

University School of Law and Legal Studies
Guru Gobind Singh Indraprastha University, Sector 16- C, Dwarka ,Delhi- 110034

University School of Law and Legal Studies is organizing an International conference on the Theme "The Unrooted Identities of Nomadic People: The Issues of Structural Marginalization and Struggle Status", on 9th and 10th January 2023. Venue for the conference is GGSIP University , Dwarka campus. In conference is in hybrid mode and last date for acceptance of abstract is 30th November 2023.

The details of the conference, the themes and sub- themes and important dates are given in the concept note of the Conference attached here with.

Request to upload the Concept Note on the University website.

Conference Chair:

Organizing Secretary


Prof. A. P. Singh

Dean, USLLS

Dean

University School of Law and Legal Studies

Guru Gobind Singh Indraprastha University

Copy to: In-charge-UIIS



Prof. Deepshikha Agarwal

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International Conference on "The Unrooted Identities of Nomadic People: The Issues of Structural Marginalization and Struggle for Legal Status"

Pre- Congress Event of 19th World Anthropology Congress 2023, to be held in Delhi

Date of the Event- 9th and 10th January 2023

very little attention has been paid to the nomadic people of the world, in spite of the fact they are facing many challenges due to the nation- state system based on settlement and the rampant process of globalization. The peripatetic life style that is the distinguishing feature of these communities has always challenged the idea of fixed state borders, and it is treated as being incompatible and non- acceptable to the settled communities and state sovereignty.

Aim and Objectives:

The nomadic and semi nomadic tribes remain at the margins of our society and the basic citizenship rights are denied to them, leaving them socially excluded and marginalized. The endeavour of this event is the advocacy for rights and socio-political inclusion. Accordingly, the event objectives are:

- To provide an academic forum for deliberations among the Anthropologists, Sociologists, young activists and researchers working on various issues of Nomadic and Semi-Nomadic Communities;
- To build national platform for policy advocacy for nomadic and semi-nomadic tribes & for creating alliance between different stakeholders, including both state and non- state actors;
- To address their developmental issues , with focus on the violation of their basic citizenship rights, including right legal documents, to livelihood, to land holding, education and basic health facilities;
- To ensure representation of these communities in policy decisions and budgetary planning, and access to benefits of development schemes;
- To end the discrimination and apathy of the administration and check the acts of criminalization and stigmatization of these communities;
- To publish proceedings/papers highlighting the status, various forms of discrimination of nomadic tribes for wider outreach and to calibrate voices supporting the fight and advocacy for mainstreaming them.

Nomadic communities indulge in pursuing ambulatory life style as they follow scarce/ changeable resources in the areas they visit. As they wander from place to place, they may traverse state/ national boundaries and develop a whole cultural gamut of social norms and perceptions around ambulatory practices. They allow mobility and flexibility necessary for relatively even use of vegetation over large

areas of low quality rangeland. In this process, they facilitate more social interaction than would be possible between people living in scattered settlements. Moreover, they are able to successfully cope up with social and economic problems in the areas where other people don't want to live. They are trained to accept newcomers with great degree of tolerance to different religious views, languages, dress codes and many other issues. They teach us lessons to accord more attention to the cultural dimension of migration, and promote sharing of values and better dialogue between receiving and arriving communities through greater cultural sharing.

Regardless of these facts, the nomadic communities have always been treated with a dehumanizing approach by the sedentary communities across the world, with the general trend being to regard them as barbaric and less developed and less organized. This approach has resulted from the Eurocentric ideology of white supremacy and their indulgence in the imperial missions of civilizing the world. In this process, the history of nomadic tribes has been destroyed and reinterpreted by the outsiders from their own perspective. In some places the nomadic people have been forced into sedentarization and assimilation, which hinders them in enjoying their cultural right to practice their nomadic life style and challenges their identity.

Such kind of treatment forces them into a state of social, economic and political marginalization and exclusion, because of which they have little control over their lives and the resources available to them. It prevents them from being a part of existing systems of protection and integration, and limits their opportunities and means of survival.

