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KUVEMPU UNIVERSITY

Accredited by NAAC with 'A' Grade

DR. BABU JAGJIVAN RAM STUDIES AND RESEARCH CENTRE

Jnana Sahyadri, Shankaraghatta-577451

In Association with

*Departments P.G. Studies and Research in Journalism and Mass
Communication*

&

Departments P.G. Studies and Research in Social Work

National Conference on

**"EMPOWERING THE INVISIBLE WORKFORCE:
ISSUES AND CHALLENGES OF UNORGANIZED LABOUR"**

**ON THE EVE OF THE 115TH BIRTH ANNIVERSARY OF
DR. BABU JAGAJIVAN RAM**



27th and 28th July 2023

Email: kuvempubsrc@gmail.com

ABOUT THE KUVEMPU UNIVERSITY



Kuvempu University, named in honor of the renowned writer and poet Kuvempu, is situated at the foothills of the Sahyadri mountain range and nestled within the pristine Bhadra Tiger Reserve. Established in 1987, the university has earned a reputation for its unique academic profile, which harmoniously blends rural ethos

with a modern spirit. Spanning across 330 acres of land, the university boasts the picturesque Jnanasahyadri campus, widely regarded as one of the most beautiful campuses in the state, while ensuring minimal disruption to the region's wildlife. The main campus and administrative headquarters of Kuvempu University are located in Shankaraghatta, known as Jnanasahyadri. This campus is home to 33 Post Graduate Departments that offer a diverse range of courses. In addition to the main campus, the university operates Postgraduate centers in Kadur and Chikmagalur to cater to the educational needs of students in those regions. Kuvempu University's commitment to providing quality education is reflected in its academic programs, research initiatives, and emphasis on holistic development. The university nurtures a conducive learning environment where students can explore their intellectual interests and engage in interdisciplinary studies. With its idyllic setting amidst the natural beauty of the Sahyadri range and Bhadra Tiger Reserve, Kuvempu University offers a unique educational experience that seamlessly blends academic pursuits with an appreciation for nature and cultural heritage.

ABOUT THE DR. BABU JAGJIVAN RAM STUDIES AND RESEARCH CENTRE



The Dr. Babu Jagjivan Ram Studies and Research Centre, established in 2017 under the Karnataka State Universities Act, 2000, is a significant institution within Kuvempu University. Its primary aim is to shape Indian society according to the vision of Dr. Babu Jagjivan Ram. This entails addressing various forms of discrimination faced by marginalized communities and studying the social movements of oppressed classes.

The center is committed to conducting comparative studies, juxtaposing Dr. Babu Jagjivan Ram with other renowned visionaries from India and the world. Through these analyses, the center seeks to elucidate his contributions and the global relevance of his ideas. The center also actively engages in various research activities, research projects related to Dr. Babu Jagjivan Ram's ideology, and the introduction of postgraduate, postgraduate diploma, certificate courses, and elective courses for students, teachers, and government officials. To further promote Dr. Babu Jagjivan Ram's ideas, the center has established a multi-user multimedia digital library, which offers teachers, students, and scholars access to resources that extend the philosophy and thoughts of Babuji. Furthermore, it maintains a museum dedicated to his life and mission.

The center organizes seminars, conferences, workshops, and special lectures on Dr. Babu Jagjivan Ram and issues related to Dalits and other oppressed classes. It also undertakes publication, action, and translation projects to disseminate the philosophy of social justice, equity, and empowerment of marginalized sections of society, as envisioned by Babuji. Collaborations with other universities and research centers are fostered to facilitate research, training, and extension activities.

ABOUT THE DEPT. OF JOURNALISM AND MASS COMMUNICATION

The Post Graduate Department of Journalism and Mass Communication at Kuvempu University offers a comprehensive two-year MA program. The department focuses on both theoretical knowledge and practical skills necessary for the field. Syllabus is designed to cover a wide range of subjects in journalism and mass



communication, ensuring a well-rounded education for our students. We understand the importance of hands-on experience in the field of journalism and mass communication. Therefore, our program includes an internship component, where students have the opportunity to work with media organizations. This practical exposure enhances their understanding of the industry and helps them develop essential skills for their future careers. At the Department of Journalism and Mass Communication, strive to provide students with the necessary tools and knowledge to excel in the dynamic and ever-evolving field of media. The commitment to academic excellence and practical

training sets program apart and prepares graduates for success in their professional endeavors.

