

Call for Papers

NATIONAL SEMINAR ON, “Inequality in Post Reform India: Measurement and Policy Issues” September 28-29, 2012

In the wake of Silver Jubilee celebration, Nabakrushna Choudhury Centre for Development Studies (NCDS), Bhubaneswar has proposed to organize a two-day National Seminar on “Inequality in Post Reform India : Measurement and Policy Issues” during September 28-29, 2012.

Concept Note and Sub-Themes of the Seminar:

Reduction of poverty and inequality has always remained the twin objectives of planners and policymakers of modern India since its inception as an Independent democratic republic. The founders of the republic by framing and adopting an ideal constitution aimed at converting traditionally unequal and caste-ridden hierarchical society into a new egalitarian economic and social order within the democratic framework of the Indian constitution. In order to achieve that goal the country adopted state directed centralised planning by giving importance on public sector economy with complementary but peripheral role for the private sector economy for shaping the destiny of modern India. These policy measures, however, could not achieve faster economic growth so as to make a dent on poverty and inequality. On the other hand, after four decades of state directed centralised planning the country's economy by 1990 was put into a mess. There was acute balance of payment crisis and high burden of external debt. This forced Government of India to adopt structural adjustment programme (SAP), economic liberalization and globalization measures to solve the immediate problems of balance of payment crisis (BOP) and steady growth and development of the economy in the long run. The measures popularly known as NEP (New Economic Policy) or India's economic reforms put emphasis on efficient allocation and use of domestic productive resources by eliminating market distortions and improving incentives to integrate Indian economy with the global economy. Under the New Economic Policy prime importance was given to the market economy, deregulation, privatization and liberalization, thereby curtailing the role of the state in shaping the economy and society.

The new model of development popularly called LPG (Liberalization, Privatization and Globalization) has no doubt accelerated the growth process of Indian economy and India has emerged as a major economic power at the global level. However, the impact of globalization across space and people is observed to be widely uneven and iniquitous. While the policy has favoured faster economic development of advance states and socio-economically well-off categories of people, this has hurt the poor and marginalized people and the backward states of India. It is observed that the policies of globalization and economic liberalization have encouraged growth without looking into the equity aspect and without giving due

consideration to the ecological sustainability aspect and livelihood security of the poor. In this situation, if necessary corrective measures are not taken to provide social security net to the poor and weaker sections of population and to the backward states in general, the very purpose of globalization and implementing economic reforms will be defeated.

Seminar Themes and Focus Areas:

- **Economic Development vis-à-vis Trend and Magnitudes of Inequality in Contemporary India**
- **Genesis of Inequality in Indian Society: Economic, Social, Cultural, Religious and Political**
- **Dimensions of Inequalities in Post Reform Era: Income, Health, Education, Gender-based and Ethnic-based**
- **Spatial and Sectoral Aspects of Inequality: Interstate, Intrastate, Rural-Urban, Agricultural, Manufacturing and Tertiary Sector, Organized/Formal versus Unorganized/Informal Sector**
- **Inequality, Quality of Life and Environment**
- **Process and Measurement of Inequality: Policy Issues, Measures and Implementation**

Co-ordinator of the Seminar:

Dr. Rajkishor Meher

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Kindly send the abstract of your paper to the Seminar Coordinator in the above mail Id latest by 20th August 2012 and final paper on or before 20th September 2012.

**PROF. R.K.PANDA
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