

EDITORIAL

This issue focuses on processes of 'social exclusion', a term first used in France as a response to rising unemployment and income inequalities. The term social exclusion is defined as a process by which certain groups are systematically disadvantaged due to discrimination on the basis of their ethnicity, race, religion, sexual orientation, caste, decent, gender, age, disability, HIV status, migrant status, or place of residence (DFID, 2005, p. 3). Broadly speaking, people are excluded by institutions and by behaviours that reflect attitudes and values, particularly those of powerful groups (ibid.). The institutions that exclude people include the state, the market, and societal institutions, such as political parties, caste structures, community, and household etc.

There is a general consensus among social scientists regarding the core features of social exclusion, its principles, indicators, and the way it relates to poverty and inequality. The mechanisms of social exclusion are complex, pervasive and cumulative and are generally initiated by society, state and market (Atkinson, 1998). Certain members of society initiate and practice social exclusion through outright discrimination against or exploitation of other groups (based on caste, religion, class, ethnicity, gender, etc.), or through practices of active hoarding of resources and opportunities within their group (Mander & Prasad, 2014). The state practices exclusion through discriminatory practices, such as by not making public goods accessible to all or by failing to provide these goods in the first place (ibid.). Generally it can be seen that the state invests in and subsidises the already well-off rather than the masses. For example, rather than invest in job creation, school education, urban housing, and public transport, the state raises the salaries and perks of bureaucrats and elected representatives and supports expansion of an aviation industry that a majority of the population will never get to use. Similarly, markets also practice exclusion by under-supplying public goods, either by supplying only to those who have the means to afford, or by denying certain social groups by virtue of their lower skills, assets, or economic opportunities.

Caste, religion and ethnicity are major factors in the practice of social exclusion in India and across the South Asian sub-continent. Caste based differentiation and the lack of empathy of high castes for the lower castes and jatis has an important bearing on the access and control of resources in society. Exclusionary practices also lead to 'spatial exclusion', in the sense that poorer and discriminated groups

are forced to reside in peripheral areas in sub-standard housing, which in itself further exacerbates broader processes of social exclusion. The Social Exclusion Report 2013-14 considers school education, urban housing, decent work and legal justice as four public goods that Dalits, Adivasis, Muslims, women, and the disabled, have less access to: either they are excluded altogether, or excluded on discriminatory terms (Mander & Prasad, 2014, pp. 5-13). For example, the exclusionary nature of law and justice can be understood by considering the significant overrepresentation of Dalits, Adivasis and Muslims in the prison population, particularly of under trials who are yet to be convicted for their alleged crimes (ibid., pp. 12-13).

Since independence social exclusion has remained an issue of great concern to social policy-makers in India. This is reflected through the execution of various Five Year Plans, including the 12th Five Year Plan (2012-17) with its sharpened focus on addressing inequalities. “The social justice objectives of the Twelfth Plan can be achieved with full participation in the benefits of development on the part of all these groups [SCs, STs, OBCs, persons with disabilities, senior citizens, street children, beggars, and victims of substance abuse]. This calls for an inclusive growth process which provides opportunities for all to participate in the growth process combined with schemes that would either deliver benefits directly or more importantly help these groups to benefit from the opportunities thrown up by the general development process” (GOI, 2013, pp. 221-222). The Ministry of Micro Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME), Government of India recently launched the National SC/ST Hub to support entrepreneurs from disadvantaged communities in a bid to correct historical social inequalities. The hub is designed to “work towards strengthening market access/linkage, monitoring, capacity building, leveraging financial support schemes and sharing industry best-practices” for the entrepreneurship development of SCs/STs (Modi launches national SC/ST hub, 2016).

While the state plays a pivotal role in preventing, facilitating or boosting the process of social exclusion; the market and societal actors are also involved. Thus to tackle social exclusion we must honestly recognize and understand the mechanisms and processes involved, and explore various ways of working in partnership with government, the private sector, civil society organizations, and communities. In order to develop more insights on the forms, nature and processes of social, political and economic discrimination and exclusion more research is necessary. This thematic issue includes four articles, two of which relate directly to the theme of social exclusion: education of Dalit children in Bihar, and the creation of spatial exclusion which reinforced social exclusion of the poorer classes in and around IT hub townships.

In the first article, by analyzing data from various secondary sources and based on primary data collected from the major Dalit communities in five districts of Bihar, Jose Kalapura from Xavier Institute of Social Research, Patna has attempted to examine the extent of exclusion in education as experienced by Dalit children. The findings reveal that Dalit children experience discriminatory treatment by teachers in school and lack support mechanisms and a congenial environment for study. Above all, their psychological and career development is negatively affected when they are subjected to stigmatization, stereotyping, shame and humiliation in the process of educational training. The author believes that by developing positive peer-relationships at school, increased sense of community, cognitive strategies, inclusive classroom environment, flexible mixed seating arrangements, and social acceptance and respect for marginalized children as persons of equal worth are some of the important positive ways to undo social exclusion in education.

