabi Majumdar jointly authored report on "Private Schools and Elementary Education" and papers with Professor Subramanian on capability failure and measuring deprivation adjusted for group disparities.

#### Publications

Professor Nirmal Sengupta's book titled *A NEW INSTITUTIONAL THEORY OF PRODUCTION - AN APPLICATION* was published by SAGE in October 2001.

Professor S. Subramanian's has edited the collected papers of S. Guhan, which has been published by OUP as *INDIA'S DEVELOPMENT EXPERIENCE*. A paperback second impression of his edited volume on *MEASUREMENT OF INEQUALITY AND POVERTY (OUP)* has also been released during this year.

Professor P. Radhakrishnan has published a book titled *INDIA, THE PERFDIES OF POWER: A SOCIAL CRITIQUE*. This work deals with Indian democracy.

Dr. A. R. Venkatachalapathy's monograph in Tamil, *Navalum Vasippum*, on early novels and reading practices in colonial Tamil Nadu was published in August 2002.

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Dr. Manabi Majumdar and Professor Subramanian have been awarded the Dudley Seers Memorial Prize for their joint paper on "Capability failure and group disparities: some evidence from India for the 1980s".

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