

## **Seminar-25**

**A. Title of the Seminar - Sustainable Livelihood and Participatory Policy Making: Issues and Challenges**

**B. Type of the Activity- Seminar on Public Policy**

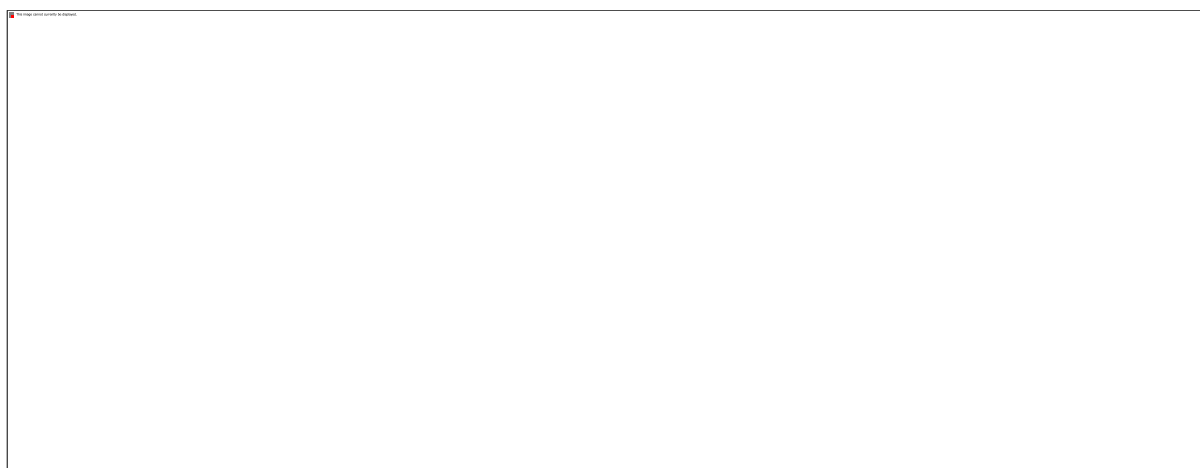
**C. Organizing Department/Committee - Department of Political Science in Collaboration with IQAC, GGDC CHAPRA.**

**D. Date of the Activity: 07/12/2022**

**E. Number of Participants: 28**

**F. Name of Speakers and their affiliation: Mr. Abinash Darnal, (Assistant Professor, Department of Political science), Krishnagar Government College, Nadia**

**G. Flyer:**



### **H. Outcome of the Seminar:**

The seminar was conducted successfully by the Department of Political Science, Government General Degree College, Chapra. The students participated in the same with great enthusiasm. They were acquainted with the following concepts and discussions,

1. Sustainable livelihoods approaches were developed in the 1980s by different development agencies and organizations and, especially since the 1990s, have been adopted by many as a framework for looking at development issues and addressing poverty. SL approaches emerged from the growing realization of the need to put the poor and all aspects of their lives and means of living at the centre of development, while at the same time maintaining the sustainability of natural resources for present and future generations.

2. Livelihood, as understood in SL approaches, can be defined as follows:

A livelihood comprises the capabilities, assets (including both material and social resources) and activities required for a means of living. A livelihood is sustainable when it can cope with and recover from stresses and shocks and maintain or enhance its capabilities and assets both now and in the future, while not undermining the natural resource base .

3. While the SL approaches used by different development agencies and NGOs vary, they are generally characterized by the following elements:

People-centred, with a focus on the poor;

Responsive and participatory;

Multi-level;

Conducted in partnership;

Sustainable; and

Dynamic.

4. The particular sustainable livelihoods framework developed by the Department for International Development (DFID) contains the following elements:

An analysis of the causes of vulnerability, including trends, shocks and seasonality;

An analysis of livelihood assets at the individual, household and community level, comprising human, social, financial, physical and natural resource capital;

The context within which livelihoods evolve, including micro and macro level policies; civic, economic and cultural institutions; laws and governance;

Livelihoods strategies; and

Livelihood outcomes, assessed in terms of reduced vulnerability, more food security, more income, increased well-being, and sustainable use of natural resource base .

5. Policy can be defined as ‘course of action designed to achieve particular goals or targets’. Public policy is made by government to achieve particular national outcomes. Private organizations or communities may also form their own policy to achieve defined goals . While this definition of the term ‘policy’ is succinct, literature on SL approaches agrees that policy is complex, dynamic and difficult to define. Moreover, policy cannot be understood in isolation, but must be examined in context and as part of a process. A government, organization or other entity may issue a policy statement, but policy formulation and implementation is mediated through a wide range of institutions and organizations.

6. Policy processes encompass:

Formulation, involving information gathering, analysis and decision-making.

Implementation, generally involving a set of rules, regulations and institutions to achieve the goals of the policy.

Monitoring and evaluation of the formulation and implementation of policy.

There are a wide variety of theories of policy and policy making. A widely-held view is the linear model (also called the mainstream, common-sense or rational model). This assumes that policy making is a rational, logical process that moves through sequential stages .

Recognizing and defining the nature of the issues at hand.

Identifying possible courses of action to deal with these issues.

Weighing the advantages and disadvantage of these alternatives.

Choosing the option that offers the best solution.

