

## **ABSTRACTS**

*(alphabetically arranged according to researcher)*

### **Debt bondage and child labour: an economic analysis**

*Bhukhut Augendra, Post-Doctorate, University of Saint-Quentin en Yvelines / C3ED (France)*

Debt bondage and child labour are often interconnected and reinforce each other. While the International Labour Organisation has declared the eradication of the worst forms of child labour as a key objective, few academic research focus on child labour. Our research is an attempt to fulfil that lacuna. For that purpose, we suggest an analysis based on the concept of social capital. We distinguish two main forms of child exploitation: the mild forms and the worst forms. We suggest that the explanatory factors are the following: the social capital of the parents, their income and their access to sources of financing, themselves strongly connected to the social capital. The mild form of exploitation takes place within family-based enterprises, while the worst forms of exploitation takes place within the market. The analysis is based on field work undertaken in South Tamil Nadu in the brick kiln and the sugar cane sectors.

### **The working-class habitat in Bombay at the colonial times (1850 – 1947)**

*Caru Vanessa, History, University of Paris VII-Denis Diderot, (France)*

Starting from the mid XIXth century, the city of Bombay has known an early industrial development which has had important consequences on its demographic growth and urbanisation. Indeed its clearest impact appears in the massive inflow of working-men, which has resulted in the outbreak of areas and districts specifically devoted to the working-men population in the heart of the city.

This study is focused on this last phenomenon which is questioned from both a social and an urban historian's outlook. The notion of « habitat » is thereby understood in a broader sense than in its mere definition as lodging but also in a wider view than that which is used in the functionalist approach of town-planning. It embraces the ways of living as well as the daily practices of city-life. It is thought as the product of an interaction between three actors : the colonial State – which has built to lodge the working-men population, the private landlords and the working-men who live in these areas. This study will attempt to restore this population's role, putting forward an approach of the working-men ways of living in the city and of their relations with the other social groups and with the colonial State within the city.

### **Microfinance services and innovation . The determinants of innovation in microfinance services**

*Fouillet Cyril, PhD Student, University Lumière Lyon 2 (France)*

Poor people not only need financial services, but innovative financial services adapted to their needs, and such an adaptation requires more often innovative services. Innovation in the field of microfinance remains a permanent challenge. The main purpose of our research is to analyse innovation process and to identify the key factors and the key conditions for the

elaboration of innovative financial services. Our research is based on an institutional perspective, which aims at analysing the construction, the implementation and then the appropriation of innovative microfinance services by the clients. Our research is based on field work undertaken in South-India and on a comparative analysis of various microfinance institutions and their clients.

### **Public Policy in Microfinance**

*Hudon Marek, Economics, Research Fellow, FNRS / Université Libre de Bruxelles, Belgium*

The research focuses on public policies in microfinance, in southern countries. It will try to establish which public policy of cooperation, the lenders should put in place. For this, a first part will consist in understanding the particular nature of the management of microfinance institutions. A second part will evaluate the allowances and their impact. Finally, a study on public policies, through the new interactions with private actors such as investment funds, will enable to understand the role of lenders in helping develop the sector.

### **The social action sector: from the welfare State to the non-governmental State ? Case study of the Tamil Nadu's Women.**

*Jauzelon Céline, PhD Student, EHESS, Paris (France)*

Various changes characterise the evolution of the social action sector in India is: a permanent expansion, an approach which is more and more technical and economical (with for instance the strong and quick growth of the microfinance sector), approach which is also more and more professional. While social and economic inequalities prevail and persist, it becomes urgent to analyse those evolutions, the role of the social action sector and its ability to promote social changes and to produce solidarities. The first step of our work consists in defining the concept of social work in India (limited to professional social workers, trained in school of social work, and the registered NGOs). The second step of our work aims at analysing the realities of social action, both practices and discourses:

- ❑ a review of the history of the social action sector from the 19th century till now :evolutions influences and perspectives
- ❑ a review of the history of the schools of social work in India (since the creation of the Tata Institute of Social Sciences): evolution, limits, networks, research works, links and exchanges with the voluntary sector and governmental agencies
- ❑ an analysis of the various discourses (through interviews and literature review) on the social work by the national and international actors, professionals or para-professionals, academics, and “beneficiaries”
- ❑ case studies of schools of social work : formation and training, content of lectures, profiles of the students as well as the professors, field work practices
- ❑ case studies (monographies) of NGOs that employ train and untrained social workers,with women as main beneficiaries



