



EqUIP: EU India Platform for the Social Sciences and the Humanities

Symposium on 'Inequalities, Growth and Place/Space'

October 19-20, 2015

Deliverable **2.2** Reflection Report

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Symposium
'Inequalities, Growth and Place/Space'
October 19-20, 2015

1 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Background

The EqUIP Expert Group which met in London on 15th January 2015, identified five themes for the Symposia to be held in India and Europe over the period September 2015 to September 2016. The Five themes are : A. Sustainable prosperity, well-being and innovation B. Inequalities, growth and place/space C. Social transformation, cultural expressions, cross cultural connections and dialogue D. Power structures, conflict resolution and social justice E. Digital archives and databases as a source of mutual knowledge. The Experts recommended the strengthening of the presence of Humanities in workshops A, B and D, given that their prime focus is on the Social Sciences.

First EqUIP Symposium in New Delhi, India

The first Symposium on the theme **Inequalities, growth and place/space**, organised by ICSSR was held in New Delhi on October 19-20, 2015, with the participation of academic experts from India and Europe. In all, there were 59 registered participants. To concretise the discussions and to define priority areas for future research collaboration, the Symposium discussions were held through three thematic sessions in addition to an Inaugural and a Concluding session. Prof. Thorat, Chairman ICSSR and Dr. Cesare Onestini, Charge d' affaires a.i. delegation of the European Union to India, delivered the introductory and Inaugural addresses respectively in the Inaugural session.

Reflections: Thematic Discussions and Prioritized Subthemes

Over the two days, three subthemes of Growth and Inequality, Economic Growth and Discrimination and Urbanisation, Migration and Cultural Heritage, were deliberated upon with a view to defining the priorities for exploring an EU- India research agenda. Each subtheme, discussed in groups comprising an equal mix of Indian and European scholars, brought forth several ideas for joint research collaboration. Efforts were also made to ensure a mix of gender and disciplines ensuring that humanities scholars also participated. In all, 59 participants had registered for the Symposium.

The subthemes identified were:

I Growth and Inequality, with a focus on exploring concepts of inclusive pro-poor growth and human development for an EU-India research agenda.

Prioritized areas specific to this subtheme centred around the following:

- i. Diverse Meanings/Concepts of growth, including human development. While admitting that inequalities of both income, wealth and opportunities were on the rise, participants highlighted the imperative for contextualising, measuring and observing inequality in all its manifestations and dimensions, in a multi disciplinary setting.
- ii. Exploring the critical relationship between Education and Social policy, and understanding the role of the State in imparting education. Experts pointed out that an EU-India research agenda can be framed to assess policies with respect to universalization of elementary education, privatization, and other neo-liberal market oriented models.
- iii. Relationship between Social policy and Inequality. While participants concurred with the view that inequality retards growth, they admitted that social policy in the present time has undergone a major shift due to global imperatives and changes in political, economic and cultural domains. An EU-India research agenda can provide direction for effective and fair social policy prescriptions.

II Economic Growth and Discrimination with a discussion on building inclusive societies and defining therein the role of the state, market and communities. An EU-India research agenda would center on new forms of governance and political participation.

Prioritized areas specific to this subtheme are the following:

- i. Changing relations between the State and Citizens

With a transformation of the nature of the State post-globalisation, its relations with the citizens have also altered. This relationship needs a re-examination in both India and European countries

- ii. Social Dynamics of Discrimination

Discrimination in various forms and manifestations needs critical research in a multi-disciplinary format for appropriate policy interventions.

- iii. State and Public Goods

Public goods continue to be a relevant issue in the context of emerging inequalities, with specific reference to India. The role of the state in the distribution of these goods and services to address inequality is an important research area, with much to be learnt from the experience of European countries.

III Urbanisation, Migration and Cultural Heritage, with a view to defining the priorities for exploring an EU- India research agenda around the effect of macro-level

changes, such as globalisation, urbanisation, and migration, in shaping cultural heritage and organisation of public spaces.

Prioritized areas specific to this subtheme are the following:

i. Urbanization and Inequality

Rapid urbanization in India has created a deeper urban-rural inequality, with discrimination in the labor market as well. In Europe, income inequalities are also increasing, both among and within countries. Thus urbanization as a factor generating different types of inequality needs further exploration in India and Europe.

ii. Cultural Heritage and its Preservation

Both India and Europe are encountering issues of preservation of their diverse and rich cultural heritage, even as they seek to provide public space for all groups of urban dwellers and migrants.

Overlaps in Subthemes

Participants from diverse disciplines of humanities and social sciences concurred that there were issues as discrimination, migration, empowerment and inclusion which overlap all the three subthemes.

Potential Challenges in undertaking Collaborative Research

Experts from India and Europe highlighted some of the challenges that would be encountered when undertaking collaborative research around the theme of Growth, Inequality, Place/ Space. These pertain mainly to addressing issues of research methodology, resources, relevant training for researchers' and their mobility given the fact that much of the research component would need to be both empirical and qualitative.

2 INTRODUCTION

This report is the result of the first EqUIP Symposium on Inequalities, Growth and Place/Space held in New Delhi on October 19-20, 2015. The production of this report has been led by Dr. Reena Marwah (Indian Council of Social Science Research, ICSSR), the lead partner delivering the event, drafted with comments received from Dr. Jacqui Karn (Economic and Social Research Council, ESRC) and other EqUIP partners. The symposium engaged expert researchers in discussions of this theme, all nominated by participating organisations (see [Annex B](#) for a full list of participants).

