

Brief Report on Round Table on Tribal Worldview held at NERC-ICSSR and NEHU on 30st March to 1st April, 2015.

The roundtable was organized to initiate and follow dialogues on various aspects of social scientific studies on ethnic and tribal worldviews between philosophers and social scientists. Towards this, the roundtable brought together a number of scholars who had contributed to understanding of tribal worldview in Northeast India as well as in other parts of India with philosophers whose work has an orientation to social sciences and literature, among other relevant disciplines.

The roundtable was inaugurated by Professor Mrinal Miri, who argued at length to re-state that the web of meanings created within tribal worldview in their own language and 'form of life' need to be understood by following their ways of reasoning and their conceptual, moral, practical and spiritual insights. The keynote address was delivered by Prof. Satish Deshpande who brought out the 'cusp culture patterns' that obtain between Northeast India and mainland on the one hand and on the other Southeast Asia and Northeast of India. He emphasized the need for a better understanding of Northeastern cultures at the national level so that the existing misunderstandings could be turned into dialogue and mutual respect.

Padmashree Patricia Mukhim, a noted journalist and a key woman thinker from the region joined issues by stating that tribal worldview has undergone quick transformations in a manner that core values are getting redesigned and hence there is a need to connect with the past in a manner that these core values are not completely lost.

Each of the participant in the roundtable was given an hour to speak on a theme of their choice, which afterward was discussed threadbare by other participants.

Other participants included Prof. Suresh Sharma, Prof. Binod K. Agarwala, Dr. Priyadarshini Vijaisri, Prof. Debarshi Nath, Dr. A. Bimol Akoijam, Dr. Joy Pachuau, Dr. Rajesh Dev, Dr. Sanjeev Kakoty, Prof. Sujata Miri, Prof. Sukalpa Bhattacharjee and a large of research scholars from various social sciences. Apart from speakers listed, participants played an active role in discussing philosophical debates and issues centring every presentation for nine sessions conducted over three days.

These participants deliberated on the issue of specificity of Northeastern tribal worldviews in the national and global contexts and highlighted the fact of otherness that is built into tribal worldview, which is both a challenge and a resource for philosophical discourses.

The Roundtable was co-ordinated locally by Dr. Prasenjit Biswas.