## Microfinance, Democracy and Hierarchy

*Palier Jane, PhD Student, University Lumière Lyon 2 (France)*

Given the rapid development of the microfinance sector and the involvement of a number of stakeholders (NGOs, banks and public institutions), it becomes urgent to analyse the gap between the multiple expectations raised by microfinance and the effective impacts on the field. Collective lending (through the concept of Self-help-groups) is thought as a way to promote equality and solidarity values and practices. How such values articulate themselves with hierarchic values, still prevalent in the Indian context? Keeping this broad objective in mind, the sub-objectives of the present research are primarily to:

- ❑ Define the concept of empowerment ; analyse its hold and relevance vis-à-vis the Indian social system, study the various aspects involved and understand the *process* of empowerment.
- ❑ Evaluate the microfinance impact with a focus on the following aspects: risk management, the influence of group dynamics and the influence of the microfinance methodology (Self-Help Groups, Grameen Bank, Cooperatives, Individual lending)

## Between Villages and Working Places: Circulation of Manual Labourers in Andhra Pradesh

*Picherit David, PhD Student, University of Nanterre (Paris, France)*

Mainly tribals and low caste, small landowners without access to water, manual labourers leave the district of Mahabubnagar ( "called Palamur") in Telangana (Andhra Pradesh), with families for 8 to 9 months and go for work all over India. Famous for their works on dams, canal irrigation since more than 70 years, palamur labourers get advances from local contractors. This form of circulation is now subjects to changes. Many leave as daily wages to cities – Hyderabad, Mumbai and even Dubai, mainly on construction works and stone quarries. But the circulatory form of migration and the relative fragmentation of labour markets persist. The main purpose of my thesis is to analyse the dynamic and multidimensional aspects of palamur labourers' migration. Following the migrant labourers from villages to working places and making regular up and downs allows to re-link all places, types and forms of labour. I focus my research on the following points:

- ❑ In-depth analysis of the village and its power and hierarchical relations ( caste-class, economical, political, religious and kinship forms )
- ❑ debt relations
- ❑ working conditions, organization and everyday life in working camps, forms of
- ❑ exploitation, social rules and relation labour/maistri/local people labour relations (between workers, job brokers and local people)
- ❑ acts of everyday resistance and forms of collective action
- ❑ representation on labour, migration through stories, songs and cultural aspects
- ❑ links between caste, politics and contractors
- ❑ religious practices as festivals, pilgrims, rituals in which labourers are involved.

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## **Adaptation / transformation of pastoral societies in the face of modern changes**

*Prévoit Sandrine, Post doc, University of Paris X (Nanterre, France)*

Raika, stockbreeders of sheep and dromedaries in the most arid area of India, the Rajasthan, adapted to the news reform political and economic by adopting a nomadic practice. This passage to a nomadic organization did not upset the pastoral social structure because it was set up by the existence of the old social relations. In addition, the respect of traditional rules of alliance supported the social reproduction. Matrimonial alliances, in which all the families are committed, allowed a reciprocity between lineages and reaffirmed agnatic alliances between groups. However, this pastoral caste has more and more difficulties to reproduce hers economic and social relations on which she's build on. Another part of this caste chose to give up the pastoralism, to work in the city. We assist to an increasing urbanization which develops with schooling. These urban families start to change the social relations with Raika-stockbreeders. They refuse, today, to continue the traditional rules of marriages and initiate a social transformation.

## **Learning and Innovation in Clusters: case studies from the Indian silk industry**

*Roman Camilla, Anthropology, Oxford University, Queen Elizabeth House (England)*

The aim of the research is to investigate processes of learning and knowledge creation in Indian industrial clusters, rawing upon case study material from two silk clusters in Madhya Pradesh and in Tamil Nadu.

In the dissertation a novel theoretical framework is proposed, which complements economic perspectives on learning and innovation with views from cognitive studies and the sociology of knowledge. Learning and innovation are approached as socially situated phenomena, as forms of social practice, and as such they are examined within, and as part of, the economic and social milieus of Chanderi and Arni. Factors shaping access to knowledge resources and determining the degree of innovative behaviour are brought to light and the relevance of the findings for other contexts is discussed.

