

JOURNAL OF THE RAJAGIRI COLLEGE OF SOCIAL SCIENCES

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Rajagiri College of Social Sciences

The Rajagiri Journal of Social Development is a publication of the Rajagiri College of Social Sciences. The Rajagiri College of Social Sciences was established by the Carmelites of Mary Immaculate (CMI), who have made significant efforts in the development of education in the state of Kerala. At present they manage a network of educational institutions not only in the state of Kerala but also in other parts of the country. The establishment of the Rajagiri College of Social Sciences was the fruition of the far sighted vision of Fr. Francis Sales of the CMI. In 1955 Fr. Sales started a Department of Social Work at the Sacred Heart College, Thevara, one of the early institutions of higher education established by the CMI in Kerala. In 1967 the Department Social Work was shifted to the present premises at Rajagiri, Kalamassery and functioned as the off-campus centre of Social Work, Sacred Heart College, Thevara, under the name "Post Graduate Institute of Social Work." In 1980 it bifurcated from the Sacred Heart College, Thevara and was raised to the status of an independent college affiliated to the University of Kerala. In 1983 the College was affiliated to the newly established Mahatma Gandhi University, Kottayam.

Responding to the needs of the changing society the Rajagiri College of Social Sciences diversified its programmes of study and expanded its activities. Today the College has to its credit four sectors of programmes and activities, viz. (i) academic courses leading to degree/diploma, (ii) research activities and consultancy services, (iii) training

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programmes of various types and (iv) projects of social intervention in the field. At present the College offers the following academic courses of study affiliated to the Mahatma Gandhi University: Ph.D. in Social Work and allied disciplines of Social Science, Ph.D. in Management Studies, Master of Social Work (MSW), Master of Human Resource Management (MHRM), Master of Business Administration (MBA), Master of Computer Application (MCA), Bachelor of Social Work (BSW), and Post-graduate Diploma in Administration of Human Service (PGDAHS). Moving with the changing times the Rajagiri College of Social Sciences has ventured into international collaboration in the field of education. At present there are three twinning programmes in collaboration with three foreign universities. In the twinning programme a student of the Rajagiri College of Social Sciences qualifies for the degree of the respective foreign university after successful completion of the course of the Rajagiri College and the foreign university. The programmes offered at present under the twinning scheme are MBA degree of the Western Michigan University, USA for the Masters Course in Business Administration, MSW degree of the Maryland University, USA for the Masters Course in Social Work and MBA degree of the Assumption University, Thailand for the Masters Course in Business Administration.

In another form of collaboration with the universities abroad, students of foreign universities are offered opportunities for field based training at the Rajagiri College of Social Sciences. Universities that have entered into collaboration with the Rajagiri College for field placement of students include Mid Sweden University, Malmo University, Sweden, Gothenburg University, Sweden, Katho University, Belgium, Ghent University, Belgium, Moncton University, Canada, Lavel University, Canada and University of Zurich, Switzerland. In this programme students of the foreign universities receive field training under the guidance of the faculty of the Rajagiri College of Social Sciences.

Journal of the Rajagiri College of Social Sciences

As an institution of higher education, the Rajagiri College of Social Sciences has been giving due importance to research activity. In order to promote research in social sciences the Rajagiri Research Institute was set up by the College in 1972. The institute is a multi-disciplinary centre for research and dissemination of knowledge in social sciences. In the activity of training, the Rajagiri College of Social Sciences is entrusted with four ongoing training programmes. They are for (i) the Programme Officers of the National Service Scheme (NSS), (ii) the middle level functionaries (MLTC) of the Integrated Child Development Scheme (ICDS), (iii) the workers and helpers of Anganwadis (AWTC) which function as the nodal centres for the delivery of the services under the ICDS and (iv) the master trainers of the Akshaya programme of the IT Mission of the Government of Kerala for imparting e-literacy or awareness and use of computer in every family.

One of the distinguishing characteristics of the Rajagiri College of Social Sciences is its effort in maintaining the continuous linkage between theoretical knowledge and practical application. The College has been pursuing it through its “Live-labs”. The Live-labs, presently run by the College, are the Community Aid and Sponsorship Programme (CASP), Voluntary Coordinating Agency for Adoption (VCA), the Rajagiri Outreach Service Society (ROSS) comprising of the Rajagiri Community Development Scheme (RCDS), Centre for Health Care Research and Education (CHCRE) and Free Drug Cell (FDC), the Rajagiri Family Counselling Centre (RFCC), the Childline, Kochi, and Aditya, the Solar Shop. All these are programmes of field intervention, which not only contribute to community development but also provide the students of the different courses of study at the College the opportunity to learn from field experience.

The Rajagiri College of Social Sciences has been ever conscious of the need to pursue quality in education and has been doing its best to maintain high standards in its different activities. As certification of the level of quality in education achieved by the College, the National Accreditation and Assessment Council of the University Grants Commission

rated the College with the highest grade of five stars. In order to consolidate its achievements and further move forward in its educational endeavour, the Rajagiri College of Social Sciences has applied for autonomy.

