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The Social Science Perspective

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From the Editors' Lens



J. Irwin Miller had said that, "The calling of the Humanities is to make us truly human in the best sense of the world." To be human thus is to express and in this issue of The Social Science Perspective, we bring you a host of well-written and researched articles that cover the gamut of humanities and social sciences.

The state of our planet reeling under a continued pandemic and climate change compels us to revisit the malaise of food imperialism, which is addressed in our Book Review section. We look at the World through the lens of an astute analysis of two years of India's Foreign Policy under Subrahmanyam Jaishankar. For the national perspective this issue, covers a detailed look at the virtual panel discussion that was conducted with esteemed panelists talking on the work of civil society organisations during the ongoing pandemic. Carrying on, our 'Gender-Wise' column, looks at addressing the gender-gap in the COVID-19 vaccination coverage. From the Field, this time we have the voices of our Ph.D Scholars in Economics, Public Policy and Music talk to us about their fascinating fieldwork.

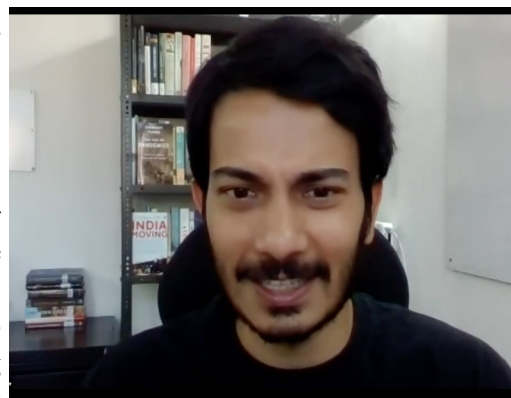
Research in Social Sciences can never be ignored and CeRSSE conducted a 5-Day Faculty Development Programme in May, 2021 on innovative techniques of sampling and research design. A review of the same is available in this issue, also through the eyes of two of its participating scholars. In the rising researchers section we bring you an overview of the accomplishments of our scholars and faculty.

The pandemic has re-defined the concepts of work and productivity for all of us. While for some it has blurred the lines between home and office-work, for others it has allowed a re-adjustment of priorities, where mental and physical health have come to gain prominence. What rings true in all this is a recent quote that we came across about 'work from home'- that if you are working from home, it means that you have work, and you have a home. As we move into the second half of 2021, we count our blessings, and hope that the remaining part of the year allows us a multitude of opportunities to grow academically, emotionally, and spiritually.

Expert View

CeRSSE on April 29th, 2021, organised a special lecture delivered online by Dr. Chinmay Tumbe, Department of Economics, Indian Institute of Management (IIM), Ahmedabad, the author of two books 'India Moving: A History of Migration' and 'The Age of Pandemics 1817-1920: How They Shaped India and the World'. The talk was chaired by Prof. Srividya Shivakumar, Department of Microbiology, JAIN University, who began by setting the context of the lecture by tracing how disease has plagued humanity for centuries and how pandemics have over time exhibited certain trends. Dr. Tumbe noted how the second wave of the COVID pandemic was brutally crushing all systems but when we look back in history each pandemic is seen to have its own structural characteristics. While pandemics may be different from each other in their disease ecology, there are similarities when we compare stages and there is a huge value in understanding the lessons of the past. The period 1817 to 1920 was one of terrible mortality due to diseases like Plagues. The key learning from the past is that a pandemic does not end by limiting surface transmission.

The last year saw the national lockdown in the wave of the COVID-19 pandemic, which had its merits as it allowed the health infrastructure to settle down, but also saw the painful sight of around 30 million migrant workers having to walk back home as the railways were shut down. These were all hard policy decisions to make undoubtedly, but which could be completely avoidable if we understood our history. Documentation shows that during the Plague in 1920s the British government was faced with the same dilemma but it chose to keep the railways functioning as it knew that migrants would want to go back home. We have learnt this lesson and kept trains running this year but if our policy makers had known this they would not have completely shut down all trains last year.



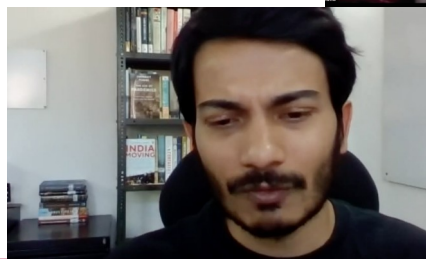
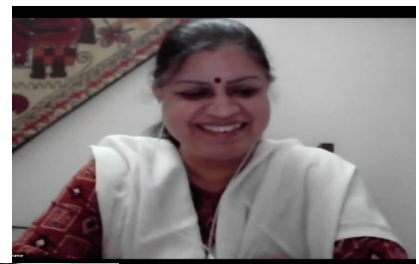
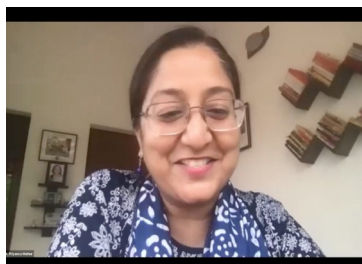
History has also shown that second waves are always more brutal so one has to be vigilant, just because cases go down, it doesn't mean that they can't rise again. One must always stay vigilant and even though pandemics can be overwhelming there are clearly basic things which can be put into place. He quoted statistics to cite that between 1817-1920 Asia's share of the global population fell from around 65 per cent to 50 per cent and a large part of that was because of disease, and the two worst affected countries were India and China. Data also showed that Influenza was a lot more deadly compared to Cholera and the Plague. What's is ironic is that while history books talk of the two world wars none actually talk about the loss of human life due to disease and pandemics.

More people died in India of Influenza than of the Jallianwala Bagh massacre but in our psyche we remember the latter. Pandemics are an evolutionary phenomena and this is in constant flux, so the threat of a pandemic is always there. The British had better data on all-causal mortality a century ago than what we have today, and a large part of that is because of under-reporting. We will only know the real numbers perhaps when the next census is done. Dr. Tumbe then gave a detailed account of the Cholera outbreak of 1817-19 and how in India we had resisted this claim of a water-borne disease till decades later. Cholera had deeply inflicted deaths of the British military in India then, and records show how mass mortality had shot up those years. It started in India and then spread to other parts of the world – just like the Corona-virus was known as the 'Chinese' virus, Cholera at that time was called the 'Indian' Cholera. Egypt was the country most devastated by Cholera, losing ten percent of its population to that disease. An important legacy of this pandemic was that internal surveillance on health began leading to the genesis of the World Health Organisation (WHO). He went on to narrate how Waldemar Haffkine became the vaccination hero in India for developing vaccines against Cholera and Plague, and in his honour the laboratory today in Mumbai is known as the Haffkine Institute.

The vaccination story in all pandemics also shows how there is first vaccine hesitancy which then gives way to vaccine demand. The Plague on the other hand was all about rat management and even finds mention in the Arthashastra. Even in the past there was inhuman treatment of human beings like migrant workers being washed down with disinfectant spray. He went on to add that women played an important role in pandemic relief efforts placing their lives in danger, best exemplified by social reformer Savitribai Phule in India, who opened a clinic for Plague victims but also succumbed to the disease in 1897.

