

Report
On
National Seminar on Moutana

(December 17-18, 2012)

Venue
Conference Hall, Police Lines, Udaipur

Organisers



Department of Public Administration

Mohanlal Sukhadia University, Udaipur

And



Rajasthan Police, Udaipur Range

Executive Summary (National Seminar on *Moutana*, Dec. 17-18, 2012)

A two days National Seminar on *Moutana* was jointly organized by the Department of Public Administration, Mohan Lal Sukhadia University, Udaipur and Rajasthan Police, Udaipur Range on Dec. 17 and 18, 2012 at Conference Hall, Police Lines, Udaipur.

A total 121 participants coming from Police (16), Media (02), PRIs (09), NGOs (09), Community leaders (11) and Academia (72) had participated in the seminar. The objectives of the seminar were-

1. To discuss and analyze the various causes and aspects of *Moutana* custom (death ransom or blood money) in the tribal region of Rajasthan.
2. To describe the effects and impacts of such customs on the democratic set-up of modern governance.
3. To evaluate the multi- dimensional impacts of *Moutana* and *Chadhotara* customs on the police, politics, society, legal system, public administration, economy and the image of a modern society.

A multi-technique methodology was adopted in the deliberations of the seminar including the presentation of research papers, findings of case studies, experience sharing and brain storming.

Recommendations of the Seminar

The following suggestions/ recommendations were made by the participants to control the customs like *Moutana* and *Chadhotara* in tribal Rajasthan-

1. Community policing method should be followed in tribal areas to ease the police burden.
2. There must be a special law on early disposal of every dead body. The relatives of the deceased must be held responsible for any delay in disposal of the dead body as per their rituals. Such legislation will check the expansion of moutana custom in non-tribal areas and overall it will help in smooth functioning of police.
3. Peace- keeping Committee, comprising Panchayati Raj representatives, NGO members, traditional leaders, community leaders and government officials should be created in villages for the awareness generation on Moutana issues.
4. Para -legal volunteers of District Legal Service Authority should be trained in counselling and arbitration methods during Moutana and Chadhotara.
5. The police must prepare a database of Moutana and Chadhotara incidences for various purposes.
6. Case officer scheme of Rajasthan Police may be followed in disposal of Chadhotara cases.

7. **Minor cases of tribal community should not be registered by the police.** They should be discussed in the Gram Sabha or may be resolved by informal traditional leaders or bodies.
8. **Poverty eradication and control over alcohol consumption must be given top priority in various social welfare and development schemes.**
9. **Seminars, workshops and awareness generation programmes on Moutana and other tribal issues must be held at grassroots levels.**
10. **The negatively-oriented leaders must be demoralised and sidelined, while positive thinkers and helping hands of the police and administration should be motivated by various means.**
11. **The Role of media in issues like Moutana and Chadhotara must be defined clearly and it should be positive.**
12. **The displaced families of Chadhotara incidences must be rehabilitated.**
13. **Chadhotara must be discouraged.**
14. **A compulsory insurance scheme for tribal people may be launched to help in compensation at the time of death or accident etc. It may be linked with MGNREGA.**
15. **A special purse (fund) should be kept at every district or sub-division HQ for instant help in Moutana issues.**
16. **Special courts for speedy disposal of Moutana cases should be established. The time limit of the disposal of such cases must be ensured. Alternative methods of justice may be opted in tribal areas.**
17. **Rajasthan Victim Compensation Scheme (Home Dept. Notification dated 5/01/2012) needs publicity and propagation.**
18. **Gramsabha of PESA, 1999 areas may be given special powers to settle Moutana issues with the consultation of peace-keeping committee.**
19. **Chapters on Moutana and Chadhotara customs must be included in primary- secondary school syllabi.**
20. **The *Van Bandhu Scheme of Guajrat* State may be replicated in Rajasthan.**
21. **Self employment programme for tribal youth may be initiated through the convergence of numerous tribal development schemes.**
22. **Representative bureaucracy (equal and balanced representation of each community in civil services) in tribal area must be ensured by the government.**
23. **Empirical research on tribal customs with a focus on Moutana must be encouraged.**
24. **Institutions like TAD, TRI and other agencies need to be activated for awareness generation.**
25. **Formal channels of negotiations between customary village councils and PRIs need to be opened for confidence building between community leaders and state functionaries.**