

ORISSA ECONOMICS ASSOCIATION
N-3/21, IRC Village, Nayapalli, Bhubaneswar-751015
GOLDEN JUBILEE CONFERENCE- 2018

From

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Sir/Madam,

I have the pleasure to inform you that the 50th Annual Conference of the Association will be held during 10-11 February, 2018 under the auspices of Nabakrushna Choudhury Centre for Development Studies, Bhubaneswar. The following two themes have been selected for discussion in the Conference.

THEME - I: Labour Market and Employment in India

The Indian economy has achieved a robust growth rate of more than 7 per cent in the post-reform period. However, the acceleration in the GDP growth rate during this period has been accompanied by a slow rate of growth in employment for which it is considered a period of 'jobless growth'. Studies have shown that the employment content of growth as measured in terms of employment elasticity has declined from 0.3 per cent during 1991-2007 to 0.15 per cent in recent years. Further, the deceleration in employment growth has been accompanied by increasing informalisation of the workforce. It is estimated that only 7-8 per cent of the workforce is working in the organised sector while the rest is huddled in the informal sector earning a marginal income. Increasingly new jobs are largely created in the unorganised sector and, what is worse, informalisation in the organised sector has increased. Casual labour and contract labour have grown in the country. At the disaggregate level, whatever little employment growth has taken place in the post-reform period has been mostly for men and in urban areas. Women in rural areas have withdrawn from the workforce. Additionally, the problem of youth unemployment has become a great concern in India. The so called demographic dividend will pose a challenge for the country when the new entrants will come to the labour market for work.

On the problem of deceleration in employment growth there is often a debate among economists on the issue of inflexibility of labour market. It is argued that labour market in the country should be deregulated for stimulating investment and employment. Some economists emphasise labour market deregulation for containing unemployment. Another problem is the failure of vocational education to create necessary skills among the workers who compete in the market for employment.

Given this background, the Conference is expected to cover the following topics under the theme "**Labour Market and Employment in India**", though the list of topics is not intended to be exhaustive:

- i. dynamics of sectoral composition of value-added and employment of labour;
- ii. changes in the structure of labour market and rural and urban employment;
- iii. formal vs. informal employment – trends and issues;
- iv. employment of youths and women;
- v. growth pattern needed for providing employment to low skilled workers; and
- vi. change in vocational education to provide necessary skill to different type of workers.

THEME-II: Economic Development and the Tribal Communities of Odisha

Tribal life in Odisha and, more generally, in India manifests numerous economic and social deprivations, vulnerability to exploitation, and social, cultural and psychological barriers to rapid and induced changes. The tribal communities of India have been placed in the category of 'Weaker Section'

of Indian society and protection and promotion of their educational and economic interests have been made a constitutional responsibility (vide articles 29 and 46) of the government since India became a Republic. Both the Government of India and the Government of Odisha have taken a number of measures to ameliorate their economic and social position. All the same, they continue to suffer from a number of handicaps. Since Scheduled Tribes constitute a substantial proportion of the total population in Odisha and a good number of programmes are being implemented for promoting their interests, the conference proposes to deliberate on various problems faced by the tribal population of Odisha. The general theme “**Economic Development and the Tribal Communities of Odisha**” includes, but is not confined to, the following topics:

- i. hunger and malnutrition in tribal communities of Odisha;
- ii. education and health services in tribal areas of Odisha;
- iii. seasonal and long-term migration from tribal areas of Odisha to other states;
- iv. mining and industrialization in Odisha and the displacement of tribal communities and their re-settlement;
- v. MGNREGS and employment of tribals in Odisha;
- vi. access to forest resources and tribal livelihood in Odisha;
- vii. the evolution of government policies regarding the tribal population of Odisha; and
- viii. agriculture and the scope for agricultural innovations in tribal districts of Odisha.

The sub-themes given above under the two broad themes and any other issue(s) relevant to the themes may be examined and analyzed in the paper. Empirical survey based papers are most welcome. The papers may also include Stakeholders’ perspectives. You are requested to prepare paper(s) on any of the above themes, send the same in our address by 15 December 2017, impress upon your colleagues to enroll themselves as members of the Association and participate in the Conference.

In addition to the inaugural and technical sessions, and endowment and memorial lectures, there will be a special session on ‘Teaching of Economics at the Undergraduate Level in the Colleges of Odisha’. Issues relating to syllabi, teaching and learning methods and use of teaching materials viz. text books, journals, reference books and other study materials will be discussed in this session. Delegates are requested to come with concrete proposals for improving the standard of teaching and learning in Economics at the U G Level.

The details of the Conference will be intimated to you by the host institution at the appropriate time. If you do not hear anything from the host by the end of December, 2017 please do not hesitate to contact us in the address at the top.

Expecting your kind co-operation,

Yours sincerely,

Rabi N Patra

Membership Fees

Institutional:	Rs. 10,000/-
Individual:	Life- Rs 2,000/-; Annual- Rs 250/-
Student Membership:	Annual Rs.150/-

Instructions to Authors

1. The Orissa Economic Journal is the Journal of the Orissa Economics Association accredited with ISSN 0976-5049. It is a refereed Journal.
2. The paper is presumed to contain original unpublished work and is not being submitted for publication elsewhere.
3. The author should supply an indented and italicized abstract of between 100 and 150 words, summarizing the content of the article with a list of between 3 and 5 key words underneath the abstract. The word limit for the paper is 4000 words, all inclusive.
4. A reference list should be given at the end of the paper containing all works cited and it should be prepared following the usual standard format as in EPW. The article should be typed on one side of the paper with sufficient space for corrections, if necessary.