

# *Indian Journal of Social Work & Social Sciences*

Volume : II

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March 2014

## *Section One : Social Work Concerns - Vidarbha*

*Rashmi Babhulkar      Epilepsy and Rural Society : A Study of Epileptic Patients from four villages of Nagpur District*

*Amod Gurjar          Accessibility of the Reserved Twenty-Five percent seats under the RTE Act : A Field Study from the City of Nagpur*

*Suvarna Damle        Suicide - Affected Farmers' Families in Vidarbha and Measures of Intervention : Outlining a tentative model of intervention*

*Josephine Philo      The Push and Pull Factors in the Sale of Human Beings : Glimpses from Nagpur, Pune and Mumbai*

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*Nandita Mane        The Feature of Contrast and the Poems from Pickwick Papers : Examining Charles Dickens as a Poet*



**Matru Sewa Sangh Institute of Social Work**

Bajaj Nagar, Nagpur 440010, Maharashtra, India

UGC-NAAC Accredited 'A' grade College

# *Matru Sewa Sangh Institute of Social Work*

*Since 1958*

*(UGC-NAAC Accredited 'A' Grade College)*

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Late Padmashree Kamalatai Hospet  
(23.05.1896 15.11.1981)



Late Dr Satyabala Tayal  
(07.10.1924 06.01.2002)

#### About Matru Sewa Sangh - the Beginnings

The beginnings of the Matru Sewa Sangh Institute of Social Work can be traced back to the year 1921 when Late Padmashree Kamalatai Hospet founded Matru Sewa Sangh (MSS) in the city of Nagpur.

Having witnessed the abysmal facilities for pregnant Indian women, Kamalatai, widowed at the age of 15, set up maternity homes in Central Provinces and Berar. Her work, and more so her nature, attracted some remarkable individuals who engaged their life expanding the domain of MSS.

One such person was Dr (Ms) Satyabala Tayal. A true Gandhian, Satyabala had walked miles in the scorching sun of Hissar (Haryana) as a Bhoodhan worker a contribution acknowledged in the form of a 'Praman Patra' (1957) awarded by the Govt. of Punjab. Drawn to MSS by its unique 'all-women-run' organizational structure and on the advice from Kamalatai, Satyabala, came to Nagpur in 1956.

Observing the growing activities of MSS and the ensuing shortage of trained human power she decided to set up a "School of Social Work for Women".

#### About the Institute

The "School of Social Work for Women" founded by Dr Satyabala Tayal began with just seven students in a small room in the premises of MSS at Sitabuldi in Nagpur offering a Certificate Course in Social Work. It evolved with a coherent perspective, from a Certificate Course in Social Work to a Bachelor's course, and subsequently the Masters and M.Phil courses followed.

To strengthen the academic programmes the Institute pioneered field action projects in hospital and community settings for rural people, abandoned children, women in distress, low-income families in slum localities and drug addicts. In the last decade the Institute has been offering its expertise in the areas of evaluation, monitoring and research to governmental and non-governmental organizations.

The Government of Maharashtra honoured Dr Satyabala Tayal with the Savitribai Phule Award in 1990.

Nourished by the liberal tradition and social reform orientation of the MSS, the Matru Sewa Sangh Institute of Social Work continues to grow contributing its mite in the making of a modern India.

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#### About Indian Journal of Social Work & Social Sciences

The Indian Journal of Social Work & Social Sciences (IJSWASS) is a bi annual national level peer reviewed journal, published by the Matru Sewa Sangh Institute of Social Work. The journal would cover all the fields of Social Work and Social Sciences. Research papers as well as scientific articles are accepted.

## Goals of IJSWASS

- To provide the platform to the Students, Alumni and Faculty of the Matru Sewa Sangh Institute of Social Work to undertake scientific writing.
- To encourage young researchers in social work and social sciences.
- To motivate the researchers to promote indigenous knowledge.
- To contribute to the body of knowledge of Indian Social Work Literature.
- To promote exchange of ideas and innovative social work practice.
- To provide the platform for the innovations in social work practice.
- To report significant advances in the field of social work practice and education.

## Instructions for the authors

Procedure: The authors who are interested to contribute the Research papers & Articles have to send their work to the journalmssisw@gmail.com with a declaration that it is their original work and that it has not been published elsewhere. Manuscripts need to be sent in soft copy in Microsoft Word 2007 on A4 Size with 12 font size.

## Layout of the paper

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## FROM THE CHIEF EDITOR

The Matru Sewa Sangh Institute of Social Work is grateful to all the paper writers, scholars, students, faculty members, practitioners and others who gave an overwhelming reception to the inaugural issue of the 'Indian Journal of Social Work and Social Sciences' which helped to boost our confidence manifold.

The second issue of IJSWASS contains two sections, the first one on 'Social Work Concerns Vidarbha' and the second one on 'Social Work Concerns India'. As you will notice, we have made conscious efforts to include articles from all three categories of readers, namely, scholars, teachers and practitioners. Two articles in this issue are primarily focussed on social work intervention.

The highlight of this issue is a note titled "The Great (Social Work) Academic Piracy" written by senior social work academic and well known author Dr Shankar Pathak. It is a very lucid narration of the sad state of affairs prevailing in academic writings, wherein, academic piracy has become more of a norm than an exception. We received this note from Dr Pathak in August 2013. We are immensely grateful to Dr Pathak for granting us permission to publish this note.

We are hopeful that this Journal would further inspire many more to share their scholarly work and practice based knowledge among the readers. Our efforts to motivate social work practitioners to involve themselves in scientific writing would continue.

Dr John Antony Menachery

## SOCIAL WORK CONCERNS: VIDARBHA AND INDIA

The second issue of the Indian Journal of Social Work and Social Sciences (IJSWASS) offers to its readers a range of ten articles. A geographical divide is visible. The first section carries articles whose themes mostly focus on Vidarbha. The second section carries articles whose concerns are larger. The unifying element of the articles of the first section is the field study element. They are empirical studies and they bring in insights from the field. Field here refers to smaller regions and these regions have distinct histories and geographies. The second section has a set of articles which are more eclectic in nature.

### I. Social Work Concerns: Vidarbha

Rashmi Babhulkar has undertaken a field study of persons with epilepsy (PWE) in rural Nagpur. The paper profiles PWEs. Studies of PWE generally tend to be of urban areas. This paper attempts to address this lacuna by taking up four villages close to the city of Nagpur. Amod Gurjar in his paper presents data about four cases of children from the disadvantaged sections of society and their attempt to get admitted to a private school under the RTE act. His paper presents two crucial findings. The key to admission under the RTE act is the awareness of potential parents about the provisions of the act and more crucial is the availability of the prescribed documents with them.

Suvarna Damle in her paper offers to readers the field experiences of Prakriti in working with suicide- affected farmers' families in Vidarbha. These experiences led Prakriti to develop a model and some tentative principles of intervention. The intervention by Prakriti was one component, albeit a very significant one, in making the measures effective. Without the cooperation of the target group, the wider community and the state structure the effectiveness of the intervention measures would have been considerably reduced.

The central theme of the paper by Josephine Philo is the phenomenon of 'Trafficking of Persons' [TIP]. This paper is based on field visits made to the red light areas of Nagpur, Pune and Mumbai. TIP is defined as a phenomenon which involves human beings who are forced by some form of violence to move to another place and accept a condition of forced labour. This paper comes to the conclusion that 'Trafficking in Persons' is the modern form of the ancient systems commonly known as slavery and servitude. This trafficking is possible because of a complex crime network and unless a correspondingly complex three R policy - rescue, rehabilitation and reintegration - is not put into place it would be difficult to curb the trafficking of human beings.

Keshav Walke based on census data has presented a demographic picture of Vidarbha region



with reference to sex ratio. Speaking broadly the sex ratio of Eastern Vidarbha is better than that of Western Vidarbha. A second important insight is the fact that districts with a higher percentage of SC and ST people show a better sex ratio. Finally the most consistent trend and also the most tragic trend is that excluding Gadchiroli, the sex ratio of the 0-6 age group population of all the remaining 10 districts of Vidarbha shows a decline.

John Menachery examines the nature of social work intervention in criminal justice agencies in India in his paper. This paper presents both a theoretical and a field perspective. In the field perspective the paper has studied a specialized agency by the name VARHAD based in Amravati which is working for the reform and rehabilitation of prisoners. The paper richly documents the nature of intervention undertaken by VARHAD.

## II. Social Work Concerns: India

The paper by Prince Agashe is an attempt to delineate trends in social work writings through a content analysis of the Indian Journal of Social Work. This paper takes up for content analysis the issues of the Indian Journal of Social Work published between 2005 and 2009. In this reference period all the issues have been published and there is some symmetry between these issues in the number of articles and authors which each issue contains. This consistency in publishing is indicative of the success of the Journal in nurturing a group of writers on themes of social work.

Divya Vaishnava in a field study from Gurgaon NCR region offers insights into the damaging impact of television on children. The damages are both to the mind and the body and the consequences of these damages are to be borne by the wider society. Given the ubiquitous role television plays in families what choices do parents have? This paper has listed some practical steps which can help parents to monitor television viewing.

An unusual feature of this issue is a letter it carries from Professor Shankar Pathak. Professor Pathak had sent this letter for public circulation and we thought it necessary to include it in this issue so as to carry forward the discourse initiated by him. The preliminary facts are as follows. Professor Pathak a doyen among social work educators happened to make a brief visit to the Department of Social Work, Delhi University (D.S.W.D.U.) in March 2010 and happened to meet one of his former students who was on the faculty of D.S.W.D.U. This chance meeting led to an experience which deeply disturbed Professor Pathak and led to his letter titled "The Great (Social Work) Academic Piracy". This letter has many layers of meaning and needs to be perused first and then studied deeply.

Nandita Mane offers to its readers an unusual glimpse of one of the 'greats' of English literature

: Charles Dickens. Dickens the novelist is known widely but not Dickens the poet and this aspect of this great figure is offered to readers of IJSWSS by Nandita Mane. This writing is a reminder to the present generation social work educators of attempts made in the past by some social work educators to use literature in class room teachings. Gauri Banerjee a social work educator who belonged to the Independence era was one of the pioneers in these attempts. Literature has much to offer to the discipline of social work.

#### A Summation

This issue is a mixture, a rich mixture of contrasts. One kind of contrast is that between field-studies and library-studies. The other contrast is between a smaller region (Vidarbha) and the larger Indian society. Readers have choices and contrasts and these choices and contrasts offers much to a serious reader.

Editorial Board,  
Indian Journal of Social Work and Social Sciences  
March, 2014

## **EPILEPSY AND RURAL SOCIETY: A STUDY OF EPILEPTIC PATIENTS FROM FOUR VILLAGES OF NAGPUR DISTRICT**

RASHMI BABHULKAR

*The author is faculty at post graduate department of Matru Sewa Sangh Institute of Social Work. She has completed M.Sc., BGL, MSW, & M. Phil (Social Work).*

### **ABSTRACT**

*This paper is a field study of persons with epilepsy (PWE) in rural Nagpur. The paper presents some preliminary information about them. Studies of PWEs generally tend to be of urban areas. This paper attempts to address this lacuna by taking up four villages close to the city of Nagpur.*

### **Introduction:**

A number of studies have been conducted to understand the psycho-social problems of PWE (Persons with Epilepsy) (Sachin S. Padma, Bhatia, Prasad K.: 2009). However these studies have mostly been conducted in Urban and Semi Urban Areas. The studies of rural areas are few in number (Aziz: 2009). Therefore this study was conducted to explore the nature of psycho-social problems of PWE in rural areas.

### **Methodology:**

The Students of Matru Sewa Sangh Institute of Social Work conducted a door-to-door health survey of four villages near MIHAN (Multinational International Cargo Hub and Airport at Nagpur) at Nagpur. The villages are Fukeshwar, Jamtha, Kachimeth and Khapri. This survey covered a population of 3128 people. Based on their case histories, 40 patients were identified as confirmed epileptics. The data were collected between July 2010 and November 2010. A structured interview schedule was used. This paper uses the abbreviation PWE to refer to persons with epilepsy.

### **Observations:**

In this study (N=40) observations revealed that 50 percent were females (N=20) 43 percent were males (N=17) and seven percent were children (N=3). The children were in the age group of 10-13 years. The problems of the children could not be studied due to language issues as the children spoke only Tamil. The mean age of all PWE was between 35 to 50 years. About 41 percent of the male PWE (N=7) had completed ten years of schooling. Two-thirds of the female PWE (N=15) were illiterate. Forty Five percent of the PWE had knowledge about epilepsy. More than two-thirds (78 per cent) PWE had their monthly income ranging from Rs. 4000 to 6000.

Out of the forty PWEs three were children. Among the 37 married PWEs 20 were female PWE and 17 were male PWE. Eight out of the 20 female PWEs were separated because of the frequent attacks and seizures and because their husbands found the cost of treatment too high.

In case of 66 per cent of PWE their employability was influenced by the frequency and severity of seizures. There was misconception and stigmatization in employment as the fact that they were PWEs was known to their employers. Fifty percent of those who disclosed the facts of their disease were

refused job. Thirty five percent PWE did not reveal their disease (N=18) as they were working at construction sites and there was no obligation to disclose their condition to the employer and as it was not specifically asked for. Forty five percent of PWE (N=17) experienced discrimination at their place of work.

Among 80 percent of PWEs (N=29) superstitious beliefs were very common. They associated their illness with the possession of evil spirit or a curse of God. A majority of the PWEs (67 per cent) believed that there was a likelihood of death during the seizure. Their method of managing a seizure was to put a spoon in their mouth to avoid clenching of teeth, sprinkling water on their face or making the patient smell a leather shoe or tying them to trees or cut a portion of hair from the head. These practices were based on the belief that such practices would ward off evil spirits.

More than two-thirds of the total PWE (78 percent) did not visit a hospital for treatment because the distance to the hospital was too far and no conveyance was available to reach the hospital. Relief was experienced by them after visiting religious healers. It was documented that 70 percent of the PWE experienced social stigma. This affected their quality of life. A majority (67 percent) of the PWE were withdrawn socially. They did not attend marriages. A smaller majority (60 per cent) did not attend social functions. The problem with this illness is the unpredictable nature of the seizures.

PWEs (70 percent) experienced shock when the initial diagnosis was made. It led to negative reactions and anxiety about the future. More than two-thirds (80 percent; N=29) PWE became alcoholics. Significantly 30 percent of them were females (N=12). They sought solace in alcohol because of the hopelessness and helplessness experienced by them.

A majority (70 percent) of PWEs experienced fear of rejection from their peers. They felt that they were outcast from society. To minimize the feelings of loneliness exactly half of PWEs used to visit temples nearby. The table below presents data about the reactions expressed by PWE.

Table 1: Reactions Expressed by PWEs

Reactions	Male (N = 17)	Female (N = 20)
Anger	09	12
Frustrations	16	18
Anxiety	16	18
Helplessness	14	16
Hopelessness	15	12
Feeling of Isolation	10	14

The data from the above table indicate that out of the six reactions, with the exception of 'hopelessness', in the remaining five reactions the female PWEs have stronger reactions than the male PWE. The table below lists out the thoughts of PWEs.

Table 2: Thoughts of PWEs

1.	Short tempered due to frequent fits.
2.	Feels helpless.
3.	Anxiety over aggravation of epileptic seizures.
4.	Life is unpredictable.
5.	Everything is in the hands of God.
6.	Tries to forget that I am sick.
7.	Gets irritable when I think for my illness.
8.	I indulge in fights after seizure.
9.	Sadness is prevalent in my life.
10.	Religious healers give me strength.
11.	I think that whatever is bound to happen will happen.
12.	It appears that this world is a delusion ( <i>maya</i> ).
13.	One should not be denied job on the ground of illness.
14.	God punished me because I committed sins in my last birth.
15.	I feel isolated due to my illness.
16.	I lost productivity due to frequent seizures.

The thoughts expressed by PWEs can be categorized into three types: Thoughts related to God, Thoughts related to fate and religion; and Thoughts related to a sense of personal loss and anger.

#### Conclusions:

Throughout the world epilepsy is surrounded by many myths. India is no exception to it. A belief widely held is that a PWE is a person possessing supernatural power. In fact, the word 'Epilepsy' is derived from a Greek word '*Epilepsia*' which means to possess or 'take hold of'. The lack of a scientific understanding about epilepsy creates multiple problems for the PWEs. This gets aggravated because suitable treatment services are not accessible.

The study showed that villagers usually turned to short-term medication to control seizures. Low priority to health and poverty were stumbling blocks in the effective treatment of PWEs. Rural patients having seizures were also at a social disadvantage. They get isolated. Moreover they fail to develop relevant social/economic skills. This blocks their avenues of employment and income. PWEs are denied jobs if they are honest enough to declare that they have epilepsy. The prejudices of rural society further adds to the stress levels of PWEs which lead to their isolation from the wider community. Those PWEs who fail to cope with these stresses respond by showing aggressive behaviour. Verbal abuse, physical abuse and hyperactivity are commonly seen among PWEs. The imbibing of scientific temper among villagers could help reduce the stress levels of PWE.

