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Call for Papers for an edited volume (with ISBN) to be published by the University.

It is to be informed that a workshop was held as a prelude to the designing of self-learning materials for B.D.P Programme in Sociology (ESO) for papers I-IV. As a functional part of the workshop, the school now wants to publish an edited book, volume-I, (with ISBN No) with the amount sanctioned for the workshop and earmarked for publication by the school and duly approved by the Hon'ble Vice Chancellor. Thus papers are being invited from the authors to be published as chapters of an edited book.

Theme: Caste, gender and media: Significant sociological trends in India – an open distance paradigm.

Concept Note

India is a diverse country and so are its institutions, systems and ideologies. A succinct description of India is not possible without a generous mention of its colourful institutions like the quintessential caste system, the tenuous tribal situations, the vivacious gender problem, the hawk like surveillance of the mass-media and the ever increasing politicisation of these problems. We hope to get a bird's view of the society deploying all these areas which shall explore the nooks and corners of our society. Starting from the colonial India and travelling down the recent times, the panoramic view is complicated yet gravitating, one that will surely arrest the attention of the social scientists. The journey had been quite interesting especially keeping in mind the enigmatic forms that the social contours took in changing times and the way they mapped and re-mapped the Indian landscapes. Let us look into each of these components of social history and how they sprouted new trends and overwrote the older ones.

Caste had remained one of the ubiquitous institutions of the country yielding its power over much of the Indian sub-continent. The influence of the caste is believed to have waned with the advent of the British colonialism, which brought along with it a bunch of empowering agents like printing press, postage, railways, paper etc that helped bringing fissions in the caste mould. Nevertheless, this was not the whole picture¹, for the entry of the medias of communications helped consolidating the crust of the caste system more than ever before. It stood a firmer ground once its canonization was over, for the printing press ensured that all the caste strictures that were till date only orally passed through collective wisdom, be written down rigorously in form of written rules. Caste system therefore became more engraved than ever before, though it was expected to have withered away with increased population of working class in British India, who worked and dined together throwing the caution of caste laced purity and pollution to the wind.

During the last leg of the colonial regime, the lower castes started hankering for equanimity and privileges, a demand to which the government gave in and thus enacted the Scheduled Castes Order in 1930s, “in order to consolidate their own political position in society”². Thus the depressed class’ movement was beginning to gain momentum and was doing everything to conciliate their colonial masters. Thus a bunch of men taking gluttonous pleasure in lionizing the government in lieu of better share of benefits was born. Thus classes were beginning to make inroads in the belly of the caste system, thus forming such an abyss, that it was difficult to reach its depth.

The prioritization of the weaker communities took a drastic turn in the 1950s, especially with the formation of the Kaka Kalelkar Commission³, the first backward classes commission, formed in 1953, followed by the Mandal Commission that submitted its report in December, 1980⁴. The politicisation of the castes as well as tribes and their metamorphosis into classes was far from over. It must however, be noted that though the constitutional reservations for the scheduled castes and scheduled tribes was granted way back with the adoption of the Indian Constitution in 1950, the scheduled tribes could not benefit as much as

¹Srinivas, M. N. "Caste in Modern India." *The Journal of Asian Studies* 16, no. 4 (1957): 529-48.

²Mukherjee, Ramkrishna. "Caste in Itself, Caste and Class, or Caste in Class." *Economic and Political Weekly* 34, no. 27 (1999): 1759-761. <http://www.jstor.org/stable/4408152>.

³<http://www.ispepune.org.in/PDF%20ISSUE/1991/JISPE2/report-backward-classes-comission.pdf>

⁴Radhakrishnan, P. "In Defence of Mandal Commission." *Economic and Political Weekly* 17, no. 27 (1982): 1094. <http://www.jstor.org/stable/4371095>.

the scheduled castes did⁵. It was probably because of the geographical isolation and poor development index of the latter. The scheduled groups and their reservation policies became mired with still sticky issues of coalition politics, a growing trend of the time.

