

One Day Departmental Seminar

On

Human Rights in India : Issues and Challenges

Organized by

Deptt. Of Political Science

**Chandidas Mahavidyalaya
Khujutipara, Birbhum, W.B.**

Speaker : Prof. Sujato Bhadra

Chairman of the session: Dr.Sk Ataur Rahaman

Day long seminar is organized on **Human Rights in India: Issues and Challenges** by the department of Political Science on 27.2.2018 in the auditorium hall. The speaker was Prof. Sujato Bhadra, internationally acclaimed human rights activist and retired Professor in Chinese History. Around 200 students, teachers of this institution and other colleges along with local people were present in the seminar.

The seminar was chaired by Dr. Sk. Ataur Rahaman, Teacher in Charge. Prof. Bhadra was felicitated by our students Firdousi Rehana and Shilpi Ghosh with uttorio and gift. In his welcome address Dr. Rahaman expressed pleasure to receive the personality like Dr. Bhadra. He welcomed Dr. Bhadra. "It's our dream to listen you, sir and to make our students aware through your valuable speech. I on behalf of the college welcome you in our college", Dr Rahaman expressed. He also welcomed other faculty members from different colleges who despite their busy schedule came over here and attended the seminar to make it a lively one. Colleagues and students were also welcomed cordially by him. At the end he emphasized that this seminar would benefit the scholars and students as well to understand the periphery of human rights and to further the scope of research.

Then Dr. Bhadra was invited to deliver speech. Dr. Bhadra expressed gratitude to invite him to deliver a speech in this institution. First of all, he drew a theoretical sketch of the human rights and provided practical examples to substantiate his theoretical position. From the days of Magna Carta, 1215 to Universal Declaration of Human Rights, 1948, he drew a picture of individual rights. There after he classified the human rights into another two categories : Women's human rights and community rights. In his words, "Human rights can be classified into three categories- 1st generation rights (Civil and political rights), 2nd generation rights (Socio-economic rights), 3rd generation rights (community rights like right to environment, safe drinking water, pollution free atmosphere, cultural right etc). Universal declaration of rights were prepare to protect the citizens from the onslaught of state repression. He employed several concepts like forced disappearance (prevalent in Latin America), encounter, state sponsored terrorism, honour killing, discrimination against women and children to make his points clear. Started from local situation to the international situation, he placed several examples before us to paint a negative picture of human rights. "If the state is not tied with the rule of law, human rights will not be safeguarded", he opines. Accountability should prevail to ensure human rights.

In India the situation of human rights is more grim; starvation, illiteracy, poverty, poor health condition, unemployment, developmental terrorism, repression etc made the enjoyment of human rights more vulnerable. Military accountability took an important place of his deliberation. He deplored the concept of Housewife – a popular notion of no employment. "Wives and mothers put ample efforts to sustain the family members, yet people would say their wives or mothers are unemployed; it means they don't do any productive work", his take on the family level oppression.

Dr. Kamaran MK Mondal, anchor of the seminar, opened session for questions on this deliberation. Dr Rintu Kumar Biswas, Associate Professor in Political Science, KC College, asked about the importance of AFSPA in the north eastern states and violation of human rights thereof. Prof. Bhadra replied him by employing the concept of military accountability while dealing with the terrorist activities. He dug history to find out the root of AFSPA and showed that it is the British period which choreographed the dangerous law to counter the terrorist activities. Jawaharlar Nehru for the first time employed the AFSPA to deal with the Naga extremism. Army needed to have special power to deal the extra-ordinary situation but at the same time it was the moral responsibility of the army not to violate human rights and any loss of lives of common people.

Prof. Zaman of Hira Bhakat College, Nalhati, enquired about the development related problems and whether the human rights activist like him had any political position.

Prof. Bhadra replied him citing People's Budget of Brazil where people in a particular day assemble to decide the fate of budget. In Orissa and other places where primitive and tribal people are residing generation after generation are forcefully evicted from their natural habitat. People are not taken into confidence to initiate the development agenda in those places. People's mandate assumed significance in the wake of Nandigram and Singur. That's why POSCO could not see the light of the day. Human rights activists don't have any exclusive political preference; does not have any political party leaning: what he /she wants is to ensure human rights. Tactically he/she may prefer any regime keeping the track record of human rights protection. But at same the human rights activists would fight against the preferred regime.

Samema Akhtari, student of Political science what a person can do when his human rights are violated. Prof. Bhadra suggested institutional mechanism like administration, judiciary to explore.

After the question answer session, formal vote of thanks was given by Subhas Singha Roy, Coordinator, IQAC. He expressed his gratitude to Prof. Bhadra for coming over here to enlighten us on this relevant topic. Thanks were given to other faculty members from different colleges to attend the seminar with vigour and vitality and making the deliberation a lively one. For showing maturity and discipline in their active participation in the seminar, students were applauded. Colleagues- teaching and non-teaching- were appreciated for their cooperative attitude and help. Students' Union was thanked for their cooperation. Last but not the least , Dr. Rahaman was thanked for his constant inspiration and other administrative help without which this type of seminar could not be made successful. He thanked again all the participants and expected that all would attend this type of seminar in near future.

Dr. Rahaman announced the end of the seminar with a hope that this valuable deliberation would fetch some fruitful research and academic out put.



