

REPORT OF WEBINAR

DEPARTMENT OF ANTHROPOLOGY

TOPIC: Anthropology in Policymaking: Challenges and Opportunities

DT. 07.08.2021, 10 AM TO 1 PM THROUGH GOOGLE MEET

Department of Anthropology, Fakir Mohan Autonomous College, Balasore organised a national webinar on the topic, "Anthropology in Policymaking: Challenges and Opportunities" on 7th August, 2021 from 10 am to 1 pm. There were four resource persons for this webinar:

1. Prof. (Dr.) A.B.Ota, IAS (Retd.), Special Secretary, Govt. of Odisha and Director, SCSTRTI,BBSR
2. Dr. P.K.Patra, Associate Professor of Anthropology, Utkal University, and Member, Odisha State Backward Commission
3. Dr. Rajkishore Mahana, Assistant Professor of Anthropology, Berhampur University
4. Mr. S. Jyotiranjana, Advocate, Orissa High Court

Dr. Sangita Sahu, Principal of the college welcomed the resource persons and participants. Further she spoke about the importance and role of anthropology in policy making and how anthropologists can contribute with their knowledge and problem solving skills. Next the convenor and head of the department, Miss Ruchi Mohapatra introduced the resource persons to all the participants and then the meeting was handed over to the moderator Mr.Prasant kumar Sahoo to moderate the discussions.

Dr. A.B.Ota spoke about how anthropology is already making news by involving different stakeholders and specially the tribal affairs are managed by the government and their issues being addressed. Dr. Patra gave his opinion about whether anthropology attempts to work with the government or it criticizes the government policies. Further Dr. Mahana spoke on the topic 'How does a good social policy work?: Reflections on Forest Rights Act, 2006.' He has done great work on the issue and helped bring some core issues to light. And last but not the least Mr. Jyotiranjana was instrumental in voicing opinion as a non-anthropologist who was keen in applying legal aspects in anthropology to help make policies effective for the people.

Lastly the vote of thanks was given by Mr. Prasant kumar Sahoo. Almost 80 number of participants participated including faculties, research assistants, students from different anthropological domains. The question and answer session with the distinguished resource persons was very much interesting and thought provoking as well. Overall the webinar was first of a kind organised by this department and it was a huge success indeed.