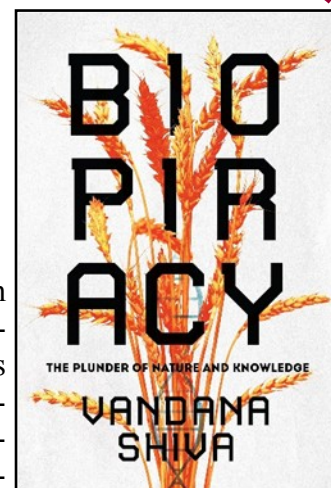
The 1918 Influenza pandemic in India is eerily mirroring what is happening today. Like today, it had also started from the then Bombay Presidency and Central and spread to north India. Besides 1918 was particularly painful for India as that year it recorded its third worst drought in recorded history. During that time mortality was highest in those areas where food was not reaching, and the close similarity today is that more deaths are happening in places where there are lesser supplies of hospital beds, oxygen cylinders etc. Besides in 1919 also while official deaths reported was 6 million, actual number of deaths was three times that. Dr Tumbe went on to add that in his own Ph.D thesis he has shown how 1911-21 was the only decade when population growth rate in India had declined. His research also showed that 1918 was the worst macro-economic year in recorded Indian history with GDP decline and inflation rise. The main point he makes is that any demographic disaster is also an economic disaster and if you let a pandemic run its course, you will get minus 10 per cent GDP. Also the life expectancy in India in the 1920s was 22 years only, whereas today the life-expectancy rate in India is about 70 per cent. So this increase in life expectancy by 50 years is a public health success. But what we have not learnt from pandemics is how the risks can put a massive load on our public health systems. We must not forget that while in our history textbooks we start to talk about the freedom movement from the Revolt of 1857, that year was also one that saw a massive cholera pandemic. One of the first important official jobs of Sardar Patel was to control the Plague in the Ahmedabad Municipality. Gokhale was arrested for pointing out the British mismanagement of the pandemic.

Finally, he spoke of learnings, stating that we should not be too fixated on 'origin myths' or where it all started, which is why he never refers to the 1918 outbreak as the Spanish flu, because it had actually started in America but no one calls it the American Flu. Secondly, pandemics invariably lead to reverse migration and one has to anticipate that in public policy. Thirdly, we learn that pandemics and politics are hugely related, so if there is going to be an election, we can be dead-sure that lockdowns will not be implemented there. Research across the world has shown that where lockdowns did happen and where it did not was invariably connected with the timing of the next election. So the Americans did not lockdown as Trump was going to face the next election as lockdown feeds into economic insecurity and dislocation which could feed into voting behavior. In India too, the four poll-bound states have the least mobility. He ended by enumerating four stages of the pandemic – a) denial b) confusion c) acceptance, followed by d) erasure. The lecture was followed by a stimulating question and answer session from the audience and well attended by numerous members of the academic community all across the country.



What the Reader Thinks

BioImperialism: The Anomaly of BioDemocracy



The 2020-21 farmers' protest against the three agricultural bills that were passed in September 2020 is an ongoing march. It is considered as one of the largest organised strikes in the history of world, with about 25 crore participants. The farmers are still protesting to get these bills repealed. The main reason why many have gotten to opposing the 'progressive' laws is because there is no clarity on 'whose' progress these bills target. The three agricultural bills promise liberalisation but in reality, farmers will face the privatisation of the agricultural sphere. This brings to the forefront the protest that happened almost thirty years ago, which also raised larger questions of democracy and liberalisation. It was a protest led by Mahendra Singh Tikait, the leader of Bharatiya Kisan Union (BKU), placing strong complaints that spoke of agrarian distress, delayed payments and complicated bureaucratic rules. Though protests such as these have defined the power of democracy, it is imperative to note as to why the government has and still is indifferent to the agrarian sector which in fact makes a significant contribution to the nation's economy. It is in this context that Vandana Shiva's *Biopiracy* becomes an integral text that highlights the paradox of democracy and liberalisation.

Biopiracy, although published in 1997, stands absolutely relevant in today's crisis. Spread across an Introduction and seven chapters, with each chapter dedicated to an integral aspect that makes, connects, and sustains biodiversity; the book explores ethical, ecological and economic consequences of 'patents' on life forms. Apart from the voice to conserve natural resources, there is yet another common link that underlines the sustainability of biodiversity – indigenous knowledge. Shiva conceptualises the connection between the institu-

The vulnerability of monocultures is well illustrated in the historical event of Green Revolution, where thousands of local rice varieties were replaced with uniform varieties in 1966, and these new crops eventually succumbed to a bacterial blight and a virus infestation in 1967-68

tion of IPR (Intellectual Property Rights), Genetic Engineering and Corporations [the six 'gene giants' – Monsanto, Syngenta, Dupont, Dow, Bayer and BASF (p.xv)], and how the trio acts on biodiversity, commodifying it for monetary gain while completely ignoring the larger picture of displacing nature beyond repair. Shiva is strongly against the patenting of seeds, for she argues that seed exchange between farmers have been in the culture for a very long time and that alone has sustained the agrarian civilisation. The corporate monopoly's claim to take ownership of seeds, altering it by

simply inserting a gene, is ethically and legally wrong. According to Shiva, a seed which is the first entity in the food chain is self-evolving, it has "intrinsic worth, value and standing" (p.ix). Thus, she argues for a sustainable biodiversity, a green movement that does not get politicised under 'conservation' according to the West and result in monocultures.

Shiva elaborates on how monocultures become an essential cog in globalisation. In order to attain a global control of raw materials and markets, homogenisation and destruction of diversity become necessary. Although the war against diversity is not entirely new, it is still threatened whenever it is seen as an obstacle. The environmentalist explains how homogenisation and monocultures introduce violence politically and ecologically. Politically, the violence is perpetuated through "the use of coercion, control, and centralization" (p.101); and ecologically, the "uniformity implies that a disturbance to one part of a system is translated into a disturbance to other parts" (p.102). The vulnerability of monocultures is well illustrated in the historical event of Green Revolution, where thousands of local rice varieties were replaced with uniform varieties in 1966, and these new crops eventually succumbed to a bacterial blight and a virus infestation in 1967-68. It is important to note what the corporates missed, seeds grow in tandem with whatever its environment holds, therefore, the old indigenous varieties were resistant to local pests and diseases, while the new seeds became a vehicle for introducing and fostering pests.

Further, Shiva critiques the strategies used for conserving biodiversity. These strategies are still aligned to the methods as dictated by the Western knowledge, and the colonial conquests of nature and culture have metamorphosed into 'biopiracy'. She justly demonstrates how the entry of multinational firms exploit biodiversity and indigenous knowledge of biodiversity. The Indian Patent Act still and rightly so excludes methods of agriculture and plants from patentability to ensure that seed is to be "held as a common property resource in the public domain and that farmers' inalienable right to save, exchange, and improve seed [is] not violated" (p.x). The "bioprospecting" (p.72), a word used to define this new form of enclosure, is what is alienating both knowledge and resources from the original custodians and donors and legitimising the privatisation of biodiversity and the intellectual commons. Shiva calls this new science (producing genetically engineered organisms) as reductionist for this technology can only classify the genetic composition of a species, "but its ecological impact is determined by the nature and magnitude of the interaction between genes, their expression in different organisms, and the environment" (p.94). She raises these critical ecological questions that call attention towards the natural interactions of species in an ecosystem, thereby its critical role in the processes of sustaining the biodiversity at large.

Biopiracy also urges the readers to lookout for the process of theft that is legitimised under the name of property rights. Shiva's decisive critique of John Locke's treatise on property illustrates how "property is created by removing resources from nature and mixing them with labor" (p.3). The 'labor' here is not the physical one, instead it is one in its spiritual form as perpetuated by the capital investors. Critiquing Locke's statement that "only those who own capital have the natural right to own natural resources" (p.3), Shiva extends this in the context of how the Eurocentric notions of property and piracy have become the basis of the present IPR laws of GATT (The General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade) and WTO (World Trade Organization). The discover-and-conquer game of colonisers in the past have now seeped into the interior spaces, to the genetic codes of living organisms. The entry of the 'new' capitalist/colonisers is compared to the "Second Coming of Columbus", for they too are looking for new colonies to invade and exploit. Today, these colonies are more likely to be "the interior spaces of the bodies of women, plants, and animals" (p.5).

Ultimately, Shiva calls for a staunch resistance to biopiracy, thereby a complete resistance to the colonisation of life itself. While *Biopiracy* heavily criticises the mechanisation and monoculturalisation of life forms and processes, it also provides a compelling argument for a critical inquiry of IPR and legal regimes that conveniently neglect the true meaning of biodiversity. The book also informs the readers of how the corporates have hijacked the farmers' shares but have manipulated the prices heavily for the consumers to pay. Rest of the details in the book is dedicated in establishing how nature's diversity is produced in tandem with culture, a reality that is dismissed by IPR and ignored by the corporate giants. The indigenous knowledge is mostly disregarded and appropriated when seemed profitable. Thus, the work is an open call for legal reforms that will respect the diversity of knowledge which in turn would preserve the diversity of nature. It is crucial to read *Biopiracy* and more of such books especially in today's times to understand the shift in hegemony. We are becoming the victims of food imperialism, bound to serve those who control the food and not those who produce it.

