

**Seminar on
Development and Social Justice
February 15-16, 2018
School of Social Sciences, Indira Gandhi National Open University**

For long development has been used as a panacea for good life and overall well-being of people at large. Ironically, however, the most developed nations continue to struggle with, among others, poverty, social inequality, and gender-based discrimination. It is no ingenuity to state that the notion of development has remained confined within the economic frame of reference. A close examination suggests that development belies social justice largely due to hegemonic power relations that infiltrate social, political and economic outcomes of plans, policies and strategies at both global and domestic levels.

There is impending need to broaden the limits so as to incorporate social, cultural and political aspects. This calls for locating development in a niche that aggregates equality of opportunity, entitlement to social minimum, accountability, and fair distribution of resources. Critical concern is with reclaiming the notion of development from inequality, injustice and insecurity. This would enable a more comprehensive and realistic understanding of the idea of development and prepare ground for effective policy prescription.

Development discourse in recent decades has tended to focus on issues of resource allocation, employment and livelihood consequence, and environmental outcomes. Much discussion has centered chiefly around issues of 'inclusion-exclusion', 'state-civil society', and 'local-global' which views development as struggle for betterment of social and economic situation of communities and nations. Expectedly then, traditional hierarchies, and contesting hegemonic ideologies are questioned even as alternative understanding that would inform the practice of development is being worked out.

In order to deliberate on new areas of research on development and social justice, the School of Social Sciences, IGNOU will hold a two-day seminar on February 15-16, 2018. Bringing together insights from diverse disciplines, this seminar seeks to relocate

development in a broad framework that centralizes freedom, social justice, and social empowerment and in doing so addresses following questions: What is development? What does development mean to people? Who are the major players/stakeholders in development discourse? How and in what way do the marginalized deal with their need for social minimum? Development for whom? How and to what extent do women get incorporated in the practice of development? What are the immediate and long-term consequences of development? and In what way can development practices be optimized for future gains?

The purpose is to facilitate discussion surrounding the concept of development in a frame of reference that incorporates partnership, coalition and collective action, accountability, and regulatory mechanisms. It is envisaged that discussion would chiefly center around following themes: **Perspectives on Development; Issues of Inclusion and Exclusion; State and Civil Society Initiatives; Women's Participation and transformative leadership; and Environmental Stewardship.**

Abstracts may be submitted by October 15, 2017 at directorsoss@ignou.ac.in

Outstation participants will be provided accommodation and local hospitality.