

IEG PAST AND PRESENT

SOCIOLOGY AT IEG

The social dimensions of development found formal recognition early at the Institute in the very name that was first given to it in 1958 — Institute of Economic and Social Growth. This was soon afterwards shortened to Institute of Economic Growth (IEG), perhaps because it was considered too long; besides, no programme of sociological research was proposed. Apart from research on agriculture and industry, which was defined in orthodox economic terms, IEG took over from the Delhi School of Economics (DSE) a third programme on demography and urbanisation, and this obviously included some consideration of sociological issues. Nafis Bisht, a sociologist, was one of the supporting research staff who were transferred to IEG from DSE. It may be recalled here that when Professor V.K.R.V. Rao established another research institute at Bangalore in 1971, he not only called it the Institute of Social and Economic Change (ISEC), but also invited Professor M.N. Srinivas to join him as Joint Director and organise a programme of sociological research and teaching.

Later, in 1963, sociology and social aspects of economic growth were made a component of the research methodology course that IEG agreed to organise on behalf of the Delhi School of Economics. P.C. Joshi, who was on the research staff of the Agro-Economic Research Centre, was appointed an Associate Fellow to teach this component. Dr. Joshi had graduated with an M.A. in economics from the Department of Economics and Sociology, University of Lucknow. His doctoral dissertation was a fieldwork-based and sociologically informed study of land reforms in U.P.

In the early 1960s the IEG building housed not only the Institute itself, but also the UNESCO Research Centre on Urbanization in South and South-East Asia. In anticipation of its programme of activities (research, training, documentation, etc.) being wound up (on completion of the mission) by the end of 1966, negotiations between IEG, UNESCO and the Government of India resulted in an agreement under which the Institute was to take over some of the activities and assets (mainly the library) of the UNESCO Centre. Such a merger of activities, it was expected, would expand IEG's research interests by

adding sociology and comparative Asian studies of development to its programme.

The Centre was headed in 1965 by a French sociologist, Pierre Bessaignet, who had done research in East Pakistan. Besides, there were several other sociologists on its staff including M.O.L. Klein (the Netherlands), Leslie Palmier (U.K.), M. Slamet (Indonesia), S. Navlakha and M.C. Sekhar. Bessaignet invited me early that year to join the Centre to replace Palmier who was leaving. I was at that time at Karnatak University (Dharwad), and agreed to make the move. He introduced me to Professor P.N. Dhar, Director of IEG, and the formal process of recruitment was set in motion. By the time I finally joined IEG as Senior Fellow in March 1966, for immediate deputation to the Centre, Bessaignet also had left, and a well-known Polish sociologist, Janusz Ziolkowski, was the Director of the Centre. As his deputy, my task was to draw up a programme of research for approval by IEG and UNESCO to be put in place in January 1967. This was done.

A programme section called the Asian Research Centre was established at IEG on 1 January 1967 with M.O.L. Klein (UNESCO appointee), S. Navlakha (Associate Fellow) and I as the research staff. Later in the year five more persons were recruited: S. Seshaiiah (sociologist) and R. Thamarajakshi (economist) joined as Associate Fellows; R. Bhatnagar (sociologist), Supriya Singh (sociologist), and P.C. Verma (economist) were the research assistants. By the end of the year one more sociologist, Ralph Pieris (Sri Lanka), joined as UNESCO appointed adviser on regional research. It was understood that R. Thamarajakshi would adopt an interdisciplinary and comparative approach in her research. S. Seshaiiah had done fieldwork in a Japanese village and was completing his doctoral dissertation on land reforms there.

Among the areas of research that were adopted, mention may be made of rationality in peasant agriculture (Thamarajakshi), land reforms (Seshaiiah), nutrition and food habits (Klein), emergence of modern occupations and professions (Madan), formation of elites (Navlakha), and problems of nation-formation (Madan, Navlakha).

In the course of the next three years, as the UNESCO-appointed staff completed their assignments, and the enhanced financial support promised in 1965

by the Ministry of Education, Government of India, did not come through, it became clear that the necessary resources for research on or in other Asian countries would not be available.

