

Organised by

A. N. SINHA INSTITUTE OF SOCIAL STUDIES, PATNA

Two day National Seminar on

MAHA DALIT COMMUNITIES IN BIHAR : DEVELOPMENT AND DEPRIVATION

Supported by :

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(ICSSR), New Delhi**

5 - 6 December 2009

In traditional caste system of India, dalits were taken as untouchables and outcastes in the Society. They were condemned and hated. They led a life of penury and disrespect in the society. It is an irony that Maha Dalits though had provided basic services to people, they themselves treated like animals. During the period of National movement a consciousness had begun to arise among the educated elites that it was unfair that they be treated like that. In the post independence period, government has taken up corrective measures to ameliorate their life conditions. But desired and effective results are still eluding. Despite long claim of government and political parties, extremely poor and neglected groups of Maha Dalits are still in a deplorable situation. Livelihood opportunities to them are not many, even today. The elements of dignity for them is missing in society. Programmes launched for their social, economic and educational development are not reaching them. Their voice is not heard. In Bihar, interestingly, Maha Dalits constitute 20 scheduled caste communities.

These communities in Bihar are namely Bantar, Bauri, Bhogta, Bhuiya, Chaupal, Dabgar, Dom/Dhangad, Dhobi,

Ghasi, Halalkhor, Hari/Mehtar/Bhungi, Kanjar, Kurariar, Lalbegi, Musahar, Nat, Pan/Sawasi, Rajwar, Turi and Pasi. The total population of Maha Dalit in Bihar, according to census 2001, is 49,26,794, which constitutes 37.75 percent of scheduled caste population.

Due to cumulative poverty and discrimination, development programmes have only made a minor impact on them. Though they have tried to avail the educational facilities for their children, medical care, mid-day-meal scheme, food-for-work, immunization schemes, and facilities of public distribution system, such schemes have had very little impact on them. In fact, they have remained in the backwaters of development for a pretty long time. As a result, they have come to a stage of sub-human conditions. The task of the upliftment of the Maha Dalits is not merely a humanitarian one; it is a matter of complete overhaul of the national policy. It will, therefore, be necessary in our discussion to see the basic issues affecting their development.

Sub-themes :

Considered from the above stand, there is an imperative need for research, discussion and deliberation upon the issues of development and deprivation among the most deprived caste of the society. The major sub-themes to be discussed may be as follows:

1. Concept of Maha Dalit and related Socio-cultural and economic issues.
2. Effect of development initiatives on Maha Dalits, in terms of their access to livelihood opportunities, markets, services and political institutions.
3. Role of political parties and civil societies in the context of raising and taking up their issues.
4. Deprivation and Development of Maha Dalits and role of various institutions in this regard.
5. Human Development and Social Exclusion.

6. The impact of globalization on their development.
7. Future strategies for the development of Maha Dalits
8. Any other issues.

Call for Papers :

Papers are invited from academicians, Social activists, research scholars and policy makers on the above mentioned broad topics. Since we propose to publish the proceeding of the seminar in book form, the participants are requested to send their abstract and full paper along with filled in registration form before 10th November 2009 preferably by e-mail <mahadalitseminar@gmail.com> and post to Prof. Ajay Kumar Jha, Seminar Coordinator. Intimation shall be communicated by e-mail.

Shri Dheerendra Singh shall maintain all record related with seminar and shall act as Organizing Member of the seminar. He may be contacted for detail on his mobile 0-9430906504 and e-mail <mahadalitseminar@gmail.com>.

Travel allowances & accommodation :

Selected outstation participants will be provided travel costs (sleeper class) and boarding and lodging facilities. Other participants will however be provided local hospitality. There is no registration fee for the seminar. For more detail you may visit our website.

Address for communication :

Prof. Ajay Kumar Jha

Seminar Coordinator

Head of Division, Political Science/Public Administration
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REGISTRATION FORM

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1. Name :
2. Designation :
3. Organization :
4. Postal Address :
5. E-mail and Telephone no. :
6. Title of the Paper :
7. Accommodation required :
Yes/No

Date :

Signature