

ACADEMIC ACTIVITIES DURING THE SESSION (2009-2010)

As per our aforesaid objectives, during this session we have done the following activities.

M.Phil course in Subaltern Studies. We admitted 20 students in this course during the session 2009-2010 out of which 19 degree awarded. The students are from various backgrounds of social sciences and arts. The Centre orients students theoretical and methodological issues related to the social exclusion and inclusive policy basing on the experiences from different parts of the world. Special emphasis has been made on the Indian experiences.

1. Special Lecture series

In continuation of our proposed lecture series, following lectures were organized during the academic session 2009-2010.

S.No.	Name of Scholars	Topic	Date and Venue
1.	Prof. Anand Kumar, CSSS, JNU, New Delhi	Political sociology of poverty: Challenges for social scientists	17 th August 2009
2.	Shri M.J. Akbar, New Delhi	Education development and modernity: Experiences from India	19 th August 2009
3.	Prof. Rajiv Bhargava, Centre for Study of Developing Society, New Delhi	Religion and Exclusion	2 nd Sept. 2009
4.	Prof. SM Dubey, Ex VC Dibrugarh University, Assam	Lohia and Perspectives on social exclusion.	12 th Sep. 2009

2. National Seminar/Conference/workshop

The Centre has organized one National Seminar, one National Conference and one workshop during the academic session 2009-2010, the brief summary of which is as follows:

- (i) **National Seminar on “*Repositioning ‘subalternity’ in globalized India: The dynamics of Social Inclusion*” held on 19-21 Nov 2009.**

Subalternity denotes a position of relative dependence towards another, a hegemonic position, describing difference in power, income, education and health among others, it stands for constrains in sense of freedom of expression, freedom of thought, movement, work and political participation which is all power related. Academics has, for long, been caught in the dilemma of the issue of ‘subalternity’ and ‘subalterns’.

The question of whose perspective, experience, and history should be taken into consideration in educations has shaped debates on curriculum across disciplines of arts

and social sciences for decades. This conference evaluated the potentials of overcoming the subaltern predicament of limited agency by interrogating issue of subalternity in globalized India.

The aim was to build partnerships within the academia on behalf of groups which identify or experiences structural discrimination and marginalization so as to facilitate in uncovering the nuances of contemporary agendas of equality and how it has responded to the challenges of differentiation on grounds of disability, gender, age, race, sexual orientation, religion with the help of belief in implementation of state policies of social inclusivity.

The conference provided platform for scholars, committed to knowledge exchange, across India to debate on issue of subalternity and analyze the way in which various forms of power, now operate, with a specific focus on spaces in which subaltern groups act to reassert their own perceived identities, cultures and histories. It not only helped in promoting research and understanding of the subaltern as subject and modes of inquiry but also facilitated models of social inclusion.

With this end in view, we organized this National Seminar revolving round the five themes to be discussed in following five plenary sessions:

Plenary Session I – Mapping Subaltern Studies in India: Hegemonic Expressions of Power in 21st Century

The scholars had been doggedly working on bringing the condition of oppressed people in South Asia, in general and in India, in particular, to the attention of elites in this region and the world. The session while focusing on studies on subaltern groups critically analyzed the view that the culture informs the condition of subalternity.

Plenary Session II – From ‘Servitude to Assertion’: Struggle for Agency and Search for Identity

This session tried to understand as much of the caste, tribes, gender and minority and also encompassed the subjects such as mystical devotionalism, the practice of religion and its political implication, the goal of political leaders and movements, and the power of poetry and literature simultaneously to resist and to rejoice.

Plenary Session III – Historiography from the Edge: Marginal Voice

In this session, we deliberated upon the literature which has made considerable efforts to ‘let the subaltern speak’ for themselves. Here we tried to preempt how to Gyatri Spivak’s words of warning for subaltern studies that such a post colonial scholarly project might in recovering subaltern subjects, recommit acts of violence against them, elide differences, speaking for the subalterns and locating such a voice within a hegemonic western discourses.

