



CENTRE FOR ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL STUDIES

(Planning Dept, Govt. of Telangana & ICSSR-Ministry of Education, Govt. of India)

International Seminar

on

Social Science Research in India: Issues and Challenges



Chair

Prof. Balveer Arora

Mentor, GDN India



Doing Research Assessment in Asia

Dr. Sanchari Mukhopadhyay

GDN India



Doing Research Assessment in India

Prof. E Revathi

Principal Investigator, India Team



29 – 30 October 2025



**B.P.R. Vithal Auditorium,
Centre for Economic and
Social Studies (CESS)**



Scan for Location

About the Seminar

Context

Social and economic planning in any form is a function of rigorous Social Science Research through production, dissemination and utilisation of knowledge, which enables a robust understanding of the society, culture, polity and the economy and creates pointers to devise public policy to attain sustainable development. The main components of the framework for strengthening policy-relevant social science research are governance, politics, societies, and economy. There are many players such as higher educational institutions, research institutions, think tanks and government funding agencies that shape the landscape of Social Science Research in India. Government agencies such as Niti Ayog, NSSO, NFHS, Census provide data and policy inputs for the country's socio-economic development, crucial for social science research. The role of global institutions is also significant in its development. The contribution of Social Science Research to policy-making is both substantial and indispensable, serving as a critical tool for identifying key indicators and pathways necessary for achieving developmental goals from time to time.

Social science research in India

The landscape of social science institutions has evolved over time beginning with state university system and diversified into central universities, social science research institutions under the ICSSR, institutions of national importance, private universities and private consultancy firms involved in social science research. The academic resources vary across the type of institutions - while the Central Universities, IITs, NITs, or IIMs and research institutions are well resourced, the state universities and colleges under governments are under resourced. The quality of social science education and research also varies with the diversity of institutions. A large number of researchers are based in underdeveloped or remote regions, often with limited access to institutional support, infrastructure, and mentorship. This disparity has led to an evident divide in both research output and participation in academic discourse. In the current academic scenario, it is increasingly important to understand and address the challenges faced by social science researchers, working in various types of institutions.

Challenges faced by Social Science Research

The epistemic challenges of social sciences are many- social science research is shaped by colonial and eurocentric frameworks, there is tension between universal theories and local contexts; fragmentation of social sciences, epistemic silos and inadequate application of interdisciplinarity; vernacular epistemologies remain less explored and so on.

Despite the material and intellectual investment made at all levels to achieve a robust research environment in India, there are structural and operational challenges while undertaking Social Science Research - inadequate funding, less utilization of research output into policy making, brain-drain, dependence on donor agencies resulting in misalignment of research priorities from local concerns, less visibility, less human resources in the educational institutions and low quality of research to name a few. Having a large higher education system, the priority towards social sciences is less compared to other sciences in terms of funding and infrastructural support. Though these issues were identified as crucial over a period of time, the wide- ranging interlinkages between the issues related to Social Science Research were not critically analysed in recent times.

Objective of the Seminar

Researchers at the Centre for Economic and Social Studies, Council for Social development and BITS Pilani Hyderabad campus, are involved in a research project 'Doing Research Assessment' 'research on research' assessing social science research in India with the support of ICSSR and Global Development Network. In a bid to explore further the new ideas on social sciences research and the issues and challenges faced by it in the country, CESS is organizing a two-day International-level seminar on the Social Science Research in India. The main objective of this International seminar is to serve as a platform for dialogue among scholars, policy makers, practitioners, and research administrators in India to exchange experiences, examine the impediments, and chart actionable pointers for strengthening the Social Science Research ecosystem in India. The main aim of the seminar is to engage with the following key questions:

- How is Social Science Research perceived in contemporary India, particularly in the context of changing academic, policy, and funding landscapes?
- What institutional interventions and initiatives have been undertaken to promote and mainstream Social Science Research in India?
- What are the priority areas for enhancing the quality and impact of Social Science Research? In which domains should researchers focus more to strengthen their academic competencies?
- Are there sustained and structured mechanisms in place for capacity-building and professional development of Social Science Research?
- In what ways is Social Science Research informing and influencing policy formulation and implementation in India?

