

**REPORT ON
NATIONAL SEMINAR ON DEVELOPMENT WITH DIGNITY
(29TH & 30TH NOVEMBER, 2023)**



ORGANIZED BY

**DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY,
THE UNIVERSITY OF BURDWAN
GOLAPBAG, BURDWAN 713104**

VENUE: KADAMBINI GANGULY SEMINAR HALL, GOLAPBAG, BURDWAN



**SPONSORED BY INDIAN COUNCIL OF SOCIAL SCIENCE RESEARCH,
NEW DELHI**

**PREPARED & PRESENTED BY
PROFESSOR ANIRBAN BANERJEE,**

PROFESSOR OF SOCIOLOGY, THE UNIVERSITY OF BURDWAN

AND

CONVENER, NATIONAL SEMINAR ON DEVELOPMENT WITH DIGNITY

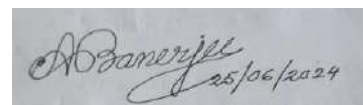
**DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY,
THE UNIVERSITY OF BURDWAN
GOLAPBAG, BURDWAN 713104**

PREFACE

The Department of Sociology, The University of Burdwan, decided to organize a National Seminar to observe our 35th Anniversary. It was decided that Prof. Anirban Banerjee would be the Convener and Dr. Ananta Kumar Biswas would be Co Convener. As per the decision of the Departmental Committee, Prof. Anirban Banerjee applied to the Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR) for funds. ICSSR decided to sponsor the **National Seminar on Development with Dignity** and give the responsibility to organize the seminar to Prof Anirban Banerjee (vide sanction letter to the Registrar, The University of Burdwan Letter No. F No./NIS/NS/98.IC/2023-24 dated 19.09.2023). The seminar was held on 29th and 30th November, 2023. In the following pages we present a brief overview of the seminar, the significant contributions to knowledge made by this interdisciplinary seminar and the tasks ahead.

We thank all individuals and organizations whose cooperation made the seminar a success. Firstly, we thank Indian Council of Social Science Research, New Delhi, (ICSSR) for sponsoring this seminar. We thank Sri M.P. Madhukar, Deputy Director, ICSSR, for his valuable help. Secondly, we thank the administrative officials of The University of Burdwan for their contribution to the success of the seminar. We thank our Vice Chancellor, Prof. Gautam Chandra, Pro Vice Chancellor (Administration & Academic), Prof. Ashis Kumar Panigrahi, our Registrar, Dr. Sujit Kumar Choudhury, our Dean, Faculty Council for Post-graduate Studies in Arts, Commerce, Law, Fine Arts & Music, Prof. Pradip K Chattopadhyay, our Finance Officer, Dr. Sougata Chakrabarti, Accounts Officer (Senior Scale), Sri Susobhan Ghosh, Sri Chinmoy Dutta, (Research Section, Finance Department) and Burdwan University Press Superintendent, Sri. Chandan Pal. Thirdly, we thank our guests at the inaugural function, and our resource persons for devoting their time to attend the seminar and contributing to its success through their scholarly contributions towards the emerging field of Development with Dignity. Fourthly, we thank our delegates for their thought-provoking papers. They also contributed to the success of the seminar by participating in the Cultural Function. Fifthly, our Faculty Members, our student volunteers, research scholars and office staff of Sociology Department contributed to the success of the seminar in a big way. They worked tirelessly in the background to ensure its success through various ways. Students and research scholars not only worked as volunteers. They also organized the Cultural Function of the seminar in which their teachers also participated. M. Phil students and Ph.D. research scholars registered as delegates and contributed papers. Sixthly, we thank our caterers, decorators, transporters, the staff of Burdwan University Guest House, the staff of the Estate Department, and the support staff of Kadambini Ganguly Seminar Hall, the venue of the seminar, for their valuable help and support. Finally, on a personal note, I thank my family members for their support. They worked in the background to ensure the success of the seminar.

Dated, 25th June, 2025



Prof. Anirban Banerjee
Convener

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SUMMARY OF THE REPORT

Introduction

The Department of Sociology, The University of Burdwan, decided to organize a National Seminar on **Development with Dignity**. For this purpose, the Indian Council of Social Science Research granted us a sum of Rs.300,000/- (three lakh rupees only) to organize the seminar. Rs.2,25,000 was initially granted. Prof. Anirban Banerjee was Convener and Dr. Ananta Kumar Biswas was Co-Convener of the seminar.

Objective

The concept of 'Development' emerged after the Second World War. Various paradigms have emerged over time-Economic Development, Human Development, Sustainable Development. Most of the grandiose schemes of development sponsored by the government were top-down approaches which did not take into account the needs and aspirations of the people. **Development induced Displacement** resulted in people becoming victims of development. As a result, various protest movements challenging the prevalent notion of development appeared. The organizers of the seminar aimed to develop a new paradigm-**Development with Dignity**. We asked our delegates and resource persons to suggest how **development may enable the people to live a life of dignity**.

The seminar

The seminar was held on 29th and 30th November, 2023. Social scientists from various disciplines like Economics, Sociology, Education, Philosophy, Environmental Science, Management, etc. participated. 12 resource persons spoke in two plenary sessions. 41 delegates presented their papers in four technical sessions: 1) Sociological and Administrative Dimensions of Development with Dignity; 2) Philosophic and Economic Dimensions of Development with Dignity; 3) Environmental and Geographical Dimensions of Development with Dignity; 4) Educational and Ethnological Dimensions of Development with Dignity

Outcomes

The deliberations of the seminar resulted in the emergence of a new paradigm-namely **Development with Dignity**. The researchers, who participated in this interdisciplinary seminar, discussed the concept from various angles. They critically examined the state of 'Development' from various angles -Economics, Psychology, Management, Sociology, Education.

Our major conclusion is that 'Development' must ensure a decent life for people free from want, free from invidious discrimination on grounds of caste, religion, ethnicity, gender, or party lines. Only an administration that is transparent, honest and impartial

can ensure that development policies result in the upliftment of the poor so that they can live a life of dignity.

We propose to publish the contributions of the participants of this seminar in an edited volume in the near future.

INTRODUCTION

The Department of Sociology of The University of Burdwan was founded in 1988. The year 2023 marked the 35th Anniversary of the Department. To commemorate their 35th Anniversary, the Department decided to organize a National Seminar on the theme **Development with Dignity** on 29th and 30th November, 2023. This **interdisciplinary programme** was marked by deliberations of experts in various social sciences like Sociology, Economics, Environmental Science, Education, and Philosophy. Apart from two Plenary Sessions in which 12 resource persons delivered invited talks; 41 delegates presented their papers in four technical sessions. The seminar was **sponsored** by the **Indian Council of Social Science Research**. The seminar was held at **Kadambini Ganguly Seminar Hall, in Composite Building, Golapbag**. The hall, constructed out of RUSA funds, was named in memory of India's first lady physician, Dr. Kadambini Ganguly.

THE CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK

Our theme, **Development with Dignity**, is linked to the celebration of the 75th Anniversary of India's Independence. As Prof. Manish K. Verma rightly pointed out in his Keynote Address entitled 'Development with Dignity', India's national movement originated out of a quest for dignity. He approvingly cited Dipankar Gupta who equated Development with Modernity.¹ Prof. Pradip Chattopadhyay, rightly reminded us during his speech at the inaugural function, the concept of **Development with Dignity** was originally formulated by Prof. Amit Bhadury who wrote about how to ensure full employment. But, in our opinion, the spirit of dignity may be traced back to the Indian Constitution². The Preamble to the *Constitution of India* speaks about the '**dignity of the individual and the unity and integrity of the nation**' According to our Constitution, every individual in our country deserves to live with dignity or honour.

