

# **National Seminar**

**On**

***“Environmental Crisis, Ethics and  
Social Justice: A Critical Perspective”***

***4<sup>th</sup> -5<sup>th</sup> April 2019***

**Department of Sociology**

**Kamala Nehru College**

**About the seminar:**

The two-day seminar will be a combination of lectures, paper presentations by scholars, academics, practitioners, researchers, students working and interested in environmental issues. The seminar intends to start with the paper presentations (4<sup>th</sup> April 2019) followed by panel discussions by invited scholars and academicians (5<sup>th</sup> April 2019).

**Theme and Scope**

The environment is everything that makes our surroundings and affects our ability to live on the earth. However, its continuous erosion has led to its degradation resulting in environmental crisis. This crisis can also be viewed as a crisis of worldview and values, and a question of ethics and social justice.

Environmental ethics concerns human beings' ethical relationship with the natural environment. Perhaps the most fundamental question that must be asked is simply, what obligations do we have concerning the natural environment? How do our ethics and morals help to shape our environmental regulations for the better? What are the best strategies to preserve and conserve the environment and at what cost? Thus, environmental ethics and its approaches can play a vital role to run our life smoothly and can make a balance between humans and other beings in our surrounding environment. The intention is to examine how our ethics and morals help to shape our environmental regulations for the better and the plural ways in which it has changed over time.

Closely intertwined with environmental ethics is the question of social justice. The interconnectedness of daily human life and the state of the Earth often goes unexamined, but at this point in human history we cannot afford to separate these conversations. From a community scale to a global scale there is an intense connection between people and the Earth, and harm to one, cannot be escaped by the other.

To continue understanding the interrelationship between environmental ethics and social justice, the intended national seminar will explore the environment laws via its case studies of population, land settlement and the range of ethical issues and the historical development of laws influencing its effective implementation. This would put the ethical concern in the centre of mitigation of adaptation vis-a-vis the anthropocene approach. Even though prejudice throughout the world does form the basis for environmental injustice coupled with economic benefits to few yet the philosophy of traditional knowledge of human behavior has formed the basis of interaction within the world we live in.

The capital-intensive production further triggers the environmental movement for ever-increasing changes to our laws, has often secured great success since the 1960s across the globe. Spectrum of theories from utilitarian conservation; to bio-centric preservation; to cultural/religious views towards our environment would form the structure of negotiation. The exercise is to question the coexistence of environment protection and economic prosperity together, should the cost of technology be paid by all those who

benefit from it? Who all should be together in collective decision over the common pool of environment resource use?

Despite intense pressure from stakeholders across nations, boundaries, color, creed regardless of income confronts complex choices to make laws more accountable, participatory and effective. These multiple perspectives identify fundamental challenges and barriers and with respect to the regulations, and policies. The above intention is to examine how our ethics and morals help to shape our environmental regulations for the better and the plural ways in which it has changed over time.

The seminar intent to take an inter-disciplinary approach in understanding these issues, hoping to bridge the gap across the policy-makers and the civil society. Henceforth, the proposed seminar would focus on providing a sociological perspective to the contemporary environmental debates.

### **CALL FOR PAPERS**

Well researched original research papers/case studies are invited from the academics, practitioners, researchers, students working and interested in environmental issues. Research papers shall be subject to the approval of Editorial Board for inclusion in the seminar proceedings. Selected papers will be published in the seminar proceeding. The sub-themes are as follows:

#### **SEMINAR SUB-THEMES:**

- a) Understanding Environmental Ethics and social justice
- b) Politics, Policies and Environmental Regulations
- c) Environmental Impact and Effect on Civil Society
- d) Local and Regional perspectives on Environmental Movements

#### **GUIDELINES FOR SEMINAR PAPERS:**

*Participants who intend to present their research papers in the seminar are required to submit the Abstract of their paper by 7<sup>th</sup> March, 2019 through e-mail. The word limit for abstract is 300 words. The abstract should contain a brief profile of the author including e-mail ID, contact number and official address..*

**FULL PAPER SUBMISSION:** *Selected papers should be submitted by 15<sup>th</sup> March 2019. The word limit for Research Paper is 3000-4000 words (maximum). It must be typed in Times New Roman Font Size 12.*

*Abstracts & Research papers may be submitted in the following mail id [urna.d@knc.edu.in](mailto:urna.d@knc.edu.in) and [urna.dutta@gmail.com](mailto:urna.dutta@gmail.com) by the specified date. At the time of submission, authors need to specify in the subject the following details- the title of the paper, Abstract/Full paper', surname of author. Articles received after the stipulated deadline will not be entertained for participation in the seminar. No TA/DA will be paid to the presenters of paper. Registration details will be updated later.*