

Ulgulan...



Azim Premji
University

Birsa Lecture, 15th Nov, 2022

THEME: TRIBAL/ADIVASI EPISTEMOLOGY AND STANDPOINT

The Tribal/Adivasi reality in India is a complex one; complex not in terms of social structure or systems, but in terms of numerous ethnicities that constitute the Tribal reality. Any theoretical attempt to historicize such a reality would have to critically engage with this embedded diversity that characterizes the Tribes as a social grouping within Indian society. Contemporary debates concerning Tribes/Adivasis in India is now being framed by Tribal academics around a framework called Pre and Post-Xaxa. This is posited by the Tribal Intellectual Collective India and is argued as fundamental to comprehend for any academic interested in Tribal Studies. Within this framework, one of the key issues being theorized concerns Tribal epistemology and the way it is conceived, conceptualized and positioned. This talk is a critical reflection on the subject of epistemology, and attempts to problematize the perspectives and historical experience of the Tribes in India within the said theoretical domain.



KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Dr. Bodhi S.R.
Associate Professor and Chairperson,
Centre for Social Justice and Governance, Tata
Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai.

TIME : 5 PM
VENUE: B3-05



MODERATOR

Prof. Asim Siddique
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ABOUT THE SPEAKER

Dr. Bodhi S.R, is Associate Professor and Chairperson at Centre for Social Justice and Governance, Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS), Mumbai. He has been teaching courses on Tribal and Dalit Studies for the past two decades in TISS, Mumbai . He is also the National Convener (Academic) of the Tribal Intellectual Collective India (TICI). He is the author of several books on Tribal and Dalit Studies such as '*The Khasi States: A Brief Historical Timeline from 1771 to 2017*', '*Epistemology of the Peripheralized: A Decolonial-Historical Approach*', and '*Navayana Buddhism: Context, Debates and Theories*' and numerous articles, the recent being '*Tribal Studies in India: Pre and Post Xaxa (2022)*' and '*The Ambedkarite Worldview Post 1956: Some Reflections on Its Theoretical Content (2022)*'.

Note from Tribal Student Forum at APU

- Who is a Tribal/Adivasi? Numerous scholars have developed their own understanding of defining Tribal/Adivasi – from colonial construct to subaltern positioning to marginalized identity – taking a pre-determined theoretical route of top-down order. We, the Tribal Student Forum, strongly believe that it is important to examine the ways in which we reach the answer i.e., by taking 'Adivasi epistemologies' into consideration; and in order to explore them; it is essential to take cognizance of how Tribal/ Adivasi view and define themselves. Through this seminar, we seek to foreground Tribal/Adivasi epistemologies and Tribal/Adivasi standpoint as a key domain in Tribal studies.