The minority positions seemed captured through political alliances and the formation of coalition parties sent strong signals to indicate the same. In 1989, V.P Singh formed the minority government with 131 Janta Dal MPs with external support from BJP and the Left parties. Since 1980s, coalition politics and minority caste status had travelled a long way in marking off the democratic destiny of the country in a unique way, not seen before. Thus, it is said that, "Indian political system is quite resilient and as observed during the last three decades, the systemic ethos is expected to absorb coalition culture of a different variety because of the unique ground realities in a sub-continental dimension".⁶

It was the same V.P Singh government which, we had been talking about, brought reforms in other areas as well. He introduced a bill in 1990, in the parliament to demand for the autonomy to be granted to broadcast media in the country. This culminated in the culmination of the Prashar Bharti board in 1997 that granted autonomy to the All India Radio and Doordarshan. Then onwards the image of the mass media had seen a sea change and this went a long way in advocating the rights of the minority communities, women and the depressed classes. It was from the decades of 1970s and 1980s that a committed group of independent Indian documentary producers started making films on humanitarian and political issues⁷, ever since, Sohrab Mody's *Jhansi Ki Rani* was released as India's first colour film long back in 1953. Such issues like those of women empowerment and gender justice never ebbed out but got rejuvenated.

It was at this time in the 80s and 90s, that the women movements were pressing hard for gender quotas in political parties and state constituencies. In 1984, *Mahila Congress* was formed as a branch of the Congress party to promote women's activism. The BJP, a comparatively new party formed in 1980 also formed its feminist wing, the *Mahila Morcha* along the same time to encourage the feminine participation. The *Rashtriya Sevak Sangh*, to which it is cardinally associated, also formed a womens' group called the *Rashtrasevika*

⁵Virginus Xaxa. "Protective Discrimination: Why Scheduled Tribes Lag behind Scheduled Castes." *Economic and Political Weekly* 36, no. 29 (2001): 2765-772. <http://www.jstor.org/stable/4410888>.

⁶Chaudhuri, Amiya K., and Amiya K. Chaudhari. "MINORITY GOVERNMENT: COALITION POLITICS INDIAN EXPERIEMENTS." *The Indian Journal of Political Science* 66, no. 2 (2005): 405-12. <http://www.jstor.org/stable/41856135>.

⁷<http://www.universityofcalicut.info/cuonline/exnotif/ex4235.pdf>

Samiti, to address the gender issues. The formation of another new party in 1984, viz. Bharatiya Samajwadi Party or BSP, marked yet another turning point in the epoch of Indian politics. The party was already known for its adherence with the depressed castes, and with Kashi Ram, the party's founder, selecting Mayawati as the party secretary, signalled out yet another alliance of the gender and caste. The electoral system heavily laced with this alliance has come a long way, but it is still a paradox that the women's reservation bill initiated far back as 1996, still could not see the sunlight. It was thought that, "By the 1980s and 1990s, when in many countries women's movements could exploit the opportunities of regime change, there were no corresponding openings in India..... there was no incentive for or pressure on national political parties to prioritize the bill that outweighed the caste and coalition-driven logic of party competition in India"⁸.

Objectives of the edited book

The School of the Social Sciences had organized a workshop on the eve of restructuring its Self-Learning Materials of Bachelor Degree Programme in Sociology (ESO). After the successful organization of the workshop, the school now wants to publish an edited book as a follow-up of the workshop. The book shall breed a rich inter-sectional picture of the Indian society as looked through the lenses of caste, tribe, gender, media and politics. The sub-themes of the book are reasonably as followed but are not exhaustive.

Sub-themes

Caste and class

Caste and tribe

The reservation politics

The gender in Indian backdrop

The marginal narratives.

Media and stratification.

Mediated depiction of the Indian reality

⁸Randall, Vicky. "Legislative Gender Quotas and Indian Exceptionalism: The Travails of the Women's Reservation Bill." *Comparative Politics* 39, no. 1 (2006): 63-82.

Important Dates

Last date for Full Paper submission: 25th January, 2017

Acceptance/Rejection of papers will be notified by 31st January, 2017.

