

Two Day

National Seminar

On

Social Development in India: Strategies, Challenges and Social Work Profession

Organised by:

Department of Social Work, Visva Bharati University

Sriniketan

23rd to 24th March 2019

Venue: Department of Social Work, Visva Bharati University, Santiniketan

Important dates

Last Date of Abstract Submission: March 15, 2019

Intimation of Abstract Acceptance: March 18, 2019

Full Paper Submission: March 22, 2019

Registration: March 18, 2019 onwards

Social Development in India: Strategies, Challenges and Social Work Profession

Venue: Department of Social Work; Visva-Bharati University, Santiniketan

‘Social Development’ refers to many of the non-economic processes and outcomes of development, including but not limited to: reduced vulnerability; inclusion; wellbeing; accountability; people-centred approaches; and freedom from violence.¹ It is fundamentally concerned with human rights, formal and informal power relations, inequality and possibilities for building greater equality among individuals and groups within societies.

Since independence, the government of India has claimed that it has wanted to work towards social development. On the eve of independence, Jawaharlal Nehru, while addressing the constituent assembly, declared that the independence meant the redemption of a pledge. But he also stated that this achievement “is but a step, an opening of opportunity, to the great triumphs and achievements that await us (...) the ending of poverty and ignorance and disease and inequality of opportunity”.¹ A lot has been achieved in the past half century. The incidence of poverty has declined from over 50 per cent in the 1950s to less than 30 per cent in the late 1990s.² The literacy rate has increased from less than 20 per cent in 1951 to 65 per cent in 2001. According to the recent Human Development Reports of UNDP, India has moved from the category of “low” human development to that of “medium” level and its present rank is 127. Nevertheless, the performance of India in social development is far from satisfactory, and could have been much better [Dreze and Sen 1995].

Addressing social development issues can improve and sustain human development and reduce individual and community vulnerability. Poverty, gender inequality, social exclusion and geographic location can all affect a person’s ability to realise their right to a decent standard of living. Moreover, individuals and

groups may face multiple barriers to realising their rights. These barriers can negatively reinforce each other. For example, girls and women living with disabilities, or poor women living in rural areas, are likely to face greater barriers than most women living in better-off, urban settings. Challenges to human development can change throughout a person's life and especially at particular periods. For example, the early years of life, the transition from school to work and from work to retirement are periods when human development challenges are high. Realising rights to human development involves understanding and addressing the social drivers of development. Without doing so, gains made will be undermined.

Development actors have sought to incorporate a social development lens through approaches such as a human rights-based approach, Political Economy Analysis, inclusive institutions, and good governance. The literature recommends an inter-sectoral approach including engaging with other sectors of government and society to address influences outside of human development sectors. The international discourse has been strongly influenced by the Millennium Development Goals' (MDGs) focus on human development outcomes. The new Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) involve moving from a technical approach for increasing human development towards an equity/inclusion approach that focuses on 'leave no-one behind' (Starfield, 2007). Discussions draw on analysis of underlying power relations to understand intersecting inequalities and how these affect equitable outcomes. There is an increased emphasis on social norms and understanding social institutions, and on politics – including informal politics such as clientelistic relationships – and political analysis. Citizen engagement for increasing accountability is a strategy that donors generally support (Gaventa & Barrett, 2010). The value-added of a social development approach is recognised in academic literature and policy. However, working to increase equity and shift power relations can be difficult to put into practice. Cultural norms are difficult to change, and donors can be reluctant to engage with an overtly political approach. Some of the barriers to

including a social development lens include a lack of expertise in specific areas, such as gender, age or disability, difficulty working across sectors, and technocratic approaches to human development. Barriers also exist because people working in development and in basic services hold the same social and cultural norms as do their clients, and are subject to the same, or similar, social prejudices.

Seminar Sub Themes:

- **Approaches to Social Development**
- **Social Development Theories**
- **Measurement of Social Development**
- **Rights Based Approaches**
- **Human Development**
- **Sustainable Development**
- **Health and Development**
- **Inclusive Development**
- **Social Problems and Social Development**
- **Social Policy and Interventions in Social Development**
- **Social Work intervention in Social Development**
- **Any other related to the theme**

Participants: Faculty Members, Research Scholars, Students, Policy Managers, Practitioners (State, Civil Society, NGOs, etc.)

Call for Abstracts: Abstracts are invited on identified themes of the seminar and related areas (not exceeding 300 words) in MS Word (Font: Times New Roman, Size: 12, Spacing: Single).

Please send your abstracts on the following Email Id:

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Fee: Academicians/Practitioners- INR 1200, Scholars: 700, Students: 500

(Inclusion: Day 1: Seminar Kit, Lunch and Breakfast with tea on both the days)

Accommodation is not included; however modest accommodation can be arranged on prior request on self payment basis

Publication: The Department plans to publish selected papers presented at the seminar in the form of an edited book with an ISBN. Address for Correspondence: Dr.Paramita Roy & Dr Subhashree Sanyal Organizing Secretary(s) , Department of Social Work, Visva Bharati University, Birbhum West Bengal

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About Visva Bharati and Department of Social Work

This Department is the oldest and premiere institute of Social Work in eastern India. It has followed the footsteps and ideals of Gurudeva Rabindranath Tagore. Being the first institute in India to introduce Bachelor degree in Social Work (BSW) in 1963, it started Master of Social Work (MSW) programme in 1977. Three programmes such as BSW (Hons), MSW and PhD in Social Work are offered now through this Department. Seventeen faculty members and three academic support staff with rich academic background continuously strive to maintain quality education and research for almost 230 students who come from the adjoining states.

Visva-Bharati is a pilgrimage for education and culture. It reflects the Tagorean ethos of making a complete human being. It is a hallowed place of learning cradled in a serene environment in the lap of Nature where Rabindranath Tagore, the first non-European Nobel Laureate, founded a school called Brahmacharyasrama for children in 1901 and it was around this nucleus that the structure of an unconventional University, called Visva Bharati developed . Visva Bharati was declared to be a Central University of India and an Institution of National Importance by an Act of Parliament in 1951.It was granted the status of a unitary, teaching and residential university having courses from school to university level. The motto of Visva Bharati has been "Yatravisvambhavatyekanidam" - where the world makes a home in a single nest.