

# Two Days National Seminar on Minority Rights & Gender Justice in India: A Qualitative Study on Academic & Social Policy



Unveiling Excellence

# USTM

Organized by

**Department of Sociology**

**UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY MEGHALAYA**

Accredited 'A' Grade by NAAC

*In Collaboration with*

RC-10 (Gender Studies) & RC-26 (Minority Studies) of

**Indian Sociological Society**

Date: 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> July, 2022  
Venue: NKC Auditorium, USTM

## About the University

University of Science & Technology, Meghalaya (USTM), accredited 'A' grade by NAAC promoted by ERD foundation, Guwahati was established under the Act 6 of 2008 enacted by Legislative Assembly of Meghalaya & incorporated under section 22 & 2(f) of the UGC Act 1956. Its campus aptly named as "Techno City". School of Applied Sciences, Biological Sciences, Social Sciences and Humanities, Media and Cultural Studies, Business Sciences and Education are the various academic units of the university which are further divided into departments and institutes/centers for imparting courses and program leading to the degree at undergraduate and post graduate level. Research is also carried out by various schools and departments of USTM leading to the award of Ph. D degree.

## About the Department

The department of sociology was established in the University of Science and Technology, Meghalaya (USTM) with a noble vision, mission and took inspiration of the world of sociology succeeded universally. The department in the USTM established in 2011 with certain noble objectives to fulfill, which was initially named as 'Department of Sociology and Social Work'. The founding members of the department are B I Laskar and Dr. Satish Kumar Bodla. The department of 'Social Work' got separated and became autonomous in the year 2016. Presently, Department has seven faculty members. Faculty members published numbers of books, research papers and projects. Department of Sociology is very well connected to the Indian Sociological Society and other Departments of Sociology in reputed universities and IIT of India. The courses of the department are: BA Sociology, MA Sociology & Ph.D.

## About Indian Sociological Society

Indian Sociological Society is a professional body of sociologists in India. It was established in 1951 in Bombay with 107 members under . The society publishes three journals and a newsletter. The first is Sociological Bulletin which started in 1952 and is one of the oldest English language professional social science journals in India. In addition to the above mentioned activities, the Society has two endowments in memory of M. N. Srinivas and Radha Kamal Mukherjee. The Society conducts yearly lectures at the All India Sociological Conference in their names and in addition gives an annual prize for young sociologists in honour of the former. Also, the Society has instituted the Life Time Achievement Award in 2005 which it presents to the awardees at AISC. Till 2022, it has honored 38 Indian sociologists.

The Society has 28 Research committees under its wings to look after various sociological issues in terms of research and conferences. It also has designed an Ethics Code for itself. These guidelines are presented as aspirational goals intended to orient sociologists in India to principles and standards regarding their professional responsibilities as teachers, researchers, and practitioners and reflect on their behaviour towards groups and individuals whom they study, work, and knowledge about whom, they wish to protect.

## About the Seminar

Being one of the world's largest democracies, India glorifies the principles of secularism and pluralism and the Indian constitution promotes prohibition of discrimination on grounds of religion, race, caste, sex or place of birth. However, the plural nature of Indian society in terms of cultural, religious, and social as well as diversity in sexualities/sexual identity leads to varying forms of intersectional discrimination for the minority communities. For example, Dalit, Muslims, and Christians, or any other religious minorities, women belonging to linguistic minorities, women belonging to indigenous communities (tribals) as well as women who fall under sexual minorities get an intensified form of discrimination when it comes to their rights.

This act of discrimination against the minority isn't limited to India but is a global problem and Women get the worst of it. Minority women often experience discrimination from both within and outside their communities and suffer disproportionately from the economic, social and political marginalization affecting their communities as a whole.

For a long time, women in India were in the clutches of patriarchal society and were denied even the basic rights, all of this was intertwined with gender inequality and abuse. Women were subjected to many social evils like child marriages, sati-pratha, widow exploitation, devadasi system, etc. But in recent years, the social situation of women has significantly improved, the practice of these social evils have almost

vanished and the taint of gender inequality has reduced . These changes were possible because of various social, economic and cultural developments in the country, increase in gender awareness, educational opportunities and even healthcare facilities. But unfortunately these developments and changes didn't seep to the minority communities and plenty of them remained backward and illiterate thus, making the lives of women in their community engrossed with various issues. They are subjected to constant abuse, both physical and mental, they even lack the basic facilities required for a dignified life due to their poverty-ridden background. Belonging from a minority community and being a woman in a male dominant society, puts them in a more vulnerable position which is often taken advantage of by people from both outside and within the community. They encounter unjust and unfair treatment as compared to their male counterparts in every aspect of life such as: education, job opportunities, security, health care facilities, etc. Women of the minority community are often seen as inferiors by the majority class and are associated to menial jobs, unequal pay, forced labour, etc.

Thus, through this seminar, an attempt will be made to understand how women in India belonging to various minority groups such cultural, religious, ethnic as well as sexual minority groups are victims of marginalization and exclusion from the broader political, economic and social policies. Also the seminar would touch upon certain critical questions such as how women themselves as a minority group is dually minoritized and marginalized through the process of communalism, radicalization of religion and discrimination on the grounds of caste, race, ethnicity or sexuality grounds. Again what leads to the formation of a minority groups especially in the context of Indian society at large is also a point of discussion which will be sought after through this proposed seminar.

There is no dearth of argumentation and this note is not a final articulation, and the seminar welcome divergent views and fusion of knowledge to disentangle the issue of gender justice within the ambit of minority rights in India. We appreciate scholars from divergent disciplines of social sciences participating in this discourse.

#### **Following are the themes/subthemes for the seminar:**

1. Situating Minority Women in India: From the lens of Religion, Ethnicity, Tribe, Caste, Class, Race and Sexuality
2. State, Law and Minority Women in India
3. Minority Women in Various Social Movements in India
4. Feminism & Minority Women in India
5. Situating Women among Sexual Minorities and Immigrant Minorities
6. Minority Women & Indian Media
7. Minority Women & Health in India
8. Minority Women & Political Representation in India
9. Understanding Work, Labour & Economy through the lens of Minority Women in India
10. Minority Women in Globalized India
11. Minority Women in North-East India
12. Minority & Panchayati Raj in India with special focus to North-East India

#### **Important Dates**

Abstract with full paper submission : **July 1<sup>st</sup> 2022 (Last date)**

Acceptance Notification : **July 4<sup>th</sup> 2022 (Last date)**

Registration for the seminar : **July 2<sup>nd</sup> 2022 (Last date)**

\* Submit your abstract/full paper in the following email ids :

- [thakuria.trishna@gmail.com](mailto:thakuria.trishna@gmail.com)
- [hasanlaskaramu@gmail.com](mailto:hasanlaskaramu@gmail.com)
- [naziap463@gmail.com](mailto:naziap463@gmail.com)

## Registration Process

All the interested candidates are to register before **2<sup>nd</sup> July, 2022**

The link for the registration:.....

### Registration Fee details:

**Registration with Accommodation** : **Rs. 4500/-** (Three Days Accommodation & Food)

**Registration without Accommodation** : **Rs. 1600/-**

### Registration Fees to be paid

Name of the account holder – **UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY MEGHALAYA**

Name of the Bank – **Axis Bank (Khanapara Branch)** Account Number – **911010060610980**

IFSC Code – **UTIB0001297** Branch Code – **001297**

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