

Call for Papers

National Seminar on

INDIGENEITY AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT: LOCATING THE LOCAL IN THE CONTEXT OF G20

(30-31st May 2023)



Organised by

Department of Sociology

Venue: Department of Sociology
Mizoram University
Tanhril, Aizawl
Mizoram 796004

Concept Note

Introduction

As the world gradually and inescapably becomes increasingly aware of issues of sustainable development including the environment that have the potential to make or break the future of life and living of mankind on earth, it has also become simultaneously imperative for the masses to take responsibilities as citizens and sometimes even as individuals to perform whatever is necessary in order to ensure the affluence of younger generations to come.

As academicians, we perhaps have the biggest responsibility of all. Before the law makers come into the picture, academia needs to take centre stage and, at the very least, bring to light what may be amiss. The proposed seminar intends to address as many of these issues as deemed feasible under the constraints of space and time such as the location of the indigenous, issues of incompatibility between development and local milieus, infrastructure, network society, and ecology. While initiatives such as the G20 have spearheaded necessary policies and initiatives, the seminar requires deliberation on the location of the local in context of global sustainable development. There is need to address and appease the trepidation of a chasm getting created or widened between academia and policy.

Social Sciences of the disciplines of Sociology, History, Economics, Political Science, Social Work, Public Administration, as well as the disciplines of Geography, Commerce, and IT are particularly burdened with the conscientiousness to bring forth the human element in issues of sustainable development. Humanity is as of now inevitably at risk at the very level of survival, if not in the near then in the not so near future. The need for dissemination of knowledge *today*, and actions to be taken *now* has never been more pertinent.

G20 and India

The G20 is an informal organisation comprising of 19 countries and the European Union, as well as officials from the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund (IMF). The G20 membership is made up of a mix of industrialised and emerging economies, representing over 2/3rds of the world wide population, 85% of global GDP, 80 % of global investment and over 75% of global commerce. ASIAN financial crisis 1997-99 was a ministerial level conference that arose when the G7 asked both rich and developing economies to participate. The first conference of finance ministers and central bank governors took place in 1999.

India's participation in the G20 process stems from the realisation that as a major developing economy, India has a vital stake in the stability of the international economic and financial system, and as such has strived to ensure that the focus of the global community remains on the need to ensure adequate flow of finances to emerging

economies to meet their developmental needs. India assumed the G20 presidency on 1st December 2022 and will host the summit for the first time in 2023 with the theme “Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam” or “One Earth · One Family · One Future” which closely ties with LiFE (Lifestyle for Environment).

The Northeastern state of Mizoram hosted a G20 meeting and the state government constituted a core committee to oversee preparedness. In the light of this preparation, multilateral business partnership session which took place on 2nd of March, 2023, priorities were given to certain areas in the context of North East India, nay Mizoram such as local indigenous bamboo/horticulture, handloom, and handicrafts along with nursing and paramedics.

In the light of recent developments, the department of Sociology, MZU proposes to organise a seminar on the theme, and with special focus on indigeneity and its reconstruction around changing global scenario. The seminar will be a need based potent platform for discussions, debates, and dissemination on various sub-themes detailed hereunder.

Sub-Themes

Anthropogenic pressures on ecosystems have increased over the years, and are expected to intensify in the future with potentially dramatic cascading consequences for human societies. It is therefore crucial to rebuild life-support systems for the ecology and aim for future healthy ecosystems. Nowadays, there is a reasonable understanding of the impacts of human pressure on ecosystems; but studies with an integrative retrospective analysis approach are yet to gain prominence. Hence, this seminar will attempt to provide knowledge on the lacuna found in the field of anthropogenic studies such as ethical responsibilities of man; debates between anthropocentrism, biocentrism, and ecocentrism; sustainable ecologies; governmental and non-governmental policies and interventions etc.

