SOCIAL WORK JOURNAL
(BI-ANNUAL)

This issue was published in March,2018 .

Editorial

Neo liberalism in India forced the state to transform itself from being a regulator of the market economy to being a facilitator of the functioning of the market mechanism. In India this was precipitated by the balance of payment crisis and was hurriedly done without preparation and effective measures to protect the interest of the poorest of the poor. This transition in the Indian economy was void of any social or political substance. However, there was a reason why post-Independence India, steeped in poverty, made the choice of pursuing development within a highly regulated mixed economy. Regulation measures to control industrialists and landlords, to prevent them from pursuing private profit at the expense of social benefit, and the redistribution of assets and income through land reforms and curbs on monopoly were necessary to launch a growth strategy where the poorest will feel empowered and included in the social and political fabric of the country. Therefore , the decision in 1991 to dismantle that interventionist regime was a watershed. In the name of growth, the government was declaring its willingness to favour private capital at the expense of the rest of society. The latter were to be compensated with "social expenditures" that would, in the long run, reintegrate those marginalised by the strategy while supporting them with transfers that ensured minimal benefits in the short run.

Until the 2008 crisis, academics and intellectuals close to power across the world believed that the uncontrolled expansion of finance and financial markets was good for growth. A financial crisis that continued for eight years and is still ongoing has made that sound like ridiculous . Finally, it was not the market that saved finance and is working to revive growth but the government's intervention . Similarly, few within the European establishment believed that the people of Britain, a country which had the best deal possible as a member of the European Union, would see the arrangement as manufactured to suit the elite and vote to leave the club. It has to be made clear that the elite consensus which exists on Neo- liberalism is a manufactured and forced consensus and as Joseph stiglitz points out an elite consensus is neither a proof of truth nor a guarantee of irreversibility.

H Y Siddiqui argues that social work is a product of Neo liberalism of early twentieth century idea of welfare state to counter the build up of socialism by undertaking provision of welfare services. The failure of liberalism led to the evolution of social services and also making the provision of these services by trained professionals. This development pushed the emergence of Social Work as a profession. The broad economic policy in the west changed to new liberalism from liberalism , in India it changed from socialism to liberalism. He brings out the dilemma of social workers whether to provide professional service or bring about social change. He aptly describes that the body of knowledge and skills, that a social worker needs, and which is common to all social workers, no matter what they are doing, to qualify for professional practice, remains unidentified even now. The paper highlight the

current dilemma of social work, that of providing services to the poor to meet their current needs and at the same time to attempt to create a humane and socially just society, without knowing how to do it.

Archana Sinha discusses social exclusion and educational attainment of urban poor in UP highlights the importance of education for decentralization and development. Though the state has done well in the last decade in the educational achievements but these achievements are not uniform. About 22 per cent of the urban children were still out of school and most of these children belong to the poorer and socially deprived groups and girls bear a disproportionate burden of educational deprivation. The overall quality of education in the state at each level of education remains low. The study reveals that there is no apparent gender discrimination in continuing education amongst currently engaged in unclean occupation. Although higher of male children do go to English medium institution, yet Hindi is the most preferred medium compared to English for both females and males. The urban poverty is the most prevailing factor that forces many from traditionally clean occupation to take up unclean work.

R R Patil discusses about role of NGOs in empowerment of tribals in Gujarat. His paper explores the process, strategies and programmes of NGOs in social empowerment of tribals in the state of Gujarat. The paper is based on the questions how NGOs perceive tribals problems? Do they contribute to tribals empowerment? How? Thus, to examine these questions, Friedmanns (1992) theoretical analysis of 'alternative development' through populist approach has been adopted and exploratory research design has been used to find out the efforts of NGOs in social empowerment of tribals in Gujarat.

Mrityunjay Singh, tries to analyse the impact of Neo liberal policy on agriculture and farmers in India. This paper counters the argument of Neo liberalists that poverty has declined in India since 1991 by pointing out that hunger and malnutrition has increased tremendously during the same period. The state in India has responded by waiving farmers loan. The contemporary agrarian crisis in India, which was caused primarily by the relative marginalization of agrarian interests in the national policy agenda, is a direct outcome of the economic reforms in India since the 1991.

K V Nagaraj, Kundu and Roy describe how the developing media and information literacy competency amongst young people is the key to preparing them to be peace builders in their communities. Their paper explores using the case study of The Peace Gong, a media and information literacy (MIL) platform for children from India how children using different tools of media can promote peace messages and initiate dialogue with their peers. It engages in a discourse analysis of the posts in the Peace Gong Facebook pages. It tries to develop a framework of participation of young people to contribute to peace building and intercultural dialogue.

SM Alfarid Hussain analyses the framing of conflict induced violence by National and regional press. This study examines the role of media framing of three intrastate conflicts in Assam. By employing framing analysis techniques it attempts to reveal certain nuanced manner of media coverage of these conflict-induced violent events by four frontline English newspapers. The findings of the study clearly suggest that news framing contributes substantially to the construction of public issues by the ways in which it defines events, actors, causes and effects and allows for the reshaping of the perceptions of 'victims' and 'perpetrators' in violent political conflicts.

Tinsaye Tamerat tries to explore the various factors which enhances agricultural productivity of farmers . The study's main aim is to assess the extent of control and access of livelihood resources by smallholding farmers and to examine the deterring factors behind it. Concomitantly, for this study KilteAwelalo, a rural district in Tigray was taken as a study area and three villages were selected. Accordingly, the study found variables like land size, educational attainment, livestock holdings, irrigation and participation in formal and informal institutions as major impacting factors.

M Gangabhushan, Tmerat and Borah have attempted to explore the impact of warning messages on cigarette packets on the consumption behavior in Silchar. Major findings include, tax hikes rather than helping decrease the consumption of cigarettes, has led the youth to shift to cheaper and less quality cigarettes. Moreover, sale of cigarette per piece has prevented most of the respondents from getting full warning messages. In addition, repetitive ads on packaging health warning images were major reasons for ignorance by adult smokers.

Neelatphal Chanda discusses the role of media in enhancing the political participation of women. He posits that as the power of media is gauged by its reach to the people it can help in creating discourses which will help in addressing women voices in political totality. Mass Media mobilizes the people and moulds the public opinion. This paper evaluates the role of mass media in empowering women for the political participation. It will also highlight various obstacles faced by women in political participation in India.

Finally we thank all the reviewers, members of the advisory board and editorial board for their valuable suggestions and comments.

Mrityunjay K Singh and Lalzo S Thangjom

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