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## *SAM takes part in research on Minorities in India*

By Tenzin Namdol.

Bylakuppe, Dec 24th : Over 25 people from different fields took part in focus group discussion for a study on Socio-economic conditions of minorities in India conducted by IPE ( Institute of Public Enterprise) in TCV SOS, School, Bylakuppe on Wednesday. Social Action Movement (SAM), an active NGO based in Tibetan settlement in Bylakuppe coordinated the group discussion by inviting participants in different capacities. They were asked if they had been enjoying equal rights, facilities and opportunities provided by the Indian government while other issues regarding education, health, employment, conflicts etc were discussed.

See picture: <https://www.facebook.com/221119827965550/photos/pb.221119827965550.-2207520000.1438655292.765534516857409/?type=3&theater>

Ms. Shaheen, assistant professor and research head of IPE inspiringlly addressed the gathering informing on various projects and research conducted in the past on the conditions of minorities in India followed by her explanation on current research specifically on Buddhist minorities in India. The participants were asked to voice out their problem faced in the society regarding rights, facilities and opportunities. Required suggestions were taken if needed for future benefit. So major issues discussed were such as lack of information and awareness, excessive school drop outs, lack of job

security, lack of counselling, no public toilets, poor drainage system, lack of agricultural loan, college donations, identity crisis, absence of ex-service personnel benefits and many more.

Focus group discussion in Byalkuppe



Certain government schemes and facilities were also informed out of which few were unaware and not implemented. Participants were encouraged to be aware of and enjoy the provided rights and facilities to the fullest. Mr. Tashi Phuntsok la, a participant appreciated the kindness and support of Indian government extended to the Tibetan people till date and requested the same in future until the Tibetans get their motherland back.

The group discussion was successfully held by sharing various issues faced by the minorities. The research group assembled all the inputs provided by the participants and they were informed that research team will go through the documents retained by the government and come out with the complete picture. Participants were also handed out with questionnaire to be filled in.

On the sideline, this survey is conducted by the Institute of Public Enterprises with the financial support from the Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR), Ministry of HRD, Government of India.

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## *Little about us*

We are group of young Tibetan wh  
Commerce, Political science and s  
information, modern education and  
agreed to work together to make c  
SAM which means Social Action M

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