

# SOCIETY, ECONOMY AND DEVELOPMENT DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC: LESSON FOR EMERGING ECONOMIES Symposium Report

10 OCTOBER 2020 (14:00 IST via ZOOM)

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Bharathiar University  
Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu



Centre for Applied Research  
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## Society, Economy and Development During The COVID-19 Pandemic: Lessons For Emerging Economies

## Symposium Report

This report contains proceedings of the National Virtual symposium-III on Society, Economy and Development During The COVID-19 Pandemic: Lessons for Emerging Economies, which was jointly organized by the Department of Social Work, Bharathiar University, Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu, India; Centre for Applied Research, Gandhigram Rural Institute, Gandhigram, Tamil Nadu, India; and the Department of Social Work, Central University of Tamil Nadu, Thiruvavur, Tamil Nadu, India on 10<sup>th</sup> October 2020 at 14 Hrs (IST), via ZOOM.

## Editors Biography

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**Dr. F.X.Lovelina Little Flower PhD**, is the Professor and Head, Department of Social Work, Bharathiar University, Coimbatore. She has guided 10 PhDs and 11 M. Phil Candidates. Her thrust area of work includes Mental Health, Social Work Education, Intercultural Social Work Practice and Geriatric Social Work. Dr. Lovelina has edited 3 books and has published over 80 research articles in leading National and International Journals. She has visited Umea University, Sweden under the Linneus Palme International Faculty Exchange Programme in 2006.

**Dr. M Hilaria Soundari PhD**, is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Applied Research, Gandhigram Rural Institute – Deemed University, Gandhigram, India. She belongs to the Congregation of the Sisters of the Cross of Chavanod. She is specialized in the fields of Development Research, Gender issues and Social Work. She received Post-Doctoral Fellowship (2012-2014) from UGC, New Delhi. She is working with the marginalized women and children for 21 years in rural India and doing research on their empowerment and sustainable development. She has authored a number of articles in renowned journals and edited four books.

**Dr. Sigamani Panneer PhD**, is the Professor and Head, Department of Social Work, School of Social Sciences and Humanities, Central University of Tamil Nadu, India. A recipient of prestigious Raman fellowship; he served as Visiting Professor at the School of Public Health, University of Minnesota, USA; Tianjin University of Finance and Economics, China; Jishou University, China. He has authored articles of national and international repute published by Palgrave Macmillan, Sage, Springer, Wiley, Elsevier, BMC, EPW and Bloomsbury.

**Dr. Lekha D Bhat PhD**, is an Assistant Professor at Department of Epidemiology and Public Health, Central University of Tamil Nadu, India. She has a basic training in Public Health with an MPhil and a PhD in Social Medicine and Community Health from Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) New Delhi. She has published papers with reputed journals in Springer, Wiley and Bloomsbury.

**Mrs. Tresa Sugirtha J (Ph.D)**, is an Assistant Professor, Department of Social Work, P.S.G College of Arts and Science Coimbatore. She has secured University First Rank in B.S.W and M.S.W. Her areas of interests include Children, Youth, Families, Climate change and Mental health. At present she has successfully completed a research project on the “Psycho social impact of Intermittent Partner Absence among Merchant Seafarers and their Spouses” funded by the UGC, New Delhi. She has also published articles in reputed journals.

**Mr. J.S Santosh**, is a Senior Research Fellow (UGC-NET) working in the Dept. of Social Work, Bharathiar University, Coimbatore. He was awarded Junior Research Fellowship (JRF) by UGC- New Delhi, to pursue Doctoral degree in Social Work. Prior joining the department, he worked with the health resource groups in Tamil Nadu in thrust areas like Community action for health, Social determinants of health, Health system accountability, School Mental health and literacy.



**Mhadeno Y Humtsoe**, is a PhD Research Scholar at the Centre for Applied Research Gandhigram Rural Institute, Gandhigram, Tamilnadu, India. Being a recipient of NFST fellowship, she is pursuing her doctoral studies in the fields of livelihood and material healthcare among tribal women. She has served as faculty member at the University of Science & Technology, Meghalaya. She has also authored research articles at National and International Journals.

