



Call for Papers
Two-Day National Seminar
on
Human Rights, Identities and Exclusion
25th & 26th February, 2026
Organised
by
Department of Political Science,
Vidyasagar University,
Midnapore.

Concept Note

The Department of Political Science, Vidyasagar University, proposes to organise a Two-Day National Seminar titled ‘Human Rights, Identities, and Exclusion’ on 25-26 February 2026. This seminar aims to serve as a platform for critical engagement, scholarly dialogue, and policy discussion on the persistent challenges related to social exclusion rooted in diverse identities.

In contemporary society, human rights are recognised as fundamental inalienable entitlements for every individual. However, realities reveal that social, cultural, and political structures often marginalise certain groups based on their caste, ethnicity, religion, gender, disability, language or sexuality. Such exclusions hinder their access to justice, education, healthcare, employment, and political participation, which are essential for democratic and equitable development.

The seminar seeks to analyse these intersecting issues through an interdisciplinary lens, incorporating perspectives from Political Science, History, Sociology, Law, Gender Studies, and Development Studies. It will examine how institutional frameworks—national laws, international conventions, and local policies—either perpetuate or challenge these exclusionary practices. Attention will be paid to the

concept of intersectionality—how multiple identities overlap to amplify vulnerabilities—especially for women, minorities, indigenous peoples, persons with disabilities, and migrants.

A significant focus will be on policies, grassroots movements, and legal reforms that have been successful in promoting inclusion, as well as on the gaps that still persist. The discussion will explore how social attitudes and systemic biases influence the marginalisation process and consider ways to institutionalise equity and social justice more effectively. The seminar will also explore modern challenges, such as bio-politics and digital identities, which create new dimensions of inclusion and exclusion in the digital age.

Sub-themes

The seminar will be structured around the following key themes:

- Legal, constitutional, and institutional frameworks protecting human rights
- Caste, ethnicity, religion, language and social exclusion
- Gender, sexuality, and intersectional marginalisation
- Disability, health, and access to basic services
- Rights of children, migrants, minorities, and other vulnerable groups
- Digital identities, technology, and evolving forms of exclusion

Interested persons are requested to send their abstract within 250 words by 15th February, 2026 to swatilekha@mail.vidyasagar.ac.in

Registration Fees for the Participants:

- ❖ Faculty: Rs. 700/-
- ❖ Research Scholar: Rs. 500/-
- ❖ Students: Rs. 200/-

For further inquiry call: 9831492089 (Dr. Swatilekha Bhattacharya)

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