

National Seminar

On

Democracy and Public Policy: Issues and Challenges

(Under World Bank Project under OHEPEE Assistance)

Date: 19-20th March, 2019

Venue: P.G. Council Hall, Utkal University

Organised by



P.G .Department of Political Science

Utkal University



Chief Patron

Prof. Soumendra Mohan Patnaik Vice-Chancellor, Utkal University

Convener

Prof. Brahmananda Satapathy, Chairman, P.G. Council, Utkal University

Organizing Secretary

Dr. Smita Nayak, HOD, Dept of Political Science, UU

Joint-organizing Secretary

Dr. Seema Mallik, Asst. Prof, Dept of Political Science, UU

Dr. Swapna S. Prabhu, Asst. Prof, Dept of Political Science, UU

About Utkal University

Established in the year 1943 & situated on sprawling picturesque lush green campus of about 400 acres, it boasts of being 17th oldest University in India. This University has at present 27 Post Graduate departments and 30 Self Financing programs in various disciplines of Science, Humanities, Law, Social Science, Commerce and Management with about 4000 Students on roll. In recognition to its contribution to the nation-building, it has been accredited 'A+' by the NAAC, UGC, New Delhi.

About the Department

The Post Graduate Department of Political Science was established in 1958 in the Ravenshaw College, Cuttack and was shifted to its present campus in 1962 under the stewardship of Late Professor late lamented Prof. Shreeram Chandra Dash. The Department has the distinction of being selected by the UGC- DRS (SAP -III). Besides, late Dr. Manindra Kumar Mohapatra, Professor of Political Science and Director, Center for Governmental Services, Indiana State University, Terre Haute, United States of America has instituted two endowments i.e. Urmila Foundation for American Studies and Urmila Foundation for Orissa Policy Studies in the Department. Under this two seminars are conducted annually both at International and National level on different themes since 2000.

Concept Note

Democracy and public policy, though distinct, yet both terms are closely intertwined. Fundamental to democracy is the notion that citizens possess rights and means to shape decisions made by policy makers. While democracy refers to power and authority, public policy refers to purposive course of action established by public officials that is binding on the residents of a community or nation

The establishment of a democratic form of government is a fundamental public policy decision and makes popular sovereignty the primary principle of the policy-making process. Democracy depends on a set of necessary attributes, but how these critical features are built into governing institutions may vary from place to place. Parliaments and Presidents are merely instruments through which popular sovereignty may be exercised what is critical to democracy is a sufficient level of citizen participation so that the policies selected reflect the diverse preferences and values within a community or country. Abraham Lincoln proclaimed the core ideas of democracy in his famous aphorism, "government of the people, by the people, and for the people." The continuing challenge to theorists of democracy as well as to citizens and public officials is the adaptation of the institutional features of government to changing societal conditions without sacrificing the core ideas of popular sovereignty. Just as direct democracy was modified to accommodate population growth, so too must representative democracy be modified to ensure popular sovereignty in a world characterized by deep economic and social inequalities. Although universal suffrage is now widely accepted in most parts of the globe, public policy to provide a minimal quality of life to all citizens has not been attained. Therefore, civil society has emerged parallel to the state in expressing their interest and wishes in shaping public policy. Hence, the demand to encourage the flourishing of the institutions of civil society outside the legal institutions of the state Amartya Sen has highlighted the pragmatic connection between the democratic procedures of government and the substance of public policy:

"Political and civil rights give people the opportunity to draw attention forcefully to general needs and to demand appropriate public action. The response of a government to the acute suffering of its people often depends on the pressure that is put on it. The exercise of political rights (such as voting, criticizing, protesting, and the like) can make a real difference to the political incentives that operate on a government".

Thus democracy offers a set of instrumental procedures and rules that allow citizens to shape public policy so that “rule of, by, and for the people” is possible. Other forms of government are neither premised on this goal nor are designed to foster it.

Discussions of democratic theory revolve around the organization and use of political power within a society—who should govern, how they should govern, and for what ends or purposes they should govern. By contrast, public policy refers to a purposive course of action established by public officials that is binding on the residents of a community or nation. Simply put, public policy is what governments choose to do or choose not to do.[Because of this link between form of government and performance of government, the theory of democracy, in Henry Mayo’s words, “... is one answer to the question of how the political policy decisions are made and should be made.”

The present seminar therefore is an attempt to examine the linkages between democracy and public policy and the challenges that are emerging in contemporary societies. **Papers are invited from academics, researchers, policy makers, members of the civil society and young research scholars revolving around these thematic break-up but not restricted to the following subthemes:**

Sub-themes

- 1. Democracy and Public Policy : A Conceptual Analysis**
- 2. Development and Public policy**
- 3. Civil society : Its Role in Shaping Public policy**
- 4. Democratic Procedures : Instruments in formulating Public Policy**
- 5. Public policy in Odisha : Issues & Challenges**
- 6. Women and Public policy**

Important date

- 1. Abstract Submission (250 words)-10th March, 2019**
- 2. Acceptance of Abstracts –12th March , 2019**
- 3. Full Paper (Max.6000 words)- 15th March, 2019**

Abstracts of the papers (Max. 250 words) with 5 keywords describing the subject matter and full papers (Max. 6000 words or 6-7 typed pages) in Word format in Times New Roman, 12 font size and 1.5 line spacing, the title of the abstract should be followed by the author's name & affiliation in 10 point scale in italics on any of the sub themes as mentioned above are invited to

be submitted on or before the last dates to nayaksmitta1992@gmail.com or seema.mallik@gamil.com

Full papers will be published as Conference Proceedings with ISBN No. with a National Publisher So; full papers are solicited on or before 11th March, 2019.

Who can participate

The theme of the seminar will be of great interest to academicians, research scholars, social activists, writers and experts working and researching on the various aspects of Public policy.

Registration fee

Academicians/professionals: **300/-**

Research scholars/students: **150/-**

Registration fees include refreshments and seminar kit.

Only II A/C train fare in the shortest route to the out station (outside Odisha) participants, submitting Full Papers will be given on the production of original tickets.

Contact Details Coordinators Academic/ Technical Session

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