

**National Seminar
On
Marginalized Sections and Inclusive Development: Issues Challenges and
Social Work Perspective**

Dates: October 11-12-2012

Concept Note

The Indian society is highly stratified and hierarchical in character. The stratified and hierarchical nature of Indian society involves institutional processes that economically and socially exclude, discriminate, isolate and deprive some groups on the basis of characteristics like caste, ethnicity or religious background. These groups constitute a vast section of India's population and include low caste untouchables, tribals, and religious minority groups they together account for about one fourth of India's population (equivalent to about 250 million). A vast majority of marginalised sections in the developing nations are under the threat of development. They are deprived of adequate access to basic needs of life such as health, education, housing, food, security, employment, justice and equity. In addition, the marginalised sections are unable to acquire and use their rights. Issues of sustainable livelihood, social and political participation of these groups exists as the major problem in the developing nations.

In a caste-dominated country like India, Dalits who comprises more than one-sixth of the Indian population (160 million approx), stand as a community whose human rights have been severely violated. They have meagre purchasing power; have poor housing conditions; lack or have low access to resources and entitlements. The members of these groups face systemic violence in the form of denial of access to land, good housing, education and employment.

On the other hand Scheduled Tribes face structural discrimination within the Indian society. Unlike the Scheduled Castes, the Scheduled Tribes are a product of marginalization based on ethnicity. In India, the Scheduled Tribes population is around 84.3 million and is considered to be socially and economically disadvantaged. They are mainly landless with little control over resources such as land, forest and water and constitute a large proportion of agricultural labourers, casual labourers, plantation labourers, industrial labourers etc. This has

resulted in poverty, low levels of education and poor health among them. They belong to the poorest strata of the society.

Exclusion and immense deprivation of the low caste untouchables or Dalits is closely associated with the denial of property rights, civil rights, and lack of access to education. Over a period of time due to their physical and social segregation from the rest of the Hindu society, the extent of deprivation became more intense, and was further entrenched through the institution of untouchability. It is this institutionalized exclusion of the low castes untouchables, from access to economic rights, civil rights and human development, which has caused severe poverty and deprivation among them. The Adiwasi or the tribals also suffered from isolation, neglect and exclusion of a type, which is primarily causative of a considerable deprivation and poverty among them. The pathetic situation of the Dalits and the Adiwasis, is a sad commentary on the development experience of last sixty four years of political Independence.

In recognition of the unique problems of the Dalits, Adiwasis and other religious minorities, the Indian government has consistently developed policies for their economic, social and political empowerment. 'Positive interventions', 'affirmative measures', and accompanying policy processes were initiated for an encompassing empowerment of these social group over half a century ago. Though these policies have brought some positive change, however, the process of transformation has been extremely slow and inadequate to minimize the handicaps and disabilities of the past and in reducing the gaps between them and the rest of the Indian society. These social groups continue to suffer from a high degree of poverty, and social and economic deprivation. Therefore, policy processes need to exhibit a radical shift in their focus to improve the ownership of income earning capital assets, agricultural assets, employment, human resource and health situation. Appropriate remedies need to be incorporated against discrimination to ensure equity participation of the marginalized communities in the private and the public sectors for inclusive development.

In this context, this seminar proposes to address the issues of education, health, employment, poverty and livelihood inequality and exclusion questions of marginalized sections specially Dalits, Tribal and Minorities in the contemporary Indian society within the framework of exclusive development, and understand the role of social work in dealing with marginalised issues and problems in holistic manner.

Significance of the Seminar

The seminar aims to bring various stakeholders like academicians, policy planners, officials, programme administrators, representatives of civil society, NGOs, media, social and development activists and practitioners to debate and discuss about marginalized sections and inclusive development: issues, challenges and social work perspective. The seminar attempts to engage these issues theoretically as well as empirically. It proposes to theoretically address the continuous perpetuation of social exclusion of the marginalized sections especially Dalits, Tribals and Minorities and to empirically assess the implications of liberalisation, privatisation, globalisation and other recent changes.

