



**SUBJECT ASSOCIATION,
DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE
JAMIA MILLIA ISLAMIA**

Calls for papers

for

International Students' Seminar

**ACCESS TO RIGHTS: *Globalization and
Sovereignty***

DATE: 23rd – 24th February 2015

Venue: Seminar Room, Department of Political Science

Jamia Millia Islamia

CONCEPT NOTE

In today's globalized world, there is an invigorating urge to talk about not only rights guaranteed constitutionally but also access to these rights determined by one's ability to exercise them and protect oneself against their violation. As Thomas Pogge opines, human rights will be fully realized if all human beings had secure access to the objects of these rights. The connection is discernible between basic social and economic human rights as one's right to standard of living is constrained by one's economic status. More or less under fulfilment of human rights can be linked to poverty. The link between civil and political rights however is contingent upon the democratic government and rule of law.

The debate between sovereignty and globalization is not new as the emergence of non-state actors and cross border networks is posing a profound challenge to the traditional concepts of state sovereignty having a causal link to the access of human rights. In this context, Richard Falk has argued about "the disabling of the state as guardian of the public good" in the shift of power and autonomy from the state to markets. In the virtually borderless world, it still matters on which side of the border you are as it determines your position to exercise rights. The increasing interdependence has also led to arm twisting of developing nations such as India, Bangladesh, African countries to fulfil the proclivities towards profit making, resource exploitation, and violation of rights of the poor and maintaining economic inequality to uphold the process of profit making by cross border forces.

The ambivalent forces within globalization have been deployed on one hand creating a globalized civil society which is likely to better respond to the economic globalization, by opposing liberalized trade and investment regimes that are not accompanied by accountability, transparency, public participation and respect for fundamental human rights. On the other hand, globalization has set the stage for powerful treating developing nations as marionettes controlling their strings attached to international financial organizations such as IMF and World Bank dominated, unsurprisingly, by the rich.

The duty of assistance in a globalized world has led to not just human rights

interventions but also interference in the state's sovereignty and decisions with ulterior motives of having a government in the developing nations favourable to the west. Roughly, one third of all human deaths occur due to poverty-related causes, easily preventable through better nutrition, safe drinking water, and medicines. One appalling reality is the death of 2.4 million people in Africa in the year 1996 because the stringent patent laws didn't allow the sale of much cheaper generic anti-retroviral therapy. The patent on such lifesaving drugs by pharmaceutical companies has resulted in death of more number of people than in Holocaust with government being a tacit witness fearing economic sanctions. With manifest inequality pushed to the periphery, the focus on development and the need to globalize has been dominated by, what Amartya Sen calls, a false belief of freedom, human rights and democracy as "western values".

Is the access to rights in this globalized world improving with greater ability of the state or being reduced to a paper promise absorbing the dissent and criticism emanating from civil society and eroding sovereignty of the state along with its ability to provide such access to its own citizens? There is a need for an honest debate to engage with these questions pertaining to how the current social discourse addresses the link between sovereignty and globalization distending the access to rights of the individuals.

The students and scholars interested in participating in the seminar can submit their abstract under the following themes:

1. FUTURE OF CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS
2. HUMAN RIGHTS AND SOVEREIGNTY
3. FEMINIZATION OF POVERTY
4. RIGHTS: CONCEPTUAL CONCERNS AND CRITICAL ISSUES
5. HUMAN SECURITY: HEALTH, FOOD, WATER
6. HUMAN DIGNITY
7. LEGALITY AND INSTITUTIONAL APPARATUS
8. PLURALISM: CONTEMPORARY DEBATES
9. INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS AND ECONOMIC ORDER

How to Apply

Send in your details: Name, email Id, course, Name of the Institute and your confirmation to attend the national student seminar at:

subjectassociation2015@gmail.com

Submit an abstract note not exceeding 300 words at

subjectassociation2015@gmail.com

Last Dates

- Abstract Submission : **18 February 2015**
- Notification of acceptance of abstract: **20 February 2015**

Registration Fees:

INR 500 (to be paid with Final Paper Presentation at the venue)

Note: No TA/DA will be paid to the participants.

In case of queries, contact

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