

Abstracts RC 03

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MGNREGA, Social Audit and Participatory Governance: A comparative study of Andhra Pradesh and Odisha

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The MGNREGA was launched on 2nd February 2006 mandating the legal guarantee of 100 days of wage employment in a financial year to every rural household whose adult members are willing to do unskilled manual work. The Act has empowered the Gram sabha to hold regular social audits of all the projects under the scheme for ensuring transparency in their implementations. The MGNREGA is distinguished in itself not only for its economic consequences elevating the purchasing capacity of the rural poor, but also for its socio-political prospects empowering the marginalized to actively partake in the gram sabha and social audit of the implementation of the programme .

However the conduct of social audit has not been uniform across the country as many states still lag behind in having an effective social audit. Again, though many discrepancies in the implementation of MGNREGA have come to light through social audit, it has not yet been successful in achieving its goal of overall empowerment of rural poor due to manifold challenges in the process itself.

In this backdrop, it is imperative to assess and compare the quality of the implementation of MGNREGA in the states conducting effective social audit (Andhra Pradesh) with the states in which social audit has not been effective (Odisha). Besides, it would discuss the various challenges confronted in the whole process of implementation of MGNREGA and its social audit, with ultimate focus on policy recommendations.

Revisiting the idea of Capital and Crime

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Rising capitalism is not only about economic growth of the society but also brings a condition of anomie, rise in criminal activities etc. The study undertakes city of Ranchi as the site of the study, which saw manifold increase in economically motivated crimes after the formation of Jharkhand as a separate state with Ranchi as the capital in 2000. Since the formation, the city has been flooded with the inflow of capital manifested in the form of construction of malls, shopping complexes, roads, flyover etc. The present study focuses on whether rates of economically motivated crimes such as murder over land ownership, robbery, snatching cash etc. increases during the process of modernization. Examining and understanding patterns of crime during periods of social change and modernization have been an important topic of social science. The patterns of crime during these periods inform important aspects of the process of social change. The Durkheimian notion of anomie has been very significant to understand the relationship between social change and deviant behavior. Most empirical studies of crime patterns examine levels of violent and property crimes

and link variations in the level of these crimes to indicators of social change and modernization.

Rural Poverty and Labour Migration in Maharashtra

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The paper extends the ongoing debate on rural labour migration in India in the context of neoliberal reforms and capitalist transition. While one line of argument is that the emerging trend in rural India is to leave village and agriculture, the other argument indicates that the intervention of government welfare measures launched in response to demands of democratic politics reverse this trend. Yet it is also argued that the laboring poor leave the village to work but keep coming back leading to a pattern of circular migration. Based on available NSS and Census data on rural-rural, rural-urban and urban-rural migration, this chapter examines the relevance of these three lines of arguments in the context of Maharashtra.

Analysis indicates that the pattern of migration among rural labourers was quite complex in Maharashtra and took multiple directions. In the last few decades, the size of labourers, particularly the agricultural labourers, increased considerably accompanied by rise in the poverty ratio in many districts. Migration took place largely within the state. Rural-to-rural labour migration was predominant than the other streams. While labourers from the backward regions migrated to rural areas of developed pockets, labourers from the advanced regions migrated to the urban areas. Rural-to-rural migration was mostly temporary and seasonal in nature. Neither the argument that vanishing sign of villages and agriculture would not lead to rapid rural-urban migration nor does the argument that government intervention would reverse the trend of distress migration holds true in the context of rural Maharashtra. Similarly, the argument that the rich tend to migrate more than the poor is also far from truth. Agriculture and rural economy continue to absorb a vast section of rural labour force. Mobility in the rural areas largely took place within agricultural sector, from backward to developed pockets, and within the different sectors of rural economy. Labour migration was mainly poverty induced.

