

**A Report of ICSSR Sponsored National Seminar
On
“RURAL DEVELOPMENT: ITS STRATEGIES, ISSUES AND
CHALLENGES IN NORTH-EAST INDIA (NEI)”**

**Date: 24th September, 2016
Venue: Dhemaji College, Dhemaji**

INAUGURAL SESSION:

An ICSSR National Level Seminar on the topic **“Rural Development: Its Strategies, Issues and Challenges in North-east India”** was organized by the Department of Political Science in collaboration with Equal Opportunity Cell and Golden Jubilee Celebration Committee, Dhemaji College, Dhemaji, Assam on 24th September, 2016 at Dhemaji College. The daylong programme was started from 8.00 am. During 8.00 am to 9.30 am, the registration of participants coming from different parts of the country especially from Assam, Arunachal Pradesh and West Bengal was completed.

The inaugural session was started at 9.30 am and the session was chaired by Dr. Dipak Kr. Neog, Principal, Dhemaji College. He offered the welcome address to the participants.

The inaugural speech of the Seminar was delivered by Prof. P. K. Panigrahi, Department of Political Science, Rajiv Gandhi University, Arunachal Pradesh. The key note address was delivered by Prof. (Dr.) Arup Jyoti Choudhury, Dean (Academic), Krishna Kanta Handique Open University, Guwahati, Assam. The other invited resource persons to grace the auspicious occasion were – Prof. Pura Tadu, Department of Political Science, Rajiv Gandhi University, Arunachal Pradesh; Dr. Md. Hussain, Academic In-Charge, Dhemaji College; Dr. Banjit Bhatta, Associate Professor, Department of Zoology, Dhemaji College.

The inaugural session was ended at 10.30 am with a short speech from the Chair. The Chairperson in his comment calls upon the scholars and participants to render their active participation in deliberation with a view to delve out diverse dimensions on current issues relating to the main theme so that the ultimate findings will enable to deal this issue in the right direction.

For the convenience of paper presentation and deliberation, the daylong academic exercise was organized into two halls simultaneously and the details of which are furnished as under:

TECHNICAL SESSION

Hall No - I

The first technical session was started at 10.30 am in Hall No – I (**Children Educational and Career Development Centre, Dhemaji College**). The session was chaired by Prof. P. K. Panigrahi, Department of Political Science, Rajiv Gandhi University, Arunachal Pradesh. Prof. (Dr.) Arup Jyoti Choudhury, Dean (Academic), Krishna Kanta Handique Open University, Guwahati, Assam was attended as Resource Person. There were altogether 14 research papers presented and discussed during this session covering the different thrust areas of the issue.

After lunch break, the second technical session was started at 1.30 pm. The session was chaired by Dr. Md. Hussain, Academic In-Charge, Dhemaji College. Prof. P. K. Panigrahi, Department of Political Science, Rajiv Gandhi University, Arunachal Pradesh attended as Resource Person. There were altogether 12 research papers presented and discussed in this session.

TECHNICAL SESSION

Hall No - II

The first technical session in the **Hall No – II (Conference Hall, Dhemaji College)** was started at 10.30 am under the chairmanship of Dr. Banjit Bhatta, Associate Professor, Department of Zoology, Dhemaji College and Prof. Pura Tadu, Department of Political Science, Rajiv Gandhi University, Arunachal Pradesh attended as Resource Person. A total of 13 research papers were presented and discussed covering the different thrust areas of the issue in this session.

After lunch break, the second technical session was started at 1.30 pm. The session was chaired by Dr. Banjit Bhatta, Associate Professor, Department of Zoology, Dhemaji College and Prof. Pura Tadu, Department of Political Science, Rajiv Gandhi University, Arunachal Pradesh attended as Resource Person. The numbers of research papers presented and discussed in this session were 12.

FINDINGS OF THE SEMINAR:

Based on the detailed and in-depth deliberation on the different issues and aspects of the seminar, the seminar draws some important observations such as - rural entrepreneurship is a key

figure in economic transformation of rural development in NEI, rural connectivity is identified as one of the key priorities to achieve rural development and poverty alleviation, rural women are not financially empowered as yet, micro finance plays an important role in bringing change in the socio-economic conditions of the rural poor, Self Help Groups (SHGs) are the major contributor to rural development, development of agricultural marketing plus economic infrastructure of NEI must be stressed on, the importance of cane and bamboo works as remunerative economic activities is yet to be realized in NEI, women play a major role in rural areas through participation in different activities such as agriculture, handloom, weaving, food production and processing etc., there is an urgent need of a holistic approach for rural development in NEI.

SUGGESTIONS OF THE SEMINAR:

The seminar also draws some meaningful suggestions some of which can be highlighted as - more bank branches should be established as micro finance, there is a need of a green revolution to boost the rural economy, participation of women in activities like fashion, designing, tailoring, food processing, beautification *etc.* is required, steps should be taken to convert barren land into fertile land by scientific methods, small scale and labour intensive industries should be set up in rural areas, NGOs may help the SHGs in identifying new marketing areas and methods of distribution of products manufactured or marketed by SHGs, donor agencies should take active initiatives in selecting funding projects, corruption must be stopped, proper monitoring is the need of the hour, the government should take appropriate financial management approach in the execution of rural development schemes, creation of women leaders among rural women for their upliftment, familiarization of rural population with new technologies through proper training, rural development is possible when the rural people can participate in the decision making process as well as micro level planning effectively *etc.*

CONCLUSION:

The seminar came to an end at 05.00 pm on 24th September, 2016 after the valedictory session. The session was chaired by Dr. Dipak Kr. Neog, Principal, Dhemaji College. The certificates of participation to the paper presenters and other participants were awarded in the valedictory session. The seminar came to an end with a short speech from the chairperson.