2.1 About EqUIP

The EU-India Platform for the Social Sciences and Humanities (EqUIP) brings together research funding and support organisations in Europe and India in order to develop a stronger strategic partnership for multi-lateral research collaboration. Europe and India have strong historical links, but its research collaboration relationships are relatively new.¹ EqUIP is linking and building upon successful partner relationships developed at the European level, using the NORFACE and HERA European Research Area Networks (ERA-NETs) as a basis for expanding interactions with India. As in those networks, the EqUIP platform is supporting Social Science and Humanities research funding agencies across Europe and India to build a stronger strategic partnership, increase opportunities for networking and dialogue amongst researchers, and explore ways of working to enable future joint research programming. A key element of the work will be in identifying opportunities and priorities for future research collaboration. The symposium was successfully designed to achieve the active involvement of scholars both from India and EU partner countries in exploring this area of common interest for funders .

¹ [Scoping Report On Existing Collaboration And Future Interests And Opportunities](#)

2.2 EqUIP Symposia Series

Research themes of interest to partners that would benefit from an EU-India perspective/ collaboration for further exploration were identified through an initial scoping exercise with EqUIP partners, and further refined by in consultation with an expert group. Five broad areas (see Table 1) were refined and are outlined in full in the Scoping Report on Existing Collaboration and Future Interests and Opportunities.²

| Table 1: EqUIP Priority Themes |
|---|
| Sustainable Prosperity, Wellbeing and Innovation |
| Inequalities, Growth and Place/Space |
| Social Transformations, Cultural Expressions, Cross-Cultural Connections and Dialogue |
| Power Structures, Conflict Resolution and Social Justice |
| Digital Archives and Databases as a Source of Mutual Knowledge |

These broad themes will be further explored and developed through a series of symposia events with the research community. Five thematic symposia will be organised as part of the EqUIP project activities, to inform development of these themes and widen academic networks. A sixth symposium will bring together the findings from these events. Discussions from each symposium will be captured in a 'Reflection paper' with the aim of guiding future international research collaboration initiatives.

2.3 Aims of the Symposia Series

The aims of this series of Symposia are to facilitate expert discussions to gain a full and nuanced view within these broad these and develop expert recommendations to the EqUIP partners of priority areas for future research collaboration. In addition the symposia aim to create opportunities for networking amongst experts in the social sciences and humanities from across Europe and India.

² <http://equipproject.eu/wp-content/uploads/2015/09/EqUIP-Executive-Summary-of-the-Scoping-Report.pdf>

Experts from social science and humanities disciplines, from both Europe and India, nominated by EqUIP partners, will be invited to each event to discuss the opportunities and challenges in each thematic area, exploring the potential added value in addressing these societal challenges through a distinctly Indo-European research agenda, and thereby identify needs and priorities for future research collaboration to be considered going forward by EqUIP partners.

3 SYMPOSIUM ON 'INEQUALITIES, GROWTH AND PLACE/SPACE'

The first of these symposia was delivered by ICSSR on 19-20th October 2015 in New Delhi, which was an appropriate and highly successful location to begin the Symposia series. The organisers successfully secured high profile speakers for the event with the inaugural addresses delivered by **Prof. Sukhdeo Thorat**, Chairman ICSSR and **Dr. Cesare Onestini**, Chargé d'affaires a.i, Delegation of the European Union to India.

Prof. S. Thorat articulated the role of ICSSR in forging research collaborations between scholars in Europe and India. Dr. C. Onestini, speaking on behalf of the European Commission, highlighted the importance of understanding India, not only as a fast growing economy but also because both Europe and India shared joint concerns around the Societal Challenges that inform the vision for Horizon 2020 research funding.

Fifty Nine participants registered for the event from Europe and India.

3.1 Scope of the symposium

The event explored themes around 'Inequalities, Growth and Place/Space'. Several areas were initially highlighted as priorities by the expert group engaged in the scoping exercise and included in the concept note for the event:

- Inequalities and growth
- City, settlements, cultural heritage and organisation of public spaces
- State, market and communities
- Formal and informal structures, production system, consumer patterns, business behaviour and labour

Whilst cities and rapid urbanisation are at the core of this theme, the significance of the rural aspect was emphasised in the initial scoping of the theme, particularly in the context of development and growth, and not just in the move from rural to urban areas. The refining of the title to place/space was to directly indicate this wider consideration.

The Symposium explored these themes through three broad areas of discussion:

- **Growth and Inequality** - What are the priorities for exploring a research agenda for EU –India around growth and inequality in a contemporary and historical setting? What are the priorities for exploring EU-India concepts of inclusive pro-poor growth and human development?
- **Economic Growth and Discrimination** - What are the priorities for exploring an EU- India research agenda around the dynamics of Economic Growth and discrimination? What are the priorities for exploring the EU-India research agenda around the understanding of the requirements for inclusive societies, including debates on the role of the state, market and communities and new forms of governance and political participation? Is globalisation adversely impacting the environment and defying the human quest for sustainable development? How can we implement Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) goals in the Indian context?
- **Urbanisation, Migration and Cultural Heritage** - What are the priorities for exploring an EU- India research agenda around the effect of macro-level changes, such as globalisation, urbanisation, and migration, in shaping cultural heritage and organisation of public spaces? What are the place/space specific issues of cultural diversity in the context of growth

3.2 Structure of the Symposium

The symposium was structured to comprise of three thematic sessions to explore these broad themes as well as an inaugural and concluding session, with questions to inspire debate (outlined in Section 3).

Each of the thematic sessions commenced with two keynote addresses, one each by an Indian and one by a European academic. After the introductions by the Chairpersons and the keynote addresses, the participants were organized into groups to aid informal discussion, with about 7-8 participants in each group, ensuring that there was a balance of academic experts from Europe and India in each of the groups. Efforts were also made to ensure a mix of gender and disciplines when groups were formed. Discussions revolved around the key questions under each thematic area. The questions were circulated to the participants in advance.

Participants were asked in particular to explore the following sub-questions:

- What are the future priorities for EU-India research collaboration in this area – ensuring research excellence (this means where collaborations between researchers in India and Europe add value and don't duplicate national activities).
- What is the research capacity?
- Are there factors to consider relating to the social sciences and humanities?
- Are there factors to consider relating to the different geographic areas (e.g. inequalities in India compared to those in European countries).
- Are there particular opportunities or challenges EqUIP needs to consider?

