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ABOUT THE SEMINAR

Anthropology in India came into existence with the British Colonial rulers and has influenced the research endeavors of almost all the Indian Anthropologists. Even after introduction of anthropology, as an academic discipline, in the University of Calcutta in 1921, some overtone of the colonial mindset existed in the works of many anthropologists of India, though scholars of eminence like Sarat Chandra Roy and Nirmal Kumar Bose showed their commitments to the cause of Indian Anthropology, even before the Independence of this country.

In course of time, Indian anthropologists, working among the people of plural culture, assumed certain special characteristics for the subject. Though, the discipline made an entry and grew under the active patronage of the colonial rulers, it could sustain the critical phase of transition, when the patronage ceased, after India achieved her Independence. The discipline not only withstood the crisis situation, but also showed a growth with some essential modifications on the application of the knowledge of anthropology.

In the efforts of accommodating the ever-changing biological and social-cultural mosaics of a developing nation like India, the anthropologists, at times, overlooked the main strength of the discipline, i.e. its holistic nature and integrated approach. Furthermore, anthropologists are no more concerned exclusively with the studies of the tribes; an area where, by virtue of their professional training, they have acquired maximum expertise in dealing with this section of population. No other discipline has such an advantage.

It is argued at many fora, that even after a lapse of 92 years of its existence as an academic discipline, the trained ‘Indian Anthropologists’ are still in search of a sound footing to highlight their research contributions, the role as well as relevance of specialized knowledge of anthropology in the sphere of effective implementation towards the emerging needs of the society/nation.

The present National Seminar would aim at generating information on the kinds of researches, the Indian Anthropologists have been involved in and their relevance in the contemporary Indian situation.