Seshaiah moved to ISEC in Bangalore in 1971. Meanwhile Ratna Dutta (later Ratna Naidu), who had degrees in economics and sociology, had joined the Centre in 1969. With the financial support of UNESCO, she was able to do fieldwork in Malaysia on the socio-economic dimensions of the Chinese-Malay divide as well as in Bidar (A.P.) on the same aspects of the Hindu-Muslim cleavage. By the time she completed her work, direct financial support from UNESCO to IEG also dried up. But in 1974 UNESCO agreed to support my research proposal for a comparative study of the modern medical profession in Asia with a focus on institution-based doctors. (I had already completed an intensive study of private practitioners in Ghaziabad during 1968-70). Studies were done in Iran, Malaysia, and Sri Lanka and in India (by me). The project was completed in 1977 under my supervision.

Following the departure of R. Thamarajakshi (1969), P.C. Joshi joined the Asian Research Centre (on transfer from the Research Methodology Section which was closed) and continued research in the area of peasant studies initiated earlier by Drs. Seshaiah and Thamarajakshi. He made a major study of land and tenancy reforms in India and Pakistan on the basis of published data. Subsequently, he moved out of the Centre. Ratna Naidu also left IEG in 1974 to go to Hyderabad.

By the late 1970s a small but credible sociology research programme had been established, but the plan to conduct comparative studies did not succeed, mainly because of lack of resources. By the mid-1980s the research staff had been reduced to four (three sociologists and one economist) supported by one research assistant, a sociologist. The Asian Research Centre came to be redesignated as the Sociology Section, and its research focus was broadly defined as studies of social structure, social change and social development in India. The lone economist in the Centre, P.C. Verma, who had been promoted to faculty status and was engaged in the study of trade patterns in South Asia, was relocated. (Mr. Verma had earlier collaborated with me in the study of the growth of the professions in selected Asian countries).

Thanks to the support of the Director, Professor K. Krishnamurty, and of the ICSSR Visiting Committee (headed by Professor A. Vaidyanathan) a faculty position at the level of reader was created and Ramachandra Guha appointed to it in 1990. (The earlier faculty designations of Senior Fellow and Associate Fellow had meanwhile been changed to Professor and Reader, and Junior Fellows had been redesignated as Research Associates). Guha's major research interests, namely ecology and environment, were welcome additions to IEG's sociology programme. Regrettably, he did not stay long at IEG and left in 1990 to take up a Fellowship at the Nehru Memorial Museum and Library.

Subsequently, three more appointments at the Reader's level were made and these have added new research themes to IEG's sociology programme. Patricia Uberoi joined IEG at the beginning of 1993 after 12 years teaching sociology at the Delhi School of Economics and the Jawaharlal Nehru University. Apart from her current work in the sociology of gender, family and kinship studies, and sociological aspects of popular culture, her long-term interest in Chinese society represents a continuation and renewal of the sociology section's earlier focus on issues of comparative Asian development. Following Patricia, Satish Deshpande joined the section in May 1996, coming to it after almost five years at the University of Hyderabad. His interest in economic sociology (especially economic ideologies) and his project on the Indian middle classes, extends the section's longstanding interest in these areas, as reflected in the earlier works of Madan and Navlakha. He is also involved in researching issues of communalism and caste in contemporary India, and has recently developed an interest in the history of Indian sociology and anthropology. The sociology section was further expanded when Nandini Sundar joined IEG in November 1997 after finishing a research fellowship at Edinburgh University. Her doctoral work at Columbia University, New York, was on the political history of Bastar in Madhya Pradesh. Her current interests include environment and collective action, along with continued work in political anthropology and in the history of anthropology/sociology.

Meanwhile, Suren Navlakha, who had published a book on the elites and social change, had retired in 1990. Five years later I also retired after an association with IEG spread over 31 years. The association continues by virtue of the gracious decision of the

IEG to make me an Honorary Professor. In the course of the three decades of my association with IEG, I was allowed by the Institute to accept visiting professorships in the USA (in 1970-71, 1984-85, 1990, and 1995) and to work as Member-Secretary of the Indian Council of Social Science Research (1978-81).

Besides their engagement with research, sociologists at IEG have also participated in teaching and training programmes. The Institute conducted two to four week-long training programmes on the sociology of development for Asian countries with the financial support of UNESCO, in 1968 (Delhi), 1970 (Baguio City, the Philippines), 1976 (Delhi), and 1981 (Delhi). At IEG itself, Joshi, Navlakha and I participated for many years in the training programme of IES probationers and supervised M.Phil and Ph.D. students. Throughout the 1970s Joshi and I also gave lectures at the Department of Sociology, Delhi School of Economics.