The overlooking of aspects of social exclusion in the process of policy formulation and implementation is very much apparent in cities especially in the process of restructuring of urban spaces to their contemporary urban forms. Using the narratives of respondents, in the second article Anchal Kumari from Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS) attempts to examine some of the aspects of spatial exclusion created by private townships on the outskirts of Pune. The author concludes that the private nature of these new townships has created new avenues of exclusion and strengthening pre-existing socio-spatial inequalities. Notably the nature of work of the traditional working classes has become more repressive, impacting the quality of life of the urban poor. The author suggests that such considerations need to be kept in mind in the broader framework of “smart cities” formation.

The third article is about improving the system of healthcare for India’s rural population; itself an excluded group when considered against the facilities available in large towns and cities. Mampi Bora Das and Papori Baruah from Tezpur University, Assam examine the competency of community health workers, namely Accredited Social Health Activist (ASHA) workers, and their work effectiveness through a descriptive cross-sectional study in Assam. They find that although the ASHA workers have a positive attitude and self motivation, they lack the knowledge and skills to carry out their work responsibilities especially in the areas of sanitation and hygiene. Insufficient training has been provided to ASHAs, which is necessary to improve their efficacy to allow them to play an important role in the provision of basic health care services to the rural masses.

The fourth article is basically a historical review of JRD Tata's thoughts and contribution to India's development; especially about his economic aspirations. In this article N. Benjamin from Gokhale Institute of Politics and Economics, Pune through a review of literature argues that JRD Tata was ahead of his times as his views about unchaining the economy and going for the process of liberalization could be seen to represent the economic aspiration of India today.

*This issue also includes two book reviews. The first by Shyamal Gomes, Xavier Institute of Social Service (XISS), Ranchi presents a review of a recently released book titled *Philanthropy in India: Promise to Practice* by Meenaz Kasam, Emily Tansons and Femida Handy, published by Sage Publications, New Delhi. Covering the structure, ethos and practice of philanthropy and corporate social responsibility (CSR) in the Indian context, the book devotes a chapter on the inception and working of public charitable trusts, religious trusts, and Bollywood celebrities running charitable trusts, and discusses the linkages with mainstream philanthropy in India. Similarly, it has a chapter on 'Diaspora Philanthropy' which attempts to explore the significance of Indian Diasporas and the Diaspora members (mainly immigrants) who have a desire to help their counterparts back in India. Likewise, another chapter on 'Trends in Philanthropy' examines how traditional charitable practices have given way to various new philanthropic practices. According to the reviewer, though this book takes a wide-angled view of current religious and secular practices of philanthropy and its influences, more thought on current issues of CSR and their management in the Indian perspective and a re-visit to the venture of philanthropy in India could make the book more helpful for the students of Business Management / Rural Management as a reference material.*

*Finally, Himadri Sinha of XISS, Ranchi presents a review of the recently released *Commercial Use of Biodiversity: Resolving the Access and Benefit Sharing Issues* by Shivendu K. Srivastava, published by Sage Publications, New Delhi. The book primarily deals with the implications of the WTO and IPR regimes on biodiversity and its commercial exploitation. According to the reviewer, although the author has analysed the WTO regime and its influences on unbalanced access rights and benefit sharing, he does not offer any blue print for resolving these issues except by throwing light on the reasons for conflict. One glaring omission in the book is the overlooking of the rights based approaches that have been initiated in India through the FRA 2006. Acknowledging the rights of people/forest dwellers to bio-resources may lead to a more viable partnership for both conserving biodiversity as well as the commercial exploitation of such resources in a more sustainable manner. The reviewer has the opinion that this book is well written and certainly ignites our thought process.*

We hope that the articles in this issue will be read by practitioners and decision-makers, and may contribute to the inclusion of hitherto socially excluded groups in the near future. We are thankful to the contributors and our sincere thanks go to the esteemed reviewers of the journal articles for their critical eyes and constructive comments. If you are interested to peer review articles for JJDMS please contact us with your curriculum vitae, to be included in our register.

We hope you'll enjoy this issue and invite you to publish original scholarly work in JJDMS in the near future. We welcome articles on a host of development and management themes as well as reviews of recent books of reputable publishing houses. We especially welcome contributions from young and upcoming scholars, namely PhD scholars, post-doctoral researchers, and Assistant Professors. Besides, we are keen to publish the work of development practitioners.

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***The Editorial Team,
JJDMS***

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