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## ACCESSIBILITY OF THE RESERVED TWENTY-FIVE PERCENT SEATS UNDER THE RTE ACT: A FIELD STUDY FROM THE CITY OF NAGPUR

AMOD GURJAR

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### ABSTRACT

*This paper is a field study of four cases of children from the disadvantaged sections of society and their attempt to get admitted to a private school under the RTE act. The key to admission is the availability of the necessary documents and the awareness of their parents about the act and its provisions regarding documents.*

### Statement of the Problem:

The Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act or the Right to Education Act (RTE) 2009 grants some educational rights to Indian children between the age of 6 and 14 years. This right is legally enforceable. This Act by reserving 25 per cent of seats in private schools for children belonging to economically and socially backward communities has increased the educational opportunities for these children. In principle these are extremely progressive measures. However, in practice what is happening? Are these seats really accessible? This paper is an attempt at examining these questions.

Over 70 percent of the RTE Seats are lying vacant in Nagpur division (Choudhari, 2011). Maharashtra does not figure among the top 10 states or Union Territories in implementing the provisions of the Right to Education (RTE) Act. This includes the provision of reserving 25 per cent seats for the poor in private schools (Rao, 2012).

Table 1: RTE Quota Admissions taken and available

District	RTE Quota	
	Taken	Total
Nagpur	2,602	5,788
Wardha	725	1,582
Bhandara	143	529
Gondia	755	2,142
Chandrapur	249	4,743
Gadchiroli	215	1,655

(Choudhari, 2011)

There can be many reasons for these seats lying vacant. Parents of the beneficiaries may not be aware of this Act. This paper is an attempt to explore the obstacles in accessing the twenty five percent reserved

seats in private school under the RTE Act.

Study Methodology: Case Study Method:

The case study method has been used to know why RTE seats in private schools are not getting filled-up. Four cases are presented here. They come under three categories: (1) A Failed Case (2) A Successful Case and (3) Potential Cases. The data were collected in the month of November, 2013. To ensure confidentiality names of the children/parents have been changed.

I. A Failed Case : A Case Study of Master Arnava Singh:

? Socioeconomic background:

This is a case of three and half year old Arnava Singh. His mother is Aparna Singh and father Pratap Singh. Arnava's mother is house wife and the Father is a driver. The annual income of the family is less than Rs. 1,00,000/-. They were staying at Futala Slum but two years before the birth of Arnava the family shifted to Saraswati Nagar and started living with the Pratap Singh's in-laws. But all the necessary documents like Aadhaar card, PAN card, and Election Card carry the old address. Arnava Singh possessed no address proof of his new residence.

? Efforts taken by the parents of Arnava:

On 5<sup>th</sup> August 2013 Pratap Singh came to know that 3 seats were lying vacant under RTE act at Bhavani School located in Dattatray Nagar. He visited the school a number of times to get the admission form for his son Arnava. But the school refused to give him the admission form. Therefore he went to the education department and he got the admission form on 7<sup>th</sup> September. He submitted the filled-in form to the Bhavani School of Dattatray Nagar on 10<sup>th</sup> September with the old documents. At the time of submission he asked for a receipt but the principal of the school refused saying that receipt for these types of admissions are not given. On 13<sup>th</sup> September 2013 the school informed him that Arnava's admission under RTE has been rejected. The school gave no explanation for this refusal. Nor was the school willing to give this refusal in writing.

? Intervention of Nagpur children's help line:

The Nagpur children's help line intervened. The school authorities explained that according to the address proof given by Mr. Pratap Singh for the admission of Arnava Singh, his residence doesn't come within three kilometer radius of their school, which is the distance limit under the Act.

? The Nagpur children's help line worker visited the school and found that the school's notice board for displaying the information regarding RTE Act was on an A4 Size paper and it was pasted at a height more than seven feet. It is almost impossible to read the contents. This could partly explain the reason why Mr. Arnava Singh was ignorant of the provisions of the RTE Act.

II. A Successful Case : A Case Study of Mr Arpit Zule:

This case is about a five-year old child Master Arpit Zule. His mother Nidhi Zule is a house wife. His father Anand Zule is the owner of a pan shop. The annual income of the family is more than Rs. two lakh. They live in a rented house.

Anand Zule has obtained an income certificate which certifies that their annual income is less than Rs. one lakh per annum. This is the primary requirement for getting a child admitted under the RTE Act to a private school. Anand's friend is peon in Chanakya School who gave him the information about vacant



seats under the RTE Act in Chanakya school. With the help of this peon friend, Anand applied for admission for Arpit in Chanakya School and this was granted. The admission has been formalized and now Arpit is studying in the school.

### III. Potential Cases under the RTE Act:

#### A Case Study of Miss Sneha:

Miss Sneha is going to complete six years of age. Father Avinash and Mother Radhika both are laborers by profession and work on a daily wage basis. They live in a slum area in a semi pakka house. The annual family income is less than Rs. one lakh.

In an interview, Avinash reported that he wants to admit the Sneha to a private school, but because of the exorbitant fees charged by private schools Avinash took the decision to admit her to a School run by Nagpur Municipal Corporation. During this interview the social worker informed Avinash about the RTE Act and its provision about the twenty five percent reserved seats. With this new information Avinash has now decided to explore the option of admitting his daughter to a private school.

#### A Case Study of Master Ashish:

This case study is about Ashish who is going to complete six years of age. Father Sanjay is working in a private firm. Mother Yogita is house wife. The family is living in a slum area in a semi-pakka house. The annual family income is less than Rs. one lakh.

In an interview Sanjay expressed his desire of providing quality education for Ashish. Sanjay knew about the RTE Act and its provision of 25 percent reservation but he did not know the procedures involved in taking the benefit of this act.

#### Analyses of the four Cases:

From the four cases it is clear that the documents prescribed under the Act is essential for admission under the RTE Act. Master Arpit Zule could get admission because he had the documents. Master Arnav Singh failed in getting admission because he did not have the necessary documents. Apart from the documents a large number of parents from the weaker sections of society are yet to be aware of the beneficial provisions of the RTE Act. With the passage of time this lacunae would be addressed but what remains to be addressed is the capacity of a child and their family coming from a disadvantaged background to take advantage of such a facility being made available under the RTE Act. The two key elements here are the child and the learning process.

#### Conclusions: The larger Context

Two important issues arise from the data presented in this paper. Getting admission into a school is the beginning of the learning process for a child. The real struggle will begin only after the admission. Can a child from a disadvantaged background compete with children coming from family backgrounds where all facilities are provided? At present no answers are forthcoming. This problem can be partially remedied if the school takes some extra effort to give additional input to children coming from disadvantaged backgrounds.

The other question is the role of public schools in educating children from the disadvantaged backgrounds. The general trend is the declining importance of public schools and a commensurate increase in the importance of private schools. With the enactment of the RTE Act and social workers

trying to implement its provisions will not this lead to a further decline in the importance of public schools is a question which needs some answers.

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ABSTRACT

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which they are entitled. These included widow pension, scholarship for children below 18 years, subsidized loans for agriculture, housing under IAY and coverage under PDS and Antyodaya.

- ? The third step was to ensure that the widow gets her share of the family property in her name. This meant two things: the house in which she is living and share in the agricultural land that she is entitled to.
- ? The Fourth step was to ensure that children continue with their education and that the family has a basket of income opportunities so that it does not fall into a debt trap again.
- ? The Last step was to form a local resource team (LRT) from the affected villages and make villagers aware of RTI and gender equality.

#### The Intervention Perspective:

For the last five years Prakriti has been working with these families without providing any material or cash benefit and has been able to build such a rapport with these families that every single occasion of joy and sorrow of these families is shared with our team. This is the strength of this initiative, which does not aim at providing immediate benefits but benefits in the long term through sustainable rehabilitation measures. This intervention program also aimed at re-affirming the faith of the rural community in their traditional agriculture dependent livelihood.

Though initially there was lot of skepticism from all corners including the affected families who like others expected that we are carrying some benefits for them but not delivering to them. There were many schemes, loan waivers, material ranging from household items to agricultural equipments for these families given by government and indigenous donors. The problem was that it did not reach to the genuine beneficiary and people were not aware about their entitlements. The awareness about RTI, face to face interaction of the affected family members with the SDO and Tehsildar has immensely helped the affected families to get the benefit of the schemes without paying to the middlemen.

#### The Outcome of the Intervention measures:

The outcome of the intervention measures can be outlined as follows:

- ? The sensitivity and commitment of the higher government authorities has helped the farm widows in getting jobs of Anganwadi Worker/Helper and ASHA. About 17 farm widows who were found to be qualified for these posts were given the jobs.
- ? Yearly scholarship for the children from these affected families was generated from socially committed individuals across the country. 15 youth have been sent for the vocational training and are now employed in various companies and supporting their family. The most important benefit for these families from these measures was the regaining of hope to live and live in dignity.
- ? The primary option of a livelihood for these farm widows was agriculture. But they were neither equipped in terms of experience to exercise this option nor was the land in their name. Presently, Prakriti has been successful in transferring the land in the name of the widow or has initiated the process of transfer. This benefit has accrued to about 80 families. This ownership of land is very important because with it the status of a Farm Widow changes to that of a Farmer. This change in the status and title is a process of empowerment, which is still going on.



## THE PUSH AND PULL FACTORS IN THE SALE OF HUMAN BEINGS: GLIMPSES FROM NAGPUR, PUNE AND MUMBAI

JOSEPHINE PHILO

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### ABSTRACT

*The central theme of this paper is the 'Trafficking of Persons' [TIP]. This paper is based on field visits made to the red light areas of Nagpur, Pune and Mumbai. TIP is defined as a phenomenon which involves humans who are forced by some form of violence to move to another place and accept a condition of forced labour. The worst forms of "trafficking" relate to the illegal movement of women and children for the purposes of exploitation in sectors such as commercial sex and child labour. Both push and pull factors operate in making the trafficking of persons possible. The push factor is the socio-economic problems which girls face both within the family and outside. The pull factors of trafficking are the lures provided by the market and the sex industry. Trafficking of persons is increasingly becoming a lucrative trade. The consequences of trafficking for the victim are both internal and external: the mind, the body and emotions. Unwanted pregnancy leading to abortion, drug and alcohol abuse gets combined with a loss of freedom and terrible working conditions. The end result is that such people find it very difficult to integrate into the mainstream society. Just as the dual push-and-pull factor operates making the trafficking of persons easier so has the state to implement a dual reward-and-punishment approach in curbing it. The key to this policy must lie in making the victim the key to this policy. A victim-centred policy must lay equal emphasis on rescue, rehabilitation and reintegration.*

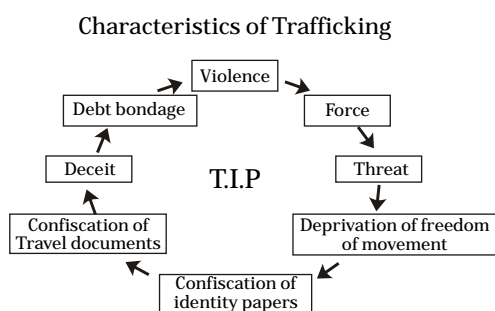
### Introduction:

Like life and death, buying and selling are the integral part of life. In the world of business marketing has been given utmost importance and is considered as a yardstick to measure the turnovers. Buying and selling of commodities are the vital cycle of a business. The principle of demand and supply rules and reins in every walk of life especially the economic world. However, have you heard of a market existing where human beings are bought and sold? Of course there is no open market but it's a hidden, illegal trade of human persons (making people commodities) called "Human Trafficking".

### Defining and Understanding Human Trafficking : The Push and the Pull Factors:

"Trafficking of humans" involves moving men, women and children from one place to another and placing them in a condition of forced labour (Prakash, 2005). "Trafficking in Persons" (T.I.P) has reached epidemic proportions. Gender- based differences and attitude play an important role in both the supply and demand dynamics of trafficking. The worst forms of "trafficking" relate to the illegal movement of women and children for the purposes of exploitation in sectors such as commercial sex works and child labour of all forms.

The push factors are the conditions keeping the status of women low. This increases their vulnerability as targets of traffickers and limits their options as survivors seeking new life (Skeldon, 2000-01). The countries where poverty and unemployment are rampant and human development and dignity at its lowest, this heinous crime thrives. Human trafficking transporting exists in people for purposes of



domestic servitude, unlawful industrial and agricultural work, illegal adoption, forced begging, and the sex industry and it denies their dignity, often subjecting them to torture and abuse. As the commercial sex trade in India is undoubtedly profitable, the demands for the girls are very high. The fear of AIDS is forcing the traffickers to look for younger girls and this has in turn made the young girls and children more vulnerable (Mohammad, 2005).

The push factors are the conditions which make women victims. This allows traffickers to use coercion, force, deceit, fraud, debt bondage to force the victims into situations of slavery, and servitude. Three key characteristics of trafficking are violence, exploitation and loss of freedom and the ability to use one's free will in deciding what is good for them. Most disturbing of all is the increasing number of underage girls who are trafficked to work in the sex industry. When these young girls and women are sold, they are forced into prostitution. If they refuse, they are locked in isolation, tied and beaten up by brothel keepers, starved and finally raped. This brutality soon makes them submissive.

The pull factors of trafficking are commercialization and the sex industry. Trafficking of young women to fulfill the demands of the sex industry is increasing. In many developing countries governments view prostitution as a necessary activity for promoting tourism. Tourism is seen as major engine of economic growth. (Ranjan, 2005). Moreover the "trafficking of women is an increasingly lucrative trade that assures high profits for a very little risk" (UNIFEM). The consequences of trafficking that the victims face are sexual, physical and emotional abuse. Their working conditions are poor. Often they end with an unwanted pregnancy and abortion. There is a loss of freedom and dignity. One long-term consequence is alcohol and substance abuse.

#### Methodology:

My curiosity and empathetic nature persuaded me to visit the red light areas in Nagpur, Pune and Mumbai and a few observation homes. These visits date back to 2007, 2009 and 2010. The case studies are the result of my observation visit and interaction with few clients (primary data). Secondary data was collected from books and articles.

#### *Snapshot of the visit to Red light areas*

It was observed that a majority of the sex workers were below the age range of 20-25 years. The youngest was 12 years of age. Most of them were illiterate or had completed primary education. They were predominantly from scheduled and backward communities. Most were forced into sex work or were cheated by friends, boyfriends, relatives or brokers in the name of employment opportunities and sold off to brothel keepers for a huge sum of money. Due to abject poverty even the parents sell their girls to the brokers.

#### Case Studies of Human Trafficking:

- (a) Manisha (name changed) from Nepal, 20 years old divorcee with a kid of one year old was working in a garment shop. A friend (lady) working in the same shop enticed her of tour to India. After reaching India in a week's time her friend sold her off to a brothel keeper and fled from the place. She says "Women are the greatest enemy of women and are worst exploiters".

- (b) Savita (never saw the sight of the school) was just 12 years old and second in the family of eight children. Her father was unemployed and elder sister, married. Due to utter poverty and the large size of the family, the parents were unable to feed the children and the mother sold this child to the brothel keeper for a meager amount of Rs. 10,000/-only. Savita was rescued during a raid; lives in a semi-government home now hate her mother and doesn't want to return to her family.
- (c) Kalpana, 15 years old and illiterate, born in a poor family from Nepal was brought to Mumbai by her uncle in the pretext of providing her a good job in Mumbai. They stayed in Mumbai for a month. During this period the uncle raped her and took her to Pune and sold her in Budwarpeth, Pune. Since she was not ready to submit herself for sex, she was stripped naked, tied to the cot, severely beaten, burnt with cigarette butts and gang raped. She was shocked to hear from Gharwalis that her uncle sold her to them. After realizing that her own people doing such act she submitted herself for sex. She became pregnant and aborted many times and was shifted from place to place like Agra, Bangalore, Mumbai and Pune. Finally she became a victim of HIV+ve, TB, STI and breathed her last at the age of 19.
- (d) Kamal at the age of 14 studying in seventh standard fell in love with a boy from her own village outside her caste. Since her parents did not permit her to marry this boy she stole gold ornaments and cash from her house and accompanied her boyfriend to a far off city where he promised to marry her. He rented a house. For a month they were happily living together, having physical relationship without entering into legal marriage. Then he brought few friends every day and asked her to entertain them with sex. Finally by the end of two months he sold her off to a brothel keeper for Rs.70,000/-

#### Analyzing the Cases:

It is evident from the above cases that social and economic problems force girls to migrate to unknown areas and become victims of trafficking and HIV/AIDS. Poverty, unemployment, large family size with many girl children and illiteracy provide the context. This compounded by the tradition of expensive marriages, dowry and rituals make the girl-child a burden and force some families to sell their girl-child to brothels. Some choose this easy way and condemn their children to inhuman life. Poverty in all its forms forces some families to send their daughters with known or unknown brokers to seek gainful employment. Traffickers, including their family members are part of an organized criminal network. They find ways and means to force girls to take to prostitution as a way of life for their survival.

