



**NATIONAL SEMINAR
on
DECOLONIZING ETHNOGRAPHY:
CRITICAL SOCIOLOGICAL AND
PHILOSOPHICAL PERSPECTIVES
ON TRIBES OF GOA**

Date: Friday, 20 February 2026



Organised by
Departments of Sociology and Philosophy

**ST. XAVIER'S COLLEGE
Mapusa – Goa**

Venue: Seminar Hall, St. Xavier's College

ABOUT ST. XAVIER'S COLLEGE

St. Xavier's College, Mapusa, is a premier institution of higher education in Goa, committed to academic excellence, social engagement, and holistic student development. The college assures every student an experience that will provide opportunities to discover themselves, develop their talents, and build confidence to deliver to the future, the dream of a better and brighter tomorrow.

ABOUT THE SEMINAR

The tribal communities of Goa – Gawda, Kunbi, Velip and Dhangar – represent some of the earliest inhabitants of the region and form an integral part of Goa's cultural and ecological fabric. Amid rapid socio-economic change, these communities face complex challenges of identity, livelihood, representation, and cultural commodification.

This National Seminar seeks to critically re-examine ethnographic approaches to Goan tribes by bringing into dialogue sociological and philosophical perspectives. It aims to move beyond stereotypical or purely descriptive accounts and foreground indigenous worldviews, epistemologies, and ethical frameworks, while interrogating state policy, development discourse, and the political economy of culture.

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Prof. (Dr.) Virginus Xaxa, Visiting Professor, Institute for Human Development (IHD), New Delhi. Prof. Xaxa is a leading scholar in Tribal and Adivasi Studies in India.

INDICATIVE THEMES/SUB-THEMES

1. Tribal Identity and Socio-Cultural Dynamics

- Historical and socio-cultural perspectives on Goa's tribes.
- Tribal worldviews, belief systems, and philosophies.
- Language, dialect, and cultural preservation.
- Tribal art, music, dance, and intangible

2. Gender, Empowerment, and Tribal Women

- Status and roles of tribal women in Goa.
- Gender inequality, patriarchy, and changing family structures.
- Education, health, and reproductive rights.

3. Land, Forest, and Environmental Justice

- Land alienation, historical injustices, and displacement.
- Implementation of the Forest Rights Act (2006) in Goa.
- Traditional land-use, resource-management, and ecological knowledge.
- Mining, tourism, and development projects: impacts on tribal communities.
- Environmental conservation and tribal knowledge systems.

4. Education, Knowledge Systems, and Youth

- Access to quality schooling and higher education among tribal youth.
- Dropout rates, transition challenges, and gender gaps in education.
- Indigenous knowledge systems and tribal epistemology.
- Aspirations, mobility, and professional trajectories of tribal youth.

5. Economy, Livelihoods, and Development

- Subsistence practices: agriculture, forest-based livelihoods, and kumeri cultivation.
- Work participation and labour patterns in rural and urban settings.
- Development policies, welfare schemes, and marginalization.
- Cooperative models, self-help groups, and sustainable livelihood initiatives.

6. Health, Nutrition, and Well-Being

- Morbidity patterns, disease burden, and access to healthcare.
- Nutrition, food security, and changing dietary practices.
- Medical pluralism: traditional healing, public health, and biomedical systems.

7. Politics, Governance, and Rights

- Political participation, representation, and local self-governance.
- Tribal movements, activism, and civil-society engagement.
- Constitutional safeguards, protective discrimination, and rights-based approaches.
- GAKUVED and other tribal federations in Goa.

8. Philosophical and Epistemological Perspectives

- Indigenous philosophies, concepts of justice, equity, and social harmony.
- Ethics and moral values in tribal communities.
- Religion, spirituality, and the philosophy of the sacred.
- Decolonizing ethnography and tribal studies: epistemic justice, methodology, and critique of dominant paradigms.

CALL FOR PAPERS

Researchers, faculty members, independent scholars, and postgraduate students are invited to submit original, unpublished research papers, conceptual papers, or empirical studies related to the Theme/subthemes of the seminar.

Abstract Submission

Length: 250–300 words.

Include: Paper title, author's name, institutional affiliation, 4–5 keywords and contact details (email and phone).

Language: English.

Send abstract as Word document attachment to:

Email: afonso.b@xavierscollegegoa.ac.in

Full Paper Submission

Length: up to 5,000–8,000 words (excluding references).

Format: MS Word, Times New Roman, 12-point, 1.5 spacing; 10-point for footnotes.

Referencing: APA (7th ed.)

Ensure that the manuscript (excluding the cover page) is anonymised for double-blind review.

Papers should demonstrate conceptual clarity, methodological rigour, and relevance to the seminar's themes.

Important Dates

Abstract Submission	10 January 2026
Abstract Acceptance	15 January 2026
Full Paper Submission	15 February 2026
Seminar Date	20 February 2026
Revised Papers for Publication	15 March 2026

Publication Plan

All submissions will undergo a double-blind peer review by an Academic Committee. Selected, revised papers will be published as chapters in a peer-reviewed edited volume with ISBN, through a reputed national publisher.

TARGET PARTICIPANTS

Faculty members and researchers in Sociology, Philosophy, Anthropology, Political Science, History, Economics, Social Work, and allied disciplines. Scholars and activists engaged with tribal rights, development, and cultural preservation.

REGISTRATION DETAILS

Registration link:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1-5T-4Fk05ltnO1n0DZLT6rEUAXgFqNjM0PZjkyokP6U/edit>

Registration Fee

- Faculty Members (National): ₹ 1,000
- Research Scholars / Students: ₹ 600

PAYMENT INFORMATION

Registration fees through NEFT/UPI/Demand Draft, must be drawn in favour of Principal, St. Xavier's College, Mapusa, Goa.

A/c Holder's Name	St. Xavier's College
Bank Branch	Central Bank of India St. Xavier's College, Mapusa
Account No.	1683133661
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ORGANISING COMMITTEE

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FOR ANY FURTHER QUERIES

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