

# Area-specific use of science and technology stressed

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Speakers at a three-day international symposium on "Science in society: a new social contract" strongly recommended the involvement of local people and area-specific utilisation of science

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and technology for sustainable development.

On the second day of the symposium today, the speakers, drawn from various fields of social sciences and pure sciences, pointed out that the efficacy of scientific research was best judged by the society and said science and

technology should be in harmony with the social needs of the people.

The symposium is being organised by the National Institute of Advanced Studies (Nias) in the run-up to the Unesco-convened World Conference on Science (WCS) in Budapest in June this year.

The symposium has been sponsored by Unesco, the Department of Education and Science and Technology and will submit recommendations and also suggest amendments to the "Draft declaration on Science and the use of scientific knowledge" to be adopted by the WCS.

Eminent sociologist and the JRD Tata Chair at the sociology and social anthropology section at the Nias M N Srinivas said that political ideology in the country had played a major role in "development and in limiting development."

Moderating a session on "Technology development and poverty elimination," he said over the years licence raj and corruption had hampered development in the nation. He stressed the importance of using science and technology at the grass root level with the involvement of the local people.

The other speakers at the session, Prof Zeqi Qui from Peking University, China and sociologist Dr Yogesh Atal said it was important to consider how the society responds to the implementation of technology for growth.

They also pointed out that the relationship between illiteracy and poverty was not as straightforward as it seemed.