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The World View

Two years of Indian Foreign Policy under Subrahmanyam Jaishankar

Prime Minister Narendra Modi is known for springing surprises. One such thing he did was to appoint Dr. Subrahmanyam Jaishankar as India's foreign minister when he inaugurated his second innings in late May 2019. Jaishankar was the most suitable person to head the foreign ministry given his illustrious career in the Indian Foreign Service, having held prestigious assignments like that of foreign secretary and the post of Ambassador to China earlier. His innings as foreign minister also coincided with the release later in 2020 of his book, 'The India Way: Strategies for an Uncertain world'. Thus, when he began his political career, Jaishankar carried rich professional experience to guide the nation's foreign policy against the background of the spectacular changes that were taking place in an uncertain world, as he puts it. Both in his book and as one in charge of foreign affairs, he has taken pains to lay emphasis on India's long held belief in and advocacy of multilateralism in the conduct of international relations. Needless to say, Jawaharlal Lal Nehru as the architect of India's foreign policy emphasised the need for practising multilateralism, which expressed itself in the form of the foreign policy strategy of Nonalignment, a policy which served India's global interests admirably in the Cold War ravaged world, with the exception of the military debacle with Communist China in 1962.

Jaishankar never misses a chance to reiterate our commitment to a rule-based international order, emphasising, however, the need for getting out of the prism of Cold War, indirectly attacking the Opposition Parties, the media and academia whom he sees as prisoners of the Cold War mindset.

My analysis of Jaishankar's role as foreign minister is in the limited context of our relations with China, the United States and the Asia-Pacific region in recent times, not covering the entire external world.

As regards China, it is worthwhile to recall the Chinese adventure in the Galwan valley in the second half of 2020. It is a measure of the failure of the foreign office and the intelligence wing of the Government of India that they were not able to foresee the swiftness with which the Chinese forces moved in and attacked our soldiers in the most brutal way killing dozens of them, though they were ostensibly aware of the road building activity the Chinese were carrying out in the area. It is worth noting that the talks Jaishankar held with his Chinese counterpart Wang Yi, (whom he has known for long years), later in Moscow did not yield any success in making the Chinese leadership to withdraw its soldiers from the occupied region, a fact acknowledged by the foreign minister himself. The failure of negotiations only goes to show that nations go by their professed national interests than personal acquaintances. Defence minister Rajnath Singh was more forthright in his admission of the failure of his talks with the Chinese Defence Minister earlier. Foreign minister Jaishankar went about explaining the India-China 'encounter' in the larger context of the power struggle between a rising China and a rising India, calling for a measure of reciprocity between the two nations in accommodating each other's foreign policy objectives, despite the asymmetrical nature of their military-strategic capabilities. Though the peak of the winter led to withdrawal of some Chinese troops from the inhospitable terrain, the fact remains that as a result of the Galwan hand to hand combat, the Chinese have acquired fresh portions of our territory. The withdrawal that has taken place is not a restoration of the status quo ante that prevailed before May 2020.

When he began his political career, Jaishankar carried rich professional experience to guide the nation's foreign policy against the background of the spectacular changes that were taking place in an uncertain world

Indian diplomacy has also not been able to prevent the Chinese in restraining Pakistan from raising the Kashmir issue in international forums including the UN General Assembly session in September/October 2020. Nor has there been any forward movement in diluting China's opposition to India's bid for a permanent seat in the UNSC.

In the Asia-Pacific region, India is going along with the US in adding indirectly a defence component to the QUAD. However, it remains to be seen whether our foreign policy establishment succeeds in insulating itself from the larger US interests in the region vis a vis China. The challenge lies in decoupling the India-China power rivalry from that

of the US, while at the same time, continuing with efforts to checkmate China's growing strategic presence in the region. As for Indo-US relations, it must be acknowledged that our leadership has focused on establishing the right ambience for an upgradation of the bilateral relationship with the Biden Administration, notwithstanding its close identification with the previous Trump Administration. Prime Minister Modi was perhaps the first among the global leaders to speak to Joe Biden on his assumption of office. The democracy component in the two nation's political systems/traditions is a positive in this direction. As the US National Security Adviser Jake Sullivan said in his talks recently with Jaishankar, 'people to people contact and shared values are the foundations of US-India partnership'. At the same time, the Biden Administration has not taken kindly to human rights violations in India, suppression of civil liberties, curbs on media freedom, etc. The South bloc has not been successful in containing the damage to the nation's international image despite Jaishankar's letters to and conversations with the Chiefs of Indian missions abroad.

As for helping India in fighting the second wave of the Corona virus pandemic, after some initial hesitation, the Biden Administration came forward to assist the Government tide over its serious problems regarding oxygen supply and raw materials for the production of vaccines. Regarding the supply of vaccines, despite the recent visit to the US by foreign minister Jaishankar, question marks remain about the extent of vaccine supply. Jaishankar was able to meet the US Secretary of State only on the last day of his US visit, as the latter was on an official trip to Israel around the same time, perhaps, reflecting the importance the US attached to the Middle Eastern crisis. Jaishankar described his meeting with the Secretary of State Blinken as having 'further solidified our strategic partnership and enlarged the agenda for bilateral cooperation.' But, viewed against the background of the 'priorities of its foreign policy, as articulated by the Biden Administration, which includes China, climate change, withdrawal from Afghanistan, the trans-Atlantic alliance and the Middle East in the light of the military face off between Israel and Palestine, one is not sure how strongly India figures in President Biden's calculations.

Going back to the vaccine support to deal with the deadly second wave of the Covid-19 pandemic, the US has announced that it will supply 80 million vaccines to the outside world. However, Indian expectation that a significant portion of it would come to it has not been validated by any favourable statement by the US leaders.

As for the Modi Government's vaccine 'maitri' diplomacy and domestic criticisms of it, clearly, the Government resorted to exporting vaccines to the outside world to boost the Prime Minister's international image, disregarding domestic requirements. However, the foreign minister has strongly, but rather unconvincingly, defended the Government's decision-he did so during a television interview in Chennai a few months ago and in his talk at the Stanford University during his recent visit to the US- that 'the world cannot be part vaccinated and part neglected, as that is not going to be safe'. He further said that because 'we gave vaccines to the outside world, the rest of the world is coming to our help now'! Such laboured justifications can not absolve the Government of its inept handling of the not only the pandemic. The Supreme Court has come down heavily on the Government's vaccination policy, calling it arbitrary and unjust and asked it to submit all records, including the file notings. Strong words by the apex court indeed. The Government's vaccine diplomacy too stands rejected in popular perception. After all, the US too took care of its domestic vaccine requirements by buying them in bulk from the international market and only when it has met its declared targets, it is coming forward to help the outside world.

The conclusions that emerges from the above analysis is that despite having a scholar-diplomat as foreign minister, India's foreign policy successes in the last two years remain somewhat modest though it must be conceded that Jaishankar personally enjoys respect and close rapport with many of his counterparts globally.