Since the 1950s we have had repeated paradigm shifts in the concept of **Development**. Prof. Gautam Chandra rightly pointed out in his Inaugural Address that many paradigms on Development have come and gone. These include Economic Development, Human Development and Sustainable Development. Now is the time to develop a new concept-Development with Dignity which is linked to Inclusive Development.

In the last seventy-five years since Independence India has emerged as an economic power in her own right. From a measly GDP of just Rs.2.7 lakh crore rupees at Independence in 1947 – a fallout of two centuries of colonial exploitation, India's real GDP has grown to 147.79 lakh crore in 2018. From a share of just 3% of the then

¹ Manish K. Verma: 'Development with Dignity' in *Souvenir of the National Seminar on Development with Dignity*, Department of Sociology, The University of Burdwan, p.6.

² Vide *Proceedings of National Seminar on Development with Dignity Volume 01*, Video by Vivaham Chitra, You Tube, <https://youtu.be/ABXHs0amVSo>

world's economy at the time of Independence, India's share in the world economy is now 7.74% of the total GDP of the world economy.

But problems remain. As Prof. Manish K. Verma pointed out in his Keynote Address, the income disparity between the rich and the poor was 3:2 in 1820, at the dawn of the colonial era. After economic liberalization, it reached 1:72³. In his Welcome Address Prof. Anirban Banerjee pointed to several problems that stand in the way of Development with Dignity. These are -our poor performance in the world hunger index, our failure to achieve full employment, our poor performance in health, and, finally, the all-pervasive corruption which has now become a headache for our law enforcement agencies⁴.

Achieving **self-reliance** is an essential step in **Development with Dignity**. To be fair to our economic planners, self-reliance through planned industrial development along with import substitution and development of indigenous knowhow has enabled India to economically develop. The Government of India's concept of *Atmanirbhar Bharat*, if properly developed and applied in the field, will go a long way to achieve Development with Dignity. In fact, it is through self-reliance that India has become an economic power in her own right. India has been able to combat the enemy on her own during the number of wars which were thrust on her.

The Government of India has done a lot to develop the nation, as Prof. Manish K. Verma has pointed out in his Keynote Address. Some schemes are: Garib Kalyan Rozgar Yojana (dealing with employment generation), PM Matsya Sampad Yojana (fisheries), Kisan Credit Card (for cattle farmers and fishermen), Pradhan Mantri Rural Sarak Yojana, (rural roads) Ujjwala scheme (cooking gas), etc. If properly implemented, these schemes will enable the poor to live a life of dignity. **Development with Dignity** will then become a reality.

But we submit, on the basis of our knowledge and experience, that though many schemes for development with dignity have been formulated, there is the danger that they will flounder on the rock of ignorance, corruption and partisan allotments on the basis of party and other affiliations like caste and religion. Due to corruption and political partisanship, the people's faith in the government has been eroded. It is imperative, therefore, to build a clean public administration system free from red tape and political interference with strong commitment among our officials to deliver goods and services to the right people in an impartial manner. A strong system of vigilance and stringent punishment of corrupt people through speedy trials is essential to restore people's faith in the government. People should be regularly informed of government schemes and how to apply for them through announcements on mobile public address systems. If these steps are taken, we can go a long way to ensure **Development with Dignity** for the people.

Planning for the seminar

³ Manish K. Verma: loc. cit p.7

⁴ Anirban Banerjee: 'Welcome Address to the National Seminar on Development with Dignity' in *Souvenir of the National Seminar on Development with Dignity*, Department of Sociology, The University of Burdwan, p.4.

The first step we took after ICSSR sanctioned our seminar proposal was to form the Organizing Committee. It was formed taking into account all the stakeholders in The University of Burdwan. It included representatives from the administration of the university, Faculty Members, college teachers and research scholars (Table No.1) The next step was to organize a meeting of the Purchase Committee for getting essential services during the seminar. We selected Messrs. Sri Krishna Caterer for providing catering services. We also advertised the seminar through electronic media and social media. (Plate No.1) For the sake of accountability, transparency and preservation of records of the seminar, we engaged Messrs. Vivaaham Chitra to photograph and video graph the proceedings of the inaugural, plenary sessions, and the cultural programme. We published the edited videos of the seminar in You Tube for further dissemination of information about the seminar.⁵ Some delegates also took photos at the technical sessions. The Souvenir and all stationery were printed at Burdwan University Press.

Our Resource Persons

Taking into account the injunction of the ICSSR that the seminar should be an interdisciplinary seminar, we invited scholars from a broad spectrum of disciplines. A list of our Resource Persons is given in Table No.2. The Resource Persons were selected from the fields of Sociology, Economics, Education, Philosophy and Environmental Science. One criterion for invitation as Guest Speaker was that a scholar must be a full Professor serving in a university.

We invited the Secretary of the Indian Sociological Society, and noted Sociologist , Prof. Manish K. Verma, to deliver the Keynote Address. We also invited a noted philosopher who is also the President of Burdwan University Teachers Association, Prof. Santosh K. Pal, to speak at the seminar on the philosophical aspects of development.

Three Resource Persons came from outside the state of West Bengal. They were Prof. Manish K. Verma, from Babasaheb Ambedkar University, Prof. Shweta Prasad from Benares Hindu University and Prof. Govinda Chandra Rath from G. B. Pant Institute of Social Science.

Prof. Samita Manna from Kalyani University, Prof. Ruby Sain from Adamas University, Prof. Partha Sarathi Dey from Kalyani University, Prof. Soumyajit Patra from Sidho Kanho Birsha University., Prof. Amites Mukhopadhyay, Prof. Siddharta Mitra and Prof. Sanjib Mridha from Jadavpur University. Prof. Partha Sarathi Dey could not come

⁵ See **Proceedings of National Seminar on Development with Dignity Volume 01, You Tube** (Video link <https://youtu.be/ABXHs0amVSo>) ; **Proceedings of National Seminar on Development with Dignity Volume 02** (Video link <https://youtu.be/xEUjtgpn3s>) ; **Proceedings of National Seminar on Development with Dignity Volume 03**(Video link <https://youtu.be/-2KT40NnqdE>

owing to ill health. Prof. Santosh Kumar Pal, Prof. Apurba Ratan Ghosh and Prof. Biswajit Ghosh(retired) were from The University of Burdwan.



Department of Sociology,
The University of Burdwan
presents:

National Seminar on Development with Dignity
29th and 30th November, 2023

Sponsored by:



Indian Council of Social Science Research, New Delhi

We invite academicians and research scholars to contribute papers to the seminar organised to commemorate the 35th Anniversary of The Department of Sociology, The University of Burdwan.

To know more see
https://www.buruniv.ac.in/Notices/20231344_SOC.pdf
Or
Get in touch with Convenor, Prof. Anirban Banerjee- +91-9153085106
Co-convenor, Dr. Ananta Kumar Biswas- +91-9679290845

Last date for Abstract Submission: 14th November, 2023

Plate No.1.Advertisement of the National Seminar on Development with Dignity in Facebook.