Notwithstanding small numbers and fairly frequent changes of personnel, the senior sociology faculty at IEG have supervised students registered at the University of Delhi for research studies at the Institute or at the Department of Sociology. Research students of other universities also have worked under the supervision of IEG's sociology faculty. The appended table provides details.

In 1966, the journal *Contributions to Indian Sociology* (CIS), of which Louis Dumont was the founder-editor, ceased publication. The second series of the journal was launched in 1967 under the sponsorship of IEG and I assumed the responsibilities of editorship. The journal has since then won recognition as the premier international forum for the publication of articles, essays, reviews, etc. in the field of the sociology of India. After working for the journal for 25 years, I handed over my responsibilities in 1992 to an editorial committee consisting of Patricia Uberoi, then at Jawaharlal Nehru University, Ramachandra Guha from IEG, Veena Das from Delhi School of Economics and Dipankar Gupta, also from JNU. *Contributions* was an annual publication for eight years, and became a biannual in 1975. With effect from 1999 there will be three numbers per volume. Ramachandra Guha resigned from the editorial committee from 1995. Satish Deshpande is now the

Book Review Editor, succeeding Patricia Uberoi and earlier Satish Saberwal in that role. Aradhya Bhardwaj has been Editorial Assistant to the journal since she joined the sociology section of the IEG as supporting research staff in 1978 (in place of Shernawaz Billimoria who had succeeded Supriya Singh).

A feature of the career of CIS (New Series) has been the publication of special numbers, occasionally with guest editors, which are usually issued also as books. The guest editors have been Veena Das (Delhi University), McKim Marriott (University of Chicago), Satish Saberwal (JNU), and Patricia Uberoi. These special numbers have enjoyed considerable success in terms of both sales and academic influence. Review symposia also have been published on the selected works of Louis Dumont, Gananath Obeyesekere, M.N. Srinivas and S.J. Tambiah.

Outside the main sociology programme, recognition of the importance of sociological data and perspectives in the researches of the Population Studies Centre of IEG has already been mentioned above. This recognition has not, however, led to any major sociological studies, although a study of primary health care may be mentioned. Similarly, and for a variety of reasons, including the nature of the research designs, studies by economists on themes like family planning, common property resources and environment have not had any significant inputs from sociologists. It may be noted here, however, that ample use of ethnographic data and sociological perspectives has been made by Bina Agarwal (an economist) in her major work, *A field of one's own: Gender and land rights in South Asia* (1994). IEG is commencing gender-related health studies and it is expected that sociological studies will, for obvious reasons, form a critical component of this programme.

IEG's sociology programme has been rather small; it has suffered from resource constraints, frequent faculty changes, and the problems of interdisciplinary communication. But it has come to stay. Now that it has entered its fourth decade, it is hoped that it will grow in size and stabilise. The scope of the programme is already fairly well defined; the task is to carry it out.

T.N. Madan

Appendix I : Bibliography

A. Books authored/edited by Sociology faculty at IEG

- Ratna Dutta and P.C.Joshi, eds., 1971. *Studies in Asian social development, No. 1*. Bombay: Tata McGraw-Hill. xviii + 276 pp.
- S. Navlakha, ed., 1974. *Studies in Asian social development, No. 2*. New Delhi: Vikas Publishing House. xv + 226 pp.
- R. Naidu (Dutta), 1980. *Communal edge to plural societies: India and Malaysia*. New Delhi: Vikas Publishing House. xii + 173 pp.
- S. Seshaiyah, 1980. *Land reform and social change in a Japanese village*. Bangalore : Shiny Publishers, 335 pp.
- S. Navlakha, 1989. *Elite and social change: A study of elite formation in India*. New Delhi: Sage Publications. 190 pp.
- Patricia Uberoi, ed., 1996. *Social reform, sexuality and the state*. New Delhi: Sage Publications. xxvi + 404 pp.
- T.N. Madan (in collaboration with Paul Wiebe, Rahim Said and Malsiri Dias), 1980. *Doctors and society: Three Asian case studies. India, Malaysia, Sri Lanka*. New Delhi: Vikas Publishing House. viii + 311 pp.
- T. N. Madan, 1983. *Culture and development*. New Delhi: Oxford University Press. 61 pp.
- T.N. Madan, ed., 1976. *Muslim communities of south Asia: Culture and society*. New Delhi: Vikas Publishing House. 183 pp.
- T.N. Madan, ed., 1982. *Way of life: King, householder, renouncer (Essays in honour of Louis Dumont)*. Delhi: Motilal Banarsidass Publishers. xiv + 435 pp.
- T.N. Madan, ed., 1995. *Muslim communities of south Asia: Culture, society and power* (2nd revised, enlarged edition). New Delhi: Manohar Publishers in association with the Book Review Literary Trust. xxii + 544 pp.
- T. N. Madan, 1997. *Modern myths, locked minds: Secularism and fundamentalism in India*. New Delhi: Oxford University Press. xv + 323 pp.

