



## **ICSSR, New Delhi, sponsored a One-Day Workshop on Girls' Education Towards a Gender-Neutral Society: Tribal Communities and Backward Castes of Northern Bengal in perspective**

**A Collaborative Venture of Cooch Behar Panchanan Barma University, UGC Malaviya Mission Teacher Training Centre (Earlier UGC Human Resource Development Centre), University of North Bengal & Netaji Institute for Asian Studies, Kolkata**

**Date:** 14<sup>th</sup> January 2024 (Sunday)

**Time:** 10.30 AM to 5. PM

**Venue:** The Conference Room of UGC Madan Mohan Malaviya Teacher Training Centre (Earlier UGC Human Resource Development Centre), University of North Bengal

### **A Brief Note on the Workshop**

Despite a sharp rise in female enrolment since the 1990s, a sizable gap exists between upper primary and secondary education levels. High dropout rates and poor attendance of girls compared to boys are also a reality. A recurrent issue in Indian society is gender imbalance in education, particularly for girls from rural areas and lower socioeconomic origins. Every Indian village has a unique social caste, class, and religion, which may significantly impact the education of girl children. The reality of gender inequality is far more complicated and varied in rural India than it is in urban areas; therefore, securing or guaranteeing education rights cannot achieve gender equality on its own. The *Beti Bachao Beti Padhao* programme was conceived and executed by the government of India to break this stranglehold. Development and women's empowerment are intrinsically related. The global and national development agenda puts it on high priority. In light of Sustainable Development Goal 5 and Goal 11– gender equality and sustainable community, this workshop will examine the various factors from historical, cultural, socioeconomic, and institutional perspectives among the predominantly rural, backward communities with special emphasis on STs and SCs of Northern Parts of Bengal. The workshop is intended to identify the existing gaps and the areas for policy intervention and provide a long-term policy plan to ensure that backward regions and people connect with the present development initiatives of the government of India. Along with educational attainment, women's infertility, infant, child, or maternal mortality, mother and child health, the prevalence of HIV/AIDS, domestic violence and pressures, exploitation and abuse, and participation in the labour force will also be considered to get an objective view of gender and social inequalities and their remedies.

### **Broad contour lines of the workshop:**

- 1) Essential elements for promoting gender equality in education for Backward Castes, Scheduled Castes, and Scheduled Tribes.
- 2) Lower enrolment ratios in Primary, Secondary, and Higher Education among the Backward Caste and Tribal Communities.
- 3) Cultural moorings and girls' education in disadvantaged areas of North Bengal.
- 4) The success and failure of different government schemes, including the *Beti Bachao Beti Padhao* programme for promoting girls' education.
- 5) Capacity-building measures to achieve a gender-equal society.

## CHIEF GUEST



**Prof. Nikhil Chandra Roy**  
Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor  
CBPBU, Cooch Behar

## GUEST OF HONOUR



**Prof. Subhas Chandra Roy**  
Dean, Science & ACL  
NBU

## Key Contributors:



**Prof. Sanchari Roy Mukherjee**  
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**Prof. Kanak Kanti Bagchi**  
Retd. Professor of Economics  
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**Dr. Sr. Pushpa Michael**  
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Cluny Women's College, Kalimpong



**Fr. (Dr.) Lalit P. Tirkey, SJ**  
Principal  
North Bengal Xavier's College, Rajganj



**Shri. Sonam Wangdi Bhutia**  
The Commissioner,  
Siliguri Municipal Corporation,



**Dr. Sandip Sengupta**  
Dean of Students Affairs,  
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## Civil Society Representatives



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### Facilitators:

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*Prof. Anjan Chakrabarti*

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