

**JESUIT RESEARCH  
AND  
DEVELOPMENT SOCIETY**

**ANNUAL REPORT 2017-2018**



**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. JRDS has been responding to the challenges faced by marginalised sections of society in the country for the last 12 years by engaging in relevant training, publication and advocacy through collaboration and networking with a large number of social activists, people's movements, human rights groups, civil society organizations and ecological movements throughout India and the world.

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 fulfil 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.

The academic year 2017-18 has been a year of many engagements on key thrust areas being Dalits, Tribals, Women, Urban Poor and Peace building at the national and international level. The strategy has been to engage in conducting quality training, seminars. In order to amplify the impact of our engagements, we have been networking and collaborating with a number of national and international agencies.

JRDS has conducted several seminars and workshops during

the year a two-day workshop on “Legal Compliances of NGOs” was organised by the Society on 20-21 May, 2017. There were about 70 participants from all over the country for the workshop. It has been providing legal training to NGOs, social activists and legal practitioners in different parts of India. Para-legal training has been conducted in Delhi, Bihar, Odisha, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Chhattisgarh and Chandigarh. In addition workshop on “Empowering Women to Lead Change”, ‘Educational Rights of Minorities’ and on “Anti-Trafficking” has been conducted. The Society has also provided legal aid and assistance to marginalised sections of society during the year.

JRDS remains a beacon of hope to marginalised communities suffering from socio-economic inequalities and growing religious fundamentalism by the services rendered in terms of training, legal services and programmes. It hopes to contribute positively to the national and global effort to build a world that is sustainable and equitable in collaboration with civil society, people’s movements worldwide.

**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. Para Legal Training: 25th April 2017 to 01st May 2017. Participants 35.



2. Para Legal Training for Shanti SadbhavanaManch: 02nd June to 10th June 2017. Participants 31.



3. Para Legal Training for grass roots workers in Sokodewra in Bihar: 28th to 30th June 2017. Participants 65.



4. Para Legal workshop for grass roots workers in Bhubaneswar in Odisha: 27th to 30th August 2017. Participants 60.



5. Para Legal Training for grass roots workers in Kota, Rajasthan: 8th to 11th September 2017. Participants 67.



6. Para legal training for grass roots workers in Varanasi, UP. 22nd to 26th September 2017. Participants 55.



7. Para legal training for grass roots workers in Raipur, C G. 12th to 15th October 2017. Participants 48.



8. Educational rights of minorities: 18th October to 22nd October 2017. Participants 117.



9. Empowering Women to lead change: 08th December to 16th December 2017. Participants 16.





10. Training on Anti Human Trafficking on 18th February 2018. Participants 18.
11. Legal training in Chandigarh: 1st March to 4th March 2018. Participants 95.
12. Para Legal Training for Social Activists: 17th to 23rd March 2018.

In all these training programs 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 the vulnerable groups were given. We followed not only the class room lectures, but exposure programs 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 programs. The Training Unit has been giving legal counselling for the needy people from various parts of the country.

## **LEGAL AID**

Jesuit Research and Development Society has a history of taking up cases of the marginalized people and providing legal awareness through its Legal Aid Center at JRDS. A lot of requests are coming to us for legal advice regarding varied legal issues. Through our legal awareness training in various places, people come to know about the legal help available in Jesuit Research and Development Society. The Training Unit has taken up a number of Consumer Cases, Bail petitions, Domestic Violence cases, Divorce Petitions, minority status issues etc. to help these people who look for help. At present the Training Unit has a full time lawyer practicing in the Delhi courts who is ready to give the necessary legal advice and Training for any groups that asks for such help. The increasing number of cases against priests and sisters and ordinary people forces us to think to have a legal assistance cell. Therefore the Jesuit Research and Development Society is seriously thinking about starting a Legal Assistance Cell in JRDS soon so that we will be able to assist the poor and marginalized and the Church in India.

## **Legal Education Series (updated)**

1. Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2009
2. Educational Rights of Minorities
3. Right to information Act
4. Law relating to Dowry offences
5. National Commission for Women
6. On Your rights if arrested

## **LEGAL NEWS AND VIEWS**

Legal News and Views is a magazine published every 26th of the advance month from Integrated Social Initiatives. This magazine provides the latest legal news, judgments concerning human rights and other important matters. In every issue we publish two to three articles in simple language for the benefit of ordinary people of the country. Mr. Paul Jacob was the one who was making sure that the matters are gathered and send for editing before sending it to the press. He got retired in the month of January 2018 and at present Mr. Abhishek Kumar is doing that job. Our aim is to inform the readers

about the changes taking place in the field of law. From April 2018 onwards the subscription rate was increased from Rs. 25 to Rs. 30/- for a single copy. Annual subscription for one year is Rs. 350/- and for two years it is Rs. 690/- and Life membership is Rs. 8,000/- . 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

The aim of the project is to support the development of communities through enhanced access of their entitlements and to bring quality changes in the lives of the people. This project focuses on building the capacities of community leaders among the dalits, tribals, minorities and other marginalized communities so that they are empowered to access entitlements. The project also aims at developing a new culture of working together to help communities avail the benefits of various Central and State Government-sponsored welfare schemes for weaker sections of society. By networking with other similar aimed organisations, to gain knowledge and expertise, the project aims to engage in the development of the urban poor and rural communities, especially, dalits, tribals, minorities and other marginalized communities.



## 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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## **PARTNERSHIPS (INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS)**

- 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



## **STAFF MEMBERS:**

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Shiju Mathew  
Abhishek Kumar  
Sr. Ruby

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Paul Jacob

### **Freelance Consultant**

Sr. Tresa Paul

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