

## CHAPTER 46

### SOCIOLOGY

#### Ph.D. Thesis

364. BANDYOPADHYAY (Mahuya)  
**Sociological Study of a Prison in Bengal.**  
Supervisor : Prof. Anand Chakravarti  
Th 14228

#### *Abstract*

Examines the prison as a particular configuration of practices. Highlights the understanding of prison lives as represented by the prisoners, their social contexts and the meaningful worlds they created. The understanding of the prison as an organisation, then, does not revolve around the question of monitoring the application of rules; rather, the question of meaning making is central. This understanding was articulated in two different contexts: first, the everyday context and second, the narratives of prisoners' lives, delving into their 'pasts'. The use of these two rather different forms of articulation shows how the immediate face-to-face context of prison life can be posed alongside other spatical and temporal contexts. The view of the prison, as an organisation, as isolated from other spaces and other contexts is, therefore, problematised. Discusses the idea of reform as an organisational goal, with emphasis on the prisoners' understanding of the question. The prisoners' views on reform are contrary to its conceptualisation and practice by the prison administration. The administration's articulation and practice of reform appear to be synonymous with the provision and maintenance of a growing list of material benefits. Against this conceptualisation are placed the prisoners' views on reform, which postulate a democratic and participative approach to introducing changes in the prison.

#### *Contents*

1. Introduction. 2. Prison Life: The Formal World. 3. Everyday Life in Prison I: Interpreting the Structure of Rules. 4. Everyday Life in Prison II: Subverting the Structure of Rules. 5. Understanding Organisational Goals: Everyday Practice and Reform. 6. Narrative Renderings of Pre-Prison Lives. 7. Conclusion: Interactional Spaces, Prison Life and Para Life. Bibliography and Appendices.

365. DE SOUZA (Arlindo Arun)  
**Management of Water Resources: A Sociological Study in Maharashtra.**  
 Supervisor : Prof. Virginius Xaxa  
 Th 14227

*Abstract*

Examines a few of the processes through which community gets to be constructed choosing a village engaged in a watershed development project as fieldwork area. Within the array of possible sites to examine three have been chosen: The way mythologisation acts as a community builder; how electoral networks are the visible part of larger ongoing social networks; and how tours, spectacles and landscapes act to project an ideal community. Also concentrates on constant reinvention of the community. It discusses the main themes, summarises them and then goes on to synthetically link up the varied strands. There is no attempt to provide a definitive, all-encompassing meta-narrative. What has been attempted is a limited perspectival analysis of the nature of community in a particular development-intervention context in a specific village in Maharashtra at a given point in time. It finds the way village communities have been conceived of by three significant genealogies.

*Contents*

1. How do Communities Come to be. 2. Community: Caught Between Nostalgic Pasts and Modernist Visions. 3. Drought and Development. 4. Imagining Community Through Mythologisation. 5. Electoral Factions and Everyday Network. 6. Community as a Development Spectacle. 7. Community as an Ongoing Construction. Bibliography.

366. KUJUR (Joseph Marianus)  
**Religion, Conversion and Identity: A Sociological Study of the Oraons in Chotanagpur.**  
 Supervisor : Prof. Virginius Xaxa  
 Th 14226

*Abstract*

The major issues of concern in the study of conversion are the what, why, who, whom, and how, no matter whether the perspective is spiritual or sociological. Spiritual conversion, being internal, is obviously limited in scope for a sociological

analysis. Hence the discussion on conversion is primarily from the sociological point of view. A wide range of issues emanates from the conversion discourse in sociology. These include among other things motivations, change, continuity, relationships, identity formation, and so on. The study has the following objectives: (1) to examine the emergence of the new religious community and the complex processes through which the new community took shape; (2) to examine the nature and dynamics of relationship between converts and non-converts; (3) to examine the interface of the new tradition which was brought about by Christianity and the older tradition that was inherent in the tribal social structure; and (4) to study the way in which discourses on the tribal identity have been perceived and articulated by the converts and non-converts and also by others in the context of the social differentiation within the tribal society.

