

National Seminar on
Changing Structures of Tribal Livelihood, Governmental Interventions
and Possibilities for Viksit Bharat: Challenges and Opportunities
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M.P. Institute of Social Science Research

(An Autonomous Institute of ICSSR, Ministry of Education, Govt. of India)

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Inclusive • Equitable • Sustainable

**Rooted in Tradition
Growing Towards 2047**

About the Institute

The Madhya Pradesh Institute of Social Science Research, located in Ujjain, was founded in 1983 and serves as a leading research institution supported by the Indian Council of Social Science Research, the Ministry of Education, Government of India, and the Ministry of Higher Education, Government of Madhya Pradesh.

MPISSR focuses on research, evaluation, monitoring, and training concerning the issues of social, economic, cultural, administrative, and civic dimensions. The core activities of MPISSR address challenges and issues pertinent to Madhya Pradesh and its neighbouring states. Recognising the significance and relevance of researchable areas, MPISSR has identified several thematic areas to guide its research endeavours: Studies in PanchayatRaj and Rural Development; Studies in Scheduled Tribes and Scheduled Castes; Studies in Democracy and Electoral Behaviour; Studies in Social Justice and Human Rights; Studies in Education; Gender Studies; Studies in Environment; Studies in Information Technology and Society; Studies in New Economic Policy and Society, and Studies related to Corporate Social Responsibility.

MPISSR caters to the needs of policy planners, academia, government officials, legislators, non-governmental organisations, students, teachers, doctoral and post-doctoral scholars, other research institutions, and national and international organisations. The Institute, since its inception, has been carrying out systemic studies in the form of research projects on issues of topical importance. Most of these studies are commissioned/ sponsored by the various ministries/agencies of central and state governments, national and international organisations. Full academic freedom and high professional quality are the hallmarks of the Institute's research works and environment.

MPISSR strives to make a strong impact on society through the dissemination of the results of its research studies. Since its inception, the Institute has completed more than 250 studies on wide-ranging topics in the social sciences. These cover applied and policy-related studies on various economic, social, political, and administrative issues of Madhya Pradesh and adjoining states. The faculty members of the Institute have published 55 books and more than 300 articles in national-level refereed journals. Besides these, the faculty has been regularly contributing to leading newspapers to stimulate serious public debate and to create public opinion on many contemporary issues.

MPISSR has been publishing two biannual journals, one in English (Madhya Pradesh Journal of Social Sciences) (previously in UGC-CARE Listed-Group-I) since 1995, and the other in Hindi (Madhya Pradesh Samajik Vigyan Anusandhan Journal) (previously in UGC-CARE Listed-Group-I) since 2003. Both journals disseminate views, debates, research findings, and book reviews related to contemporary social science issues. MPISSR has been regularly organising several training and capacity-building programmes and workshops for research scholars and faculty members of social science disciplines related to research methodology. MPISSR has been organising seminars/conferences regularly on contemporary issues. The faculty members have been engaged in national and international seminars to disseminate the findings of their research work among the academic fraternity.

The Institute is overseen by a Governing Body, which serves as the highest decision-making and executive authority. This body comprises 17 members, including distinguished social scientists, representatives from ICSSR, and government officials from Madhya Pradesh. In addition to this, the Institute has a General Body and a Finance and Administration Committee. The academic initiatives are organised and monitored through the IQAC of the Institute.



About the Seminar

The tribal population of India constitutes an important segment of the country's social, cultural, and economic diversity. Tribal communities inhabit diverse geographical and ecological regions and have historically maintained a close relationship with land, forests, and natural resources. Their traditional livelihood systems encompass the collection and sale of minor forest produce, agriculture, livestock rearing, handicrafts, wage labour, and other resource-based economic activities. However, industrialisation, changing land-use patterns, development projects, migration, market expansion, and technological advancements have significantly transformed the structure of tribal livelihoods.

