

National Seminar
on
Contextualising Conflict, its Resolution and
Peace-Building Initiatives in India
March 04-05, 2017



Jointly Organised
by



Department of Social Work
Visva-Bharati, Sriniketan,
Birbhum, West Bangal,
PIN-731236



North East Institute of Social
Science & Research (NEISSR),
Bishop's House, Dimapur,
Nagaland-797112

Theme of the Seminar

Conflict exists in every society. The lexicon meaning of conflict is basically some form of friction or disagreement or discord arising between two opposing forces. It may occur from economic differentiation, social change, cultural formation, governance, faith based practice, psychological development, political organization and so on. Conflict may escalate or de-escalate but it is always dynamic in nature and product of interplay of our attitudes and behaviours. It gradually involves third party and influences subsequent actions and decisions of people. Whether conflict is interpersonal or intra-personal, intergroup or intra-group, destructive or disruptive, it creates a difficult situation. The impact or fallout of conflict is tremendous. History has witnessed it and hence many religious leaders or important personalities like Buddha and Jesus to Gandhi and Dalai Lama have spread the message of peace and non-violence. Of course, in today's world, conflict resolution and peace building is a complex phenomenon and it becomes very tough to handle when comes to the issues of international crises or internal wars or social conflicts. Hence, nation-states are continuously trying to find out ways to establish peace while reducing the impact of conflicts and violence on human life.

There are many reports those explicitly indicate the impact of conflict and violence. According to the World Development Report 2011, nearly 42 million people around the world had been forced to leave or flee their homes due to conflict, violence and human rights violations. The World Bank notes, conflicts and violence hugely affect education of children and put lot of strain on country's economy lowering per capita GDP. The Institute for Economics and Peace, a well known think tank, finds that countries that are less peaceful have lower level of gender equality. The Geneva Declaration (2010) reports correlation between low infant mortality and countries with low violence level. The Economic Commission on Africa reports that all eight countries with the highest maternal mortality ratio in 2008 were in conflict or post-conflict. Thus, it is widely accepted that reduction of conflict is very necessary. An early understanding and resolution of conflict always reduces the cost and improve prosperity. Keeping in view this concern, the Goal 16 of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) has been set for promotion of peaceful and inclusive societies.

The reconciliation and conflict resolution is not an easy task and it requires conviction. The theories or approaches or strategies of conflict resolution through *Mediating, Accommodating, Avoiding, Collaborating, Competing and Compromising* are useful, but there is a requirement to identify the appropriate one in a particular context. It also requires examination and re-examination of suitability and feasibility of a particular strategy in peace building. India being a vast country with multi-lingual, multi-cultural and multi-religious population maintains unity, but it is not free from conflict and violence. There is a need to understand how conflict arises in India, what its types are and how peace building work should be initiated. The issues of north eastern states, issues of Kashmir, communal and ethnic issues, armed conflicts, casteism, structural inequalities, gender-based violence, and so on very often force us to think and re-think on peace building initiatives to reinforce progress in human life. Keeping in view the above context, a two-day national seminar will be organised to have a discourse and come up with some practical recommendations.

Specific Objectives

- i) To do a mapping of conflicts in India and try to understand the meaning, nature and causes of conflicts in this country.
- ii) To explore how conflicts and violence impact or influence access to services such as education, health, livelihood, communication, etc. in various regions of India.
- iii) To throw light how peace building work can be reinforced through voluntarism, governance, culture, tradition, peace education and the like.
- iv) To have a discourse on peace-building initiatives through FBOs, CBOs, NGOs, GOs and INGOs in India.

Sub-Themes

- i) Mapping Conflicts in India: Understanding the Nature, Types and Challenges
- ii) Conflict in the Context of: Ethnic Groups, Religious Groups, Caste, Children, Women, Student Unrests, and Armed Conflicts.
- iii) Access to Services in the Context of Conflict: Education, Health, Livelihood, and Communication.
- iv) Resilience, Coping and Peace-Building
- v) Conflict and Mental Health
- vi) Voluntarism and Peace-Building
- vii) Environment and Peace-Building
- viii) Governance and Peace-Building
- ix) Culture, Tradition and Peace-Building
- x) Non-violence and Peace
- xi) Human Rights and Peace
- xii) Peace as Self-Regulating Process
- xiii) Peace-Building Education
- xiv) Relevance of Theories/Approaches/Strategies of Conflict Resolution in India
- xv) Peace-Building Initiatives through: Faith Based Organizations (FBOs), Community Based Organisations (CBOs), Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs), Government Organisations, and INGOs.

Call for Abstract Submission

Applicants are advised to submit abstracts (in English) through E-mail attachment as a word document to: peace.vbsw2017@gmail.com within December 28, 2016. Abstracts should be in Microsoft Word, Times New Roman, 12 point font size. Abstract submission should include: (a) Presenter details (names, addresses, mobile numbers and email id), (b) Title (not exceeding 15 words), (c) Abstract (between 300-500 words), (d) Keywords (4 to 5), and (e) References (APA style).

