



Special Lecture on Ambedkar Jayanti: Caste and Educational Inequalities in Colonial India

Speaker:

Dr Manish Jain, Ambedkar University, Delhi

Date / Time:

April 14, 2014 - 10:55am - 12:30pm

Venue:

Room No 309, Pixel B, Azim Premji University

Abstract:

In both popular conception and a larger body of social science literature on caste, it represents a quintessential 'tradition'. In contrast, the education introduced by colonialism, represented by and institutionalized in the form of school promised and represented 'modernity'. But did colonialism leave caste unmarked by its presence, power, experience and discourses? If 'modern' education was tainted by its association with colonialism, then how did 'tradition' of caste intersect and interact with it and how were the two shaped by each other in the presence and context of colonialism along with other vectors of social stratification and inequality?

This talk attempts to examine this complex relationship between caste and education in colonial India through following questions. Who accessed education at different historical junctures and what were the regional variations? How did access to education reestablish and/or challenge social dominance? What were the attitudes of colonial officials, missionaries, social reformers, nationalist leaders and dominant castes to the education of the 'lower castes' and 'untouchables'? In what ways did the lower caste groups redefine and challenge the subject positions offered by the dominant powers and discourses? What insights we may gain from these historical contestations to ask questions about meaning of education, educational inequality, public and private, decentralisation and state?

A Note on the Speaker:

Dr Manish Jain teaches at the School of Education Studies, Ambedkar University, Delhi (AUD). He previously taught in a school and at Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS), Mumbai. He has been a member of textbook/syllabus/teacher education reform committees of NCERET, SCERT (Delhi), National Council for Teacher Education (NCTE) and MHRD.

Manish was awarded doctoral fellowships by Shastri Indo-Canadian Institute (SICI) and CSDS, Delhi for his comparative historical study of Citizenship and Civics Curriculum in India and

Canada since late nineteenth century. His teaching and research interests run along the triad and intersection of history, politics and sociology of education. They include history of education in colonial and postcolonial societies, sociology of education, educational policies, comparative education, social science and citizenship education and gender and education.

Manish writes both in Hindi and English and has published in the Handbook of Asian Education (Routledge), Contemporary Education Dialogue, Economic and Political Weekly, Seminar, Book Review, Social Change, Shiksha Vimarsh and Samayik Varta. At present, he is working on the manuscript of a book tentatively titled, 'Framing Subject, Making Citizens: Civics and Citizenship in Colonial India'.

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