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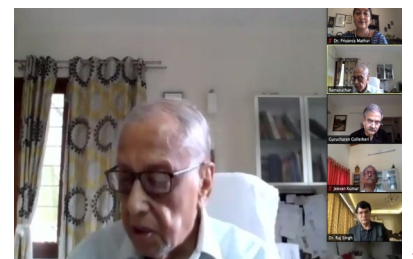
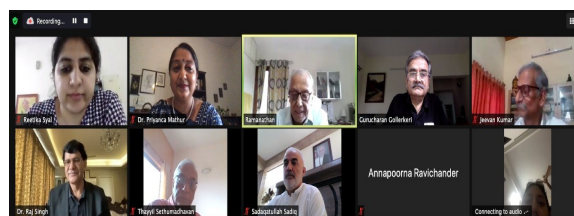
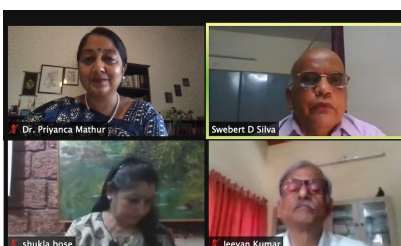


Pulse of the Nation

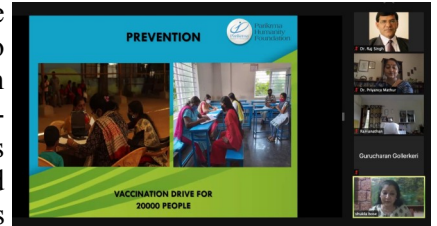
On June 11th, 2021, a Panel Discussion was jointly hosted online by the Centre for Research in Social Sciences and Education (CeRSSE), JAIN (Deemed-to-be University) and the Indian Institute for Public Administration (IIPA), Karnataka Regional Branch, Bengaluru, titled, 'Civil Society Organisations and the Pandemic: Lessons and Opportunities'. All dignitaries were first warmly welcomed by Dr. Priyanca Mathur, Associate Professor, CeRSSE, JAIN. At the Introductory session, Shri S. Ramanathan, (IAS Retd) Chairman of IIPA, took the audience back to the first national lockdown on March 2020, when the Government of India and NITI Aayog had reached out to more than one lakh civil society organisations to assist in providing supplies to the poor and disseminating information on hygiene and physical distancing. The Supreme Court had applauded the role played by NGOs in helping migrant workers by providing food, water and transport during the difficult time. Development experts understand that it will not be possible for the Government alone to provide assistance during the pandemic. The government needs the civil society and non-governmental and community organisations to spearhead relief with its extensive reach and large volunteer base in the community.

The next speaker in the Introductory session was Dr. Raj Singh, Honourable Vice Chancellor of JAIN (Deemed-to-be University), Bengaluru who welcomed all dignitaries and lauded the appropriate topic for discussion. He said that any change whether in the social sector or education sector which we represent as a University, in the foreseeable future in the next 4-5 years, and the New Education Policy which talks about increasing trans-disciplinarity in education, a response to the needs of the society, in case of say a pandemic, or in the technological field, the response of society is going to change significantly. The role of the civil society with relation to the pandemic has differed from country to country, and the entire third sector has undergone a change. Their challenge will be if they will be able to maintain their primary purposes for which they came into existence, the advocacy that they were doing earlier, and most importantly, will they be able to safeguard the participatory democracy that we boast about in our country, the civil debates that influence the governance in our country. In pre-COVID times many CSOs were looked at with eyes of suspicion but the pandemic has been a leveller as it allowed them to come into dominance. He highlighted how the Memorandum of Understanding signed between the IIPA, KRB and JAIN University will open up new avenues of such collaborative work and in serving the society.

The Chairperson of the Panel Discussion, Mr Gurcharan Gollerkeri, President of the Public Affairs Centre (PAC) Bengaluru congratulated all on the MOU and began by focussing on the importance of the civil society in uniting the community, the people, in the face of crisis, and while that is commendable, what we make of it is what is critical to the ensuing discussion. He began by introducing the three Panellists - Ms. Shukla Bose, CEO of Parikrma Foundation that runs many schools for underprivileged children in the city, representing their voice; Fr Swebert D'Silva, Rector St. Joseph's College (Autonomous) Bengaluru, and we all know of the yeoman services that the Society of Jesus renders to humanity at large, and Fr. Swebert brings with him the most commendable quality that we need today, that of compassion for the other; and Mr Jagdish Reddy, Ward Representative of Varthur Ward, a humble activist representing the citizen, working to protect the lakes of Bengaluru. He set the tone for the Webinar by asking what gives legitimacy to civil society? It comes only from the citizens and when it represents their voice can it address the challenges they face. We need to relook the current developmental model that we have and redesign a paradigm shift in which we bring the citizens in the centre. In this backdrop the Chairperson framed four fundamental questions that civil society needs to fundamentally address – First, in the context of the gaping inequalities, the growing informalisation of labour, and a fragmented public system, how best can civil society respond to the needs of the underprivileged and disadvantaged. Secondly, as the pandemic has disrupted education, especially of the rural poor, how might civil society help prioritise distance learning as digital gap has only widened.

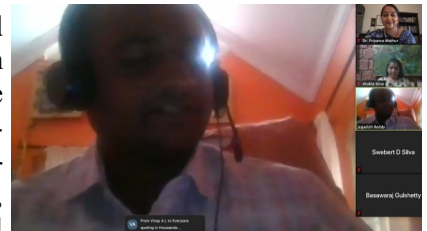


The first speaker, Ms. Shukla Bose, CEO of Parikrma Foundation described the excellent work done by her foundation with her presentation titled 'We Have To Do What We Have To Do' to provide assistance in the field of school education amongst the urban poor in Bengaluru. The current pandemic has hugely impacted children as say the stragging numbers all over the world. UNESCO says that 1.5 million are out of school and 10 million may become victims of child marriage because of COVID. Parikrma responded to this world-wide crisis through the lens of 'Preservation, Protection, Prevention, Progress, and Perception'; distributed 9,00,000 meals to their school children and their neighbourhoods so that they won't go hungry; vaccination of teachers and families so that they are protected, perceived safe, and the virus is prevented from spreading; providing 600 digital devices to poor students who cannot afford them to ensure progress; 5 mobile units with oxygen concentrators. COVID-19 should have taught us that we need to work together to create a climate of trust as the poor of the nation are our collective responsibility.



The second speaker was Father Swebert D'Silva, the Rector of St. Joseph's College (Autonomous) Bengaluru. He emphasised on how faith-based organisations have worked to come together with citizens for COVID relief, to pursue excellence, to do their best to create the society we wish to live in. The college has started a COVID care and isolation centre, specially for the economically poor migrants and slum-dwellers, meant only for the poor, with food and medical assistance. St. Joseph's also has a team to help bury the COVID victims with dignity, conducted a vaccination drive and awareness drive and reach out to people in their local language. Ration kits were distributed to migrants, slum dwellers, transgenders, LGBTQ community, ASHA workers, blind people, auto drivers, college students and their families, spending around 10 crores rupees in the first wave of the pandemic and 40 lakhs in the second. The college had a team of counsellors and staff to take calls for counselling those in trauma, stress and grief and even organised webinars on mental health.

The next speaker was Mr Jagdish Reddy, who represented the Varthur ward and the voice of the citizens-movement 'Varthur Rising', which creates a platform where changemakers and citizens can assist. He started by pointing out the failure of governance which necessitated the need for people to step in help in good management. Our volunteers, he said, bring with them a vast range of experience gathered globally, well connected with science, representing the pillars of democracy, and use the 'triage method'. Funds are raised through SMEs, CSRs and personal contributions or crowd funding. During the pandemic a citizens team was prepared to operate in Mahadevpura and Anekal areas to collate data by forming ward-wise teams. With the NGO Janaagraha, they have committees that function like a disaster-response team at the ward level, to gather traction around the corporators, politicians, or minister himself/herself to assist in pandemic related relief. They help citizens to build 'covid consciousness', to find beds if they need hospital care, prepare cooked food and supply medicines on needs basis. They have a 'War Room' and anyone can call for help on those numbers.



Mr Gurcharan, as the Chair in his concluding remarks complemented the panellists for an excellent discussion, for their authenticity as there was solid work behind all that they said. He added that there were three takeaways – first, that there exists a great need to decentralise, to enable decision-making to take place at a local level. For example, the great work that 'Rising Varthur' is doing is enabled as citizens are motivated to participate. So the need to strengthen the last mile. Secondly, it's not just the NGOs and government who have to do their jobs, even people should practise health-seeking behavior. Thirdly, the time has come for us to use science and technology and data analytics, specially the way Mr. Reddy spoke of how he uses data to deliver services to those who need them the most.



