

Centre for Development Practice and Research

The Centre for Development Practice and Research is a Patna-based centre of the TISS, Mumbai. The Centre has been established with the objective to undertake research and publications on areas that are unique to the state of Bihar with limited teaching and field action programmes. The Takshila Educational Society, New Delhi is instrumental in providing the core financial and infrastructural support for the Centre.

The Centre was inaugurated on 6th March 2016. Prof. S. Parasuraman, the Director of the TISS was the chief guest. The programme was attended by over 200 persons which included academics, bureaucrats, writers, journalists, educationists, public health experts, cultural activists, UN officials, social activists, school teachers and TISS alumni. The programme was addressed by Prof. Parasuraman; Mr. Sanjiv Singh, Secretary of the Takshila Educational Society; Mr. D.S. Gangawar, Principal Secretary, Education, Government of Bihar; and Prof. Pushpendra, Incharge of the Patna Centre. Speaking on this occasion, Prof. Parasuraman asked the Centre to develop a deeper understanding of the educational needs of the state through its research and wider consultations, and plan its future academic endeavours accordingly. He extended his gratitude to the Takshila Educational Society for its generous and unconditional support.

Currently the Centre is working on the following projects:

1. Research Fellowship programme: Under the programme, there are five researchers who are working on the following research topics:

- a) Mr. Mithilesh Kumar: Genealogy, Labour Migration and Logistics of Bihar-Nepal Border
- b) Dr. Miranda Das: Male Outmigration and Women in Rural Bihar: A Socio-legal Study
- c) Mr. Khurshid Akbar: Caste and Untouchability among Muslims
- d) Ms. Maitreyi Jha: Education, Patriarchy, Gendering and Resistance: A Case Study of Adolescent Girls at Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya (KGBV)
- e) Mr. Rahul Jambhulkar: Fringed Lives: A Study of a Slum in Patna

2. Preparation of Reference Material for Gram Panchayat functionaries: The Centre has undertaken an ambitious project of preparing a resource pack comprising 20 booklets, both in Hindi and English, on different aspects of decentralisation at the Panchayat level. The themes of these booklets are:

- a) Gram Sabha
- b) Gram Kachahari
- c) The Roles of Panchayat Representatives and Personnel

- d) Management and Supervision of Panchayat Personnel
- e) Local Institutions and Services
- f) Participatory Planning and Budgeting
- g) People's Participation, Accountability and Transparency
- h) Social Organisations and Gram Panchayats
- i) Rights of the Poor
- j) Poverty Alleviation
- k) Social Justice
- l) Gender Justice
- m) Rights of the Child
- n) Senior Citizens
- o) Persons with Disabilities
- p) Public Health
- q) Environment
- r) Panchayat's Own Sources of Income
- s) Innovative Practices by Gram Panchayats
- t) Leadership and Ethics

The project is supported by UNICEF and the Ministry of Panchayati Raj, Government of India.

3. Lecture Series on Migration: The Centre, in collaboration with the History Department of Patna University has initiated a lecture series on 'migration' under which four lectures have been delivered so far. The names of speakers and title of their lecture are as follows:

- a) Dr. Dhananjay Singh – प्रवसन की लोकसंस्कृति में स्त्री की छवि (The Image of Women in the Folk Culture of Migration) – 23rd July 2016
- b) Prof. Ranabir Samaddar - Why Should We Return to the Histories of Immigration in the Late Nineteenth and Early Twentieth Century? – 23rd August 2016
- c) Dr. Asha Singh - Bhojpuri Folksongs as an Epistemic Source to Understand Migration from Bhojpuri Region – 10th September 2016
- d) Dr. Atig Ghosh - Fluid Futures: Migrant Labour and Trafficked Lives in Millennial Siliguri – 15th October 2016

The lectures under the series will be uploaded on the TISS website and limited print copies will also be made available under the Occasional Paper Series. The Centre also plans to publish the papers in the form of an edited volume.

Besides the above, the Centre has organised talks by visiting scholars on: a) Indian Diaspora, and b) Educational Reforms.

4. Scoping Mission on Correlates of Early Marriage of Girls in Bihar: This project is launched in November 2016. It encompasses the following research dimensions:

- a) Various socio-cultural, economic, demographic and other factors contributing to child marriage;
- b) Practices to address child marriage and its outcomes for children and communities;
- c) Attitudes and beliefs around child marriage, including the reasons for child marriages;
- d) Institutional mechanism for regulatory measure at various levels including implementation issues in Prohibition of Child Marriage Act 2006; and
- e) Identification of possible trends for the decline in child marriage cases irrespective of different barriers.

The project is supported by UNICEF's Bihar Field Office.

5. Academic Writing Workshop for PhD Scholars: A two-day workshop is scheduled for December 14 and 15, 2016 for PhD scholars belonging to Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe communities and registered with any university or research institution in Bihar. The last date of application is 30th November. For details, see the link on TISS website.

The programme is sponsored by the Rajiv Gandhi National Institute of Youth Development. The Centre for Social Equity and Inclusion, Bihar Office is the local collaborating institution.

6. Orientation Course on Migration: The Centre will organise a seven-day orientation course on Migration on February 20-27, 2017. The objectives of the course are:

- a) To present an overview of various facets of contemporary migration.
- b) To facilitate a multi-disciplinary and integrated understanding of labour migration.
- c) To analyse the influence of law and policies of the State on migration patterns.
- d) To introduce students to theories and empirical research methods in migration studies.

The course design includes eight modules as mentioned below:

- a) Main Concepts and Theories in Migration Studies
- b) Migration in Modern History
- c) Forms of Migration and Conditions of Labour
- d) Issues of Rights, Welfare and Justice in Migration
- e) Gender, Vulnerabilities and Migration
- f) Environment, Climate Change and Migration
- g) Facets of Internal Displacement
- h) Research Methods in Migration Studies

The course is open to postgraduate students, young faculty members and practitioners in the field of migration. The last date of application is 30th December. For details, see the link on TISS website.

7. Symposium on "Exploring New Grounds on Studying Bihar": A two-day symposium is scheduled on February 27-28, 2017. The symposium is divided into three substantive sessions:

- a) Session 1: “Migration, Mobility and Transforming Policy”. This session will be in the form of a roundtable which will include labour organisers and campaigners, academics and policy framers.
- b) Session 2: “Space, Place and Power in Transforming Bihar”. In this session, three researchers of the TISS Patna Centre will present their paper.
- c) Session 3: “Bordered Lives, Gendered Labour”. In this session, two researchers of the TISS Patna Centre will present their paper.

The papers presented in the symposium will be published in the form of a book.

The incharge of the Centre, Prof. Pushpendra, is engaged in an ICSSR-sponsored research project on ‘new middle class’ as the co-director. Mr. Mithilesh Kumar, Research Fellow, is engaged in a research programme on popular movements which is sponsored by the Calcutta Research Group and the Rosa-Luxemburg Stiftung.

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