

Call for Papers:

Proposals are invited from students, scholars, researchers, practitioners, and other individuals on the following themes:

- Social, political, economic, religious and ecological dynamics
- Human Rights and Gender Perspectives among Indigenous/tribal Communities
- Tribal Beliefs and Rituals
- Contemporary tribal issues
- Tribals and Technology
- Interventions in the tribal areas
 - Participatory Documentation Practices of Tribal Issues
 - Indigenous Livelihood Practices
 - Land-Based Interventions
 - Bio-cultural Heritages

Interested individuals are requested to send their abstracts (500-600 words) and full papers (not exceeding 6000 words) on the dates stipulated. Authors/contributors of the papers are advised to organize their papers based on the themes with sound theoretical and practical implications. The papers should be original and unpublished work of the author/authors. Soft version of the papers should be in Times New Roman with font size 12 with double space in MS WORD format with references using the APA Style (6th Edition). Authors are also informed to follow the APA Style (6th Edition) for the full paper. We also invite posters, audio-visual (AV) documentaries and any innovative tribal social work intervention done on the specified themes from students, academicians, practitioners, community workers and organisations (within 150 to 300 words).



Date of Abstract/Ideas for Posters, AV documentaries and Tribal Social Work Interventions Submission: September 15, 2019

Date of Submission of Full Papers: October 15, 2019

Participation Fee:

Students: Rs. 100/-

Research Scholars: Rs. 500/-

Professionals and Practitioners: Rs. 1000/-

All communications can be made to the Convener and Co-convener of the seminar:

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The Light of Truth

**NATIONAL SEMINAR
ON
MULTI-DIMENSIONAL APPROACH TO TRIBAL
ISSUES, DYNAMICS AND INTERVENTIONS**

October 30th –31st, 2019

**Organised by the Department of Social Work,
Martin Luther Christian University
Meghalaya**

Venue: Aurobindo Auditorium, Shillong, Meghalaya

**Keynote Speaker 1: Prof Virginius Xaxa,
Former Professor, Delhi School of Economics
University of Delhi
&
Former Professor and Deputy Director,
Tata Institute of Social Sciences**

**Keynote Speaker 2: Ms. Jennifer Liang
Founder and Trustee of The ant
Ashoka Fellow**

Concept Note:

Social Work Education, Practice and Research across the country, in working with indigenous populations, focus on engaging with the tribal communities as the primary stakeholders in teaching, learning and research involving specific identity struggles, marginalisation, isolation, alienation and other forms of disadvantages they encounter. This, as a backdrop have implications on learning grounds for social work students, researchers, and practitioners on specific methods of community organisation, social group work, social action and people centred advocacy. Such initiatives of teaching, research and experiential learning have strengthened the communities to have access, support and equal opportunities in sustainable livelihood practices. India's Northeast houses over 300 communities residing in close proximity and often on overlapping, ecological boundaries and sharing much of its boundaries with as many as five countries. As such, tribal contexts vary across the region with varied diversities in terms of identities, languages, cultural practices, customary norms, governance, socio-economic and political divergence, land use, and territorialities having potential to engage social work practice in various innovative ways. This seminar would bring forth the diversity of practices, research, approaches and learning pedagogy from the tribal social work context in the Northeast region specifically and also from a pan Indian context.

Tribals in India have historically been at a disadvantaged and marginalised position due to varied reasons and continue to be deprived of various facilities/provisions guaranteed by the Indian Constitution. Subsequently, they remain poor, backward and alienated from their own resources which can be seen from the fact that in the 21st century, post independent India, tribals are still the most underdeveloped and some portions literally untouched, compounded by the fact that even the land inhabited by indigenous communities is subjected to scimmages between global entities and the tribes with manipulative agencies at all levels.

With the increase and popularity of social work institutions, departments, schools of social work in the North East Region, there is a need to connect with each other's strengths and commonalities. At the same time there is need to address growing concerns within the tribal societies where social work intervention can be made to increase the outreach, practice, strength based approaches and anti-oppressive research work. Different myths about tribal societies related to gendered customary norms, conflicting territoriality and dynamic social differentiation needs a grounded understanding from social work ethnography and in-depth understanding of the tribal community.

Rationale of the Seminar:

Martin Luther Christian University envisages starting a separate Department on Tribal Studies under the School of Social Work which intends to build a strong network of human capital, scholars, resource persons, academicians and practitioners from across the country to contribute this initiative through their lived experiences. This seminar will pave the way towards building a context specific intersectional tribal social work practice in the country and the North East Region which will benefit the learning praxis and evidence specific interventions in any given context. The seminar will open up the space to understand the global, national, regional and local opportunities, issues, approaches, dynamics and concerns which may be useful from the tribal societies to build their inherent ethnocentric contexts.

Objectives:

1. To identify, apprehend, discourse, dialogue and suggest avenues in remedying persistent issues inherent among tribal communities covering all relevant range of topics vexing the tribal communities.
2. To sensitize and guide researchers, scholars, social and community leaders, policy makers, administrators in identifying and prioritizing sections so as to put perspectives on the dynamics of tribes in India.

3. To highlight the experiential practices and success of practices in indigenous tribal communities thereby giving direction to adopting a common strategy in addressing persistent issues by contextualising concerns from the perspectives of the indigenous population on the basis of personal, societal or community experiences.

Expected Outcomes:

The seminar intends to provide space for students, researchers, practitioners and academicians to present papers, posters, audio-visual documentaries and any teaching learning materials which can be used for classroom and field work pedagogy. A compilation of the selected papers and proceedings for the seminar will be published in the form of digital and printed publication with ISSN tag which will be widely circulated within the social work institutions and any other interested agencies. Initiation of the process of tribal social work practice license issuance through innovation and social entrepreneurship models with due recognition both at the local and international context will remain a primary concern.

About the University

Martin Luther Christian University was created by Act No. 11 of 2005 of the Legislative Assembly of Meghalaya and received the assent of the Governor on July 6, 2005. The Government of Meghalaya issued the gazette notification on February 22, 2006. The creation of the University is in accordance with the University Grants Commission Act, 1956 under Section 2(f) and the University is empowered to grant degree under Section 22 of the UGC Act.

Martin Luther Christian University is the first full-fledged Christian University in India, the capstone to more than two centuries of Christian education in this country. The University recognises its responsibility to contribute to the sustainable development of the region, participating in vocational education, health care, information and communication networks, agri-sciences, environmental protection, disaster education, peace studies and developmental projects. The University collaborates with NGOs, community organisations, self-help groups and industry in the development of the community.