



M.P. Institute of Social Science Research

(Autonomous Institute of ICSSR, Ministry of Human Resource Development, Govt. of India,
New Delhi and Ministry of Higher Education, Govt. of Madhya Pradesh, Bhopal)

6, Professor Ramsakha Gautam Marg, Bharatpuri Administrative Zone, Ujjain-456010

Phone: 0734-2510978 Fax: 0734- 2512450 E-mail: mailboxmpissr@gmail.com

National Seminar

on

**Efficacy of Government Programmes on Socio-Economic and Political
Inclusion of SC/ST/OBC and Economically Backward Sections**

**Madhya Pradesh State Planning Commission Chair on
'Empowerment of SC/ST/OBC and Economically Backward Sections'
Established at MPISSR, Ujjain**

(26-27 October, 2017)

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National Seminar on Efficacy of Government Programmes on Socio-Economic and Political Inclusion of SC/ST/OBC and Economically Backward Sections

Context:

Ever since India got her independence, the Central as well as State governments took various initiatives to promote the nation building process keeping in view social-economic and political inclusion of all sections of society. The main challenge before Government was to uplift the people belonging to the lower strata of society who were discriminated against and denied basic human rights for a long period of time. Since the initiation of our planning period, the Government of India laid down various procedures and policies for the country's Scheduled Castes (SC), Scheduled Tribes (ST), Other Backward Classes (OBC) and Economically Backward Sections (EBS) for their socio-economic and political empowerment.

India has a long history of affirmative action to counter caste and ethnic discrimination. The Constitution of India pronounces 'The State shall promote with special care the educational and economic interests of the weaker sections of the people, and, in particular, of the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes, and shall protect them from social injustice and all forms of exploitation'. Our Constitution enumerated lists of castes and tribes entitled to such provision. As a consequence of this provision, a policy of compensatory discrimination via reserved positions have been implemented both at the national and sub national levels in the allocation of educational seats, public service appointments and legislative positions.

Apart from the reservation policies for the SCs, STs, OBCs, both Central and States Governments have initiated scores of policies for enhancement of employment, education, housing, and skill -entrepreneurship development and enhancement of social security. New policies have been formulated to engender self reliance in primary, secondary as well as tertiary sector of the economy for these communities. There are special provisions for the economically backward section irrespective of their social background, in the development programmes meant for social-economic and political inclusion of the marginalized. Both Central and State governments are putting their efforts to bring SC, ST, OBC and EBS at par with the mainstream society but human development indicators related to the above said communities show that efficacy of the government programmes have to be improved to achieve the desired results.

Madhya Pradesh has its own peculiarities in terms of its development scenario. State governments have been vibrant and responsive to the need and demand of the people of the state, yet the stocktaking of the public policy and its impact on life of the people amply indicate that Madhya Pradesh fall somewhere in the bottom of the list as far as the human development indices are concerned. The State has managed to shed the BIMARU tag due to its rapid economic development in the last two decades. Though, the state has achieved progress on macro level but there is more needed to be done for social inclusion of marginalized at micro level. There has always been a macro level perspective for making public policy on social issues; however when we implement the policies at grassroots level, the outcome of the policies fails to achieve the goal due to abysmally low awareness and lack of people's participation at the grassroots level for policy implementation.

Inclusion in socio-economic and political sphere is both a process as well as an outcome. It is a process through which people of vulnerable strata are enabled to participate in the social,

economic and political life of the nation without any discrimination and the outcome of this process is the level of their inclusion in socio-economic and political sphere in our society. Therefore, need of the hour is to assess the efficacy of Government initiatives as well as aspirations of the target communities to ameliorate the conditions of SC, ST, OBC and EBS through policy interventions.

Objectives of the Seminar:

The objective of the seminar is to provide a forum for discussion and a platform for exchange of field experiences, case studies, research outcomes as well as observations on 'Efficacy of Government Programmes on Socio- Economic and Political Inclusion of SC/ST/OBC and Economically Backward Section' in India in general and Madhya Pradesh in particular. The focal and sub themes of the seminar may be stated as follows:

Broad Theme:

Efficacy of Government Programmes on Socio-Economic and Political Inclusion of SC/ST/OBC and Economically Backward Sections

Sub Themes of the Seminar

- (1) Efficacy of Livelihood generation programme on SC/ST/OBC/EBS and its impact on their life.
(Schemes related to agriculture, horticulture, FRA, JFM, Watershed Development, MGNREGS, NRLM etc.)
- (2) Efficacy of Educational Schemes for SC/ST/OBC/EBS and its impact on educational achievements.
(Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, Mid Day Meal Scheme, Scholarships, Hostels, Coaching facilities, Skill development programmes etc.)
- (3) Efficacy of Health Schemes for SC/ST/OBC/EBS and its impact on their health outcomes.
(Nutrition, immunization and health schemes implemented through ICDS, Janani Suraksha Yojana, NRHM and health insurance etc.)
- (4) Efficacy of Food and Social Security Schemes for SC/ST/OBC/EBS and its impact on their life
(Public Distribution System, Old age pension, Disability pension, Family pension, Insurance Schemes etc.)
- (5) Effectiveness of reservation policies on SC/ST communities through affirmative action in education, employment and political representation *(Reservation in education, employment, political representation in PRI and PESA etc.)*
- (6) Role of civil society in policy implementation of Socio-Economic and Political Inclusion of SC/ST/OBC and Economically Backward Section.

Significance of the Seminar:

After seven decades of independence significant number households of SC/ST/OBC and Economically Backward community are not benefited to the desired extent by the social inclusion policies as compared to the mainstream society. It is therefore a high time for a critical review of the efficacy of Government programmes on socio- economic and political Inclusion of SC/ST/OBC and Economically Backward Sections. This seminar will analyse whether the development strategies adopted by the government are carrying the real aspirations of the people and attracting equal participation from these communities. The major findings, deliberations and

suggestions of the eminent scholars working on different issues will highlight mid course policy corrections in schemes related to livelihood, education, health , social security etc., meant for these communities.

Keeping the objectives in background, **Chair on Empowerment of SC/ST/OBC and Economically Backward Section, MPISSR, Ujjain** established by M.P. State Planning Commission invites you to participate in the '**National Seminar on Efficacy of Government Programmes on Socio-Economic and Political Inclusion of SC/ST/OBC and Economically Backward Section**' (26-27 October, 2017). MPISSR will reimburse travel cost and will arrange local hospitality for the invited delegates.

Important Dates

Submission of ABSTRACT (300 Words): September 25, 2017 (Monday)

Submission of FULL PAPER (5000-7000 Words): October 10, 2017 (Tuesday)

All communications may please be addressed to

Professor Y.G. Joshi (Seminar Convener) or

Dr. Tapas Kumar Dalapati (Seminar Coordinator)

E mail: mailboxmpissr@gmail.com

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