Table No.1.The Organizing Committee**Chairman**

Professor. Gautam Chandra, Vice Chancellor, The University of Burdwan

Convener & Treasurer

Professor. Anirban Banerjee

Professor of Sociology, The University of Burdwan

Co Convener

Dr. Ananta Kumar Biswas, Associate Professor& Head of the Department of Sociology, The University of Burdwan

Members

Professor Ashis Kumar Panigrahi, Pro Vice Chancellor, The University of Burdwan

Prof. Pradip Chattopadhyay, Dean of the Faculty of Arts.,

Dr. Ananda Mohan Kar,

Associate Professor of Sociology, The University of Burdwan

Dr. Sourav Madhur Dey,

Associate Professor of Sociology, The University of Burdwan

Sri Bibhas Bagchi,

Assistant Professor of Sociology, The University of Burdwan

Sri Sohan Das,

Assistant Professor of Sociology, Kabi Sukanta Mahavidyalaya , Bhadreswar, Hooghly

Sri Narendranath Das, Ph. D Scholar, Department of Sociology, The University of Burdwan

Ms. Saheli Lye, Ph. D Scholar, Department of Sociology, The University of Burdwan

Sri Soumitra Sarkar Ph. D Scholar, Department of Sociology, The University of Burdwan

Table No.2.Our Resource Persons

SI No.	Name	Institute	Specialization	Title of Lecture
1.	Prof. Manish K. Verma	Babasaheb Ambedkar University	Sociology	Development with Dignity
2.	Prof. Shweta Prasad	Benares Hindu University	Sociology	Recalibrating Development to Ensure Dignity for Women
3.	Prof. Govinda Chandra Rath	GB Pant Institute of Social Science	Sociology	Participatory Development and Question of Dignity: Chhattisgarh Experience
4.	Prof. Samita Manna	Kalyani University	Sociology	Criminal Tribe to Settled Agriculturists: A Long Trajectory of the Stigmatized Lodha Tribe, West Bengal
5.	Prof. Ruby Sain	Adamas University, Barasat.	Sociology	Religion & Development
6.	Prof. Biswajit Ghosh	Burdwan University	Sociology	Development with Dignity
7.	Prof. Partha Sarathi Dey	Kalyani University	Sociology	Development of Dignity of Individuals: Myth or Reality
8.	Prof. Amites K. Mukhopadhyay	Jadavpur University	Sociology	Environment and Ensuring Development with Dignity
9.	Prof. Soumyajit Patra	Sidho Kanho Birsha University	Sociology	Second Perspective and the Third Sector
10.	Prof. Apurba Ratan Ghosh	Burdwan University	Environmental Sciences	Sustainability and Ecological Restoration
11.	Prof. Santosh Kumar Pal	Burdwan University	Philosophy	Philosophical Aspects of Development
12.	Prof. Siddhartha Mitra	Jadavpur University	Economics	Mental health issues and Economic Development
13.	Prof. Sanjib Mridha	Jadavpur University	Physical Education with Specialization in Psychology	Human Development with Dignity: The Psychosocial Perspective

THE SEMINAR

DAY 1.

29TH NOVEMBER, 2023



Plate No.2.The Inaugural Song by students of Sociology Department. Photo: Vivaaham Chitra

Inaugural Song

The seminar started with the Inaugural Song by students of Sociology Department. The participants were Priyanti Ghoshal, Dipanntita Das, Adrita Pal, Tanuka Nandy, Susmita Sen, SK Sadique Farhan, Shraboni Chakraborty, Sulogna Sarkar⁶.

⁶ Vide *Proceedings of National Seminar on Development with Dignity Volume 01*, Video by Vivaaham Chitra, You Tube, <https://youtu.be/ABXHs0amVSo>



The song 'Ei Akashe Amar Mukti Aloe aloe' (এই আকাশে আমার মুক্তি আলোয় আলোয়) composed by India's National

Plate No.3.Rabindranath Tagore

Poet, Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore, who was India's first Nobel Laureate, holds a special significance for The University of Burdwan.

The motto of The University of Burdwan is **Learning leads to emancipation** (सा विद्या या विमुक्तये). This song by Tagore is also a message on emancipation. In this song he speaks of the open sky, and the sunlight, both symbols of freedom. Tagore says that freedom is everywhere, in the soil and even in the grass, in the minds and hearts of people, in our most demanding tasks. The significance of this yearning for freedom, reflected in the song, can be gauged from the fact that it was written at a time when the country was in the thrall of colonial rule and the freedom movement was rapidly gaining in strength. It is the closing song of the Annual Convocation of The University of Burdwan.

Welcome Address

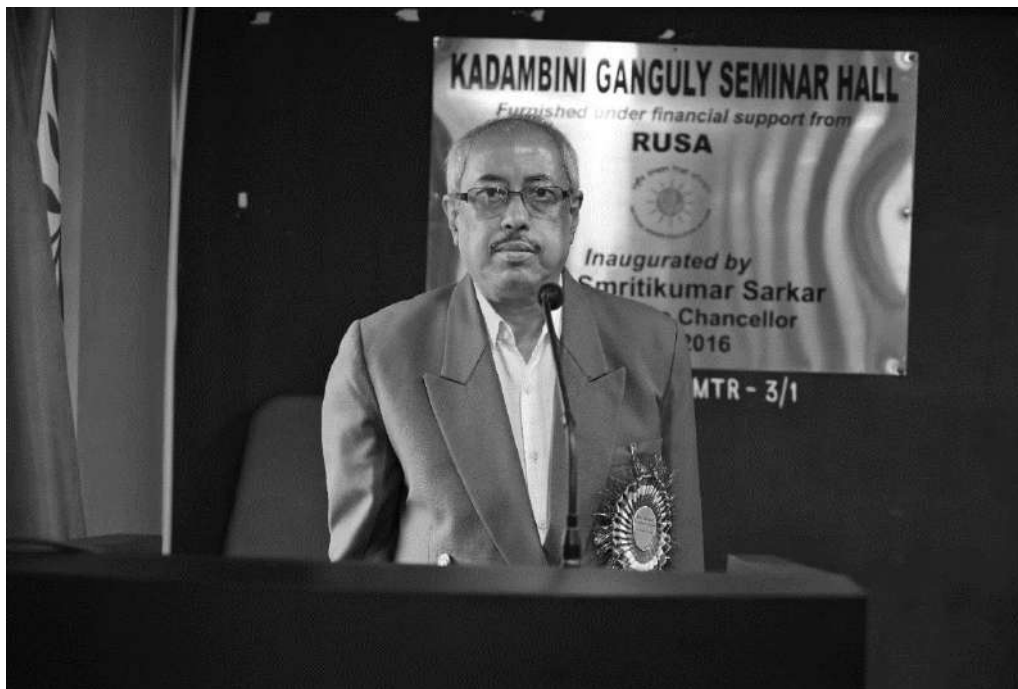


Plate No.4. Prof. Anirban Banerjee delivering the Welcome Address. Photo: Vivaaham Chitra

In his **Welcome Address**, Prof. Anirban Banerjee, Convener of the Seminar, spoke on the need of certain marginalized sections of Indian society to develop with dignity. Among the marginalized sections mentioned in the Welcome Address were orphans, women, Dalits or scheduled castes and the sexual minorities, the Queer groups. Orphans were some of the most marginalized groups in society. A child who loses both

parents has to depend solely on the mercy of the people. Orphans are in most cases denied the dignity which they deserve. There are more than 3 million orphans in India. Women also deserve a life of dignity but most of them are unwanted in their families. Cases of female foeticide have assumed such proportions that they had an adverse impact on the sex ratio. Scheduled Castes, Scheduled tribes and Other Backward Classes are another marginalized group. Despite reservations, they are yet to catch up with the forward sections of society. Most of them are yet to enjoy a life of dignity. And the LGBTQ people have only been recently emancipated from the odious Section 370 which criminalized homosexuality. But they are yet to enjoy full rights. For example, they are still not legally entitled to marry. The Convener also asked the delegates and resource persons to enquire why India is still lagging behind in certain areas like providing full employment, providing sufficient food to the people, health amenities, etc⁷.

