Report on the Seminar on
Comparative Research on *well-being* and dynamics
in slum settlements in India and South Africa

**Date:** September 04th 2013, **Time:** 02.00 to 03.00 pm  
**Venue:** Lawrence Sundaram Auditorium

**LISSTAR**  
LOYOLA INSTITUTE OF SOCIAL SCIENCE TRAINING AND RESEARCH  
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Brief Summary of the Seminar

LISSTAR- Loyola Institute of Social Science Training and Research organized a Seminar for the Social Science Teachers and Researchers of Loyola College on “Comparative Research on well-being and dynamics in slum settlements in India and South Africa. The Seminar was held on September 4th 2013 from 2.00 to 3.00 pm in the Lawrence Sundaram Auditorium. The Seminar was attended by fifty delegates including the Social Science Research Scholars and Professors of Loyola College.

The Seminar began with a Prayer song offered by a team from the department of Sociology. Rev. Fr. A.M. Francis Jayapathy, S.J., Director of LISSTAR welcomed the Resource person and the audience of the seminar and introduced the seminar series for the staff and Researchers of Loyola College. Dr. Bernard D’ Sami from the department of History introduced the speaker Ms. Tara Saharan from the University of Amsterdam to the audience. Ms. Tara Saharan presented the seminar followed by discussions between the audience and the resource person. The Seminar concluded with key observations by Dr. Manu of Social Watch. Prof. V. Francis Adaikalam from the Department of Social Work proposed the vote of thanks.

Inauguration of Seminar Series

Rev. Fr. A.M. Francis Jayapathy, S.J., Director of LISSTAR inaugurated the Seminar Series for the Social Science Teachers and Researchers of Loyola College. Introducing the Seminar Series, Rev. Fr. A.M. Francis Jayapathy stated that LISSTAR will be organizing regular fortnight seminars and scholarly discussions on relevant topics to the Social Science Teachers and the Researchers in an effort to promote Social Science Studies and Research in the College. He also expressed his confidence that this humble beginning of introducing the seminar series would lead them to achieve the ambitious goal of setting up of Loyola School of Social Sciences & Humanities.

Fr. A.M. Francis Jayapathy remembered the contribution of Prof. M.N. Srinivas, a pioneering sociologist and highlighted the importance of Comparative Research as how it
seeks to compare and contrast nations, cultures and societies. He stated that how we tend to understand about our own society and the Social Process far more clearly, when we study about another society or a problem in another context or a language group.

**About the Resource Person**

With the background in architecture, urban planning and development studies presently Ms. Tara Saharan is pursuing her Ph.D from the faculty of Social and Behavioral Sciences, Department of Human Geography, Planning and International Development Studies at the University of Amsterdam. Ms. Tara’s Research is a comparative study which focuses on the wellbeing and micro-dynamics in informal settlements of Durban, South Africa and Chennai, India. Ms. Tara’s PhD research seeks to answer how do residents in informal settlements perceive and define wellbeing, and how do they access opportunities or experience obstacles in different contexts? Moreover, how are informal settlements embedded in the city?

Ms. Tara’s association with research on substandard settlements commonly called as slums in the case of India dates back to 2003. She had conducted several household surveys and interviews in numerous settlements of Kolkatta, Delhi, Bangalore, Ahmedabad, Chandigarh and Kalyan. In addition to her Doctoral studies Ms. Tara Saharan is also participating in an International Research project, Urban Chances, City Growth and Sustainability Challenges or Chance to Sustain funded by the European framework programme and the Socio Economic Science and Humanities themes.

**Purpose of the Seminar**

The purpose of the Seminar was to bring together academics to discuss and enhance skills about comparative research on *well-being* and dynamics in slum settlements in India and South Africa. The Seminar was designed to unite the researchers in order to establish a platform for dialogue and discussion with regard to Comparative Research on slum settlements.
Focus of the Seminar

The Resource person Ms. Tara Saharan began her presentation by explaining about her research topic “Comparative Research on well-being and dynamics in slum settlements in India and South Africa”. Ms. Tara Saharan defined the key concepts like well-being, dynamics, development and spoke about the significant similarities and differences between India and South Africa. She explained about the Chances to Sustain Project followed by Research questions. The Resource person also spoke on the theoretical frame work, the methodology, data collection methods and finally the operation of the research. Ms. Tara mentioned that she has used mixed methods in her research in order to capture the reality as the reality is so complex and hard to capture it just by using a single method.

Target Participants

- Research Scholars
- Professors
- Social Scientists

Feedback

The feedback from those who attended the seminar was positive and beneficial.
Photo Gallery

Prayer Song offered by the Students from the Department of Sociology

Compèring by Prof. Mary Jessy Rani, Dept of Social Work
Rev. Fr. A.M. Francis Jayapathy, S.J., Director of LISSTAR introducing the seminar series for the Staff and Researchers of Loyola College

Dr. Bernard D’ Sami from the Department of History introducing the speaker Ms. Tara Saharan to the audience
Ms. Tara Saharan from the University of Amsterdam delivering her speech
Audience
Key Observation by Dr. Manu

Prof. V. Francis Adaikalam proposing vote of thanks