Objectives of the Seminar

- To critically examine the substantive scope, and coverage of the processes of inclusion and exclusion with regard to inclusive development.
- To review historical experience of the political economy of inclusion and exclusion in the public and private sectors in India
- To identify the issues, challenges, problems and constraints in achieving the inclusive development in India.
- To evaluate the role of social work in deconstructing and reconstructing a vision of social development that ensure the meeting of universal needs of survival, justice and human dignity for a sustainable social transformation of marginalised sections.
- To suggest a blueprint and strategies for empowering the marginalised section for inclusive development in the country.

Outcome of the Seminar

The seminar proceeding will be published by reputed national publisher and it will be used by the research scholar, academician and policy makers as source for various purpose. Proceeding and recommendations will be submitted to the concerned ministries, government of India for further consideration and action.

Themes of the Seminar

- Social inequality and exclusion of marginalised sections
- The politics of inclusion and exclusion and constitutional rights

- Contemporary vision of social progress and social development: rhetoric and reality
- Marginalised sections issues related to livelihood and development in context of globalisation, liberalization and privatisation
- Interface between civil society and state for inclusive development
- Marginalised sections and social work practice

Call for papers and deadline

Papers are invited from the foregoing field's academicians, social activists, research scholars and policy makers on the above mentioned themes. The abstract and full text of the paper and power point presentation should be sent to the Department of Social Work, Jamia Millia Islamia (A Central University), New Delhi. The **guidelines** for submission of abstracts and full papers are as follows.

Abstract

The abstract should not exceed 250 words. It should include title of the abstract the author's name, designation, institutional affiliation, mailing address, contact number, E-mail ID. Authors are requested to kindly send the abstract through E-mail ID msid.jmi@gmail.com on latest by **May 15th, 2012**.

Full Paper

- The length of full paper including tables, diagrams, illustrations, references, etc. should be between 5000 to 6000 words.
- The full paper should be in English and typed in MS-Word in Times New Roman with font size 12.
- Bibliographical references should be arranged alphabetically and given at the end of the text in the APA format.
- The full version of paper should be submitted in both hard and soft copy latest by **July 1st, 2012**.

A Committee will review the abstracts and full papers and information regarding acceptance, modification, rejection and presentation shall be communicated to the authors subsequently. The selected papers will be published through a reputed national publisher.

Traveling Allowance and Hospitality

The participants are advised to arrange traveling expenses from their respective institutions. The organizing committee will make modest arrangements for boarding and lodging in sharing basis in the University Guest Houses for outstation participants only after receiving the confirmation of participation well in advance.

Registration Fee

Academician, NGOs representatives: Rs. 1000

Research Scholar and Students: Rs. 800

The registration fee may be sent through a Demand Draft in favour of “**Registrar, Jamia Millia Islamia**, payable at New Delhi along with duly filled registration form to the **Seminar Convener, Department of Social Work, Jamia Millia Islamia, (A Central University) Jamia Nagar, New Delhi:110025**

Important Date

Abstract Submission: May 15, 2012

Notification of Acceptance of Abstract: May 30, 2012

Full Paper Submission: July 1, 2012

Deadline for Registration: July 20, 2012

Prof. Zubair Meenai
Head
Department of Social Work
Jamia Millia Islamia (A Central University)
Jamia Nagar, New Delhi-110025, INDIA
Tel: +91-11-26981270
+91-11-26981717 Extn: 3550
Fax: +91-11-26982658

Seminar Convener

Dr. Virendra B Shahare
Dept. of Social Work
Jamia Millia Islamia (A Central University)
New Delhi: 110025, INDIA
Phone: + 91- 26981270 Fax: +91- 26982658
Cell Phone No: +91-9868561196

Seminar Organizing Secretary

Dr. Ashvini Kumar Singh
Dept. of Social Work
Jamia Millia Islamia (A Central University)
New Delhi: 110025, INDIA
Phone: + 91-26981270 Fax: +91-26982658
Cell Phone No: +91-9868642900

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Designation:

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Department/Institution:

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Mailing Address:

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Contact No. :

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Paper Presentation:

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Dated Issuing Bank.....

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