



From the Director's Desk

The outstanding feature of the academic performance of the Institute during the period concerned was that new initiatives that were taken earlier gained considerable momentum. Apart from serious engagement with the research activities, some of which found fruitful completion, development dialogues, training, publication of working paper, Champaran centenary lecture series incessantly charged the creative atmosphere of the Institute. The Development Dialogues on "Land reforms, water conservation and agricultural transformation in Bihar" and 'Social Transformation of Bihar through empowerment of the marginalised community: Rhetoric or reality?' made an indelible impact on the development discourse of the state. The areas that are chosen for the dialogue were earlier hardly brought to the mainstream although they have incalculable bearings on the socio-economic development of the deprived. However, Development Dialogues, a series which is set in motion at the Institute, has reversed the trend. Eminent scholars from different parts of the country and who have been working in the areas concerned joined the dialogue. The dialogue between the government officials, academicians, researchers, civil society organisations etc. together in both cases owed a series of critical reflections on the development interventions while having had its policy advocacy that the state can never ignore.

The training programme that was conducted on land reforms continued to be the part of the series that began more than a year ago. The conviction that we had about this training programme rests on the process of sensitising

government officials about the rules and regulations. This may eventually help them implement land reforms programmes successfully. It is in complete defiance of the myth that market fundamentalism has created in the era of globalization. Another initiative that positioned the intellectual commitment of the faculty in a higher pedestal was internal seminar series. Debates and discussions that invigorate the creative domain were instilled as a process of academic attainment through this initiative, a research institution like ours must embed. The three-day seminar exclusively for the Ph.D. scholars of the Institute to present their respective research works was an equally important event. It was an opportunity for the scholars to know more about interdisciplinary research in social sciences. Besides, lively interaction between faculty members and the Ph.D. scholars during all these days lent incredible support to refurbish

the academic bond that an academic community continuously aspires.



Sunil Ray
Director, ANSISS

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Celebration of Champaran Satyagraha Centenary

In order to commemorate the centenary celebration of Champaran Satyagraha, institute has been under taking various activities. One of the activities is organization of series of five lectures to be delivered by eminent scholars on Gandhian philosophy and its relevance to the contemporary world series of lectures. The first Champaran Centenary Lecture of the series was on September 30, 2016. The lecture was delivered by Dr. Antje Linkenbach, Max Weber- Kolleg, University of Erfurt, Germany on *“Environmental Justice in India? Examining the compatibility between concepts, policies and practices of sustainability and social justice and the Gandhi legacy.”*

The Lecture series started with the lighting up of knowledge lamp and felicitating the guests. The chief guest of the occasion was Shri Vijay Chaudhary, Speaker Legislative Assembly, Bihar.



Director of the Institute Prof. Sunil Ray, in his welcome address extended the warm welcome to guests and participants and briefly highlighted the theme of the lecture. Besides mentioning relevance of discussing 'Environmental Justice' in the present context, he brought Gandhiji's views into the issue by quoting Gandhiji that 'the world has enough for everybody's need but not for greed'. He concludes by saying that we can protect environment by limiting our needs; development should take place within two limits, first the bio-physical limits and second the limits beyond which people's welfare should not decline.

The Chief Guest of the lecture Shri Vijay Chaudhary congratulated the Director, ANSISS for initiating Centenary Lecture Series on the eve of Champaran Movement's 100 years completion. He recapitulated Gandhiji's visit to South Africa, his difficulties and struggles. He also linked Gandhiji's ideas of Trusteeship and Sarvodaya with Environmental Justice and taking cues from that he concludes by saying that many problems of the society are linked to market based development model.

Prof. Antje Linkenbach, the main speaker of the Lecture series based her presentation on Gandhi's legacy inside and outside India, a legacy that manifests in civil society activities and Social movements, in scholarly debates and in critical social imaginaries. She argued that one crucial reason for such an extraordinary influence could be the consistency of Gandhi's thought and action, the way his campaigns, strategies and methods were instilled by a 'philosophy', a basic ethical conviction, which went along with a critique of contemporary social and civilizational realities.