ABOUT THE DEPT. OF SOCIAL WORK

The Master of Social Work (M.S.W.) program is a globally recognized, field-based, job-oriented professional course catering to the needs of individuals, groups, and communities. The department offers integrated training in Community Development, Medical and Psychiatric Social Work, and Human Resource Management. It is ideal for students passionate about serving marginalized populations and those with social functioning deficits. The department is well-equipped with various facilities and provides practical experiences through fieldwork, orientation visits, a rural camp, and block placements/internships. Seminars and workshops are also conducted in line with the Social Work curriculum, enhancing students' knowledge and skills. M.S.W. program prepares students for rewarding careers in Social Work, addressing societal challenges and making a positive impact in diverse fields.



ABOUT THE CONFERENCE

The National Conference on "Empowering the Invisible Workforce: Addressing the Issues and Challenges of Unorganized Sector Labourers" holds great significance as we commemorate the 115th Birth Anniversary of Dr. Babu Jagajivan Ram, a renowned social reformer and advocate for marginalized communities. This conference aims to empower the unorganized sector workforce and overcome the obstacles they face, aligning with Dr. Babu Jagajivan Ram's vision of social justice and inclusivity.



In India, the unorganized sector constitutes a substantial portion of the workforce, with around highest number of workforce engaged in informal and

unorganized employment. This sector spans various industries such as agriculture, construction, manufacturing, domestic work, and street vending. These workers confront numerous challenges including low wages, job insecurity, lack of social protection, and poor working conditions. In Karnataka, a prominent state in India, the unorganized sector plays a significant role in the economy, employing approximately 70% of the workforce and contributing to its growth. However, workers in this sector still struggle with informal employment, low wages, lack of social security, and limited access to basic amenities.

The National Conference on "Empowering the Invisible Workforce" serves as a platform to address these pressing challenges faced by unorganized sector laborers in India, particularly in Karnataka. The conference brings together policymakers, experts, researchers, practitioners, and activists to foster discussions on policy interventions and reforms aimed at improving the rights, welfare, and empowerment of unorganized sector laborers. The conference advocates for the implementation of comprehensive policies that address the specific needs and challenges of these workers. It facilitates the exchange of experiences, insights, and best practices among researchers, practitioners, and activists, enabling the identification of effective strategies to enhance the working conditions, livelihoods, and social inclusion of unorganized sector laborers.

Moreover, the conference emphasizes the importance of empowering these laborers through skill development and capacity building initiatives. It highlights the need for training programs and resources that enhance their employability and create sustainable livelihood opportunities. The conference also provides a platform for stakeholders to collaborate, network, and forge partnerships, encouraging synergies among policymakers, researchers, civil society organizations, and trade unions.

By addressing the issues faced by unorganized sector laborers, the conference aims to raise awareness, drive policy changes, and promote initiatives that improve their overall well-being and social standing. It plays a significant role in shaping the discourse on empowering the invisible workforce and ensuring their inclusion in the socio-economic fabric of India and Karnataka. Ultimately, the conference pays tribute to Dr. Babu Jagajivan Ram's visionary leadership and seeks to continue his legacy by working towards a more equitable society that uplifts and empowers all sections of the population.

OBJECTIVES OF THE CONFERENCE

1. Raise awareness about the issues and challenges faced by unorganized sector labourers.
2. Facilitate policy development and advocacy to address the rights, welfare, and empowerment of unorganized sector labourers.
3. Promote knowledge exchange among researchers, practitioners, and activists to share experiences, insights, and best practices.
4. Emphasize the importance of empowerment and skill development for unorganized sector labourers, aiming to enhance their employability and socio-economic status.
5. Commemorate the legacy of Dr. Babu Jagajivan Ram and draw inspiration from his vision of social justice and inclusivity to work towards a more equitable society.



