The Student Christian Movement of India is a students’ movement with Christian ethos which maintains a fellowship of students, teachers, and senior friends with commitment to translate Christian Faith into Action through contemporizing faith in Jesus Christ by discerning critically the signs of times.

SCMI organised a 10-day summer work camp in an adivasi village at Kushalnagar, Karnataka from 14th to 24th May 2019. 11 students representing various regions of SCMI participated in this summer work camp to understand the struggles of adivasi communities, land and forest rights, and manual labor. The camp focused on working together in unity along with the community to experience the real life, struggle, suffering and the fight of adivasis for survival.

-Immanuel Simon, Executive Secretary, Human Rights and Advocacy Desk
Editorial

2019 was always going to be an important year in India. Hope was a commonly used word across all fronts including the religious, the political, the social and the economic. ‘Hope’ kept the country on its toes and it continues to do so midway through the year.

The Student Christian Movement of India, the oldest student movement in India, continues to journey with College and University students in the nation, walking alongside them, listening to, equipping them for, and dreaming about realities of joy and pain. The SCMI continues on in hope because it remains committed to contemporizing faith into praxis, a faith deeply rooted in Jesus Christ as Lord, Savior, and Liberator, and praxis towards the betterment of society, for justice, peace, reconciliation, and love.

This newsletter brings to you our activities between January and June 2019. Our students, staff, and senior friends have been at work in different capacities, at different times, and in different places. Our vision, though, remains the same. We are glad that you can see and read about who we are and what we do. As you flip the pages of this newsletter, all we desire is that you Read, Remember, and continue to Pray for SCMI!

- Ben Jonathan Immanuel
Communication Desk

Politics and Ecology of Violence

"Politics and Ecology of Violence" was a joint programme of Dalit Women’s Resource Centre of SCMI and Dalit Women’s Society. Four seminars were planned under this program with participation of 30 each and a total of 5 seminars with an average participation of 32 social workers took place between the months of March and May. The purpose of these seminars was to make Activists and Social workers more aware of the intersectionality of Caste, Class, and Gender while dealing with ‘Violence’.

Summer Institute of Theologies of Life

SCMI jointly organised a 10-day "Summer Institute of Theologies of Life" along with the Collective of Dalit Ecumenical Christian Scholars (CODECS), and the Center for Peace and Conflict Resolution Studies of MBCBC from May 15th to May 25th. The objectives were to create informal spaces of learning, to make justice and peace as central themes in our Theological commitment, to open opportunities for continued education to Christian ministers, and to interface Theology and Social Activism.
International
that they all may be one...

YMCA Japan visit
A group of students from Japan represented by the YMCA Japan visited SCM India between 20th and 24th February. While at SCMI, they interacted with the staff as well as visited some local SCM units and places of religious significance. SCMI and YMCA Japan have always had a long-standing relationship.

A 14-member SCMI team from different regions across India participated in a cultural exchange program in Germany between 9th June and 24th June. The program was hosted by SCM Germany. It was a time of learning student lives, education systems, and social lives of two uniquely different cultures. During the exchange program, the team was at Bonn from 10th to 13th June, at Berlin between 14th and 17th June and at Dortmund from 18th to 23th June. The team also participated in 'Kirchentag 2019' in Dortmund. Engagement in worship, service, volunteering, ecumenical, and recreational activities brought both cultures into dialogue with each other.
SCMI, along with Bangalore City College Students, released the Student Manifesto for Lok Sabha Elections 2019 on 15th April. A group of members met on three different occasions to brainstorm, discuss and prepare a document keeping the needs of students’ of Indian universities in mind. The manifesto was aimed at guiding the students and the nation for the General elections.

**National Level Leadership Training Camps**

Three NLLT Camps were conducted by SCMI Mission & Scholarship Desk during the academic year 2018-2019. The objectives of these camps are to develop leadership formation of the student, to develop the perspective building on social justice, understanding on Dalit and Tribal issues and to build solidarity between Dalit & Tribal students.

The first one was conducted from 11th to 14th January at Mission India Campus, Nagpur. 70 fellowship holders participated in the camp. The second was conducted from 25th to 28th January at SCM Programme Centre, Bengaluru. There were 112 participants with a record of 84 female and 28 male students. The third one was conducted from 7th to 10th May again at Bengaluru with 40 students participating. The impacts and outcomes of these three camps were very overwhelming where students took up leadership roles, understood the impacts of Globalization and livelihood issues and got to know about the values of Human Rights and Gender equality. Moreover, a 20-day Intensive Skill Training Camp for fellowship holders was conducted between 12th and 31st May with 70 participants. Various team building and skill based activities were conducted and the students were immensely benefited.