Plenary Session IV- Gender, Exclusion and Empowerment: Documenting feminist Narratives

The universality of women's experiences of myriad forms of exploitations has always provided an immediate entry point for feminist intervention. Whatever analysis of patriarchy and its relationship to class, caste, community or race, feminist politics is able to relate directly to violence experienced in difficult ways and to different degrees but an intrinsic part of women's lives. The session analyzed the various perspectives and conceptual frameworks on empowerment of women from the feminist viewpoint.

Plenary Session V – Production of Knowledge Didactics and Subalternity: Contemporary Debates and Future Concerns

How are hierarchies constructed? How do they work? How are they resisted? Speaking on how to recover histories and voice of those from below. This session deliberated on the various issue formed on the basis of lived reality of the subalterns.

Resource Persons

Prof. Rajan Harse, VC, Allahabad University, Allahabad
Prof. K.L. Sharma, VC, Jaipur National University, Jaipur
Prof. A.K. Jain, Dean, FSS, BHU, Varanasi
Prof. Ajit K. Pandey, Coordinator, CSSEIP, BHU
Prof. Ehsanul Haq, SSS, JNU
Prof. Chandra Kala Padia, BHU, Varanasi
Prof. Imtiaz Ahmad, JNU, New Delhi
Prof. B.K. Nagala, Rohtak Univ., Haryana
Prof. Satishdesh Pandey, Delhi Univ., Delhi
Prof. Madhu Nagla, Rohtak Univ., Haryana
Prof. Gayatri Bhattacharya, Kalcatta University, Kolkata
Prof. S.K. Bhattacharya, Kolkata
Prof. A.B. Singh, Lucknow University.
Prof. Vinitha Menon, Kanoor University, Kerala
Prof. D. Sundaram, Madras University, Chennai
Prof. R.P. Pathak, BHU, Varanasi
Prof. Manager Pandey, JNU, New Delhi
Prof. Vibha Chaturvedi, Director, Women Study Centre, D.U.
Prof. S. Sreedharan, Bangalore University, Bangalore.
Prof. Anand Prakash Singh, Sagar University, MP
Prof. Gopal Guru, CPS, JNU, New Delhi
Prof. Virgin Xaxa, Delhi Univ., Delhi
Prof. Jitender Prasad, Rohtak Univ, Haryana
Dr. Madhov Govind, JNU, New Delhi
Dr. T.N. Jha, Patana
Dr. R.P. Singh, New Delhi
Dr. S.P. Singh, New Delhi
Dr. Vishwanath Pandey, Varanasi
Dr. Smita Verma, Lucknow
Dr. Manoj Sinha, Gaya, Bihar

- (ii) One day **workshop** on “*Experiential Understanding of Social Exclusion*” on 22nd February 2010

Prof. Nasareen Rustomfram, Tata Institute of Social Science, Mumbai was the resource person in the workshop. The workshop was mainly meant for M .Phil in Subaltern Studies’ students. There were four sessions conducted during the day.

Session – I: Aspects of Social Exclusion: lecture

The session began with an interactive lecture in which the resource person tried to develop an understanding among the participants regarding the complexity of issue of exclusion, especially in the Indian Social Context.

Session – II: Group Discussion

It was followed by a group discussion where the participants brought forth mainly the aspects of mutual respect and acceptance of differences being essential for a multicultural society like India.

Session – III: Case Study

It was an exercise in the form of a case study. All the participants were made to give thoughts to a particular situation with different alternatives. This exercise was mainly to highlight the exclusion in a gender perspective. It was an eye opener to the gender discrimination and vulnerability of women in various situations. The participants had to state about the value orientation of society in relation to gender.

Session – IV: Structured Exercise

This was a structured exercise. It was for the understanding of contemporary Indian socio-political systems and the power structure which governs most of the activities of the common citizens. The students played the roles of the citizens and the elected members of the government and realized the perpetuating oppression of the power on certain class of the citizens. At the end, the need for more enlightened and responsive civil society was highlighted.

