

Invitation

**National Conference
on**

*Public Action and Inclusive Policy:
Taking Stock of the Reality and Exploring the Road
Ahead*

On March 22nd to 24th 2010.
(Monday to Wednesday)

*With the Financial Assistance of
University Grants Commission*

Organised by



Centre for Study of Social Exclusion and Inclusive Policy

Pondicherry University
(A Central University)
Puducherry – 605 014

About the Conference

The Centre for Study of Social Exclusion and Inclusive Policy at Pondicherry University is one of the many centers started in Indian universities by the University Grants Commission to address the issues of discrimination and inequality faced by socially excluded groups in India. The significance of these Centers is in its agenda to promote inclusive policy. Inclusive policies for socially excluded groups as in the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes have been in force since the framing of the constitution and sporadically a little before. Presently, interest in inclusive policy has taken centre stage being advocated through the concept of 'inclusive growth' by the UNDP, the World Bank and also features in the Eleventh Five-Year Plan Strategy in India. Nevertheless, what the concept means and how one measures inclusion is not clear (Suryanarayana 2008). Noticeably, the policy of inclusive growth has more of an economic front through liberalization further widening income inequality. It makes one wonder who is the priority of the inclusive growth agenda; the market or the 'deprived people'. The inequality that socially excluded groups face is not just with respect to income but more importantly, institutional inequality and discrimination as a result of hegemonic structures. The multidimensional inequality arising from these structures are often strengthened by new policies (like liberalization/globalization) rather than the contrary. Though the Government has evolved policies specifically keeping the emancipation of socially excluded groups as priority, in over half a century there still remains a lot to be desired from these policies.

What emerges here is the need to understand what inclusive policy means and how it can be framed to assure inclusive growth. In this context it is relevant to bring in the concept of 'public action' proposed by Dreze and Sen (1989). The point to note here with reference to the concept of public action is that it takes place not just by government intervention but also through people's intervention. The participation of people in asserting what they lack and putting forward what they want, can go a long way in aiding Inclusive policy. Given this scope the Centre for Study of Social Exclusion and Inclusive Policy at Pondicherry University proposes to organize a national conference on how public action can support inclusive policy. We intend to explore in this conference the different inclusive policies that have been framed for the socially excluded groups (Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes) and assess their impact. We are aware that the inclusive policies framed for the scheduled castes and scheduled tribes are numerous and beyond the scope of one conference to discuss them all. We have so, proposed below a few sub themes to paper presenters. We wish to remind paper presenters that the title of our conference, *Public Action and Inclusive Policy: Taking Stock of the Reality and the Road Ahead*, is also our main objective. In this connection, we request papers to have three components, firstly to introduce the socially excluded group that his/her research is based on, secondly, the particular policy, its cause, benefits proposed and impact on people and finally, the linkage between the policy, the benefits it promises and the people, what kind of public action influenced the framing of this policy or implementing the policy. What impact has this policy had on people and what lessons can we learn from this case?

Sub-themes:

1. Myths and realities of the reservation policy and its implementation
2. Food Security and Health issues among the SC/ST
3. Land Reforms and Agriculture policy for SCs
4. Forest Policy and STs
5. Public distribution system and other government subsidies and their impact on SC/ST
6. Labour Market discrimination
7. Impact of Globalisation on SC/ST
8. Educational disparities among SC/ST
9. Discrimination against SC/ST
10. Discrimination against Disabled.

Call of Papers

We request scholars and Faculty from Universities, Research Centres and NGOs already carrying out research on the above sub themes to present papers and participate in this conference. For both logistic and research reasons we will appreciate if you can send us a 500 word abstract of your paper by 10th March 2010 to pusocialexclusion@gmail.com and a hard copy of the same may be mailed to the Conference Director.

Oral Presentations

Oral Presentations on the topic of submitted abstracts will be of 20 minutes duration (including a short period for discussion). Presentation room will be provided with overhead projector, slide projector and LCD for power point presentation.

Travel and Accommodation

Due to limited financial resources the organizers request the delegates to explore their own means of meeting their travelling expenditure. However, as per the availability of the funds second class T.A. will be paid for the paper presenters. The organizing committee will provide the accommodation and local hospitality for the delegates.

Registration Fee

Individual delegate - Rs.250/-
Young Scholar/Student - Rs.150/-

Organising Committee**Chief Patron**

Prof. J.A.K. Tareen
Vice-Chancellor,
Pondicherry University

Patrons

Prof. A. Balasubramanian
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Pondicherry University

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Pondicherry University

Conference Director

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Registration Form

Mail this form, together with the registration fee, to

Prof.T.Subramanyam Naidu,
The Conference Director *on*

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and Exploring the Road Ahead**

Centre for Study of Social Exclusion and Inclusive Policy
Pondicherry University
A Central University
Puducherry – 605 014, India.

Registration fees should be in the form of Demand Draft payable at Puducherry in favour of *The Finance Officer, Pondicherry University.*

Name:

Designation:

Address

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e-mail:

Phone:

Accommodation Needed: Yes / No