She presented conceptual foundations of 'environmental justice' and tried to link Gandhi's thought with environment. We have to recognize him as a pioneer in environmental justice. Not only is the Gandhian critique regarding the dominant model of development still very valid, on a micro- level also Gandhian ways of protests are regarded as the most effective methods even today.

The Lecture was followed by open discussion among the academicians, research scholars and other guests. The lecture series was coordinated by Dr. Bipul Kumar, Assistant Professor, Centre for Non-Violence and Peace.

Land Reforms Administrative Training Programme

Institute has been conducting administrative training programmes since September 2014 for officials including ADMs, DCLRs, COs, SDOs from Bihar in collaboration with the 'Department of Revenue and Land Reforms' and 'Bihar Land Reform Core Committee'. The objectives of the programme have been to sensitize the local land department officials about the present agrarian crisis and landlessness; to make aware of land reforms perspective and enhance the understanding of land reforms Acts, rules, circulars, and proceedings (with amendments); to motivate officials towards attitudinal change and good work culture and speedy delivery system; to enhance the capacity on office management, leadership, capacity building, and team-building for the implementation of land reforms policy. So far 21 such programmes have been conducted.

The resource person included Hon'ble justice Mridula Mishra, Chairperson, Bihar Land Tribunal, GoB; Sri Hukum Singh Meena, Joint Secretary, Land Resource Department, Government of India; C. Ashokvardhan, Retired Principal Secretary, Dept. of Revenue & Land Reforms, GoB; Shri Subhmurti ji, Chairperson, Bhoodaan Yagya Samiti and others. Dr. Vidyarthi Vikas, Assistant Professor, ANSISS, coordinated the training programme.

Development Dialogue on Social Transformation of Bihar through Empowerment of the Marginalized Community: Rhetoric or Reality?

A one day development dialogue was organised at ANSISS in collaboration with the Gender Resource Centre and Women Development Corporation, Government of Bihar, Patna, on 25th October, 2016. The programme was on issues of Social Transformation of Bihar through Empowerment of the Marginalised Community. The program started with the welcome address by Prof. Sunil Ray, director of the Institute. Welcoming guests and participants, Prof. Ray put forward his views that patriarchy and Manuvaadi thinking are the major impediments to empowerment of Dalit women in particular. The opening remarks were given by Dr. Renu Choudhary, coordinator of the programme. Dr. Choudhary briefly presented about the issues and concerns of gender discrimination and lack of women empowerment in Bihar. She puts her point that notion of marginality must be debated so that other aspects of discrimination are brought into its ambit. The inaugural lecture was delivered by Mrs. Manju Verma Hon'ble Minister, Department of Social Welfare, GoB. Mrs. Verma applauded various initiatives taken by state government towards propositioning women empowerment. Initiatives like 50% reservation for women in Panchayats, distribution scholarships, bicycle



The 21st training programme was held during July 27-30, 2016. The programme was inaugurate with lightening the knowledge lump by Vyas ji, Principal Secretary, Department of Revenue and Land Reforms, Professor, T. Haque, Chairman, Special Cell on Land Policies, NITI Aayog, and Prof. Sunil Ray, Director, ANSISS. After the welcome address by Prof. Sunil Ray, key note address was delivered by Prof. T. Haque on "Development Perspective on Land Reforms in Bihar".

and school dress to girl student are claimed to have brought women into the mainstream of development. The key note address was delivered by Prof. Mary E. John, Senior Fellow and Professor, Centre for Women's Development Studies, New Delhi. Prof. John touched upon various issues like oppression, exploitation,



discrimination, and exclusion which occupy at length of women's life in general and of women from the marginalized community in particular. She concluded her address by applauding recent educational initiatives which have resulted in increasing enrolment of women in higher education in particular.