The introduction of modern nationality law in post- colonial states has imparted a stateless status to them, many times using it as a ground for their deportation and exclusion from state. They face a grave situation of exclusionary citizenship. They have received very little attention under the International law and their rights are not protected under the UN Declaration on rights of Indigenous People and International Labor Organization. Certain changes were seen, though, towards their treatment in International Law around the beginning of 1970s, when more attention was given to the interests and issues faced by the nomadic people and they were treated as juridical entities entitled to collective rights. It was added that the ambulatory practices of these people do not preclude them from exercising their rights of self- determination.

In the Indian context, the marginalization of nomadic communities at social, economic and political levels manifests itself as a lack of access to resources, opportunities of alternative livelihood, power and upward mobility. The structural marginalization of these nomadic communities can be seen as a product of the draconian law of Criminal Tribes Act, 1871 during British era. As a result of this barbaric Act, these aboriginal communities lost their land, were forced into destitute

areas, lost their sources of income, and were excluded from the labour market. Additionally, these communities lost their culture and values through forced assimilation, and they are bereft of their right to live with dignity.

Even today, these nomadic people continue to be marginalized from society due to the developmental practices, policies and programs that meet the needs of the people from the mainstream and not the needs of the marginalized groups themselves. They find it extremely difficult to meet their basic requirements of shelter, security and livelihood. Discrimination at the hands of the government, state officials and other stake holders and their social exclusion has deepened their problems.

Keeping in mind the need to ensure the inclusive participation of the nomadic communities in social, economic and political processes, at par with that of the sedentary citizenry, the present international conference aims to take a holistic perspective towards the multi-faceted issues of the nomadic people. The conference will provide a common platform to the academicians, scholars, and people from government agencies, civil society organisations, etc. to discuss and deliberate over the concerns related to this population.

Sub-themes of the conference:

- Historical Background Nomadic Communities
- Media representation of the nomads
- Issues of exclusionary citizenship of nomads
- Inter-community relations and relationships with state institution
- Role of women in nomadic communities
- Contributions of nomadic people to traditional knowledge, bio-conservation etc
- Processes and institutions that perpetuate their marginalization and exclusion
- Hindrances and concerns for inclusion of their interests and priorities in state policies
- Institutions and access to resources and opportunities
- Civil society institutions and collective action for rights and socio-political inclusion of the nomads
- Way forward to intermediation between the nomads, state and society

Main Attractions of the event

We are attempting to connect with various researchers, scholars and academicians, and calling upon eminent speakers to share their experiences and views on important issues of nomadic tribes. This International conference will provide a flexible platform for people across the globe, and from different disciplines and areas to make this event colourful and memorable. The unique attractions of this conference are-

- Presentations on research findings on main issues faced by the nomadic people and also their life, livelihood, art, culture and contribution to world history
- Poster – making/ painting competition for students/ research scholars on role of indigenous communities in environment management and conservation
- Screening of documentaries/ videos/ visuals from repositories and web collections on cultural practices, life events, unique traditions etc on lives of indigenous people

ORGANIZING SCHOOL AND ORGANIZING UNIVERSITY

This International Conference is being organised by University School of Law and Legal Studies one of the 12 Schools of Studies of Guru Gobind Singh Indraprastha University in its Dwarka Campus, New Delhi. Guru Gobind Singh Indraprastha University is one of the five state universities of Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi established on 28 July 1998. It is an UGC recognized and NAAC accredited 'A' Grade University. Guru Gobind Singh Indraprastha University has been imparting professional education leading to Bachelor, Masters and Doctoral research degrees in the emerging fields of Management, Environmental Management, Biotechnology, Medicine, Pharmacy, Law and Legal Studies and Education.

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Conference Chair


Prof. A. P. Singh
Dean, USLLS, GGS Indraprastha University

Organizing Secretary

Prof. Deepshikha Agarwal
Convenor, Media Management and Cultural Events
19th World Anthropology Congress

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