Each group was provided with a pro-forma to record three to five priority topics and issues related to these sub-questions (see Annex 2). One expert was nominated by each group to report back to the symposium, priorities and issues through this process summarised and collated by moderators. On the first day moderators were Dr. Reena Marwah, Senior Academic Consultant and EqUIP Coordinator, ICSSR and Dr. Jacqui Karn, Senior European Policy Manager ESRC. On the second day Dr Marwah was supported by Ms. Kaisa Granqvist, project manager at the Centre for Social Innovation (ZSI), Austria and Mr. Ben Sharman, European Policy Manager at ESRC.

4 THEMATIC SESSIONS

4.1 Growth & Inequality

Thematic Session I was addressed by Prof. C Ravi as chair with Dr. Tom Wakeford from UK and Prof. Amaresh Dubey from India as keynote speakers. Panellists discussed concepts of inequality and the complexity of definition in differing cultural contexts as well as issues around unequal opportunities and rewards for different social positions or statuses within a group or society. Apart from the economic dimension, other important dimensions including power, rank, esteem, occupational prestige, privilege, caste, race and ethnicity, it was argued, should be comprised within the inequality concept. Inequality must also be viewed from the historical and political perspective, given the cultural and social specificity of India and European countries.

The caste system in India is also a cause of inequalities both in ownership of assets and occupation. The unequal and hierarchical assignment of occupation and property rights among castes implies that persons of some castes suffer to various degrees from an unequal division of social and economic rights. The *Dalits*, referred to earlier as *untouchables*, located at the bottom of the caste hierarchy, suffer most as they face 'exclusion and discrimination' from access to all economic rights. In order to correct the imbalance in terms

of access to capital assets, employment, education, political participation and other spheres, countries like India have resorted to practices of reservation, affirmative action, or equal opportunity policies for the discriminated sub-groups.

The key questions in theme I were:

- What does Collaborative Research between Europe and India imply in the Context of Inequality, Growth and Place/Space?
- What has been your previous experience?
- Which are the key institutions in India and Europe undertaking collaborative research?
- What are the priorities for exploring a research agenda for EU –India around growth and inequality in a contemporary and historical setting?
- What are the priorities for exploring EU-India concepts of inclusive pro-poor growth and human development?

4.1.1 REFLECTIONS: Discussions took place in 5 groups. Each group comprised of 7-8 participants from India and Europe

4.1.1.1 GROUP 1

The group members mentioned that inequality in access to education would inevitably lead to unequal outcomes of human labour and the labour market plays a mediating role in sustaining inequality. On the other hand, the rapid privatization of education has created a strong hurdle for universal skill development by blocking access to education for marginalized communities. There is thus a need to study the impact of privatization on inequality both in India and Europe.

4.1.1.2 GROUP 2

Migration for the purpose of the permanent or semi-permanent residence across the political boundary creates the 'other' community which leads to exclusion and inequality to a larger extent. There could be different forms of migration including international and regional, rural and urban, permanent and seasonal, etc. These areas throw larger opportunities for research scholars to undertake a comparative analysis of not only the EU-India contexts, but SAARC countries as well. Besides migration issues, the group highlighted the gender dimension of inequality and suggested that special attention should be given by the research scholars in order to understand

gender participation and discrimination in the workforce. The group also suggested that the European social welfare experience has lessons for India to develop welfare policies for reducing inequality. The horizontal inequality dealing with gender and caste needs to be included in order to bring in a comprehensive study on inequality. The role of state and public goods to address inequality is also an important area for research.

4.1.1.3 GROUP 3

The group suggested that there needs to be an in-depth understanding of inclusion and exclusion in the context of social, cultural and economic processes. Moreover, the group specifically emphasized the historically situated understanding of growth and widening of inequality both in Europe and India. The rising ageing population in Europe and rising youth population in India have widened the scope of in-depth research in the areas of demographic trends and growth. Likewise, special attention should be given to the regional and spatial dimensions of growth to critically understand the concentration of growth in particular regions and underdevelopment in other regions across EU and India.

4.1.1.4 GROUP 4

Members emphasized the conceptualization of the theme of growth and inequality by involving various other disciplines. The group suggested the need to incorporate a social stratification approach, which largely involves class, caste and gender while explaining growth and inequality. Furthermore, historical (colonial), political and philosophical approaches for studying growth and inequality should be given more emphasis. The importance of a political economy approach in measuring growth and inequality in the contemporary neo-liberal period needs to be prioritized as the role of market, state and other actors have transformed themselves comprehensively to meet the needs of the political economy. The competition, profit motivation and international trade related aspects have a major influence on social policy for welfare and protection all over the world. The notion of inequality has different meanings according to the demographic category which includes both the younger and older generations. Aspects as geographical location and its developmental consequences were highlighted by this group.

4.1.1.5 GROUP 5

This group mainly focussed on the subject of conceptualization of growth and inequality. They emphasised more on the dynamics of growth and inequality which

includes growth, non-growth, de-growth and happy growth. Further, the dimensions include both economic and non-economic factors. The group especially highlighted the mediating role of social policies by the state while addressing the challenges posed by structural inequality. They further emphasized the need for research in a comparative perspective on the relations between social policy and inequality in EU and India. The role played by universal and public education in reducing inequality in Europe could be a model for India to research further.

4.1.2 OVERLAPPING ISSUES

During the discussion, several overlapping issues have been identified by the scholars. These are related to the conceptual understanding of growth and inequality; the mediating role of the labour market in reducing inequality; the role of the State and finally, the regional and spatial dimensions of growth and inequality.

4.1.3 CHALLENGES

The group identified several challenges while discussing issues pertaining to growth and inequality.