Themes for the Seminar

- Science, technology and development
- Changing landscape of social sciences in India
- DRA in global south
- Quality in social science research: Standards, relevance and ethics
- Social Science research and policy: Strengthening the interface
- Financing social science education and research
- Diversity and inclusion in social sciences
- Indigenous knowledge and social sciences
- Regional languages as sites of knowledge in social sciences
- Social Sciences as pathways: Youth aspirations and challenges

Programme Schedule

Day – One

Date: 29-10-2025

Registration 9.30 AM onwards

Inaugural Session (10.30 to 11.30 AM)

Chair: **Prof. Balveer Arora**

Former Professor of Political Science and former Rector, Jawaharlal Nehru University. Chairman, Centre for Multilevel Federalism, Institute of Social Sciences, Chairperson, Board of Governors, CSDS, New Delhi.

Mentor for the India Team – Doing Research Assessment Project.

Doing Research Assessment in Asia

Dr. Sanchari Mukhopadhyay

Fellow at Global Development Network (GDN), oversees the Doing Research Assessment, and coordinator for the Asia division

Doing Research Assessment in India

Prof. E Revathi

Director, Centre for Economic and Social Studies, Hyderabad. Principal Investigator, Team India, GDN Project.

Prof. Sujit Kumar Mishra

Regional Director, Council for Social Development, Hyderabad, and Co-Principal Investigator

SESSION – I

(11.30 to 12.45 PM)

TOPIC: CHANGING LANDSCAPE OF SOCIAL SCIENCE RESEARCH IN INDIA

Chair: **Prof. Balveer Arora**

Presentation of findings of the study by the India Team

Prof. E. Revathi, Prof. Sujith Mishra, Dr C Hussain Yaganti, Dr P. Aparna, Dr Arifa Sulthana, Dr S. Harinath

Discussants: (Online)

Dr Francesco Obino

Director of the Research Programmes Unit at the GDN

Dr Daniel Fussy

Fellow of the Knowledge Systems at the GDN

Dr Daniele Cantini

Fellow of the Knowledge Systems Programme at the GDN

SPECIAL LECTURE: I

(12.45 to 1.45 PM)

Topic: SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, AND DEVELOPMENT

Chair: **Prof Amar Yumnum** (Retd), Department of Economics, Manipur Central University, Currently Visiting Professor, CESS.

Title: Science, Technology, and Development: Constraints and Opportunities in an Evolving Ecosystem of Research

Speaker:

Prof. Dhruv Raina, Former Professor, Zakir Husain Centre for Educational Studies, JNU, New Delhi, Visiting Professor, IISER, Mohali and Pune, D. D. Kosambi Chair in Interdisciplinary Studies, Goa University.

LUNCH BREAK (1.45 to 2.30 PM)

SESSION - II:

QUALITY IN SOCIAL SCIENCE RESEARCH: STANDARDS, RELEVANCE AND ETHICS (2.30 to 4.00 PM)

Chair: **Prof. V N Varghese**

Former Vice Chancellor, National Institute of Educational Planning and Administration, New Delhi.

Speakers:

Prof. D. Rajasekhar, Former Director, Institute for Social and Economic Change (ISEC)

Professor Yatindra Singh Sisodia, Director, Madhya Pradesh Institute of Social Science Research (MPISSR)

Prof. M Suresh Babu (Online), Director, Madras Institute of Development Studies (MIDS)

Prof. Vinoj Abraham (Online), Professor, Centre for Development Studies, Thiruvananthapuram (CDS)

TEA BREAK: 4:00 to 4.15 PM

SESSION – III

INCLUSION AND DIVERSITY IN SOCIAL SCIENCES

(4.15 to 5.30 PM)

Chair: **Dr. Ameer Ullah Khan**

Member of the Telangana Public Service Commission. Research Director at Centre for Development Policy and Practice (CDPP), Hyderabad, Adjunct Professor at TISS and Manipal University. Visiting Professor at ISB, NALSAR, and KSPP.

Title: Dynamics of Subaltern Entry and Elite Exit in Public Education: Mapping the Intersection between Sociological Change and Social Sciences in India

Speaker: **Prof. K. Srinivasulu**, Professor of Political Science (Retd). Osmania University

Title: Challenges of Social Science Research in the North East

Speaker: **Prof. Kham Khan Suan Hausing**, Department of Political Science, University of Hyderabad

Title: Social Location and Knowledge Production: Students' Aspirations and Experiences within Indian Universities

Prof. G. Nagaraju, Head, Department of Sociology, University of Hyderabad

Title: Affirmative Action and Inclusion in Neoliberal Academia: Subalternity and the Problem of Language

Speaker: **Dr. Asima Jena**, Assistant Professor, Department of Sociology, University of Hyderabad

SPECIAL LECTURE – II: (5.30 to 6.30 PM)

TOPIC: INDIGENOUS PEOPLE AND SOCIAL SCIENCE KNOWLEDGE

Chair: **Prof. Gopinath Reddy**, Professor of Political Science (Retd) and Consultant at CESS

Speaker:

Prof. S N Choudhary, Rajiv Gandhi Chair, Barkatullah University, Bhopal.

