

EDITORIAL

“Three things one should do in the course of one’s life: have a child, plant a tree, and write a book,” says the Jewish Talmud. What this wise saying essentially means is, that one should be generative in one’s life, that the meaning of one’s life is to be realised in and through what one leaves for prosperity. For it is in giving, sharing and helping one another grow that one evolves into a genuine human being.

The same holds good for any social institution and organisation. In their organic growth, they should seek newer avenues to keep giving their resources, sharing their achievements and thus helping in the direction and transformation human society needs to evolve into. This is all the more imperative in the case of an educational institution or a centre of higher learning. *Artha: Journal of Social Sciences* [AJSS] is the result of such a yearning within Christ College. Over the years, Christ College has been growing in manifold directions, all the while seeking newer avenues to share its resources. One of the ways an educational institution and centre for higher learning can share its resources is through a scientific journal. *Artha* is one of the three journals Christ College is publishing from this year onwards. The AJSS is a half-yearly journal and will be published in March and September, every year. It targets undergraduate institutions, research centres, centres of higher education, social scientists, policy makers and any individual interested in and committed to human welfare.

Artha is a Journal of Social Sciences. It is inter-disciplinary in nature, with Social Sciences as its domain. It has been resolved to carry a variety of articles in the Journal, without compromising on quality. Hence, AJSS will carry research articles, scientific papers, articles of general nature, case studies, review articles, book reviews, comments, profiles, etc.

It is also the desire of the Editorial Board that more and more academicians from undergraduate institutions should get encouragement, opportunities and avenues for research studies and publication of their findings. The AJSS seeks to provide space for them to reach a wider audience, interact with the academicians and place their papers for scholarly critique.

This inaugural issue of *Artha* contains five sections. The first section, *Articles*, carries eleven papers from various Social Science disciplines. The first article by Prof. Babu Mathew of National Law School of India University, Bangalore,

scans the development of the Industrial Relations Law in India, from the Colonial times, through the Post-Independence period, to the modern phase of Post-liberalisation. The author states that the Industrial Relations Law in India has been and still is dictated by foreign interests. The second article is a detailed study of the various aspects of craft production in Pre-Modern South Kanara. Dr. Nagendra Rao from Goa University makes an interesting presentation of the significance gained by craft production in South Kanara, even when agricultural production was the lifeline of the economy, in the pre-modern times. The paper should be of interest to historians and economists alike.

Human beings do not just eat; they *dine*. It goes without saying that food is a symbolic medium, and that food habits speak a lot about a culture and its developmental dynamics. Dr. Ganesh Somayaji from Goa University attempts a fascinating study of the dynamics between gastronomic traditions and development in The *Kuta Maha Jagat* [KMJ] population, in Udupi. Dr. Rekha Jagannath of Christ College details the importance, usefulness and necessity for rainwater harvesting. Her paper elaborates various techniques of rainwater conservation and strongly recommends the popular implementation of the same.

The paper, 'Cooperation and Complementarity among European Agencies' is in fact the text of the speech delivered by Mr. F. Stephen of SEARCH organisation, at an International Conference held in the Netherlands, on the topic, "Churches and Church Agencies' Involvement in International Cooperation". Hence, in some places, the paper may appear to be Church-context specific. However, the ideas discussed are very much relevant to any NGO or funding agency working for the uplift of the poor, and hence, have universal application value in the world of Social Work.

In the paper, 'Entrepreneurship and Indian Economy', Dr. Vijayalakshmi of SSMRV College, Bangalore, discusses the increased significance of entrepreneurship in developing economies, with special reference to India. The article assesses various economic challenges facing India and her entrepreneurial potentials that, if realised, can respond adequately to the challenges. The very next paper, by Mr. R. Mohanraj of Bangalore, is an analysis of the economic contributes and diverse social consequences of the economic liberalisation that is sweeping India. Identification of such influences is essential for the effective planning and implementation of intervention strategies.

