ICSSR Sponsored
National Seminar
On
Decentralization and Poverty Reduction in India: Initiative and Achievements

November 07-08, 2015
Organized by
Department of Economics, Aligarh Muslim University,
Aligarh, India-202002

PREAMBLE

Decentralization is linked to rural poverty in many ways. The proximity of policy implementers to the target groups reduces information and transaction cost of identifying the poor and help in designing potentially successful ‘capacity improving’ and ‘safety net polices’. Decentralized provision of the public services can also help to link revenue-expenditure decisions at the margin. This can improve both efficiency and accountability in the provision of such services. Governments that are ‘closer to the people’ should in principle, be able to provide services more efficiently and effectively than remote, centralized authority. In India panchayati raj system is identified as prime instrument of decentralization through which democracy become truly representative and responsive. The panchayati raj institutions are considered as local self-government meant for providing basic infrastructure facilities, empowering weaker sections of the society and take steps to remove poverty from rural India, where the sole of India lives. The need for decentralization was realized long back but the recent effort to give constitutional back up to local governments is significant. With the passage of 73rd and 74th Amendment Acts, in 1992, people’s participation in the process of planning, decision-making, implantation and delivery system at lower level has been recognized. The local governments do not have enough money to carry out the functions assigned to them. Their dependence of government grants is almost total. In fact, they merely act as agencies of the government and implement schemes according to government directives. Involvement of local people can enhance accountability and quality implementation, but local performance depends on the institutional and political environments in which the decentralization process works.

CHAIRMAN
Department of Economics
A.M.U., Aligarh
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SUB-THEMES OF THE SEMINAR:

- Issues in Decentralized Governance and Development in India;
- Decentralization and Poverty Alleviation Programmes
- Participatory Planning and Inclusive Growth
- Fiscal Transfers to Local Governments
- Decentralization and Women empowerment
- Accountability, Transparency and Social Audit at Local Level

ABOUT THE UNIVERSITY

The Aligarh Muslim University (AMU) is a premier Central University included as an institution of ‘National Importance’ in the VII Schedule of the Constitution of India with several faculties and maintained institutions. Aligarh Muslim University Accredited by NAAC in 'A' grade. AMU draws students from all over the country and from foreign countries including SAARC and the Commonwealth. Imbibing the objective tenor of the west and preserving the oriental tradition, Sir Syed Ahmad Khan, the great visionary, established the Mohammadan Anglo-Oriental College on May 24, 1875 with a resolve to initiate western education amongst Muslims and liberate their mind from out-moded patterns of thought and behaviour. The vision became a reality in 1920 when this College matured to the status of the Aligarh Muslim University. Since then it has ever been expanding, diversifying and relentlessly working towards keeping its promise to the commitment of its founder. The residential character of this University, where most of the staff and students reside on the campus itself, contributes greatly to the country’s multi-religious, multi-social and multi-lingual character. There are twelve faculties and more than a hundred Departments of Studies with a teaching strength of 2,000 faculty members disseminating knowledge to more than twenty eight thousand students.

ABOUT THE DEPARTMENT

The Department of Economics (established: 1920) is one of the main constituent departments of the Faculty of Social Sciences. It offers courses on B.A. (Hons.), M.A., M.Phil. and Ph.D. in Economics. It attracts the largest number of students at the undergraduate and post-graduate levels. The students come both from within and outside the country. The Department has a long tradition of imparting education and promoting research. Many of its alumni have distinguished themselves in both academic and administrative spheres across the country and the world - a small testimony, perhaps, to the excellence of training that we have managed to give them. The teaching programmes in the Department are focused on proper blending of quality and relevance. The research programmes give special attention to economic problems of the country and the state of Uttar Pradesh. The thrust areas include the various fields of Development Economics, International Trade, Agriculture Economics, Public Finance, Environment Economics, Monetary Economics, Industrial Development and Population Studies.

ABOUT ALIGARH

Aligarh is located on the main Delhi-Kolkata rail route at a distance of 135 km south-east of Delhi (Approximately two hours journey from Delhi). Aligarh is only 82 km from Agra and 60 km from Mathura (by road), two very famous places of historical interest and tourist attraction. The Aligarh Muslim University is a premier Central University with several faculties and maintained institutions and draws students from all corners of India as well as from abroad. The University Campus is 3 km away from Aligarh Railway Station. The climate remains pleasant in the month of November.
CALL FOR PAPERS

Full paper on above themes not exceeding 5000 words, not more than two authors per paper and an abstract not exceeding 300 words typed in A4 sheet in 12 point Times New Roman font in MS word with 1.5 line spacing in two copies with the soft copy in CD along with their name, complete address, contact number and Email.ID may please be submitted either to Convener, Prof. Nisar Ahmad Khan, Department of Economics or to the Organizing Secretary Dr. Mohd Azam Khan, Department of Economics, Aligarh Muslim University Aligarh-202002 (India). The papers as per above details can also be sent to azamkhanamu@gmail.com. Acceptance of the paper will be based on quality, relevance and originality. The accepted paper should be presented at the seminar by one of the author. Efforts shall be made to publish selected papers after peer reviewing in an ISBN edited book

IMPORTANT DATES

Submission of Abstract: 05 October, 2015
Submission of Full Paper: 15 October, 2015
Intimation of Acceptance: 25 October, 2015
Receipts of Registration Form: 02 November, 2015
Date of Seminar: 07-08 November, 2015

NO REGISTRATION CHARGES

ACCOMODATION

All participants will be provided with local hospitality on request basis in the University Guest House subject to availability. The request may be sent by Email: azamkhanamu@gmail.com

FOR FURTHER DETAILS CONTACT

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Organizing Secretary
Mobile: 09412596579
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Registration Form

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Name…………………………………………………………………………………………………..
Designation…………………………………………………………………………………………
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Participation status (please tick) I would like to attend the Seminar ( )
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Dated:                                                                                     Signature