Rights and Vulnerabilities: A study on the socio-economic and health condition of migrant women working in factories in Bhubaneswar, Odisha

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The research paper focuses on the plight of migrant women, who are working in Bhubaneswar Largest factory Mancheswar, Industrial Estate. Labour Migration is an important factor for affecting the course of socio-economic development in India. Accelerated movement of people originating mainly from the rural and backward areas in search of employment has been one of the most important features of the labour market scenario in India. There has been a steady increase in the number of migrants in the country Migration is generally known as the movement of people from one residence to another permanently or temporarily for a substantial period of time. The migrant women workers face several problems such as low wages, health hazards, exploitation. The objective of the study includes tracing out the reasons behind women's migration, their economic condition, their health condition, and their attitude towards the city life. There were 50 women

respondents who were interviewed working in different factories in Mancheswar Industrial Estate. The researcher used the random-convenient sampling method for study. There were women working in factories such as prawn, brick, bakery, garments, spices, etc. The study revealed the vulnerability of women particularly in the economic & health aspects and denial of certain rights.

Economic Development and Environment Sustainability in Neoliberal India: Myth and Reality

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Environmental sustainability is a concept of recent developments, which triggered of a debate among the scholars from different disciplines. The concept 'sustainable development' proposed during the 1980s as a guiding principle for economic development and planning (World Commission on Environment and Development 1987; International Union for Conservation of Nature 1980). Keeping Environmental Sustainability as the major focus, World Commission on Environment and Development (WCED) defined sustainable economic development as 'development which meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs' (1987: 43).

Making these developments as the point of departure this paper will analyse the process of economic development and environmental sustainability in India in two different phases; *first* during post independence phase, *second* after the economic reform of 1991. It also explores the ongoing debate whether the environmental sustainability approach creating hindrances for economic development or vice versa as a country like India which adopted Neoliberal reform policy at very late (i.e. in 1991) by the time the so-called European countries and USA were already in apex of Industrial development. It is in this regard the International organizations like World Trade Organization, World Bank and International Monetary Fund pressurized India to adopt the 'free economy' policy where the primary goal was to promote 'industrial capitalism' in the developing countries rather making them 'enable' for true development. On the other hand the other International organizations like United Nations Organization led by the same industrially advanced countries propagated for environmental sustainability and eco-friendly development models. With this background, the paper also tries to explain how India adopted the strategy to move forward with both neoliberal-economic-development model keeping 'environmental sustainability' as one of its major objective which was even acknowledged by UNO in 2015 when India took a leading role in Paris Climate Summit (2015).

New Realities and Institutions in Transition: Redefining agriculture to address hunger, health and equity

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We live in a changed era, where frontiers are no longer to be captured for resources to build one's empire. The illusion of unlimited planetary resources and human transcendence, has been broken

by tangible scientific evidence that point to ecological and biophysical limits to the continued expansion of human endeavor. Contemporary society is thus grappled with the contradiction posed by a demanding and rapidly growing population and limited natural resources available for its sustenance. Responding to this context will require a paradigm shift. There is evidence that some societies are beginning to make this shift by questioning the virtues of capitalist growth and by asking how the realm of individual rights and ownership needs to be transformed into a universal and equitable right to "Our Common future" that cannot be alienated from our duties to craft a healthy biosphere.

This paper explores the paradigm shift into the new consciousness of Sustainability, drawing from ideas of Emile Durkheim and Karl Marx in an effort to conceptualize a new framework of institutions, founded on resilient values of balance, equity, environmental sensitivity. In order to substantiate the transition, the paper analyses of the current scenario of agriculture in Assam, its legacy of traditional practices and indigenous knowledge system vis-a-vis the emergence of the modern discipline of Agroecology, that is based on integrating agriculture with ecology, and a quest to revive organic farming in the developed south.

Rethinking the Sociological Traditions of India

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This paper aims at understanding how the sociologists intervened in the process of "Policymaking" and how they interpreted the existing policies in the post-independence India. As sociology itself was making inroads in the Indian academic scenario as a new discipline, it becomes important for us to locate the sociology and the study of policy. Hence, here is an attempt to revisit the pioneers of Indian sociology and their contributions to the study of Social Policy.