- First, all the groups unequivocally suggested the need for an appropriate research methodology for measuring non-economic variants of inequality, as this is a major challenge for the researchers both in India and Europe. Hence, there is a need for both methodological innovation and an interdisciplinary approach in addressing the problem.
- Second, the conceptualization of inequality in non-economic domains is a greater challenge for researchers as the data requirement and accessibility is highly limited and unfathomable.
- Third, there is no proper mechanism for measuring policy impact in the domain of growth and inequality.
- Fourth, there is a lack of investment in research capacity, training and funding for the mobility of researchers both in EU and India.
- Finally, the group highlighted the weak institutional support system as a challenge, which is one of the major hurdles for the development of social science research in both countries.

4.1.4 KEY THEMES IDENTIFIED

A. Conceptualization and Measurement of Inequality and Growth

Including concepts of Growth as non-growth / de-growth and happy growth. This theme would require contextualization through historical, social, cultural and ethically informed understanding of the concepts further delineated through gender, class, caste and region. Existing paradigms of growth and inequality would need to be challenged.

B. Processes, Trends and Spatial Dynamics of Growth and Inequality

This theme would require an understanding of social cultural and economic processes of inclusion and exclusion, demographic trends as well as framing regional and spatial dimensions in the context of India and Europe.

C. Social Policy, Welfare and Protection

Comparing and Contrasting the role of the market, the state and other actors in addressing growth and inequality in India and Europe. The theme would explore the divergence in the political context of policy making combining policy transfers and adaptation. A research agenda for India and Europe would also include measuring the impact of such policies on inequality and growth.

D. Migration and Social Mobility

A European and Indian collaborative research agenda would require understanding migration as internal or external, urban or rural, international or regional. A comparative analysis could also be undertaken between SAARC and India, in addition to comparing Europe and India.

E. Education, Social Mobility and Policy Discourse

Under this theme pathways to social mobility would be compared in India and Europe as well as interrogating the kind of education which could open opportunities for employment. Inequalities of outcomes could be a result of inequalities of education or opportunities to be absorbed by the labour market.

4.1.5 PRIORITIZED SUBTHEMES

A. Diverse Meanings/Concepts of growth

Growth is a multi-faceted concept involving economic, social and political dimensions. The human development approach views growth in a comprehensive manner, where the benefits get translated into the development of hitherto excluded groups in a society. Similarly, inequality could be contextualised, measured and empirically observed – both the notion of economic inequality and other types of inequality. The processes which mediate between different types of growth and inequality under globalization invoke the localised space and places, which mediates the whole process. Thus, a Multi-disciplinary approach involving different perspectives is needed to understand growth and inequality in the context of India and Europe.

B. Relationship between Education and Social policy

Education has always been a strong mediating force in reducing inequality among different sections of the population. Therefore, the policies with reference to education have been an important reference point while analysing inequality among communities. The policy with respect to universalization of elementary education, privatization, and other neo-liberal market oriented models is an important domain of research to understand its impact on inequality in India and Europe. Educational and societal inequalities are further mediated by the labour markets in sustaining or changing the status quo. Thus, a comparative research on education and inequality is an important focus area for Indian and European researchers to explore further.

C. Relationship between Social policy and Inequality

The social policy in our times has undergone a major shift due to global imperatives and changes in political, economic and cultural domains. The nature of such policy changes is an important issue for discussion as far as the researchers from Europe and India are concerned. Further, the social process that is mediating and mitigating the process of inequality is a bigger question which has to be addressed in order to reduce inequality. These policy studies are ripe with many lessons for Indian and European researchers, thus making the comparative analysis across India and Europe a more pertinent and important one.

4.2 Economic Growth & Discrimination

Thematic Session II was addressed by Prof. Carole Spary from UK and Prof. S.S. Jodhka from India as chairpersons. Prof. Rosa Maria Perez from Portugal and Prof Ashwini Deshpande from India were the keynote speakers. Panellists articulated that while discussing economic growth and discrimination it is important to focus on the changing nature of rural India concomitant with its social, cultural and economic transformation. This would eventually lead us towards a holistic understanding of discrimination in India. Concerns with the rise of an 'increasingly anxious middle class' were also raised. Dissemination of discourses on citizenship is equally important as in many parts of urban India, where poor people are often not even considered as citizens and are therefore largely excluded from the mainstream. The best practices from Europe could also provide key learnings for Indian researchers. Discrimination cannot be studied without understanding the dynamics in the labour market which is socio-culturally and historically constituted. Discrimination also exists in the private sector and it is undeniable that "every capitalist economy is socially constituted".

The key questions in theme II were:

- What are the priorities for exploring an EU- India research agenda around the dynamics of Economic Growth and discrimination?
- What are the priorities for exploring the EU-India research agenda around the understanding of the requirements for inclusive societies, including debates on the role of the state, market and communities and new forms of governance and political participation?
- Is globalisation adversely impacting the environment and defying the human quest for sustainable development?
- How can we implement Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) goals in the Indian context?

4.2.1 REFLECTIONS: Discussions took place in 4 groups. Each group comprised of 7-8 participants from India and Europe

4.2.1.1 GROUP 1

This group highlighted the issue of inclusion and diversity in existing institutions in a comparative perspective. The mechanism of framing policy decisions and political representation in the institutions, and the existing models for reducing inequality (e.g. Affirmative Action) were some of key issues raised in the group. Moreover, members

also emphasized the potential for a comparative multidisciplinary study between EU and India. The existing methodology could not cater to the requirements of such a comparative study, it was pointed out. Therefore the group suggested the use of a mixed method approach which includes methods from different disciplines, to understand economic growth and discrimination. Finally, the Sustainable Development Goals 2010-11 (SDGs) formulated by United Nations could be used as a framework to study economic growth, inequality and discrimination. The SDGs 2010-11 include the broader goals which deal with inequality, urban governance, and growth. Participants suggested that research capacity at the local level be developed to understand discrimination and exclusion.