Paper Submission must be done in the following order:

- Structure of the paper: Title of the Paper---Abstract ----Key Words----Body----Graphs and Tables, if any, Conclusion—End Notes (optional)--References.
- Author details: Name, email, designation, affiliated institution, mobile no.
- Key words: seven
- Full paper: 3000-3500 words without references
- Abstract: 150-200 words
- Format: front size 12, Times Roman, Microsoft Office Word.
- Line space: 1.5, page- A4.

Style sheet:

1. Citing and Referencing Source Materials

- In-text citation for a book and the style of providing the details of the work in the Reference Section at the end of the manuscript:
 - a. Single author (, :) (Miri, 1976: 12) or (Miri, 1976: 18-19)
 - b. Multiple authors but not more than three authors (,&) (Solomon & Higgins, 1996: 12) or (Solomon & Higgins, 1996: 18-19)
 - c. More than three authors (:) (Mishra et al., 2004: 16) or (Mishra et al., 2004: 16-17)
- The details of the work in the Reference List should be listed as:
 - Miri, Sujata. 1976. Suffering. Shimla: IAS.
 - Solomon C. Robert, Higgins M. Kathleen. 1996. A Short History of Philosophy. New York: Oxford University Press. , < Author's First Name>.

2. In-text citation for an Article in a Journal

- The year of publication of the Anthology or the Year of the published volume of the Journal is to be mentioned.
- (Ganeri, 1996: 119)

- The details of the work in the Reference List should be listed as:
- Ganeri, Jonardon. 1996. “Numbers as Properties of Objects: Frege and the Nyāya.” *Studies in Humanities and Social Sciences*. III(2): 111-121.

3. **In-text citation for an Article in an Edited Volume**

- (Hutnyk, 2014: 181)
- The details of the work in the Reference List should be listed as:
- Hutnyk, John. 2014. “NDTV 24X7 Remix: Mohammad Afzal Guru Frame by Frame.” in *Channeling Cultures: Television Studies from India*, edited by Biswarup Sen and Abhijit Roy. New Delhi: Oxford University Press and IAS)

4. **Citing Journal Articles that have been accessed through online portals.**

- If the cited Article has been accessed online through online portals like Jstor, Springer, Muse etc., treat it similar as you would treat a print version and follow the citation and referencing style listed in 2 above. However, please include the DOI or the date of access while listing it in the reference list. For instance, Joseph, Sarah. 2002. “Society vs State? Civil Society, Political Society and Non-Party Political Process in India.” *Economic and Political Weekly*. 37(4): 299-305. Accessed on 11/7/2014. Or Best, Shaun. 2007. “The Social Construction of Pain: An Evaluation.” *Disability & Society*. 22(2): 161-171. DOI: 10.1080/09687590601141592.

Please note that the above style sheet had been designed according to the one followed by the Institute of Advanced Studies, Shimla (Ref: <http://www.ias.org/content/shss/ss/citing-source-materials>).

Please do not add any bibliography, for only the reference list and end notes, if needed, has to be attached which should include all the works cited, and not just those read.

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- Thoughts, Language, Vision and Examples in Published paper are entirely of author and not of university/publisher.

Publication:

The Editorial Board will publish all the selected papers in the book (with ISBN). The Editorial Board will however reserve the right to accept/reject any paper for publication.

The Editorial Board:

- Professor. Subha Sankar Sarkar, Hon'ble Vice Chancellor as Editor-in-Chief.
- Dr Chandan Basu, Officer-in-Charge, School of Social Sciences and Ms. Srabanti Choudhuri, Assistant Professor in Sociology, School of Social Sciences, NSOU, will act as the joint editors of the said publication.

The Scrutiny Process will be done through double blind peer review method. The full papers in the given order are to be sent as soft copy to the following

Email ID: srabantichoudhuri@gmail.com

Please note, **there is no article processing fee** for this publication. All the financial liabilities of the publication will be borne solely by the university. The authors are therefore invited to sincerely contribute rich academic resources to succeed this grand venture.

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