**Mr. S. A Vigneshwaran**, is a Junior Research Fellow (UGC-NET), pursuing PhD at the Department of Social Work, School of Humanities and Social Sciences, Central University of Tamil Nadu, Thiruvavur, India. He completed his M.A.Social Work and B.Sc. Zoology from The American College (affiliated to Madurai Kamaraj University), Tamilnadu. His areas of interests include road traffic injuries and mental health. He has worked as a ‘Senior community mental health social worker’ as part of a multidisciplinary mental health team in rural communities of Madurai district, Tamil Nadu.

**S. Samuel Paul Raj**, is a M.Phil Research Scholar at the Centre for Applied Research Gandhigram Rural Institute, Gandhigram, Tamilnadu, India. He belongs to the Institution of the Brothers of the Sacred Heart. He worked with the marginalized women, children, and youth for six years in rural Bihar. He has completed Masters in Social Work at the University of Mumbai.

**Fr. Jeya Baskaren**, is a M.Phil Research Scholar at Centre for Applied Research, Gandhigram Rural Institute, Gandhigram. He has completed his Master’s in Social Work at Loyola College, Chennai. He was a Project Director for four years at Kalangarai – an organization working for the empowerment of widows in Nagapattinam Districts. He was also the Director of St. Joseph’s Industrial School, Udagamandalam, which is a Jesuit run Technical Institute. At present, he is the Director of “AMUTHU”, an organization working with the Arunthathiyar community in Dindigul District, Tamil Nadu.

## Acknowledgement

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Words are not enough to express gratitude to those people who has encouraged and supported in conducting the National Virtual Symposium-III lucratively.

My sincere gratitude to Prof. P Kaliraj, the Vice-Chancellor, Bharathiar Universities, Coimbatore; Prof. B Subburaj, Vice-Chancellor (i/c), The Gandhigram Rural Institute – Deemed to be University, Gandhigram; and Prof. R Karpaga Kumaravel, Vice-Chancellor, Central University of Tamil Nadu, Thiruvavur for their earnest encouragement towards the joint initiative in organizing the National Virtual Symposium-III.

I am deeply obliged to the key note speakers – Prof. Giridhar R Babu, PhD (UCLA), Professor and Head Lifecourse Epidemiology, Public Health Foundation of India (PHFI) New Delhi, India; Dr. Nagmai Rao, PhD, Associate Professor (retd), Karve Institute of Social Service, Pune; Prof. Irudhaya Rajan, PhD (IIPS, Mumbai) Professor, Centre for Development Studies, Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala; Prof. Kapil Gupta, PhD (Sheffield, UK), Department of Water Resources Engineering Indian Institute of Technology Bombay, Powai, Mumbai, India; and Prof. Archana Dassi, PhD, Professor & Head, Department of Social Work, Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi, India, for accepting our kind invitation and for their insightful sensible presentations.

I would also like to express my gratefulness to Dr. M. Hilaria Soundari, PhD, Assistant Professor, Centre for Applied Research, The Gandhigram Rural Institute, Gandhigram; Dr. Sigamani Panner, Professor and Head, Department. of Social Works & Centre for Happiness, Central University of Tamil Nadu, Thiruvavur; Dr. Lekha Bhat, Department of Epidemiology and Public Health, Central University of Tamil Nadu; Dr. R. Balu Ramu, Department of Computer Applications, Bharathiar University; Ms.Tresa Sugirtha, Assistant Professor, Department of Social Work, PSG College of Arts and Science, Coimbatore; Mr. J S Santhosh, and Ms. Michelle Elizebeth Mathew, Department of Social Work, Bharathiar University; Ms. Mhadeno Y Humtsoe, Mr. Jeya Baskaran and Mr. Samuel Paul Raj, Centre for Applied Research, The Gandhigram Rural Institute; and Mr. S.A Vigneshwaran, Department of Social Work, School of Humanities and Social Sciences, Central University of Tamil Nadu, Thiruvavur, for their tremendous contributions in organizing the symposium.

My heartfelt gratitude to all the participants for being part of the symposium, lightening the sessions through your active participations without which it would not have been a great success.