B. Guest edited volumes

- Satish Saberwal, ed., 1978. *Process and institution in urban India: Sociological studies*. New Delhi: Vikas Publishing House. 251 pp.
- Veena Das, ed., 1986. *The word and the world: Fantasy, symbol and record*. New Delhi: Sage Publications. x + 218 pp.
- McKim Marriott, ed., 1990. *India through Hindu categories*. New Delhi: Sage Publications. xvi + 209 pp.

C. Other books by faculty (outside IEG's research programme)

- Ratna Dutta, 1971. *Values in models of modernization*. Delhi: Vikas Publishing House. x + 137 pp.
- A. Beteille and T.N. Madan, eds., 1975. *Encounter and experience: Personal accounts of fieldwork*. Delhi: Vikas Publishing House. viii + 225 pp.
- T.N. Madan, 1987. *Non-renunciation: Themes and interpretations of Hindu culture*. Delhi: Oxford University Press. xii + 184 pp.
- George N. Appell and T.N. Madan, eds., 1988. *Choice and morality in anthropological perspective* (Essays in honour of Derek Freeman). Albany, N.Y.: State University of New York Press. xv + 248 pp.
- T.N. Madan, 1989. *Family and kinship: A study of the Pandits of rural Kashmir* (2nd enlarged edition). Delhi: Oxford University Press. xxvi + 325 pp.
- T.N. Madan, ed., 1991. *Religion in India*. Delhi: Oxford University Press. xv + 448 pp.
- Patricia Uberoi, ed., 1993. *Family, kinship and marriage in India*. Delhi: Oxford University Press. x + 502 pp.
- T.N. Madan, 1994. *Pathways: Approaches to the study of society in India*. Delhi: Oxford University Press. xv + 289 pp.
- Nandini Sundar, 1997. *Subalterns and sovereigns: An anthropological history of Bastar, 1854-1996*. Delhi: Oxford University Press. xxiv + 296 pp.

Appendix II: Research students supervised by IEG Sociology faculty

S.No.	Name of student	Degree	Topic	Department institution	or University	Year of award	Superevisor
1.	Niaz Ahmad Azmi	Ph.D	The Shibli institute: A case study of the development of education in East UP with special reference to Muslims	Faculty of Education	Jamia Millia Islamia New Delhi	1975	T.N. Madan S. Shukla
2.	Nalini Shekharan	M.Phil	Purity, pollution and social classification	Deptt. of Sociology	University of Delhi	1977	T.N. Madan
3.	Girish Mishra	Ph.D	Agrarian problem of permanant settlement: A case study of Champaran, 1857-1947	Delhi School of Economics	University of Delhi	1977	P.C. Joshi
4.	Patricia Uberoi	Ph.D	A cognitive study of revolutionary discourse: <i>New Youth</i> and the Chinese New Culture Movement	Deptt. of Sociology	University of Delhi	1980	T.N. Madan Veena Das
5.	S.M. Batra	Ph.D	The place of livestock in the social and economic system of a village In Haryana	Deptt. of Sociology	University of Delhi	1982	P.C. Joshi B.S. Baviskar
6.	Meenakshi Thapan	Ph.D	Education and ideology: The school as a socio-cultural system	Deptt. of Sociology	University of Delhi	1984	T. N. Madan
7.	Mala Kapur Khullar	Ph.D	The moral education of primary school children	Deptt. of Sociology	University of Delhi	1987	T. N. Madan
8.	Oyvind Jaer	Ph.D	Lifeworld ethnography of an Indian village	Institute of Social Anthropology	University of Oslo	1990	T. N. Madan A.M. Klausen
9.	Urvashi Misri	Ph.D	The child and society: a study of Pandit children in a Kashmiri village	Deptt. of Sociology	University of Delhi	1991	T. N. Madan
10.	J.Michael Kennedy	M.Phil	Reading the popular text: A study of cultural contestation	Centre for the Study of Social Systems	J.N.U.	1993	Patricia Uberoi
11.	Anjali Bhatia	M.Phil	From nature to signature: An encounter with Levi-Straussian anthropology	Centre for the Study of Social Systems	J.N.U.	1993	Patricia Uberoi
12.	Minakshi P. Thorat	M.Phil	Colonial law, women and the state: A gender perspective on social reform in Maharashtra in the late nineteenth century	Centre for the Study of Social Systems	J.N.U.	1993	Patricia Uberoi
13.	M. Nadarajah	Ph.D	Class and non-class practices in historical materialism : a sociological elaboration and reconstruction	Centre for the Study of Social Systems	J.N.U.	1993	Patricia Uberoi

