

Razu John Mohan, *On the Way to Critical Praxis: Field Education as a Relevant Theological Pedagogy at the United Theological College, Bangalore*, Bangalore: United Theological College, 2002.

This pioneering work, *On the Way to Critical Praxis: Field Education as a Relevant Theological Pedagogy at the United Theological College, Bangalore*, deals with diverse issues that are found in the socio-cultural milieu that contribute to critical theological education. It is integrative in its approach: theory-practice, action-reflection-action, and text content are interlinked in a systematic manner. It provides a key to understanding the intricacies of this process. It presents compelling directions for a critical theological theory of praxis through field education that can guide and challenge students of theology and Christian ministry in India today.

This book has been divided into two parts: the first part dealing with theoretical reflections and the second part with experiential reflections. The articles provide with the contexts of the Christian praxis to be realized through the envisaged “option for the poor.” It gives a clear idea about the Rural Developmental Programs undertaken by many dioceses in India. The articles that we come across with in this book are mostly in the form of reports that have been already submitted or presented. They also describe various social service programs that have been already implemented for the welfare of people.

Field education has been an integral part of theological education at United Theological College (UTC), Bangalore. The UTC has been constantly striving to offer its students well planned field exposure, which would enable them to encounter new life contexts that would challenge them to broaden the horizon of their thinking as well as their involvement, both in the church and in the society at large. The purpose of this field education is to help students evolve a meaningful theological framework, providing them with analytical tools as well as critical skills to strengthen their motivation to be faithful to the Gospel of Jesus Christ and to be responsive to the contextual needs, challenges, and resources. This present volume provides the reader with a glimpse into the dynamics of such an ongoing encounter over several years. This book makes a significant contribution, especially to the ministerial training in the present-day Indian context.

The original impetus for this book was prompted by the firsthand expediencies of the students in examining and analyzing societal issues within theoretical frameworks and perspectives. This book, therefore,

should be read theologically, developmentally, and sociologically with the implication that the chapters represent reflections emanating from field exposures. On the whole, this book attempts to provide a critical-reflection process that takes place in context specifics.

On the Way to Critical Praxis successfully unveils a new outlook to the whole social work programme undertaken by the Christian believers. The suggestions provided in the book would function as eye-openers to those who work in the field of Christian social apostolate. This edited book is, indeed, a source book that would provide us with thought provoking insights.

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