There were two presentations in the first panel discussion session, chaired by Yameen Majumdar, Chief Field Investigator, Unicef, Patna. The first panel was on 'Atrocities on Dalit Women, Civil Society and State'. Govind Kelkar, senior adviser Landesa spoke on 'Negotiating Women's Agency for Asset Rights'. Besides emphasising concern on gender division of work and women's limited ownership right, she argued that land ownership could play an important role towards enhancement of women's capability and self-esteem. Prof. Vimal Thorat, Convenor, National Commission for Dalit Human Rights, focused in her presentation on proper implementation of constitutional provision like protection against atrocities act, protection of civil right act etc. in order to protect rights of dalit women. She substantiated her argument by bringing examples like 'Bhawri Bai' case in Rajasthan, 'Laxmipur Bathe Narshanhar' case in Bihar where victims did not get justice for accuses belonging to the upper caste. She also

did mention that atrocities on Dalit women are taking place in the name of religion too.

The second panel discussion on 'Globalisation and Challenges of Empowerment of Dalit Women' was chaired by Prof. Sunil Ray, Director ANSISS. The first speaker Dr. Ravi Verma, Regional Director, Asia, International Centre for Research on Women spoke on Dalit Women in India: A Situation Analysis. He said that historically Dalits in India have faced caste-based structural and systemic social discrimination, exclusion and violence resulting in violations of their economic, civil, cultural and political rights leading to high out-migration. Migration to urban areas while diminishes caste discrimination to some extent it brings new problem associated with lack of facility of civic amenities and they have to face humiliation, exclusion and discrimination. He concluded with recommendations that there should be convergence of national machinery to protect human rights, women's rights and Dalit rights. Dalit gender sensitization at all levels, including the judiciary and the police should be done. At last, State media should create spaces for issues and concerns of Dalit women.

Third panel discussion was on 'State Intervention and 'Real' Empowerment of Dalit Women'. The session was chaired by N. Vijayalaxmi, IAS, Chairperson and Managing Director, Women Development Corporation, GoB. Mrs. Sudha Varghese, social worker, reiterated the need of changes of educational and employment status among Dalits. Besides recommending required attention



towards effective implementation of existent government programs, she focused further on allotment of land to the poor Dalits which will lead to some form of equality in

the society. Prof. Daisy Narain, Professor of History, Patna University, shares her concern with highlighting poor status of Dalit women from all perspectives like health, education, empowerments etc. She also raised the issue of academic discrimination in terms of scanty of research on Dalit issue and not giving Dalit studies enough space in the curriculum. Dalit studies are not incorporated in the university curriculum. Centres of exclusion and inclusion have been started by UGC but these are not incorporated in the main curriculum. At last she emphasised on the need of academic institutes to contribute their knowledge and resources for formulating policies which will help uplifting Dalits.

The programme was concluded through a valedictory session. The valedictory address was delivered **Vandana Kinni** (IAS) Principal Secretary, Social Welfare Dept, GoB. She shares her deep concern over the low socio-economic status of Dalit women. Dalit women face double burden of discrimination: being a women and a Dalit women. She concluded by saying that empowerment is a process wherein the women herself should be aware and wise. It is a matter of change of mindset which although needs time but transformation is eventuality.

Development Dialogue on Land Reforms, Water Conservation and Agricultural Transformation in Bihar

A daylong Development Dialogue on Land reforms, Water Conservation and Agricultural Transformation in

Bihar held at the A. N. Sinha Institute of Social Studies, Patna on 22nd September 2016. Dialogue got responses not only from the professional academicians and researchers from different Institutions but also from the legal practitioner, NGOs, Bihar administrative officials and even some politicians with academic interest. It was a significant occasion in Bihar when the cross-section of the intelligentsia deliberated and debated about the 'direction' and 'drift' of the land reforms and water conservation issues in Bihar. The said Development Dialogue programme was distributed under four panels namely I. Problems and Prospects of Land Reforms in Bihar related to (a) Issues of Eviction of Settle of Government Land (b) Implementation of Ceiling Act (c)



