



"Education for Knowledge, Science, and Culture"
- Shikshanmaharshi Dr. Bapuji Salunkhe

Shri Swami Vivekanand Shikshan Sanstha's

**Vivekanand College, Kolhapur
(Autonomous)**



KOLHAPUR (AUTONOMOUS)

**ICSSR SPONSORED NATIONAL SEMINAR
on**

Neo-liberal Reforms and Welfare in India

Organized by

Departments of Economics and Political Science

Saturday, 30th April, 2022

Report of the Seminar

The Departments of Economics and Political Science jointly organized ICSSR sponsored one day national seminar on 'Neoliberal Reforms and Welfare in India' on Saturday, 30th April, 2022 from 10:30 AM to 5:00 PM in the Library Hall Auditorium of the college.

Rationale: India formally inaugurated neoliberal reforms in its economy in 1991. Liberalization of economy in India has persisted steadily but sluggishly. Neo-liberal policies and integration with the world economy have affected social and political life in India variously and deeply. Turn toward markets and corporatization affects the life conditions of workers as citizenry. The welfare function of the State provides the necessary cushion in the economic and social transformation that takes place with liberalization. The social welfare becomes an all the more important aspect of policy and politics when at the same time liberalization is equated with decline of the welfare state.

Objectives:

- 1) To probe into the nature of neo-liberal reforms in India.
- 2) To analyze the impact of neo-liberal reforms on the lives of citizens.
- 3) To contribute to the public discourse on neo-liberal economic policy and the welfare role of the State

- 4) To substantiate the inter-disciplinary dimension in the study of neoliberal reforms and welfare.
- 5) To throw light on the possibility of rational and socially accountable balance in economic and social policy of the State.

Report:

With the above objectives in mind, the seminar was conducted in four sessions including the technical session of the paper presentation.

Inaugural Session: After formal inauguration, Ms. Samiksha Farakate introduced the theme of the seminar. The Seminar was inaugurated at the hands of Prof Gopal Guru, Editor, Economic and Political Weekly. He was also the Key-note Speaker of the Seminar. In his inaugural address Prof. Guru briefly through light on the significance of the seminar theme and the relevance of organizing it in Kolhapur. He emphasized that Chhatrapati Shahu of the former Karveer Princely State combined the economic growth and social justice in his economic and social policy and that he was an emblem of social justice. Hence it is significant that this seminar was organized in his 100th death anniversary year. The inaugural session was chaired by Principal Dr. R. R. Kumbhar. He underlined the support of the institute to all academic efforts and commended the interdisciplinary nature of the seminar. Dr. R. G. Korabu, Head of the Department of Economics in D D Shinde Sarkar College, Kolhapur was also an invitee for this session. Convener Dr. Kailas Patil presented vote of thanks.

Keynote Address: In his keynote address, Professor Gopal Guru who is an authority in the area of political economy of social welfare, first elaborated the theoretical meaning and origin of neoliberalism. He explained the meaning and rationale of 'Welfare'. He illustrated with examples that welfare rights are important for citizens. He then elaborated how the concept of welfare has changed from resource transfer to money transfer in the context of welfare. He ended his speech by elaborating the impact of the changed nature of things on the citizens' wellbeing. Dr. R. G. Karbu gave the chairperson's remarks. Prof. Guru addressed several questions from the audience. Vote of thanks was presented by Mr. Ashish Bhasme.

Session One: In the first session, Prof. Dr. P.S. Kamble, Professor at Department of Economics, Shivaji University, Kolhapur spoke on the topic "Neoliberalism and Welfare". He illustrated through a power point presentation the trends and extent of neoliberal reforms

in India. He used minute data to make delegates aware of specific policy frameworks and their impact. He then defined 'Welfare' and presented the statistics of welfare expenditure in India and the changes therein. Professor Kamble answered participants' questions. This session was chaired by Dr. M. S. Deshmukh who is also Professor at Department of Economics, Shivaji University, Kolhapur. In his chairperson's remarks, he seconded the points made by Professor Kamble and further commented on the nature of liberalization and privatization in India. Vote of thanks was presented by Dr. Y.D. Hartale

Session Two: In this post lunch session, Prof. D. U. Pawar Former Dean of Social Sciences at Shivaji University, Kolhapur spoke on the theme "The Politics of Social Welfare in India: the Current Moment". Prof. Pawar made the session conversational. He made out the meaning of 'social welfare' by asking questions to participants. He then talked about the place of welfare policies in agendas of political parties and how they use the same. He talked on the effect of communalization of politics on the neglect of welfare politics. This session was chaired by Dr. Santosh Yadav, Assistant Professor, Devchand College, Nippani. He briefly commented on the content and style of the Resource Person Dr. Pawar in his address. The vote of thanks was presented by Mr. Sandip Patil.

Technical Session: Nine delegates presented their papers, mostly with the help of PPTs. The papers addressed varied topics from analysis of welfare schemes in India to New Economic Policy. Student researchers of Economics and Political Science presented the papers too. This session was chaired by Prof. H. V. Chame, Head, Department of Sociology, Vivekanand College, Kolhapur.

Valedictory Session: The valedictory session was chaired by Prin. Dr. R.R. Kumbhar who congratulated both the departments on successful conduction of the national seminar and gave wishes for further research and deliberations on the topic. The vote of thanks for the entire seminar was presented by Dr. Kailas Patil, Convener of the Seminar.

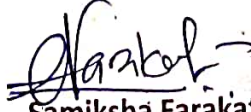
Outcomes:

- 1) Delegates, especially students of Economics and Political Science, benefitted from resourceful discussion of the said theme.
- 2) Various angles of neoliberalism and social welfare were introduced to the participants through speeches and question and answers.

- 3) Papers were written and presented throwing light different aspects of the topic (List attached).
- 4) Student volunteers got the training in arrangement of the seminar.
- 5) Research papers will be published in Shivaji university approved Vivek Research Journal.



Dr. Kailas Patil
Convener of Seminar



Samiksha Farakate
Coordinator of Seminar



Dr. R. R. Kumbhar
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