4.2.1.2 GROUP 2

This group prioritized the exploration of social dynamics of discrimination and exclusion in a comparative perspective. The historical and political trajectories of contemporary societies needs to be understood. A discourse on corruption is also required. The representation and practices of positive discrimination policy, it was stressed, should be explored along with a conceptual exploration of the concept of merit and its social construction in contemporary society. The emerging discourses on governance with special reference to civil society groups and their role in shaping the governance models in India and Europe was highlighted as an important area of research. Furthermore, the changing and dynamic relationship between the state and population needs to be revisited in this era of a neo-liberal political economy as the shrinking role of state has led to a wider participation of the private sector in the domain of governance. Privatization has led to an exclusion of the majority of population from accessing basic needs like health and education. The civil society is assuming a role in provision of services. The withdrawal of the State has also impacted the regulation in the domain of climate change to an extent. Hence, participants were of the view that social scientists could apply a multidisciplinary approach to study such global changes.

4.2.1.3 GROUP 3

This group emphasized that the gender dimension of exclusion and inequality was absent in most of the analyses. Experts insisted that the gender dimension has to be integrated with other dimensions to create a broader meaning for understanding inequality and discrimination. The group also argued that in the past few decades, gender discrimination has gained much attention in social science and humanities.

Moreover, in many European countries it is frequently equated with racial discrimination. Economic growth in recent times and its implications for discrimination has to be studied in-depth in a comparative manner between EU and India. The labour market and skewed skill development among different groups is another important area to study issues related to discrimination. The need to compare and study different state/local governments and the new forms of discrimination they produced in EU and India was also important. Research regarding access to welfare services (health, education and housing) was considered significant to understand the impact of privatization and its consequent discrimination.

4.2.1.4 GROUP 4

This group mainly focussed on historical forms and trends of discrimination to understand the differences and similarities between EU and India. The discussion commenced with participants insisting on defining economic growth appropriately, highlighting that Economic growth should include both human development and economic development. Further, globalization and its continuing expansion has impacted economic growth in different ways across different countries. There should also be a methodology to understand how discrimination is perceived by different communities in India and EU (for e.g. the discrimination of Roma communities in Europe). In members' views the focus of the discrimination studies should not be confined only to victims but should try to understand the abuser (e.g. psychological reasoning for the discrimination by the upper class and upper castes). The localization of discrimination was also an under researched area.

4.2.1.5 CHALLENGES

A few challenges were identified by the groups.

- One important challenge identified was the need to undertake empirical research with a comparative perspective. However, it was pointed out that this required larger resources.
- Second, there is no appropriate and coherent methodology to gauge the factors leading to exclusion and discrimination. Thus, groups insisted on the multidisciplinary approach combining the strengths of different disciplines to bring out a strong methodology.

- The emergence of governance structures at different levels has led to localized and new forms of discrimination. Hence, there needs to be a creative, innovative and inclusive approach to measure such forms of discrimination.
- Lack of an appropriate paradigm to understand economic growth and its consequences could also be a constraining factor.

4.2.1.6 KEY THEMES IDENTIFIED

- Governance and the role of states / provinces
 - Power dynamics and access to power with reference to influence on decisions
 - Emergence of alternate political organizations and mechanisms in dealing with discrimination
- Changing relationship between the State and citizens and its implications for economic growth and discrimination
 - Discourses on corruption and urban governance
 - Social dynamics of discrimination
 - Role of new social groups in addressing localized exclusion
- Historical relationship between economic growth and discrimination
- Social constructs and discourses regarding the merits of individual positions in society
- Perceived grievances of discrimination and exclusion in public goods provision (housing/ health/ education) and services
- The role of privatization in creating new opportunities for growth and barriers which leads to new forms of discrimination
- Role of citizens and local organizations in demanding public goods from the states
- The perceived shift in responsibilities from state to market

4.2.2 PRIORITIZED SUBTHEMES

Institutions and their inclusive character are an important benchmark to understand the existing inequalities in societies. Existing institutions have excluded minorities and others who do not adhere to the mainstream "ideas", making it always an area of political struggle in addressing inequality. So, studying institutions and its inclusive nature becomes an important area of research for Indian and European researchers. The relationship between policy and politics and different mediating agencies between them needs to be explored and comprehended further to make policy making a useful exercise. Such institutional analysis should always include gender as an important category to understand gender inequality, power dynamics and accessibility to resources. The SDGs 2010-11, which refers to inequality

in the area of urban governance and its finances, is also an important area, where India has more lessons to learn from EU.

While researching the subject of discrimination and its social dynamics, the historical and political trajectories need to be integrated for a comprehensive understanding. Such approach contributes towards new discourses on governance and inequality. Further privatization and market oriented political economy needs a thorough examination to understand exclusion and differential access to state resources. This will also bring out the changing relationship between state capital and its access to citizens divided by class, caste and gender. To understand such a changing relationship is important to understand inequality and exclusion of many groups in access to resources. Thus the impact of neo-liberal globalization on economically and culturally different groups becomes an important area to be explored further by Indian and European researchers. While summarizing the discussion on Theme II three sub themes emerged as follows:

A. Changing relations between the State and Citizens

The contemporary neo-liberal globalisation and its policies have transformed the nature of State and its relation with the citizens to a large extent, based on market and its traits. However the State plays an important role in accessing and providing resources and further contributes towards emergence of alternative political organisations.

B. Social Dynamics of Discrimination

Discrimination being a multi-faceted and dynamic phenomenon cutting across caste, class and gender is an important area and needs a multi-disciplinary approach to measure it comprehensively for appropriate policy interventions.

C. State and Public Goods

Public goods continue to be a relevant and important issue in the context of emerging inequalities, with specific reference to India. The state plays an important role in their distribution and thereby addressing inequality. Civil society groups also have an interventionist role in the equitable distribution of public goods. Thus, the role and function of the state with reference to equitable distribution of public goods is an important area of research to be explored further.

