

**MAULANA AZAD NATIONAL URDU UNIVERSITY**

**Department of Women Education  
in collaboration with Department of Sociology  
organized**

**One Day National Seminar on  
“Sociology of Subaltern Communities: Revisiting Dalits, Minorities and Tribal  
Studies in South India” on 17, February, 2025**

**SEMINAR REPORT**



A National Seminar on "Sociology of Subaltern Communities: Revisiting Dalits, Minorities, and Tribal Studies in South India." was organized by the Department of Sociology in collaboration with the Department of Women Education, Maulana Azad National Urdu University (MANUU) on 17, Feb, 2025

The seminar aimed to explore the sociological landscape of South Indian societies, focusing on marginalized communities such as Dalits, minorities, and Adivasis. It addressed how caste, class, religion, and gender intersect to shape

the lived experiences of these communities. The seminar was based on four major themes:

1. Muslim Communities in South India
2. Dalit Movements and Experiences
3. Adivasi Communities and Marginalization
4. Gendering Voices and Experiences

The seminar was structured around the Keynote Address, Panel Discussions, and paper presentations in the Inaugural, Plenary, and Technical Sessions. The seminar witnessed the participation of Scholars, academicians, researchers, and students from across the country, engaging in insightful discussions on issues concerning subaltern communities. The seminar provided a platform to explore various dimensions of social justice, education, empowerment, cultural practices, and structural inequalities affecting Dalits, minorities, and tribal communities in South India.

The seminar started at 9:00 AM at the Syed Hamid Library Auditorium, with registrations. This was followed by the Pre-Inaugural Technical Session from 9:15 to 10:15 AM, on the theme: *Education, Empowerment, and Social Mobility*. The session was chaired by Prof. K. Ghulam Dasthagir & Dr. Bibekananda Nayak and coordinated by Dr. Md Ethesham Akhtar. A total of ten papers were presented in this session. These papers were largely based on the issues such as the socioeconomic status of Muslims, educational challenges faced by marginalized communities, child marriage, and the impact of climate change.

Following the Pre-Inaugural session, the Inaugural Session was held from 10:30 to 11:30 Noon. This session was chaired by Prof. Syed Ainul Hasan, Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor of MANUU. The session was graced by Janab Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi, Former Union Cabinet Minister, Government of India. Other prominent

figures included Prof. G. Aloysious, Dr. Sunil George, Director, Symbiosis Law School, Hyderabad, and Prof. Ishtiaque Ahmed, Registrar, MANUU.

In this session, Dr. K. M. Ziyauddin, Head of the Department of Sociology, introduced the seminar theme and discussed the importance of studying subaltern communities in the current socio-political and economic context. Prof. G. Aloysious delivered the keynote address, focusing on the struggles of subaltern communities and the need for academic research to support policy-making and grassroots interventions. Janab Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi emphasized the government's role in ensuring educational opportunities for subaltern communities. The session concluded with remarks from Prof. Syed Ainul Hasan.

After the Inaugural session, the Plenary Session was held from 11:45 AM to 1:30 PM on the theme *Revisiting Dalits, Minorities, and Tribal Studies in South India*. This session was chaired by Prof. Arvinder A. Ansari (Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi). Dr. K. M. Ziyauddin joined in this session as the discussant and Prof. Ghulam Dasthagir (Pondicherry University), Prof. G. Nagaraju (HCU), Prof. L. Lam Khan Piang (HCU), and Dr. Tauseef Fatima (AMU) as plenary speakers. The session was coordinated by Dr. Shabana Kesar, Head, Department of Women Education.

The plenary session provided a broader analytical perspective on the historical and contemporary challenges faced by Dalits, minorities, and tribal communities. The discussions examined the intersections of caste, gender, politics, and economic deprivation and suggested pathways for inclusive growth.

After the lunch break, Technical Session II was held from 3:30 PM to 4:30 PM on the theme *Social Justice, Rights, and Movements*. The session was chaired by Prof. J. Rani Ratan Prabha (CSSI, HCU) and coordinated by Mr. Mohammad Fazil. This session featured ten research papers addressing Dalit movements, internal

inequalities within tribal communities, economic disparities among Muslims in Tamil Nadu, and the political exclusion of marginalized groups.

The Technical Session III was held from 3:30 PM to 4:30 PM on the theme *Cultural Practices and Community Structure*. The session was chaired by Prof. P. H. Mohammad (MANUU) and coordinated by Mr. Faisal Aziz. This session focused on research papers related to cultural and community dynamics, such as matrilineal family structures in Lakshadweep, food practices in Malabar, the impact of social media on education, and the land rights of tribal communities in Valparai. These discussions highlighted the role of cultural resilience in shaping the identities of subaltern communities.

The seminar concluded with the Valedictory session which was graced by the Prof. Shahida, Dean, SASS, and Prof. Ameena Tahseen from the Department of Women Education, MANUU as the Guest of Honour and Prof. Arvinder A. Ansari from JMI, New Delhi was the Valedictory Speaker. The session was coordinated by Dr Saheed Meo. In this session Dr Shabana Kesar (Seminar coordinator ) welcome the guests and participants, Dr Hilal Ahamd War presented the seminar report while Dr K M Ziyauddin ( Seminar Convener) presented the vote of thanks. The seminar concluded with distribution of certificates to the participants.

The seminar provided an academic platform for scholars to engage in the socio-economic and political challenges faced by subaltern communities in South India. It examined the intersections of caste, class, gender, and religion in understanding marginalization of these subaltern communities and highlighted the role of education and social movements in empowering these marginalized groups.

**Few glimpses of the program:**



**Dr. Shabana Kesar  
Head, DWE**