Despite their rich traditional knowledge and resource-based livelihood systems, tribal communities continue to face challenges relating to access to land and forest resources, livelihood insecurity, displacement, and limited economic opportunities. Forests remain an important source of income, food security, and employment, particularly for forest-dependent households and tribal women. However, the diversion of forest land for mining, dams, power projects, and other developmental activities, coupled with insecure resource rights and limited access to remunerative markets, has affected traditional livelihood systems. These challenges highlight the need to promote livelihood diversification, economic security, and sustainable development beyond conventional dependence on forests and agriculture.

Legislative measures such as the Panchayats (Extension to Scheduled Areas) Act, 1996 (PESA), and the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006 (FRA), provide an important framework for strengthening tribal rights, recognising forest rights, promoting local self-governance, and enhancing community participation through Gram Sabhas. Nevertheless, challenges relating to awareness, recognition of rights, institutional capacity, and effective implementation continue to influence livelihood outcomes at the grassroots level.

The Government of India has introduced various schemes and interventions to promote tribal development through employment generation, skill development, entrepreneurship, infrastructure development, marketing support, and livelihood promotion. While these initiatives have created new opportunities, their effectiveness depends upon accessibility, institutional coordination, community participation, availability of credit, and market linkages. A critical understanding of their implementation and outcomes is essential for strengthening sustainable livelihood security among tribal communities.

Emerging opportunities in value addition and branding of minor forest produce, agro-processing, handicrafts, ecotourism, digital marketing, e-commerce, renewable energy, and skill-based employment offer promising avenues for livelihood diversification. However, inadequate infrastructure, financial constraints, limited technical skills, and weak market connectivity continue to restrict participation. Particular attention is required to ensure that tribal women and vulnerable households benefit from these opportunities while preserving indigenous knowledge and traditional practices.

The vision of Viksit Bharat @2047 provides an important framework for promoting inclusive, dignified, and sustainable tribal livelihoods. This requires a balanced approach that protects traditional livelihood systems and forest rights while creating diversified economic opportunities, strengthening community institutions, recognising regional variations, and ensuring meaningful participation of tribal communities in development processes.

In this context, the Madhya Pradesh Institute of Social Science Research (MPISSR), Ujjain, is organising a Two-Day National Seminar on **Changing Structures of Tribal Livelihood, Governmental Interventions and Possibilities for Viksit Bharat: Challenges and Opportunities**. The seminar will bring together academicians, researchers, policymakers, development practitioners, and other stakeholders to deliberate on changing livelihood patterns, assess governmental interventions, examine the implementation of PESA and FRA, and explore sustainable livelihood alternatives beyond traditional forest dependence. It will provide an academic platform for exchanging research findings, policy perspectives, and practical experiences to identify region-specific strategies for strengthening tribal livelihood security and advancing inclusive and sustainable development in the context of Viksit Bharat @2047.

Objectives of the Seminar

1. To discuss the present scenario of livelihood patterns and the dependence on forests in different parts of tribal dominated parts of the country;
2. To analyse the transformational process at work with respect to the source of livelihood in the post-independence period and the contributing factors in these areas;
3. To assess the role of different State-level interventions, including the PESA and FRA acts and the organisations working at the grassroots level, together with the difficulties encountered therein; and
4. To suggest future course of action to provide respectable and sustainable alternatives, besides forests, in these areas.

Themes of the Seminar

- Regional Pattern of Tribal Livelihood and Dependence on Forests
- Transformation of Livelihood Patterns among Tribal Communities
- Efficacy of Different State-level Interventions, including PESA and FRA
- Contribution of Civil Society and Other Action Groups in Protecting the Livelihood Rights
- Role of Government's Flagship Schemes for the Alternative Tribal Livelihood
- Pathways beyond Forests for Providing Viable and Sustainable Alternatives to Tribal Population in the Future for Vikshit Bharat @2047.

MPISSR invites research papers for participation in the National Seminar. The length of the paper should be between 4000 and 6000 words. The authors may consider focusing on any theme of the seminar. MPISSR will reimburse travel expenses and arrange local hospitality for the invited delegates.

**Submission of Full Paper along with ABSTRACT (150-250 words)
on or before November 28, 2026**

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