

# Webinar Report

**National Webinar on**

***Political Economy of the Current  
Pandemic: Questions of Inequality***

***dated: 20-08-2020 at 11.00 AM***

**Organised by the Department of Economics &  
the Department of History, Bikali College in  
Collaboration with ACTA, Goalpara Zone**

A National Webinar on *Political Economy of the Current Pandemic: Questions of Inequality* was organised by the Department of Economics & the Department of History, Bikali College in Collaboration with ACTA, Goalpara Zone on 20<sup>th</sup> August, 2020. The Resource person of the Webinar was Dr. Joydeep Baruah of Associate Professor, OKD Institute of Social Change and Development, Guwahati

Dr. Abdul Haque Ahmed, HoD, Department of Economics Bikali College started the session with his inaugural remark. This was followed by the Inaugural Speech by Dr. M. Gopal Singha, Principal i/c, Bikali College. Dr. Singha, in his speech, highlighted several aspects of the political economy in general. After his speech Dr. Abdul Haque Ahmed introduced the Resource Person before the virtual webinar house, i.e. Google Meet. He also addressed several key aspects of political economy and pandemic in his introductory remarks.

Dr. Joydeep Baruah, in his lecture, brought several dimensions of political economy. governance, unemployment issues, crisis of migrant workers, sufferings of the people at large and government responses to the crisis. Dr. Baruah spoke for about 50 minutes. The participants were given the chance to interact with the resource person. Many participants raised several pertinent questions related to economy and the current pandemic crisis. The webinar was brought to an end with the vote of thanks to all stakeholders of the webinar by Dr. Dhanmoni Kalita, Assistant Professor, Department of History, Bikali College.

# Resource Person

**Dr. Joydeep Baruah, Associate Professor,  
OKD Institute of Social Change and Development,  
Guwahati**

## **Bio of Resource Person:**

*Joydeep Baruah is presently an Associate Professor at OKD Institute of Social Change and Development, Guwahati. His primary academic interests include issues related to political economy of development in general, and to poverty and inequality in particular. He specialises in quantitative analysis, and has conducted many significant research studies both for government and international agencies. He has been the principal coordinator and lead author of the Assam Human Development Report 2014. His publications include two books Election Politics in Assam and Neo-liberal State and Its Challenges. He received a summer fellowship from Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiatives, Department of International Development, University of Oxford and visited Georgetown University, Washington DC in 2015. Very recently he served as one of the members of the High Power Committee constituted by the Chief Minister, Assam for revitalising the state economy in the aftermath of COVID 19.*

# Organising Committee

## **Moderator**

**Dr. Abdul Haque Ahmed,  
HoD, Department of  
Economics  
Bikali College &  
President, ACTA,  
Goalpara Zone**

## **Inaugurator**

**Dr. M. Gopal Singha,  
Principal i/c  
Bikali College**

## **Coordinators**

**Dr. Dhanmoni Kalita,  
Assistant Professor,  
Department of History,  
Bikali College**

**Dr. Kashyap Biswas,  
Assistant Professor,  
Department of English,  
Lakhipur College  
& Secretary, ACTA,  
Goalpara Zone**



# Webinar Flyer

## National Webinar on

### Political Economy of the Current Pandemic: Questions of Inequality

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in Collaboration with ACTA, Goalpara Zone

Date: 20/08/20

Time: 11.00 AM



#### Inaugurator

Dr. M. Gopal Singha,  
Principal i/c  
Bikali College



#### Coordinators:



Dr. Dhanmoni Kalita,  
Assistant Professor,  
Department of History,  
Bikali College



Dr. Kashyap Biswas,  
Assistant Professor,  
Department of English,  
Lakhipur College  
& Secretary, ACTA, Goalpara Zone

#### Resource Person

Dr. Joydeep Baruah,  
Associate Professor,  
Omeo Kumar Das Institute of  
Social Change and Development,  
Guwahati



#### Moderator

Dr. Abdul Haque Ahmed,  
HoD, Department of Economics  
Bikali College &  
President, ACTA, Goalpara Zone



•E-Certificate will be provided to all participants after submission of the feedback form.

•For other queries please contact: 9707307945, 9435313973

Platform: Google Meet

Registration Link: <https://forms.gle/LCQEUw6geETQrBB2A>

# Photopgraphs of the webinar

Joydeep Baruah is presenting

## Why **Inequality**?

- **Inequality** is a key concern in **Political Economy Analysis**
- **Inequality of what?** – **Economic Inequality** (income and or wealth), **Health Inequality** (outcome focused) – interconnections
- **Why Inequality Matters**

Shirin Banu has left the meeting

Political Economy of the Cur... X

People (93) Chat

Add people

M.G. Singha (You)

Abala Bhuyan

abdul haque ahmed

Abdulla Hussein Laskar

Abhishikha Bailung

Akan Boro

Anamika Saikia

Ankita Das

Ankita Kashyap



# Photopgraphs of the webinar

The image shows a screenshot of a webinar presentation slide on the left and a chat window on the right. The slide is titled "Characterising Neo-liberalism" and features a book cover for "A Brief History of Neoliberalism" by David Harvey, a photo of David Harvey speaking, and a text box defining Neo-liberalism as the reinforcement of Class Hegemony through inequality caused by the transfer of wages to profit. The chat window on the right shows a list of participants and their messages.

## Characterising Neo-liberalism

**A BRIEF HISTORY OF NEOLIBERALISM**  
DAVID HARVEY

David Harvey

**Neo-liberalism** as reinforcement of **Class Hegemony** effected through **inequality** caused by **transfer of wages to profit**

Political Economy of the Cur... X

People (90) Chat

yes itois comg

MEGHALI GOGO1 11:54 AM  
Yes sir, it's visible

Mridusmita Barukial 11:57 AM  
This session is very much relevant and highly impressive. I offer my heartfelt gratitude to the respected resource person. Glad to be part of this webinar.

You 11:58 AM  
dear participants, please don't click in the button 'present now' Click 'ask to join' button to join.

Padmini Brahma 11:59 AM  
Vary glad to be a part of this webinar..

Edrish Ali 11:59 AM  
Very much fruitful webinar... Thank you

# Photopgraphs of the webinar