This paper consists of three parts. The first part focuses upon the concept of "Social Policy" and its place in the sociological researches. The second part focuses upon some of the sociological works on social policy. Here, our main focus is upon the selected sociological works of some eminent sociologists who had been engaged in the issues of social policies. Finally, a critical analysis is attempted to ascertain the role of sociology in the study of social policy and to arrive at a conclusion that whether sociologists played any active role in the making of social policies or whether they were satisfied in remaining as passive commentators of the existing policies. This work primarily relies upon the secondary sources. As mentioned above, our main focus is upon tracing sociological perspectives on social policies through the select readings of eminent sociologists.

Role of Government Schemes and Programs in Empowerment of Marginalized Groups in India

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The Social science studies in India have witnessed an increasing trend of studies of marginalized groups and their empowerment. The establishment of Dalit Studies/Centers either as an independent subject or within existing disciplines has been attempting to conduct focused studies of marginalized groups and their issue of social exclusion along with its consequence on

poverty, economic and social development and the remedies to overcome it. Thus, there has been an increasing trend of studying and conceptualizing the issue of empowerment of the marginalized communities in India and their empowerment especially through government schemes and policies. With the great change in the fields of education, technology, communication, transport etc., in today's globalized world and Government of India's initiative to reach out to the marginalized groups and empower through various targeted schemes and programs, it is believed that there must have been some positive changes in the socio-economic conditions of marginalized groups. But on the contrary to this, there are evidences that shows that still vast majority continue to face various forms of indignities, exclusion, marginalization and human rights violation. There still exist communities, which have been unable to escape the trap of desperate poverty from generation to generation on the whole. One such community is that of Musahars, residing in U.P. and Bihar. They represent a black spot on the Governments policies, which has failed badly to impact them in any positive way. Thus, this paper will attempt to conceptualize the concept of empowerment in the context of marginalized groups of India and analyze the impact of several schemes of Government on one of the most marginalized groups i.e. Musahar community. Since the empowerment of marginalized can be made possible only if the state adopts and frame policies focusing on the capacity building of such groups, hence, it becomes very important to analyze the role of State in the empowerment or marginalization of these groups. No matter how many policies get framed by Government, its all in vain if the state cannot ensure its fair implementation. Audit and studies of Government policies, thus becomes very important which essentially reflects upon the level of conviction of the Government towards the betterment of the groups left behind. Objective The major objectives of the paper will be to – first conceptualise the concept of empowerment in the context of marginalized groups in India - study and analysis of the impact of such several government programs on one of the most marginalized group in India i.e. Musahar. Methodology The paper will be based on secondary data extracted from extensive literature review and primary data collected directly from the field.

Ethical Consumerism and markets in the Epoch of Globalisation: An Overview

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The thematic concern of this paper is to synthesis the interrelationship between ethical consumerism, consumption, environmentalism and markets in the era of globalisation. Traditionally, consumption patterns has been seen as a material process rooted in human biological needs but when its practice is mediated through symbols and signs; it is defined as consumerism. "Ethical" is used to cover matters of conscience such as animal welfare and fair trade, social aspects such as labour standards, as well as more self-interested health concerns behind the growth of organic food sales. Satisfaction is experienced in anticipation of the possession of the good. The desirability of goods depends on imaginaries of how they will satisfy a need. In contemporary economies the utility of goods often consists of symbolic meanings. Certain goods become representations of the identities of social groups or more generally of social status and hence position their owners within

a differentiated social world. The discourse of sustainability of environment had already developed a momentum of its own and, from a sociological perspective, benefited from being grounded in the more familiar terrain of social theory. While interrogating society Marx, Durkheim and Weber denied the existence of secluded individual in a society. Perhaps they all defined masses structurally in terms of their relationship to the society, means of production and their placement in comparison with others. The “globalization” refers a socio-economic arrangement, through which the yesteryear and emerging global problems can be condense. The three waves of globalisation refers by Robertson (2003) that the first wave was the colonization of the America, Africa, Asia, and Australia by European power over the course of 1500 years. The second wave was the imposition of the West’s idea of development on non-Western cultures in the postcolonial era of the past five decades. The third wave of globalization was unleashed with liberalization and privatization-free trade. According to him “each wave of globalization is cumulative in its impact, even while it creates a discontinuity in the dominant metaphors and actors. Each wave of globalisation has served Western interests, and each wave has created deeper colonization of other cultures and the planet’s live”. The issues have changed and broadened over the years, but they have been part of the same theme, which embraces the current rise of ethical consumerism. In today’s rapidly changing markets, it is becoming apparent that many disasters in our natural environment are directly related to consumerism. Consumption levels are depleting our natural resources and reducing our ability to meet our future needs. Consumerism plays an important role in the development of society, and consumption can be a driving force to shift society into a sustainable future.