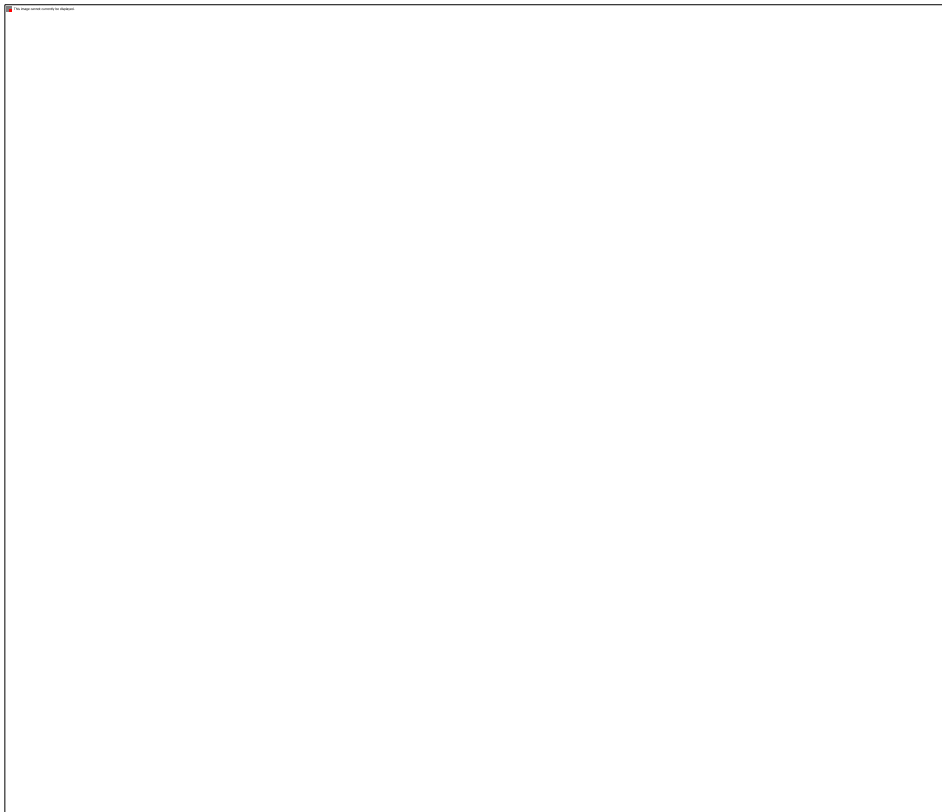
Implementing the policy.

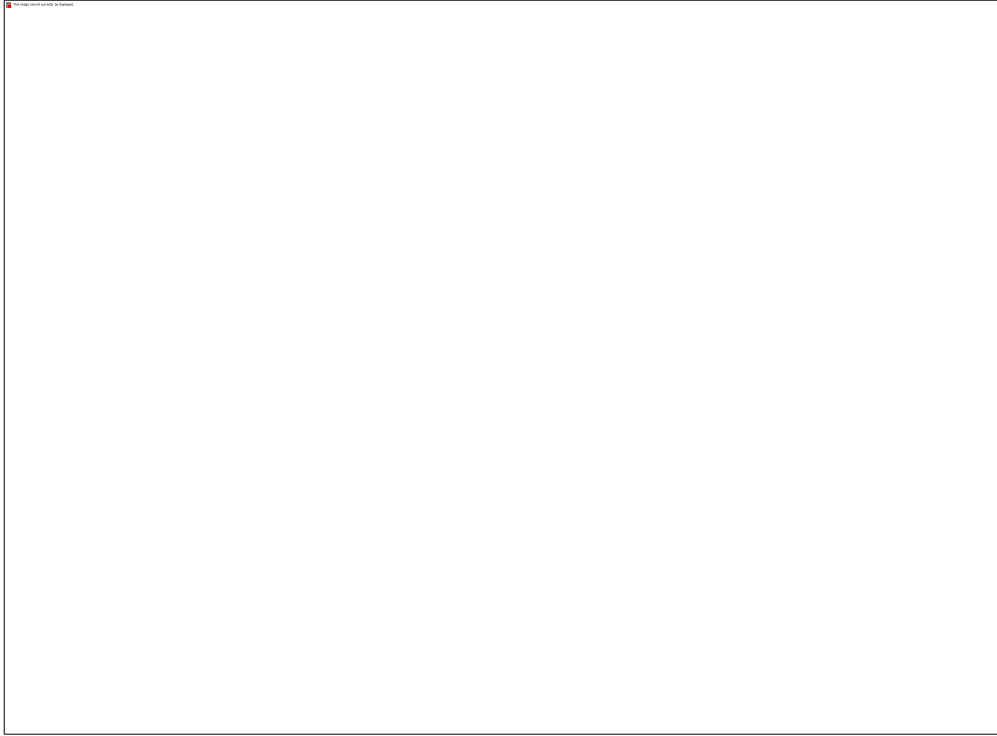
Possible evaluation of the outcome.

7. In real life situations, however, policy processes tend to be more complex: "policy processes are often distinctly non-linear, inherently political and contested, and more incremental and haphazard" than the linear model suggests (Keeley 2001: 9). Moreover, implementation of policy "requires consensus building, participation of key stakeholders, conflict resolution, compromise, contingency planning, resource mobilisation and adaptation" .

8. Concepts of participation have widened to include not only the rural poor but also other stakeholders and sectors of civil society. This is reflected in the definition of participation as "a process through which stakeholders influence and share control over development initiatives and the decisions and resources which affect them" .

### **I. Attendance of the Seminar:**





**J . Photographs of the Programme:**