Dr. Priyanka Mathur, then handed the floor to Dr. Reetika Syal, Assistant Professor at CeRSSE, JAIN, who spoke that it is evident that civil society organisations have worked along with government, at times better than the government, and so it is critical for us to shift the spotlight on their untiring efforts. She was followed by Dr. D. Jeevan Kumar, Secretary of IIPA-KRB giving the official vote of thanks, noting that this has been a very informative and meaningful panel discussion, that highlighted important issues like the addition of disaster risk management in academic curriculum, the role of religion and spirituality during the pandemic, the politicisation of humanitarian relief, and upholding the integrity of CSOs.

Gender-Wise

Addressing Gender Gap in COVID-19 Vaccination Coverage

Even after a decade of the introduction of the Gender Inequality Index (GII) featuring the persistent inequalities in the field of health, empowerment and labour market, the reality of achieving the same has a long way to go. The COVID -19 pandemic has laid bare the already existing gender gap and other inequalities existing across globe and India has been no exception to this trend. People across the board have been hit hard by the pandemic but women and the LGBTQI+ community has had adverse effect of the same. Evidence from the past pandemics have suggested that women are at a greater/ increased risk of exploitation. The same can be witnessed in the present pandemic that has left many women jobless, and has seen an increase in the cases of domestic violence, sexual and mental abuse.

Further, in the area of health, women are not the key beneficiaries, leave aside other genders. Several case studies have highlighted the gap that exists in terms of receiving health benefits. A similar kind of scenario is being witnessed with respect to the vaccination drive in different countries. Initially the figures were not in such a bad shape as women constituted a high percentage of frontline workers who got vaccinated in the first phase. It was with the second phase of vaccine that things started going downhill. As of June 3, 2021, 90 women received vaccine doses for every 100 men, which is even lower than India's sex ratio. The number of trans people who have been administered at least one shot of the COVID vaccine is as low as 26,793. However, the trends are not the same across different regions. On the one hand where regions like Delhi, Uttar Pradesh, and Punjab depict a gloomy picture, on the other side, Chhattisgarh, Kerala, and Himachal Pradesh are the three best performing states where women have been vaccinated much more in

Despite the existing gender differences, still many nations have not revealed their data gender-wise for the last few months

numbers than men. In contrast, the picture is different at the global level, where the number of women being vaccinated is more than the men. Mention worthy is the fact that despite the existing gender differences, still many nations have not revealed their data gender-wise for the last few months.

Unfortunately, the situation doesn't seem to get better in near future. In the absence of a gendered policy directing the distribution of vaccines, it is the women and other gender minorities that will be suffering more than their male counterparts. The patriarchal ecosystem that persists in rural areas further amplifies this gap. Due to the lack of decision-making capacity and lower mobility in rural areas, approaching health centers and getting vaccinated would become a challenge. Also, the socio-cultural factors that are deeply entrenched in the rural landscape will make it worse.

Additionally, COVID-19 has already brought to limelight the deep digital divide that exists within the country. As the percentage of women using smart phones and having digital access is low, they may not know how to register themselves for the vaccination on the CoWIN platform, thus increasing their dependency.

With union government taking full charge of the vaccination drive, it should also take into consideration the structural inequalities that have become evident over the last couple of months, recognising the specific challenges that they impose, and find solutions to circumvent them. The need is to introduce new or amend social protection measures targeting women and the other genders in society leaving no one behind, thus, succeeding in the vaccination program.

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View from the Field

Dynamics of Farmers' Collectives and Agricultural Marketing – Outcomes for Small Holding Farmers

Agriculture in India employs nearly half of the workforce in the country and contributes around 18 per cent of the GDP. India is amongst the second largest producers of wheat (13%) and rice (22%) in the world. We are the highest producer of milk and second highest producer of fruits and vegetables in the world, along with contributing 25 per cent of the total cotton produced in the world and the second highest exporter of cotton. (10th Agriculture Census, DAC, FW). As per the same census, the average size of operational holding has declined from 1.15 hectare from October, 2011 to 1.08 hectare in 2015-16. The operated area has decreased to 157.82 million hectares in 2015-16 from 159.59 million hectares in 2010-11. Small holding farmers constitute around 85 per cent of the total land holding and hold around 44 per cent of the land under cultivation.

Small holding based agriculture is gradually becoming unviable on account of highly fragmented, scattered and heterogeneous landholding, rising cost of cultivation and limited access of small holding farmers (SHF) to public resources and markets. The limited production quantities, lack of farmers' access to public resources, quality inputs, credit facility, modern technologies, etc. and frequent crop failures, lack of assured market, income safety and poorly developed supply chain, has resulted in high dependency of farmers on the exploitative intermediaries and local money lenders (NABARD, 2015).

Individually, the SHFs operate on a low scale of production, are not able to efficiently market the produce at the opportune time owing to poor bargaining power arising out of small land holding. The other issues that concern the SHF include lack of proper extension services, low level of adoption of technology, lack of working capital and inadequate skills to run business and low income on account of inefficient markets.

The range of these new challenges has the potential to be addressed through a new concept of Farmers Collectives which has gained eminence popularity during a last decade or so in the country. The idea behind the genesis of the Farmer Producer Organisation lay in the premise to facilitate creation of an entity which was a combination of the efficiency of a private company and the cooperatives structure - a private owned producer company by the farmers, for the farmers (Alagh, 2000). Farmers Collective also has the potential to enhance the scale through aggregation of the produce and also invites traders at the farm gate for a single point purchase, opens the window for access to modern technologies, facilitates capacity building, extension and training on production technology and also helps in building a culture of traceability of produce (MOFPI, GOI, 2013). It has the potential to reduce input costs by procuring inputs in bulk at wholesale rates, aggregation of produce and bulk transportation reducing transportation costs thereby enhancing net income of the members of the collective. There is informality in the Collective as the rules and regulations to manage the Collectives are defined by the members themselves. By associating with the entity of collectives, SHFs can derive the bargaining power to enter into agreement for bulk purchase of inputs. Collectively they also have an opportunity to sell their produce under the umbrella of a brand name.

By associating with the entity of collectives, SHFs can derive the bargaining power to enter into agreement for bulk purchase of inputs

The virtues of Collectives have been underlined in Rigveda (1700-1100 BCE) where it was premised that collectivisation increases the work efficiency

समानीव आकृतिः समाना हृदयानीवः .
समनामवस्तुवो मनोयथावः सुसहासति.

“May you all have a common purpose, May your heart be in unison, May you all be the same so that you can do your work efficiently”. Mandala 10, Hymn 191, Rig Veda

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View from the Field

Online Music Education – Is it Possible?

The whole world has adapted to the new normal. Inevitably so. The realm of music and musicians are no exception. Social media platforms like Facebook, YouTube etc., have tried to recreate the experience of a stage performance or a kacheri/concert. Likewise face to face teaching-learning mode has been taken over by online lessons. Here is an insight into the altered space of music learning and a few tips to efficiently teach music online during these pandemic times.

Undoubtedly, music, or any fine art for that matter is most effectively learnt through a *guru* and in the presence of a *guru*. This teaching-learning methodology is also the most efficient and appropriate according to the Indian cultural tradition. Nevertheless, it isn't wrong that we have resorted to online teaching and learning so as to ensure uninterrupted/continuous learning and safeguard our health. Teachers and students must understand that this is only a temporary phase. However, we should be wary of choosing this format over the offline mode in the future. Afterall, the online mode of learning music is not a new phenomenon. Musicians and students of music who have settled in foreign countries, or students who for various reasons are unable to go to a music class have been learning music via Skype and other channels for several years now. It is only as a matter of necessity that the online mode has gained widespread acceptance during the corona pandemic.

Online or Offline?

As far as vocal music is concerned, teaching-learning at the basic level can be managed over a simple phone call; a web-conference application is not necessary. However, the student must be driven by an intense desire and dedication towards music. The notes/notation can easily be shared with the student. However, when it comes to learning to play an instrument, a simple phone call may throw up some challenges, because learning to play an instrument is possible only by 'watching' how the instrument is played; hence, a web conferencing app is necessary. Thus, teachers may have to reevaluate and improvise on their teaching methodology. The teacher/guru must be technologically savvy/skilled. There are many well-versed artists who have leveraged technology to teach music lessons, so it is not an impossible task.