S.No.	Name of student	Degree	Topic	Department or institution	University	Year of award	Superevisor
14.	Anjali Widge	M.Phil	The new reproductive technologies: a sociological perspective on social control of the female body	Centre for the Study of Social Systems	J.N.U.	1994	Patricia Uberoi
15.	Madhulika Banerjee	Ph.D	Power, culture, medicine: A study with special reference to Ayurvedic pharmaceuticals in India	Deptt. of Political science	University of Delhi	1995	T.N. Madan M. Mohanty
16.	Sudeshna Parija	M.Phil	Patriarichal transformations: Women viewers' response to changing feminine roles in Indian soap-operas	Deptt. of Sociology	University of Hyderabad	1996	Satish Deshpande

EVENTS

The seventh death anniversary of Dr.V.K.R.V. Rao was commemorated on Saturday 25 July 1998. The programme included tree plantation on the Institute campus, as well as devotional songs by students of the Music Faculty, University of Delhi, in Sri Ramakrishna Hall.

The 10th V.T. Krishnamachari lecture, entitled "Beyond growth and globalization", was delivered on Friday 25th September 1998 by Professor Richard Norgaard, President of the International Society for Ecological Economics and Professor of Energy and Resources, and of Agricultural Resource Economics, at the University of California at Berkeley. Professor Norgaard's major contributions are in the area of environment and resource economics. In recent years he has also written on western materialism, biodiversity valuation, and alternative paradigms of development.

Professor Norgaard began his lecture by reviewing briefly the recent history of critiques of "undifferentiated, undirected economic growth" and the consequent rise of theories of "sustainable development". The collapse of the Soviet Union, the unchallenged supremacy of the "market model" of development and the increased emphasis on competitiveness now demand urgent and critical address to issues of globalization along with sustainable development: "This is an appopriate time and place", he said, "first to document how far we have veered from a reasonable course;... to ask how current myths that coevolved with current economic theory have kept us from distinguishing between growth, globalization and human progress; and ... to suggest how we might get back on a path, or many paths, of progress."

"One of the basic reasons growth and globalization are not leading to progress", Professor Norgaard argued, "is because there are no linkages, no feedbacks, between current changes and what can continue on into the future." Massive population increase, high and unequal rates of consumption, unsustainable use of energy resources and loss of biodiversity have all contributed to create a situation in which the present generation is living on the heritage of their children and grandchildren.

The uncritical pursuit of unsustainable strategies for economic growth is rationalised by a set of "shared myths" that "have coevolved with economic thinking": for instance, that it is immoral to hurt the interests of peasants to save the forest; that appreciation of the environment is a luxury only the rich can afford; that capitalist economies can only grow, or crash; that social and environmental losses are compensated by gains from expanding trade and reduced government spending, etc.

Concluding his lecture, Professor Norgaard sought to spell out new goals of development and globalization that would correct the misguided thinking of the past: "We must incorporate what we have learned over the past quarter century; we must address the new myths that stymie constructive action, and we must assert when and for whom growth and globalization are appropriate, and otherwise push for dematerialization and community." Though there are great differences between countries, as Professor Norgaard admitted, "these differences also offer the opportunity for each country to help and learn from others."

Prefacing his lecture, Professor Norgaard had welcomed the formation of the Indian chapter of the International Society for Ecological Economics, and appreciated the role of IEG faculty in bringing this important new initiative to fulfilment.