We invite papers that contribute to the understanding and address the multifaceted challenges faced by the invisible workforce. Papers can be theoretical, empirical, or case

studies that focus on, but are not limited to, the following **subthemes**:

1. Political Participation and Empowerment of Unorganized Sector Labourers, Social Movements and Activism for Unorganized Sector Rights
2. Governance and Policy Making for the Unorganized Sector
3. Marginalization and Social Exclusion in the Unorganized Sector
4. Intersectionality and Multiple Forms of Discrimination among Unorganized Sector Workers
5. Historical Perspectives on the Unorganized Sector and Labor Movements
6. Social Work Approaches and Interventions for Unorganized Sector Empowerment
7. Media Representation and Narratives of the Unorganized Sector
8. Economic Impact and Contribution of the Unorganized Sector, Poverty, Inequality, and Distribution of Resources in the Unorganized Sector
9. Informal Economy and Informal Institutions in the Unorganized Sector
10. Social Capital and Networks among Unorganized Sector Labourers
11. Education and Skill Development Initiatives for Unorganized Sector Workers

12. Role of Journalism in Amplifying the Voices of Unorganized Labour,
13. Media Representation and Portrayal of Unorganized Labour
14. Challenges and Opportunities of Reporting on Unorganized Labour
15. Citizen Journalism and Grassroots Media Initiatives for Unorganized Labour
16. Health and Well-being of Unorganized Sector Labourers
17. Role of Social Media in Mobilizing and Organizing Unorganized Labour & The Future of Journalism and Mass Communication in Empowering Unorganized Labour
18. Family Dynamics and Gender Relations in the Unorganized Sector
19. Environmental Sustainability and the Unorganized Sector
20. Urbanization and Rural-Urban Migration in the Unorganized Sector
21. Technology and Digital Divide in the Unorganized Sector
22. Social Entrepreneurship and Innovations for Unorganized Sector Development
23. Trade Unions and Collective Bargaining in the Unorganized Sector
24. Informal Sector Regulations and Legal Frameworks
25. Social Security Schemes and Welfare Measures for Unorganized Sector Workers
26. Media Strategies for Advocacy and Awareness of Unorganized Sector Issues
27. Role of Media in promoting life style of unorganized sector labourers
28. Economic Informality and Informal Employment Patterns
29. Globalization and its Impact on the Unorganized Sector & Occupational Health and Safety in Informal Work Settings
30. Cultural and Identity Dynamics of Unorganized Sector Labourers
31. Impact of COVID 19 on Unorganized Sector Labourers
32. Land Rights and Access to Resources for Unorganized Sector Communities
33. Role of Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) in Supporting Unorganized Sector Workers

Any other topics related to Main theme of the conference

Interested participants are requested to submit their abstracts (maximum 300 words) within **22nd July 2023** to the email ID: **kuvempubjsrc@gmail.com**, Upon acceptance of abstracts, and send your full papers before **24th July 2023**.

PUBLICATION

All papers will undergo a rigorous review process by the conference's expert committee. Accepted papers will be published in the edited book. Select papers may also have the opportunity to be considered for publication in edited volumes.

IMPORTANT DATES:

Abstract Submission Deadline	: 22nd July 2023
Notification of Abstract Acceptance	: 22nd July 2023
Full Paper Submission Deadline	: 24th July 2023
Conference Dates	: 27th and 28th July 2023

REGISTRATION PROCESS

Students	: Rs. 100/-	Spot Registration Only
Research Scholars	: Rs. 200/-	
Academicians and Practitioners	: Rs. 300/-	

CHIEF PATRONS OF THE CONFERENCE

Prof. B P Veerabhadrapa

Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, Kuvempu University

Prof. C. Geetha

Registrar, Kuvempu University

DIRECTOR OF THE CONFERENCE

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FOR ANY FURTHER CLARIFICATION

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