

3.2.2

Number of workshops/seminars/conferences including on Research Methodology/Intellectual Property Rights and Entrepreneurships conducted during the last five years

2018-2019



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NABA BALLYGUNGE MAHAVIDYALAYA

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27E, Bosepukur Road, Kolkata - 700042

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1. ICSSR Sponsored National Seminar on “Rural Development in India—Problems and Prospects”

Date: 1st September 2018

Organised by: Department of Economics, Naba Ballygunge Mahavidyalaya in collaboration with Bengal Economic Association

Number of participants: 55



Welcome Address delivered by Dr Sukamal Datta, Principal, Naba Ballygunge Mahavidyalaya

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The delegates on the dais



The audience listen to the resource person

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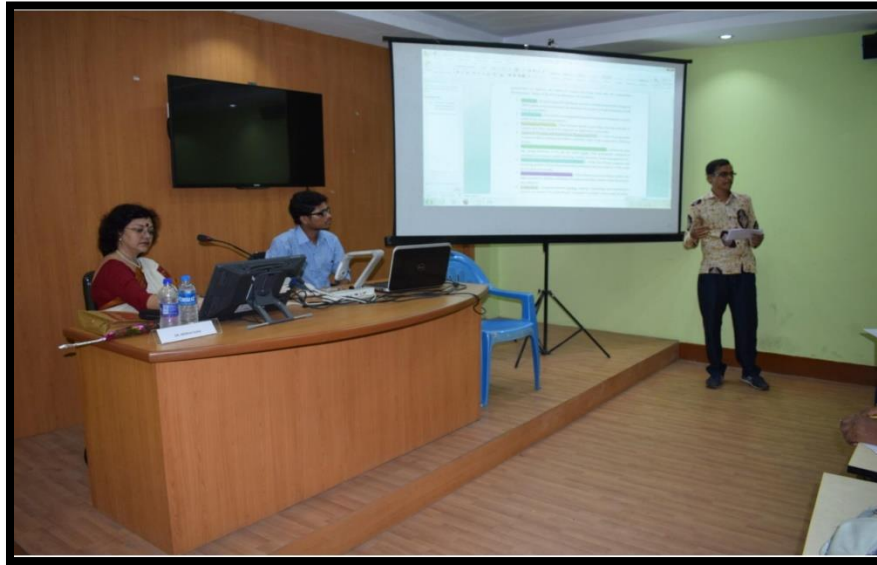


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Research session. Chair: Dr Indrila Guha, Principal, Basanti Devi College



Md Hasanuzzaman, Assistant Professor, Dept of Economics, Naba Ballygunge Mahavidyalaya anchoring the session

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Valedictory Session

Detailed Report of the Seminar:

The Welcome Address was delivered by Dr. Sukamal Datta, Principal, Naba Ballygunge Mahavidyalaya, Kolkata. In his Welcome Address he first of all welcomed all the distinguished guests in the dias, all the delegate, life members of the Bengal Economic Association, all the paper writers saying thereby that almost 50 papers he received for the Seminar.—most of them were well written. Thereafter he quoted Mahatma Gandhi: India lives in villages. So village reconstruction is urgently needed as two-thirds of the population lives in rural India. Now the time has come to give proper emphasis on the betterment of rural livelihoods, he emphasized.

He further emphasized that the topic is a matter of great concern in the context of Indian economy. Rural development in India is a timeless topic for discussion. It was relevant at the time of independence, at the beginning of planning era in India and it has become all the more important at the present age of liberalization when issues like government sponsored growth and development directly collide with the model of liberalized-privatized- globalised economic system.

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He then reminded that the basic objectives of Rural Development Programs have been alleviation of poverty and unemployment through creation of basic social and economic infrastructure, provision of training to rural unemployed youth and providing employment to marginal farmers/labourers to discourage seasonal and permanent migration to urban areas; Increase productivity in rural areas and reduce poverty; involve people in planning and development through their participation in decision making and through centralization of administration; ensure distributive Justice and equalization of opportunities in the society. The seminar is aimed at critically analyzing the various poverty alleviation schemes initiated by the GOI for rural development along with the reforms of the banking sector in the present time of privatization and globalization and try to come with some solution to the problem of rural development.

