

Gandhinagar, Monday, January 4, 2016

GNLU PRESS NOTE

No.02/2016

Lokdhvani 2- Migrant Literature, Culture and Society: A Discourse on Homeland and Destination on the 03rd and 04th January 2016 at GNLU

Dear Sir/Madam,

Greetings from GNLU!

The two day cultural meet on the theme 'Lokdhvani 2- Migrant Literature, Culture and Society: A Discourse on Homeland and Destination' was organised by Govind Ballabh Pant Social Science Institute, Allahabad in collaboration with GNLU Centre for Law and Society, Gandhinagar on 03rd and 04th January 2016 under the project 'Migration and Cultural Traditions of Bhojpuri Region: A Research and Documentation Programme' supported by The Tata Trusts, Mumbai.

Mr. Saurabh Anand, Director of GNLU Centre for Law and Society welcomed all the eminent guests namely Prof. Raghuvver Chaudhary Jnanpith Award Winner 2015, Prof. Bimal N. Patel, Director, Gujarat National Law University, Prof. Vidyut Joshi, former Vice-chancellor, Bhavnagar University, Prof. N. Jayram, NLSIU Bengaluru and Prof. Badri Narayan, JNU, Delhi and Project Coordinator. Prof. Badri Narayan introduced the theme to all the participants. He told that under this project, they try to understand the process of migration through the interface of homeland and destination. The importance of culture in determining the identity and providing a dignified space in destination. The contemporary way of identifying as a labour connotes negative identity for the migrated people. This programme aims to document and analyze the metaphors of migration evolved during over the years in context of the migrant labourers.



Gujarat National Law University

Gandhinagar, Gujarat, India

Prof. N. Jayram in his inaugural address addressed that ‘migration is fundamentally a cultural and social phenomena’. These migrants share their own folk forms and which is shared by larger community. These folk forms are the sources of data for sociologists, historians and anthropologists. Prof. Vidyut Joshi in his address raised the point that the largest number of migrant people belong to Dalit community and there is a lack of consciousness among them. Folk songs are the mode of celebration for them but it could not help them to articulate pain felt as Dalit. Prof. Raghuvver Chaudhary in his presidential address focused on the migrant literature where separation is the main theme of these writings. Though advent of technology has reduced the pain of separation up to some extent, but still migrant need to develop an emancipatory potential to fight from bondage of slavery to get the respectful place in destination.

In the another session, comprising of Prof. R.B. Bhagat, Indian Institute of Population Studies, Mumbai, eminent writer Akhilesh, editor Tadbhav, Prof. Devendra Chaubey, JNU Delhi and Shri Naval Shukla, Director, Bhojpuri Sahitya Academy, Bhopal shared their experiences of the migrant literature involving their pains, agonies and struggle at the destination. The migrant helps in formation of space, construct its identity. They are the important part of the city but their identity always have the negative connotation. The literature should play an active role in changing such prejudice mindset about migrant population.

In one of the important session on Traditional culture and Intellectual Property Rights where resource persons like Prof. N.K. Pathak, Gujarat University, Dr. Nidhi Bhuch, Director, Centre for IPR, GNLU, Mr. Jatin Trivedi, High Court advocate and Mr. Saurabh Anand, interacted with the local folk artisans who are facing the issues of copyrights where their original works are being used by the affluent sections and they are negligibly paid or sometimes they are not get the due credit of their original work. There is no specific mention of the traditional knowledge in the IPR laws. Due to lack of ignorance, these fold artisans are being duped such as one of the Bhojpuri folk artist, Tarkeshwar Mishra Rahi whose written songs were sung by many singers but he never get his due credit either financially or any acknowledgement. The Dalit Resource Centre, Govind Ballabh Pant Social Science Institute, Allahabad published their project report for the last two years.

For further information, you may contact Mr. Saurabh Anand, Assistant Professor and Director, Centre for Law and Society, GNLU (sanad@gnlu.ac.in or 8128650808)