Regenerating Tank systemsfor enhanced livelihoods: An evaluation of Mission Kakatiya (MK) project in Telangana

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The geographical location of Telangana state in Deccan plateau makes water conservation a necessity as it is in the rain shadow region of Western Ghats. Realizing the importance of water conservation, various dynasties which ruled this region had prioritized building of tanks to store water for agriculture and drinking needs. Among these dynasties, the Kakatiyas played a crucial role in developing tank irrigation in Telangana by building many tanks in the region several of which remain till date. In the aftermath of Independence the focus had shifted to building large scale irrigation systems which led to neglect of traditional water conservation practices resulting in a gradual decline of tank irrigation in Telangana.

This had a negative impact on the people of Telangana as drought had forced people from rural areas to migrate in search of work. The newly formed state of Telangana has embarked upon an ambitious program (Mission Kakatiya) of regenerating tank irrigation in the state by restoring more than 46000 tanks (starting from 2014) with a net spend of about Rs.20000/- crore. The target of this program is to create an additional ayacut of 10 lakh hectares of irrigated land in the state.

An earlier study carried out in Nizam Sagar project found that assured water supply led to reverse

migration and enhanced livelihoods. Although this program is still in its initial stage, this paper will examine whether similar outcomes could be observed following implementation of Mission Kakatiya project. Two case studies will be presented from Telangana to examine the influence of this programme in transforming agriculture and its impact on migration and livelihoods of people in the rural areas of Telangana.

Empowerment of Women in Panchayatiraj: A Study in Amblikal Gram Panchayat of Karnataka, India

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This paper is based on the field work for dissertation program of masters in political science. The study was undertaken in Amblikal Gram Panchayat of Karnataka to be familiar with empowerment of women in Panchayatiraj system. The study conducted on 50 women of seventeen villages of Amblikal Gram Panchayat of Karnataka. For the study, Primary data are collected from field work through separate interview scheduled for both electorate and women voters and Census Department of Karnataka, while secondary data are taken from relevant available sources. The study reveals that the power balance is still heavily in favour of men in Amblikal Gram Panchayat. Women's entry in politics is still window dressing. They have not been playing an effective role in providing a sensitive and tenderized thrust to local politics. These is not merely because of women's own perception of themselves is weak, but it is also because of lack of training to handle issues, especially those directly effecting women. Though, a few women representative enable to cross the patriarchal threshold because of their male members who are already in politics, most of them are illiterate, unaware about the public policy and weak in decision making process.

Implementation of Public Distribution System in Odisha: A study in Jagatsinghpur District Kanyakumari Mishra, Odisha

Public Distribution System is a system established by Govt. Of India which distributes rations at a subsidised price to the poor. It evolved as a system of management of scarcity & for distribution of food grains such as wheat, rice, sugar & kerosene at affordable price. With a network of more than 400,000 Fair Price Shops (FPS), the Public Distribution System (PDS) in India is perhaps the largest distribution machinery of its type in the world. PDS is said to distribute each year commodities worth more than Rs 15,000 crore to about 16 crore families. This huge network can play a more meaningful role if only the system is able to translate into micro level a macro level self-sufficiency by ensuring availability of food grains for the poor households. The objective of the study is to "Evaluate the issues pertaining to the PDS'S performance such as food availability, food carriage, food storage & management of food items among rural poor at Jagatsinghpur District of Odisha." From the research analysis it is found that the entire food grains & kerosene supplied to the GP are not available for consumption. Sometimes PDS suffers poor quality of food grain made available through fair price shops. The distribution of essential commodities is so meagre that it can hardly

suffice the need of the family. Due to huge shortage of stocks sometimes beneficiaries come back with empty handed with assurance that the ration would be made available to them in the next week.

