

A N Sinha Institute of Social Studies, Patna

Press Release

July 6, 2015

A N Sinha Institute of Social Studies in collaboration with Indiana University, USA, organized an International Symposium on “Struggles of Black Americans in the US and Dalits in India: Comparative Perspectives” on July 6, 2015 at ANSISS. **The symposium started with the lighting of the knowledge lamp and the delegates were felicitated by floral bouquets.** The discussion was enriched by the distinguished panel Prof. Kancha Illaiah, Director, Centre for exclusive & Inclusive Policy, Hyderabad; Prof. D M Diwakar, Director, ANSISS; Sri Uday Narayan Choudhary, Hon’ble Speaker, Legislative Assembly, Bihar; Sri D N Sahaya, Former Governor, Tripura & Chhattisgarh & Chairman, ANSISS; Prof. Kevin Brown, Indiana University, USA. The discussion was held to bring forth the issues of Dalits in India and African Americans in the US, under the spectrum of the Political Movements; Economy & Education; Culture & Religion and Law enforcement.

Prof. Kancha Illaiah, Director, Alberuni Centre for Social Exclusion & Inclusive Policy and Head of the Department of Political Science, Maulana Azad National Urdu University, Hyderabad, explained about the system of stratification that prevailed in our society. He gave the detail historical journey of how the racial discrimination further degenerated into castes and the Euro-American racism got constructed on the same notion of slave master relationship based on the experience of India. He compared the struggle of the Black Americans and Dalits in India. With the representation of the fact that racism is getting diluted and dalit struggle and untouchability is still prevailing because of illiteracy and continued exploitation and absence of Global Leaders like Martin Luther King, Nelson Mandela and Dr. B R Ambedkar and Mahatma Phule in India.

Prof. D M Diwakar, Director, ANSISS, extended his warm welcome to delegates. While welcoming he emphasized on the importance of the discourse with cultural hegemonic and class dimensions of deprivation prevailed through productive organizations. With emergence of Nation & Welfare State affirmative actions reduced the gaps considerably. However, globalization of market has compounded the challenges of discrimination and marginalization. Prof. Kevin Brown, Indiana University, USA, explained that in order to make black and Dalit struggle successful, it requires the intellectuals from both the countries to share their views and combine the struggle at global level. This symposium is an effort in the fulfillment of the same.

Sri Uday Narayan Choudhary, Hon’ble Speaker, Legislative Assembly, Bihar, explained the difference in the idea of discrimination in India and USA. In India, there is Socio-Economic-

Political discrimination; and in USA, there is resource based discrimination. He explained that globally one factor is responsible behind discrimination is monetary base. He gave credit to Ambedkar for his struggle for Dalit empowerment.

Sri D N Sahaya, Former Governor, Tripura & Chhattisgarh & Chairman, ANSISS, observed that Caste and Racial discrimination ran through a historical process and Cultural strand. He further said that the Dalits do not enjoy the basic rights and was subjected indignities, injustices and deprivation which had to be put to an end through awakening of mass consciousness and sensitization of society towards the Dalits.

The symposium had three technical sessions: First, Law and Criminal Justices System; Secondly, Minority Politics and Lastly, Economic and Social Issues which were chaired by Paige Peterson, Jalil Dozier and Prof. D M Diwakar respectively.



In the First Session: Law and Criminal Justices System chaired by Paige Peterson. The speakers were Prof. Jacobi Willaims and Prof. Arvind Verma both from Indiana University, USA. They explained in detail, the hierarchical Black Movement historically and focused on the importance of Law and its enforcement in India & USA. In the Second Session: Minority Politics chaired by Jalil Dozier. In this session Prof. Luid Fuentes-Rohwer and Trina Jones both from Indiana University, USA presented their papers. Right for coloured people will make positive changes through political and social struggle; was emphasized by Prof Rohwer. Trina jones presented how a coloured woman interacts in the colour system. In the Last Session: Economic and Social Issues chaired by Prof. D M Diwakar. Dr. Subhash Sharma, Principal Secretary, Govt. of Bihar explained inter-Dalit interaction, contradictions and how Dalits are exploiting Dalits. Ronki Ram, Dean, Faculty of arts, Honorary, Director, ICSSR (NWRC) highlighted about power struggle of the Dalit from east Punjab with the dominant land owners. He also mentioned about Dalit peripheries and reinventing the Dalit cultural heritage.

The Valedictory Session was chaired by Prof. Y C Simhadri, Vice Chancellor of Patna University. The event was graced with the presence of academicians, thinkers and policy makers. The event was further preceded by open discussion by Academicians, senior faculty members of ANSISS- Nil Ratan, A K Jha, B N Prasad and other faculty members, Research Scholars and other guests. Dr. Habibullah Ansari, Associate Professor, ANSISS presented the rapporteurs report. Vote of thanks was given by Renu Choudhary, Assistant Professor, ANSISS and the programme was coordinated by the following faculty members: Ajit Kumar Hansda, Awadhesh Kumar and Renu Choudhary.