

DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE

The Department of Political Science is organizing a seminar entitled “Human Rights and Duties Education” on 28-29 September 2017, under General Development Assistance Scheme XIIth Plan. A total number of 20-25 Resource persons from Delhi and other States have given their consent to present their papers in the seminar.

Humans Rights, Society and State: Inter-Dependence and Inter-Conflicts

Introduction of the Theme

Rights are perceived by humans as prerequisites, recognized by the society as claims and granted by the state as entitlements. This notion explains the realization, recognition and enforcement of human rights based on the inter-relationship of three primary units, i.e. individual, society and state. Individuals demand certain conditions for their survival, existence and development. Society, through its dominant value system recognizes genuine and inevitable demands as acceptable claims. State provides the legal sanction as well as shield to those certain prerequisite conditions through the law. The relationship among individual, society and state is again threefold, i.e. relation between individual and society; relation between society and state; relation between individual and state. This threefold relationship gives origin to three contextual research questions. First is that whether the society is unprejudiced and tolerant enough to accommodate individual demands as social claims irrespective of the gender, class, colour, creed, community, region, and religion of the individual? Secondly, is the state representative enough to entertain the claims of the social groups as rights without any distinction and discrimination on the bases of social, religious, economic and political nature of the social groups? Thirdly, does the state represent sufficient egalitarian instincts to undergo and consider the individual demands pleading for rights? An overview of the practical reality of inter-relationships among the individuals, society and state from the perspective of human rights depicts that conflicts between individual interests and dominant social ritual system are frequent and same is the case of society-state inter-relationships as well as individual-state relationships. The individuals who are socially marginalized or economically deprived, such as gender, age or ethnic minorities are generally excluded while determining the patterns of the social recognition of rights. The regimes, especially in the contemporary era of liberal democracies based on the utilitarian principle of

maximum happiness of maximum number of people, endeavor more to attain and maintain popular legitimacy by impressing the majorities and hence, the claims of the majority social groups are at priority while the interests of the gender, age, social, and ethnic minorities are generally neglected. In context of individual-state relationship, due to the passive or parochial approach at the level of individuals or due to the authoritarian attitude of the state, the individuals generally complain about insensitivity of the state towards their demands.

In this context, it is sturdily required to analyse the nature and dynamics of the individual-society-state interrelationship and examine the explicit as well implicit patterns and causes of inter-conflicts among these three units. For the purpose, a number of sub-themes of the seminar have been formulated.

Sub-Themes of the Seminar

- Debate of Individual Rights vs. Collective Rights
- Universal Rights vs. Culture-Relativist Rights
- Human Rights: Moral-Cultural Approach vs. Legal-Rational Approach
- Individual Rights and Social Response
- Exclusion of Minorities
- Human Rights of Gender, Caste, Age, & Ethnic Minorities and Approach of State
- Movements for Human Rights and the Response of State
- State Passivism in Recognizing and Protecting the rights Marginalized Sections
- Human Rights Violations by the State Agencies
- Contemporary Debates on Human Rights and Duties Education.

Faculty Members/ Research Scholars interested to participate/present paper in the seminar may send the Abstract of the Paper upto 20 September 2017 and full paper by 25 September 2017 at the email: jagroopssekhon@yahoo.co.in

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