

## **Development: inclusive or exclusive for people on the margins?**

Convener:

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Human Development Report (2016) states “Human development is all about human freedoms: freedom to realize the full potential of every human life, not just of a few, nor of most, but of all lives in every corner of the world—now and in the future”. (UNDP, 2016). Todaro (1977) argues that Development is not purely an economic phenomenon but rather a multi-dimensional process involving reorganization and reorientation of entire economic and social system.

No doubt, there has been visible economic growth in the past few decades. To what extent this has resulted in social development, is a contested issue. There is enough evidence available to suggest that the benefits of development; economic and social, have not reached to all. A large number of people continue to be on the peripheries and development that has largely addressed universal objectives without paying much attention to contextual and cultural variations of those who have historically suffered from one disadvantage or the other. As a result certain sections of the society like women religious, ethnic and other minorities, Indigenous population groups feel excluded from the development process. The gap between the rich and poor has increased considerably, the numbers of poor among the above mentioned sections of population are found to be disproportionately higher. Development, which has improved the quality of life of a small section of population, has actually contributed to more conflicts within the society, due to loss in income, rising prices, shrinking land for agriculture, loss of livelihoods, etc.

The proposed panel aims to attempt a comparative analysis of the development that has taken place in India and other developing and developed nations, particularly during the last 25 years. The panel proposes to focus on Gender, indigenous population groups like Van Gujjars, Religious Minority such as Muslims in the Indian context and how this has either bridged the gaps or widened these, resulting in more conflicts and exclusion. In order to have a more holistic understanding of these issues, the panel will encourage participation from other countries/regions on analysis of development processes and outcomes with regard to people on the margins in their respective countries and regions.