

place. Hence, the theses produced are not worth publishing. Although the UGC is revising norms, who will succeed in enforcing it in a politicised campus atmosphere?

The year brings certain woes to the editorial board. Prof. Sooryamoorthy, who has been associated with the Journal from its very conception, is leaving. He had a strong affinity with the College. He completed his Masters in 1986 and his PhD in 1993 from Loyola. He joined the Sociology Department of the College as a Lecturer in 1995 until he left to take up his teaching job at the University of KwaZulu-Natal in South Africa, where he later became the Head of Department of Sociology and then the Head of the School of Sociology and Social Studies. He also taught at the University of Calgary in Canada and at the Lulea University of Technology in Sweden. He has published widely in international journals, and authored more than a dozen books. He serves on the editorial board of *Theoria*, the *Journal of Comparative Family Studies* and the *South African Review of Sociology*. Since 1997 he has edited the *Loyola Journal of Social Sciences*. He succeeded in getting the journal accredited by several international indexing/abstracting services including the International Bibliography of the Social Sciences. He made the Journal into a peer-reviewed one, improved its layout and quality of production and brought the Journal up to international standards. He encouraged many young scholars to publish in the journal. The editorial board wishes Prof. Sooryamoorthy every success in the new venture undertaken by him. Dr. Saji, who belonged to the teaching faculty of sociology at the Loyola College of Social Sciences, has generously accepted the editorship. He completed his doctorate at Mahatma Gandhi University in Kerala. We offer him every support and wish him success in making this journal reach even greater heights in academic circles.



Editorial

EJ Thomas S.J

Founder Editor

The *Loyola Journal of Social Sciences* turns 25 years this year. It is a joyous occasion for all of us who are associated with its publication: subscribers, the editorial board and its well-wishers. Twenty-five years ago, on the 31st of July, the feast day of our patron saint Ignatius of Loyola, the journal was launched by the then Governor of Kerala. Its publication was a prelude to the silver jubilee celebrations of the Loyola College of Social Sciences. While reviewing the journal, the editor of *Jeevan* remarked that many colleges had attempted the publication of journals but hardly any survived. We know it would not have been an easy without the commitment of the editorial staff, especially Prof. Sooryamoorthy. The main objective of the Journal was to create a forum for budding research scholars and those who are engaged in the teaching profession in Kerala to publish their original works, which are otherwise difficult to get published. To our surprise, we found very few candidates made use of this opportunity in Kerala and often the work they submitted has not been worth publishing.

Finance was often a problem for us. The University of Kerala every year used to offer a small amount by way of encouragement. Although there are a number of colleges offering higher education courses very few subscribed to the Journal. Therefore, the entire expenses have to be met by the Management of the College.

In Kerala, those interested in academic pursuits belong to a rare species. Of late, the absence of such people became visible when the choice-based semester system was introduced in the universities of Kerala. The new trend in education has not caught up in academic circles in Kerala although it stood first among the Indian States in the field of higher education. Strongly politicised party organisations of students and teachers are not in favour of the academic reforms proposed by the University Grants Commission (UGC). The universities in Kerala are helpless in enforcing the norms under the UGC scheme. Although teachers enjoyed the economic benefits offered under the Scheme, they neglected the academic aspects of the Scheme. The Faculty Improvement Programme offered under the UGC scheme is not seriously pursued to achieve greater academic excellence, except for the financial benefit of the scheme. Evaluation of the PhD programme is not taking