

National Seminar
On
“Human, Humanity and Discrimination in India”
Organized by
All Indian Rights Organization (AIRO) & Indian
Association of Social Scientists (IAOSS)

Venue- **Jai Shankar Auditorium, Rai Uma Nath Bali
Auditorium, Lucknow,**

Date – 21st March 2012

A Report

Disclaimer

The views expressed in the papers incorporated in the report are entirely of the authors or the organizations they represent. The mere incorporation of these papers in the report does not necessarily mean that AIRO and IAOSS have accepted their views.

Man has a complex mind. He proved his ability in all the areas of life starting a settled life in Neolithic era and kept moving and growing thence. It is also clear that all men are not equal so far as their mental status, efficiency and behavior is concerned. This inequality generates a process of discrimination in every walk of life. With settled life and growth of population occurred an imbalance between natural resources and population which led to a sharp discrimination in society. This discrimination is reflected in gender biasness, unequal distribution of wealth, improper access to education, in social culture discrimination, biological discrimination, discrimination on the basis of caste, creed, colour, sex place of birth etc. discrimination is a buster of deviation and anomie in the society and this discrimination is under scanner which is the demand of any society, state or nation. The first article of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights affirms that “all human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights”. But even after over 60 years of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and 45 years of International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, discrimination continues in all walks of life. Hence on the occasion of International Discrimination Day on 21st March 2012 to discuss discrimination in everyday life the All Indian Rights Organization (Community Development Programme of Naina Dayal Foundation) and Indian Association of Social Scientists (IAOSS) organized a one day Seminar on “**HUMAN, HUMANITY AND DISCRIMINATION IN INDIA**”.

The Seminar focused on elimination of discrimination and reminded us of our collective responsibility for promoting and protecting this ideal. Academicians, scholars, students, non-governmental organizations, media, lawyers, members of civil society and individuals actively participated and deliberated on the various sub-themes of the Seminar to overcome the problem of discrimination. Papers presented on various sub themes addressed the public and private attitudes that perpetuate it.

The sub-themes for the Seminar were—

- Discrimination at linguistic level
 - Discrimination on the basis of caste and tribe
 - Protective discrimination and reservation policy
 - Gender and discrimination
 - Discrimination and human rights violation
 - Children and discrimination
 - Discrimination within family on the basis of economy, age ,colour etc.
 - Economic inequality and discrimination
 - Discrimination and social mobility
 - Discrimination on the basis of ethnicity, religion and culture
 - Racial discrimination: the caste perspective
 - Discrimination: social exclusion, inclusion and equal opportunity
 - Anti Discrimination and Affirmative Action in India
 - Discrimination and institutional response
- Any other topic relating to theme

These sub themes were broadly divided into Four Technical Sessions. Technical Session 1&2 deliberated upon **Socio-Economic, Political and Historical Discrimination** whereas Technical session 3&4 dealt with **Gender, Linguistic, Religious and Racial Discrimination**

Prof. Dinesh Sharma, Mayor, City of Lucknow and Chief Guest of the Seminar lighted the lamp and inaugurated the seminar. Dr. Alok Chantia, Organizing Secretary of the Seminar welcomed the guests. Director of the Seminar Dr. Preeti Misra presented the theme of the seminar. She expressed the hope that deliberations and outcomes of this National Seminar will go a long way in helping to work together against discrimination whenever and wherever it occurs. In his presidential address Prof. Dinesh Sharma spoke on cultural ecology, he described the existence of humanity in Indian culture which advocates for co-existence of everyone. He expressed his hope that this process of humanity can minimize the blot of discrimination in modern India. Prof. Sharma set the tone of the seminar by talking about linguistic discrimination, he raised a strong objection to linguistic discrimination which has divided the whole country into English centric India and Hindi centric India, ultimately leading to a society of hatred. Prof. S.N. Misra, the great historian, in his key note address gave an overall idea about discrimination. He spoke on inherent quality of discrimination in culture and gave an example of Jainism where all 24 Tirtankars were from Kshatriye caste instead of Vaishya or Shudras and he also pointed out the scenario of discrimination across the globe. He reasoned that in all other countries of the world people are aware but in India people are least aware for their rights, that is why they suffer from many forms of discrimination. Prof. Misra also pointed out that in agriculture society caste discrimination is more manifest than in industrialized society where class discrimination is more prevalent.

