

EMOTION STUDIES

Padmasiri de Silva

(i) Research projects have been formulated within the framework of "Emotion Studies". The first project which emerged out of emotion studies is a project on suicide, "An epidemiological study of suicide and attempted suicide in Sri Lanka". A workshop held at the I.F.S. examined the conceptual and theoretical aspects of the notion of 'suicide'. This was followed by a review of literature on a limited number of studies on suicide in Sri Lanka. An interview guide was formulated for investigations. The first phase is being concentrated on a study of suicide in the Kandy district. To map out the distribution of suicide, data has been collected from 20 police stations. Once this data is analysed and processed an indepth study of suicide and attempted suicide will follow. It is expected that this study should be completed in about six months.

(ii) The second project is entitled "Emotions and Medicine". This project has already passed through three stages and three papers on this research area have been presented " (a) A study of emotions and emotion theories. After general introduction was presented at the I.F.S. "Philosophy Forum", a more detailed study was presented as a paper entitled, "Emotions and their Shadows" at 40th anniversary of "The Fullbright Programme" held in Colombo in June 1987 ; (b) A paper on "Ethical Values and Medicine" was presented at a seminar on "Medical Ethics" at the P.W.P.A. conference, December, 1987.

(c) A paper dealing with the place of emotions in medicine, entitled, "Understanding Human Emotions and their Relevance for Medical Ethics" was presented at

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the ICUS conference in Atlanta in November, 1987. This will form a chapter in book which is to be published by Paragon Publishers, New York. Two workshops on "Medical Ethics" and "Medicine and Emotions" are to be held at the I.F.S. this year.

(iii) The Philosophy Forum was formulated as an I.F.S. project for General Education open to academics as well as the general public. We had ten lectures and the response was excellent. We have built up a kind of "core group" of people who attend the lectures and participate in the discussion. The 1988 Philosophy Forum is being organised around the theme "LIVING IN COMPLEX TIMES". A selected number of these presentations will be revised, edited and prepared for publication as an I.F.S. project.