- Ibatista Shylla,
  Executive Secretary, Mission and Scholarship Desk
National
SCMI House

SCMI gathered the student community on 15th May 2019 to express solidarity with the people of Palestine on the occasion of Nakba. A documentary on the Nakba was screened. Some of the points that were highlighted in the discussions were Zionism, illegal occupation, racial discrimination, human rights violation, and fascism. The day was concluded by drawing parallels with the current socio-political situation in India and a call for the collective participation and resistance to any form of oppression and injustice around us.

Human Rights Workshop

Human Rights and Advocacy desk of SCM India, in partnership with Inter Church Service Association (ICSA), jointly organised a three-day South Zone Human Rights workshop for the Student secretaries of various college units from the Southern Zone representing 5 SCMI regions: Andhra and Telangana, Karnataka, Kerala, North and South Tamil Nadu. The workshop which was on the theme "Nation Building" took place from 31st January to 2nd February. The objective was to equip students with tools to learn and understand the Indian Constitution from the perspective of a citizen, to know one's rights and take intelligent decisions during the elections, to work with peoples' movements and so on and so forth.

-Immanuel Simon,
Executive Secretary, Human Rights and Advocacy Desk

SCMI, along with YMCA Bengaluru, organized an Iftar fellowship on the 30th of May, 2019 as part of its mission and commitment to interfaith relations. Ms. Seema Mohsin was the main speaker of the day. She spoke about the spirit of Iftar in relation to the current socio-political scenario of our country. Various faith leaders attended the fellowship to show solidarity and share the spirit of acceptance and tolerance among various faith communities.

-Manjulie Vaiphei,
Executive Secretary, Gender and Social Justice Desk
Regional Programme - Karnataka

Karnataka Regional Programme was conducted on the topic “Discerning the role of Civil Society: Students' Response” between 25th and 27th February in Dharwad, with cheerful student participants from various parts of Karnataka at All Saints Church Dharwad.

-Binu Bill Bright, Programme Secretary, Karnataka

Youth and Politics: Challenges

SCMI North East Zone 1 conducted a one day seminar on 9th February. Biblical understanding of politics was discussed in addition to envisioning how Christian Youth can participate in the politics of our nation.

-Shongkun. M. Diengdoh, Programme Secretary, North East India, Zone I

Regional Fellowship Programme - West Bengal

SCMI West Bengal Fellowship Regional Camp was conducted on the topic “Impact of Communalism on Indian Society-Challenges and Responsibilities of youth today” on 14th and 15th March and 30th March. The following questions were discussed: What have you learned about communalism? What are the challenges and Responsibilities of youths? How does one evaluate implemented policies? What can be the positive impacts?

- Ms. Jessica Chakraborty, Programme Secretary, West Bengal
Regional Fellowship Programme - North Tamil Nadu

The regional fellowship programme of the North Tamil Nadu region was organized in ICSA, Manapakkam, Chennai from March 22nd to 24th 2019. Issues of dalits, farmers, Government, Pollachi Issues, Sterlite issues, Values and principles of student too were discussed. Recreation programmes, Bible study, worship, Group discussions, etc. was organized and conducted by the programme secretary with the support and assistance of SCMI national office, well-wishers, and SCM Senior friends.

- Blessey Jeba Deborah, Programme Secretary, North Tamil Nadu

Regional Workshop - NEI Zone III

The SCM-North East Regional Zone III organized four days of regional workshop under the theme “Understanding Customary laws and Constitution through Dialectical Approach” from 3rd May to 6th May 2019 at Shilchar, Presbyterian Synod Centre, Assam. 30 students participated in the program. Topics discussed were 'Special Provision to North East India and the contradiction to the emerging policies', 'Debris of Social Order', and 'A race to modernity of Tribal and Adivasis.' Most students who attended were first time attendees and were immensely benefited.

- Mr. Kamminlun Chongloi, Programme Secretary, North-East India, Zone III
Regional Camp - NEI Zone II

SCMI-NEI ZONE- II REGIONAL CAMP was conducted on the theme “Defining North East Tribal Identity” on 7-10 May 2019 at Generation Countdown Youth Mission, Sovima, Dimapur. 35 delegates from various institutions (units) of Assam and Nagaland participated in the program. The programme centered around some of the contemporary issues and events from the region. Students were given an opportunity to understand issues from different perspectives and were also given a chance to express their views on the topic. The program went on with active participation by the students through their creative presentations.

-Tolly T Yeptho,
Programme Secretary, North-East India Zone II

Regional Work Camp - North West India

SCMI North West Region organized a 10-day regional work camp from 28th May to 6th June, 2019 at Pali Village, Alwar District of Rajasthan. 12 students from the region participated in the work camp. The motive of the work camp was to make the participants understand the schedule caste/schedule tribe community living, rural social system, and livelihood, listening to their struggles, contemporary issues and problems in the community, to help the community through labour work, and to assess the participants' learning through living with the community, and to develop social responsibility.