Dr.F.X. Lovelina Little Flower  
Symposium Director, Professor and Head  
Department of Social Work  
Bharathiar University, Coimbatore

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## Executive Summary

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The unprecedented COVID-19 pandemic impacted with multidimensional crisis has disrupted the functioning of the society, devastated global economy and has debilitated development. The appalling implications varied from country to country depending on their economy, health infrastructure, and socio-political factors. This in turn has also reflected on their responses to the pandemic where a few have fared well and some have catastrophically failed. The challenges are projected to be much severe for the emerging economies with large populations, inadequate health infrastructure, economic instability and inequalities. International bodies such as World Bank, ILO and UN have predicted the socio-economic consequences of the pandemic for the emerging economies in terms of poverty, increasing unemployment, gender inequality and issues affecting the vulnerable groups. This scenario makes it inevitable to analyze the responses of those countries that have successfully managed the challenges and build effective strategies for the future based on the lessons learnt.

This symposium is a follow-up of the International Virtual Symposium (IVS) on Pandemics, Climate Change and Growing Inequality: Emerging Paradigm Shift in Helping Professions held on 28.08.2020 in which seven resource persons across the globe enriched hundreds of scholars, faculty members and practitioners; and the National Virtual Symposium II (NVS-II) on Informality, New Forms of Work, Labour Concerns of the Pandemic: Evolving Strategies for Helping Professions organized on 12.09.2020 in which four resource persons from premier institutions of the country enlightened the participants from 33 universities and 43 colleges on the plight of the informal sector.

The report has portrayed the keynote address of the five eminent academicians who are teaching at prestigious Institutions across the cities in India. They have shared their perspectives on the impacts of COVID-19 on society, economy, development and the challenges on the emerging economies. The report also encloses the objectives, thrust areas of research and expected outcome from the National Virtual Symposium that aims to call for papers for an edited book proposal on Society, Economy and Development During the COVID-19 Pandemic: Lessons for Emerging Economies, which is an attempt to amalgamate knowledge from diverse disciplines and to subsequently develop models and strategies to respond effectively to current challenges and future pandemics.

**Keywords:** COVID-19 | Crisis | Society | Economy | Development | Emerging Economies

## Introduction

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As the world waits for new paradigms to address the COVID 19 crisis on the society, economy, development and emerging economies, this national virtual symposium aims to expose the problems, explore the responses, and endeavor to identify new emerging paradigms. Thus, a three-stage project has been envisioned with an international virtual symposium as first step followed by two National virtual symposiums. The virtual symposiums will be tagged along with an international book publication and for which, it invites the intellectual community (both academic/ practitioners) to reflect upon the reality, consider impacts and come up with innovative solutions. As, this will eventually culminate into research collaborations and create joint researches with trans or inter-disciplinary approaches.

### Objectives

- To examine the repercussions of Pandemic Crisis on Society, Economy and Development in Emerging Economies
- To understand the social, economic and political dynamics of pandemics
- To comprehend the interconnection between pandemic, economy and development
- To analyze the policy and institutional responses to the pandemic crisis
- To explore the initiatives of national, state and local governments
- To highlight the problems of vulnerable groups namely frontline workers, children, women, elderly, persons with disabilities, prisoners, refugees , homeless and migrant populations

### Expected Outcome

- A deeper understanding of the reality Society, Economy and Development during Covid-19 Crisis: Lessons for Emerging Economies
- A better comprehension into the causes and consequences of the pandemics and its recovery, mitigation, response and preparation
- A revisit of existing datasets and a redefinition of relevant methodologies
- An exploration of facilitating better access to online resources and exploring culturally relevant approach to the issues studied thus so far
- A reassessment of the quality of our current responses, works, etc. and a better collaboration with the multi-stakeholders
- A strengthening of community-based crisis risk management strategies, and a better understanding of connecting the dots



## The Organizers

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### *The Collaborating Institutions*

The Key Organizing Institutions of the Virtual Symposium are 1. Department of Social Work, Bharathiar University, Coimbatore; 2. Centre for Applied Research, Gandhigram Rural Institute, Gandhigram, Tamil Nadu; 3. Department of Social Work, Central University of Tamil Nadu, Thiruvavur.