Learning via a Phone Call – How easy is it?

This mode of learning is suitable only for children above the age of seven, since it demands twice as much concentration than the offline mode. Children tend to easily get distracted and it is difficult for teachers to hold their attention over a phone call than in their presence. Here are a few guidelines for online teaching:

- A group should have no more than 5 or 6 students.
- Ensure every student gets a chance to sing solo
- Create a cheerful atmosphere and if the children are 11-12 years old, humour them with small stories

The advantage of this mode is that screen-time can be curbed. Since, academic classes are also conducted online, it is advisable to adopt other modes for co-curricular and extra-curricular learning activities, keeping in mind eye-health. Parents play an important role in ensuring the success of this method and should refrain from disparaging the offline modes of teaching. The learning atmosphere should be rid of all distractions. Above all else, the child should genuinely be interested in learning without external pressure or coercion.

New Learners

The transition from offline music classes to online mode may not be a challenging task for students who are accustomed to face-to-face music lessons. Whereas, beginners may lose out on several aspects such as posture, learning *talas* through demonstration and the experience and practice of singing along with the teacher. Hence, it is prudent for parents to wait until the pandemic situation eases out.

Tips/ Guidelines for Students

Irrespective of the learning infrastructure being used, it should be free from technical snags. Besides, the physical space and atmosphere plays an important role in the learning of any art. A student would be accustomed to the atmosphere of the teacher's house or the learning centre. This space and atmosphere help in achieving focus/concentration and discipline. Likewise, a quiet and peaceful atmosphere is essential for online learning. A printout of the lesson is indispensable to capture and understand the nuances of the *kriti*/composition/song being learned.

Learning any art is an emotional and experiential activity. Online learning cannot replicate the experiential learning that occurs in the presence of a *guru*. Students therefore must learn to be emotionally responsive to the *guru*'s teachings and the art. They must maintain the same discipline that they would in the presence of the *guru*. With social distancing norms and restrictions on movement, there is ample time for practice and learning. If children utilise their time effectively while avoiding distractions, they can remain active even as they learn via the online medium and achieve preparedness for the days to come.

This article has been published earlier in a special festive edition of Hosadigantha (a Kannada newspaper)

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View from the Field

Interview with the Ethiopian Reconciliation Commission

Our research scholar in Cultural Studies, Bitew Kassaw (BK) from Ethiopia is working for his thesis on the topic of the *Role of Religious Organisations in Conflict Resolution and the Culture of Peace Building in Ethiopia*. As a part of his fieldwork, he interviewed Mr. Tamrat Kifle Mariyam (TKM), who is a Board Member, Legal Adviser and Lawyer of the Ethiopian Reconciliation Commission. The interview was held on 21st April 2021, and below is an excerpt from it.

BK: What are the main missions of the Reconciliation Commission?

TKM: The main missions of the commission are to bring national consensus to the country, resolve political and social conflicts, ensuring national reconciliation through appropriate reconciliation processes, and to investigate the violations and take appropriate legal action.

BK: Are there any conflicts that the Reconciliation Commission has resolved yet?

TKM: No conflicts have been resolved yet. The main problem is that the commission is new. However, in order to resolve the conflict and reconcile, various regional and city administrations are conducting research on the issues, and discussions are underway. For example, a roadmap has been prepared to resolve the conflict between the *Wolayita* and *Sidama*, *Gurage* and *Meskan* ethnic groups in southern Ethiopia, the *Tigray* and *Amhara* ethnic groups in northern Ethiopia, the *Oromia* and *Benishangul-Gumuz* ethnic groups in Western Ethiopia, and the *Afar* and *Somali* ethnic groups in Eastern Ethiopia. The commission is working to reconcile the *Niwyer* and *Agnuak* ethnic groups' conflicts in the *Gambella* region, where there have been significant human rights abuses.

BK: What does the structure of the commission look like?

TKM: The Commission was established by Parliament. It has a total of 41 board members and 12 executives. They meet once every 15 days to do the work of the commission. When there is a lot of work, they have weekly meetings.

BK: What is the role of religious organisations in building a culture of peace?

TKM: Religious organisations play an important role in building a culture of peace. Religion governs morality. Believers listen to their leaders. They submit to the order of their faith. Their counsel and discipline are sound. Religious fathers should not be complacent in the first place. They have no individual or institutional grievances and will have the opportunity to address the grievances of other parties in an appropriate manner. Religious leaders should be commended for their exemplary conduct. Doing so will increase their credibility and acceptance by the community. Their mediation and counseling work will be genuine and impartial. Their role will be influential and respected in all societies.

BK: As a lawyer, the court does not consider employer and employee relationship to be employed in the religious organisations. What do you think about this?

TKM: Basically, all citizens in the country should get justice. As long as the issue is not dogma, cannon and belief, I think the case of the employees of religious institutions should be taken to court, because they are citizens of the country. The Ethiopian Federal Democratic Republic Constitution states that all human beings are equal before the law and should be treated in court as citizens. However, in accordance with Article 11 of the Constitution, the government should not interfere in religion, and matters concerning religious beliefs, dogma, and cannon should not be considered in court, as religious institutions are an internal matter.

BK: Which other institutions work in partnership with the Commission?

TKM: It is well known that reconciliation is not done at the individual or institutional level, so we do the reconciliation work with different stakeholders. For example, we are working with elders, celebrities, non-governmental organisations working on peace, the Ministry of Peace, university communities, etc. We will soon be opening branches in regional and city administrations. We are currently working with 13 universities in the country on reconciliation.

BK: Does the Commission use religious and cultural conflict resolution methods to resolve ethnic or religious conflicts at the national level?

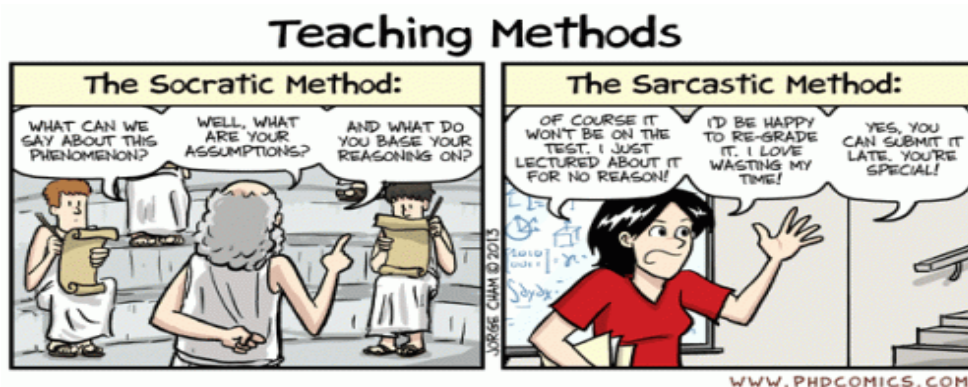
TKM: The commission plans to take this issue seriously. The commission has trained about 400 youths to avoid conflicts. Religious and cultural conflict resolution methods have been studied and presented by the regional and city administrations in which they come. These religious and traditional conflict resolution methods are currently being developed and documented by experts. We are preparing for the next steps.