- (iii) **National Conference on “*Health, Poverty and Human Development*” held on 5-7th March 2010.**

The twenty-first century has resulted in health advancement which seemed impossible in the past centuries, yet the challenges are daunting. According to various reports, developing nations account for ninety per cent of the disease burden, yet have access to only ten per cent of the resources used for health. This striking imbalance is due to the persistence of poverty despite all claims of development and advancement of technology. III-health leads to poverty- and poverty breeds ill – health. The inseparable link between poor health, poverty and development needs to be understood so as to make any dent in this vicious cycle which not only impinges on the health but has major bearing on socio-economic and political state of nations, both at the local and global level. The need of the hour is to locate the inequalities in development and involve all the development sectors in contributing towards eradication of poverty, and in health

development. The role of improved health in socio-economic development has long been argued and it should not be undermined. This conference is an attempt to bring intellectuals from all walks of life to make fruitful deliberations on the issues.

This 7th conference of Indian Association of Social Sciences and Health was organized by the Centre for Study of Social Exclusion and Inclusive Policy, Faculty of Social Sciences, Banaras Hindu University, from 5th to 7th March, 2010. The stimulating journey into which the Conference engaged all the participants for three days, commenced with the inaugural session. Subsequently it was meticulously planned to be divided into three symposia, nineteen sessions, three special sessions for the youth researchers' presentations, and three poster sessions. On the second day of the conference, Dr. Nesim Tumkaya UNFPA was felicitated for his valuable contribution to "Population and Development Programs in India" and encouraging such academic activities. The Conference concluded with the Valedictory session on 7th March.

The Conference was illuminated by the presence of a galaxy of eminent social scientists from across the country. What imparts this conference extreme relevance is not only a subject which is of prime importance for the nation, but also its effort to bring together the social scientists, health and medical professionals, researchers and active workers; all under one forum; trying to build up an interface between social scientists and health specialists. Accordingly, one of the major objectives of the conference was to 'bring together scientists, practitioners and policy makers in order to evolve an equitable health care system in the country through appropriate and affordable health sector reforms.'

ISSUES AND POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS:

Symposium 1: Health, Poverty and Human Development Interrelationships

This session had three presentations with the emerging issues being:

- With growth and development involving structural changes and findings on asymmetric causes of mobility into and out of poverty, the policy agenda can no longer be cast in terms of ensuring a subsistence minimum but in terms of inclusion in the main stream growth process and ensuring security for the vulnerable as well
- In line with the changes in emphasis and policy imperatives, norms and measures for policy formulation, implementation and evaluation need to be revised
- There is a need to revise the poverty line to accommodate health expenses and choice of cost effective strategy towards health care and poverty reduction
- The poverty alleviation programmes implemented since India's independence seem to have helped in poverty reduction but the estimation of poverty is still an issue in India
- There is also a need to assess the impact of the rural and urban poverty alleviation programmes implemented across the Indian states in a scientific way

Symposium 2: Food Security, Nutrition, Women and Children

This session had three presentations highlighting the following issues

- In view of the close linkages between poverty and health and nutrition status of the women and children, specific initiatives are needed to address the issues relating to poverty at the family level with special focus on women and children. The existing programmes need to be relooked so as to make them more effective
- Food security is an issue that needs to be addressed so as to improve the nutrition status of Indian women and children

Symposium 3: Public Policies to improve Health and Human Development

This session had three presentations highlighting the following issues

- Efforts are needed to ensure that the National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) plays active role in addressing the health inequalities in Indian states
- Poverty played major role in determining the health status of the elderly in India
- As urban India is experiencing rapid health transition with prevalence of communicable as well as non communicable diseases, need specific evidence based health strategies with focus on preventive, promotive and curative aspects

Technical Session 1: Inequalities in Health and Human Development

The emerging issues are listed below

- The policy makers and planners need to pay attention to the economic and health needs of the elderly of 80+ years, specially, the women
- There is wide gap in maternal and child health status among different social groups in India and measures are needed to mitigate the gender and geographical gaps in health care access.
- There is a need to examine the impact of the health sector reforms and globalization on the health status of the people
- Access to maternal health services in backward regions of Indian states is an issue that needs attention.
- The poor health status of adolescent girls from rural areas and poor families need attention
- There is a need to focus on reduction of social class disparities in child under nutrition in India

Technical Session 2: Gender, Health and Poverty

The emerging issues are listed below:

- As part of health care sector ethics, reduced access to health services is a concern and efforts are needed to increase access to health services
- Fertility, infant mortality and utilization of maternal and child health care and other public health indicators is poor among the urban depressed socio economic groups and these differentials need to be addressed
- In view of the greater gender inequalities and slow progress, efforts are needed to ensure that women take control of their own lives, health and poverty
- Women are more vulnerable to overweight and obesity
- Public health nutritional interventions are needed to address malnutrition problem of the tribal children

Technical Session 3: HIV/AIDS, Poverty and Human Development

The emerging issues are listed below:

- There is a need for interventions for connecting patients and families to necessary resources and support in the community, counselling, social support network etc.
- Need culturally sensitive interventions for sensitizing adolescents about consequences of risk sexual behaviour
- Strategies are needed to work with the existing community resources and services to prevent violence and HIV among married women in India with focus on women from poor communities
- In view of the positive impact of the BCC strategy on knowledge and reduction of AIDS poverty, it should be continued with focus on reduction of poverty related to AIDS
- Individuals with lower values of index of overall development are more prone to have STIs and have higher chances of HIV infection. Thus these sections need specific interventions

Technical Session 4: Strategies and Programmes

The emerging issues are listed below:

- The health functionaries need to be motivated to achieve low levels of maternal and child mortality through sensitization
- Need to address issues such as poor infrastructure, human resources, performance and supply related problems to make the NRHM more effective for the poor
- Better IEC campaigns and easy accessibility to vaccination services are needed to improve the child immunization and address gender differentials

Technical Session 5: Environment, Health and Poverty

The emerging issues are listed below:

- Depletion of natural resources has adverse impact on livelihood and health aspects of the primitive tribal groups
- To control deaths due to indoor air pollution, improved cooking stoves with clean and improved combustion resulting in reduction of toxic emissions can be promoted
- To promote sanitation, measures like higher subsidy, better management of existing programmes and enhanced community participation can be adopted

Technical Session 6: Measurement

The emerging issues are listed below:

- There is a need for Statistical Information System so as to make effective use of decentralized planning and human development
- So as to understand the various dimensions of human development, “5Ps Model of Holistic Human Development for Developing non violent global harmonic society can be used

- Engel curves can be used to analyse the catastrophic out of pocket health expenditure by characterising it on the basis of consumption necessities
- The HDI developed by UNDP may not be sound in view of the issues relating to weights and scaling

Technical Session 7: Other emerging issues

The emerging issues are listed below:

- The reproductive health needs of women of higher parity and older need to be addressed
- There is a need for synergetic efforts between journalists and Doctors/researchers in presentation of health news to readers

Resource Persons

Prof. CD Singh, VC, Indira Gandhi National Tribal University, Amarkantak, M.P.

Prof. Ajit K. Pandey, BHU, Varanasi

Prof. C.P. Prakasham, Mumbai

Prof. U.V. Somayajulu, New Delhi

Prof. RP Pathak, BHU, Varanasi

Prof. Chandrakala Padia, BHU, Varanasi

Prof. K.E. Vaidyanathan, Chennai

Prof. Noor Mohamad, AMU, Aligarh

Prof. J.P. Singh, Patna University, Patna

Prof. A.K. Sharma, IIT, Kanpur

Prof. V.K. Ravindra Kumar, S.V. University, Tirupati

Prof. Gitanjali Mohanty, NCERT, Bhubaneswar

Prof. M.S.R. Murthy, SVU, Tirupati

Prof. Suresh Sharma, IEG, New Delhi

Prof. Sheel Sharma, Vanssthali University, Rajasthan

Prof. M.H. Suryanarayana, Mumabi

Prof. Jagmohan Singh Verma, Lucknow.

Dr. Sanghamitra Acharya, JNU, New Delhi

Dr. Madhusudan, NEHU, Shillong

Dr. V. Raji Sugumar, Pondicherry

Dr. Talwar Sabana, Karnatak University

Dr. Mala Kapur Shankardas, Univ. of Delhi, Delhi

Dr. Bhubon Mohan Das, ISI, Kolkata

Dr. K.N.M. Raju, Bangalore

Dr. Manoj Kumar Agrawal, Lucknow

Dr. Shikha Dixit, IIT, Kanpur

Dr. Sabat Kumar Digal, Utkal Univ., Bhubaneswar




