

urban poor in their paper on Surface Water Pollution and its Implication in the Kumba Municipality.

Usually a community is first thought of as people who share the same locality. It also means people who have things in common with others which involves them living together and sharing their resources. A strong community has a good understanding of what it means to live together and share common resources as in a traditional occupational community. However such communities too are vulnerable to risk in their traditional occupation. Interestingly, Sunil D.S. has shown in his article on "Proverbs on Coastal Hazards: Exploring Community Capacities for People-centred Disaster Risk Reduction in Kerala", how fishermen use proverbs as a common resource for risk reduction.

The above mentioned articles are regional empirical researches while the following three articles are research perspectives. Community development has always been a way of strengthening civil society by prioritising the actions of communities and their perspectives in development. The perspective to empower the women section of society to strengthen democracy and good governance is traced historically by Sabu P.Thomas in the article on "Women in panchayati raj institutions - a logical continuation of community development programme in India". Lekshmi V.Nair highlights the changing perspectives leading to various strategies for the care of the aged from institutionalisation to community based care. Finally Joseph Benjamin's article examines the existing perspective in the Indian context, wherein Social Sciences studies are not given as much importance as Science studies when the challenges of society are sought to be resolved by the findings of social science. The hope is that the discipline of Social Science will broaden and will gain importance in the perspective of the Government bodies as well, so that Social Science becomes an integral part in the application of Science.

Elizabeth Mathew



Editorial

Some of the major development issues coming up in most developing countries are in regard to vulnerable populations. Sections of society become vulnerable when diversity or difference appears due to a range of factors, some universal, some cultural and some, context specific. In the context of differing community statuses in the social and political dimensions, the exposition to vulnerability becomes greater. The state of vulnerability is the existence of a disadvantaged social status, inadequacy of interpersonal networks and supports, degraded neighborhoods and environments, and the complex interactions of these factors over the life course.

Different vulnerabilities require different types of policy interventions. The priority given to varying vulnerabilities, or their neglect, reflects the social values of development and speaks of how society views the vulnerable and thus decide whether or not to provide public assistance.

Inclusion of the vulnerable sections is a priority in the Millenium Development Goals. Inclusion accommodates difference, and also combats discrimination. It is a process which focusses on the removal of barriers that marginalise these sections and also build the capacity of such groups to lobby for their inclusion. Inclusive Development therefore is the process of ensuring that all marginalized or excluded groups are included in the development process.

As per the review of Asian Development Bank Literature the term inclusive growth or inclusive development is understood to refer to "growth coupled with equal opportunities," and has economic, social, and institutional dimensions. Among the major recommendations in the ADB literature is that, efforts to achieve inclusive growth and inclusive development should involve a combination of mutually reinforcing measures including (i) promoting efficient and sustainable economic growth, (ii) ensuring a level political playing field, (iii) strengthening capacities, and (iv) providing for social safety nets.

In this issue the vulnerable populations researched on are the women, the aged, the urban poor and traditional communities. Over the last few decades an ironic two-pronged trend has been happening. Cities are getting larger and urban communities are getting smaller with individualism growing. Lawrence and Qeenta show how negligence by a Municipality in Cameroon caused health hazards on the vulnerable