Department of Social Work, Bharathiar University- Coimbatore, was bloomed in the year 2008 with a vision to help society to access tangible services, improve social interaction and to participate in policy making and implementing process. The mission of the department is to build capacities to young graduates by focusing on the synergy of theory and practice in Social Work.  
<https://www.b-u.ac.in/Home/DeptSocialWorkAbout>

The Center for Applied Research, Gandhigram Rural Institute- Gandhigram, was established in 1976 under the Faculty of Rural Development. The Center plays a key role in enabling the Institute to achieve its overall objective of rural development by promoting interdisciplinary, problem solving and development research. The thrust areas of academia are Research Design and Applied Statistics, Interdisciplinary and Policy Research.  
[https://www.ruraluniv.ac.in/faculties?department=AppliesResearch\\_profile](https://www.ruraluniv.ac.in/faculties?department=AppliesResearch_profile)

The Department of Social Work, Central University of Tamil Nadu- Thiruvavur, was established in 2013 to provide professional training in the discipline of Social Work. The department aspires to be a centre of continuous learning and practice, functioning within a secular, rights based and inclusive development framework contributing towards the creation of an egalitarian society.  
<https://cutn.ac.in/social-work/>

## *The Organizing Team*

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## Welcome Note

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### **Dr. M. Hilaria Soundari**

Assistant Professor, Centre for Applied Research,  
Gandhigram Rural Institute,  
Gandhigram, Tamil Nadu, India  
E-mail ID: hilariasoundari@gmail.com

Dr. HilariaSoundari, welcomed the University Authorities of the hosting institutions, **Prof. P. Kaliraj**, Vice Chancellor, Bharathiar University- Coimbatore; **Prof.B.Subburaj**, Vice Chancellor (i/c), Gandhigram Rural Institute (GRI)-Gandhigram, India and **Prof. R. KarpagaKumaravel**, Vice Chancellor (Acting), Central University of Tamil Nadu- Thiruvavur.

Dr. Hilaria greeted the keynote Speakers of the symposium, **Prof.Giridhar R Babu**, Professor and Head Lifecourse Epidemiology, Public Health Foundation of India (PHFI) New Delhi; **Dr.Nagmani Rao**, Associate Professor (retd), Karve Institute of Social Service, Pune; **Prof.IrudhayaRajan**, Centre for Development Studies, Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala; **Prof. Kapil Gupta**, Department of Water Resources Engineering, Indian Institute of Technology, Bombay; and **Prof. Archana Dassi**, Professor & Head, Department of Social Work, Jamia MilliaIslamia, New Delhi for accepting the invitation and joining the forum as a resource person.

While welcoming the organizing team members and participants of the symposium from various institutions across the globe, Dr. Hilaria stated that, the National Virtual symposium-III is a step forward to learn from the COVID 19 pandemic as, in human history every episode comes with numerous lessons that teaches to move forward with the renewed vigour from the lessons learned. She concluded with a remark of hope that the learning and sharing of academic knowledge and experience through the symposia would enable in building a society of peace and justice.

## Mechanics of the Symposium

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**Prof. Sigamani Panneer**

Professor and Head, Department of Social Work,  
Coordinator, Centre for Happiness,  
Central University of Tamil Nadu, Thiruvarur, India  
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The present symposium is the follow up of the first International virtual joint symposium on Pandemics, Climate Change and Growing Inequality - Emerging Paradigm Shift in Helping Professions held on 28th August 2020 and second National virtual joint symposium on Informality, new forms of work, labour concerns of pandemic: evolving strategies of Social Work and helping professions, held on 12th September 2020. COVID-19 is a most emerging and re-emerging infectious disease caused by a newly discovered Corona virus. Till today, COVID-19 is affecting more than 213 countries and territories around the world have reported a total of 3,71,13,410 confirmed cases of the COVID-19 and a death toll of 10,72,712, with loads of unpleasant surprises. The unprecedented COVID-19 pandemic is a universal crisis affecting everyone. Despite its impact on health systems, it has disrupted the functioning of the society, devastated global economy, business and has hampered development. The major impact of COVID-29 pandemic is worsening the pre-existing structural and functioning problems including inequalities, health and development issues. Outbreak of COVID-19 pandemic posing huge challenges on social and economic development, emerging issues related to humanitarian crisis including jobs, livelihood and income of millions of people, social safety net, income support schemes, burden on women and informal sector workers across the globe. With this background we have developed the third symposium and book proposal concept note. The proposed initiatives are synergistic intellectual responses addressing issues in the context of Society, Economy and Development during the COVID-19 pandemic. The objectives of the present proposal include the following:

1. To examine the impact of Pandemic Crisis on Society, Economy and Development.
2. To understand the social, economic and political dynamics of pandemics.
3. To comprehend the interconnection between pandemics, economy and development
4. To analyze policy and institutional responses to the pandemic crisis.
5. To explore the initiatives of multi-stakeholders including national, state and local governments.
6. To highlight the problems of vulnerable groups namely frontline workers, children, women, elderly, persons with disabilities, prisoners, refugees, homeless and migrant populations.