Bitew Kassaw

Ph.D Scholar in Cultural Studies

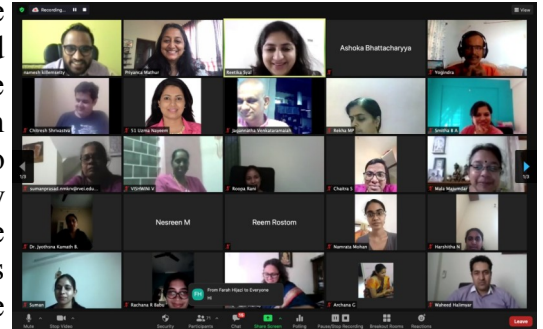
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**A Report on the Faculty Development Programme organised by Centre for Research in Social Sciences
and Education from 17th to 21st May, 2021**

The FDP opened on day 1, 17th May, with brief welcome and introductions by the FDP coordinators. The Vice-Chancellor of JAIN Prof. Raj Singh gave the inaugural address where he spoke about the importance and need for innovation in Higher Education. The first technical session by Dr. Deepti Swamy, Founder-Director I-dentitee LLP, Bengaluru, on ‘Congruent Sampling in Multi-Approach Research’ elaborated on using quantitative and qualitative methods to achieve the objectives of the study. Dr. Swamy spoke about her doctoral research work on the theme of ‘Social Identity’ and took the participants through the research design, the sampling method used for it, and how the data was collected and analysed to achieve the objectives of the study. The following session was by Dr. Yogesh Mishra, an Independent Researcher in North Carolina- USA, who showcased through his doctoral research on Kashmir how to carry out ethnographic research and the importance of storytelling. He sketched the everyday life in Kashmir and how through his experiences he chose to tell the stories of the people there, and the challenges in narration.



Third day of the FDP was on the theme of research in the urban areas. The two sessions were taken by Dr. Namesh Killemsetty, Assistant Professor at O.P Jindal Global University, Sonapat and Dr. Tarun Arora, Associate Manager- Research and Insights, Janaagraha Centre for Citizenship and Democracy, Bengaluru, respectively. Dr. Arora conducted the session on 'Conducting Systematic Urban Research' by showcasing the Jana-Brown Citizenship Index study being carried out by his organisation, in collaboration with Brown University USA, and spoke about the challenges of mapping cities and urban areas for the purpose of sampling. He provided cases from his research to elaborate on the various challenges that the research underwent in mapping out the households to be selected for the survey. Dr. Namesh having just completed his doctoral studies from the University of Massachusetts, spoke about the 'Use of Soft-Operations Research (OR) Methods in Social Sciences Research' which he used for his thesis. The practical examples of each sampled area proved extremely helpful in visualising how Soft OR can be applied in research.

Day four started with a very interesting session on ‘Research with High Achievers’ presented by Dr. Guneet Inder Jit Kaur, Assistant Professor, Department of Sports Psychology, Central University of Rajasthan, where she spoke about the research she conducted on ‘high achievers’ in sports and academics, and the challenges she faced in sampling and data collection. This was followed by a session on ‘Sampling and Data Collection in Conflict Zones and Data Collection during a Pandemic’ by Manjesh Rana, Research Assistant, Lokniti- Centre for the Study of Developing Societies, Delhi. Manjesh took the participants through the research project of status of policing in India and he spoke at length about the sampling design challenges for selecting respondents from the Police force, especially since the study was conducted in conflict zones, and during a pandemic.

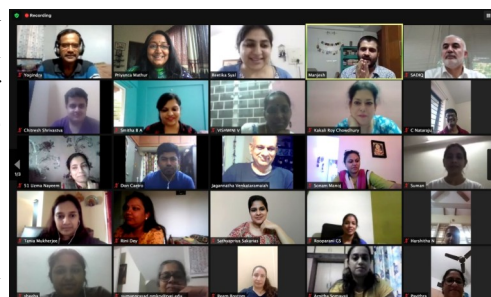


The last day of the FDP had one technical session followed by the Valedictory function. The technical session was taken by Rahul Verma, Fellow at Centre for Policy Research, Delhi, and Doctoral Candidate in Political Science- University of California, Berkley, USA. Rahul’s session was titled ‘Working with Multiple Datasets’ and he demonstrated through the example of this doctoral research study, how participants can use already existing datasets, and secondary data available on the internet, along with the primary data.

The main takeaway from his session was the extensive data collection exercise that he undertook for his research at the panchayat, state and central government level, in four districts of Uttar Pradesh, to illustrate the prevalence of dynasty politics in the state. The valedictory session at the end of the FDP was indeed a coming together of ideas and pathways for research discussed over the previous sessions and days. Prof. Sanjay Kumar, Co-Director, Lokniti, Centre for the Study of Developing Societies, Delhi was the valedictory speaker and he gave multiple examples of research and sampling designs which were used by his organisation for various studies. He also recounted his experiences over the years about how doctoral scholars are either not sure of what research design is to be used, or are too quick to finalise the sampling structure even before they have an idea of what their study area is going to be. He brought out the pitfalls of selecting the incorrect research and sampling design in a simple yet effective manner. The FDP closed with feedback from the participants about their experiences and learnings, and the vote of thanks was given by Dr. Reetika Syal.

FDP from the Participants’ Lens

Research is an ever emerging domain, especially when new knowledge formation requires out of box strategies, methods and techniques. This is where faculty development programs (FDP) act as catalyst to sparkle the conventional research minds. This is so true of the recent FDP organised by CeRSSE and JAIN University, Bangalore particularly when even the research community is to adapt to the new normal in the pandemic. When our faculty members sent us the flyer for this FDP, we jumped at the prospect to attend this programme. Having just completed a dissertation in the Masters degree, and now pursuing a Ph.D, we wanted to learn of the innovative ways in which we can pursue research. Therefore, leveraging the opportunity we got to be a part of a digital platform where resource persons shared their amazing research journeys. It was almost a physical replica of the FDP programs held in the pre-pandemic days. The five-days of discussions and presentations created a deep flow for integrating major takeaways for the participants’ individual research work. The most valuable take-aways were the insights brought out during the question and answer sessions taking place after the formal presentations, which provided a more personalised interaction among participants and resource persons.



Often, studies involving both Qualitative and Quantitative approaches rely on different sampling and research questions for each phase. So, research methodology choosing different approaches at each level while keeping sampling techniques similar provide natural validity through triangulation. Therefore, 'Congruent Sampling in multi-stage approach research' by Dr. Deepti Swamy, was a simple and effective way to innovate our own tools in methodology. Along with it, Dr. Niharika Tyagi's presentation on 'Mixed Methods Research' wherein the same research question is answered through both approaches provided an interesting and innovative way for compensating the usual tradeoff between objectivity and generalisability.



As researchers, we ought to be observant to draw realistic stories of entities under our study, and also for forming targeted policies. Thus, Dr. Yogesh Mishra elaborated that 'Ethnography and Storytelling' is more of a skill than research technique that can be of great assistance to any social science researcher. Being a research scholar in economics, it was privilege to attend Dr. Jajati K. Parida's lecture on extracting NSSO data using Stata. These days, softwares to analyse data have made tasks a whole lot easier for synthesis and analyzing secondary data for major policy suggestions and targeted remedies. However, the contextualising of the data remains a skill for the research scholars, which no one else can fulfill. The themes discussed on the first two days proved extremely helpful in choosing the research design based on the nature of research questions.

But, is the research design explanatory, exploratory or convergent? Well, finding the correct research design is not an end in itself unless the sampling design is created. Thus, the third day of the FDP was a practical tour to 'Proportionate Stratified Sampling' (multi-stage sampling) by Dr. Tarun Arora, which proved a guide to a robust sampling frame for representative sampling. This session also made us realise a lot of different terminologies that as voters we were not aware of earlier. Sourcing the information from different levels, when not available at any one level was a major takeaway. In research methods, the case study method is used for qualitative research and this was elaborated by Dr. Namesh K. in the light of learning an innovative methodology of 'Soft Operations Research' for particular communities. It gave a new face to problem structuring and problem solving since the latter part of Soft-OR requires standalone skills which can translate into a productive method for qualitative researchers.

Approaching the last two days of FDP made it apparent that what ultimately works for the hard-work and success of high-achievers is their psyche. Thus, the research journey of Dr. Guneet Inder Jit Kaur provided a much needed self-belief for participants, including us, to keep their spirits high and start the research process from problem statement to sample collection to its analysis, keeping all practical constraints in mind. What synced very well with the present constraint of the pandemic was the topic of the next session by Manjesh Rana elaborating on how doing field study adhering to physical distancing norms is the new rule for investigators. It made the proverb of 'turning adversity into opportunity' a reality, when we spoke about the sampling methods in a pandemic. Rahul Verma's session showcased a way forward in generating our own robust dataset with the help of existing information as well as with primary data collection.

