

NATIONAL SEMINAR ON

**“Community, Institutions and
Participation in Natural
Resource Governance”**

MARCH 3 – 4, 2011



**Department of
Sociology**

**UNIVERSITY OF HYDERABAD
HYDERABAD – 500046, INDIA
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The Seminar

Department of Sociology, University of Hyderabad, India is organizing a two-day UGC (SAP) National Seminar on ‘Community, Institutions and Participation on Natural Resource Governance’ during March 3 – 4, 2011.

The Concept Note

The inherent inadequacies of the top-down, state-centric and conservation oriented approach to natural resources have forced academicians, policymakers and practitioners to shift their focus away from state-centred policies of conservation towards solutions at the local level. Consequently, countries around the world have started giving greater rights, responsibilities and powers to the local communities in recent years to sustainably manage their immediate environment. In a sharp departure from previous work on development and resource management, which drew its inspirations from Garret Gardin’s conceptualization of ‘*Tragedy of the Commons*’ and considered communities as hindrance to progress, social change and resource conservation; local communities have been the center of attraction in most of current writings; and their role in bringing about decentralized and meaningful participation for sustainable use and governance of natural resources has been much discussed.

Communities have now become the major thrust of conservationist thinking and scholarly writings about natural resource governance. The limitations of the State to coerce its citizens to unpopular development and conservation practices have been widely acknowledged, and national governments, Non Governmental Organisations (NGOs) and international donor agencies are now extending both financial and institutional

supports towards community based conservation.

In the backdrop of such renewed interest towards ‘community’, the present seminar intends to explore problems and prospects of such community based approaches to natural resource governance, by way of deeply engaging itself to the questions of community, institutions and participation. In particular, the seminar would try to find answers to important questions like:

- Why and how community based approach is preferable to other approaches like state or market oriented approach?
- What role community institutions play in the process of community based development and natural resource governance?
- How participation is placed in the community based approach and how does the state perceive the notion of community and its participation in the changed policies?
- What are factors and inherent traits of community which hinder or favour participation?
- To what extent the questions of livelihood are addressed in the community based resource governance?

Themes and Sub-themes

There are four broad themes, around which the discussions in the Seminar will revolve. These themes will be further divided into various sub-themes.

Theme 1: Conceptual and Theoretical Perspective to Community, Institutions and Participation in Natural Resource Governance

Papers are invited under this theme, which engage with the following sub-themes:

- Theoretical and Conceptual work on common
- Institutional Analysis Natural Resource Governance
- Issues of Property Rights, Collective Action and Community Institution

Theme 2: Critical Perspective on Natural Resource Governance Policies

Papers are invited under this theme, which engage with the following sub-themes:

- Critical review of recent state policies concerning Water and Forest
- Locating participation in policies concerning natural resource governance

Theme 3: Community, Institutions and Participation in Forest Resource Governance

Papers are invited under this theme, which engage with the following sub-themes:

- Empirical studies on community's access and governance of forest resources
- Issues of property rights, collective action, conflict and collaboration in forest resource governance
- Questions of Tribe, tribal livelihoods and tribal empowerment and/or disempowerment through community based forest governance

Theme 4: Community, Institutions and Participation in Water Resource Governance

Papers are invited under this theme, which engage with the following sub-themes:

- Empirical studies on community's access and governance of water resources
- Questions of caste, elite and rural power structure in community based water resource governance
- Issues of property rights, collective action, conflicts and collaborations in water resource governance
- Community, institutions and participation in drinking water

Important Dates

Submission of abstract: January 30, 2011

Acceptance of Abstracts: February 5, 2011

Submission of Full Paper: February 20, 2011

All correspondence should be sent to:

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