

CENTRAL UNIVERSITY OF ODISHA, KORAPUT

OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC RELATIONS

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**CUO Hosts Talks Shaping Budding Researchers to Work for the Development of Koraput District**

The Department of Sociology at the Central University of Odisha (CUO) organized two sessions on exploring the seminal questions of "Who is a Tribe in India?" and "Writing your Thesis" on 23 April 2025. The Lectures were delivered by Professor Maguni Charan Behera, former Professor and Director (Retd.), Arunachal Institute of Tribal Studies, Rajiv Gandhi (Central) University, Arunachal Pradesh.

Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor Prof. Chakradhar Tripathi extended his best wishes for the successful conduct of the talks. Dr. Kapila Khemundu, Associate Professor and Head of the Department of Sociology, delivered the welcome address and articulated the role of Department of Sociology in spurring research that leads to inclusive development of the tribal communities. Dr. Rati Kanta Kumbhar, Professor and Head of the Department of Economics emphasized the need for multiple stakeholders to understand and address the real needs of tribal communities ushering in their empowerment. Dr. Deepthi Shanker, Associate Professor of the Department of Sociology, reflected on the need for conducting rigorous, evidence-based and original research in the era of Artificial Intelligence. Dr. Elisa Mohanty, Assistant Professor of Sociology, coordinated the two lectures.

Prof. Maguni Charan Behera in his lectures demystified the misconceptions shrouding the academic understanding of tribes in India. He demystified the concept of "tribes" to elucidate the diversity and heterogeneity inherent in it. He initiated the students into the rubrics of thesis writing enabling them to distinguish between writing thesis and dissertation. He discussed the role of researchers in the pre and post-thesis writing stages and illuminated the structure and content of the thesis. He steered the students towards conducting research that preserves originality and extrapolated strategies to ward off plagiarism.

The sessions were anchored by Dr. Nupur Pattanaik, Assistant Professor of Dept. of Sociology and Ms. Saswatika Routray, research scholar. Dr. Nupur Pattanaik introduced the Chief Speaker. Dr. Saubhagyalakshmi Singh and Dr. Elisa Mohanty, Assistant Professors moderated the discussions and summarized the sessions. Ms. Rashmita Jena delivered the Vote of Thanks. The sessions saw the invigorating participation of faculty members, Dr. Aditya Keshari Mishra, Dr. Ravita Pathak, and Dr. Manas Ranjan Mallick. Students and research scholars from various departments attended these highly enriching sessions.

Dr. Phagunath Bhoi, Public Relations Officer