

A N Sinha Institute of Social Studies, Patna

Press Release

June 18, 2015

A N Sinha Institute of Social Studies organized Dr. A N Sinha Memorial lecture on June 18, 2015 at ANSISS. Memorial lecture was delivered by P.Sainath an eminent journalist and erudite scholar, on the theme- SLUMDOGS Vs MILLIONAIRES (Farm crisis and Food crisis in the age of inequality). In his lecture he put forth few questions that needs to be addressed are: How do we view agriculture, just as an input and output statistics or we can incorporate angles like agriculture as livelihood? He raised the issue of multiple definition of inequality which is misleading. He pointed out that where is our moral outrage towards the society? The present Agrarian crisis can be summed up in “agricultural drive towards corporate agriculture”. He added that India is leading towards the biggest crisis “water crisis” which will lead to aggravated problems for marginal class.



The ongoing agrarian crisis which has seen the suicide deaths of 3000,000 farmers since 1995 is linked to and part of a larger crisis that has beset Indian society. The farmers' suicides are themselves do not constitute the agrarian crisis, but are merely its most tragic outcome. However, they also constitute the greatest ongoing tragedy in the Indian countryside and must be understood in a larger context. That is: the spectacular growth of inequality, which is now

greater than at any time since Independence. The myth of India in the past two decades is encapsulated in the "Slumdog Millionaire." The reality pits the poor and the underdog against the super-rich. Most importantly, the inequality we confront today is no accident. It is policy-driven, as is the agrarian crisis that has driven the countryside for more than a decade and half now. What are those policies or policy packages? The regressive approach to land acquisition is just one of them, there are many more, equally significant ones we need to identify and understand in order to turn the crisis around.

The function started with lighting of the knowledge Lamp and felicitating the guests. Inaugural address was delivered by Sri.Nitish Kumar, Honourable Chief Minister, Government of Bihar, in which he said that after neoliberal economy the whole society has changed and different ideologies shaped Indian politics after Independence and now if we will bring ideology neutral politics it will become a business. Presidential address was delivered by Sr. D.N.Sahaya, Former Governor, Tripura & Chhattisgarh and Chairman, ANSISS. He emphasized that India is passing through a grave crisis on various counts and deceleration has set agricultural economy.

Prof. D M Diwakar, Director,ANSISS, in his welcome address extended a warm welcome to guests and participants and briefly highlighted the progress of the institute and development that have taken place in this institute in terms of faculty and research progress. Two reports were released namely: **“A Study Report on tracking of children of age group of 0-14 years in the Sarva Sikhsha Abhiyan”** and **“A Report on Distribution of Bicycles, School uniforms and Scholarships”** and **Institute Journal**.

The event was graced with the presence of Sri. P.K Shahi, Honourable Minister of Education, Government of Bihar, social activist and thinkers. The event was further preceded by open discussion by Academicians, Research Scholars and other guests. Vote of thanks was given by P Mohanty and programme was coordinated by Prof. Nil Ratan, ANSISS.