In the brothels fear of madams and pimps makes a woman reluctant to talk substantively with outsiders for any length of time. Women are coached by the brothel owners to give set responses to questions about their age, home, village and queries about how they ended up in prostitution. In addition to fear of retaliation from brothel management, shame and the sense that they lack any alternative to prostitution, may also lead women to give misleading information about their route to this life. Young and virgin girls especially children are highly preferred by traffickers due to the belief that younger girls are less likely to be carriers of the HIV virus. The myth that sex with virgins will cure sexually transmitted diseases also fuels this demand (Prakash, 2005). The life of sex workers does not last beyond 10 years after which they end up being completely impoverished and begin living on streets.

#### The Broader Context:

Prostitution is a massive problem in India for a plethora of reasons: poverty, caste prejudice, drugs, the



tourism sex trade, conservative attitudes. In economically deprived regions, women and girls are being lured away from their homeland with the promises of economic opportunity, marriage and they are caught by crime network and sold into slavery and forced to work as prostitute in brothels. It affects the freedom and dignity of women and girls. Violence against women is widespread and women in lower class and poor families are more vulnerable to trafficking.

According to Human Rights Watch, there are approximately 15 million prostitutes in India. There are more than 100,000 women prostitutes in Mumbai, Asia's largest sex industry center (Human Rights Watch Asia, 1995). In the wake of growing HIV/AIDS menace and over the years, India has seen a growing mandate to legalize prostitution to avoid exploitation of sex workers and their children by middlemen. In India most of the trafficked victims continue to work as prostitutes because they have no other means of support. They chose this profession out of compulsion. The tragedy gets compounded when their children become sex workers.

Women and children are not a commodity to be sold in the market. The police and other law enforcing agencies often remain reluctant to act on the mammoth problem. Pimps and the human sex traffickers provide heavy bribes to the authorities, and a policy of "don't see, don't act" has been the policy of the police in practice. It is the government and civil society's responsibility to prevent trafficking and to assist women and girls who have been trafficked. Preventive steps towards trafficking include domestic legislation against trafficking and traffickers and strong penalty to all those involved in this heinous crime. We need to join hands to work towards three P's Prosecution of traffickers, Protection and Prevention of young women and children. Being victim centered we must lay equal emphasis on three R's as well Rescue, Rehabilitation and Reintegration (U.S. State Department Report, 2005).

Conclusion: Modern Slavery and Servitude:

Trafficking in Persons is the modern form of the ancient systems commonly known as slavery and servitude. This trafficking is possible because of a complex crime network and unless a correspondingly complex three R policy is not put into place it would be difficult to curb the trafficking of human beings.

*Note:*

*Josephine Philo is working as a Research Associate for the Project on "Migration, poverty and access to healthcare: A multi-centric study on people's access and health system's responsiveness in Mumbai metro city" at the Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai. The project is funded by ICMR, Delh. The project is sheaded by Dr. Sivakami Muthusamy and Dr. Nilesh Gawde.*

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## DEMOGRAPHIC DIMENSIONS, SEX RATIO AND CENSUS DATA : PRESENTING TRENDS BETWEEN 2001 AND 2011

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### ABSTRACT

*This paper based on census data attempts to present a demographic picture of Vidarbha region with reference to sex ratio. It analyses sex ratio district-wise and with reference to three categories: scheduled castes (SC), scheduled tribes (ST), 0 to 6 age group and the district aggregate population. Three significant trends are visible. Among the 11 districts three districts can be distinctly identified for consistently showing a declining sex ratio. Of these three districts, two (Washim and Buldhana) are a part of Western Vidarbha. Geography and history matter here. A second important insight which this data brings forward is the fact that districts with a higher percentage of SC and ST people show a better sex ratio. Social composition and caste matter here. The most consistent trend and also the most tragic trend is that excluding Chandrapur the sex ratio of the 0-6 age group population of all the remaining 10 districts of Vidarbha shows a decline. Age matters here.*

### Introduction:

One of the paradoxes of India lies in the fact that women are deified as goddesses (Durga and Laxmi) on one hand and on the other hand the girl-child is perceived to be a burden. To get rid of this human being all kinds of efforts are taken including practicing foeticide. How does one explain the contradiction between a theoretical belief and the actual practice? One way of answering this question is by pointing out that there is a big disconnect among people between the values underpinning their religious faith and its practice in one's daily life.

### The context in India

In the 1901 Census, the sex ratio was 1,072 women for every 1,000 men in India. In the 1961 census this ratio was 972 females per 1000 males. This ratio (the number of females for a thousand males) fell to 933 according to the 2001 census. This figure is among the lowest in the whole world. There was a marginal improvement of seven when the 2011 census indicated that the sex ratio as 940. The broad trend reveals disconnect between economic growth and human values.

According to Census 2011, Kerala has the highest (1084) sex ratio while Haryana (877) has the lowest sex ratio among states. Daman & Diu (618) has the lowest among all states and territories. The state of Maharashtra State with a sex ratio of 929 ranks 18<sup>th</sup> in India. Maharashtra, Nagaland, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Arunachal Pradesh, Gujarat, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh states have sex ratios below the national average of 940. Punjab, Sikkim, Jammu & Kashmir, Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Haryana, Delhi, Chandigarh, Dadra & Nagar Haveli have less than 900 females per 1000 males

In states like Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Haryana, Punjab and Rajasthan the sex ratio has plummeted to around 850 women for every 1,000 men. In specific communities of Bihar and Rajasthan

the ratio is a mere 600 females for 1,000 males. These figures eloquently tell us a ghastly and gory story of the mysterious disappearance of millions of women (40-50 million) in a few years from India. What it reveals is the wide practice of female feticide and infanticide even as the country is progressing economically. This growth is being driven by the increasing use of technology and some of these technologies are also being misused to eliminate the girl-child.

#### Objective of the paper and the study methodology

This paper looks at census data for Vidarbha region of the last decade and presents some trends. It attempts to present the differences in the sex ratio of Vidarbha between Census 2001 and 2011. Vidarbha is a distinct region within the state of Maharashtra and it consists of two sub-regions: east and west. Eastern Vidarbha consists of the following districts: Nagpur, Wardha, Bhandara, Gondia, Chandrapur and Gadchiroli. Western Vidarbha consists of the following districts: Amravati, Yavatmal, Washim, Akola and Buldana. These 11 districts together constitute the region of Vidarbha.

#### Changes in Overall Population:

In the state of Maharashtra at the aggregate level there is an increase of 7 points in the sex ratio of the population between 2011 and 2001. But there is disconnect between the urban and the rural population.

Table 1: Difference of Sex Ratio in General Population as per Census 2001 & 2011

Area	Rural	Urban	Total
Maharashtra State	-8	30	7
Vidarbha Region	-2	23	7
Nagpur Division (06 Dist)	4	26	11
Amravati Division (05 Dist)	-3	19	3
Akola	2	16	8
Amravati	8	24	13
Bhandara	-2	22	1
Buldhana	-18	12	-12
Chandrapur	6	30	13
Gadchiroli	7	14	6
Gondia	-9	19	-6
Nagpur	10	24	19
Wardha	5	25	11
Washim	-15	14	-9
Yavatmal	6	26	10

In rural Maharashtra the sex ration has declined by 4 points but there is an increase of 30 points in urban Maharashtra. A same pattern is visible in case of Vidarbha where we see a increase of 7 points. The sex ratio of rural Vidarbha has decreased by 2 points while urban Vidarbha has seen an increase in the sex ratio by 23 points.

In the rural part of Vidarbha we see that the sex ratio has decreased by 2 points. Amravati division (Western Vidarbha) consisting of five districts namely Amravati, Akola, Buldhana, Washim and Yavatmal shows an increase in the sex ratio of its aggregate population. Nagpur division (Eastern Vidarbha) consisting of six districts namely Nagpur, Bhandara, Chandrapur, Gadchiroli, Gondia and Wardha also show an increase in the sex ratio of its total population. In Nagpur Division (East Vidarbha) there is an increase of 4 point in the sex ratio of its rural population whereas in its urban part the increase in the sex ratio is much higher: the increase is by 26 points. In Amravati Division (West Vidarbha) the sex ratio has increased by 3 points. In its rural population the sex ratio has declined by 3 points whereas in its urban population the sex ratio has increased by 19 points.

#### 0-6 years Age Group Population:

As per the 2011 census the sex ratio of Maharashtra is 894 females per 1000 males. In Vidarbha this sex ratio is 919. In the state of Maharashtra, among the 0-6 age group population we find decrease in sex ratio.

In the total population of Maharashtra the sex ratio has decreased by 19 points between 2001 and 2011. In its 0-6 age group rural population the decrease in sex ratio is by 26 points. In the 0-6 age group urban population the decrease is by 9 points.

With the exception of Chandrapur district where the sex ratio has improved by seven points, in all the other districts of Vidarbha the sex ratio has decreased. What is of significance among these ten districts is the difference between the sub-regions: east and west. The sex ratio of West Vidarbha (Amravati division) has declined more rapidly than that of East Vidarbha (Nagpur division).

Table 2: Difference of Sex Ratio in age group of 0-6 Years As per Census 2001 & 2011

Area	Rural	Urban	Out of Total Population
Maharashtra State	-26	-9	-19
Vidarbha Region	-20	-9	-17
Nagpur Division (06 Dist)	-4	0	-5
Amravati Division (05 Dist)	-3	-22	-28
Akola	-19	-22	-21
Amravati	-3	-13	-6
Bhandara	-3	-12	-6
Buldhana	-62	-23	-53
Chandrapur	7	31	14
Gadchiroli	-1	-21	-4
Gondia	-1	1	-2
Nagpur	-14	-7	-11
Wardha	-12	5	-9
Washim	-57	-65	-55
Yavatmal	-8	-18	-11

**Scheduled Caste Population:**

Scheduled Caste (SCs) comprises slightly more than ten per cent (11.81 per cent) population of Maharashtra. Among them the sex ratio is 962 females per 1000 males. In Vidarbha the SCs comprise 16.51 per cent of the total population and its sex ratio is 966 females per 1000 males.

In Vidarbha the sex ratio among the scheduled castes has improved in the last decade. Significantly there is a difference in the ratio between its urban and rural population. The urban SC population shows a higher ratio than the rural SC population.

Table 3: Difference of Sex Ratio Schedule Caste (SCs) As per Census 2001 and 2011

Area	Rural	Urban	Out of Total Population
Maharashtra State	01	23	10
Vidarbha Region	01	28	10
Nagpur Division (6 Districts)	04	30	16
Amravati Division (5 Districts)	01	25	06
Akola	03	22	05
Amravati	08	32	15
Bhandara	-05	24	00
Buldhana	-12	20	-08
Chandrapur	05	36	17
Gadchiroli	-05	-06	-05
Gondia	06	24	01
Nagpur	15	29	27
Wardha	09	34	19
Washim	12	19	-08
Yavatmal	14	15	15

**Scheduled Tribe Population:**

Scheduled Tribes (STs) comprise 9.35 per cent of the population in Maharashtra and 12.68 per cent of the population in Vidarbha according to the 2011 census. They comprise 5.81 per cent of the urban population of Vidarbha. There were 974 females per 1000 male population at the aggregate level in Vidarbha as per the 2011 census. For rural Vidarbha it was 977 females for 1000 males and for urban Vidarbha it was 960 females for 1000 males. Significantly the sex ratio of the ST population of all the 11 districts of Vidarbha shows an increase.

Table 4: Difference of Sex Ratio in Scheduled Tribes as per Census 2001 & 2011

Area	Rural	Urban	Out of Total Population
Maharashtra State	5	11	4
Vidarbha Region	7	22	9
Nagpur Division (6 Districts)	9	20	11
Amravati Division (5 Districts)	5	28	7
Akola	12	21	12
Amravati	7	1	6
Bhandara	-2	48	5
Buldhana	-5	42	0
Chandrapur	5	42	10
Gadchiroli	15	35	15
Gondia	2	33	2
Nagpur	8	10	9
Wardha	7	34	8
Washim	7	49	-4
Yavatmal	8	44	10

#### District wise Trends

**Akola:** As per the 2011 Census, Akola district has a population of 1813906. There were 946 females per 1000 males at the aggregate level in Akola district. In rural Akola there were 940 females per 1000 males whereas in urban Akola the figure was 954 females.

Among the 0-6 age group population the sex ratio was 912 in the district. It has declined in the last decade. In Akola district 20.07 per cent of the people are SCs and 5.53 per cent are STs. Among the SCs the sex ratio was 955 and among the STs it was 952. In both these groups of people the ratio had improved in the last decade. The SCs rural population of Akola shows decline in its sex ratio. In contrast the ratio among the SC urban population has improved. In the last decade the sex ratio of the general population in the district has also improved.

**Amravati:** As per Census 2011 the population of Amravati district was 2888445. The sex ratio was 951 females per 1000 males in the district. In rural Amravati there were 947 females whereas in urban Amravati there were 957 females per 1000 males.

In Amravati district 17.53 per cent of its population are SCs while the STs comprise 5.53 per cent of its population. Among the 0-6 population the sex ratio is 935 and it has declined during the last decade. In the SC population the sex ratio is 952 and among the STs it is 963. In both these categories the sex ratio has improved. Such an improvement is also visible in the general population of Amravati district.

**Bhandara:** As per the 2011 Census the population of Bhandara was 12,00,334 and there were 982

females per 1000 males in the total population of the district. In Rural Bhandara there were 983 females whereas in urban Bhandara there were 981 females per 1000 males. The SCs comprise 16.69 per cent of the population of the district. The STs comprise 7.40 per cent of the district's population. Among the SCs the sex ratio was 995 and among the STs it was 997. There was no change in the sex ratio of the SC people while the sex ratio of the ST people has improved. Among the 0-6 age group population the sex ratio was 950. And it has declined. The sex ratio of the aggregate population of the district has improved in the last decade.

Buldhana: As per Census 2011, Buldhana has a population of 25,86,258. There were 934 females per 1000 total population in the district. In Rural Buldhana there were 931 females whereas in urban Buldhana there were 944 females for every 1000 males.

Among the 0-6 population the sex ratio is 855. The sex ratio of this age-group has declined in the last decade.

In Buldana 18.21 per cent of the population are SCs and 4.83 per cent are STs. Among the SCs the sex ratio is 950 and among STs it is 946. The sex ratio among the SC has declined between 2001 and 2011 while it has remained the same among the ST people. The sex ratio of the aggregate population has also declined.

Chandrapur: As per Census 2011, Chandrapur has a population of 22,04,307. There were 961 females per 1000 total population in the district. In Rural Chandrapur there were 968 females whereas in urban Chandrapur there were 949 females for every 1000 males. The sex ratio of the 0 to 6 age group population has improved.

In Chandrapur 15.80 per cent are SCs and 17.67 per cent are STs. The sex ratio of both the SC and the ST people has improved. At the aggregate level the sex ratio of the population of Chandrapur district has improved.

Gadchiroli: As per Census 2011, Gadchiroli has a population of 10,72,942. There were 982 females per 1000 total population in the district. In Rural Gadchiroli there were 984 females whereas in urban Gadchiroli there were 966 females for every 1000 males. In Gadchiroli 11.25 per cent are SCs and 38.71 per cent are STs. A picture of contrasts is seen between these two communities. The sex ratio has declined among the SC people while it has improved among the ST people. The sex ratio of the 0-6 age group population has also declined. At the aggregate level the sex ratio of the population of Gadchiroli shows an improvement in the last decade.

Gondia: As per Census 2011, Gondia has a population of 13,22,507. There were 999 females per 1000 in the district. In rural Gondia there were 1001 females whereas in urban Gondia there were 988 females for every 1000 males. In Gondia district 13.30 per cent of its population are SCs and 16.20 per cent are STs. Among the SC people the sex ratio was 1013 and among the ST people it was 1022. In contrast the sex ratio of the general population (999) of the district was much lower. Both among the SC and ST people their sex ratio has improved. The sex ratio among the 0 to 6 age group population has declined. A similar trend is seen in case of the aggregate population of the district.

Nagpur: As per Census 2011, Nagpur has a population of 46,53,570. There were 951 females per 1000 total population in the district. In rural Nagpur there were 945 females whereas in urban Nagpur there were 954 females for every 1000 males. In Nagpur district 18.65 per cent are SCs and 9.40 per cent are STs. Among SCs the sex ratio was 976 and STs it was 957. The sex ratio of both these groups of people has

improved. Only the 0-6 years age group population show a decline in its sex ratio. The sex ratio of the aggregate population of the district has improved.