Introducing the Department of Sociology



Plate No.5. Dr. Sourav Madhur Dey introduced the Department of Sociology Photo: Vivaaham Chitra

Dr. Sourav Madhur Dey, a Faculty Member of the Department of Sociology, The University of Burdwan, gave a brief overview of the Department of Sociology, as it has developed for the last 35 years. From a post graduate course of studies within the

⁷ See *Proceedings of National Seminar on Development with Dignity Volume 01*, Video by Vivaaham Chitra, You Tube, <https://youtu.be/ABXHs0amVSo>

Department of Political Science, Sociology Department has now emerged as one of the premier departments of the university. We have two courses at the post graduate level, namely MA and Ph.D. The undergraduate colleges teach Sociology at the General and Honours level. Since 2012 we are collaborating with the Department of Lifelong Learning and teaching Post graduate Diploma Course in Guidance and Counselling. That apart the faculty members of the Department have done research projects sponsored by the University Grants Commission, United Nations Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF), the Government of West Bengal and The University of Burdwan. We have also organized state level and national level seminars in the past. They have been sponsored by ICSSR and The University of Burdwan⁸.

Inaugurating the programme



Plate No.6.The Vice Chancellor, Prof. Gautam Chandra, inaugurating the seminar. Dr. Ananta Kumar Biswas, Head of the Department of Sociology, is seen clapping. Dipanyita Roy, who compered the programme on the first day, is seen in behind the mike. Photo: Vivaaham Chitra

The Vice Chancellor, Prof. Gautam Chandra, inaugurated the programme by watering a tree. This was symbolically done to demonstrate the commitment of the organizers to achieving Sustainable Development Goals. The concept of Sustainable Development was introduced in 1987 by the Brundtland Commission. The Sustainable Development Goals was introduced by the United Nations in 2015. Among these goals was preservation of the environment.

⁸ Vide *Proceedings of National Seminar on Development with Dignity Volume 01*, Video by Vivaham Chitra, You Tube, <https://youtu.be/ABXHs0amVSo>

Inaugural Address of Vice Chancellor

In his Inaugural Address, Prof. Gautam Chandra observed that Development with Dignity is an exceptional topic. He observed that Development is change in a progressive direction. He outlined the various paradigms of Development like Human Resource Development, Sustainable Development, etc. In his Inaugural Address the Vice Chancellor outlined the various paradigm shifts in Development -from Economic Development to Sustainable Development.

He also thanked the organizers for giving ecofriendly bags to the delegates, resource persons and guests and wished the deliberations a success with the active participation of the delegates and resource persons.

He said that merely having adequate food, a roof over the head and clothes on one's back does not ensure dignity. He mentioned Rabindranath Tagore's *Swadeshi Samaj*



Plate No.7. Unveiling the Souvenir. The Souvenir was published by the Department of Sociology, The University of Burdwan and printed by Burdwan University Press Photo: Vivaaham Chitra

from where we got the concept of *Atmanirbharata* or self-reliance. He said Development with Dignity is intrinsically related to self-reliance⁹.

In his address the Pro Vice Chancellor, Prof. Ashis Kumar Panigrahi, observed that dignity means that an individual is valued for his own self. It has nothing to do with social class, race or gender. A human being must be valued for himself or herself.

⁹ On Vice Chancellor's Address see *Proceedings of National Seminar on Development with Dignity Volume 01*, Video by Vivaaham Chitra, You Tube, <https://youtu.be/ABXHs0amVSo>

Dignity is related to human rights. He rightly argued that Development with Dignity is linked to economic prosperity of the nation. The nation will develop only when individuals are treated with dignity. In this connection he noted that India has performed better than average regarding achievement of Sustainable Development goals as mentioned in Sustainable Development Report¹⁰.

Dean of the Faculty of Arts, Prof. Pradip Kumar Chattopadhyay, said that there are various levels of expression of dignity. Criticizing Russia, he said, is Russia behaving in a dignified manner by invading Ukraine? He further remarked that people live in different social strata and they define dignity in their own terms. So, Development with Dignity can be addressed at different levels, in different ways¹¹.



Plate No.8. Prof. Ashis Kumar Panigrahi, Pro Vice Chancellor, The University of Burdwan, addresses the delegates. Beside him is Prof. Ruby Sain. Photo: Vivaaham Chitra

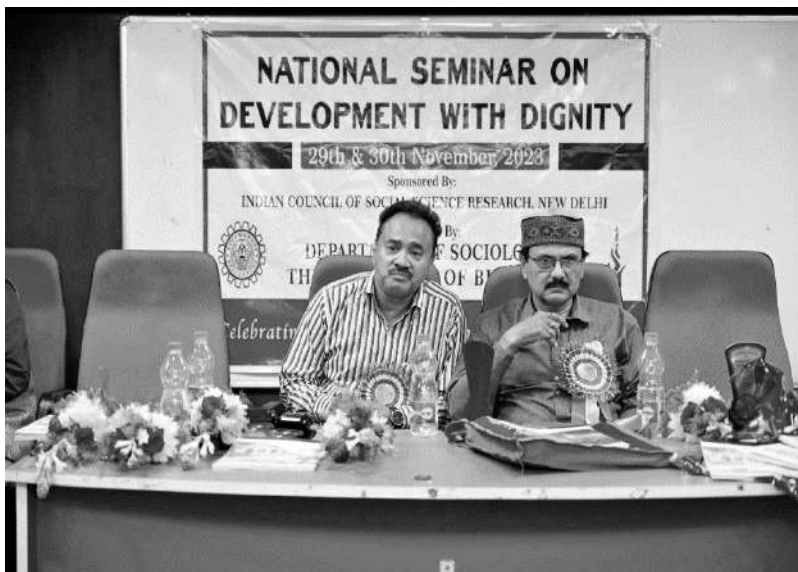


Plate No.9. Dean of the Faculty of Arts, The University of Burdwan, Prof. Pradip Chattopadhyay (left) and Registrar, The University of Burdwan, Dr. Sujit K. Chowdhury (right), on the dais. Photo: Vivaaham Chitra

¹⁰ On Pro Vice Chancellor's Address see *Proceedings of National Seminar on Development with Dignity Volume 01*, Video by Vivaaham Chitra, You Tube, <https://youtu.be/ABXHs0amVSo>

¹¹ On Dean's Address, See *Proceedings of National Seminar on Development with Dignity Volume 01*, Video by Vivaaham Chitra, You Tube, <https://youtu.be/ABXHs0amVSo>

Keynote Address



Plate No.10. Prof. Manish K. Verma, Secretary, Indian Sociological Society, delivering the Keynote Address. Photo: Vivaaham Chitra

In his **Keynote Address**, the then Secretary of Indian Sociological Society, Prof. Manish Kumar Verma, introduced the concept of **Development with Dignity**¹². Verma said that Development is a tool to attain the desired goals of society. But would be the limit and threshold of 'Development' and the methodology of evolving a parameter for the evaluation of dignity is under debate. He noted that during the colonial period the concept of 'Dignity' was completely missing. India was under the thrall of the British and the aim of the national movement was "an attempt to gain 'dignity' and 'self-affirmation' by Indians". He cited Dipankar Gupta who said that 'Development' could be equated with 'Modernity'. Prof. Manish Verma also introduced us to various programmes the government has undertaken to ensure **Development with Dignity**.

