

# **Two days Seminar on “Facets of Development in West Bengal: Issues & Challenges”**

North Eastern Social Research Centre, Guwahati in collaboration with North Bengal St. Xavier’s College and Salesian College Siliguri Campus organised two days of seminar at North Bengal St. Xavier’s College, Rajganj on 25 & 26 May 2013. Academicians, Research Scholars, Professors, Teaching Professionals and students of different colleges took part in the insightful deliberations asking some vital questions and proposing some key alternatives for the development induced displacement in West Bengal particularly focusing on the regions of North Bengal.

Delivering the inaugural address Prof. Sameer Kumar Das, Vice-Chancellor, NBU who was also the Chief Guest of the event, observed that there are new nomadic trends induced by the development as opposed to the traditional one to which we all are familiar and the victims to this trend are the voiceless. Fr. Walter Fernandes, SJ, Director, North Eastern Social Research Centre presented his paper to point out that there have been many cases of displacement with negative impact to the marginalised classes of the society and the statistics to support this claim was displayed. A participatory and inclusive development paradigm was envisaged by his presentation. Many eminent professors and scholars presented papers investigating different spectrum of the development taking place in North Bengal. Fr (Dr) George Thadathil, Principal, Salesian College, Dr. Shanti Chettri, Dr. Padam Nepal, Dr. Ranadhir Chakraborti, Mr. Soumitra Ghosh were some of the eminent dignitaries on the second day who presented the paper on the issues and challenge of development of North Bengal. The seminar came to a close with the valedictory address by Dr. Shanti Chettri.