Wardha: As per Census 2011, Wardha has a population of 13,00,774. There were 946 females per 1000 total population in the district. In rural Wardha there were 942 females whereas in urban Wardha there were 955 females for every 1000 males. In Wardha 14.52 per cent of the population are SCs and 11.49 per cent are STs. Among the SCs the sex ratio was 955 and among the STs it was 946. In both these categories the sex ratio has improved. In the 0-6 years age group population the sex ratio has declined. The sex ratio of the aggregate population of the district has improved.

Washim: As per Census 2011, Washim has a population of 11,97,160. There were 930 females per 1000 total population in the district. In rural Washim there were 926 females whereas in urban Washim there were 947 females for every 1000 males. In Washim 19.17 per cent of the population are SCs and 6.72 per cent are STs. Among the SC people the sex ratio was 947 and among the ST people it was 944. In both these social groups the sex ratio has declined. A similar declining trend is evident both in the 0 to 6 age group and in the aggregate population of Washim.

Yavatmal: As per Census 2011, Yavatmal district has a population of 27,72,348. There were 952 females available for 1000 total population in the district. In rural Yavatmal there were 950 females whereas in urban Yavatmal there were 962 females for every 1000 males. In Yavatmal 11.85 per cent of the population are SCs and 18.54 per cent are STs. Among the SC people the sex ratio was 967 and among the ST people it was 970. In both these categories the sex ratio has improved. Among the 0-6 years age group population the sex ratio was 922 and it has declined in the last decade. The sex ratio of the aggregate population of the district has improved.

#### Broad trends and Analysis:

This section examines the sex ratio of three sub-categories of district population: SC, ST and the 0 to 6 age group population. Let us first look at the sex ratio of the SC people in the 11 districts of Vidarbha. In seven districts (Akola, Amravati, Gondia, Nagpur, Wardha, Yavatmal and Chandrapur) the sex ratio among the SC people has improved. In contrast in Washim, Buldana and Gadchiroli it has declined. In Bhandara there is no change. In case of the ST people the sex ratio has declined in Washim district and in Buldana it has remained the same. In the remaining nine districts the ratio has improved. In the 0 to 6 age group population with the exception of Chandrapur in all the other districts the sex ratio has declined. At the aggregate population level of the 11 districts the sex ratio has improved in eight districts: Akola, Amravati, Bhandara, Nagpur, Wardha, Yavatmal, Chandrapur and Gadchiroli. The exceptions to this trend are Gondia, washim and Buldhana.

#### Conclusions:

From the point of view of enunciating a policy measure does this data and its analysis tell us anything? Three significant trends are visible. Among the 11 districts three districts can be distinctly identified for consistently showing a declining sex ratio. Of these three districts, two (Washim and Buldhana) are a part of Western Vidarbha. Geography and history matter here. A second important insight which this data brings forward is the fact that districts with a higher percentage of SC and ST people show a better sex ratio. Social composition and caste matters here. The most consistent trend and also the most tragic trend is that excluding Chandrapur, the sex ratio of the 0-6 age group population of all the remaining 10 districts of Vidarbha shows a decline. Age matters here.



WORKSCITED:

Census of India 2001, 2011

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Indian\\_states\\_and\\_territories\\_ranking\\_by\\_sex\\_ratio](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Indian_states_and_territories_ranking_by_sex_ratio) dated 15.03.2014

<http://www.thehindubusinessline.com/opinion/implications-of-skewed-sex-ratio-in-india/article4689636.ece> dated 15.03.2014

**Annexure Table 1: Difference of Sex Ratio As per Census 2001 & 2011**

Area	Rural				Urban				Out of Total Population			
	Total Popul <sup>n</sup>	0-6	SC	ST	Total Popul <sup>n</sup>	0-6	SC	ST	Total Popul <sup>n</sup>	0-6	SC	ST
Maharashtra State	-4	-26	1	5	30	-9	23	11	7	-19	10	4
Vidarbha Region	-2	-20	-1	7	23	-9	28	22	7	-17	10	9
Nagpur Division (6 Districts)	4	-4	4	9	26	0	30	20	11	-5	16	11
Amravati Division (5 Districts)	-3	-29	1	5	19	-22	25	28	3	-28	6	7
Akola	2	-19	-3	12	16	-22	22	21	8	-21	5	12
Amravati	8	-3	8	7	24	-13	32	1	13	-6	15	6
Bhandara	-2	-3	-5	-2	22	-12	24	48	1	-6	0	5
Buldhana	-18	-62	-12	-5	12	-23	20	42	-12	-53	-8	0
Chandrapur	6	7	5	5	30	31	36	42	13	14	17	10
Gadchiroli	7	-1	-5	15	14	-21	-6	35	6	-4	-5	15
Gondia		-9	-1	-6	2	19	1	24	33	-6	-21	2
Nagpur	10	-14	15	8	24	7	29	10	19	-11	27	9
Wardha	5	-12	9	7	25	5	34	34	11	-9	19	8
Washim	-15	-57	-12	-7	14	-65	19	49	-9	-55	-8	-4
Yavatmal	6	-8	14	8	26	-18	15	44	10	-11	15	10

Annexure Table 2: Demographic Profile of the Region (Census 2011)

Area		Total		Sex Ratio in 0-6 % years	SC		ST	
		Popul <sup>n</sup>	Sex Ratio		%	Sex Ratio	%	Sex Ratio
Maharashtra State	T	112374333	929	894	11.81	962	9.35	977
	R	61556074	952	890	12.17	959	14.63	984
	U	50818259	903	899	11.37	965	2.96	942
Vidarbha Region	T	135386884	954	919	16.51	966	12.68	974
	R	76497940	953	922	15.88	957	16.39	977
	U	8070685	956	913	17.69	981	5.81	960
Akola	T	1813906	946	912	20.07	955	5.53	952
	R	1094165	940	918	23.17	947	7.83	956
	U	719741	954	903	15.35	974	2.03	933
Amravati	T	2888445	951	935	17.53	952	13.99	963
	R	1851158	947	943	18.69	943	19.91	966
	U	1037287	957	919	15.45	973	3.42	932
Bhandara	T	1200334	982	950	16.69	995	7.40	997
	R	966503	983	955	16.05	991	8.17	970
	U	233831	981	930	19.33	1011	4.25	995
Buldhana	T	2586258	934	855	18.21	950	4.83	946
	R	2037398	931	852	19.39	947	5.70	952
	U	548860	944	864	13.80	970	1.58	871
Chandrapur	T	2204307	961	953	15.80	969	17.67	979
	R	1428929	968	964	13.13	971	22.66	982
	U	775378	949	930	20.73	967	8.47	966
Gadchiroli	T	1072942	982	961	11.25	978	38.71	1003
	R	954909	984	966	10.67	977	41.71	1003
	U	118033	966	917	15.98	986	14.44	976
Gondia	T	1322507	999	956	13.30	1013	16.20	1022
	R	1096577	1001	959	12.35	1009	18.41	1024
	U	225930	988	938	17.95	1025	5.46	986
Nagpur	T	4653570	951	931	18.65	976	9.40	957
	R	1474811	945	941	15.87	955	13.57	957
	U	3178759	954	926	19.93	983	7.47	957
Wardha	T	1300774	946	919	14.52	955	11.49	946
	R	877474	942	926	13.09	941	14.26	945
	U	423300	955	902	17.47	979	5.77	974
Washim	T	1197160	930	863	19.17	947	6.72	944
	R	985747	926	860	20.31	940	7.85	945
	U	211413	947	878	13.85	993	1.45	914
Yavatmal	T	2772348	952	922	11.85	967	18.54	970
	R	2174195	950	929	11.49	960	21.79	969
	U	598153	962	893	13.16	990	6.74	991

T-Total; R-Rural; U-Urban; Source: Census of India 2011

**SOCIAL WORK INTERVENTION IN CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM:  
A CASE STUDY OF VARHAD (VOLUNTARY ACTION FOR  
REHABILITATION AND DEVELOPMENT), AMRAVATI,  
MAHARASHTRA**

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**ABSTRACT**

*This paper has two contexts. One is the beginnings of professional social work activities in criminal justice agencies in India. The other is the work undertaken by a specialized agency engaged in professional social work practice in prisons and courts in Maharashtra. The name of this specialized agency is Varhad set up in Amravati in 2003, working with the criminal justice agencies in the Vidarbha region of Maharashtra, for reform and rehabilitation of prisoners. This paper documents the very many ways in which Varhad has intervened for under-trial prisoners, convicted prisoners and children of prisoners.*

**Social Work in Criminal Justice**

This paper briefly scans the beginnings of professional social work activities in criminal justice agencies in India while keeping its focus on the work of a specialized agency engaged in professional social work practice in prisons and courts in Maharashtra. Using a qualitative design, the data were collected through content analyses of reports of VARHAD, through focus group discussions with team members of VARHAD and by conducting interviews of a few key stakeholders.

Social work practice in agencies within the criminal justice system like criminal courts and correctional facilities like prisons, probation offices and institutions for juvenile offenders is known as 'criminal justice social work'. Panakal in his article 'Training for Correctional Social Work' observes that "Early efforts to systematize work with offenders were restricted to the field of juvenile corrections when special institutions were set up under the Reformatory Schools Act." (1967). Even after seven decades of social work education, 'criminal justice social work' is a less popular concept in India. It was the Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai, the first school of social work in the country, that started offering specialized social work training in 'Criminology and Correctional Administration' at the post graduate level by setting up the department of 'Criminology and Corrections' (which was later renamed as 'Criminology & Correctional Administration) way back in 1953. An expert from the United Nations, Sir Walter Reckless, a U.S. Criminologist, had come to India for streamlining the Indian correctional policies and the prison administration. During his visit to India, the United Nations made the services of Sir Reckless available to TISS in 1952 for developing a specialized training module for correctional work. Dr

J. Kumarappa was the then Director of TISS. This association had resulted in a six months' programme of training for about fifty jail officers deputed by different State Governments (Panakal, 1967). This paved the way for the establishment of the CCA department, with Prof J. J. Panakal as its first head. The first batch of students specializing in CCA passed out in 1954. The establishment of the CCA department by TISS also marked the beginnings of social work activities in criminal justice agencies in India in the course of concurrent field work activities of students who were placed in agencies like prisons, probation services and institutions for juveniles in conflict with law.

After several years of field work experience in the criminal justice agencies in Mumbai, in an effort to consolidate these field work activities, a field action project called 'Prayas' was launched by the CCA department of TISS in 1990. It was Dr Sanobar Shekhar a faculty member of the department who conceived the idea and provided the initial leadership. Mr Vijay Raghavan an alumnus of CCA department was the first head of the Prayas team of social workers. The financial assistance for sustaining Prayas came from Sir Dorabji Tata Trust (SDTT) since its early days. The efforts of Prayas helped in crystallizing the concept of 'social work in criminal justice' immensely, thereby helping the replication of the Prayas model elsewhere.

#### The Origin of VARHAD

VARHAD (Voluntary Action for Rehabilitation and Development) is the second generation organization which is an outcome of the support the SDTT has been giving to Prayas. An alumnus of CCA department and a former team member of Prayas, Mr Ravindra Vaidya, was the chief proponent of VARHAD. After gaining on-the-job experience in criminal justice social work with Prayas for a few years, Mr Vaidya set up VARHAD in Amravati in 2003, with the intention of replicating the intervention strategies of Prayas in the criminal justice agencies in the Vidarbha region of Maharashtra, for reform and rehabilitation of prisoners. VARHAD was registered under the Societies Registration Act and the Bombay Public Trust Act.

The following are the specific objectives of VARHAD :

1. To provide access to justice for the poor and marginalized sections of the society by working in proximity with the State Legal Aid System to strengthen the system and provide litigation support to the under-trial and to promote release on parole and furlough of the convicted prisoners.
2. To provide psycho-social care in terms of educational as well as moral support to the children of prisoners, particularly those from socially and economically disadvantaged backgrounds.
3. To support the released prisoners for reintegration into the society through counseling, vocational training and support for self-employment and income generation activity.
4. Collaborating with institutions and other agencies for research; advocacy and networking with committees, commissions and NGOs on CJS and prisons for pro-prisoners policy, via workshops, seminars and conferences in the appropriate forums.

Its efforts over the last decade have led to concrete results in the rehabilitation of released prisoners and welfare of children of prisoners. VARHAD, since its inception, has been mainly depending on Sir Dorabji Tata Trust for all its funding requirements.

#### VARHAD Team

VARHAD started with a three member social work team in 2003. The team size had grown to about 22

(including administrative staff) by 2014. A closer look at VARHAD team revealed that 27.27% of the team members were trained social workers with a post graduate degree in social work while 36.36% of them were not graduates. It was also found that 60% of the team had acquired on-the-job training and had sufficient work experience (4-11 years) in 'criminal justice social work'. Four team members have been working with VARHAD since its inception. The team has been assigned with the following four specific aspects, namely, Legal Aid and Allied Services in Prisons, Support to Children of Prisoners, Rehabilitation of Released Prisoners, and Administration. The VARHAD social workers act as a liaison with the prison authorities, courts, police and collateral agencies.

#### Achievements of VARHAD

As indicated in VARHAD Half Yearly Report (2013, p-2), "VARHAD has been working extensively on core issues of prisoners such as legal aid, psycho- social problems of children of prisoners and rehabilitation and post release life of prisoners. Based on these core issues, three specific activities have been developed within this project. They are: a) Legal aid and allied services in prisons, b) Support to children of prisoners (COP), and c) Rehabilitation of released prisoners"

VARHAD's social work intervention within the criminal justice system had the following three components:

- a. Legal support to under-trial prisoners and convicted prisoners to access their legal rights within the existing legal procedures;
- b. Financial assistance and placement support to children of prisoners so as to prevent their criminalization and to promote their education; and
- c. Reformation and reintegration of released prisoners through their appropriate rehabilitation, thereby preventing recidivism.

The objectives of social work intervention of VARHAD inside the prison were: a) Assisting the under trial prisoners and convicted prisoners in handling problems related to prison; b) Provision of services such home-visits, legal aid, services to children, etc.; c) Initiating the process of rehabilitation through discussions and developing one-to-one relationship; and d) Creating awareness about problems of under trial prisoners in the community and the CJS.

Based on these objectives, the VARHAD Team Members' specific tasks included: a) Establishing rapport with staff and inmates of the prison; b) Providing legal information and aid, and drafting applications; c) Establishing links between prisoners and their families; d) Coordinating with the administration, doctor, and other prison staff; e) Providing information and counseling the prisoners on a variety of issues; and f) Developing long-term relationships with prisoners, towards establishing positive social networks after their release.

#### Work of VARHAD at a Glance

When VARHAD began its work in 2003, it focused only on the Amravati Central Prison. The work of VARHAD is now directly linked to six prisons in the region, namely, Amravati Central Prison, Nagpur Central Prison, Akola District Prison, Yavatmal District Prison, Wardha District Prison, and Morshi Open Prison. The potential client population of VARHAD in these six prisons and the prison-wise client categories are given in Table 1 and Table 2 respectively.

**Table 1: Population in Prisons where VARHAD is working (as on Feb 2014)**

No.	Name of Prison	Prison Population in Feb 2014		
		Under Trials	Convicted Prisoners	Total
1	Amravati CP	492	604	1096
2	Nagpur CP	870	1090	1960
3	Akola DP	425	42	467
4	Yavatmal DP	379	36	415
5	Wardha DP	358	33	391
6	Morshi (Open)	Nil	175	175
	Total	2524	1980	4504
		56.04%	43.96%	100.00%

**Table 2: Prison-wise Client-Categories of VARHAD**

No.	Name of Prison	No. of VARHAD clients in 2013-14	Category of VARHAD Clients			
			Prisoners			Children of Prisoners
			Undertrial Prisoners	Convicted Prisoners	Released Prisoners	
1	Amravati Central Prison	1110	74 6.67%	560 50.45%	72 6.49%	404 36.40%
2	Nagpur Central Prison	1034	68 6.58%	820 79.30%	16 1.55%	130 12.57%
3	Akola District Prison	139	76 54.68%	04 2.88%	03 2.16%	56 40.29%
4	Yavatmal District Prison	20	11 55.00%	00 00.00%	03 15.00%	06 30.00%
5	Wardha District Prison	226	197 87.17%	13 5.75%	09 3.98%	07 3.10%
6	Morshi Open Prison	170	00 00.00%	140 82.35%	02 1.18%	28 16.47%
	Total	2699 100.00%	426 15.78%	1537 56.95%	105 3.89%	631 23.38%

The clients of VARHAD (Prisoners, Ex-prisoners, Families of Prisoners, and Children of Prisoners) are spread over the 11 districts of Vidarbha region of Maharashtra. Thus the geographical area of work of VARHAD has been extended to the entire Vidarbha region of Maharashtra. As evident from Table 1, majority of the prison population (56.04%) in February 2014 comprised of under-trial prisoners.