4.3 Urbanization, Migration and Cultural Heritage

Thematic Session III was addressed by Prof. Raffaele Paloscia from Italy and Prof. C.P. Chandrashekar from India as chairpersons, as well as Prof. Susanne Rau from Germany and

Dr. Ajith Kaliyath from India as keynote speakers. Urbanization, according to the panellists, is a world-wide phenomenon and the growth of cities is happening rapidly in this era of economic and political globalization. It is the concept of urbanity which is also a popular notion in the academic and political discourse all the over the world. Panellists insisted that there should be comprehensive participatory planning where every stakeholder should get involved as cities were localities where people should find a sense of importance and get involved in the overall development. The speakers from Europe explained the evolution of the concept of 'urban' in EU and its development till date.

The key questions in theme III were:

- What are the priorities for exploring an EU- India research agenda around the effect of macro-level changes, such as globalisation, urbanisation, and migration, in shaping cultural heritage and organisation of public spaces?
- What are the place/space specific issues of cultural diversity in the context of growth?

4.3.1 REFLECTIONS: Discussions took place in 3 groups. Each group comprised of 7-8 participants from India and Europe

4.3.1.1 Group 1

This group mainly dealt with the processes in the functioning of the organization which leads to an increase or decrease in inequality. The conceptual definition of urban, urbanization and urbanism is of utmost importance for future research and could be taken as a guiding principle in the field of urban studies. The group members stated that there is a growing research interest in the role of privatization of a city and different types of actors involved in it. Urbanism also plays a pivotal role in the discourse of urban studies. The group deliberated on the rural-urban divide and argued that this division is not confined to conventionally measured income levels, but is dealt with through education, health care and housing. They also suggested that the exclusion of peri-urban areas from the core urban city eventually leads to inequality. Hence, the research focus of urban studies should also include peri-urban studies. Participants highlighted the importance of research in studying the implications of migration on the urban place and space. Operationalizing heritage was also considered an important area to be focussed by Indian and European researchers as heritage is not only the physical but imbibes cultural practices as well.

4.3.1.2 Group 2

This group specifically highlighted the implications of privatization on the cultural heritage of India and Europe in the contemporary period. Urban planning plays an important role in preserving and sustaining the cultural heritage of different groups in a city. Inclusive urban planning involving different groups can only work in a positive way in protecting common heritage, group members stated. It was also felt that there is a need to study urban planning especially the comparison and best practices of both EU and India.

4.3.1.3 Group 3

The group raised the pertinent question of how cultural heritage helps in shaping the city by providing the proper rules and regulations for its preservation. While discussing migration the group suggested that the effect of globalization on migration could be one of the prominent areas of research for both Indian and European scholars. Finally, the group mentioned that metropolitan planning should involve all the hitherto excluded groups to restructure the city to be an inclusive one. A comparative study of metropolitan planning in India and Europe was also cited as an emerging area.

4.3.2 OVERLAPPING ISSUES

The impact of privatization and globalization on migration and urbanization is an overlapping theme identified by the scholars during the group discussion. Secondly, inclusive urban planning involving all the stakeholders was another area of research that found traction among all groups.

4.3.3 CHALLENGES

- One of the important challenges which emerged during the discussion was to estimate and measure the implication of migration on urban place and space.
- Second, the study of heritage is an important area of research within urban studies. Hence, there is a pressing need to develop an operational definition of heritage to carry forward research in a right direction.
- Third, cultural heritage as a part and parcel of city life is an important phenomenon for further research. Measurement of how cultural heritage shapes the life of a city could pose to be a challenging task for the researchers.

4.3.4 KEY THEMES IDENTIFIED

- A conceptual definition as well as the interrelationship between urbanization, globalization and migration
- Implications of privatization on the cultural heritage of India and Europe – a critical comparative analysis
- Within the context of the neo-liberal political economy to study the impact of privatization on cities and implications for cultural heritage.
- Rural-urban divide with special reference to public services including housing, health and education
- Inclusive urban planning involving all sections of the population

4.3.5 PRIORITIZED SUBTHEMES

The concept of urbanity is an emerging phenomenon in the academic and political discourse. It was noted that debates surrounding the value of cultural heritage in an urban context have recently intensified as cities experience both the process and consequences of urban development, resulting in both challenges and opportunities for the maintenance of cultural heritage. The priority subthemes outlined were:

A. Urbanization and Inequality

Urbanization plays an important role in contemporary capitalist political economy, by supplying the necessary labour and consequent profit for its development. Rapid urbanization and its different patterns create a deeper urban-rural inequality. Thus urbanization and its role in creating more inequality needs further exploration in India and Europe. Further, the role of state, civil society and citizens in addressing and dealing with urbanization is also an important area of research.

B. Cultural Heritage and its Preservation

The urbanization process transforms a city and its environment to a large extent. Thus preserving the cultural heritage of a city is a pertinent issue. Cultural heritage is not only the physical structures, but includes both cultural practices and behaviour patterns. Thus preserving cultural heritage and also protecting public space for all groups of urban dwellers is an important but challenging research area in the domain of urban governance.

5 CONCLUDING REMARKS

Prof. Sukhadeo Thorat, Chairman, ICSSR and Dr. Nafees Meah, Director RCUKI made their concluding observations. They concluded with suggestions on strengthening the research focus on the relationship between social policy and inequality in a comparative perspective. Lessons learnt from EU countries could enrich research outcomes in India. In addition, the relation between education and inequality has to be located within the larger context of privatization of public goods and services in the contemporary neo-liberal period. An important lesson that India can learn from the EU is the mechanism of retaining the public education system at the school and higher education level without adversely impacting merit. India is moving rapidly towards privatization of education at every level which is accentuating existing inequalities. Thus, in their opinion the privatization of education and its experience could be an important research theme for comparative study between EU and India.