Total 71 abstracts of papers were received out of which more than 40 papers were read during the four technical sessions of the Seminar. Prof. R.K. Tripathi Ex Head, Department of Commerce, Lucknow University, Lucknow chaired the first and second technical sessions whereas second and third technical sessions were chaired by renowned historian Prof. D.P. Tewari, Head, Department of Ancient History, Lucknow University, Lucknow. Highlights of some important papers are-Dr. S. Hassan Rizvi, Head of Department of Sociology, Shia P.G. College in his paper talked about how discrimination is symbol of social and psychological imbalance in the society? Discrimination and the response of young Indian dalit poets in English was discussed by Dr. S.C. Hazela, Associate Professor, Dept. of English, Sri J.N.P.G. College, Lucknow. He scrutinized the poetry of young Dalit poets like Meena Kandaswami. Her poetry is a revolt against that Hindu caste system that legitimizes discrimination on the basis of one's birth. The images, metaphors and the language redefine new forms of expression and representation in the gamut of literature and cry for a re-evaluation not only of the discriminatory attitude of the higher caste Hindus but also break the formal framework of poetry itself. Dr. Renu Srivastava in her paper analyzed the discrimination in the context of money power and corruption with socio-political ramifications. Dr. Neeta presented her paper on discrimination against women in 19th century and role of Raja Ram Mohan Roy in eradicating various social evils in society. Dr. Anis Ahmad advocated for establishing an Equal Opportunity Commission to deal with problem of discrimination in India. Dr. Prashant Tripathi expressed his views that humanity and discrimination are two very closely woven concepts but inspite of them being inter-related, they contradict each other to a perplexing limit as to decide whether they supplant or supplement each other. Dr. P.K. Pandey from Dibrugarh, expressed his views on discrimination against disabled

women. Shashank Shekhar, Dr. R.K.Singh and Sudhir Kumar in their joint paper expressed that gender discrimination is one of the oldest menaces of the society and law is an effective tool to deal with it.

Dr. Bhavna Sharma, Ms. Richa Katyal from IMS Law College Noida, Mrs. Nikki Saxena and Dr. Mahima Devi from Dr. RPM Degree College presented their paper on Gender Discrimination. The issue of tribal rights, development and social exclusion with a case study with Kondh Tribe of Orissa was shared by Dr. Bibekanand Nayak Asst. Prof. Babasaheb Bhimrao Ambedkar Univ. Dr. Rohit Misra and Dr. Abhishek Tripathi Dept. of Social Work University of Lucknow spoke about discrimination with HIV positive people. Dr. Alok Chantia shared his paper on culture, discrimination and human rights with special reference to Dhankut of District Bahraich of U.P. Views on discrimination in electoral system of India through a case study of U.P. assembly elections 2012 was shared by Shri Umesh Shukla Vice President of All Indian Rights Organization (AIRO). The issue of children and discrimination was discussed by Shri Shashank Upadhyaya. Saman Narayan Upadhyay, Lecturer, IMS Law College, Noida in his paper discussed protective discrimination and reservation policy in India with special reference to women. views on human, humanity and fashion : a common discrimination among women was shared by Mrs. Shikha Chantia, Lecturer, Amity University, Lucknow. Ideology and discourse of positive discrimination in India was discussed by Sri Rudra Prasad Sahu, whereas discrimination of disabilities in India: a socio-legal approach was discussed by Mr. Sukanta Sarkar from ICFAI University Tripura, Agartala. Mr. Vijay Prakash Misra expressed his thoughts on reservation policy for interest rates and discrimination: an appraisal.

Dr. Sudha Misra presented her paper on Ravindra Nath Tagore and discrimination in his educational thoughts. Mr. Bhanu Pratap, Avishek Raj and Dr. Preeti Misra expressed their thoughts on right to development: redressal of economic inequality and a new approach to development. Mr. Jagadish Prasad from Ambedkar Law College spoke on gender discrimination in india as a grave violation of human rights with reference to dalit women. An Iraqi Ph.D. student Mr. Ali Mahmood Yahya gave his views on gender discrimination in the light of human rights, international convention and Iraqi laws.