In his speech Prof. Verma, also addressed some problems facing development in India. **He showed that with development the disparities among the rich and poor have increased in independent India.** At the beginning of colonial rule, the disparity was 3:1(1820) whereas now, after liberalization, it is 1:72(2018). It is clear from this data that Globalization is not benefiting the common man. Prof. Verma says that this is a classic example of what Yogendra Singh called 'the crisis of success'. He also drew attention to some indignities the people are suffering from. Women are still

¹² Manish K. Verma: "Development with Dignity: Retrospect and Prospects" in *Souvenir of the National Seminar on Development with Dignity*, Department of Sociology, The University of Burdwan, p.6. See also *Proceedings of National Seminar on Development with Dignity Volume 01*, Video by Vivaaham Chitra, You Tube, <https://youtu.be/ABXHs0amVSo>

second-class citizens. Development has marginalized a large chunk of the population through displacement from their habitats. Eradication of illiteracy and unemployment are still problems we must solve if people are to develop with dignity

Prof. Shweta Prasad chaired the Keynote Address .

Vote of Thanks



Plate No.11. Dr. Ananta Kumar Biswas, Associate Professor & Head of the Department of Sociology and Co Convener, national Seminar on Development with Dignity delivers the Vote of Thanks at the conclusion of the Inaugural Session. Photo: Vivaaham Chitra

At the conclusion of the inaugural function, Head of the Department of Sociology, and Co Convener, Dr. Ananta Kumar Biswas, informed the audience that it was Prof. Biswajit Ghosh who suggested organizing a seminar on the theme of Development with Dignity. He thanked the Organizing Committee for organizing this seminar and thanked the ICSSR for sponsoring this seminar. He thanked our Vice Chancellor, Pro Vice Chancellor and Registrar for their cooperation¹³.

PLENARY SESSION 1

There were two interdisciplinary plenary sessions in this seminar. The first Plenary Session was organized in the afternoon of 29th November, 2023. Among the senior sociologists who participated were Prof. Samita Manna, Prof. Govinda Chandra Rath and Prof. Ruby Sain. A senior Environmental Scientist from The University of Burdwan,

¹³ Vide Proceedings of National Seminar on Development with Dignity Volume 01, Video by Vivaaham Chitra, You Tube, <https://youtu.be/ABXHs0amVSo>

Prof. Apurba Ratan Ghosh, spoke in this session. The session was moderated by senior sociologist, Prof. Biswajit Ghosh.

Lodha Tribe: From Criminal Tribe to Settled Agriculturists



Prof. Samita Manna's research¹⁴ was on the transition of the stigmatized Lodha tribe who were declared a criminal tribe by the British without any rhyme and reason. They were forest dwellers but colonial rule deprived them of access to forests. They became alienated from the mainstream society. After Independence they were decriminalized by the

Plate No.12. Prof. Samita Manna speaking

Photo: Vivaaham Chitra

government of Independent India and the long process of their rehabilitation from being dubbed a criminal tribe to a life of dignity began. Today they are settled agriculturists.

Development with Dignity of Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups



Plate No.13. Govinda Chandra Rath. Photo: Vivaaham Chitra

Prof. Govinda Chandra Rath worked with Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups in Surguja district of Chattisgarh¹⁵. He found that development projects get easy acceptance among the tribals. They are actively involved in these projects. He distinguished between dignity in general and human dignity. Human dignity is related to the charter of rights which the UN has given.

¹⁴ Samita Manna: "Criminal Tribe to Settled Agriculturist: A Long Trajectory of the Stigmatized Lodha Tribe, West Bengal" in *Souvenir of the National Seminar on Development with Dignity*, Department of Sociology, The University of Burdwan, p.53

¹⁵ Govinda Chandra Rath: "Participatory Development and the Question of Dignity: The Chattisgarh Experience" in *Souvenir of the National Seminar on Development with Dignity*, Department of Sociology, The University of Burdwan, p.63

Religion and Development with Dignity

Prof. Ruby Sain's paper concerned the relation of religion and development with dignity¹⁶. She tried to relate Emile Durkheim's and Robert Bella's conception of religion with dignity.



Plate No.14. Prof. Ruby Sain

Photo: Vivaaham Chitra



Plate 15. A section of the audience. Photo: Vivaaham Chitra

¹⁶ Ruby Sain: "Religion and Development with Dignity," in *Souvenir of the National Seminar on Development with Dignity*, Department of Sociology, The University of Burdwan, p.62

Sustainable Development, Ecological Restoration & Dignity



Plate No.16. Prof. Apurba Ratan Ghosh (right) delivering his lecture. Prof. Biswajit Ghosh(left) moderated the session. Photo: Vivaaham Chitra

In his lecture Prof. Apurba Ratan Ghosh drew attention to the wanton destruction of the environment by Man which has resulted in the extinction of several species on Earth¹⁷. He drew attention to the alarming effects of global climate change on and on human beings The Sustainable Development Goals adopted by the United Nations in 2012 aimed to 'Leave No one Behind'. Sustainable Development Goals like Zero Poverty, zero hunger, no discrimination against women and girls aim to give dignity to human beings.

Prof. Biswajit Ghosh summarized the outcome of the session.

Summary of the deliberations of the first day's seminar

- British colonialism heaped indignities on Indians. The freedom movement was a movement to attain dignity.
- Independent India had strived to impart dignity to marginalized people who were victims of British policy.
- Despite the efforts of the government to improve the lives of Indians some problems remain.
- The United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals were goals to enable individuals and nations attain dignity.

¹⁷ Apurba Ratan Ghosh:" Sustainability and Ecological Restoration: Transforming our World ' in *Souvenir of the National Seminar on Development with Dignity*, Department of Sociology, The University of Burdwan , p.56

- To ensure Development with Dignity we should have Sustainable Development with Dignity in which both the needs of Man and the environment will be met.

Cultural Programme

A vibrant cultural programme¹⁸ in which both students and teachers participated rung down the curtains on the first day of the seminar. The programme was organized by the students on the evening of 29th November. Duets, patriotic songs, modern Bengali songs and dances were performed in this hour-long programme. The programme was compered by Ms. Saheli Lye and Sri Soumitra Sarkar. The programme began with song 'Ei Akashe Amar Mukti Aloe aloe' ((এই আকাশে আমার মুক্তি আলোয় আলোয়) by Priyanti Ghoshal, Dipannita Das, Adrita Pal, Tanuka Nandy, Susmita Sen and Shrabonti Chakraborty.



Plate 17. Ms. Saheli Lye and Sri Soumitra Sarkar compered the Cultural programme. Photo: Vivaaham Chitra

Indrani recited 'Sharthok Janam'. This poem, by Subho Dasgupta, was actually a satire. Through their songs and dances our students tried to highlight the quintessence of Bengali culture. Bengali culture is both secular and cosmopolitan. In keeping with the spirit of **Azaadi ki Amrit Mahotsav** students performed various patriotic songs. At the same time, they reminded us of the spirit of dignity with which this seminar was concerned. Apart from those students mentioned above, Sk Sadiq Farhan played the guitar for all the songs. Sudeshna Ghosh performed a dance. Amit Das and Soumitra Sarkar regaled us with their songs. All teachers-Prof. Anirban Banerjee, Dr. Ananda

¹⁸ Vide *Proceedings of the National Seminar on Development with Dignity*, Volume 02. Video by Vivaaham Chitra, You Tube <https://youtu.be/xEUjtqpdn3s>

Mohan Kar, Dr. Ananta Kumar Biswas, Sri Bibhas Bagchi and Dr. Sourav Madhur Dey also performed on stage. Here are some memories of the programme.