Then Former Vice- Chancellor, Calcutta University, Prof. Asis Banerjee inaugurated the Seminar by lighting the lamp. In his Inaugural Address, he , at the outset, began by saying that the topic is important, vital but neglected so far. He emphasized that if the village reconstruction is not made on an urgent basis, the Indian economy will be soon in jeopardy , as agriculture now accounts for 12 % of GDP and about 50 % of the population are engaged in agriculture. More, as the structural imbalance between structure of national income and occupational pattern exists, various problems crops up. Inequality increases. Already inequality is increasing within the rural areas . In addition, the asset distribution is horrible. Citing NSSO data, he reminded that Networth (=assets – liability) has become negative for the first time in 2012. So financial inclusion will be a mere myth in the future. He also talked about environment, Green Revolution. The latter played havoc with environment in Punjab. He reminded us Prof Madav Gadgil's warning that Kerala disaster is not far off . It comes true what he predicted five years ago. At the end of his address he articulated that the purpose of the seminar will be achieved if plan of action is to be formulated after the seminar.

Thereafter Prof. Biswajit Chatterjee, President , Bengal Economic Association gave a very brief sketch on the historical evolution of the rural development. He emphasized that rural livelihoods are at stake today in spite of the government's enormous spending over it.

Prof. Ruma Bhattacharya , Secretary of the Bengal Economic Association, gave a vote of thanks, particularly praising ICSSR for giving financial help for conducting this one-day Seminar. Thus ends the Inaugural Session.

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1st Technical Session (11.30- 1.00 P.M.)

Professor Biswajit Chatterjee Chaired the 1st Technical session; there were two speakers on the theme. It begins with the Keynote Address by Prof. Sankar Kumar Bhoomik, Centre for Economic Studies and Policies, Central University of South Bihar (Gaya Campus). The topic of his lecture was: Rural Development in Theory and Practice. His discussion rolled about: Definition of rural development (Rural development is a process through which sustainable improvement in the quality of life of rural people, especially the poor is enhanced),Need for rural development, Evolution of rural development over time, Evolution of rural development through thinking and policy prescriptions, Achievements and constraints ,and Future policy Actions for the uplift of rural livelihoods. He emphasized that rural development goes beyond agricultural development. Rural development is multi-sectoral. In recent years, social dimension has added to include SCs and STs. In the Pre-independence period, realizing the inmost kernel that India lives in her villages, Mahatma Gandhi, and Tagore laid emphasis on rural development and they left no stone unturned to uplift the conditions of rural life. But rural development emerged as a distinct policy design in the 1960s and gained momentum in the 1970s. The 1980s onwards witnessed the rise of Washington Consensus advocating liberalization, globalization and privatization. During the 1990s the program for poverty alleviation came into the fore, although initiated in India's Fifth FYP with the realization that growth alone is not sufficient to remove the hardships of the vast poor rural masses. Thereafter in the first decade of the New millennium there came MDGs, MGNRES, issues like climate change, But as ill luck would have it, in this literature no mention was made about rural development. Since there was no sincere attempt and prudent implementation of rural upsurge, rural development in practice remained altogether an illusion following a gulf of difference between planning and implementation.

Prof. Samar Datta, Formerly Centre for Management in Agriculture, IIM Ahmedabad & Former Faculty, Dept. of Economics University of Southern California, Los Angeles, USA as an invited speaker Spoke on the topic: Micro – Planning for Rural development— An Indian Overview. To him. Micro-planning is a planning at lowest, atomistic level of individuals and households to fulfill their aspirations with limited incomes. He emphasized that since there is possibilities of market failure, government failure and bureaucratic lapses , there is an urgent need for participatory approach and self-governances. He spoke highly of Anna Hazare's approach of rural development and showed through videos how it fits to a T in the Indian rural context. He criticized poverty alleviation and employment generation program like MGNREG. The reasons for MGNREG failure , he identified, are as follows: i) Huge expenditure made, came very little outcome; ii) Unwittingly, created indiscipline in labour in spite of wage link, which has affected small farmers, in particular; iii) In essence it is a popular vote-catching instrument at the cost of the country and at the cost of agriculture. Thus ended the 1st Technical session.