Ravindra Kumar Keshav from University of Lucknow Presented his paper on Discrimination And Social Mobility whereas Abhishek Shukla on Reservation Policy – Another Angle of Understanding. Priyanka Tripathi, Sonali Roy Choudhary, Ravinath Tiwari, Rajesh Ranjan Kumar, Ashutosh Misra, Ajay Kumar Barnwal, Anurag Srivastava, Meera and Deepika also expressed their thoughts on various dimensions of discrimination existing in Indian society.

The Seminar ended with overwhelmingly heard valedictory address by Prof. Kameshwar Chaudhary, former Head, Dept. of Sociology and Dean School For Ambedkar Studies, Babasaheb Bhimrao Ambedkar University, Lucknow who not only threw light on various theoretical and philosophical dimensions of discrimination but also talked about the sources which perpetuate discrimination in various walks of life. In his valedictory address Prof Chaudhary classified the meaning of discrimination and

highlighted many facts regarding caste system in India and reservation policy and its implications. He also discussed the problem of ethnocentrism which is against the democratic parameter and he concluded with his observation on equality which has yet to come in India

Deliberations and discussions during the seminar fruitfully concluded that discrimination lurks in even the most tolerant society like India and manifests itself in insidious ways. Discrimination on the grounds of sexual orientation, gender identity and gender expression, language, religion, caste, race is the most prevalent and existent in present society. Seminar concluded that discrimination and resultant exclusion of certain groups due to their identity based on social origin, ethnic and religious background, race, colour, gender and nationality is very common to several societies. The practices of discrimination overwhelmingly exist in the social, economic, political and cultural spheres of every society, irrespective of the existence of legal safeguards and equal opportunity policies. In India, in spite of Constitutional safeguards discrimination largely refers to caste discrimination, gender discrimination and discrimination based on religious, regional and ethnic identities with variations in specific forms and extent across regional and social contexts.

The outcome of this seminar seeks to extend discussions to the changing nature and forms of discrimination and social exclusion, both in specific and comparative contexts as the nature, practices and consequences of discrimination vary from one context to another and from one society to the other. The august gathering of the seminar came to a conclusion that such seminars should be a regular event to eliminate the blot of discrimination. Though it was also accepted that discrimination cannot be wiped off completely from the face of society but can be minimized through genuine efforts by academicians, civil society members and various other statutory and constitutional bodies.

PROGRAMME SCHEDULE

10:00 AM : Registration of Participants

Inaugural Session:

11:00 AM : Lighting of Lamp

11:15 AM : Saraswati Vandana

11:20 AM : Presentation of Bouquet

11:25AM : Welcome Address by Dr Alok Chantia

11:30AM : Introduction of Theme by Dr. Preeti Misra

11:40AM : Address by Key Note Speaker Prof. S.N. Misra

12:00PM : Address by Guest of Honour Prof. V.D. Misra

12:10PM : Address by Chief Guest Prof. Dinesh Sharma, Mayor
Lucknow

12:25PM : Presentation of Memento

12:35PM : Vote of thanks

12:45PM : Hi Tea

Technical Sessions

Session 1& 2 **1:00 – 2:30 PM**

Socio-Economic, Political and Historical Discrimination

Chaired by **Prof R.K. Tripathi**
Ex Head, Department of Commerce
Lucknow University, Lucknow

Lunch 2:30 – 3:00 PM

Technical session 3&4 **3:00- 4:30 PM**

Gender, Linguistic, Religious and Racial Discrimination

Chaired by

Prof. D.P. Tewari
Head, Department of Ancient History
Lucknow University, Lucknow

Valedictory Session

4:45 – 5:30 PM

Address by

Prof. Kameshwar Choudhary
Babasaheb Bhimrao Ambedkar University
Lucknow

Vote of Thanks

Dr. Alok Chantia
Organizing Secretary