DINNER: 7.30 PM onwards

Day – Two

Date: 30-10-2025

SPECIAL LECTURE – III (9.45 to 10.30 AM)

TOPIC: THINK TANKS AND SOCIAL SCIENCE RESEARCH

Chair: **Prof. R. Siva Prasad**

Speaker:

Dr. Niranjana Sahoo (Online)

Senior Fellow, Governance and Politics Initiative, Observation Research Foundation, Delhi.

SESSION - IV:

FINANCING SOCIAL SCIENCE EDUCATION AND RESEARCH

(10.30 to 11.30 AM)

Chair: **Prof Naresh Sharma**, Professor of Economics (Retd), School of Economics, University of Hyderabad.

Speakers:

Prof. V N Varghese (Former Vice Chancellor, NEUPA)

Prof. Pravakar Sahoo (online)

Program Director, Economics and Finance Division, NITI Aayog

TEA BREAK: (11.30 to 11.45 AM)

PANEL DISCUSSION - I

(11.45 to 12.45 PM)

TOPIC: SOCIAL SCIENCE RESEARCH IN THE GLOBAL SOUTH: A COMPARATIVE PERSPECTIVE
FROM NIGERIA, INDONESIA, AND MYANMAR

Chair: **Prof. Balveer Arora**

Panel Speakers:

Title: Doing Research in Nigeria

Speakers:

Dr. Abiodun Egbetokun (Principal Investigator)

Dr. Adedayo Olofinyehun (Project Manager)

Title: Doing Research in Indonesia

Speaker: **Dr. Inaya Rakhmani** (Principal Investigator) (Recorded Presentation)

Title: Doing Research in Myanmar

Speaker: **Dr. Ngu Wah Win**

(Senior Policy Coordinator at Centre for Economic and Social Development (CESD))

SESSION - V:

REGIONAL LANGUAGES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

(12.45 to 1.45 PM)

Chair: **Prof. Yatindra Singh Sisodia**

Director MPISSR

Speakers:

N Venugopal, Editor Veekshanam, Telugu fortnightly on Socio-economic issues

Dr. Keyoor, Assistant Professor, Department of Sociology, Allahabad University.

Dr. Suresh Jagannathan, Assistant Professor, Department of Humanities and Social Sciences,
VIT University, Andhra Pradesh

LUNCH BREAK (1.45 to 2.30 PM)

PANEL DISCUSSION – II (2.30 to 4:00 PM)

Topic:

SOCIAL SCIENCES AS PATHWAYS: YOUTH ASPIRATIONS AND CHALLENGES

Chair:

Prof. Amalendu Jyothishi, Professor of Economics, School of Development, Azim Premji University

Speakers:

Dr. Ch. Shankar Rao, Associate Professor, Department of Economics, Central University of Tamil Nadu, Thiruvavur.

Dr. Garima Thakuria, Assistant Professor, Department of Anthropology, Sikkim University

Dr. Chuchengfa Gogoi, Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science, North Lakhimpur University

Dr. Anudeep Gujjeti, Assistant Professor, Symbiosis Law School, Pune.

Ch. Sravan, Research Scholar, School of Economics, University of Hyderabad.

G. Thilothu Rao, Research Scholar, Centre for Economic and Social Studies (CESS)

HIGH TEA (4.00 to 4.15 PM)

VALEDICTORY SESSION: 4.15 PM onwards

Chair: **Prof. E. Revathi**, Director CESS

Seminar Report:

Prof Sujit Misra, Regional Director, Council for Social Development, Hyderabad.

Valedictory Address:

Prof. Dhananjay Singh, Member Secretary, ICSSR, New Delhi (Online)

Guests of Honor:

Prof. Panchanan Mohanty (Retd), GLA University, Dean, School of Humanities, Nalanda University (Online)

Prof. B. Sudhakar Reddy, Honorary Director, ICSSR - SRC, Hyderabad

Vote of thanks:

Dr. Arifa Sultana, Member India team, GDN Project