INDIAN SOCIAL INSTITUTE, NEW DELHI

ACTIVITIES REPORT 2022-2023

01.   RESEARCH

1.1 INTRODUCTION

Indian Social Institute has been engaged in credible research for generating knowledge, promoting publications, imparting training and facilitating policy advocacy in partnership with academicians, policy makers, legal fraternity, and social networks,. The Research Department engaged in various kinds of research that focused on marginalized sections of society. During the academic year 2022-23, we successfully completed seven research studies. Four of the studies were awarded to the Institute by Government agencies, three were from Dr. Ram Dayal Munda Tribal Welfare Research Institute, Government of Jharkhand, and one study from the National Human Rights Commission.
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1.2 RESEARCH PROJECTS

1.2.1 Research Projects Completed

a. **A Historical Study of Tribal Chiefdoms of Jharkhand: Munda of Bundu, Kherwar of Ramgarh, Santal of Hazaribagh, Bhumij of Jungle Mahal, Nagwansi of Ranchi and Others.**

The study was conducted in the geographical regions of the Mundas of Bundu, Kherwars of Ramgarh, Santals of Hazaribagh, Bhumij of Jungle Mahal and Midnapur and Nagwansis of Ranchi. The study was conducted using ethnographic and historical method which aimed at the history of tribal Chiefdoms, their socio-cultural institutions, political organizations like the Parha, Pargana, Manki-Munda systems and their functions and their relevance today. The study also explored how the tribal socio-political organisation and self-rule became instrumental in their pursuit of political aspiration for the formation of the state called 'Jharkhand.' The study also helps to revive the socio-cultural values and practices in the tribal communities and to reassert for revival and restoration of people-friendly governance. This study was funded by Dr Ram Dayal Munda Tribal Welfare Research Institute, Government of Jharkhand.

b. **Study of Customary Laws, Social and Religious Practices of Five Major Scheduled Tribes of Jharkhand: A Comparative Analysis**

This research study was done on five major tribals living in Jharkhand. It made significant discoveries about the customs of five major tribals, namely Santhal, Oraon, Munda, Ho and Kharia. In these significant discoveries, different administrative systems and customs still exist in different tribal communities living in the state in which there is some degree of similarity.

Nevertheless, in some communities, the earlier practices are on the verge of extinction. This study was funded by Dr Ram Dayal Munda Tribal Welfare Research Institute, Government of Jharkhand.

c. Value Chain Analysis of Four Minor Forest Products (Tamarind, Sal Seed, Chironji, and Lac)

The state of Jharkhand is a region having tropical climate with a substantial contribution of non-timber forest products (NTFPs) to the livelihoods of the people. The objective was to study the value chain of MFPs and analyse the benefits derived from the government schemes. The research covered eight districts and obtained information from the local people about four minor forest products. In this regard, qualitative data was collected from the local people to understand how they create value chain processes in the four minor forest products and what kind of technology they use for the value chain process. The study observed that due to ineffective co-operative societies, the income of gatherers involved in MFPs is very lowThis study was funded by Dr Ram Dayal Munda Tribal Welfare Research Institute, Government of Jharkhand.

d. Impact of COVID-19 in Rural India: A cross sectional study from 12 states

It focused on areas like livelihood, children's education, health and social security schemes. The research study was carried out in 12 states, covering 474 villages in 46 districts, from June 2021- January 2022. A fact sheet was released at a webinar on 21st June 2022 and the final report was published in March 2023.

e. Education, Digital Divide and Covid–19 in India

 The objective of the study was to find out the digital divide existing in rural India. The study was both qualitative and quantitative in nature. For this, semi-structured interview schedules were administered to parents, students and teachers management, government officials, and focused Group discussions with the stakeholders. This study was done in six states of India with the help of Jesuit school teachers through Kobo Collect App. The teachers were trained in Kobo Collect App to collect data. The results showed a huge digital divide in rural areas because of poverty leading to poor accessibility of digital devices, poor electricity connection, and network connectivity.

f. Disparity in Access to Education in Aspirational Districts in Odisha, Jharkhand and Chhattisgarh

The objective of the research was to assess the implementation of the current educational initiatives and programmes in the six Aspirational Districts of Kandhamal and Kalahandi (Odisha), Lohardaga and Chatra (Jharkhand), and Kanker and Korba (Chhattisgarh). The study was qualitative and quantitative, with semi-structured interviews for parents, students and teachers and focused Group discussions with the stakeholders.

1.2.2 On-going Research Projects

Arramat Research- Biodiversity Conservation: Health and Wellbeing of the Indigenous Peoples.