Plate 18. A song in progress. Photo: Vivaaham Chitra

Plate 19. A dance in progress. Photo: Vivaaham Chitra





Plate 20. A section of the audience at the Cultural Programme. Faculty Members, Dr. Ananda Mohan Kar(left) and Dr. Sourav Madhur Dey(right) are in the foreground. In the immediate background we see some delegates-Sri Debsena Garai, (back of Ananda Mohan Kar) Sri Anindya Datta (back, right) and Dr.Sourav Ghosh(back far right). Photo: Vivaaham Chitra

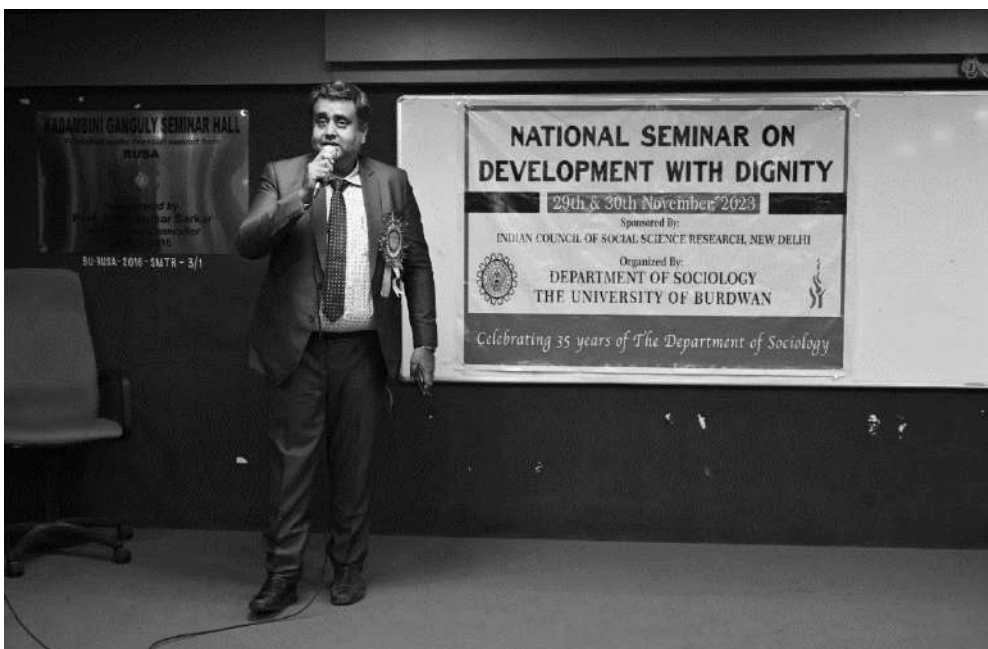


Plate 21. Faculty Member Dr.Sourav Madhur Dey singing a song.

Photo: Vivaaham Chitra.

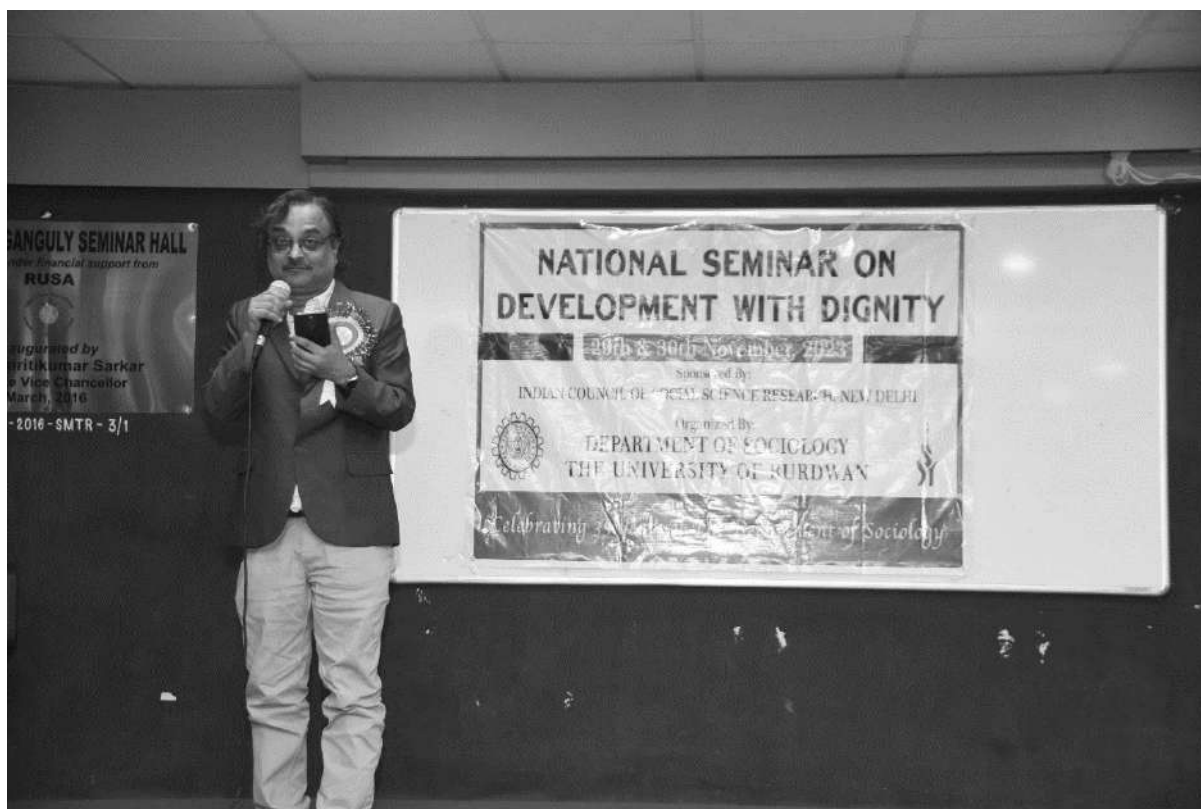


Plate 22. Sri Bibhas Bagchi, a Faculty member, performing on stage Photo: Vivaaham Chitra



Plate 23. Dr. Ananda Mohan Kar, a Faculty Member, performing on stage. Photo: Vivaaham Chitra

DAY 2.**30TH NOVEMBER, 2023****SPECIAL LECTURE*****Development and Gender Justice***

The organizers had invited Prof. Shweta Prasad to deliver a special lecture on the second day of the seminar. Prof. Manish K. Verma chaired the Special Lecture. In her lecture entitled 'Recalibrating

Plate 24. Shweta Prasad. Photo: Vivaaham Chitra

Development for Gender Justice'¹⁹ Prof. Shweta Prasad observed that the negligence by development planners about the concerns of women, marginalized communities and the environment led to questions about the relevance of development itself. Feminists alleged that development has an androcentric bias, with only males being recognized as the breadwinners and women being relegated to housework. Prof. Shweta Prasad advocated a new development paradigm that would bring the question of gender justice to the forefront.

PLENARY SESSION 2

The second Plenary Session was moderated by Prof. Soumyajit Patra and Prof. Anirban Banerjee. Speakers were Prof. Santosh Kumar Pal (Philosophy) Prof. Siddharta Mitra (Economics), Prof. Sanjiv Mridha (Physical Education) and , Prof. Amites Mukhopadhyay (Sociology) Prof. Soumyajit Patra and Prof. Anirban Banerjee (Sociology) .