An analysis of data on VARHAD's prison-based interventions given in Table 2 indicated that in 2013-14, majority of clients of VARHAD were convicted prisoners (56.95%). It could therefore be inferred that VARHAD has a special inclination towards working with convicted prisoners as compared to under-trial

prisoners who comprised of only 15.78% of VARHAD's client population. Children of prisoners constituted the second largest segment of clients with 23.38% clients belonging to this category. Evidently, released prisoners who formed only 3.89% of the client population was the smallest client segment, in 2013-14.

#### **A Qualitative Analysis of the Nature of Work of VARHAD**

**Work in Courts :** VARHAD worked in trial courts in Amravati, Nagpur, Akola, Wardha and Yeotmal Districts which falls under the Vidarbha region of Maharashtra, and also the Nagpur bench of Bombay High Court. It has also initiated work in the Supreme Court of India by making a few referrals.

**Work with District Legal Services Authority:** VARHAD attended regular meetings with DLSA in Wardha and Nagpur districts. Helped in liaising with the appointed advocates and the clients. Under the legal services, any deserving accused could be given an advocate by the judge. But the client cannot meet him as he is in the jail and the lawyer makes no effort to visit him in the jail. The advocates are usually not interested to make any extra effort as the remuneration in such cases is not at all attractive. Lawyers get Rs 15 to Rs 45 per appearance, subject to a maximum Rs 600/-, and that too after the case is over. Under such circumstances, VARHAD feels that this legal aid without intervention from VARHAD, would remain a mere formality, and would not have been of any use to the client. VARHAD has also advocated a policy change in this regard.

**Work with District Intra-departmental Committee (DIDC) (Zilla Upa-samiti):** VARHAD is represented as members of DIDC in 4 districts, namely, Amravati, Akola, Yeotmal and Wardha. There is also the SIDC at the state level, which came up about two years ago with the efforts of PRAYAS-TISS. The DIDC was constituted by the District and Sessions Judge to focus on rehabilitation of released prisoners and it comprises of officials of various departments like police, prisons, WCD, PWD, Education, etc. District collector is also a member. VARHAD was looking forward to more efficient functioning of DIDC.

**Work with Residential Institutions for Children:** VARHAD worked with 12 residential institutions for children in Vidarbha region. This work involved the following: a) Providing information to the Child Welfare Committee for admission of needy children of prisoners to various childcare institutions. B) After admission, VARHAD makes educational follow up; Liaisoning with families; Provides educational material; and Arranges meetings with parents in jail.

**Balsangopan (Foster care) Work:** Balsangopan scheme of the Department of Women and Child Development of Government of Maharashtra is a foster care scheme aimed at rendering a minimum support of Rs. 425/- per month to vulnerable children. The beneficiaries are paid the monthly assistance by the government through the NGO through whom the applications are made. The voluntary organization involved in this work gets Rs 75/- per month per child as administrative charges. VARHAD has made an effort to bring children of prisoners under the vulnerable category and accordingly proposals were submitted. All proposals were accepted for benefits under Balsangopan scheme with more than 450 children of prisoners getting the benefit. The work involved the following: For making proposals, the NGO has to make home visit for assessment and submit following documents from family: TC, income certificate, birth certificate, death cert. of parent, certificate from prison, medical certificate, etc. This kind of assistance though small is crucial for children of prisoners and can reduce their vulnerability to an extent. Children of prisoners even from outside Vidarbha, were getting the benefit of government's 'Balsangopan' scheme due to the efforts of VARHAD. They feel that this has in turn reduced the financial burden of some of the prisoners' families. They also feel that this has resulted in reduction of demand from such families of prisoners for residential care of their children thereby preventing their

likely institutionalization and its adverse effects.

**Sanjay Gandhi Niradhar Yojana Work:** Under this scheme, a family which is declared eligible gets Rs 600-900 till the head of the household reaches the age of 60. After reaching the age of 60, they are entitled to receive assistance from other suitable pension scheme. VARHAD distributed 600 application forms to convicted prisoners in Amravati and Nagpur Central Prisons. Majority of the applications were now under process. VARHAD has been actively doing the follow up with the authorities concerned.

**BPL Ration Card Work:** VARHAD advocated to extent benefit of the BPL card to families of convicted prisoners. The logic was that the bread winner of the family is behind bars and hence the family is vulnerable. According to VARHAD, the distribution of BPL ration cards was stopped in general in the state of Maharashtra through a government order. But with VARHAD's intervention and follow up with state government BPL cards began to be issued to families of convicted prisoners. VARHAD submitted 1025 applications of convicted prisoners in entire Vidarbha for BPL cards to the concerned authority. Many convicted prisoners have already received BPL cards through VARHAD and VARHAD is hopeful that in near future all the applicants are likely to get the BPL cards and thus thousands of families of convicted prisoners across the state of Maharashtra will benefit from this initiative in the coming years (VARHAD 2013).

**Running of Balwadi (Crèche) in Amravati CP / Akola DP:** Children of prisoners below 6 years of age are allowed to be kept with the mother in prisons. The *Balwadi* in the prison is to cater to the needs of children, who are forced to remain in prison with their mothers. They are deprived of their childhood rights, for no fault of their own. Their world inside is marked by huge walls and barracks. It is as if they are paying the price for their parents' conduct. They live in an atmosphere of abusive language and frequent fights between the prison inmates and are exposed to negative influences of the prison environment. Their daily routine too is directed by strict discipline and fixed timings decided by the prison rules. In the absence of family structure, the concept of a home is very much missing. The *Balwadi* makes an attempt to inculcate the concept of a home and the outside world in the minds of these children who live a life of incarceration. Thus, the main objective of the *Balwadi* is to reduce the negative impact of the prison environment on children and to use the idle time of children in the right direction, through healthy recreation. In Amravati, the Balwadi is located outside the jail, and therefore children of staff were also benefitted. In Akola, as it is located inside the jail, children don't get opportunity to mingle with other children. On attaining the age of 6 years these children are shifted to their parental homes/relatives or children's institutions and helped to take admission in the formal schools in class one. A total of 81 children of women prisoners had attended the crèche in the Amravati central prison and 88 children of prisoners attended crèche at Akola district prison since 2012.

**Muktabandi Sahayak Scheme Work :** Under this state government scheme, a released prisoner is entitled to Rs 5000/- as one time assistance. Total 12 applications were submitted with follow up. It is under process and the entire numbers of applicants are likely to get the benefit, feels VARHAD. VARHAD feels that there is a need for advocacy to revise the amount to at least Rs 25,000/- per released prisoner and for increasing the coverage. They are contemplating the filing of public interest litigation in this regard and also making use of media advocacy in this regard.

**Help to Prisoner's Families :** With VARHAD's intervention, some families of prisoners were able to derive the benefits of welfare schemes like 'Sanjay Gandhi Niradhar Yojna'. VARHAD could help some families of prisoners to avail of benefits of this scheme with their constant follow-up and advocacy with state government. It was only after VARHAD's intervention that the families of prisoners were



considered eligible for benefits under this scheme. VARHAD did extensive follow up with department of Social Justice and Special Assistance of Government of Maharashtra. It could succeed in getting required directives from the department for inclusion of families of prisoners for benefit of the 'Sanjay Gandhi Niradhar Yojna'. VARHAD distributed 600 application forms of SGNV to convicted prisoners in the region. Most of the applications received were under process.

Legal Aid & Allied Services for Prisoners : Through 'Legal aid and allied services in prisons' it aims to render Legal support to under-trial prisoners and convicted prisoners to access their legal rights within the existing legal procedures. "VARHAD provides legal guidance and service to the needy clients with a view to motivate the under trial and convicted prisoners of all age of both the sex toward reformation and rehabilitation" (VARHAD 2013, p-2). Thus, social work support is provided by VARHAD to both Under Trial Prisoners (UTP) and Convicted Prisoners (CP). These activities are in consonance with the first stated objective of VARHAD, namely, "To provide access to justice for the poor and marginalized sections of the society by working in proximity with the State Legal Aid System to strengthen the system and provide litigation support to the under-trial and to promote release on parole and furlough of the convicted prisoners".

VARHAD team member establishes a relationship with the prisoners through his/her visits to the prison. He/she is also referred cases by other prisoners and the prison staff. VARHAD work includes counseling, - both legal and emotional; family contacts; counseling; and liaising with the administration towards improving custodial conditions. Training programme in tailoring for women prisoners in Amravati Central Prison is also being held. Legal counseling includes reading out the charge sheet, finding out the legal details about the case from the prison records and the court. Legal services are also provided by following up cases in court, liaising with the advocates, appointing advocates, visiting the police station to clarify facts, etc. Emotional support and counseling is aimed at trying to remove the prisoner from a life of crime and changing the mindset of the prisoner.

Work with Under Trial Prisoners (Legal Aid to Under Trial Prisoners) : There is a large section of under trial prisoners waiting for trial as their cases are pending even after a long period of time. As evident from the Table 3 below, more than half the prison population (56.04%) is composed on under-trial prisoners. Many of them were booked for less serious or petty offences. Under trial prisoners, especially those arrested in less serious offences, were far more vulnerable to exploitation than their seasoned counterparts both inside the prison and when they are released back into the community. Therefore they needed special attention.

Table 3: Composition of Prison Population in Five Prisons in Vdarbha

No.	Name of Prison	Composition of Prison Population in Feb 2014			
		UTP	CP	Total	% of UT
1	Amravati Central Prison	492	604	1096	44.89
2	Nagpur Central Prison	870	1090	1960	44.39
3	Akola District Prison	425	42	467	91.01
4	Yavatmal District Prison	379	36	415	91.33
5	Wardha District Prison	358	33	391	91.56
	Total	2524	1980	4504	56.04

Source: VARHAD documents

VARHAD provided legal aid and guidance to the most deserving under trial prisoners. VARHAD intervened and directly helped under-trial prisoners' cases progressing in JMFC Courts, and in CJM courts. VARHAD also tried to solve several other cases through engagement with the ACP (Special Executive Magistrate), Executive Magistrate and SDM. Thus without directly referring to the court, VARHAD intervened at this level too.

VARHAD has helped 450 cases of under-trials to apply for various legal provisions at Junior Magistrate First Class (JMFC) Court, 45 at the Chief Judicial Magistrate (CJM), and 178 at Session Courts. Thus a total of 673 under-trial prisoners were helped in the period 2003-2009. Its work in the courts providing legal services for under-trials and convicts has expanded from three courts to thirty courts in the Vidarbha region. During 2010 to 2014 period, VARHAD has been working with under-trial prisoners in Amravati, Nagpur, Wardha and Akola prisons. Legal assistance for bail and trial to needy and poor prisoners was provided through advocates associated with VARHAD. A total of 364 cases (which included convicted prisoners also) were supported through VARHAD, which also represented under-trial prisoners in JMFC, CJM and Session Courts in Amravati, Akola, Wardha and Nagpur districts. VARHAD claims that it has supported more (legal aid) cases than it had anticipated.

**Work with Convicted Prisoners (Legal Aid to Convict Prisoners):** VARHAD was committed to help convicted prisoners who were behind the bars for years, lamenting for visiting their family. In genuine cases, VARHAD helped them to apply for Parole (temporary emergency release) and Furlough (temporary planned release on leave from prison, as a correctional incentive. Both parole and furlough is granted as per the Maharashtra Prison Manual and the Bombay Furlough and Parole Rules 1959, under sec 18-19). During the period of June to November 2013, 6 prisoners were supported to be released on PR bond, 171 prisoners were supported to be released on parole or furlough, and 45 prisoners were provided legal aid to obtain bail. (VARHAD Half Yearly Report June-Nov 2013). VARHAD worked with 1179 convict cases to provide support to their families and children and also helped them to apply for parole and furlough. These efforts helped the prisoners to be with their families under specified conditions and helped them feel connected with their family and community. In the long run, this would help them in their rehabilitation. VARHAD has also initiated work at the Bombay High Court level. During the period of June to November 2013, VARHAD engaged the services of 65 lawyers to provide legal aid services to the poor and needy prisoners. One sensitization program and legal awareness program each was also held (VARHAD Half Yearly Report June-Nov 2013).

VARHAD feels that there is lot more to be done with regards to legal aid to the needy and poor prisoners in the High Court and Supreme Court. It feels that these institutions were out of reach of poor and hence in the absence of legal representation, justice is denied to the poor. They have plans to expand the legal aid network in the Supreme Court, through which they plan to support more number of cases in the next phase of the project.

**Support to Children of Prisoners :** On account of the arrest and detention, the whole family of the accused is affected. It is the spouse and child/ children of the detained prisoner who are affected the most. They face several adversities both in family and the society. VARHAD has taken keen interest in the future of the children of prisoners and initiated educational support along with providing psycho-social care. Through these activities, VARHAD has been trying to convert into action the second stated objective, namely, "To provide psycho-social care in terms of educational as well as moral

support to the children of prisoners, particularly those from socially and economically disadvantaged backgrounds". Through 'Support to children of prisoners' VARHAD strives to provide financial assistance and placement support to children of prisoners so as to prevent their criminalization and to promote their education and/or vocational training. As indicated earlier, VARHAD has started crèche facility in the prison premises at Amravati and Akola.

Those children who are living outside the prison (with relatives or in institutions), were provided support for continuing their education. In certain cases, VARHAD assumed full responsibility for the children. VARHAD thus ensured basic rights of every child of the prisoners. During the period of June to November 2013, 55 children of prisoners were provided residential support and 24 children were provided non-residential support. VARHAD team made home visits and provided counseling and home visit services to the children. Similarly, visits were arranged for children of prisoners to visit their parent/s in jail (VARHAD, 2013).

**Rehabilitation of Released Prisoners:** Through this component, VARHAD works for reformation and reintegration of released prisoners through their appropriate rehabilitation, thereby preventing recidivism, which is in agreement with the third stated objective of VARHAD, namely, "To support the released prisoners for reintegration into the society through counseling, vocational training and support for self-employment and income generation activity". VARHAD has taken the up the task of creating job opportunities for the released prisoners. VARHAD has also started a rehabilitation center for released prisoners. Through this centre it provides aftercare services to the released prisoners. This rehabilitation center also plays an important role in the reintegration of the released prisoners. The rehabilitation center also provides employment as well as residential facilities to the released prisoner and his/ her family (VARHAD 2013). The rehabilitation center provides residential care for 2 families at a time. This is aimed to help them to reintegrate in to the society after release from prison.

VARHAD feels that rehabilitation of released prisoners is one of the areas where it has a mixed result. They feel that due to budget constraints in the current proposal they had limited options for experimentation, involving multiple government agencies and the civil society. They also feel that they need to work with police. They feel that a government scheme ('Muktabandi Sahayak Scheme') which is for the purpose of rehabilitation of released prisoners has a very unrealistic budget and therefore is not functioning as the way it should have.

There is lot to do for replication VARHAD model of working with prisoners and their families in other parts of Maharashtra. VARHAD says that it has plans to train personnel and organizations to work in prison setting and criminal justice system in general in the next phase of the Project.

### Conclusion

The rate of imprisonment in India is around 30 per one lakh population, and there is a need to cover as many as 25,000 prisoners in the state of Maharashtra alone. The client system of the CJS is all the same a neglected lot and a deprived group. By and large they are stigmatized, vulnerable, misunderstood, suspected, lacks social support and are way outside the social mainstream (marginalized). It requires a good amount of conviction, verve, patience and unflinching non-judgmental attitude and acceptance to work with this group. Work within the Criminal Justice System (CJS) throws up a lot of challenges, risks and adversities, due to which there are very few organizations willing to work within the CJS. It requires

a special kind of determination, zeal and skill-sets to deal with these challenges. VARHAD could acquire these qualities and this was its biggest asset and strength. Although there are 1,07,797 functioning NGOs in Maharashtra, barring Prayas-TISS and VARHAD, there are very few other organizations in the voluntary sector, working full-fledged within the CJS, and carrying out the kind of professional interventions. VARHAD's strategies of programme implementation have been time-tested. Within the constraints of the CJS, it has achieved a fair degree of success. VARHAD has been able to provide a unique kind of professional support and gain the confidence of the CJS administration that it is a trustworthy organization and has developed the expertise, skills, capability and strategies to work within this CJS. VARHAD has proved that it has been able to make a significant impact on the issue of welfare of prisoners lodged in the prisons of Vidarbha and their families. Such models of professional social work interventions have been rare. There is the need for a cadre of trained social workers within the prison system to liaison with the administration towards protection of legal rights of prisoners. It should also be stated here that social work intervention in correctional settings has proved helpful in demonstrating the scope and need for a rehabilitation policy and tailor-made welfare schemes for persons released from custodial institutions and their families who are vulnerable. Therefore, there is a need to showcase and to replicate the VARHAD (and Prayas) model in the rest of CJS in Maharashtra and in India.