This study is a place-based research, a joint venture for global research that includes 26 countries. The Faculty of the University of Alberta, Canada, are the lead researchers to coordinate the study. The study aims at interdisciplinary approach where the indigenous scholars from different universities of India are collaborating in planning and implementation of the study in India. The Indian team of researchers aim to study biodiversity conservation on two pathways: (1) Biodiversity Conservation: Food Sustainability, Health and Wellbeing; and (2) Biodiversity Conservation and its Interface with Language, Culture and Wellbeing. The place-based research study is stretched from 2021 to 2027 into three phases, namely Capacity Building, Indigenous-Led Place-Based Research and Policy Transformation.

02   LEGAL AWARENESS & TRAINING PROGRAMMES

Centre for Human Rights & Law (CHRL) is an integrated department of the Indian Social Institute. The unit works on various initiatives relating to human rights like litigation where lawyers/advocates handle legal matters at various courts, provides editorial services for the monthly magazine, Legal News & Views (LNV) and publishes booklets on Legal Education Series (LES), conducts various training programmes related to minority rights, women's rights, para-legal training, and others organised and conducted by the department.

3.   PEACE BUILDING

Shanti Sadbhavna Manch

Indian Social Institute successfully completed the fifth phase of its flag-ship peace-building project titled "Promoting Peace and Harmony Culture, Consciousness and Healing through Shanti Sadbhavna Manch (Peace and Harmony Students and Youth Movement) through

capacity building among the most marginalised and excluded in several states in India". This peace-building campaign, commonly called, Shanti Sadbhavna Manch, has been active in seven states of central India, namely Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh. Peace clubs (Shanti Sadbhavna Manch) are formed in schools and villages. There are 20 peace clubs in schools and 20 peace clubs in villages in each state. The main activities carried out during the financial year 2022-2023 are -

1. Monthly meetings with peace club members
2. Training programs on constitutional values, basic laws, relevant Acts and peaceful coexistence for mentors (Teachers), student peace club leaders and community peace club leaders.
3. Bal Mahotsav (Students' common program)
4. Community building programs
5. Shanti bhoj (non budgeted) and

04. SEMINARS, CONSULTATIONS, WORKSHOPS AND PROGRAMMES

4.1 Release of Factsheet on "Impact of COVID-19 in Rural India"

The Factsheet of the research study "Impact of COVID-19 in Rural India: a Cross Sectional Study from 12 States", which was conducted by the Indian Social Institute.

4.2 Celebration of 147th Birth Anniversary of Birsa Munda

The youth from different colleges of Delhi University met on 15th November, 2022 at Indian Social Institute, New Delhi, to celebrate the 147th Birth Anniversary of 'Dharti Abba' Birsa Munda at an ST Alliance Meet and Greet programme. After paying tribute to the tribal revolutionary leader, Birsa Munda, the programme began with lectures on the life of Birsa Munda, followed by sharing of students' thoughts, experiences, and challenges.

05. COLLABORATION AND NETWORKING

5.1 Migrant Assistance and Information Network (MAIN)

ISI has been supporting the activities of Migrant Assistance and Information Network (MAIN) for providing various services to migrants in Delhi and across the country.

5.2 Civil Society Organisations

Indian Social Institute collaborated with a large number of civil society organisations to organize the following programmes:

(1) ISI and Gopal Kiran Samaj Sevi Sansthan (GKSSS) organized the programme "Rashtriya Shiksha Samvad 2022" and presented Global ICON Education Award 2022 to teachers on 11 June, 2022, in the premises of Institute. About 130 teachers from across the country participated in the program.

(2) The 75th Independence Day of India was celebrated by ISI along with National Council of Churches in India (NCCI), Zakat Foundation of India (ZFI), Interfaith Coalition for Peace (ICP), Institute of Harmony and Peace Studies (IHPS) and Christian Institute for the Study of Religion and Society (CISRS) on 15th August at CISRS House. After the flag hoisting, the Chief Guest, Dr. Deepali Bhannot spoke on the theme "Ek Bharat Shreshth Bharat".

(3) Indian Social Institute hosted the programme "Celebrating our Satrangi Journeys with Vimalbhai" along with social activists and civil society organisations on 19th August, 2022.

(4) ISI and Child Rights and You (CRY) jointly organized a programme for volunteers of CRY in the premises of the Institute on 15th January, 2023.

06. PUBLICATIONS

a. Research Related

i. Book

1. Lobo, L. and Kumar, D. (2023)., *Tribes of Western India: A Comparative Study of their Social Structure*. London and New York: Routledge.

ii. Reports

1. D'Souza, A., and Shinu Joseph (2022). Factsheet on the impact of COVID-19 in rural India. Indian Social Institute, Delhi.
2. D'Souza, A. (2023). Impact of COVID-19 in Rural India: A cross-sectional study from 12 states. Indian Social Institute, Delhi.

iii. Articles in Journals/Magazines

1. Lobo, L. "Managing Urban Floods: A Case Study of Vadodara", *Economic and Political Weekly*, August 13 2022, Vol. LVII. No. 33, pp. 17-21.