-Daniel Das, Programme Secretary,
North-Western India
The regional fellowship programme camp for Odisha region was conducted from 26th to 28th April at Carey Retreat Centre, Gopalpur. The camp centered on human rights and land rights of the Adivasis, prevention of Atrocities Act, and understanding Indian Society. The students participated very well, affirmed their identity and expressed their enthusiasm to stand for their rights and to participate in community building.

- Shashikant Horo,
Programme Secretary, Jharkhand-Bihar

The regional fellowship programme camp for Jharkhand-Bihar region organised a regional camp on 7th to 10th June 2019 on the theme "Eco Justice" and the topics discussed were Environmental Discrimination and Environmental Justice, Living Justice: a global response to poverty, Access to Education, the role of youth in politics, Entrepreneurship: the golden opportunity. We also cleaned the church campus followed by the group discussion and group presentation.

- Shashikant Horo,
Programme Secretary, Jharkhand-Bihar

AP-TS Regional Fellowship program was conducted between 13th and 15th June at Yesu Premayalam Baptist Church, Ramachandrapuram on the theme: 'Communalism: Liberty-Freedom-Democracy.'

- Gandham Raju,
Programme Secretary, AP-TS

South Tamil Nadu Regional Fellowship program was conducted between 27th and 29th June. 26 fellowship students participated in the program on the theme: 'Understanding communalism and its impacts on youth in Indian society.'

- Princess Shamili
Programme Secretary, South Tamil Nadu
SCMI WI region organised a fellowship regional camp during 22nd March to 24th March 2019 at BGVK, Kedgaon, Ahmednagar and theme for the programme was ‘Dalit and Adivasis Rights in Human Right Perspectives. 18 participants from different units were enlightened on the origin of Dalit and Adivasis in India, their issues and constitutional safeguards.

- Bahiru R. Gajbhiv, Programme Secretary, Western India

**Units**

*The Real life and Vibrancy of the SCMI*

**Gender Sensitization**

On 22nd March, Karnataka Region facilitated conversations and activities with students of United Mission Degree College Unit, Bengaluru, during Radio in a Purse Workshop. Moments, Memories and experiences of sexual harassment, discrimination, power relations and how gender is constructed through societal norms and personal inhibitions were shared. “What would you like to change?” was an open question left to the students.

**Technology**

BUCC SCMI unit conducted a debate on “Technology and Human Imagination Today” on 17th January.

**Celebrating SCM Day!**

The SCM Marthandam Unit from South Tamil Nadu region celebrated SCM Day on the 5th of March. The contributions of SCMI to the betterment of the student community was commended and celebrated.

**World Water Day**

Nongpoh Town SCMI Unit conducted World Water Day on 23rd March emphasizing the importance of water for life.
Universal Day of Prayer for Students (UDPS)

Every year, SCMI observes the Universal Day of Prayer for Students. Across regions, special days were designated towards praying together for students across India.

Some of the regions represented here are Northwest, Western India, West Bengal, NEI Zone I and AP-TS regions.

One Billion Rising Campaign

SCMI actively participated in the One Billion Rising campaign, a global campaign to end rape and sexual violence against women. SCMI stands against any form of violence towards women and rises against injustice because Rising is no longer a campaign – it is a way of life. RISE. RESIST. UNITE.

Remembering the Pulwama martyrs

The nation was shaken by the deadly Pulwama terror attack in Jammu and Kashmir which killed 40 CRPF personnel on February 14th. SCMI conducted candlelight services for the deceased as well as remembered their families in prayer.
SCMI Staff Work Camp

SCMI Staff work camp was organized at SCM programme centre, Calicut, Kerala from 25-27 February 2019. In a time when intellectual work is attached higher value and priority, this work camp invoked the programme staff to reflect on the value of labour through participation in the work life of manual labourers. The 3 days were spent working alongside manual labourers who were building a foundation to put up a fence around the centre while the evenings were spent reflecting on the struggles faced by daily wage labourers, unequal wages between women and men labourers, plight of farmers in our country, and the theological significance of work. It was a time of putting aside our mental work engagements and expressing solidarity with all those who earn their livelihood from manual labour.

- Dakerlin Mukhim,
Executive Secretary, Faith formation and Praxis Desk

The 3rd Print edition of “The Sermon on the Mount” by E.C. John is an amazing commentary on one of the greatest teachings of Jesus Christ from the Gospel according to Matthew. Prof. Dr. E.C. John is a vibrant senior friend of SCMI, former Principal of the United Theological College, Bengaluru, and a well known ecumenical leader.

Discounted price: Rs. 75

“God with us: A Bold understanding of Suffering, Jesus Christ and Forgiveness” is an enlightening book on one of the most difficult theological topics: Suffering. The author, Dr. Dhyanchand Carr, is a theologian, Biblical scholar, and social activist, and a friend of SCMI.

Discounted price: Rs. 300

Get these books at their discounted prices from the SCMI National office at the earliest. Contact the Communication Desk at communicationscmi@gmail.com
Limited copies available!