Bhoodan Land (d) Right to Homestead Land; II. Landlessness, Land Reforms and Livelihood; III. Role of Civil Society in Land Reforms; IV. Water Conservation. The said dialogue is benefitted by the knowledge of Prof. Sunil Ray, Director, ANSISS; K. B. Saxena, Former Additional Chief Secretary, Bihar; Mridula Mishra, Hon'ble Justice Mridula Mishra, Patna High Court; Urmilesh, National Journalist; Dr. C. Ashokvardhan, Former Principal Secretary, Revenue department, Bihar; Satyanarayan Singh, Social Activist and others. The dialogue was inaugurated by the Dr. Madan Mohan Jha, Minister Revenue and land Reforms. His gesture has given us immense encouragement. Dr. Vidyarthi Vikas, Assistant Professor, Division of Economics and Dr. Rakesh Tiwary, Assistant Professor, Division of Social Geography coordinated the programme.



Social forestry

Department of Environment and Forest, Government of Bihar's programme "*Har Parishar-Green Parishar*", organized tree plantation on the campus of ANSISS. Sri Vyas ji, Principal Secretary, Department of Revenue and Land Reforms, GoB, Prof. Sunil Ray, Director and Prof. Nil Ratan, Registrar of ANSISS, along with other faculty members and non-teaching staffs enthusiastically participated in the event in the presence of Sri Sunil Kumar, Western Forest Division Ranger, Patna.



Internal Seminars

- ❖ Vidyarthi Vikas, Assistant Professor, Division of Economics, delivered a lecture on "*Farm Size and Productivity: Evidence from Bihar: A Preliminary Observations*" on July 02, 2016.
- ❖ Kaushal Kishor, Assistant Professor, Division of Sociology and Social Anthropology, delivered a lecture on "*Identity crisis and Social transformation*", on July 29, 2016
- ❖ Renu Choudhary, Assistant Professor, Division of Sociology and Social Anthropology, delivered a lecture on "*Socio Economic and Health Status of Women in Bihar: Issues and Challenges*", on August 12, 2016.
- ❖ Rajeev Kamal Kumar, Assistant Professor, Division of Sociology and Social Anthropology, delivered a lecture on "*Tracking of Children of Age Group of 0-14 Years under Sarva Siksha Abhiyan*", on August 27, 2016.
- ❖ Aviral Pandey, Assistant Professor, Division of Economics, delivered a lecture on "*Subcontracting and Informal Sector: Manufacturing, Trade and Other Services in India*", on September 10, 2016.
- ❖ Neetu Choudhary, Assistant Professor, Division of Economics, delivered a lecture on "*Revisiting (Gender) Empowerment*", on September 29, 2016.
- ❖ Abhijit Ghosh, Assistant Professor, Division of Economics, delivered a lecture on "*School Education in India: Still An Achilles Heel?*", on October 04, 2016.
- ❖ B. N. Prasad, Professor and Head, Division of Sociology and Social Anthropology, delivered a lecture on "*Imperatives of India's Employment Guarantee Scheme: Societal Metabolism and Sustainability*", on November 26, 2016.
- ❖ Sudhir Kumar, Associate Professor and Head, Division of Statistics, delivered a lecture on "*Poverty, Migration and Voting Behaviour*", on November 30, 2016.
- ❖ Biplab Dhak, Assistant Professor, Division of Economics, delivered a lecture on "*Child Malnutrition in India: Reflection on Governance and Policy Issues*", on December 03, 2016.
- ❖ Awadhesh Kumar, Assistant Professor, Division of Economics, delivered a lecture on "*Bihar Me Laghu Sichai: Atit Se Bartaman (Micro Irrigation in Bihar: From Past to Present)*", on December 20, 2016.

- ❖ Anuja, Assistant Professor, Division of Sociology and Social Anthropology, delivered a lecture on “*Emerging Perceptions of Women’s Concern: Bihar Chapter*”, on December 22, 2016.

