

**JESUIT RESEARCH
AND
DEVELOPMENT SOCIETY**

ANNUAL REPORT 2016-17



**JESUIT RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT SOCIETY
10 Institutional Area
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FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

The Jesuit Research and Development Society was founded on 22 March 2006 to assist, promote, channelize, undertake charitable, social and humanitarian work, irrespective of caste, community, religion and economic status, solely for philanthropic purposes. Since its inception, the Society has been engaged in research and research related activities as well as supporting Government and Non-Governmental organisations in their efforts to promote the socio-economic development of marginalised communities, in particular, the Dalits, Tribals, Minorities and other weaker sections of society.

This also involves conducting, organizing, supporting and participating in conferences, seminars, workshops, meetings, trainings etc. The Society supports and engages in charitable activities for educational purposes and socio-economic development of marginalised communities. This includes providing grants, scholarships, concessions, incentives, subsidies, etc. Finally, in order to fulfill the aims and objectives of the association, the Society networks and collaborates with like-minded academicians, professional groups, associations, non-governmental and governmental organizations and international organizations.

JRDS has been in touch with many such organisations and continues to do so in various ways. It has been conducting various types of trainings to these. At the research level it has built up partnership with them in the field. This project would specifically help many small and needy organisations and various priority group networks spread out geographically in India.

Joykutty Karayampuram Abraham, S.J.

President

Jesuit Research and Development Society

ACTIVITIES CONDUCTED DURING THE FINANCIAL YEAR

Legal Awareness & Training

The Training Unit conducted the following legal awareness trainings at various places which were well appreciated by the participants.

1. Empowering women to lead change: 27th April to 3rd May, 2016 – 23 participants.



2. Educational rights of minorities: 9th& 10th July, 2016 at Hazaribagh – 90 participants
3. Educational rights of minorities: 9th August, 2016 at Ranchi. -200 participants.
4. Conducted three-day workshop on “Sexual harassment of women at workplace and POCSO” and “basic legal awareness programme” to women at Darjeeling & Kalimpong. 180 participants
5. Educational rights of minorities: 15 to 18 October, 2016 at ISI – 90 participants



6. Minority rights: 28th October, 2016 at Jamshedpur. – 80 participants
7. Empowering women to lead change: 12th to 18th December, 2016 at ISI - 25 participants



8. Empowering tribal lawyers: 25th & 26th March, 2017 at Bagaicha, Jharkhand. – 15 participants

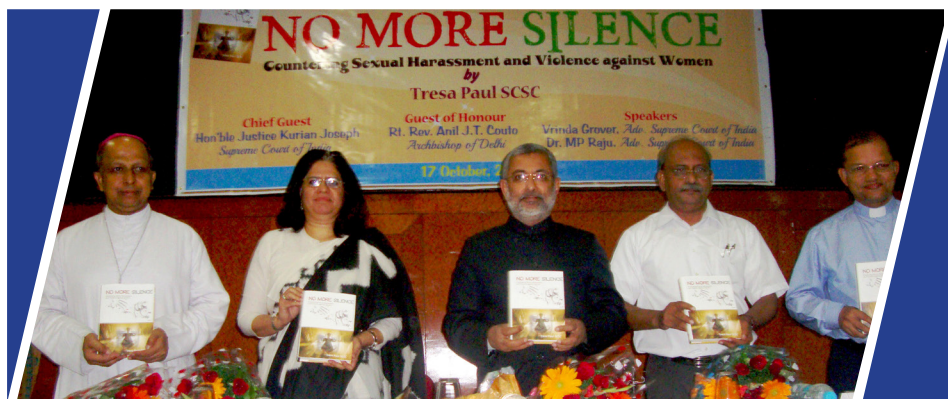
In these training programmes a deeper understanding of the Constitution of India and the basic laws of the country with special emphasis on the laws relating to women, Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and the Laws relating to vulnerable groups were given. There were not only class room lectures, but exposure programmes to National Human Rights Commission and National Commission for Women were given importance. Thus participants got both theoretical as well as practical knowledge of the legal system in India. Participants felt empowered by these training programmes. As an after effect of the training programmes, a lot of requests for help in taking up cases came up.

LEGAL AID

We have a history of taking up cases of the marginalised people through its Legal Aid Center. Through the Legal Aid Centre we helped many bonded labourers, Child labourers etc to fight for their human rights by filing of PILs in the Supreme Court of India. They could breathe the air of freedom through these interventions. Fr. P D Mathew started the Legal Education Series booklets, the Legal News and Views magazine and the

legal training programmes with a clear goal to disseminate legal awareness to the ordinary people. People keep coming for getting legal counseling to the Training Unit regularly. Through our legal awareness training in various places, people come to know about the legal help provided by us. The Training Unit has taken up a number of Consumer Cases, Bail petitions, Domestic Violence cases, Divorce Petitions etc. to help these people who look for help.

Tresa Paul, published a book “*No More Silence—Countering Sexual Harassment and Violence against Women at Workplace*”.



The book was released by Justice Joseph Kurien of the Supreme Court in the presence of Adv. Vrinda Grover at a programme held on 17 October, 2016.

