

Caste, Gender and Media

Significant
Sociological
Trends in India

An Open Distance Paradigm

Editors

**Srabanti Choudhuri
Chandan Basu**



Netaji Subhas Open University
DD-26, Sector-I, Salt Lake City, Kolkata - 700 064
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– An Open Distance Paradigm

Editors

Srabanti Coudhuri and **Chandan Basu**



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SCHOOL OF SOCIAL SCIENCE**

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Foreword

It is my great pleasure to note that the School of Social Sciences (SoSS), Netaji Subhas Open University (NSOU) has taken an effort to organize One-Day UGC DEB Sponsored National Workshop on '**Workshop for syllabus restructuring of B.D.P Sociology: an academic enterprise in generating an open form of discourse**'. The aim of the workshop was to bring changes and necessary reformulations in the Bachelor's Degree syllabus of Sociology in order to update the students with the current metamorphosis and the re-doings of the social and the academic scenario, lest they lag behind in this fast changing colloquium. The workshop was a great success in the sense that it saw the participation of stalwarts and young professionals of the field who animated the discussions with active exchanges of ideas and dynamic dialoguing on pertinent issues. The course editors and writers were involved on a rich and intent rendezvous that helped bring out important revelations which might be taken as significant entry points for churning out the best of self-learning materials (SLMs) for the students over the coming days. As an instrumental part of the workshop, an edited book was thought to be published that would remain a memorabilia of all the efforts being taken by the SoSS, NSOU.

Now, I take great pleasure in announcing the publication of the book, jointly edited by Professor Chandan Basu, Director, SoSS and Ms. Srabanti Choudhuri, *Assistant Professor of Sociology, SoSS, NSOU*. The book titled - **Caste, media and gender: Significant sociological trends in India – an open distance paradigm**, presents a rich inter-sectional picture of the Indian society as looked through the lenses of caste, tribe, gender, media and politics. The book shall not just address the general readers, but offer a deep sight to the learners of the distance mode in particular. I am happy that the School had decided to research with a plethora of issues ranging from caste, culture, gender, politics, open mode of learning, and of course media, which has never been taken up earlier.

NSOU came up in 1997 as a centre of open and distance learning in the eastern India. With a very modest beginning with thirty-four study centres and two schools of studies along with vocational courses, the NSOU is now proud of having over 3.50 lakh learners enrolled in 150 study centres across the State under its ambit and six schools of studies along with campuses at Salt Lake, Golpark and Kalyani. Other two Regional Centres at Durgapur and Jalpaiguri are expected to be operational from 2017-18 session.

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.

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.



Srabanti Choudhuri (b.1981) is an Assistant Professor in Sociology, School of Social Sciences, Netaji Subhas Open University. She started her career as a Lecturer in Sociology in Barasat College and thereafter joined Asutosh College as Lecturer. Hereafter she joined as Assistant Professor in Sociology in Jhargram Raj Government College (Girls' Wing) through Public Service Commission, West Bengal. Her areas of interest include caste, civilization, colonial and post-colonial Bengal. She has presented her papers across the country including seminars conducted by UNICEF, Jharkhand, Centre for

Development Studies, Thiruvananthapuram, Indian Institute of Advanced Studies, Shimla and National School of Drama, New Delhi. She has quite some publications to her credit.



Dr Chandan Basu (b.1971) is Professor of History and Director, School of Social Sciences, Netaji Subhas Open University. He did his Ph. D. in the Department of History, Jadavpur University on the development of left ideology and politics in West Bengal during the post-colonial era. He is currently working on the social history of left politics in West Bengal. He has a very good number of publications to his credit. His major publications include *The Making of the Left Ideology in West Bengal: Culture, Political Economy, Revolution 1947-1970* (Delhi: 2009)', *Radical Ideology and Controlled Politics:*

CPI and the History of West Bengal, 1947-1964 (Kolkata: 2015). He is also co-editor of 'Gender Sensitization, Women Empowerment and Distance Education: History, Society and Culture (Kolkata: 2014)' and *Women, Violence and Law: An Intimate Interrogation - Volume I & II* (Kolkata: 2015 & 2016) *Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose Memorial Lecture Series -A Compilation and Volume I, Gender, Culture and Politics: Bengal in the 20th Century—Open Distance Initiative*. Dr Basu has also published a number of papers in the reputed journals.

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