



Two-Day National Seminar (Hybrid Mode)

on

# **REPRESENTATION FROM THE MARGIN: VOICES, VISIBILITY AND SOCIAL TRANSFORMATION**

**DATE: 16-17<sup>TH</sup> FEBURARY, 2026**

**Jointly organized by**

**DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH**

**DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMICS**

**DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION &**

**DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE**

**GOVERNMENT WOMEN'S COLLEGE,  
BALANGIR, ODISHA**

**(Affiliated to Rajendra University, Balangir, Odisha)**

## About the Seminar:

The question of representation lies at the heart of democratic societies. Yet, despite constitutional guarantees, policy interventions, and expanding public discourse, vast sections of society continue to remain at the margins i.e. economically excluded, politically under-represented, culturally silenced, and educationally disadvantaged. These “margins” are not merely geographic or economic spaces but are socially produced through caste, class, gender, ethnicity, language, region, disability, sexuality, and ecological vulnerability.

This national seminar seeks to critically engage with the idea of marginality as both a lived experience and a structural condition, while foregrounding the voices, narratives, and agency of marginalised communities. Representation from the margin is not simply about inclusion within dominant frameworks; it involves questioning whose knowledge counts, whose voices are heard, and how power operates through institutions, discourse, and development processes.

From an economic perspective, marginalisation manifests through informalisation of labour, agrarian distress, land alienation, gendered economic vulnerabilities, financial exclusion, and the uneven outcomes of development projects. The retreat of the welfare state under neoliberal reforms and the rise of precarious livelihoods have intensified inequalities, especially among women, youth, migrants, and historically oppressed communities.

Within political and cultural domains, representation has been shaped by struggles over voice and visibility. Literature particularly Dalit, feminist, queer, folk, and subaltern writings has emerged as a powerful site of resistance, offering counter-narratives to dominant histories and epistemologies. These texts challenge hegemonic representations and reclaim dignity, identity, and social justice, while also responding to contemporary crises such as climate change and ecological displacement.

Education occupies a paradoxical space: it can reproduce social hierarchies, yet it also holds transformative potential. Persistent disparities in access, quality, digital resources, and curriculum representation continue to marginalise large sections of learners. At the same time, inclusive pedagogy, women’s education, democratic citizenship education, and the integration of subaltern knowledge systems can make education a powerful site for social transformation.

This seminar aims to create an interdisciplinary platform where scholars, researchers, educators, and practitioners critically examine marginalisation across economics, politics, literature, and education. By bringing together diverse disciplinary insights, the seminar seeks to move beyond tokenistic inclusion towards a deeper engagement with **representation as a process of empowerment, resistance, and social change.**

## Objectives of the Seminar:

- To examine diverse forms of marginalisation in economic, political, cultural, and educational contexts.
- To amplify voices and narratives from historically marginalised communities.
- To analyse structures and policies that shape exclusion, inequality, and precarity.
- To explore literature and culture as sites of resistance and alternative representation.
- To assess the role of education in promoting inclusion, equity, and democratic citizenship.
- To foster interdisciplinary dialogue among Political Science, Economics, English, and Education.
- To encourage critical scholarship aimed at social justice and transformative change.

### About the College

Government Women's College, Balangir, established in 1962, is a pioneering institution for women's education in Odisha. Located in a scheduled and economically backward region of Western Odisha, the college offers 18 undergraduate and 3 postgraduate courses in Arts and Science. With the implementation of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 from the 2024-25 academic year, it aims to provide a transdisciplinary academic and research framework. Committed to empowering women across all social categories, the college strives to impart quality education and help students establish their place in society.

### About the Departments:

The Department of Political Science, English, Education and Economics at Government Women's College, Balangir, are most esteemed departments of the institution. Established alongside the college in 1962, these departments have played a pivotal role in shaping the academic and intellectual landscape of the institution.

**Department of Political Science:** Established in 1962, the Department of Political Science focuses on governance, political theory, public administration, and international relations. It encourages critical analysis of democratic institutions, political structures, and policy-making processes.

**Department of Economics:** The Department of Economics provides a strong foundation in economic theories and policies, covering micro and macroeconomics, public finance, development economics, and basic statistical methods, with emphasis on real-world applications.

**Department of English:** One of the oldest departments of the college, the Department of English offers undergraduate courses in English Literature and Language. Its curriculum includes literary studies, linguistics, literary theories, partition literature, popular literature, gender studies, and academic writing skills.

**Department of Education:** Initially part of the higher secondary wing, the Department of Education expanded its academic scope in 2023 with the introduction of the B.A. in Education programme. It focuses on educational philosophy, sociology, psychology, policy, and curriculum studies, enabling students to critically engage with education as a discipline.

With the implementation of National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, these departments aim to offer interdisciplinary and research-driven education. They promote critical thinking, policy analysis, and applied research, aligning with contemporary socio-economic and political challenges.

