

Editorial

The current issue of *Loyola Journal* attempts to address five different but pertinent themes from a global perspective. The major topics brought under focus include New Farming Practices in Ethiopia, Concerns among Parents of Children with Hearing Impairment, Administration Processes in the Dispensation of Title Deeds in South Africa, Effectual Reasoning of Entrepreneurs in Social Enterprises in India, and Public Procurement and Corruption in South Africa.

In their paper on identifying the **factors that influence farmers' decisions to adopt new farming practices in Ethiopia**, Dawit and Saji discuss the issue in a unique geographical and social context. The article explores the vicious impact of poverty on agricultural practices. Covering a cross-section of 125 farm households, the study has revealed that educational status, availability of labour, access to extension service, size of land holding, oxen possession, membership of cooperatives, and the perceived distance of the market were found to be the deciding factors for the adoption of chemical fertilizers and improved seeds. The paper argues for the extension of public services to reach the poor households in remote areas of countries like Ethiopia, which is the need of the hour.

Next article is a case study by an inter-department team of social work practitioners comprising **Sita et al**, explain **the Psychosocial Concerns among Parents of Children with Hearing Impairment** in the Indian context. The study attempts to understand the psychosocial factors hindering the progress of children with hearing impairment who undergo Early Intervention Programme. This has been undertaken by conducting in-depth interviewing with the parents of these children. The factors perceived by the parents which affect the progress of their children include inadequate family support, imbalance in the emotional status of parents, lack of awareness on supportive services and financial constraints. The paper concludes with some practical suggestions, highlighting the relevance of the intervention of a professional team and the strengthening of the parent support group to enhance the intervention programmes among the hearing impaired.

The third paper, authored by **Mbongeni E. Magagula and Betty C. Mubangizi**, examines the theme of **Administration Processes**

in the Dispensation of Title Deeds in South Africa. Adopting a qualitative design and with reference to an informal settlement in the Kwa-Mashu township of KwaZulu-Natal Province as a case study, the study explores the administrative factors contributing to delays in processing title deeds for the beneficiaries of the low-income housing scheme. It also discusses the effect of these delays on the citizens living in this informal settlement. The study found a range of administrative issues relating to coordination, organizing and staffing to be responsible for the delays in processing title deeds. The authors suggest a structural reform in the current deeds processing system in order to address the specific features of the housing scheme and to manage the large number of beneficiaries.

In his paper on **Effectual Reasoning of Entrepreneurs,** Aby establishes the reasoning applied by the selected social entrepreneurs in India. He also contrasted the popular logic of causal reasoning with that of effectual thinking in the context of decision making to start social enterprises. Following a case study method, the author analysed three cases of social enterprises in India. The analysis revealed that effectuation is a useful tool with which one can assess the decision making processes of social entrepreneurs.

The final article entitled **Public Procurement and Corruption: The Litmus Test for South Africa's Transformative Outlook,** Prenisha and John discuss the disturbing issue of corruption. The paper offers a critical review of the current South African public procurement law framework, with a view to recommending statutory reform. It is concluded that the existing legislation contains significant shortcomings which demand an appropriate legal reform. The authors contend that though the judiciary plays an excellent role in upholding the rule of law, there is a need for further legislation to assist the courts and enable the judiciary to function more effectively to ensure the eradication of corruption in the public procurement system.

I gratefully remember the unstinting support of the Loyola College Management, Dr Saji P. Jacob, the Chief Editor, Dr. Cherian John, for the language editing and all the reviewers for their valuable contributions in bringing out this volume of *Loyola Journal*.

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