

Centre for the Study of Social Exclusion and Inclusive Policy (CSSEIP)
School of Social Sciences

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**Social Exclusion in Disguise:
A Comparative Analysis of Witchcraft Beliefs and
Witchcraft-Induced Violence in Nepal and India**

Abstract: Witch-hunt is an often neglected but a serious social problem in South Asia. Nepal and India represent two countries in South Asia that share similarities in terms of people, culture, religion, and beliefs including witchcraft. This study examines the similarities and differences in witchcraft beliefs and practices in Nepal and India as well as the perpetration of violent acts against alleged witches in the two countries. Using secondary sources of information, the paper explores issues such as superstition, witchcraft beliefs, socio-demographic characteristics of victims and perpetrators of witch-hunts, as well as the socio-cultural contexts within which witch-hunts occur. The paper argues that witchcraft-induced violence is a form of social injustice mounted against socially and economically marginalized groups of individuals who are treated as scapegoats for various familial and societal misfortunes.



Prof. Prakash Adhikari

About Speaker: Prakash Adhikari is a Professor of Political Science at Central Michigan University, USA. He specializes in areas of comparative politics and international relations, with specific focus on civil war, forced migration and post-conflict peace processes with a regional focus on South Asia.

18 September 2021 / 7.00-8.00 pm (IST)

Chair: Prof. Ajailiu Niumai
Head, Centre for the Study of Social
Exclusion and Inclusive Policy(CSSEIP)



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