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भारतीय नृ-विज्ञान सर्वेक्षण
ANTHROPOLOGICAL SURVEY OF INDIA

भारत सरकार

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

दक्षिण क्षेत्रीय केन्द्र

SOUTHERN REGIONAL CENTRE

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मैसूर-५७० ००२, MYSORE-570 002

Tuesday, 24 July 2001

Dated:

sureshpatilmys@rediff.com

Dear Dr. Joshiji,

A piece of good news! I submitted my thesis to the University of Mysore on "Typology of Endogamous Groups in South India and their Cultural Correlates"

I am extremely thankful to you for the help you gave me in various forms. The 75 MHZ computer of CES is still doing very fine and all the population data of southern India was processed on this.

I would personally come and meet you at CES soon.

With warm regards,

Sincerely

(Suresh Patil)

ANTHROPOLOGICAL SURVEY OF INDIA

Southern Regional Centre, "Manav Bhavan", Bogadi,

Mysore - 570 006.

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Dr. Suresh Patil
Suptdg. Anthropologist & Head of Office

D.O. No.11-02/T

Date: December 2, 2002.

Dear Dr. Joshi

One day seminar is now scheduled on 17th Dec. 2002. I hope you would kindly grace the seminar by your presence.

With seasons greetings and regards,

Yours sincerely,



(Suresh Patil)

To:
Dr. N.V. Joshi
Centre for Ecological Sciences
Indian Institute of Science
Mallechwaram
Bangalore

ANTHROPOLOGICAL SURVEY OF INDIA

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476 711 (R)

Dr. Suresh Patil
Suptdg. Anthropologist & Head of Office

D.O. No.11-02/T

Date: 8th November 2002.

Dear Dr. Joshi

It gives me great pleasure in informing you that the Southern Regional Centre of the Anthropological Survey of India proposes to hold a one day seminar on "**Caste in Southern India: Contemporary Debates**" on 17th December 2002, tentatively, at the Seminar Hall of the Anthropological Survey of India, Bogadi, Mysore. A brief communiqué on the title of the seminar is enclosed (see overleaf).

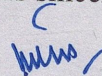
Knowing your interest in the topic, I take the privilege in requesting you to contribute and present a paper, relating to the topic and send an abstract of the paper, in not more than 350 words, on or before 25th November 2002 and the complete paper in the first week of December 2002.

The Survey will be pleased to bare your to and fro IInd A/C train fare and also arrange your accommodation.

I shall be highly obliged if you could confirm your participation at your earliest convenience.

With regards,

Yours sincerely,



(Suresh Patil)

To:
Dr. N.V. Joshi
Centre for Ecological Sciences
Indian Institute of Science
Malleshwaram
Bangalore

Caste in Southern India: Contemporary Debates

Often many a scholars have said that the caste relations, both inter and intra, peculiar to the sub-continent, are changing in modern India, owing to urbanization, economic growth, spread of education, and so on. Arguments have also been put forth that these aspects of change are responsible for decreasing the significance of caste in everyday life, especially in the recent period. At the same time, however, it has also been said that the political mobilization based on caste identities has increased the caste consciousness during the latter half of the colonial era and especially in the post independence period. These contrasting views, whether apparent or not, are an obvious example of the difficulties related to the understanding of caste relations and consciousness. Most scholars agree that the caste society is a complex phenomenon that deserves greater attention to comprehend its various manifestations. Existence of castes has been explained in terms of traditional occupations often referring to varna frame-work, hierarchical concepts based on purity and pollution, religious ideology, and so on. A few have even tried to explain this institution, though unfortunately, in terms of 'race'. There is, however, one aspect that scholars have paid little attention - more often have almost ignored - that is the historical dimension of castes and their formation. Recent works, in particular, by Dirks¹, Bayly², Srinivas³, have established one point beyond doubt that caste relations have always been fluid, dynamic and responding to the changing political scenario. Yet these works are not bereft of controversies. While these scholars have brilliantly brought out hitherto undiscovered aspects of caste relations, they have also given rise to new controversies and questions.

The proposed seminar aims at discussing these new issues and comprehend the changing facets of caste relations.

1. DIRKS, NICHOLAS B. 2002, CASTES OF MIND: COLONIALISM AND THE MAKING OF MODERN INDIA, INDIAN REPRINT, DELHI, PERMANENT BLACK

2. BAYLY, SUSAN. 2000, CASTE, SOCIETY AND POLITICS IN INDIA FROM EIGHTEENTH CENTURY TO MODERN AGE, NEW DELHI : CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS

3. SRINIVAS, M. N. (ED.)1997, CASTE AND ITS TWENTIETH CENTURY AVATAR, NEW DELHI:PENGUIN BOOKS