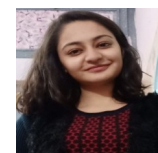
The FDP thus helped us in generating ideas for how to reflect on the constraints and to account for road-blocks while planning our study. Organising such events on a frequent basis can provide a platform for live scientific research complementing what the scholars read in academic journals, books and conferences. We would like to extend heartfelt thanks to JAIN University, especially the conveners for giving us the opportunity to become a part of this FDP.

Report by

Ms. Gautami Verma, Ph.D Scholar in Economics,

Central University of Punjab, Bathinda, and

Agnes Pinto, Student of Diploma in Creative Writing from IGNOU



Creative Corner

When the Cuckoo Sings

When the cuckoo sings
The song of its heart
On a balmy summer afternoon.
What is it that makes me stop and listen?
In the midst of doing nothing ever soon.

When the chattering birds, they tweet
And hop from branch to branch
And shake the sun shiny sprinkles off their wings,
What makes me want to hop from branch to branch,
Like the birdie that sings?

When the cottony clouds,
Float with their white wispiess
And show off their flying skills.
What is it that makes me want to float and fly
Across the valleys and the hills?

And then the blue sky,
Says to the blue sea, 'I am bluer than you.'
The sea only glows in her love for the blue sky.
Why does then my love for you buried deep,
Threaten to break free and not stay buried to die?

Papiya Bhattacharya

Ph.D Scholar in Public Policy

JAIN (Deemed-to-be University)

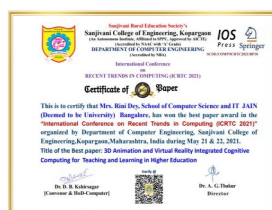
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The artwork by **Rini Dey**, Ph.D Scholar in Cultural Studies, is that of a bird named Black-faced warbler (Scientific Name - *Abroscopus schisticeps*) which is a species of bush warbler. It is found in Bhutan, China, India, Myanmar, Nepal, and Vietnam. Its natural habitats are subtropical or tropical moist lowland forest and subtropical or tropical moist montane forest. It is strikingly colored with greenish-yellow wings and white underbelly, has a combination of gray head, black face, and bright yellow eyebrows and throat set it apart from any other similarly-sized species. The artwork was inspired by a Bird Photographer Clement Francis. She has used mixed-media to render the artwork where she has a watercolour base with pencil colour detailing.

The Rising Researchers

Treesa Joy, Ph.D Scholar in Department of Economics, completed an online two - week refresher course/ faculty development programme on the theme “Indian Economy: Exploring New Economic Opportunities in Post-pandemic World” from 29th April to 13th May, 2021 organised by Teaching Learning Centre, Ramanujan College, University of Delhi under the aegis of Ministry of Education, Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya National Mission on Teachers and Teaching.



Rini Dey, Ph.D Scholar in Cultural Studies, won the Best Paper Award for her paper presented at an International Conference on Recent Trends in Computing (ICRTC 2021) organised by Sanjivani College of Engineering, Department of Computer Engineering on "3D Animation and Virtual Reality Integrated Cognitive Computing for Teaching and Learning in Higher Education" along with her Guide Dr. Abhishek Kumar.

Rushati Dasgupta, Ph.D Scholar in English, published a paper titled, ‘Dynamics of Dislocation: Portrayal of the Tamil Diaspora in Malaysia’ in the ‘Select Short Stories from the Anthology Haunting the Tiger: Contemporary Stories from Malaysia by K.S. Maniam’ at *Navajyoti International Journal of Multi-Disciplinary Research*, Volume 5, Issue 2, February 2021. ISSN: 456-3781. She also presented two papers, one titled, ‘Shattering the Stereotypes: Portrayal of Helen of Troy in the Poetry of Sappho and Wislawa Szymborska’ at the International Virtual Conference on Gender Studies and Women Empowerment organised by NIT Agartala from 16th to 18th April, 2021, and the second titled, ‘Dynamics of Marginalization: Portrayal of Societal Prejudices in the Documentary Nero’s Guest and the Movie Ozhivudivasathe Kali’ at Multidisciplinary, Multilingual Online International conference on Inclusivity and Dimensions of Exclusion on 23rd April, 2021 organised by the School of Humanities and Social Sciences, JAIN (Deemed-to-be University).

Kaushal Kumar Patel, Ph.D Scholar in Hindi, published an article “Dalit rajniti ka ubhaar aur Shivmurty ka katha sahitya vishesh sandarbh tarpan” published in Multidisciplinary International journal Jankriti ISSN: 24542725, Issue-68, December 2020. He has also published an edited book Gramya jivan ke apratim Kathakar : Fanishwarnathnath Renu with ISBN : 978-81-952128-7-3 in June 2021.

D. Menaka Thammaiah, Ph.D Scholar in Political Science, has published a paper titled “Impact of Globalisation on Indian Administration”, in International Journal of Emerging Technologies and Innovative Research (www.jetir.org), ISSN:2349-5162, Vol.8, Issue 5, page no.d158-d162, May-2021, Available: <http://www.jetir.org/papers/JETIR2105406.pdf>.

Chitresh Shrivastva, Ph.D Scholar in Public Policy, has published a chapter titled “Railway Modernisation in India: A South Asian Case Study” in an edited volume titled *Railway Transportation in South Asia: Infrastructure, Planning, Regional Development and Economic Impact* published jointly by Tripura University and South Asia Democratic Forum a Brussels based Think Tank and published by Springer Nature Group. The book will release on August 16th, 2021.

Tania Sengupta, Ph.D Scholar in Public Policy presented a paper “Role of Migration in Sustainable through Upliftment of Socio-Economic Condition of Rural Households” at an International Conference organised by Dept. of Economics, JAIN University and Ecumenical Christian Centre, Bengaluru. She attended a two-days workshop on “NSSO Data Extraction” from 16th to 17th April, 2021 organised by CLDT and Research Centre, Mount Carmel College, Autonomous, Bengaluru. Tania attended an online Faculty Development Programme on “Policy Initiative and Quality Enhancement in Higher Education” from 5th to 11th May 2021, organised by the Academic Research Group, Kolar. She also attended an online Faculty Development Programme on “Innovation in Research and Sampling Design” from 17th to 21st May 2021, organised by CeRSSE, JAIN University.



Roshni Sharma, Ph.D Scholar in Political Science, presented a paper titled '*Uprooted Women and Citizenship*' in an International Youth Workshop, 'Research for Change – Gender, Forced Migration and Vulnerabilities', on April 27th and 28th, 2021. She also attended an international webinar on 'Refugee Women and Girls: Intersectionality in the Global Compact on Refugees' organised by NGO Tenaganita, UNHCR Malaysia and APRRN Women, Gender and Diversity

Working Group on June 28th, 2021, and participated in the National Webinar on 'Global Compact on Refugees Fostering Laws, Policies and Practices vis-à-vis protection and care' organised by VIT-AP University; Centre for Statelessness and Refugees, School of Law, Rights and Constitutional Governance, Tata Institute of Social Sciences and UNHCR, India on June 21st, 2021



Papiya Bhattacharya, Ph.D Scholar in Public Policy published the following articles.

1. Groundwater depletion in India threatens food security

<https://www.scidev.net/global/news/groundwater-depletion-in-india-threatens-food-security/>

2. Bengaluru's Yelahanka Puttenahalli Lake, a haven for many bird species but in big trouble

<https://greenminute.in/2021/03/04/%ef%bb%bfbengalurus-yelahanka-puttenahalli-lake-a-haven-for-many-bird-species-but-in-big-trouble/>

3. On a wild dog chase | Deccan Herald

<https://www.deccanherald.com/science-and-environment/on-a-wild-dog-chase-971367.html>

4. SciArt meets life | Deccan Herald

<https://www.deccanherald.com/sunday-herald/sh-top-stories/sciart-meets-life-996004.html>

TEAM

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cersse@jainuniversity.ac.in**