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- **Contribute to building a new social order based on human dignity and social justice.**
- **Work with a preferential option for the vulnerable and exploited, both locally and globally.**
- **Build cadre of young, competent professionals having a global perspective and a strong value base of compassion, personal integrity, moderation, tolerance and self-respect.**

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Chief Editors

Dr. Lidwin Dias, Principal, College of Social Work (Autonomous), Nirmala Niketan, Mumbai
Contact details: cswnnprincipal@gmail.com/ Tel: 022-2209- 3778

Dr. Geeta Balakrishnan, Former Principal, College of Social Work (Autonomous), Nirmala Niketan, Mumbai
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EDITORIAL

Extraction based enterprises overuse available natural resources, emit hazardous pollutants and contribute to the degradation of existing ecosystems, causing serious threats to the biological diversity of our planet. Hence, there is an urgent need to undertake policy/legal actions to reduce the adverse impact. This edition of *Perspectives* identify the current environmental issues and the role of different stakeholders. The papers also focusses on corporate social responsibility, research, new media and children's parliament in bringing social change.

Employing qualitative research methods, the first paper titled *Fishing Hamlet Turned Ghost Land: Ecological and Livelihood Issues of Beach Sand Mining* by Vishnu Menon and Antony Palackal unfolds the story of Alappad coastal hamlet and examines the effects of industrial exploitation on ecology and its implications on local livelihood. Alappad which was once known as the "Rice bowl of central-Travancore" and the "Cultural locus of Kollam" has the presence of rare heavy minerals such as monazite, ilmenite, rutile and zircon, in and around this coast. These minerals continue to fetch high value in the global market. The discovery of these minerals has changed the fate of this tiny serene village that is subjected to intensive Beach Sand mining by foreign players. This has threatened the very existence of the coastal habitat, destroying the livelihood of the community.

The paper titled *Socio-Economic Impact of Protected Areas on lives and livelihoods of Communities: A Case Study of Bhitarkanika Conservation Area in Odisha* by Biswabhusan Ghadai, Aparna Watve, and Challuri Babu investigates the effect of protected areas on people across social groups and gender. The study finds that the impact of protected areas can differ in respect to the dependence of various social group, which is highest on those who previously depended on Protected Areas for their livelihood.

In the paper titled *Politics of Silicosis: Experiences of Unorganized Sandstone Minors*, the authors Mohammed Aamir and Rajeev M explore the impact of sandstone mining on unorganized workers and their families. The study conducted in four villages of the Beejoliya block of the Bhilwara district in Rajasthan (with twenty-two silicosis patients and ten widows) underlines that illiteracy, lack of livelihood alternatives, and the sandstone mining lobby are the causative factors behind the dismal state of sandstone miners. This study concludes that it is imperative to organize the workers through labour unions and adopt cooperative mining.

In the paper titled *Corporate Social Responsibility in the Domain of Education by the Information and Technology Companies in India,* the authors Dr. Astha Dewan and Srijana Singh discuss the potential of IT sector in the transformation of education sector. Through review of publically available data for the past 13 years of Infosys, Wipro, HCL Technologies, Tech Mahindra, and TCS during the pre- mandate period (2007-13) and post-mandate period (2013-20), the authors highlight a pattern of CSR contribution towards education.

In the paper titled "Ethnography as a Social Work Perspective: A Review and Challenges" by Dr. Mohmad Iqbal, Dr. Shabana Khurshid and Dr. Md. Aftab Alam, ethnography and its relevance to the substantive and methodological domain of Social Work is explored. The authors reiterate that social work research has been in positivistic/ quantitative clutches since the beginning, and ethnography as a methodology may offer a fresh perspective that responds to current environmental issues as well as address several ethical, political, cultural, and social concerns about the production of new knowledge and those aspects of life which are deep down hidden.

In the paper titled "Digital Advocacy *vs* Traditional Media Advocacy: What do Indian NGOs prefer", the authors Varsha Pillai and Dr Munmun Ghosh discuss the recent trends in social media advocacy. Some of the online platforms used by NGOs are

explored in the article. Through in-depth interviews with communication experts from different NGOs, the paper explores the role of digital and traditional media advocacy for success of campaigns.

In the paper titled “Reasons and motivating factors for children joining in children's parliament: A study in Thiruvallur District, Tamil Nadu”, S. Delphina Mary and Dr. A. Sivagami highlight the major reasons and motivating factors for children joining children's parliament. In the study, primary data from 450 members (students of 8-12 standards) of 30 children's parliaments formed by the Bon Secours Social Service Society in Thiruvallur district, Tamil Nadu is collected and analysed. The findings not only reveal the key agents encouraging children, but also discusses the factors such as 'wider contacts' and 'learning opportunities' which are reasons for children participating in the parliament.

The last segment of this edition of perspectives journal is a Book Review by Dr. Ronald Yesudhas on Dr. Sudhakar Yedla's book titled “Urban Transportation and the Environment: Issues, Alternatives and Policy Analysis”. The book deals with urban transportation planning in the context of environmental sustainability and social equity. It begins with an anecdote on happy walks and bicycle rides in small towns and villages in India which are sustainable modes of transportation, which interestingly the international development agencies are now trying to introduce as principles of sustainability to the developing world. The author critiques the urban infrastructure provision which is skewed towards motorized modes, thereby marginalizing the non-motorized modes such as walking and cycling, thereby promoting inequality and distress among urban poor who are subjected to extreme hardship for their travel needs. Through the nine chapters in the book the author advocates for a “sustainable and environmentally friendly mobility” system to a “chaotic urban transportation” that is unsustainable and also inequitable.

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38, New Marine Lines, Mumbai- 400 020. Tel: +91-22-2200 2615, 2206 7345
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Website: http://www.cswnn.edu.in