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2nd Technical Session (1.30 PM- 1.30 PM)

Dr. Puspita Ranjan Bhattacharya, Principal, Heritage College, Kolkata was the Chairman in this technical session to preside over. There were two speakers in this session: Dr. Jyotish Prakash Basu, Department of Economics West Bengal State University and Prof. Amit Kundu, Department of Economics, Jadavpur University, Kolkata respectively. The topic selected by Prof. Basu was: Vulnerability Analysis and MGNREGA. He explained the whole matter in terms of deprivation and where as it is vulnerability due to failure of entitlement(as pioneered by Prof. Amartya Sen). He spoke about social vulnerability, Bio-physical vulnerability etc. and explained: Why is the study of vulnerability significant. He identifies “Chronic Poor” as static concept and “the Transient Poor”, as a dynamic concept. He quoted definition of Vulnerability as laid down in the IPCC,2002 where vulnerability is defined as the degree to which a system is susceptible to, or unable to cope with, adverse effects of climate change including climate variability and extremes. It is in this context the objective of the paper by Prof Basu was to measure district –wise vulnerability in West Bengal in terms of vulnerability index during the period 2001-2011 and also to examine the effect of MGNREA in vulnerability reduction in the Purulia district in the State of West Bengal.

The second speaker, Prof Kundu in this Session spoke of: Factors Influencing GPI in Primary Education. He identified several factors to examine this. For example he took, female literacy rate, School enrolment ratio. etc. He emphasized on enrollment for skill development, female education in this context. Dr. Bhattacharya as chairperson at the end summed up beautifully the key contents of the two speakers.

Research Session:

First of all, the Chairperson thanked all the participants and gave a brief introduction about the importance of the present topic. Then she called upon the 1st paper writer, Dipak Biswas, Assistant Prof. of Commerce, Swami Niswambalananda Girls’ college to speak on his paper.. Shri Biswas spoke on the Women Empowerment through SHGs and Microfinance for the rural Economic development in India.

The second speaker Dr.Smritikana Ghosh, Assistant Prof. Scottish Church College spoke on MGNREGA: Influence on employment of women and backward section of the society Thereafter Dyuti Chatterjee of Bhawanipur Education Society College presented her paper on the topic : An analysis on the empowerment of rural women of India with special reference to their education level and employment status.

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Shri Binoy Biswas, Assistant Prof of Commerce, Srikrishna College, Nadia, spoke on government policy on rural development and its impact of women empowerment. Next, the Joint (empirical) paper on the Role of SHG on attainment of Women Empowerment with special reference to 24-Parganas (South) was presented (the other author was Dr. Kaushik Banerjee, Associate Prof. and Head, Brainware University)) by Piyali Das, Research Scholar of that University. Granthana Sen Gupta , Assistant Prof. Sundarban Hazi Desarat College presented her paper on the topic: Rural Development: Government Policies for Empowering Women in Sundarbans. She emphasized that education is the key to empowerment of women. Moreover, the paper studied different government policies on rural development meticulously. Pritha Adhikari of Asiatic Society studied through empirical estimation the Women in SHGs of East Midnapore District of West Bengal. Shri Samaresh Khan, a lawyer in profession spoke on women Empowerment through government policies on Tribal Women through SHGs in Jungle Mahal in Paschim Midnapore District , West Bengal. He stressed on social problems of Jungle Mahal saying thereby that the rural people living in five blocks of Pacchim Midnapore District are heavily deprived in all respects.