Mahila Bank in India- A Catalyst for Economic Empowerment of Women- A study of Women Customers in Delhi & Semi Urban Area

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The economic empowerment of women in India has always been a subject of concern. Their inclusion in the banking world can be measured on parameters like percentage of women creditors, percentage of women debtors, number of women employed in banks and number of women members in the decision making boards. According to the data furnished by World Bank, merely 26% of women in India have an account with a formal financial institution, as compared with 46% of men. If we consider credit supplied, only about 12% of the individual bank loan accounts belong to women and if we consider deposits, the share of deposit accounts held by women is 24.7% of the individual bank deposit accounts. Bhartiya Mahila Bank was established in November, 2013 with the objective of economic and financial empowerment of women in India. The bank is unique as it is the first bank in the country to be dedicated to women. With majority women staff and only-women Board, the bank offers products and services that have been specially customized for women. The Savings Bank rate of interest for Rupees One lakh and above is 5% and for amount less than Rs. One lakh, the interest rate is 4.5%. While lending rates for women are the least in the country, that is, barely 2-4% above the base rate. However, in 2014, schemes such as Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojna and MUDRA were launched which have overlapping objectives with that of Bhartiya Mahila Bank. This makes the evaluation of the role of Bhartiya Mahila Bank as a catalyst for economic empowerment of women in India even more important.

The present study is an attempt to analyse the concept and need of Mahila Bank in India along with accessibility of financial services & credit facilities by women in those area where BMB branches are present. Simultaneously asset holding by women & development of entrepreneurial habit among women are also the focus area of this study. Public Sector Banks are creating lot of employment opportunities for women whereas BMB is exclusively recruiting women staffs. This study is examining the effect of BMB on overall employability of women in Indian PSBs.

Konyak Angs and Dobashi Courts: Locating Power and Identity Connections

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This paper is to try and trace the negotiations between the organised structure presented by state and the age old customary practices amongst the konyak nagas. Now this chief characterised community becomes part of the larger power structure of the nation. so, on the one hand there is Nagaland Village and Area Council Act, 1978 which has hugely impacted the traditional structures and on the other hand Article 371(A) which upholds the diverse but specific customs of the nagas.

Therefore, there is a continuous tussle between the traditional and the newer structures. Hence in this context, the dobashi courts form the space of interaction of the customary and the state. The Indian state has inherited the idea of dobashi courts from their colonial predecessors and these courts are based on customary laws. However, when cases are taken to the dobasi court, they work on the basis of customary law via the district commissioner. This paper pans out to locate the dobashi court in Mon district as a space of negotiation between the state structure and customary practices and pans in to locate the identity of Angs in the present context.

Farmers Suicides in Odisha

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Since the last two and half decades there is a growing literature on farmer suicides in India. While one group of scholars holds the view that these suicides are mostly due to rising cost of cultivation and decline of farm income the other group attributes them to the changes in government policies on agriculture and rural development following neoliberal reform measures. Yet another group views these suicides as the combined effects of a set of complex socio-economic reasons. On the other hand, the government appointed committees and commissions attribute these suicides to erratic monsoons and adverse climatic conditions. However, the studies on farmer suicides are mostly confined to the advanced states like Maharashtra, Karnataka, Punjab and Andhra Pradesh which reported a wave of suicides immediately following the economic reforms in early 1990s. The backward states like Odisha which experienced suicides in the recent years are yet to receive due attention. Hence, the present paper makes an attempt to analyse the farmer suicides in Odisha with reference to agriculturally advanced Bargargh district that has reported highest number of farmer suicides.

The paper is divided into four parts. While the first part reviews the major discourses on agrarian change and farmer suicides, the second section provides a broad macro background on nature of agrarian change in the state with a special focus on Bargargh district. The third part examines the causes of suicides at the micro level based on information collected from family members of the sampled deceased farmers. The last section draws conclusion.