## Themes and Sub-Themes

### 1. Representation, Voice and Visibility

- Politics of representation in democracy and public institutions
- Subaltern voices, counter-narratives, and knowledge production
- Literary, cultural, and political expressions from the margins
- Media, digital spaces, and visibility of marginalised groups

### 2. Marginality, Power and Social Structures

- Caste, class, gender, sexuality, ethnicity, and intersectionality
- Political economy of exclusion and inequality
- Gendered experiences of marginality across social institutions
- Power, domination, and resistance in everyday life

### 3. Democracy, Citizenship and Social Justice

- Citizenship, rights, and differential inclusion
- Education, democracy, and political participation
- Constitutionalism, social justice, and access to rights
- Marginal voices in policy-making and governance

### 4. Economy, Development and Exclusion

- Economic exclusion, poverty, and social marginality
- Informal economy, precarious livelihoods, and labour insecurity
- Land, labour, agrarian distress, and displacement
- Political economy of development projects and dispossession
- Welfare state, social protection, and marginalised communities
- Financial inclusion, exclusion, and economic citizenship

### 5. Gender, Sexuality and the Margins

- Gendered economy and feminisation of poverty
- Women's education and social transformation
- Women's writings, queer writings, and sexual marginality
- Gender gap in education, work, and political participation

### 6. Education, Knowledge and Inclusion

- Education as a space for marginal voices
- Access, equity, and educational disparity
  - Gender gap, regional inequality, digital divide
- Inclusive and transformative pedagogy
- Curriculum, textbooks, and representation of subaltern knowledge
- Education, citizenship, and democratic consciousness

### 7. Culture, Literature and Resistance

- Dalit literature and politics of representation
- Folk literature, oral traditions, and social justice
- Literature as resistance, memory, and assertion of identity
- Language, culture, and invisibility of marginal communities

## **8. Youth, Identity and Emerging Margins**

- Youth at the margin: education, employment, and precarity
- Student movements, youth politics, and dissent
- Aspirations, mobility, and new forms of marginality
- Digital youth cultures and political engagement

## **9. Environment, Ecology and Marginal Lives**

- Climate change and voices from ecological margins
- Indigenous communities, land rights, and environmental justice
- Development-induced displacement and environmental governance
- Sustainability, survival, and marginalised livelihoods

## **10. Governance, Policy and Grassroots Democracy**

- Welfare governance and policy implementation gaps
- Local governance, Panchayati Raj, and urban marginality
- Participation, accountability, and inclusive governance
- Social movements, resistance politics, and policy change

## **11. Poverty, Financial Exclusion and Inclusive Development**

- Structural Poverty, Inequality and Social Exclusion
- Financial Inclusion, Exclusion and Economic citizenship
- Access to credit, banking, insurance and digital finance
- Welfare state, redistribution and social protection mechanisms
- Inclusive growth, development policies and social transformation

The sub-themes listed are not exhaustive. We welcome submissions on other relevant topics that align with the broader theme of the conference.

### **Call for Research Papers:**

We invite academicians, researchers, students, and professionals to submit original research papers on the main theme and sub-themes of the seminar for paper submission & presentation. Students of the regions, in particular are encouraged to participate in large number in this academic discussion.

### **Guidelines for Abstract and Full Paper Submission:**

Authors are requested to submit abstracts of up to 250 words, formatted in Times New Roman, font size 12, with 1.5 line spacing and normal margins, in MS Word. Full papers should not exceed 5,000 words and must follow the same formatting, with APA (7th Ed.) or MLA (9<sup>th</sup> Ed.) referencing. Kindly send your abstracts and full papers to the following email id:

**[seminar.gwcbgr@gmail.com](mailto:seminar.gwcbgr@gmail.com)**

Selected papers will be published in an Edited Book with ISBN number in a reputed national publisher. Depending on the Publisher, extra fees for publication may be charged on prior intimation.

### **Important Dates:**


Last Date for Abstract Submission	: 30 <sup>th</sup> January 2026
Intimation on Acceptance of Paper	: 3 <sup>rd</sup> February 2026

Last Date for Full Paper Submission	: 10 <sup>th</sup> February 2026
Last Date for Registration	: 10 <sup>th</sup> February 2026

### Registration Fees:

	Students/Scholars	Faculty/Corporate
<b>Only Participation</b>	Rs. 200/-	Rs. 200/-
<b>Presentation</b>	Rs. 350/-	Rs. 600/-

### Bank Account Details:

<b>Account Name</b>	Rajesh Kumar Karna	<div>Scan &amp; Pay Using PhonePe App</div> 
<b>Account Number</b>	07110110113868	
<b>Bank name and IFSC</b>	UCO Bank-UCBA0000711	
<b>Branch</b>	Godvaga	

### Notes:

- Local participants are encouraged to present on physical modes
- No TA/DA will be provided
- No accommodation will be provided. However, participants may contact the organisers to arrange accommodation in the nearby hotels.
- The registration fees include breakfast, lunch and seminar kit only.

### Organizers

**Chief Patron** : Dr. Arvind Kumar Ojha, Principal, GWC, Balangir

**Patrons** : Sri. Bibhuti Bhusan Sahu, IQAC Coordinator and Head, Dept of Economics.  
: Sri Saloman Kumar, Head, Department of English

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: Sri Sardhar Majhi, Asst. Prof. in Economics  
: Dr. Bhubaneswar Chhatria, Asst. Prof. in Economics

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or mail us at [seminar.gwcbgr@gmail.com](mailto:seminar.gwcbgr@gmail.com)