Philosophy of Development

Plate 25. Santosh Kumar Pal speaks. Photo : Vivaaham Chitra

Prof. Santosh Kumar Pal's lecture ²⁰ dealt with the Philosophy of Development. He rightly pointed out that Development is not merely the concern of Economics. It has assumed an interdisciplinary character. Sociology, Political Science and Philosophy are equally involved in Development Studies. But his

¹⁹ Shweta Prasad: "Recalibrating Development with Gender Justice" in *Souvenir of the National Seminar on Development with Dignity*, Department of Sociology, The University of Burdwan. p.52

²⁰ Santosh Kumar Pal: "Philosophy of Development with Dignity and Sustainability" in *Souvenir of the National Seminar on Development with Dignity*, Department of Sociology, The University of Burdwan, p.55

focus was not on armchair philosophy , but on the practical applications of philosophy.His discussion was limited to the concepts of capability, dignity and sustainability.

Some highlights of Day 2



Plate No.26. Prof. Manish K. Verma (left), who chaired the Special Lecture, felicitates Prof. Shweta Prasad (right) with the Participation Certificate at the conclusion of her Special Lecture. The certificate was printed on specially perfumed paper at Burdwan University Press. Photo: Vivaaham Chitra



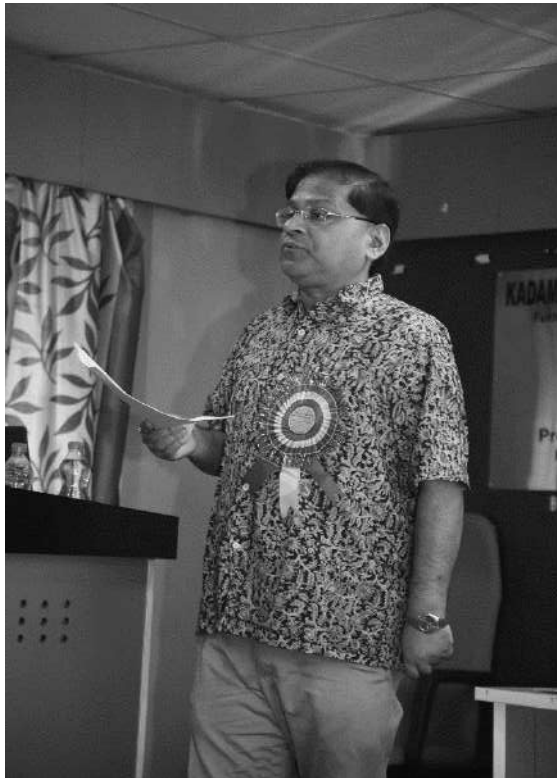
Plate 27 Prof.Anirban Banerjee, Convener of the seminar(right) presenting the memento of the seminar to Prof.Sanjiv Mridha(left) Photo: Vivaaham Chitra

Economic impact of Mental Illness

Prof. Siddharta Mitra's lecture²¹ focused on the economic impact of mental illness.

Plate 28. Prof. Siddharta Mitra delivering his lecture

Photo: Vivaaham Chitra



Siddharta Mitra showed that mental health issues lead to huge economic losses. Despite this less than 2% of the GDP is spent on mental health. He laments that mental health insurance is not included in 169 countries of the world. Out of the pocket expenditure for mental health services account for 43% of mental health expenses in African countries and 40% in south east Asia region.

He denoted three types of welfare loss occurring out of mental health disorders.

- 1) Trauma felt by patients suffering from mental health disorders like schizophrenia, depression and dementia.
- 2) Productivity losses at the family level and also at the level of enterprises.
- 3) Out of the pocket expenses for mental health led to diminished budget for essential items like nutrition and education. This adversely impacts economic growth.

Prof. Mitra advocated:

- 1) Increase in the availability of psychiatrists in the country
- 2) Welfare schemes which will reimburse expenses for mental disorders.

²¹ Siddharta Mitra: "Mental health issues and Economic Development", *Souvenir of the National Seminar on Development with Dignity*, p.59-60

Human Development with Dignity: The Psycho Social Perspective

While Prof. Siddharta Mitra spoke on the economic costs of mental illness, Prof. Sanjiv



Mridha's lecture addressed the issue of dignity from the psycho social perspective²².

The psycho social perspective takes into account three important things:

- 1.Homeostasis
- 2.Biofeedback
- 3.Systems Theory

1.Homeostasis

Is the equilibrium condition of a person in response

Plate No.29. Prof. Sanjiv Mridha delivers his lecture

to the demands made on the individual's potentials. 2.Biofeedback is the evaluative process of an individual in response to actions or behaviours. 3.Systems Theory explains the ins -and- outs of the individual and the environment in general and the social environment in particular.

Dignity is a qualitative term meaning the degree of esteem a person gets. In his opinion, the bio psycho social model is the best one to examine the concept of dignity. It helps understand the multifaceted shades of man who is a social being.

To live with Dignity an individual needs to develop his rational component to the fullest extent so that he can manipulate his instincts and morals at the optimum level to gain the synergistic power of id, ego and super ego.

The whole focus of education should be to develop an individual's ego to the fullest extent so that that individual can restrain oneself from hurting himself/herself and other entities. In addition, development of the ego will enable an individual to intelligently deal with situations and life experiences or threats to dignity.

²² See Sanjiv Mridha:" Human Development with Dignity: The Psycho social Perspective", in *Souvenir of the National Seminar on Development with Dignity*, Department of Sociology, The University of Burdwan, p.64-65.

Development with Dignity and Climate Change



The lecture of Prof. Amites Mukhopadhyay was entitled “In Search of Development with Dignity: A Technocratic Solution to Climate Change and Voices of People in the Sundarbans of Bengal Delta”. He sought to link Sustainable Development with dignity. He argued that forested communities have long been ignored in the process of development and they have launched movements that challenged their displacement from the forest for the sake of conservation of wildlife. These forest dwelling communities

Plate 30. Amites Mukhopadhyay speaking.

Photo: Vivaaham Chitra

depended on the forest for livelihood but they now find themselves reduced to the position of wage labourers, thanks to the policies of the state. The people have lodged strong protests against policies that rob them of their livelihood and deprive them of their dignity. The corporates have also made inroads into the forest.

Amites Mukhopadhyay’s study focuses on the Sunderbans which is an ecologically sensitive place and is frequently subjected to environmental disasters like cyclones. The environmentalists argue that the people should retreat from Sundarbans in order to protect themselves from ecological disasters and climate change. According to UNO, a million people have to relocate. The author criticizes the technocratic solution to Sunderbans problems without being sensitive to the needs of the people.

Perspectives on Development

In his paper entitled ‘Second Perspective and the Third Sector’²³, Prof. Soumyajit Patra spoke about various theoretical perspectives on ‘Development’.



Plate 31. Soumyajit Patra speaks. Photo: Vivaaham Chitra

²³ See Soumyajit Patra: ‘Second Perspective and the Third Sector’ in *Souvenir of the National Seminar on Development with Dignity*, Department of Sociology, The University of Burdwan, p.61-62.

. He rightly pointed out that the concept of Development did not exist either in the 19th or early 20th centuries. He rightly argued that the concept of 'Development' may be linked to the decolonization of the world after the Second World War. But he pointed out that the plethora of perspectives on Development makes the concept of development confusing. The question 'What is Development'? -remains unanswered.

