

Webinar on

Dzumsa and Tribal Self-Governance in Sikkim Himalayas

Organized by
Centre for North East Studies and Policy Research
Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi

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“Documenting the Lifeworld Practices of the Bhutias of Sikkim”
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Ministry of Tribal Affairs
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<https://meet.google.com/rjx-yuoo-cvz>

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Concept Note

As academic programs within the university begins to engage with student friendly modalities arising due to COVID-19 pandemic, research in Scheduled Tribes (STs) in India must focus on strategic partnerships with tools available to researchers in bridging gaps that exist between the field and academia. This would allow researchers and the people in the government to explore tribal identities and their role in history and today.

In view of the above, tribal citizens in India are deeply embedded cultural communities with distinct social, cultural and ecological embodiment. This calls for a review of the context of research in tribal self governance. The tribal citizens with traditional mode of production are lately in the process of transforming oneself as modern consumers. This has greatly affected livelihood strategies of tribal citizens especially in times of pandemic. In view of the above one needs to develop varieties of approaches and review mechanism tailored for enquiring specific community interests.

As per 2011 census report, STs in India comprise about 8.6 percent of country's total population. This webinar programme is intended to provide understanding about diverse communities enumerated as STs with information and knowledge in strategising livelihood strategies by simultaneously evaluating and prioritizing options available for tribal youths. In a broader context, this would enable in establishing consensus in achieving goals and objectives pertaining to tribal research. This would prove pivotal in making informed technical, economical, market-oriented policies by drawing upon prevailing tribal practices. The webinar will touch upon tribal case studies and provide attendees with mechanism and resources to facilitate research on tribal communities and accelerate community interests in the country.

The overall aim of the webinar is to understand and the context of tribal self governance in India's North East. While tribal consortia, recognized tribal organizations are very much on innovating strategies for livelihood practices in times of pandemic, then the field of academics should also try to find a possible to ethical ways of understanding problems and prospects. The outcomes would reinforce preparedness about the nature of tribal traditions in

strategizing and adapting to social change due to technological context and pandemic of global scale. Besides we aim to understand tribal resilience for forging policy adaptation, planning vulnerability assessment, capacity building, skill development and youth engagement. This idea is to reflect and generate an understanding of ongoing impact on environmental trends and tribal health and safety aspect. The resilient approach would enable locate and assist capacity building needs of tribal citizens in North East India, where they live within the proximity of resourced endowed national parks. This discussion will specifically explore:

- Rethink and envision modules and mechanisms for research that are that are specific and distinctive among tribes, and how it fit into multisite and multi-disciplinary social science research.
- Possibilities of accessing the field during pandemic situation.
- Ethical concerns on researching among the tribal in a crisis situation.
- The deliberation on policy outputs, comments and concerns related to the potential impact of these policies studies on tribal communities
- Rethinking for future policy guidance with regard to operationalization exceptions to tribal customs and norms.

Who should attend?

This webinar will benefit research scholars, academics, policy planners in the government. This webinar will also be of interest to program officers from funding agencies and those involved with managing tribal affairs in the country.