## **Post-Tsunami 2004 reconstruction, local governance and socio-politic stakes in South India**

*Sylvain Ropital, PhD Student, EHESS, Paris (France)*

In the actual processes of privatisation and decentralization of public programmes management due in part to the liberal politics progressively implemented in India since the middle of the 1980s , NGO's and local governments are considered by State Governments and by the International Financial Institutions as the more appropriate actors for local development management.

However, if its tendency of subcontracted public responsibilities to voluntary organisations is in progress within the framework of Public-Private Partnership institutionalization, few qualitative evaluations of projects implemented in that spirit in Indian villages are realized.

The purpose of my research aims to contribute to reduce this gap on the basis of a case study dealing with the analysis/evaluation of the effects of the Post-Tsunami reconstruction

projects managed by the *South Indian Federation of Fishermen Societies* and local authorities in two fishing villages of the Coromandel Coast.

This research, based on fieldwork undertaken in the Taluk of Tarangambadi (District of Nagapattinam) and on a comparative analysis of various reconstruction projects (Tarangambadi and Chinnangudi), will take into account:

- The socio-politic dynamics existing in the village (“clientelism”, “favouritism”, links of dependence and domination between the powerful groups and the others, relationships between Grama Panchayat and Traditional Panchayat, etc.) that can disturb, disrupt, influence the conception and the final results of the project and potentially reinforce local inequalities and mechanisms of domination taken place in the arena of the village existing before the project.
- The gap existing between the theoretical model of governance planned by the World Bank and the Government of Tamil Nadu to manage the reconstruction projects and the local realities of distribution of role, functions and responsibilities carried out by the main actors at the village level.
- The analysis of the theoretical terms of the SIFFS projects (objectives, strategy, methods, and desired results) and their quantitative and qualitative results three years after in terms of pertinence, coherence, efficiency and durability.

This research will also study the “room for manoeuvre” (Kuper, 1970) that SIFFS can use, in the opened situation of popular voluntary go-between in the area, to modify locally for various reasons the application of norms and models, decided upstream of the project by the Government and the World Bank experts.

This research following the interactionist and actor-oriented approach of socio-anthropology of development and social change mainly applied to African case studies, will take into account the discourses and the representations of the various actors involved in the process such as the Officials of the Nagapattinam District Collectorate Departments (DRDA & Department of Fisheries) the Grama Panchayat, the members of Traditional Panchayat and local leaders, the land-owners, the agents of SIFFS, and the beneficiaries and naturally their interactions till the achievement of the project.

### **Tribal Groups and Development**

*Thanuja. M., PhD Student, Department of Anthropology, Madras University (India)*

The nexus of tribal territory, forest resource and development induced social change forms the platform on which this research is based. With 109 tribes identified as practicing shifting cultivation in India and the Forest Policy 1952 and the National Commission on Agriculture 1976 suggesting that it be banned, this research becomes both interesting and essential in exploring the social structure of the Konda Reddis of the Eastern Ghats, a tribe that till date subsists on shifting cultivation. The research attempts to address the issue of shifting cultivation, often branded as detrimental to the forest, at a micro level, looking at the Konda Reddi settlement pattern, population distribution, production and consumption pattern, land use and forest type. The study will also assess the compatibility of the Integrated Tribal Development Project programmes with the hilltop Konda Reddi social and spatial



organisation exploring the impact and transition that has resulted, with special reference to the State policy of Andhra Pradesh which has adopted Micro finance as an important development initiative to reach the most isolated and remote regions of the state. In this connection the research will attempt to understand how the Konda Reddis themselves perceive the concept of development and social change. The study will further develop the issue of empowerment by tackling questions as in: What does it mean to be empowered? Should empowerment necessarily follow development? What is the relevance of these concepts within the social fabric of the community?

### **The development of the microfinance sector**

*Vanroose Annabel , Economics, Vrije Universiteit Brussel / Université Libre de Bruxelles, Belgium*

The thesis will analyse the macro-economic, institutional and political factors that explain the uneven development of the microfinance sector in the developing world. The development of the microfinance sector will be put in its historical content. The development pattern of microfinance institutions will be analysed. A comparison will be made between the differences in the development of microfinance practices and the microfinance sector in general, in the Latin American and Indian and Asian region.