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## TRENDS IN SOCIAL WORK : AN EXAMINATION OF THE INDIAN JOURNAL OF SOCIAL WORK BETWEEN 2005 AND 2009

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### ABSTRACT

*This paper is an attempt through a content analysis of the Indian Journal of Social Work to delineate the trends in the discipline of social work. In social science research, content analysis is a systematic analysis and description of coding techniques, books, journals, newspapers and the like. This paper takes up for content analysis the issues of the Indian Journal of Social Work published between 2005 and 2009. In this reference period all the issues have been published and there is some symmetry between these issues. This consistency in publishing is indicative of the success of the Journal in nurturing a group of writers on themes of social work. This article is just the first part of a broader study and presents a simple profile of the journal.*

### Introduction:

A foundational element of any branch of knowledge is its writing and research component. Every branch has its specialized methods for undertaking research and for the discovery of ideas. However different each branch is from the other but a feature common to all branches of knowledge is the fact of publishing one's research work. Publication of research work and making it available to the wider community is the final stage of any research work in any branch of knowledge.

### Objective of the Article:

This paper is based on a study undertaken to explore the trends in social work through its publication. This study took up the leading social work journal in the country to understand these in the discipline of social work. It takes the content analysis approach to study the journal.

### Content Analysis and Library Management:

Content analysis helps in library management. It is done to know the trends in the research work.

Libraries are meant to acquire books and periodicals and make them available to readers. In recent years one problem which libraries have faced is the restriction on acquiring of periodicals. The budget allocation for libraries is being reduced and this has been more strictly applied for the buying of periodicals. In such cases the authorities need to prune down the number of periodicals. How will they decide? Which periodical should be continued and which should be discontinued? In a situation of the need to make choices, content analysis becomes a rational basis to take a decision. The content analysis

of the journal will specify the utility of the journal being subscribed.

Content Analysis as a Methodology:

In social science research, content analysis is a systematic analysis and description of coding techniques, books, journals, newspapers and the like. Content may be analyzed to study the changing attention to a particular issue over several years. It helps in classification and organization of unorganized data and gives them a scientific shape.

Content analysis is “an approach to the analysis of documents and texts that seek to quantify content in terms of predetermined categories and in a systematic and replicable manner” (Bryman, 2008: 275). This succinct definition tells us in essence what the approach of content analysis is all about. Three features are essential to this approach:

- (i) Selecting a document.
- (ii) Identifying the categories
- (iii) Quantifying data based on these categories.
- (iv) Describing the quantified data and drawing inferences.

All these four features became the tools for the study undertaken based on which this paper is written. All the issues of IJSW published between January 2005 and October 2009 comprising four volumes was collected for this study. For each and every article a separate standard card were prepared. This procedure was followed for analyzing all the four 4 volumes: 19 issues between 2005 and 2009.

Scope of the study:

The scope of this study and paper was limited to an analysis of the Indian Journal of Social Work. The Indian Journal of Social Work (IJSW) publishes original contributions in the form of survey reports, field reports, theoretical papers, reviews and short communication. For this study all the IJSW journals of five years between 2005 to 2009 were taken up for content analysis. In this period a total of 20 issues of IJSW were published. Out of the 20 issues 19 issues were analysed since one could not be located.

The Indian Journal of Social Work:

The Indian Journal of Social Work (IJSW) is a pioneering journal in the discipline of social work and is published by the Tata Institute of Social Sciences. The IJSW is published every year in the month of January, April, July and October. It has entered its 69<sup>th</sup> year of uninterrupted publishing, a record in journal publishing. The first issue of the IJSW was published in June 1940. The major emphasis of the first issue was on two aspects of child welfare: children in Industry and juvenile delinquency. As the perspective of professional social work changed from welfare to developmental so has the language of IJSW changed. The shift is from social problems to that of concerns affecting the marginalized sections of Indian population.

The Indian Journal of Social Work, over the years, has worked towards the objectives it was established for:

- Catering to the need for literature on social work, and
- Being a medium of dissemination of indigenous work being carried out in the country.

**Analysis and Interpretations:**

The table below presents a profile of the Indian Journal of Social Work with reference to their year of publication, volume numbers, issue numbers, number of articles per issue and number of authors per issue.

**Table 1: Classification of Indian Journal of Social Work according to year of Publication, Volume Numbers, Issue Numbers, Number of Articles and Number of Authors**

Sr. No	Year	Volume Numbers	Issue Numbers	Number of Articles	Number of Authors
1	2005	66	1	06	06
2	2005	66	2	08	06
3	2005	66	3	06	05
4	2005	66	4	09	10
5	2006	67	1	12	12
6	2006	67*	2	-	-
7	2006	67	3	07	07
8	2006	67	4	06	06
9	2007	68	1	09	09
10	2007	68	2	07	07
11	2007	68	3	07	07
12	2007	68	4	08	04
13	2008	69	1	08	08
14	2008	69	2	09	08
15	2008	69	3	06	05
16	2008	69	4	08	07
17	2009	70	1	07	10
18	2009	70	2	07	07
19	2009	70	3	07	06
20	2009	70	4	07	09
Total	5-years	5 Volume	19 Issues	144 Articles	139 Authors

\*This volume was not available

The 19 issues of the Indian Journal of Social Work published between 2005 and 2009 carried 144 articles written by 139 authors. If we look at it year-wise then the data indicates that in 2005, 29 articles were published; in 2006, 25 articles were published; in 2007, 31 articles were published; in 2008, 31 articles were published; and in 2009, 28 articles were published. The inference which can be drawn is that the number of articles published between 2005 and 2009 year-wise is quite even. It ranges from 28 in 2009

to 31 each in 2007 and 2008. A similar pattern is seen in case of authors. In 2005, 27 authors wrote; in 2006, 25 wrote; in 2007, 27 wrote; in 2008, 28 wrote and in 2009, 32 wrote. The range is between 25 in 2006 to 32 in 2009.

The simple inference which can be drawn from this data is that in all the five years of the reference period (2005 to 2009) the number of articles and authors per year does not vary very significantly. A feature of interest to be noted is that while the maximum number of articles has come in the year 2007 and 2008 (31 in each year) the maximum number of authors (32) is in 2009. From this data it seems that there is no relationship between number of articles and number of authors published by the IJSW in a year.

The total number of contributions in 19 Issues of volumes is 144 from which the highest number of articles is 31 in the year 2007 and 2008. In terms of the number of authors the highest number is 32 in 2009.

Table 2: Average of Articles per volume

No of Volume	Total no of contribution	Average
05	144	28.8

The total number of articles in five volumes of the reference period is 144. The average number of articles per volume is 28.8.

Conclusions:

This article is the first part and the beginning part of a bigger study of the IJSW. What is of significance is that the publishers have been able to continuously publish all the 20 issues of the journal between 2005 and 2006. The fact that each of the five volumes published between 2005 and 2009 is approximately the same with reference to the number of authors and articles published indicates that the Journal has been able to nurture a group of writers writing on themes of social work. These two facts, continuity and uniformity, are attributes of the strength of the Indian Journal of Social Work and the reason why it is the leading journal of social work in India.

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## MEDIA IMPACT AND BEHAVIORAL CHANGES AMONG CHILDREN : A FIELD PERSPECTIVE FROM GURGAON

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*“Television does not let you think. It thinks for you. Television does not let you feel. It feels for you”*

*- Isaac Stern*

### ABSTRACT

*This paper based on field data examines the impact of media on the behaviour and attitude of small children. It presents both theoretical and empirical perspectives. The key assertion of this paper is that the unsupervised viewing of television programmes and access to other technological instruments is/are eroding away the abilities of children to deal with the real world and lead a life of contentment. This paper concludes by providing a few pointers to how parents and care-givers can supervise in a constructive way the time children spend in a day. This will lead to better outcomes.*

### Introduction

This paper examines both theoretically and empirically the behavioural and attitudinal changes in children when they watch television over a period of time. Television (TV) is possibly the most influential component of the entertainment industry and it has become a powerful tool for bringing forth a consumer society. In this drive for consumerism children become the most easily available and amenable target group for changes desired by private capital. With changes in the family structure and with both parents working children have become influential decision-makers in the family. The entertainment industry has realised this power of children: the toothpaste industry calls it 'pester power' which easily fetches them sums of money going beyond a few hundred crores. Children are the entry point into families and have become very crucial for the industry.

### Methodology

This paper is based on a field study which the researcher had undertaken to fulfil the curriculum requirements for a M.Phil programme. The study was conducted in Gurgaon NCR in 2012 with 150 children as respondents and their mothers. The age group of the children was four to eight years. The respondents were selected from different economic backgrounds.

### Early childhood

According to UNESCO ECCE (Early Childhood Care and Education) Unit, early childhood is defined as the period from birth to eighth years old. These years are a time of remarkable brain development and they lay the foundation for subsequent learning.

This foundation comprises psychological, social and biological elements. Any hindrance or obstacles in this phase may leave an impact with lifelong consequences. The development of a child can take place best if it happens in a secure and nurturing environment. Where the environment is infected by violence

and fear, all the normal tasks of growing up are likely to be adversely affected. For example, exposure to violence can result in 'regressive' symptoms such as increased bedwetting and delayed language development (Osofsky, 1995; Margolin & Gordis, 2000).

#### Cognitive development and learning in early childhood years

Jean Piaget's theory of cognitive development suggests that children play an important role in gaining knowledge of the world. He called them the 'little scientists' who construct their own knowledge and understanding of the world around them and how it functions.

Jean Piaget classified the early childhood development into two major stages: sensor motor and preoperational. The earliest stage of cognitive development is the sensor motor stage in which children develop and utilize motor skills. In this stage their intellectual development is restricted to sensory input. The second stage, that is the preoperational stage has four sub- stages: symbols, language, intuition and information processing. The first part of the preoperational stage involves the development of symbolic thinking between two to four years. Here, a child can retain symbolic knowledge of an item or person even when it is not in their line of sight. The second stage is the growth and use of language between three and six years of development. The third stage of development marks the beginning of non-magical thinking in children. As children develop cognitively, their ability to reason and understand the steps involved in a process becomes better and clearer. This stage encompasses children between four and seven years of age. The fourth stage of development is information processing which children enter into between the ages of five and seven. This ability to process and order information is an important skill in the preschool and early childhood years. (Piaget, 1936).

#### Media exposure, children and parents : The family context

Nowadays parents have a preference for premium preschools and schools that bombard children with visual information through televisions, computers and 'smart' classrooms. Television and computers can be fabulous learning tools for older children if used wisely. However, for younger children, the simple act of reading or exploring nature is the key to nurturing their creativity and intelligence. How small children internalise what they watch on TV is a matter of great concern. For a small child, the simple acts of Tom and Jerry fighting or playing pranks on each other may have far serious impact than an adult can ever imagine. Children can get addicted to the 'smart phones' and the various types of technologies being used in the classrooms for teaching.

Parents can be seen exposing their children to television and computers in the hope that these gadgets will provide educational benefits. These children are spending a very considerable amount of time watching TV programs. The effects of this massive exposure on the developing personality of the child can be seen on their relationships within the family and on social interaction among children. Television is being used as a baby sitter in most of the families where both the parents are working or keep long working hours and the children are left in the care of the domestic help.

The more stimulating the early environment, the more a child learns and develops. Language and cognitive development are especially important during the first six months to three years of life. When children spend their early years in a less stimulating, or less emotionally and physically supportive

environment, their brain development is affected and leads to cognitive, social and behavioural delays. Later in life, these children will have difficulty in dealing with complex situations and environments. High levels of adversity and stress during early childhood can increase the risk of stress-related disease and learning problems well into the adult years. (WHO Fact sheet N 332, August 2009).

One comes across many links on the Internet where parents share the ever-increasing behavioural problems of their children and their inability to tackle them. The progressive education encourages the parents to believe in the unique ability of every child. The works of educationists like Sri Aurobindo Ghosh, Mira Richard (known as the Mother), Jean Piaget, Gijubhai Badheka and John Holt have proved that the time spent in the early childhood years help shape the personality of the individuals and leave long lasting impressions on their minds. One hears from parents that they want to raise their children to be happy and competitive individuals. Increasing violence, intolerance among individuals, troubled relationships and other sad facts are observed and parents are seen wondering how they could prevent these things happening to their children. Few parents and primary care givers use Television as a baby sitter for their children and that can impact the children's over all development. Small children listen to the latest Hindi movie songs on music channels the lyrics of which are not appropriate for small children. One can see children dancing to these numbers on reality shows and in real life.

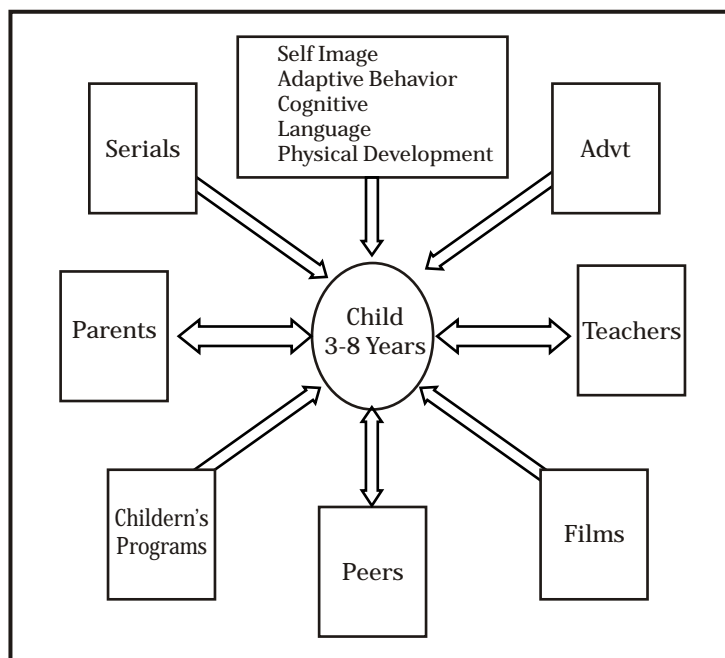
Experimental studies have shown that after playing video games, young people exhibit measurable decreases in pro-social and helping behaviours while there is an increase in aggressive thoughts and violent retaliation to provocation. Playing violent video games has been found to account for a 13 per cent to 22 per cent increase in adolescents' violent behavior. By comparison, smoking tobacco accounts for 14 per cent of the increase in lung cancer. Children learn by observing and trying out "behavioural scripts." Repeated exposure to violent behavioural scripts can lead to increased feelings of hostility, expectations that others will behave aggressively, desensitization to the pain of others, and increased likelihood of interacting and responding to others with violence. (*The Impact of Interactive Violence on Children. Hearing before the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation. 106th Cong, 1st Sess (2000)* (statement of Craig Anderson, Professor, Iowa State University, Department of Psychology)

Video games are an ideal environment in which to learn violence. They place the player in the role of the aggressor and reward him or her for successful violent behaviour. Rather than a passive role, video games allow the player to rehearse an entire behavioural script ranging from provocation, to choosing to respond violently and to the resolution of the conflict. Moreover, video games have been found to be addictive 67. Children and adolescents want to play them for long periods of time to improve their scores and advance to higher levels. Repetition increases their effect. (Griffiths MD, Hunt N. Dependence on computer games by adolescents. *Psychol Rep.* 1998; 82:475-480)

Types of media exposure available to children

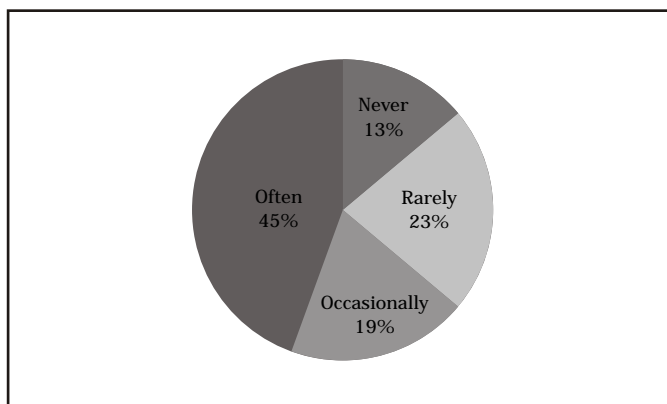
1. Television: Cartoons, music channels, Entertainment Channels, Reality Shows and Movies
2. Video Games
3. Internet
4. Print media: newspaper, Comics, Books
5. Advertisements
6. Toys

Fig 1: Sphere of influence for a child



### Impact of media exposure on the behavior

Fig 2: Occurrence of Irrational Behavior



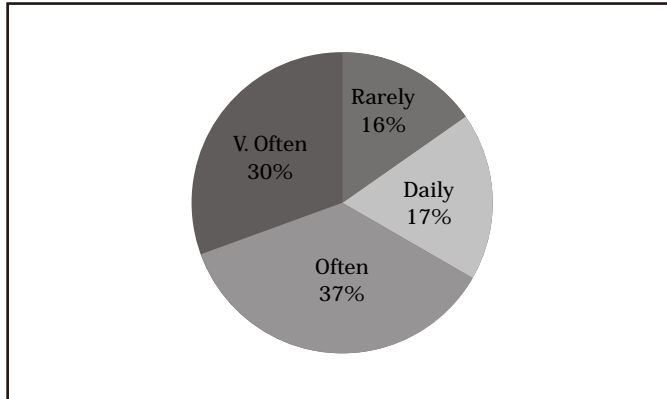
The questionnaire for mothers defined irrational behaviour as throwing tantrums, imitating the verbal content and body language shown on TV. Imaginary play is a part of childhood in which imitation is a common element. TV influenced children tend to incorporate violent and aggressive behavior in these plays. The well-known TV character of Shin Chan can be seen stomping his feet, being rude to his parents and making fun of his parents. Children watching this cartoon get the message that this kind of aggressive and irrational behaviour is acceptable. Spongebob square pants can be seen killing an entire flock of scallops and indulging in other violent acts. In this cartoon, characters are routinely blown-up,

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parents get time to watch news after the day's work. The images of weapons, war and the suffering of the victims is something children could easily identify with because of watching them continuously.

