

Abstracts

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A Malady amidst Chaos: Examining Population Vulnerability to the Chikungunya Epidemic in Kerala, India

Sunil D. Santha, *Department of Social Work, Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham, Amritapuri, Kollam, Kerala, India* (sunilds@gmail.com) and **Bhuvanewari. S** (buvas@gmail.com) examine the trajectories of vulnerability among the local population to emerging infectious diseases by analysing the outbreak of Chikungunya fever in the state of Kerala, India. The paper investigates the Kerala model of health care in dealing with emerging epidemics. It also analyses the implications of recent structural changes in governance on the capacity of public health institutions to deal with emergencies. The progression of vulnerability to emerging epidemics are analysed by using the Pressure and Release (PAR) model of vulnerability, which is largely derived from a political economy perspective. This paper demonstrates that various social, political, ecological and economic factors play a key role in increasing the vulnerability of people to new kinds of diseases. It advocates that any attempt towards the prevention and mitigation of public health risks should primarily aim at vulnerability reduction. This study also suggests that the prevention of emerging diseases should incorporate an integrated intervention-framework involving local communities, public health experts and the government.

Privatisation of Durban Public Transport and Challenges for an Emerging Metropolitan Transport Authority

Sultan Khan, *Sociology Programme, University of KwaZulu-Natal, Durban, South Africa* (khans@ukzn.ac.za), **Benoit Lootvoet**, *Institute for Research Development, 213, rue La Fayette, 75 480 Paris Cedex 10, France* (lootvoet@ird.fr) and **Stephane Vermeulen**, *Centre for International Studies, 14, voie romaine, 69290 Craponne, France* (stopho@yahoo.fr) report on their study of public transport in South Africa. During the apartheid era, the nationalist government privatised state owned utilities to a limited extent to promote white entrepreneurship. In the post-apartheid South Africa, this economic paradigm is revisited in the context of the wider macro-economic policy of the country. At a local government level a dual experimentation with privatisation and setting up a metropolitan transport authority has been undertaken, which is the first for the country. The approach was adopted amidst political ambiguity, and unclear policies to regulate such an institution resulting in a serious dilemma for metropolitan government to sustain an effective public transport system. This paper examines the case of Durban Transport, where privatisation policies have been implemented simultaneously with the establishment of a metropolitan transport authority. It traces the historical evolution of Durban Transport as a public service provider, the rationale behind privatisation, the challenges encountered within the privatised company in providing an efficient transport service and the dilemma of the municipality to regulate the private company, which is plagued by serious allegations of poor management, conflict amongst consortium partners,

violence, contest and competition for routes and conflict over shareholdings amongst different stakeholders.

Women's Involvement in the Hawking Trade: A Unique Livelihood Strategy in Moshi Municipality, Tanzania

D.G. Mhando, S.J. Nindi (Centre for Sustainable Rural Development, Sokoine University of Agriculture, Post Box 3035, Morogoro, Tanzania, email: david_mhando@yahoo.com, nindistephen@yahoo.com), and E. S. Chuma (Moshi Municipal Council, Post Box 345, Moshi, Kilimanjaro, Tanzania) say that limited formal income earning opportunities partly drive people into the informal sector. This situation is a consequence of either the ignorance/negligence or inability of the state authorities to cope with the burgeoning urban population. Moshi municipality is among the towns in Tanzania where "hawking trade" is practised. Although different from other areas, women are highly involved. This paper examines factors that contribute to the involvement of women in the hawking trade in Moshi municipality. A sample of 84 women engaged in hawking trade was studied. The results revealed that women hawking traders were aged between 19 and 54 years and characterised by low educational levels and low income. The Chagga cultural setting and limited ways of earning income were among the reasons that forced women into hawking trade. Problems encountered by women hawkers include heavy rain which restricts their mobility, limited areas for conducting their business and frequent harassment by the law enforcers.

Impact of the Life Skills Development Programme on the Behavioural Aspects of Children in Need of Care and Protection

Jessy John, Adam Smith Institute of Management (ICFAI), H-14 &15, Mansarovar Industrial Area, Mansarovar, Jaipur -302020, India (jessyjohn03@gmail.com), argues the need for skills development for children who are in need. Children's homes/ juvenile homes provide care and protection to all those children who are in need of care and protection and who come under the purview of the juvenile justice system. Generally children in such institutions are perceived as individuals who are of unconstructive behaviours and actions. In reality these children are faced with situations that have no easy solution and their behaviour is guided by some learned helplessness. When they are faced with negative situations they either react with impulsiveness which is often out of the accepted norms of the society or they accept the reality as such and fail to show an emotionally balanced reaction. Recidivism in the form of problem behaviours even after their institutionalisation shows that the kind of education, vocation training and guidance imparted to these children inside the juvenile homes are not sufficient for inculcating positive behaviour and for moulding them into individuals with high emotional and behavioural intelligence. This paper finds out the significant levels of changes that a life skills development programme brings forth in the behaviour components and problem behaviours of juveniles in juvenile homes.

Oribi Village Re-visited: A Case Study of Desegregation and Social Integration in South Africa

Biniam Misgun, Moya Bydowell and Simon Burton, *Sociology Programme, University of KwaZulu-Natal, Pietermaritzburg, P/B X01 Scottsville 3201, South Africa* (misgunb@ukzn.ac.za, bydowellm@ukzn.ac.za, burton@ukzn.ac.za) present the findings of research (begun in 2003) on the state-managed housing estate of Oribi Village in Pietermaritzburg, South Africa. The purpose of the paper is to report on findings of a survey conducted in 2008, examining the processes of desegregation and social integration in this locale, which may shed light on the unfolding drama of post-apartheid spatial and social re-integration of groups separated by the policies of the National Party government. The paper shows that the locale continues to be re-shaped by demographic change, and charts the attitudinal changes associated with the changing 'mix' of residents.

Emotional Intelligence Skills Training as a Therapeutic Technique amongst Inmates of Agodi Prison, Ibadan, Nigeria

M.O. Busari, *Federal College of Education (Special) Oyo, Oyo State, Nigeria* (olanikebusari@yahoo.com) investigates emotional intelligence skills training in enhancing desirable behaviour in 50 inmates of Agodi prison, Ibadan, Oyo State, Nigeria. The instrument used for data collection was the Emotional Intelligence Test (EIT). The results of the study indicated that there were significant differences between treated and the control group and also between male and female inmates. The study further finds that there was no significant difference between Christian and Muslim inmates of Agodi prison exposed to emotional intelligent skills training.

Other Papers:

Privatisation in South Africa: Mduduzi Mtshali: A Note - **Mduduzi Mtshali**