

Contents

Editorial

Articles

- Trade and Transport in South Kanara 149
Nagendra Rao
- 'Process Theodicy': A Postmodern Alternative To the Problem of Evil 161
Kurian Kachappilly
- Human Rights and Human Development 183
D. Jeevan Kumar
- Students' Perspectives on Sex Education: A study of Sexual Attitudes and Behaviour Among Girl Students in Bangalore 192
Jacquleen J.
- From Mission to Movement: Nair Service Society 201
R. Venugopalan Nair
- Sustainable Organisations for Sustainable Entrepreneurship Development: NGO Initiatives at the Grassroots 212
Ganesh Bhat. S.
- Relationship of Self-esteem with Shyness, Personality and Academic Achievement in High-school Students 228
Lancy D'Souza, Gururaj B Urs & C. Ramaswamy

Comment

- Globalisation And Post-Durban Dalit Discourse 235
Ambrose Pinto S. J.

Profile

- Centre for Education Beyond Curriculum (CEDBEC) 248

Review Article

- Personalities that Spell Enchantment 252
Aravind Menon

Book Reviews

259

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EDITORIAL

The response of the academic fraternity towards the first issue of the AJSS has been quite positive and encouraging. We are glad to know that the AJSS has been well received. We would like to place on record our sincere thanks to all who sent in their words of appreciation, and comments and suggestions for improvement. One of the suggestions has been to highlight the meaning of the word *Artha*, the title of the Journal. The word *Artha* is of Sanskrit origin and rich in meaning, and it has been adopted by quite a few Indian languages that have affinity to Sanskrit. *Artha* is one of the four *purusharthas* [goals of life], according to Indian Philosophy. The four *purusharthas* are: *Dharma* [righteousness], *Artha* [wealth], *Kama* [pleasure] and *Moksha* [liberation]. Pursuit of wealth and pleasure should be based on *Dharma* and aimed at *Moksha*. Another meaning of *Artha* is the very word, *meaning*. The 'meaning' may refer to as mundane a thing as the meaning of a word, or to lofty concepts like meaning and purpose of life itself. [Hence the use of the word *artha* in *purusharthas*, goals/purpose of life].

The Social Sciences aim at, among other things, helping individuals and societies to achieve prosperity, wealth, progress and development, both in the economic realm and others. They aim at improving the quality of life, based on principles of righteousness and liberation from all shackles. In the process, the Social Sciences seek to provide for a meaningful existence, to enhance the quality of human life. Hence, the word *Artha* was adopted as the name for the Journal of Social Sciences. We request your collaboration in realising our goals.

We are glad to present this second issue of AJSS. It carries seven articles, one comment, a profile, a review article and three book reviews. The articles are on divergent topics. Dr. Nagendra Rao, in his *Trade and Transport in South Kanara*, tries to present evidences for the close association between trade and effective transport system, in the context of the pre-modern history of South Kanara. Dr. Kurian Kachappilly, in his paper on *Process Theodicy* discusses the vexing philosophical issue of the problem of evil. The article must serve as a definite contribution to understanding the complexities of human life. Dr. Jeevan Kumar of Bangalore University discusses the interrelationship between and dynamics of human rights and human development calling for a re-conceptualisation, through his paper, *Human Rights and Human Development*.

Jacquleen from NIMHANS reports the findings of her study of sexual attitudes and behaviour among girl students in Bangalore, in her article, *Students' Perspectives on Sex Education*. Her research findings evoke great interest and underline the need for effective sex education in schools and colleges. *From*

Mission to Movement is a paper on the life and dynamics of Nair Service Society, by Dr. Venugopalan Nair from the University of Goa.

Prof. Ganesh Bhat, in his paper, *Sustainable Organisations for Sustainable Entrepreneurship Development* evaluates the NGO initiatives at the grassroots levels. He discusses RUDSETIs as one of the case studies for the same. In the last paper in the articles section, Dr. Lancy D' Souza *et al* report the findings of their empirical study on the relationship between shyness, personality and academic achievement among high school students, and discuss some of the strategies for building self-esteem in students.

In the section *Comment*, Dr. Ambrose Pinto, Principal of St. Joseph's Evening College, Bangalore, shares his reflections on the Durban Conference on Racism and its implications on Globalisation and the life and future of the Dalits. Dr. Pinto was a participant in the Durban Conference.

In the *Review Article* Section, Mr. Aravind Menon introduces us to a unique book, *The Bird Woman and Other Creative Rebels* by Siddhartha. The Book Review section carries three reviews, on books published in the recent past.

The content of this second issue, like the first, is highly varied, and such an approach has its advantages and disadvantages. It is also our dream to bring out issues of the AJSS with a single theme, discussed from perspectives of various Social Science disciplines. We gladly welcome suggestions towards themes the AJSS should focus on, in the future issues. In the meantime, we hope the variety of articles and topics presented in the present issue will be intellectually stimulating, and well received. We are also glad to announce that the Journal will be available online. Please visit www.christcollege.edu for the electronic version. We look forward to your comments and suggestions, based on the first two issues, for further improvement of the quality and content of *Artha: Journal of Social Sciences*.

Fr. Paulson V. Veliyannoor

Executive Editor