Tresa Paul, “Constitutional Protection of the Educational Rights of Minorities in India”, *Legal News and Views*, Vol. 30, No. 0, October 2016.

_____ “Public Interest Litigation in India—An Overview”, *Legal News and Views*, Vol. 31, No. 1, January 2017.

LEGAL EDUCATION SERIES

New Booklets

1. The Protection of Children from Sexual Harassment Act, 2012 (English & Hindi)
2. National Commission for Scheduled Tribes (English).

3. Abolition of Untouchability Act (English & Hindi)

Updated/Revised Editions

1. Constitution of India, Simplified (Hindi).
2. Payment of Gratuity Act, 1972 and Rules (English)
3. Payment of Bonus Act, 1965 and Rules (English)
4. Law on Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act, 2010

LEGAL NEWS AND VIEWS

Every issue we publish three to four articles on various topics, important judgments of the month, Legal News in brief, recent Bills, some write up on legal education etc. This year the magazine carried articles on 'Labour Legislations, Environmental Law, Intellectual Property Rights, Local Self Governance, Minority Rights, Alternate Dispute Resolution System in India, Challenges of Democracy Today, Law of Contracts and Uniform Civil Code. Our aim is to inform the readers about the changes taking place in the field of law. April 2014 onwards the subscription rate was increased from Rs. 15 to Rs. 25/- for a single copy. Annual subscription for one year is Rs. 275/- and for two years it is Rs. 525/- and Life membership is Rs. 6500/- . This magazine is subscribed mainly by Universities, Law Colleges, Advocates and students.



LOK MANCH - DEVELOPMENT AND ACCESS TO ENTITLEMENTS OF THE MARGINALIZED

Aim of the project

Lok Shakti Manch, a national platform for the rights of marginalized people, has been created, its work is recognised and because of its work, access of marginalised sections of society to their entitlements has increased significantly, leading to a sustainable increase in their living conditions.



Objectives

1. Fifteen Jesuit provinces in thirteen states have built a vibrant national platform with 100 civil society organisations which conducts joint activities to promote implementation of the regional administrative bodies' integration plans and of the NFSA.
2. Access to NFSA and to the integration plans for marginalised sections of society has improved significantly for targeted households.
3. Gaps in policies have been identified and decision-makers are lobbied to achieve appropriate improvements of the laws.



The following measures are conducted to achieve the above-mentioned objectives:

- Setting up partner platforms at state level for providing regular support and advice to them during the start-up phase, linking them with each other and providing support only where necessary during the consolidation phase



- Developing information and education materials such as hand bills, brochures, poster-and distributing them in selected villages.
- Conducting a participatory assessment to identify gaps in access to entitlements conducting courses and seminars for 3,680 suitable persons on the National Food Security Act and other Government schemes and to convey basic legal knowledge



- Carrying out trainings for members of civil society vigilance

committees to monitor corruption and for social control

- Conducting various networking activities at national, regional and local levels
- Conducting regular activities for quality assurance and for orientation towards achievement of the objectives of the project.

Animating NGO's through capacity building and professional support programmes.

The Project is concerned with complementing the efforts of the Government at poverty eradication in India by capacity building for grass root organizations engaged in development of marginalized communities through consultancy/professional support which enables them to independently make changes



in their organization structure, in their policies, planning, implementation, monitoring of their many charitable works. A number NGOs committed to social change are working among the most vulnerable communities like dalits, adivasis, women, children, unorganised labourers, minorities and other marginalised communities. They are mainly engaged in different types of capacity building programme, campaigns, community development activities, strengthening of panchyat and gram sabha, promoting accountability and demanding transparent governance. These organisations are in need of various trainings related to organisational development and management,

finance management and policies, ToT training etc. This project is visualised to reach out to the key stakeholders of the organisations and envisions strengthening them by promoting organisational, managerial and institutional development. This would also include planning process, strategic intervention processes, monitoring and evaluation techniques. The purpose is to set professional standards among selective small NGOs.



Goal

The overall goal of this project is poverty eradication and social change in India have more impact through professionalization/ capacity building of their project managers regarding planning, support and evaluation of projects as well as in the field of Organisation Development.



The specific object is

NGOs and Church-based partner organisations in India have received capacity building which enables them to independently

make such changes in their Organisational Structure (including in financial management) in the policies, planning, implementation, monitoring & local evaluation of their projects, as well result in the projects' increased effectiveness.



Project objective(s) (Intended outcomes):

1. To organise various specialised capacity building programmes
2. To provide on-going consultancy services
3. To raise the standard of these organisation by promoting managerial, organisational, financial and project development support

Activities

- Training
- Consultancy
- Material support

Methods

- Participatory approach in developing key staff skills
- Consultancy services



GOVERNING BOARD MEMBERS

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- MISEREOR, Germany
- Alboan Foundation, Bilbao, Spain
- Francis Xavier Foundation, Zürich
- Missionsprokur der Jesuiten, Germany
- Stiftung Jesuiten Weltweit, Switzerland
- Jesuit Mission, London
- Canadian Jesuits International, Canada
- Fondazione MAGIS, Italy
- Porticus Asia Ltd, Hong Kong

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