Most of the television news programmes are clearly not intended for a child audience but children watch more news broadcasts than many parents and care givers are aware of. Being exposed to highly distressing and violent accounts of murders, sex crimes, catastrophic accidents, natural disasters, war and other suffering is not recommended for children in early childhood years as their brains are still developing and they need to be exposed to healthy, child centred programming on TV or have more active participation in the other creative pursuits.

#### Importance of play and engaging with peers

Recent studies of early childhood education have even shown some remarkable success. The resulting effects of early childhood education on child motivation and learning power last for a long time. Nowadays education plays an important role in the society and parents have begun investing in youngsters' education in the early years.

Early childhood education is fundamentally termed as "Learning through play". Recent studies have shown that early eight years in any children life are essential time since during this phase their brain develops and the foundation for the future is laid. The educational experiences and relationships a child develops along with proper nutrition can truly affect a child's mental growth enormously. Conversely factors like improper education, exposure to unsuitable media, or study without play may well affect brain development in distinct manner. It is believed that the experiences and the learning of a child in early years can support them in their whole life.

Apart from a child's physical and sensory development, the brain, likewise, needs to be stimulated and kept in shape. Studies have shown time and again that people who are read to as children tend to do far better in school and in their careers. Children's books and regular reading sessions can make the distinction between a child who enjoys the challenge of schoolwork and a child who finds schoolwork to be a chore. Lev Vygotsky, a seminal psychologist created the concept of 'Zone of Proximal Development' which states that learning with peers is a crucial aspect of learning and he invented the concept of scaffolding which involves providing the children with essential assistance and tools to enhance their learning capacity. (Vygotsky, 1978). Parents exposing their children to the unsupervised and almost unlimited amount of television fail to realize the importance of playtime and learning that takes place while interacting with peers. Children spending their free time watching television miss out on the crucial play activities and the valuable interaction it provides with the peer group.

Play is so important to optimal child development that it has been recognized by the United Nations High Commission for Human Rights as a right of every child. But it is seen that children are not spending enough time playing because of many reasons like spending after school hours in tuitions or watching too much TV or surfing the internet. The parents let the children spend unsupervised time on the internet and in a short span of time it becomes addictive.

Play allows children to use their creativity while developing their imagination, dexterity, and physical, cognitive, and emotional strength. Play is important to healthy brain development. It is through play that children at a very early age engage and interact in the world around them. Play allows children to create and explore a world they can master, conquering their fears while practicing adult roles, sometimes in conjunction with other children or adult caregivers. (an article -The Importance of Play in Promoting

Healthy Child Development and Maintaining Strong Parent-Child Bonds by Kenneth R. Ginsburg, MD, MSED, and the Committee on Communications, and the Committee on Psychosocial Aspects of Child and Family Health PEDIATRICS Vol. 119 No. 1 January 1, 2007 pp. 182 -191)

The only good reason for playing games with babies is because we love them, and delight in playing these games with them and in sharing their delight in playing - not because we want someday to get them into college. It is our delight in the baby and the games that make the games fun, and worthwhile and useful for the baby. Take away the delight, and put in its place some cold-hearted calculation about future I.Q. and SAT scores, and we kill the game, for ourselves and the baby. (Holt, 1983)

Providing alternative creative pursuits and cognitive stimulation

Parents and caregivers especially for younger school-aged children, should work at restricting the amount and types of programs children watch. This will reduce their children's fears and aggressiveness. This restriction is like an announcement that the parents "and not the TV" will raise their children. If parents limit television time, it also means that they should provide alternative activities for their children. Parents should offer creative alternative activities like crafts, puppetry, dressing up, drawing and painting, sports, music, dancing, nature study, gardening and a host of other activities. Constructive learning and play will not necessarily just happen because children are not watching TV or spending time surfing internet. Children need to be encouraged by the adults around them to engage in play with peers, siblings and develop some interests through a hobby.

Appropriate roles for the television industry The challenge

The television industry's greatest challenge is to provide entertainment programming in which life's problems are not simply and quickly solved with either violent action or hostile humour by the protagonists.

Television industry could focus on creating programs that have no violence or violent heroes but are still popular with children. Children at this age are more attracted to variability and tempo than to violence. The creative team of channels could focus on creating programmes which appeals to children without using the violent, objectionable or sexual content. The language used in the programmes need to be looked into as well. The slangs used in various cartoons are easily picked up by younger children who don't understand the meaning of the words and they use it while interacting with their peers or siblings. Some cartoon channels have started showing popular Hindi movies at prime time at 9 pm. In some households children don't sleep till almost 11 and they regularly watch such movies which are full of melodrama, raunchy songs, violence and unsuitable language.

Conclusions

The aim of this article is to make parents and the care-givers conscious of their roles in the family and alert them about the effects the media has on their children. Giving importance to play and creative pursuits keeps children engaged and happy. The healthy stimulation of the minds of the children can be achieved by meaningful involvement of the parents, family members and other care-givers. During the course of the study, the researcher observed that the children who spent less time watching TV, surfing the internet and playing video games were found to be spending more of their time on creative activities or were engaging with their peers. These children made more friends and were found to be happier by their family members and their teachers.

WORKSCITED:

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## THE GREAT (SOCIAL WORK) ACADEMIC PIRACY

SHANKAR PATHAK

*The author is a Retired Professor from Delhi School of Social Work, Delhi, who is currently settled in Bangalore.*

### ABSTRACT

*About the title, there was a popular Hollywood film with the title- Great Train Robbery, perhaps based on a well-known detective novel. So, I was inspired by that title, in choosing the title for this note, "Robbery" is obviously inappropriate for the title. Having looking up the dictionary for the meaning of the words, "Plagiarism" and "Piracy" I chose the word 'piracy' in preference to the word, "Plagiarism" widely used in academic literature and by publisher's disclaimers. Here is the meaning of the word "Piracy": the unauthorized use or appropriation of patented or copyrighted material or ideas etc. (The new Collins Concise English Dictionary, Rupa and co 1982 India edition).*

### Background:

During March 2010 I made a brief visit (10<sup>th</sup> to 12) to Delhi- Dept. of Social Work, Delhi University (D.S.W.D.U.) One of my former students who is on the faculty of D.S.W.D.U. met me at the University Guest House and conversationally mentioned that s/he had got Ph.D. recently from another Central University, one of the two at New Delhi. I expressed a desired to look at the Ph.D. dissertation which was given to me on the next day. I had no time to read it but read the introduction and then turned to the Bibliography- my habit when reading a new book. It was a long list containing titles, names of the author of the books from the disciplines of sociology, economic, education and some well known economic authors including Michael Todaro. I have read some of his writings and was very impressed. Then an entry social development under the publication title- Social Work Encyclopedia 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition, caught my attention which puzzled me. I asked for the name of author and the name of the distinguished T.I.S.S. alumnus was mentioned, who had passed away. I had thought I was the only author on Social Development in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Encyclopedia of Social work in India (1987) and was unaware of the 3<sup>rd</sup> edition of Encyclopedia of Social Work and the author who had passed away more than two decades ago had written it! (There was no article on Social Development in the First Edition of Encyclopedia). I did make a few enquiries seeking details of that entry. But did not say anything more.

After my return to Bangalore, Ramesha. M. H., the young editor of the bilingual monthly Social Work Foot Prints, happened to mention proudly that he had a copy of all the three Encyclopedias. I requested him to lend me his copy of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Encyclopedia of Social Work. He did so and I read carefully the preliminary pages including the contents. I turned the pages, reading a few passages and was greatly shocked to find my own, G.R.Banerjee's and Hans Nagpaul's published writings without names and credit (Publication details). I mention only a few.

1. Banerjee's 'Social Worker looks at V.D.' written during the early 1950's and published in the I.J.S.W. and later included in the book papers on Social Work- An Indian Perspective, 1972, T.I.S.S., publication. I had written a Review Essay which was published in I.J.S.W. during the mid 70's.

The correct entry in 'PRETENCY' vol-1 page No-344 is; Social Development: A profile: I have been

cited in the reference. No name of the author.

2. My own several writing I could recognize, but, I mention only one. My article based on the keynote Address at the ASSWI seminar at Bhubaneswar, 1986 which was later published with the title Social Work and Social Development- Some Unresolved Issues in R. K. Nayak and H. Y. Siddiqui, Eds -Social Work and Social Development, Gitanjali publications, New Delhi, 1989. While lifting this article the academic pirates over-looked the footnote on the very first page No-354 and failed to delete that entry. Thus left a vital clue (evidence) of their piracy.

Some major crimes are accidentally discovered e.g. the great scam of cricket match fixing by Hans Cronje of South Africa including two well-known Indian Cricketers, one of whom is now a M. P. (Lok Sabha) of the ruling party! Another very recent I.P.L Rajasthan Royals three team members which is still under further investigation. The police were monitoring phone calls for major crimes terrorist attack and chanced upon the match fixing conversations.

3. Hans Nagpal's article perhaps from the I.J.S.W (or from his book). No mentioned such as authors, publishers etc.

An Encyclopedia is a major academic project, planned carefully, selecting topics and suitable authors, and takes several years before publishing for a variety of reasons. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Encyclopedia, to which I am a contributor, was planned in 1978-79, but published only in 1987. Also, topics are added or titles changed keeping in mind the changes over a period of years. If the pretender Encyclopedia hereafter (PRTENCY) was to published on the S.T.D. (Sexually Transmitted Diseases) there would have been two entries, one on social work in the file on S.T.D. and other on HIV-AIDS. To publish 1950's article in 2001- Social Worker Looks at V. D., apart from the crime of piracy, demonstrates academic (in)competence including ignorance of the areas which the chosen topics are to cover.

I wrote about my "detective" findings to a well- known social work academic, formerly at T.I.S.S., now retired sometime during September 2011 and I quote from this academic's reply:

The situation of professional ethics outside T.I.S.S. seems to be worse. Some year back the T.I.S.S. Librarian did send me three volumes of a book on social work in India for approval. I did not approve as it had no references at all, which means all the content of plagiarized. I don't know if you are talking about some work in India. On the other hand 2000, Prof. Surendra Singh, then the president of ASSWI asked me to be a member of Advisory and editorial board which had been formed for the Third edition of the Encyclopedia of Social work in India. I sent him my suggestion for an update set of contents. He asked for experts for the new topics which also I sent him. Many T.I.S.S. faculty members are invited who send their articles but then there has been no news from him till now. Just last week I heard from a colleague who had met Prof. Singh recently that Prof. Singh told him that a faculty members of an institution in Mumbai wrote to the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment who was funding it and complained that it is the Ministry who should publish this Encyclopedia and not ASSWI! The Ministry withdraw the funding.

When I mentioned to Ramesha about my discovery of the crime - The Great Social Work Academic Piracy, he quarried why don't you feel a case in the court? I told him futility of that exercise, the legal tangle, visits to court for hearings, engaging a lawyer on payment of fees and the enormous delay in concluding the judicial process - more than five years with more than three corers of cases pending in various courts in the country and my age (80+years).

The social work academic pirates perhaps assumed that most of the authors would have passed away, if alive would not come to know because of old age or living abroad (H. Nagpal) but, I happen to alive (83

years) blessed with a good memory and my mental faculties are good conditions. As I said before, the discovery of the crime was accidental- my brief visit to Delhi and the PhD dissertation being mentioned by the faculty member and my interested in looking at it.

More than the enormity of the crime what shocks me that it has not been detected before by other social work academics. And it pains me to see that it is being mentioned by the social work academics as part of their scholarly publications. Even after Ramesha made a brief reference to it in his (Kannada) editorial in one of the issues of Social Work Foot Prints-a well known, retired social work academic who would have read the editorial, listed it as part of his lecture Bibliography, published later in the same journal!

My further investigation of the content of the "Pretnency" Vol. 3, surprised me even more. There are three chapters of my book, Social Welfare - An Evolutionary and Developmental Perspective, Macmillan India, New Delhi, 1981, with the same chapter titles! I could also guess - identify published writings Robert Pinker, H. Y. Siddiqui and Vidya Rao in the same volume. Note also that the contents are not in an alphabetical order - the practice followed by the encyclopedias.

To conclude, why this academic piracy was not detected for nearly ten years after the publication in 2001? Why PhD students and academics writers (scholars?) continued to mention it as part of Bibliography of their academic products? Very distributing answer to the questions posed above."Why, oh Why" (a line from the poem, "Boatman's Song" by Sarojini Naidu)

Date - 12<sup>th</sup> August 2013

Shankar Pathak

No. 213, 16<sup>th</sup> Cross, M. C. Layout,  
Vijay Nagar, Bangalore- 560040

Suggested additional reading

"Social Work Educators as scholars- Some Animadversions", Indian Journal of Social Work, April, 2000.

Postscript:

I have spent much time, about 50 hours and mental energy for writing this note, inspite of my age and related disability, computer illiteracy, etc with the help of others who kindly agreed to get this note computer printed. I shall feel rewarded if the Social Work academic community individual and institutional, act concertedly to curb if not eliminate the epidemic academic piracy from spreading and hurting the genuine writers, depriving them of what they deserve.

Suggestions:

1. To remove immediately from the library and "Pretnency" volumes if purchased and destroy them.
2. Heads/Directors of institutions to evolve proper procedures if in existence already to improve, to prevent purchase of expensive books falsely claiming to be the original academic publications by exercising due vigilance as illustrated by the former T.I.S.S. academic, already Quoted.
3. Research guide to scrutinize the references, bibliography etc to detect pirated, plagiarized publications (assuming that they are widely read scholars).

Analysis of the Contents of Vol.4 "Pretency"-2001

I. Total No. of Page-553 (excluding Bibliography)

Total No. pages from the Indian authors (unnamed)-52 approximately 9%

Ch.no 15, 20 to 24 = total 6

Ch. 20- I identify the author G.R. Bannerjee

Ch. 24 (repeat) (see foot note)

Ch. 22 Taken from the Indian Journal of Psychiatry (see foot note)

II. Out of a total of 33 entries (chapters) 27 are from western (UK and USA) authors.

Total No of Page-501

Approximately 90% of the content (Pages)

Look at the title of the chapter-33 Black Social Workers in White Department!

III. Ch-25 Psychiatric Social Worker western (USA) author.

Bibliography + notes period covered content deals with the situation in USA

Details-1 (1935) 1935 to 1956

6 (1940's)

11 (1950-56)

18

13 books published in New York (4 in other US cities, 1 in U.K.)

No Indian entry!

IV. Bibliography page. 554 to 558 (5 page) Only 7 Indian authors out of 48 under the title-Articles

41 authors listed under the titles-Book.

Not a single Indian Author!!

Summary of the analysis of vol 1 to 3 of PRETENCY

Vol-1-21 Indian authors out of 27

Vol-2-23 Indian authors out of 30

Vol-3-14 Indian authors out of 26

58

83

70% of the total no. of authors (83) are presumed to be Indian author (unnamed).

Average content by Indian authors of the 3 volumes (No of pages) is 50%

To conclude entire content of all the volumes except the preface is pirated!