Submission of Research Report

- ❖ *Social Impact Assessment Study of Land Acquisition under Deegha Rail cum Road Bridge- “Link Road” Pariyojna*
Sponsoring Agency: Dept. of Revenue & Land Reforms, Government of Bihar
Researcher: Kaushal Kishor and Vidyarthi Vikas
- ❖ *Ethnographic Study of Mali Caste in Bihar*
Sponsoring Agency: Department of General Administration, Government of Bihar
Researcher: B N Prasad
- ❖ *Social Impact Assessment of 08 Maujas (Villages) in Darbhanga District on Land Acquisition for the construction of 13.00 Km Long Extended Portion of Approach Road of Baluaha Ghat Koshi Bridge, Gandaul in Saharsa District up to Hanti Kothi, Biraul in Darbhanga District*
Sponsoring Agency: District Magistrate Office of Darbhanga District
Researcher: Habibullah Ansari
- ❖ *Social Impact Assessment of 02 Maujas (Villages): Gadaul- 72 and Bahrapur- 71 in Saharsa District on Land Acquisition for 13 Km Long Extended Portion of Approach Road of Koshi River Bridge from Baluaha Ghat Gandaul in Saharsa District up to Hanti Kothi, Biraul in Darbhanga District*
Sponsoring Agency: District Magistrate Office of Saharsa District
Researcher: Habibullah Ansari
- ❖ *Social Impact Assessment (SIA) on Land Acquisition for Nimej, Semra, Balua, Gaighat, Ganguli Road in Buxar District (Submitted to the District Magistrate, Buxar)*
Sponsoring Agency: Govt. of Bihar
Researcher: Aviral Pandey
- ❖ *Malnutrition among Children and Women in Bihar: A Comprehensive Picture*
Sponsoring Agency: UNICEF
Researcher: Neetu Choudhary and Abhijit Ghosh

ANSISS Working Paper Series

“Informality, Solidarity and the Role of Context: Making an Argument”

Author: Neetu Choudhary, Working Paper No. ANSISS-02

Faculty Publication

- ✚ Prasad, B.N. (2016). “*Dalit Assertion and Empowerment: A Regional Perspective*”, Kumar, Surinder, *et.al*, (ed.), **State and Capitalist Development in India: A Political Economy Perspective**, AAKAR Books, Delhi, 2016.
- ✚ Prasad, B.N. (2016). “*Women Self Help Groups as Instruments of Social Change*”, **Journal of Social and Economic Studies**, Vol. XXIV, No. 1-2. .
- ✚ Neetu Choudhary (2016). “*Resource Access and Status versus Values and Agency: Is There a Correspondence?*” *Gender Issues*, Volume 33, No. 3
- ✚ Neetu Choudhary (2016). “*Informal Workers’ Organizing and SSE: An Agenda for SSTC*”, A Compilation of South-South Cooperation Articles for the South-South and Triangular Cooperation Academy, International Labour Organization, Geneva
- ✚ Rakesh Tiwary (2016). “*Redeeming Critique*”, *Economics & Political Weekly*, July 30, Vol. L1, No.31.

Research Scholars' Bi-Annual Seminar

Bi-annual seminar of doctoral students on their PhD thesis is now made a regular practice. They need to present their progress in every six months. The 3rd Bi-annual seminar of Ph.D. Research scholar took place in the month of September, 2016 for three days. All faculty members and students across disciplines participated in the seminar enthusiastically. The programme was coordinated by the PhD Programme Convener, Dr. Habibullah Ansari. The next students' seminar will be held in the month of July of the next year.



Upcoming Events

- ❖ National Seminar on “Dalit” will be held in the month of March, 2018
- ❖ A ‘Development dialogue on “Towards Refurbishing Health Care System in Bihar” will to be held in the month of September, 2017.
- ❖ Panel discussion on “State, Market and Gandhian Ethics” will be held on 29th July, 2017.
- ❖ “A N Sinha Memorial Lecture on “A Climacteric for Capitalism” by Prof. Prabhat Patnaik, Professor Emeritus. Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi will be held on 22nd July, 2017.



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