Summary of the deliberations of the Second day

- The development discourse should dwell with the issues of capability, dignity and sustainability.
- The plethora of perspectives on development is confusing. It raises the question: What is development?
- Development with Dignity requires an individual to develop his rational capability to the fullest extent.
- To ensure Development with Dignity we should have Sustainable Development with Dignity in which both the needs of Man and thvironment will be met.

Technical Sessions

Finally, a word about our delegates. Young teachers and scholars enthusiastically participated in the seminar. They registered as delegates and presented papers in technical sessions.

Papers were invited on the following eight themes:

- 1) Philosophical dimensions of Development with Dignity.
- 2) Economic dimensions of Development with Dignity.
- 3) Geographical dimensions of Development with Dignity.
- 4) Sociological dimensions of Development with Dignity.
- 5) Ethnological dimensions of Development with Dignity.
- 6) Administrative and political dimensions of Development with Dignity.
- 7) Educational dimensions of Development with Dignity.
- 8) Environment & Sustainable Development with Dignity

But, owing to paucity of space, we decided to bunch the themes into four technical sessions. These sessions ran parallel to each other. Two sessions were simultaneously held per day. An overview of the sessions is given in the next page.

Technical Session I Sociological and Administrative Dimensions of Development with Dignity.

The session was held in the afternoon of 29th November, 2023. It was chaired by Dr. Arunava Narayan Mukherjee, Principal, Behrampore Science & Management College.

Technical Session 2

Philosophic and Economic Dimensions of Development with Dignity.

This session held was held in the afternoon of 29th November, 2023. It was chaired by Prof. Santosh Kumar Pal, Professor of Philosophy, The University of Burdwan.



Plate 32.A delegate presenting her paper

Photo: Prof. Anirban Banerjee.

sustainable development, development with dignity of marginalized people like the elderly, transgender, slum dwellers, issues relating to *Swatch Bharat*²⁴, ethical issues relating to development with dignity, etc ²⁵.

Technical Session 3.

Environmental and Geographical Dimensions of Development with Dignity

The session held was held in the afternoon of 30th November, 2023. It was chaired by Prof. Apurba Ratan Ghosh, Professor of Environmental Science, The University of Burdwan.

Technical Session 4.

Educational and Ethnological Dimensions of Development with Dignity

The session held was held in the afternoon of 30th November, 2023. The session was chaired by Dr. Sourav Madhur Dey, Associate Professor of Sociology, The University of Burdwan

The Abstracts

A brief review of the abstracts sent by delegates reveal that they contributed to a wide variety of subjects relevant to development with dignity. The papers dealt with issues of economic empowerment, health, education

²⁴ *Swatch Bharat* is a concept developed by the present Central Government. It means Clean India.

²⁵ Vide *Souvenir of the National Seminar on Development with Dignity*, Department of Sociology, The University of Burdwan, pp.67-113.

VALEDICTORY SESSION

The seminar concluded with the Valedictory Session. The Valedictory Address was given by Sri Bibhas Bagchi, Assistant Professor of Sociology, The University of Burdwan. His address was a critique of Developmentalism. Prof. Anirban Banerjee, Convener of the Seminar, delivered the Vote of Thanks. He thanked all those whose cooperation made the seminar a success. They included members of the university administration, faculty members of Department of Sociology, and other departments, college teachers, research scholars, student volunteers and above all, his family members. The session was chaired by Prof. Pradip Chattopadhyay, Dean of the Faculty of Arts, The University of Burdwan.

CONTRIBUTION OF THE SEMINAR TO DEVELOPMENT STUDIES

India has been independent for more than 75 years. Under British colonialism, Indians were not treated with dignity. As Manish K. Verma rightly pointed out in his 'Keynote Address', India's national movement was an attempt on part of Indians to gain dignity²⁶. India has been a developing society ever since the First Five-year Plan was formulated and launched in 1951. But the people have had to pay a heavy price for development. **Development Induced Displacement** has led to strong social protests. Recently, some tribals of Boai village under Khandaghosh gram panchayat in Purba Bardhaman district, West Bengal, strongly protested against being asked by the government to leave a place where they had resided for generations. They demanded resettlement²⁷. The government has taken over the plot of land for constructing a road. That apart, human development lagged behind economic development. Unemployment, especially educated unemployment, was rampant and this led to growing unrest among our youth. The frustration and anger of the youth found expression sometimes through insurgency as in Khalistan Movement in Punjab and ULFA movement in Assam. Globalization has further led to downsizing the public sector, withdrawal of subsidies and increasing casualization of jobs. The result is job insecurity and growing poverty throughout the country. The lion's share of the money allocated to developmental projects was misappropriated by corrupt people. What is needed is a people centric development policy with a transparent, corruption free administration to implement the policy.

Through this interdisciplinary seminar the Department of Sociology of The University of Burdwan presented a new perspective to the scholarly community and policy makers namely **Development with Dignity**. Development should enable people to live a life of dignity, free from want and dishonour. That also implies economic, social and political empowerment.

Our guest speakers pointed out that:

- Development with Dignity requires an individual to develop his rational capability to the fullest extent

²⁶ Verma, op.cit , p.6.

²⁷ See 'Punorbasoner dabi te bikkhob . Anandabazaar Patrika , 18-03-2024

- The development discourse should dwell with the issues of capability, dignity and sustainability
- To ensure Development with Dignity we should have Sustainable Development with Dignity in which both the needs of Man and the environment will be met.

The papers presented by delegates in the four technical sessions have indicated that:

- ✓ empowerment of women
- ✓ an honourable life for sexual minorities
- ✓ a clean environment,
- ✓ access to educational and health services for all
- ✓ physical and mental well-being of individuals
- ✓ a corruption free eco system

are some of the requisites needed for development with dignity.

Hence to ensure Development with Dignity, we must ensure a decent life for the people free from want, free from invidious discrimination, and free from corruption. Living in a clean, pollution free environment is also associated with dignity. As we have pointed out earlier, the government has taken many steps to ensure a life of dignity for the common man but the projects have got bogged down in ignorance, partisanship and corruption. We stress the need for proper education of the people and proper publicity for all government schemes so that the people can avail of them. For that a clean administration committed to serve the people is necessary. To ensure this we also recommend that erring officials and corrupt politicians should be severely punished and honest, capable officials should be promoted and protected from vindictive politicians. To counter the tendency of corrupt politicians to claim that they were being victimized by the ruling party, all investigations should be made transparent and supervised by courts. We assert that **only a corruption free, transparent and people centric administration can ensure development with dignity.**

FUTURE TASKS

As per ICSSR Guidelines we propose to publish a book containing selected papers of the seminar. It will be a major contribution to the field of Development Studies.

CONCLUDING REMARKS

To conclude, **Development** should ensure the well-being of the people and enable them to live a dignified life. Through their talks at the two Plenary Sessions, our resource persons enlightened us on the various pre requisites of **Development with Dignity**. And many facets of **Development with Dignity** were unearthed by our delegates. Apart from academicians, civil society expressed interest in the seminar. It was reported in the Press²⁸. Thus, the **National Seminar on Development with Dignity** has unveiled a new paradigm on the concept of **Development**. Therein lies the significance of this seminar.

²⁸ See 'Maryadajukto unnayan bishoye aloconacakra, *Bardhaman Darpan* 6th December, 2023 , p.4('Seminar on Development with Dignity in *Bardhaman Darpan* , 6th December, 2023, p.4)