Rajagiri Journal of Social Development

In the efforts to continue the pursuit of excellence in education, the Rajagiri College of Social Sciences is launching a professional journal. In line with the main thrust of its various activities, the College has decided to publish the journal in the area of social development. Social development is one of the goals institutionalised in developing societies. Professionals in both the government and the non-government sectors are involved in various programmes of social development. Some of the human service professions, like social work, have accepted social development as the thrust of their programmes of action. Sustenance and growth of professionalism in pursuit of social development depends on strong and continuous linkage between theory and practice. This is especially true of human service professions like social work, wherein knowledge is continuously translated into action and derived from action as well. For maintaining this linkage it is necessary to document professionally field level programmes of action or intervention and disseminate them to professionals engaged in both the academic and field levels.

Professional documentation involves conceptualisation and theorisation of the experiences of the professionals at the field level. The exercise of disseminating knowledge based on field action helps educators of the human service professions in the task of professional training which consists in imparting field based knowledge and skills. In the case of practitioners in the field dissemination of field based professional knowledge functions as a form of continuing education that will be of help to them in dealing with the problems they face in the field. Thus generation and dissemination of knowledge related to and based on field level intervention are part of the programmes of professional training and intervention.

The Rajagiri College of Social Sciences has been engaged in the professional training of social workers for social development and allied programmes of social action during the last five decades. The College is fully aware that professionalism in programmes of social development in India needs continuous production and dissemination of field based and field related knowledge of the Indian context. This has to be undertaken by academics and practitioners interested and involved in developmental activities in India.

The Rajagiri Journal of Social Development is an attempt of the Rajagiri College of Social Sciences to respond to this need of knowledge dissemination that will be of benefit to both theory and practice in social development. The journal has the specific objectives of (i) contributing to professionalism in social development in India through publication of indigenous theoretical materials on issues and action programmes of social development in India, (ii) providing a forum to professionals engaged in the field of social development activities for theoretical documentation of their experiences in field level activities, and (iii) encouraging educators and academics interested in the area of social development to produce field related publications so as to strengthen their linkage and interaction with the field level activities.

The Rajagiri Journal of Social Development publishes contributions in the broad area of social development that are both theoretical and field based or related. It has a separate section on innovative programmes of social development. It is meant to bring to the notice of academicians and practitioners some of the interesting experiments in social development carried out in the country. The journal welcomes contributions from academics and professionals interested and involved in social development. The contributions may be on theoretical themes, field experiences, programmes/projects or agencies of social development.

Current Issue of the Journal

The Rajagiri College of Social Sciences has been in existence for the last 50 years. In 2005 the College is celebrating its golden jubilee. Several activities have been undertaken by the various sections of the College to mark the golden jubilee. The publication

division of the College is happy to launch the Rajagiri Journal of Social Development in honour of the jubilee year. Thus the inaugural issue of the journal is brought out as the golden jubilee issue. In fact three of the contributions in the golden jubilee issue of the journal are based on the programmes held at the College as part of the golden jubilee activities. The article on “Peace and Social Work Education” is the outcome of the international conference on *World Peace and Social Work Education*, organised by the School of Social Work, Rajagiri College of Social Sciences in association with the School of Social Work, University of Maryland, Baltimore, USA in January 2005. The article has put together the presentations and discussions made in the international conference on various theoretical issues and field based experiments in peace. The two contributions on innovative programmes of social development - “Peermade Development Society: a Synonym for Sustainable Development” and “Shreyas: an Organisation for Sustainable Development” - are cases that were presented at the national seminar on “*Kerala’s Initiatives in National Development – Voice of Kerala*”, held at the Rajagiri College of Social Sciences in October 2004 as part of the golden jubilee celebration. These two contributions on innovative programmes of development describe the grassroots level programmes and activities of the two developmental agencies. Both of them are non-government organisations in Kerala that have succeeded in attaining significant achievement in community development.

The current issue of the Rajagiri Journal of Social Development has [five](#) more articles in addition to the three contributions that resulted from the golden jubilee activities. In the article on “Configuring Field, Practice and Field Education in Social Work” R. R. Singh discusses the field level training in the professional education for the human service profession of social work. He points out the importance of field work in professional education and deals with the way it is implemented in the training for social work profession. P.O. George’s paper on “Suicide: a Major Public Health Problem of Kerala” is a field based analysis of the social issue of suicide in Kerala. He deals with the trend of rising suicide rate as a concomitant by-product of social development in Kerala and calls for urgent and effective steps to arrest this trend in suicide. [The case of an](#)

innovative programme in community development, implemented by the Rajagiri College of Social Sciences in a remote village in Kerala, is presented in the paper, “Appropriate Technology in Community Development” by Johnson X. Palakkappillil and M.P. Antoni. It highlights two important aspects of community development, viz. use of appropriate technology and active participation of the people. In the paper, “Towards a Rights-Based Approach to Child Protection” Murli Desai presents several aspects in the context of the right of the child to protection. Joseph I. Injodey’s paper, “Quality of Life and Social Support of Cancer Patients in Kerala” discusses the findings of a study of cancer patients in Kerala. Thus the contributions of the current issue of the journal fulfil the objective of disseminating theoretical as well as field based knowledge in the area of social development.

The Rajagiri Journal of Social Development is yet another effort of the Rajagiri College of Social Sciences to be actively involved in the process of social development. The authorities of the Rajagiri College of Social Sciences and the editorial board of the Rajagiri Journal of Social Development present the journal to the students and professionals in the field as well as in the academia with the hope that the journal will be of help to them in the professional pursuit of social development.