They also added that India can learn how countries in Europe have strengthened their higher education systems as well as their health delivery systems, and highlighted the significance of the State in reducing inequality. Moreover, in order to understand the different types of growth, a multidisciplinary approach is required to include both economic and non-economic variables in understanding social inequality and justice.

It was reiterated that development economics has transformed itself to include minorities and hitherto excluded groups and thus widened its research focus. A recent World Bank report has confirmed that the rate of poverty reduction among the excluded groups is lower than the non-excluded groups. Discrimination and exclusion operates through the market and non-market channels which not only reduces the opportunities for excluded groups, but also affects the overall growth of the nation. Given that gender cuts across excluded and non-excluded groups this must be reflected in the research focus. Religious discrimination is also an under-researched area, and religious minorities are in a weaker position.

Prof. Sukhadeo Thorat and Dr. Nafees Meah expressed their satisfaction at the outcomes of the discussions and hoped that the reflection paper would be circulated to all experts from India and Europe, before its submission to the European Commission. The symposium concluded with a vote of thanks by Dr. G.S. Saun, Member Secretary ICSSR.

6 REFLECTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The following reflections and recommendations were raised during the summary session of the symposium as general guidelines for future EQUIP initiatives:

Notes on the themes

- Some overlaps and linkages are present among the three thematic areas, i.e. some of the sub-themes for each of the thematic areas can be connected to different areas
- Both Social Sciences and Humanities perspectives are visible and replicated in the themes, where a wide variety of disciplines (history, geography, sociology, anthropology, economy, culture etc.) can be identified. A multidisciplinary approach to the research questions should be embedded across the themes above, i.e. EU India research collaboration offers innovative opportunities as well as challenges across disciplinary and national boundaries.
- Exploring these research themes implies pursuing an interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary research agenda with a wider scope in reflecting on our own epistemological, ontological and methodological assumptions and contexts for understanding growth, inequality and place/ space through their diverse dimensions.

Annex A. List of participants

| | |
|----------------------------|---|
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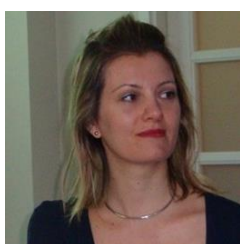
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Ms. Siru Oksa



Siru Oksa has graduated from the Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Helsinki. She has since been working as a Science Adviser in the Culture and Society Research Unit of the Academy of Finland. Her responsibilities include handling of research funding applications in the field of social sciences, organizing the scientific evaluation of the applications and preparing of the funding decisions for the Research Council for Culture and Society. She is also core group member of EqUIP and responsible for EqUIP activities in the Academy. Email: siru.oksa@aka.fi

Prof. Sukhadeo Thorat



Sukhadeo Thorat is currently the Chairman of Indian Council of Social Science Research since April 2011. He is Professor Emeritus, Jawaharlal Nehru University, since August 2014, Visiting Faculty at Department of Economics, Iowa State University, AMES and Director, Indian Institute of Dalit Studies, New Delhi. A Ph D. in Economics from Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, Prof Thorat had earlier held the position of Chairman, University Grants Commission, Government of India, New Delhi. He has been honoured with the Padamshree (by Government of India), Vidyalankara, Lifetime Achievement Award (by Purbanchal Academy of Oriental Studies in association with Ministry of HRD, Govt. of India) . In addition, he has been honoured by several Universities and research institutions. His areas of Research include Agricultural Development, Rural Poverty, Institution and Economic Growth, Problems of Marginalized Groups, Economics of Caste System, Caste Discrimination and Poverty, Human Development, Human Rights Issue, Thoughts of Ambedkar, Slums, Education. Email: chairman@icssr.org

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Prof. Tom Wakeford



Tom Wakeford is Reader in Public Science at the Centre for Agroecology, Water and Resilience, Coventry University, UK; Consultant on citizen science, Joint Research Centre, European Commission; Adviser to the Court Commissioners (Right to Food), Supreme Court of India. His research interest include cognitive justice and the agri-food system in the context of sustainable prosperity; Democratic rights over the food system for those living in poverty in both rural and urban areas. Earlier he was at Universities of Cambridge, Edinburgh and Newcastle (UK); National Centre for Biological Sciences (TIFR - India). Some of his publications include *Science for the Earth* (Wiley, 1995) and *Empowered Participation*

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Dr. Yuthika Mishra



Yuthika Mishra has completed her education, including her doctoral work which is on women, marriage and legislative reforms, from the University of Delhi and is currently working as Associate Professor in History at the Vivekananda College, Delhi University. She has been teaching History at the Undergraduate level for more than twenty five years. Her areas of specialization and also of collateral interest are modern Indian and European history, women and family law, marriage and community studies, women's rights movements and contemporary studies. These are also the issues on which she has made presentations at national and international conferences. She is also an active member of the All India Women's Conference, New Delhi and has worked extensively with NCERT projects.

Annex B. List of EQUIP partners

European Partners

Participants include representatives from twelve funding Councils of Europe

| | |
|-------------|--|
| UK | <u>Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) and Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC)</u> |
| Finland | <u>Academy of Finland (AKA)</u> |
| France | <u>French National Research Agency (ANR)</u> |
| Italy | <u>Agency for the Promotion of European Research (APRE)</u> |
| Germany | <u>German Research Foundation (DFG) and German Aerospace Centre (DLR)</u> |
| Portugal | <u>Foundation for Science and Technology (FCT)</u> |
| Slovenia | <u>Ministry of Education, Science and Sports (MIZS)</u> |
| Netherlands | <u>Netherlands Organisation for Scientific Research (NWO)</u> |
| Norway | <u>Research Council of Norway (RCN)</u> |
| Austria | <u>Centre for Social Innovation (ZSI)</u> |

Partners in India

Lead Partner: Indian Council of Social Science Research

Partners: University Grants Commission
Indian Council of Historical Research
Indian Council of Philosophical Research

Annex C. Event Objectives and Agenda

Objectives

- To enable networking between the researchers and partners from Europe and India on Social Sciences and Humanities ;
- To explore and identify gaps and opportunities for EU-India collaborative research;
- To identify priority themes for future collaboration between EqUIP partners.