Registration

Registration will start from 2nd January 2017. Registration fee for student or research scholar would be Rs 900/- and for faculty member or practitioner would be Rs. 1200/-. The mode of payment would be intimated after acceptance of abstract. Registration fee will include conference kit, tea and snacks during seminar, meals on seminar days (i.e. only two breakfasts and two lunches). As there is paucity of funds, participants have to make their own arrangement for accommodation and travelling. We request you to seek financial support from your parent institution. If participants face difficulties to find out accommodation at Bolpur/Santiniketan, on request, we can facilitate to get very modest accommodation in University Guest House or in Hotels. Payment will be made by the participants directly to the hotel/guest house.

Key Contacts

Convener	Co-convener
Professor Asok Kumar Sarkar, Department of Social Work, Visva-Bharati, Sriniketan-731236, Birbhum, West Bengal. Mobile: +91 9434001807, +91 8670799172 Email: asok.sarkar@visva-bharati.ac.in	Dr Subhrangshu Dhar, North East Institute of Social Science and Research (NEISSR), Bishop's House, Circular Road, Dimapur, Nagaland-797112. Mobile: +91 8900661754 Email: sdharmisw@gmail.com

About the Organisers

The Department of Social Work, **Visva-Bharati**, 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.

North East Institute of Social Science and Research (NEISSR), an initiative of Kohima Diocese, is the first institute in the state of Nagaland, affiliated to Nagaland University, offers Master of Social Work (MSW) programme. The institute was established on 1st August, 2014 with the motto of "*Excel in Knowledge & Service*" to impart Social Work Education among the youth of North-East India with dual purpose of restoring peace in the region and to produce skilled and professional Social Workers. NEISSR now offers three specializations such as *Community Development (CD)*, *Youth Development (YD)* and *Peace and Conflict Transformation Studies (PCTS)*.

Venue of Seminar and Important Places for Visit

Department of Social Work, Visva-Bharati, Sriniketan is venue of seminar. It is 180 km away by road from Kolkata. By rail, *Howrah to Bolpur* train has to be taken which comes through '*Howrah-Bardhaman-Bolpur-Rampurhat*' route on the Eastern Railway. You have to get down at Bolpur station. Kolkata Airport is the nearest airport.

Visva-Bharati is itself a heritage site and a popular tourist spot. Local area is known for leather products and unique clothing products. There is a hot spring at a distance of about 40 km and *Tarapeeth* a temple of *Kali* at about 80 km from Santiniketan which will require one day tour.

Important Dates

- **Last Date for Abstract Submission:** December 28, 2016
- **Intimation of Acceptance of Abstract:** January 01, 2017
- **Last Date for Full Paper Submission:** February 01, 2017
- **Registration Begins:** January 02, 2017
- **Last Date for Registration:** February 18, 2017

Seminar Committee

Advisory Committee

Professor Sabujkali Sen, Director, SEIRR, Visva-Bharati, Sriniketan, WB.

Professor Sankar Majumder, Principal, PSV, Visva-Bharati, Sriniketan, WB.

Professor A. Lanunungang Ao, Department of Sociology, Nagaland University, Nagaland.

Professor Kalpana Sarathy, Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Guwahati, Assam.

Heads of the Organising Departments

Professor P. K. Ghosh, Head, Department of Social Work, Visva-Bharati, Sriniketan, WB.

Dr. Fr. C. P. Anto, Principal, NEISSR, Bishop's House, Circular Road, Dimapur, Nagaland.

Organising Committee

Professor Kumkum Bhattacharya, Department of Social Work, Visva-Bharati, Sriniketan, WB.

Professor Debotosh Sinha, Department of Social Work, Visva-Bharati, Sriniketan, WB.

Mr Swapan Hazra, Associate Professor, Department of Social Work, Visva-Bharati, Sriniketan, WB.

Mr. R. P. Das, Associate Professor, Department of Social Work, Visva-Bharati, Sriniketan, WB.

Dr. Paramita Roy, Associate Professor, Department of Social Work, Visva-Bharati, Sriniketan, WB.

Dr. Joseph Varghese, Assistant Professor, Department of Social Work, Visva-Bharati, Sriniketan, WB.

Dr. Subhashree Sanyal, Assistant Professor, Department of Social Work, Visva-Bharati, Sriniketan, WB.

Dr. Sukumar Pal, Assistant Professor, Department of Social Work, Visva-Bharati, Sriniketan, WB.

Mrs. Sudeshna Saha, Assistant Professor, Department of Social Work, Visva-Bharati, Sriniketan, WB.

Mr. Neelmani Jaysawal, Assistant Professor, Department of Social Work, Visva-Bharati, Sriniketan, WB.

Dr Sasmitha Patel, Assistant Professor, Department of Social Work, Visva-Bharati, Sriniketan, WB.

Mrs. Moumita Laha, Assistant Professor, Department of Social Work, Visva-Bharati, Sriniketan, WB.

Dr. Toli Kiba, Assistant Professor, NEISSR, Dimapur, Nagaland.

Mr. Joseph Anil V, Sr. Assistant Professor, NEISSR, Dimapur, Nagaland.

Mr. Liangamang Robert, Assistant Professor, NEISSR, Dimapur, Nagaland.

Ms. Judith Huidina, Assistant Professor, NEISSR, Dimapur, Nagaland.

Conveners

Professor Asok Kumar Sarkar, Convener, Department of Social Work, Visva-Bharati, Sriniketan, WB.

Dr. Subhrangshu Dhar, Co-Convener and Assistant Professor, NEISSR, Dimapur, Nagaland.