The next paper presenter was Sneha km Pandey, Project Fellow, Department of Business Management, Calcutta University. From the primary and secondary data, through her paper : “ Women Entrepreneurship— Pathways towards Sustainable Future”, she studied the profile of small enterprises run by women dealing in handicrafts . Through her study she found that out of 223 women, only 116 women know the meaning of eco-friendly product. Apart, only 66 women have ideas about hazardous products.

The objective of the paper titled “ SHGs , Entrepreneurship and Women’s Empowerment: A Case Study of East Midnapore” by Sumana Das, Department of Sociology, Jogamaya Devi College, Kolkata was to understand the major challenges faced by the women entrepreneurs of East Midnapore in terms of inadequate skill-development, insufficient market linkages and also to understand the nature of infrastructure and support facilities. Her suggestion in this regard is to develop skill efficiency and education attainment and to look into insufficient management.

Next , the joint paper(Dr, Subrata Kumar Ray, Dr. Sutapa Roy, Sakhi Roy) on “Government Policies and Women Empowerment: An Analysis with special reference to Kanyasree Prakalpa in West Bengal”, was presented by Sakhi Roy. Their paper stressed on the development of this Prakalpa because they find that this Prakalkea in Sankrail Block of Howrah district has become successful. Moumita Ghosh, Department of Psychology, Basanti Devi College had beautifully handled health conditions of the rural elderly women of West Bengal. Luxmi Jha, M. Phil in Commerce, Kalyani University, Nadia, West Bengal highlighted the present scenario of gender budgeting and gender gap of the economy. She stressed that though the Union Budget 2018 has increased gender budgeting in Mudra Yojana, Ujjawala Yojana etc., but it is not enough.



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Poulomi Roy spoke on economic , social and political dimensions of women empowerment. The last paper in this session was by Nandini Mukherjeem, Department of Women Studies, Basanti Devi College, Kolkata. Through video , she demonstrated the importance of women empowerment and the role of folk media playing a vital role in this connection, Last of all the Chairman of this session summed up the main contents of all paper writers and encouraged them. However, it is important to note that out of 17 papers, 15 papers were presented in this lively Research session.

Valedictory Session (4.30 PM- 5.00 P.M)

At the outset of this session, Prof Santanu Ghosh of Maulana Azad College introduced the Speaker to the audience. Thereafter Dr. Bed Prakash Syamroy, IAS (Retd) , Former Special Secretary, Development & Planning Department. Member of the 3rd State Finance Commission, West Bengal, gave the valedictory address. His main arguments in search of proper rural development may be summed up in the following manners: Most People living in India are engaged in an enormous struggle to secure a livelihood in the face of adverse social, economic and often political circumstances. Two points are central to an understanding of such struggles. Through detailed analysis of social relations in a particular historical context: between those with land and those without land, for example; between rich and poor households; between men and women; between rural households and the institutions of the market and the state, the circumstances of poverty and the reasons for poverty have to be understood. The second point pertains to the modes of livelihood that typically prevail both within households are highly diverse. Rural households may derive a part-livelihood from farming; a part- livelihood from migrant labour undertaken by absent household members in urban areas or other rural areas; and a part-livelihood from a variety of other activities, more or less informal. Various combinations of activities of this kind are often themselves subject to rapid change over time. For these two reasons, rural livelihoods are not at all easy to study. Livelihoods are not only about employment, enterprise, and income. Capability deprivation is a critically important consideration in understanding poverty and in preparing a public policy to promote livelihoods. The poor, vulnerable, and the marginalized people of this country look forward to responsive governments that at least make sincere attempts to address their life concerns. They expect that policies are timely made, made well, and most importantly executed well. The most important way to achieve this would be to conduct serious policy research, extensive deliberations on policy formations, serious pilots, and state-specific and region-specific strategies of scale-up, and then track policy implementation very closely on outputs and outcome levels. To make this happen, the most important intervention necessary is to conduct sweeping institutional reform, empowering local governments with authority and capacity. There is no country on earth that has progressed far without strong local governments, and there is no reason to believe India can be an exception.