Indigenous populations of India have a strong emotional and empirical connection to their physical environment. Agricultural norms and practices, locality based waste management systems, issues of industries and everyday life in terms of encroachment and opportunities are just some of topics that require a vibrant discussion. Moreover, cultural festivities and activities too pay homage to the ecology and historic origins of the community. Whether such a connection in terms of norms and practices strengthened by ideas of pride and identity are conducive to contemporary ideas of sustainable development is a discussion the seminar hopes to be fruitful in. The seminar

also hopes to disseminate knowledge on unearthed, marginalised, and forgotten art forms; sustainability and compatibility issues etc.

Many believe that the current application of modern logistics solutions in general and centralisation of distribution systems in particular is damaging from an environmental perspective. It is also acknowledged that there is a lack of research illustrating the actual environmental effects of centralisation and dispersion. The overall purpose of the seminar is to allow researchers to investigate, describe and analyse how centralisation and dispersion of a distribution system can affect the environment. India-centric commerce and network should ostensibly enable large scale digitalisation of value systems, encourage suppliers' inclusion, systematising operations, derive efficiencies in logistics, and enhance value for consumers. Issues of digitisation, new media, and inter-cultural adaptation; innovations in terms of ideas and actions, and their sustainability; e-waste; water, drainage, electricity, and transport in and around isolated locales; skill development and entrepreneurship development; marketing of indigenous products; impact of import-export dynamics to the local economy; SEZ's and their impact on local and national economies; exotic goods and their traffic in international markets etc. are in an urgent need of deliberations.

In the light of these relevant and urgent issues, the Department of Sociology, MZU University invites interested teachers, researchers, scholars, and professionals to present papers on the relevant themes of:

- I. Indigeneity and Sustainable Development**
- II. Anthropogenic Studies: Debates and Attributions**
- III. Norms, Art, and Culture in a globalised world**
- IV. IT, Infrastructure and Facilities: Centralisation and Dispersion**
- V. Commerce and Business Network**

Papers may also be submitted on other relevant themes. However, the organisers reserve the right to moderate the efficacy of such submissions.

Submission & Acceptance Guidelines

- Abstracts must be approx. 500 words including key words and details of the submitter.
- Selected abstract authors will be intimated to submit the full working paper from our end and otherwise further query on the matter will not be entertained.
- The full paper must be maximum 8000 words in its totality. APA style must be utilised.
- **Only those authors whose papers' quality is considered to be of acceptable standards will be intimated to present in the seminar.**
- Abstracts and full papers are to be submitted via email to Dr. Samuel L Chuaungo at g20socioseminar@gmail.com
- For queries please contact Ms. Saidingpuii Sailo, Research Scholar, Department of Sociology, Mizoram University at 08800736251.

Important Dates

- Last date for submission of abstract – **31st April 2023**
- Intimation of selection of abstract – **5th April 2023**
- Last date for submission of full paper – **20th April 2023**
- Intimation of acceptance of paper for presentation – **21st April 2023**

Registration & Logistics Information

- There shall be no registration fee charged for presenters and participants.
- The presenters' registration will be default for only those whose full paper has been considered as being of **acceptable standard**.
- Due to paucity of funds, the presenters must arrange their own travel and lodging. However, we can advise in an informal capacity if queried.
- Lunch as well as Tea & snacks will be provided.

Publication Information

The seminar proceedings will be published, and if requested, copies for individuals can be arranged @ Rs. 500.

Only selected standard papers (over and above those accepted for paper presentation) will be published as chapters in an ISBN edited book from a renowned publishing house.

The selected authors will be intimated from our end and otherwise further query on the matter will not be entertained.

Organising Team

1. Chief Patron: Prof. Prabhakar Rath, Vice-Chancellor, Mizoram University
2. Patron: Prof. Lalneihzovi, Dean, SSS, Mizoram University
3. Advisor: Prof. RK Mohanty, HoD, d/o Sociology, Mizoram University
4. Convener: Dr. Samuel L Chuaungo, Asst. Prof., d/o Sociology, Mizoram University