2. Lobo, L. "Communalisation of Tribals", *Indian Currents, 9-15* January 2023, p. 24-27.
3. Varghese, T. and Dhan, S. J. (2022). "NEP 2020 and Issues and Challenges before Higher Education Institutions" in *New Frontiers in Education*, International Journal of Research, Vol 55 No. 273, April-June and July-September 2022, pp. 51-57.
4. Ngamshemla, V. (2023, March). Understanding mental and psychological health. *Social Action*. 73 (1), 105-115.
5. Parwez, S. (2022, April 4) Taron Bhari Rat Jaisa Sahitya Main Nahin Likh Sakta: Mohandas Naimisharai, *Navbharat Times*, p.14.
6. Sinha, A. (2023). Saving Mothers and Newborns through Reformed Healthcare: An Empirical Investigation of Janani Suraksha Yojana (JSY) in Uttarakhand, *Contributions to Indian Social Science (IASSI Quarterly)*, 42(1), January- March 2023.

b. Knowledge Dissemination

i. Legal Education Series

Legal Education Series in English as follows.

1. LES- 91 Specific Relief (Amendment) Act, 2018
2. LES-92 Goods and Services Tax Acts (GST ACTS)
3. LES- 93 The Employees' State Insurance Act, 1948
4. LES – 94 Simplified: Cyber Laws
5. LES – 01 Payment of Gratuity Act (Revised)
6. LES – 51 Crime and Punishment

Translated from English to Hindi:
1. LES - 88 Disaster Management Act, 2005
2. LES – 74 The Right to Information Act, 2005
3. LES – 64 Juvenile Justice Act, 2015
4. LES – 33 The Law on Atrocities Against Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention and Punishment).
5. LES – 29 The Consumer Protection Act.
6. LES – 02 Your Rights if Arrested.
7. LES – 94 Cyber Law
8. LES – 19 Criminal Procedure
9. LES – 28 Immoral Traffic Prevention Act
10. LES – 71 The Indian Trust Act
11. LES – 10 Payment of Bonus Act
12. LES – 84 The National Food Security Act, 2013

13. LES – 85 The National Commission for Scheduled Tribes
14. LES – 12 MGNREGA 2005
15. LES – 24 The Protection of Women from Domestic Violence
16. LES – 89 The Arbitration and Conciliation Act
17. LES – 57 Transfer of Property

a. Lectures – Papers presented

1. Gave the following presentations to Satya Nilayam faculty on 16-17th September
     i. Towards and Intellectual and Learned Approach to ministries
    ii. The unholy trinity: State, Market and Civil Society- paradigm shifts
   iii. Multi-cultural living and its problems
   iv. Ethnography
2. Delivered a lecture on "Tribal Issues and Perspectives" during the Course on 'Critical Thinking and Social Analysis on Contemporary India' on 25 April 2022.
3. Delivered a lecture on "Issues faced by Tribals in India" at the national training programme for trainers organized by the Center for Study of Peace and Harmony in Varanasi from May 27-29, 2022.
4. Gave a talk on "Contribution of Peace and Harmony in Society" in Jharkhand and Chhattisgarh.
5. Lecture on *Tribalism in Birsa philosophy* at Mahatama Gandhi Kashi Vidyapeeth, Varanasi (UP) on 15th November 2022.
6. Presented a paper on 'Tribal Culture in India' in National Seminar on 3rd and 4th February at IIT Roorkee.

b. Internship:

During the year 2022-23, 12 interns completed their internships in Indian Social Institute. They belonged to Delhi University, Jamia Millia University, Ambedkar University, Mar Gregorius College of Law, Thiruvananthapuram, and College of Legal Studies (CLS), Kottayam, Loyola College of Social Sciences, Thiruvananthapuram, St. Stephen's College, Delhi, Christ Deemed to be University, Bangalore, National Law University, Ranchi and Lloyd Law College, Greater Noida.

7. Services Provided

7.1. LIBRARY

7.1.1. The library Section:

The library named after Fidel Rosl Goetz is being developed with specialized resources catering to the needs of the marginalized groups (Dalits, Tribals, and Human Rights etc.).

The library has a stock of computer bibliographic database of print books as well as a small collection of rare and reference books on social sciences. The library is computerized, and has evolved into a fully automated library environment with the support of Koha Online library software and a special URL. http://isid.bestbookbuddies.com

7.2   Department of Publication

During the year 2022-2023, the department participated in the following major book fairs:

1.   National Patna Book fair Gandhi Maidan
2.   New Delhi World Book Fair, Pragati Maidan, New Delhi
3.   College book Fairs- Aryabhatt and Maharaja Agrasen College, Delhi University

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