

PRESS RELEASE

Social Upliftment of Tribals Stressed

Bhubaneswar
22nd Sep, 2016

The Constitution of India provides for equal rights for all and there shall be no discrimination. Underlining the need for upliftment and empowerment of marginalized section of the society, the Constitution was amended in 1993. But it was unfortunate that the issue of atrocities on dalits, ST/SC, women and children being discussed today even 70 years after independence, said Achyut Das of AGRAGAMEE, a rights-based organization, on Wednesday.

Addressing in a seminar on 'Indian Constitution and Social Upliftment' organized by premier media academic of city Institute of Media Studies (IMS) on its campus, Das said laws have been made to protect underprivileged community including tribals, but much is desired to be done. Problems faced by tribals can be redressed under the Constitutional provisions and the Panchayats (Extension to Scheduled Areas) Act, 1996 (PESA), he added.

Speaking on the occasion, former Professor of Utkal University Niranjana Pani stressed on the basic provisions of the Constitution for socio-economic development of downtrodden people of the society. Women's political participation results in tangible gains for democratic governance, including greater responsiveness to citizens' needs. Women's leadership and conflict resolution styles embody democratic ideals and they tend to work in a less hierarchical, more participatory and more collaborative manner than male colleagues, he added.

Secretary of Vasundhara Manas Mishra said social justice and development go side by side in a democratic country. Constitution provides for equality but the society does not accept it. While no political party has taken upon itself to bind the society together, a number of parties are surviving by dividing the society either on the basis of society or caste. "If we want to achieve one nation, then the caste system should be abolished. Empowerment is the only solution to the dalit issue," he said.

Among others, course coordinator of social work department Dr Gayatri Patnaik, senior lecture Raghunath Mandal, faculties of other departments and students were present.