#### *Contents*

1. Introduction: Religious Conversion and Tribal Identity. 2. The Setting and Methodology of the Study. 3. Emergence of a New Religious Community. 4. Conversion and the Changing Social Relationships. 5. Interface of the New Tradition and the Old. 6. Modes of Identity Articulation Among the Ordons. 7. Summary and Conclusions. Bibliography and Appendices.

367. PANJABI (Shalini)  
**A Sociological Study of the Practice of Education: A Case Study of a School in Karnataka.**  
 Supervisor : Dr. Rabindra Ray  
 Th 14342

#### *Abstract*

This involves a historical and an ethnographic study of the practice of education. The practice of education has been examined by historically tracing specific elements which have been institutionalised in India. It can be seen as an analysis of the genealogy of the institutional categories of schooling. The practices within a school have also been looked at through an ethnographic study of the running of a school. The attempt at both the levels has been to see the development and functioning of schools as a process. A diachronic and processual analysis of the practice of education has been enabled through the juxtaposition of historical development and observations from fieldwork. Through this perspective, practices within a school can be seen as being

informed by various perspective, and shaped through the interaction and negotiations between various forces. While emphasising processes of negotiation within a school, this analysis diverges from the interpretative approaches and the organisational studies of schools, through a consideration also a structural features of an education system. The analysis of the processes through which the school was established in India, and the development of the policies through which it was further standardised, are crucial for a fuller understanding of the functioning of a school today - as has been shown in this thesis. The notion of practice thus frames the thesis through its simultaneous emphasis on structure and action.

### *Contents*

1. Introduction. 2. The Emergence of the School in India. 3. Private Enterprise in Indian Schools. 4. The English Medium School. 5. Teaching in the School. 6. Evaluation in the School. 7. Conclusion. Bibliography.

368. SAHAY (Lakshmi)  
**Education and Society: A Sociological Study in Chhimtuipui District of Mizoram**  
 Supervisor : Prof. Aneeta A Minocha  
 Th 14229

### *Abstract*

The existing studies in the sociology of education either limit themselves to an analysis of the school processes or to an examination of the socio economic background of teachers and pupils. This study does not perceive the two as separate but explores the mutual linkages between the school and society. However, it also explores the disjunctions between the school and society and the ways in which these could be tapped for the purpose of education. In addition the study critically examines the existing theoretical discourses on education in the context of India. This study examines the subaltern within the subaltern. The study also examines education in its linkages with culture. The importance of the study lies in its attempt to examine the ways in which people can find a voice in the context of classrooms that ensure freedom. The significance of this cannot be underestimated especially as far as North-East India is concerned as it often simmers in discontent and poses a serious challenge for main stream India.

1. Introduction. 2. Historical and Socio-Cultural Background. 3. Social Structure: Past and Present. 4. Development of Education: The Role of the Christian Mission. 5. The Process and Experience of Schooling. 6. School and Society: Home, Community and the State. 7. Conclusion. Bibliography and Appendix.

## M.Phil Dissertations

369. BAPNA (Geetika)  
**Kinship and Female Sexuality in Post Colonial Tamil Societies : A Critical Overview of the Anthropological Literature.**  
 Supervisor : Dr. Rajani Palriwala
370. GHOSH (Saswata)  
**Zamindari Abolition in U. P. : A Sociological Analysis.**  
 Supervisor : Dr. Rabindra Ray
371. KAKAR (Kanika)  
**Empowerment of Women in India : A Study of the Role of the Indian State**  
 Supervisor : Dr. Rajani Palriwala
372. KHAWLHRING (Elizabeth)  
**Role of Tribal Youth in Social Transformation : With Special Reference of the Young Mizo Association.**  
 Supervisor : Dr. Virginius Xaxa
373. MITRA (Wrick)  
**Ground Work for an Anthropology of Corruption.**  
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374. PATNAIK (Pranta P.)  
**The Construction of Gender Through Television Advertisements : A Sociological Analysis.**  
 Supervisor : Dr. Meenakshi Thapan
375. SHINHA (Jyoti)  
**Globalisation and its Impact on the Indian Working Class.**  
 Supervisor : Dr. Rabindar Roy