

By end of August 2018, some 11,572 families, including 2,270 in Rodrigues, are eligible under the Social Register of Mauritius (SRM). Since December 2016, a total amount of Rs 652 M has been disbursed under the Subsistence Allowance item.

BUILDING AN INCLUSIVE SOCIETY

Priscille Noël argues that building an inclusive society is crucial for long term impact, to consider the voice and input of the most vulnerable families, this in a participative approach, when devising and implementing targeted programmes. "Families living in poverty need help to break out of this cycle as well as to develop a self-help mindset for empowerment. Both material poverty and social exclusion need to be addressed."

She reveals that Lovebridge works with each beneficiary family around five tangible pillars of material poverty (Education, Employment/ Employability/Training, Housing, Food & Nutrition, Health) and a sixth fundamental pillar, central to individual and family advancement, and related to Motivation, Positive Attitude towards empowerment, Skills and Courage (MASCO). "75% of beneficiary families are additionally supported by volunteers from different walks

important role in the making of an inclusive society. Even the different religious bodies are contributing immensely in the making of an inclusive society through their interventions at their respective levels and at national level. But the participation of the needy ones is essential in this process as they have to contribute in the making of their own progress and prosperity."

INCLUSIVE SOCIETY AND HIGH INCOME COUNTRY

According to economist Dr Bhavish Jugurnath, there are three key interrelated areas that

solidarity economy. "It is unlikely that development will be sustainable unless it is inclusive. Social policies that promote practices based on universal rights-based entitlements, equal and meaningful participation, as well as norms of solidarity and reciprocity, while paying due respect to diversity and the environment, are more likely to enable social inclusion."

He underlines that under this approach, social policy should be concerned not only with the welfare and rights of an individual but also with supporting social relations, institutions and structures through which the welfare of individuals in their

or individual indicators. "For example, higher wages for the lowest-paid workers has the potential to help people out of poverty and add to the nation's overall real income. Secondly the social inclusive policies that encourage higher savings rates and lower the cost of building assets for working and middle class households can provide better economic security for struggling families. New programs that automatically enroll workers in retirement plans and provide a savings credit could help lower-income households build wealth. Access to fair, low-cost financial services and home ownership are also important pathways to

there are several other obstacles we need to overcome in order to be an inclusive society. Firstly, economist Dr Bhavish Jugurnath underscores that as the focus of economic development has shifted to export, industries and tourism, the rural households that depend on agriculture as their source of income have become more vulnerable to poverty. "Environmental deterioration is one of the biggest causes of low yields of agriculture. Women in rural areas and their families are especially prone to poverty, as they often have low levels education and have not acquired professional skills. Modernization and industrialization boosted the economy but also led to greater income inequality."

Furthermore, Geerish Bucktowensing utters that the mindset should change. "There is need for Mauritius to bring a change in our legislation. There is need to put forward our unexploited talent."

Clifford Vellien also advocates that the perspective of people on the issue of poverty is a real obstacle. "Some people think that some vulnerable families do not deserve an enhancement in their living conditions, arguing that they do not make effort to get out of the poverty trap. But with this kind of thinking, they are not helping in the setting up of an inclusive society."

DANIELLE WONG:

"We are far behind to become an inclusive society"

Chairperson at National CSR, Danielle Wong reveals that we are far behind to become an inclusive society. "The intentions are good but we are not putting them into practice. There is time to review the national policy. For example, Mauritius should inspire itself from England and Europe by implementing the Social Act. This kind of law will allow more inclusiveness."

Commenting on the CSR, she states that a company gives away 2% provided it does profit. So, for her, not much sustainable projects are being done. "For our development, having enterprises involved socially is very essential. For any bid for government contracts, companies should show inclusiveness in employment and education."

