

Editorial

The Loyola Journal of Social Sciences (LJSS) has had social development as its overarching concern throughout its history of over two decades. In every issue, we have come back time and again to the theme of social development. This issue is no different. Here, we focus on some of the most important facets of social development: women's empowerment, the decentralisation of political power, equality, urban health, fertility, and even social work as a tool in achieving development.

While discoursing on social development, the primary concern remains the conceptions of the good life that societies dream of. The utopias that guide the discussions are indeed so significant that invariably they colour our belief systems, practices, and modes of community life. Unfortunately, this century has seen the near demise of many of the grand dreams with which people lived and for which they have toiled. Now, part of the discourse on social development is to revive the dreams. In reviving those dreams, tolerance should become the primary attitude. Intolerance has indeed destroyed so much of what we have built up and also pushed people into their own cocoons.

We need to initiate new modes and forums of discourses, especially as the global community goes through the current huge economic downturn. Basic questions of what life is about, what kinds of development we want and who should really benefit from developmental efforts need to be addressed.

We hope this issue will help in a discourse of this kind.