The next two papers deal with Mental Health. Ms. Soujanya S.P., Dr. Ashok

H.S and Dr. Sudha Bhogle of Bangalore University, present a new psychological instrument for measuring stress among software professionals. A relevant and timely venture indeed, given the fact that suicide rates among IT professionals in Bangalore, the IT capital of India, are fast rising. The test is still under validation, and once perfected, should definitely prove handy to the software world. In the next article, based on her clinical and research experience, Dr. Prakash Rajaram of NIMHANS, Bangalore, details the psychosocial services needed for stroke patients and their families, in helping them deal with the drastic life style changes demanded by the reality of stroke.

Dr. Saumitra Chakravarty of V.V.S. College, Bangalore, analyses the demythologisation of Indian, particularly Bengali womanhood, which is found in Satyajit Ray's films. Ray's presentation of the female folk as waging a silent, sensitive battle of their own and as creatures of superior moral sensibility are well researched by the author. The final paper in the 'Articles' Section is one on the philosophical issues of Freedom and Determinism, by Prof. Y.S. Gowramma of Maharaja's College, Mysore. Prof. Gowramma analyses the arguments for and against both the concepts, and concludes that freedom is a 'fact' of experience and determinism is a matter of 'faith', and the key to resolution of the debate is attitudinal rather than conceptual.

The Second Section is *Case Study*. Dr. Devendra Babu of ISEC, Bangalore, presents the findings of a case study on the role of voluntary organisations in the eradication of child labour. The study was carried out on the VO 'India Community Development Service Society' (ICDSS), engaged actively in the child related issues in Magadi Taluk of Bangalore Rural District. The paper asserts the role of the VOs and offers valuable suggestions towards faster and more efficient realisation of the goal of eradication of child labour.

Section Three is a well-researched *Comment* by Dr. Usha Ramkumar of ISEC, Bangalore, on the effect of school size on school quality. Basing herself on research done across the globe, she argues for a smaller-sized school, which will facilitate better academic, co-curricular and extra-curricular performance, and improved interpersonal, relational skills in the students.

The Fourth Section is titled *Profile*. It has been decided that every issue of AJSS will carry a profile of an organisation committed to the cause of human welfare, social justice or advancement of knowledge. Accordingly, in this issue, the profile of the Centre for Social Action [CSA] of Christ College is focused on. The CSA is a unique project, within an educational institution, committed to developing social sensibility and volunteerism among students for sustainable human development, with special focus on child development.

The Book Review Section carries reviews of two books. Dr. Usha Ramkumar introduces the book, 'Early Childhood Education: Need and Opportunity' by David P. Weikart. Dr. Romate John reviews 'Introduction to Counselling Skills: Text and Activities' by Richard Nelson-Jones.

The Editorial Board places before you, the first issue of the AJSS. It is a humble beginning by Christ College, with dreams of greater possibilities. We are aware that there are limitations in this first issue, due to various factors, some of which were beyond our control. We hope to do better, making the AJSS a journal of excellence and quality. For this we need the continued assistance and constructive suggestions from the academic fraternity, social scientists, and every individual interested in and committed to human welfare. We look forward to the same.

The AJSS is a forum for seekers of truth, who want to share their resources and findings with the public. As is already mentioned, we would like to very specially encourage academicians from the undergraduate institutions to contribute to the journal. We hope it will stimulate the love of research and thus, the world of knowledge will stand to gain.

I would like to place on record the assistance and encouragement the editorial board has received from many individuals, in our efforts at making AJSS a reality. They were manifold: through contribution of articles at short notice, willingness to be in various panels, timely suggestions, corrections and encouragement. To all of them: Thanks. The journal would not have seen light in time but for the able work of the designers, *Identity*. To them too: Thanks. And finally, to God, the Primary Cause and Absolute Intelligence, who has loved us into being, and who inspires, sustains and brings to fruition every human endeavour, I bow in loving gratitude.

Fr. Paulson V. Veliyannoor
Executive Editor