Title- Encyclopedia of Social Work Editor- in chief: Jainendra Kumar Jha

Institute of Sustainable Development Lucknow And Anmol Publishers Pvt. Ltd, 2001 New Delhi (India)-  
110002

*A Note from the MSSISW Editorial Board:*

*Shankar Pathak is a retired Professor of social work, Delhi University. He studied at Karnataka and Lucknow Universities with economics as a major subject, and also political science, sociology and social anthropology. He obtained the post graduate diploma in social work at the Tata Institute of Social Sciences, and social work, and uses this knowledge in all his writings. He has authored six books on social work and contributed articles to the Encyclopedia of Social Work in India (1966 and 1987) and to several anthologists on social work. He is a founder member of I. A. T. S. W. its first president of Delhi Branch and Editor of Quarterly journal- Social Work Forum (1969-71). He was U.N.ECAFE (now ESCAP) Senior Lecture at the Philippine School of Social Work Consultant on Family Planning, at the Faculty of Social Administration, Thammasat University, Bangkok, during 1973-74."*

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## THE FEATURE OF CONTRAST AND THE POEMS FROM PICKWICK PAPERS: EXAMINING CHARLES DICKENS AS A POET

NANDITA MANE

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### ABSTRACT

*This paper is based on a study of Charles Dickens as a poet. This paper takes up Pickwick Papers as its key theme of study. Charles Dickens (1812-1870) was a prolific Victorian novelist who gained fame and recognition for his narrative powers in depicting social realism and portraying the ills of society. But he is also a poet of some exquisite verses. He has composed lines for a comic opera, written prologues for tragedy and a farce and verses for his novels. He has also written a parody, a doggerel verse, a ballad, a Christmas Carol and a Hymn. He has contributed verses on varied themes on social inequality, on religion, on nature, romance, a satirical piece and melancholy. Among his scant poetic output, his verses in Pickwick Papers bear significance. This novel contains four poetic compositions, each of a different nature - a ballad, a Christmas Carol, a dirge and a romance. An interesting feature of the poems is the contrast they bring to the narrative in which they are embedded. Each poem stands in contrast with its background.*

### INTRODUCTION:

Charles Dickens (1812-1870) was a prolific Victorian novelist. Known for his social realism and portrayal of ills in society, he has gained unexampled fame as a novelist in portraying it. But he is also a poet of some exquisite verses. He has composed lines for a comic opera, written prologues for tragedy and a farce and verses for his novels. He has also written a parody, a doggerel verse, a ballad, a Christmas Carol and a Hymn. He has contributed verses on varied themes on social inequality, on religion, on nature, romance, a satirical piece and melancholy.

Among his scant poetic output, his verses in Pickwick Papers bear significance. This novel narrates the travel adventures and sporting transactions of the four members of the Pickwick club. With a view to extend researches into the quaint and curious phenomena of life, they make journeys to remote places from London and report their findings to the other members of the club. Accurate description of events and incidents form a distinctive and valuable feature of this literary work. This novel contains four poetic compositions, each of a different nature - a ballad, a Christmas Carol, a dirge and a romance. The ballad called 'The Ivy Green' of three verses appears in the sixth chapter of the novel. 'A Christmas Carol' of five stanzas and 'The Gabriel Grub's Song,' the sexton's melancholy dirge, appear in the 28<sup>th</sup> and the 29<sup>th</sup> chapter respectively while 'Romance' is seen in the 43<sup>rd</sup> chapter. *The Ivy Green* and *Christmas Carol* occur in the narrative, while *Gabriel Grub's Song* forms an integral part of one of the interpolated tales.

### OBJECTIVE:

This paper explores Dickens' genius in using the device of contrast in his poems. The device of contrast can be observed at two levels. At one level the contrast is between the poem and its background. At

another level the contrast is observed within the poem.

CONTRAST IN *IVY GREEN*:

An interesting feature of the poems is the contrast they bring to the narrative in which they are embedded. Each poem stands in contrast with its background. The mood before the start of the ballad *Ivy Green* is of merriment. Several guests gather at Wardle Manor's farm enjoying a game of card with the round-game table being boisterously merry, where jokes are being cracked. Old Mr. Wardle, the generous host, is in the height of his jollity and his funny management of the board keeps the whole table in a perpetual roar of merriment and laughter. The clergyman, a bald headed old gentleman, with a good humoured benevolent face, looks at the game pleasantly on; the happy faces which surrounds the table makes him feel happy too.

Though the merriment is boisterous, it comes from the heart and not from the lips: and the clergyman considers it as the right sort of merriment. The evening glides swiftly away in these cheerful recreations and after a substantial homely supper the little party forms a social circle round the fire where the characters reminisce the bygone days. Nostalgia and pathos permeate the mood. Suddenly, the happy atmosphere is suffused with wistfulness. Dickens beautifully merges these two diverse emotions of merriment and emotional longing. At each stage this juxtaposition of contrasting emotions is noticeable.

The old hospitable Mr. Wardle declares that the happiest moment of his life has passed at the old fire-side. He is so attached to it that he keeps up a blazing fire there every evening. He recalls his mother sitting before the fireplace upon a little stool in her youth. This recollection of old times and the happiness of past brings unbidden tears to her eye and she shakes her head with a melancholy smile. The old man states that he loves the place dearly. The old houses and fields seem like living friends to him and so does the little church with the ivy, about which his friend the clergyman of Dingley Dell had written a song when he had first come amongst them. Amidst this mirth and laughter he recites the poem on decay called *The Ivy Green*.

Contrast is observed in the theme of the poem; it shows how an evergreen climbing plant, ivy green, thrives on decay. It is personified as a rare old dainty plant that creeps over crumbled wall where no life is seen. For its living it dwells in lifeless places.

Oh, a dainty plant is the Ivy green,  
That creepeth o'er ruins old!  
The wall must be crumbled, the stone decayed.

To pleasure his dainty whim:  
It chooses right food for its meals and lives on mouldering dust and stateliest building.  
Of right choice food are his meals,...  
....And the mouldering dust that years have made  
Is a merry meal for him.

It clings tightly to the huge Oak tree, whereby, the whole clinging pattern has been described vividly. It cheerfully embraces the rich mould of dead men's graves.

As he joyously hugs and crawleth round  
The rich mould of dead men's graves.

It makes its life in lifeless places.

Creeping where no life is seen,  
A rare old plant is the Ivy green.  
Creeping where grim death hath been,  
A rare old plant is the Ivy green.

Though nations have come and gone and scattered beyond and their works have decayed, the old ivy outlives everyone, surviving all storms and standing firm and resolute. The entire imagery is paradoxical in nature. Life and death are juxtaposed in the poem. This contrast does not seem startling; rather, they seem natural in the whole structure. Thus, Dickens has used a poem on decay in the midst of a happy occasion. This ballad has been arranged artistically which leads to another interpolated tale - the story of a convict's return.

CONTRAST IN *CHRISTMAS CAROL*:

The same juxtaposition of happiness and nostalgic emotions continue in the second poem *Christmas Carol*. The four pickwickian members journey from the Muggleton Telegraph on their way to Dingley Dell and reach the Blue Lion. The atmosphere is of festivity and celebration. Dickens describes Christmas as the season of hospitality, merriment and open heartedness with the old year preparing way for the new. Christmas brings a brief season of happiness and enjoyment, reuniting families to meet in that happy state of companionship and good will, which is a source of a pure and unalloyed delight, merry and gleeful atmosphere.

....it was the season of hospitality, merriment and open heartedness with the old year preparing, like an ancient philosopher, to call his friends around him, and amidst the sound of feasting and revelry to pass gently and calmly away. Gay and merry was the time, and gay and merry were at least four of the numerous hearts that were gladdened.

In the same spirit Dickens also shows Christmas awakening many dormant sympathies and old recollections. He beautifully presents in prose the emotional side of Christmas.

Many of the hearts that throbbed so gaily then, have ceased to glow; the hands we grasped have grown cold; the eyes we sought have hid their luster in the grave; and yet the old house, the room, the merry voices and smiling faces, the jest, the laugh, the most minute and trivial circumstances connected with those happy meetings, crowd upon our mind at each recurrence of the season, as if the last assemblage had been but yesterday! Happy, happy Christmas, that can win us back to the delusions of our childish days; that can recall to the old man the pleasures of his youth; that can transport the sailor and the traveller, thousands of miles away, back to his own fire-side and his quiet home!

The scene shows celebration among guests. Old Wardle had suspended a huge branch of mistletoe giving rise to a scene of general and delightful struggling and confusion. There were peals of laughter raised on every side. There was a game of blind-man's buff followed by a great game at snap-dragon. According to the custom everybody masters and servants alike - sat around the log of fire and beguiled the time with



forfeits and old stories and songs to usher in Christmas Eve. At this point old Mr. Wardle sings the Christmas Carol. This Carol employs the device of contrast. The beauty and faithfulness of Christmas has been brought out by showing the fickle and destructive nature of spring.

I care not for Spring: on his fickle wing  
Let the blossoms and buds be borne:  
He woos them amain with his treacherous rain,  
And he scatters them ere the morn.  
As inconstant elf, he knows not himself,  
Nor his changing mind an hour;  
He'll smile in your face, and with wry grimace,  
He'll wither your youngest flower.

The poet shows the unpleasantness of other seasons. Even the summer sun does not find favour in his sight. The poet brings out its fierce quality.

For his darling child is the madness wild  
That sports in fierce fever's train;

The writer is not happy during other season as well, in spite of its sweetness.

A mild harvest night, by tranquil light  
Of the modest and gentle moon.  
Has a far sweeter sheen, for me, I ween,  
Than the broad and unblushing noon.  
But every leaf awakens my grief,  
As it lieth beneath the tree;  
So let Autumn air be never so fair,  
It by no means agree with me.

After laying the background of contrasts and comparison, he presents the delightful season of Christmas. He shows the flaws in each season and then justifies why it is crowned as the King of all seasons. Dickens' imaginative mind sketches the landscape with a wealth of details and elegantly paints beautiful contrasting picture of nature.

In his fine honest pride, he scorns to hide,  
Once jot of his hard-weather scars;  
They're no disgrace, for there's much the same trace  
On the cheeks of our bravest tars.  
Then again I sing 'till the roof doth ring,  
And it echoes from wall to wall -

To the stout old wight, fair welcome to-night,  
As the King of the Seasons all!

CONTRAST IN *GABRIEL GRUB'S SONG*:

The element of contrast is again noticed in the third poem *Gabriel Grub's Song* which immediately follows the Christmas Carol. The scene shows perfect ecstasies of rapture which engulfs the characters in this Christmas Eve. The piercing cold snowy wintry night of Christmas with wind drifting across the fields in a thick white cloud reminds the old lady of a certain Christmas Eve. She remembers the story of goblin which was popular among the people. Mr. Pickwick's curiosity is arisen and he requests Mr. Wardle for the story. Thus, in this festive atmosphere Mr. Wardle narrates the grim tale about a man called Gabriel Grub who officiated as sexton and grave-digger of the churchyard. He was an ill-conditioned, cross-grained, surly fellow, a morose and a lonely man, who consorted with nobody but himself and an old wicker bottle. He eyed each merry face with a deep scowl of malice and ill humour.

The story brings out the contrast between Christmas festivity and morbidity of Gabriel. On one side there is cheerful light of the blazing fires gleaming through the old casements, with loud laugh and the cheerful shouts of people celebrating Christmas; bustling preparation for Christmas with numerous savoury odours steaming up from the kitchen windows in clouds. There are groups of children making merry on the road and flocking streets. But for Gabriel's heart all was gall and wormwood. Leaving all Christmas festivities behind, he goes to the old churchyard with his lantern and spade to finish digging a grave. He detests streets buzzing with preparation for Christmas, people in a cheerful mood which it brings a grim smile on his face. He even beats a boy on the way who goes singing merrily on his way.

After finishing his work for the night, Gabriel sings a song during which the goblins show him a glimpse of various people and their lives which alters his outlook towards life. He finally leaves the place as he is unable to bear the thought of returning to a place where his repentance would be scoffed at and his reformation disbelieved. This sexton's melancholy dirge of six lines forms a part of the story. It talks about the brave lodgings one requires cold earth, a stone at the head and at the feet, rank grass overhead, damp clay around on a holy ground. Thus, in a festive occasion of Christmas this grim poem finds its presence.

Brave lodgings for one, brave lodgings for one,  
A few feet of cold earth, when life is done;  
A stone at the head, a stone at the feet,  
A rich, juicy meal for the worms to eat;  
Rank grass over head, and damp clay around,  
Brave lodgings for one, these, in holy ground!

HUMOUR IN THE COURT:

The last poem occurs in the lofty, ill-lighted and worse ventilated room of the Insolvent Court. The court is considered as the common resort and place of daily refuge of all the destitute shabby-genteel people in London. The scene is set in a place where the steams of beer and spirits perpetually ascend to the ceiling; there are more old suits of clothes in it at one time than will be offered for sale in all Houndsditch. There are unwashed skins and grizzly beards.

In this unpleasant place the character Sam Weller meets his father Tony Weller and seeks his help to rescue Mr. Pickwick. He borrows 25 pounds from his father and gets him to file suit against him in order to be jailed for debt with Mr. Pickwick. Sam goes off to prison celebrating along the way with Tony and his friends. The mirth of gentlemen of this class is of a grave and quiet character usually, but the present instance is one of peculiar festivity. Sam is treated with marked distinction and is invited to regale himself with them in honour of the occasion. Sam Weller bursts at once into a wild and beautiful legend of two stanzas, a romance in vernacular language. Hence, amidst the grave situation of the court room drama, humour takes place. Thematically, the poem is unrelated to the situation but relates to the mood of the characters.

Thus, it is observed that the feature of contrast is found within the poem or in relation to their background. Dickens uses the element of nostalgia to introduce a grim poem amidst celebration. During the party old Mr. Wardle yearns and reminisces bygone days and urges the clergyman to recite the poem on Ivy Green situated in the Church for years together. The same element of nostalgia creeps up in Christmas festivity during the narration of the poem Christmas Carol. Dickens portrays both the joyous as well as the emotional side of Christmas. He has appropriately used phrases such as melancholy smile and grim smile.

#### CONTRAST AND FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE:

Further the element of contrast becomes very effective with the use of figurative language. The plant Ivy and the season of Christmas and Spring have been personified. The Ivy plant is addressed as 'he'. He likes to have a merry meal and has a staunch old heart. The plant experiences emotions such as

*Joy As he joyously hugs and crawleth round,  
Pleasure To pleasure his dainty whim  
and loneliness The brave old plant in its lonely days.*

The contrast of death and lifelessness becomes clear by attributing characteristics of human life to the Ivy plant. Likewise, the contrasting qualities of the spring and the Christmas season become clear after attributing human qualities to them. The spring possesses the qualities such as treachery and inconstancy.

*He woos them amain with his treacherous rain,  
An inconstant elf, he knows not himself,  
Nor his own changing mind an hour,*

Spring smiles with 'wry grimace' which suggests the contorted twisting of the face that expresses disgust or pain. Dickens addresses Christmas as *wight* which means 'living being' in archaic English. He calls it 'the stout old wight.' The contrast of destructive and pleasant qualities between spring and Christmas becomes clear by their personification.

#### THE ETHICAL DIMENSION THROUGH CONTRAST:

This feature of contrast in the poems serves an ethical purpose. This master of words brings out, through each poem, the truth of life. Through his words he weaves a world of contrasts which are lessons in life. His poems can also be seen as expressing important truths like the New Critics and the followers of Practical criticism who see *poems as storehouses of authentic values and as expressing important truths*

*about the complexities of life that no other medium can convey nearly as effectively.* (Bertens, 2007).

These contrasts also serve as paradoxes as they contain contradictory aspects. Cleanth Brooks in his essay *The Language of Paradox* says "...paradox is the language appropriate and inevitable to poetry... Apparently the truth which the poet utters can be approached only in terms of paradox." (Brooks, 1986)

Similarly, the poems also convey a truth. Through the juxtaposition of contrasting images in the poem 'Ivy Green' Dickens shows the survival of the plant on death and decay and focuses on survival even in lifeless surroundings. 'Christmas Carol' and 'Gabriel Grub's Song' revolve round the Christmas theme. The former shows the beauty and superiority of Christmas over other seasons through the contrasting image while the latter emphasizes its importance through the grim tale of Gabriel Grub which brings out the moral significance:

....if a man turn sulky and drink by himself at Christmas time, he may make up his mind to be not a bit the better for it: let the spirits be never so good, or let them be even as many degrees beyond proof, as those which Gabriel Grub saw in the goblin's cavern.

Conclusion:

Thus, Dickens has meaningfully employed the device of contrast to highlight certain vital truths of life. Through contrast he has personified the Ivy Green and shown how for its living it dwells in lifeless places. This contrast of a life thriving on decaying crumbling walls has been beautifully captured in verse. Through Christmas Carol it shows the importance of celebrating Christmas; and if unheeded would lead to a miserable life.

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