Agenda/Programme

Day 1- Monday, October 19, 2015

Venue-Aftab Mahtab

| | |
|-----------|------------------------------|
| 9.00-9.30 | Registration. Coffee and tea |
|-----------|------------------------------|

| Time | Programme | Speaker/s |
|-------------|-------------------------------|--|
| 9.30-11.00 | Inaugural Session | |
| 9.30-9.50 | Welcome Addresses | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. G.S. Saun, Member Secretary, ICSSR • Dr. Nafees Meah, Director, RCUK in India |
| 9.50 -10.00 | Introduction to EqUIP | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Jacqui Karn, Senior European Policy Manager, ESRC, U.K. |
| 10.00-10.30 | Special Keynote Addresses | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prof. Sukhadeo Thorat, Chairman, ICSSR • Dr. Cesare Onestini, Chargé d'affaires a.i, Delegation of the European Union to India. |
| 10.30-10.40 | Introduction to the Symposium | Dr. Reena Marwah, EqUIP Coordinator, ICSSR |
| 10.40-11.00 | Tea/Coffee | |
| 11.00- | Networking Session | |

| | | |
|-------------|--|---|
| 12.30 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What does Collaborative Research between Europe and India imply in the Context of Inequality, Growth and Place/Space? • What has been your previous experience? • Which are the key institutions in India and Europe undertaking collaborative research? | Discussion in Groups |
| 12.30-13.30 | Lunch | |
| 13.30-13.45 | Thematic Session : 1 <i>Growth and Inequality</i> : Introduction to and objectives of the thematic session: | Chairpersons: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prof. C. Ravi, CESS (10 mins each) |
| 13.45-16.00 | Brief introduction to Session 1 <i>Growth and Inequality</i> Group discussion to identify key research priorities. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What are the priorities for exploring a research agenda for EU –India around growth and inequality in a contemporary and historical setting? • What are the priorities for exploring EU-India concepts of inclusive pro-poor growth and human development? | Lead Speakers: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Tom Wakeford (AHRC) • Prof. Prof. Amaresh Dubey (JNU) (10 mins each) Discussion in Groups Moderation : Dr. Jacqui Karn and Dr. Reena Marwah |
| 16.00-16.15 | Tea/Coffee | |
| 16.15-17.00 | Group discussion to identify gaps and opportunities: with a particular focus on research capacity, interdisciplinary and geographical areas and the role of the Social Sciences and the Humanities | |
| 17.00-17.30 | Plenary feedback from the groups AND Summary of the day | |
| 1900 -2100 | Dinner for all participants hosted by: Chairman ICSSR Venue ICSSR, Aruna Asaf Ali Marg, New Delhi-110067 | |

Day 2: Tuesday, October 20, 2015

Venue-Diwan-I-Am

| Time | Programme | Speaker |
|---|---|--|
| 9.00-9.30 | Tea/Coffee | |
| 9.30-9.45 | Reflection on Day 1 and format of Day 2 | Speaker TBC |
| 9.45-12.00 (includes a tea/coffee break) | <p>Thematic Session 2 <i>Economic Growth and Discrimination</i> How does the economic power and political dynamics in the neoliberal phase of development serve the interests of some sections? Brief introduction : Group discussion to identify key research priorities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What are the priorities for exploring an EU-India research agenda around the dynamics of Economic Growth and discrimination? • What are the priorities for exploring the EU-India research agenda around the understanding of the requirements for inclusive societies, including debates on the role of the state, market and communities and new forms of governance and political participation? • Is globalisation adversely impacting the environment and defying the human quest for sustainable development? • How can we implement Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) goals in the Indian context <p>Plenary Feedback from the groups</p> | <p>Chairpersons:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prof. Carole Spary (ESRC) • Prof. S.S. Jodhka (JNU) <p>(10 mins each)</p> <p>Lead Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prof. Rosa Maria Perez (FCT) • Prof. Ashwini Deshpande <p>(Delhi University) (10 mins each)</p> <p>Discussion in Groups</p> |
| 12.00-13.00 | Lunch | |
| 13.00-15.00 (includes 15 min coffee break) | <p>Thematic Session 3 <i>Urbanisation, Migration and Cultural Heritage</i> Brief introduction</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What are the priorities for exploring an EU-India research agenda around the effect of macro-level changes, such as globalisation, | <p>Chairpersons:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prof. Raffaele Paloscia (APRE) • Prof. C.P. Chandrashekhar, JNU <p>(10 mins each)</p> |

| | | |
|----------------|---|--|
| | <p>urbanisation, and migration, in shaping cultural heritage and organisation of public spaces?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What are the place/space specific issues of cultural diversity in the context of growth <p>Group discussion to identify opportunities and challenges, including research gaps and opportunities, research capacity, the existence of different approaches in different geographical areas and the role of the Social Sciences and the Humanities.</p> <p>Plenary Feedback from the groups</p> | <p>Lead Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prof Susanne Rau (DFG) • Dr. Ajith Kaliyath, NIUA <p>(10 mins each)</p> <p>Discussion in Groups</p> |
| 15.00-15.30 | Tea/ coffee break | |
| 15.30 to 16.30 | <p>Valedictory Session Chair : Mr. Rakesh Ranjan, JS, MHRD (tbc) Concluding Observations: Prof. S. Thorat, Chairman , ICSSR Dr. Nafees Meah, RCUKI</p> <p>Key conclusions in the key thematic areas and future actions. (10 mins each speaker)</p> <p>Vote of thanks : Dr. G.S. Saun, Member Secretary , ICSSR</p> | |
| 18.30-20.00 | <p>Dinner for all participants hosted by: British High Commission Venue : British High Commission, Chanakyapuri</p> | |