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Growth and Development of Sociology in Uttarakhand: Retrospection and Futuristic Perspectives

Bhagwan S Bisht

Abstract: *The history of Sociology in Uttarakhand can be viewed chronologically in three timeframes; (i) before the establishment of the universities of Kumaun and Garhwal respectively in Kumaun and Garhwal region of Uttarakhand in the year 1973 (ii) after the establishment of the universities and before the creation of the new State of Uttarakhand in Nov 09.,2000, and (iii) after the creation of the new State of Uttarakhand.*

In fact, the journey of Sociology in Uttarakhand starts from the University of Agra, Uttar Pradesh (UP) with the establishment of the Department of Sociology in its affiliated D. A. V. College, Dehradun in 1949 at undergraduate level under the supervision of Dr. R. N. Saxena followed with the Post Graduate Classes in Sociology from 1951-52. In the State of Uttar Pradesh this was the first ever post graduate department of Sociology at college level having affiliation for post graduate classes in Sociology from Agra University, Agra. Even, this was the first ever Department of Sociology to have an opportunity to host the first Conference of Indian Sociological Society in 1955 at Dehradun.

The next step of the journey of sociology starts when two regional Universities namely, the Kumaun University and the Garhwal University were established simultaneously in Uttarakhand region vide Govt. Notification, 1973 of UP Government. The Kumaun University was established by taking over Thakur Dev Singh Bisht Government Degree College, Nainital, and Almora Degree College, Almora as its constituent colleges with its head office at Nainital. And the Hemvati Nandan Bahuguna University, Garhwal was established by taking over Birla College, Srinagar, Swami Ram Teerth College, Tehari and Dr. B Gopala Reddy Degree College, Paurhi with its Administrative Head Office in Srinagar. Most of the affiliated colleges of both the Universities started the sociology programme at undergraduate and post-graduate level. But the University Departments of Sociology at post graduate level could be started in the year 1976 and 1977 in the university of Kumaun and Garhwal respectively. During this period the teaching faculties were appointed in the newly established universities and thus, a new chapter of the journey of sociology opened up institutionally in Uttarakhand with teaching and research programme in different discipline including sociology.

But the phenomenal growth and development have been recorded in the field of sociological discipline after the creation of new state of Uttarakhand in November 09,2000. Teaching of different branches of sociology and research in respective fields have been initiated in last two decades. Presently, almost all the universities and degree colleges run the sociology programme throughout the state and is liked and opted as a popular programme by most of the students for career and capacity building.

The region of Uttarakhand, known for its diversified geo-climatic and socio-economic, cultural and ethnic diversity has ever been the centre of attraction for the sociologists,

anthropologists, historians and even for the nature lovers and the natural scientists of different disciplines. The scholars out of the state and the faculties / researchers worked over here in Universities and Colleges have tremendously conducted quality research, written the research-based books, research articles and monographs and also disseminate the research-based knowledge through publications and National and International Seminars and workshops. A plethora of sociological literature is available in different forms. Many researchers are continuously pursuing the field-based studies for unearthing the hidden facts and also contributing their part for unveiling, preserving and promoting the sociological knowledge by different means and methods. But the proper documentation of the sociologists and their contributions, sociological knowledge, research findings etc. could not be done so far. Hence, this is of prime concern for assessing the trends and development of sociology in the state. Even there are social scientists pursuing relentlessly the research, but their works and contributions are almost in dormancy. This needs to be categorically unveiled, preserved and documented for the understanding of the posterity to come.

In this backdrop the paper seeks to (i) Make documentation of the historical growth and development of Sociology as a discipline taught in the colleges of Uttarakhand region (affiliated to the university of Agra and Meerut) before the creation of the Universities of Kumaun & Garhwal (ii) Prepare chronologically a detailed account of the faculties, researchers and the scholars who contributed their part to the cause of the sociology discipline as a teacher, researcher and the scholar and also their scholarly empirical studies conducted about the land and people of Uttarakhand before the creation of the Universities of Kumaun & Garhwal. (iii) Assess objectively the trends and development of sociology discipline (in the field of teaching, research & extension) after the creation of the Universities of Kumaun and Garhwal in

1973 till the creation of new state of Uttarakhand in November 09, 2000. (iv) Evaluate the present status of sociology discipline in the state of Uttarakhand in the context of teaching, research and extension activities and also to find out the research works conducted by the researchers and the areas covered by them so far (v) Find out the areas of concerns for the sociology discipline lagged behind from scholarly sight of the researchers and remained untouched from the study so that the sociological studies could be initiated to bridge up the gap of the knowledge and (vi) Analyse the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, threats/challenges of sociology discipline and to propose new perspectives, paradigms and pedagogic changes attuned to the need of planning and sustainable development.

Keywords: History, Growth, Development,

Prof. Bhagwan Singh Bisht is Chairman of Institutional Ethical Committee, Government Medical College, Haldwani, Uttarakhand. Formerly he was Head, Department of Sociology, Kumaun University, Nainital.
