



**LOYOLA COLLEGE (AUTONOMOUS)
CHENNAI - 600034**

**CENTRE FOR THE STUDY OF
SOCIAL EXCLUSION & INCLUSIVE POLICY**

In Collaboration With

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY

Cordially Invites you to a Seminar on

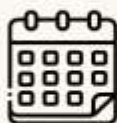
**"Tribal Worldviews and Development: Bridging
The Gap Between Policy and Lived Realities"**

GUEST SPEAKER



Rev. Fr . G . Philip Kumar SJ

Director
Social Watch



17th September



11:30 AM



LS HALL

CONVENER

Dr. J. Vanitha

Director, CSSEIP
Head, Department of Sociology

LOYOLA COLLEGE (AUTONOMOUS), CHENNAI – 600034.

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Seminar on

**"TRIBAL WORLDVIEWS AND DEVELOPMENT: BRIDGING THE GAP BETWEEN
POLICY AND LIVED REALITIES"**

EVENT REPORT

Date : 17th September 2026
Time : 11:30 AM
Venue : LS Hall, Loyola College (Autonomous), Chennai
Guest Speaker : Rev. Fr. G. Philip Kumar SJ, Director, Social Watch
Convener : Dr. J. Vanitha, Director, CSSEIP
Head, Department of Sociology

The seminar, organized by the Centre for the Study of Social Exclusion & Inclusive Policy (CSSEIP) in collaboration with the Department of Sociology, was held on **17th September 2026 to commemorate Tamil Nadu Social Justice Day**. The programme focused on the theme **"Tribal Worldviews and Development: Bridging the Gap between Policy and Lived Realities"**, bringing together students and faculty for a critical discussion on tribal communities, their worldviews, and their relationship with mainstream development discourse. The seminar formed part of CSSEIP's continuing engagement with issues of social exclusion, inclusion, and social justice, with a specific focus this year on **tribal communities, their experiences of exclusion, and pathways towards inclusive development**.

The guest speaker, Rev. Fr. G. Philip Kumar SJ, Director of Social Watch, addressed the gathering on the theme "Tribal Worldviews and Development: Bridging the Gap between Policy and Lived Realities." He began by examining how tribal communities are commonly perceived by people living in urban settings, arguing that many of these popular interpretations are inaccurate and are shaped more by outsider assumptions than by an understanding of tribal life itself. As an example, he addressed the common misconception that tribal family structures are rigid or fragmented, clarifying instead that tribal families tend to be organized around harmony and cooperation rather than strict, hierarchical rules. He went on to discuss prevailing approaches to tribal development, pointing to specific areas where current development strategies fall short of meeting tribal communities' actual needs.

He suggested directions that could make development efforts more effective and better aligned with tribal ways of life, rather than imposing external frameworks upon them. Concluding the address, Fr. Philip Kumar urged the students to engage critically with dominant narratives about tribal communities, encouraging them to question inherited assumptions and to approach the study of marginalized groups with greater reflexivity.

Following the address, an interactive question and answer session was held, during which students were given the opportunity to directly question and engage in discussion with the guest speaker on the themes raised in his talk. The session offered students a critical perspective on the gap between policy-level understandings of tribal communities and their lived realities, reinforcing the value of ethnographic sensitivity and critical thinking in the study of sociology. The programme concluded with a vote of thanks followed by the National Anthem.



