

## **Abstract**

**Vol. XV, No.1, 2001**

### **Centrality of Occupation for Social Mobility**

Somayaji Ganesha, Reader in Sociology, Goa University, Taleigao Plateau, Goa- 403 206, recognises the occupational dimension as a key determinant in social mobility which is also evident in the studies conducted both in India and in the West. It can yield deeper insights when the overall sociocultural matrix is taken into consideration. Giving significance to the dimension of occupation in mobility helps in the understanding of both the nature of contemporary mobile societies in terms of the systemic aspects of stratification and of aspects of social transformation on the other. The issue is whether the occupational structures allow (or disallow) occupational deviations across and within generations. The paper attempts to reiterate the necessity of taking into consideration the social context of mobility. The author holds that the studies in the area have categorised social reality into unequally positioned layers, which have been correlated with occupations. Movement from one occupation to the other represents mobility from one layer to the other. However, occupational composition is not the only indicator of the nature and quality of social relationships.

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### **Conflicts Over Park Resources: The Case of Mt. Elgon Park, Uganda**

Joseph Oonyu, Makerere University, Kampala, Uganda, assesses the impact of resource-use conflicts on community conservation of Mt. Elgon National Park in Uganda. The paper examines the causes of conflicts and the attitudes and participation of local people in the conservation of the Park. It looks into the approaches of the Park staff to resolve conflicts. Employing a number of methods, the study was conducted in a number of parishes around the Park. The local communities living around the Park are aware of the reasons for the existence of the Park and know very well that it is beneficial to them. For them the reasons of conflict include restricted access to Park land and forest resources, low levels of involvement of communities in conservation strategies, insecurity and the problem of wild animals. Due to the conflicts on the issues over the use of resources, the attitudes and participation of the communities have been negatively influenced. In order to be rid of these impediments, the author suggests a multi-pronged approach for conflict resolution, proper implementation of policies, conservation education, family planning and alternative use of energy.

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## **India since Independence: Random Thoughts**

KD Gandgrade, former Pro-Vice-Chancellor, University of Delhi and Vice Chairman, Gandhi Samiti, Gandhi Darshan, Rajghat, New Delhi – 110 002 , reflects over the situation in India since its independence. Emphasising the relevance of Gandhian ideals, the author laments that India has moved away from Gandhi although several of his concepts, ideals and principles are not only relevant but are growing in significance today. Analysing Indian society from a variety of perspectives, the author concludes that the worth of Gandhi is on the rise. Gandhi was a rationalistic planner. He stressed sanitation, health and nutrition among several other things, which are of value to the life of the ordinary person. It is reassuring to note that in recent years, there are attempts to go back to the Gandhian idea of integrated planning. According to the author, the relevance of Gandhi is eternal, timeless and universal. Gandhian cardinal principles of truth and non-violence are vital precepts. After independence, those who took over from the British have become new rulers and in order to suit their interests they have twisted the laws of the land.

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## **Watershed Management: Field Experiences from Kerala**

Terry Machado, Scientist, Centre for Earth Science Studies (CESS), Akkulam, Thiruvananthapuram–695 011, Kerala, shares his field experiences in participatory watershed management gained in a panchayat in Kerala. In a watershed-based development plan, the components of social engineering have as much importance as its technological component. The programme is intended to identify and test the strategies and methods that can lead to the consolidation of people's participation in the conservation and development of micro watershed-based natural resources. The author lists the lessons drawn from the experiment which, no doubt, can be similar in other contexts. In this process, a number of local actors, namely, neighbourhood groups, local committees, government departments and the panchayat are involved. The SWOL analysis shows that despite the favourable socioeconomic and geographical factors, the concept of watershed-based development has not deeply penetrated into the minds of the people in the area. However, the recent People's Plan Campaign has been helpful in this regard and the experience is bound to become a model for similar watershed-based development programmers.

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## **Agricultural Field Labour Cooperatives in Andhra Pradesh**

A Sathyanrayana, Lecturer in Social Work, Andhra Loyola College, Vijayawada, Andhra Pradesh - 520 008, presents his study on agricultural labour cooperatives in the Krishna District of Andhra Pradesh. The author finds that the field labour cooperatives in the area are not effective in their functioning and have very little impact in raising the living standards of the rural poor. Governmental interference is very high and the members, therefore, cannot consider the societies as their own but as an appendage of the state. The members are not sure of the nature, objectives and even the activities of the societies that are formed by them. They are not regular attendees in the meetings. Due to financial constraints and lack of enthusiasm among the members, they have given out their land for sub-lease. The societies themselves are interested in group functioning and it will not be easy to change to a situation that can improve the living conditions of the members.