The third edition of the national virtual joint symposium includes 5 plenary talks with specific focuses on:

1. Political economy and social determinants of health during the COVID-19 pandemic
2. Plight of migrants during COVID -19
3. Water resource management during disaster
4. Social work profession post COVID-19
5. Gender and development during COVID-19: new thinking about social institutions

This symposium will be a great platform to debate and discuss issues relating to society, economy and development during the COVID-19 pandemic, particularly:

1. To develop deeper understanding of the reality Society, Economy and Development during COVID-19 Crisis.
2. A better comprehension into the causes and consequences of the pandemics and its recovery, mitigation, response and preparation.
3. A revisit of existing datasets and a redefinition of relevant methodologies.
4. A reassessment of the quality of our current responses, interventions and community response.
5. A strengthening of community-based crisis risk management strategies, and a better understanding of connecting the dots.

He concluded by encouraging the participants to learn and re-learn from the academic presentations by the eminent Professors and to Stay safe, healthy and keep learning.

## Keynote Highlights

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### Session 1: Political, Economy and Social Determinants of Health during the COVID-19 Pandemic



**Professor Giridhar R Babu PhD (UCLA)**

Professor and Head Life course Epidemiology,  
Public Health Foundation of India (PHFI) New Delhi, India  
E-mail ID: [giridhar@iiph.org](mailto:giridhar@iiph.org)

“Determinants of health consist of multilayered factors from societal to individual factors. The societal factor ranges from the general socio-economic, cultural and environmental conditions to agricultural and food production, education, work environment, living and working conditions, unemployment, water and sanitation, health care services, housing and social and community networks. Whereas, the individual factor ranges from individual lifestyle to age, sex and hereditary.”

Professor Giridhar presented on the importance of health determinants and analyzed the contextual settings on how the inter-relation between the social, political and economy would play out during the COVID-19 pandemic. Keeping in view of the determinants of health, he further elaborated that; political economy’s determinant of health may be understood as an interdisciplinary branch of the social sciences that focuses on the interrelationship and interaction among individuals, governments and public policy. Whereas, social determinants of health are inter-related to the social and community context, neighborhood and built environment, education, economic stability and health and health care.

On the broader side, political determinants of health emphasize on analyzing how competing power groups institutions, processes, interest and ideological positions affect health within different political systems and cultures at differing levels of governance. As, with the WHO declaration of the COVID-19 as global pandemic, countries across the world took different measures depending on their understanding, evidences and advices respective of their local, national and international laws which mandates every country. Likewise, the preparedness for the pandemic also differed for example, countries like India and Vietnam preparedness was moderate in comparison to United Kingdom and United States of America. Nationwide lockdowns were imposed in many countries and the greatest adversities of this outcome were among the migrants and vulnerable sections of the society. But on counter-factual, on one scale the nationwide lockdown may have resulted in severe adversities

and on the other, some school of thoughts argued that, ‘because it was introduced late in India, because there was lockdown, the adequate preparedness could not be mounted and therefore, the

number of deaths that have occurred in India could have been prevented'. On the positive notion, the COVID -19 testing capacity has increased from 3000 per day to million tests per day in India! Likewise, could there be similar progress in the field of re-imbursement to poor peoples' accessibility to health care services? Because, amidst the COVID -19 pandemic, the poor sections of the society have been pushed to extreme poverty and while the economic loss can be quantified, the cause on the morale of the people, their displacements and the situations in which their family members had to be placed are something related to post traumatic stress disorder that could cause for a long term. Thus, if the political economy is not balanced then, it will suppress the vulnerable and downtrodden section of the society even more.

Prof. Giridhar, furthermore discussed on the social determinants of health and inequalities stating that, what one needs to understand is that, the poor and vulnerable sections of the society especially those living in crowded and multigenerational households in the urban areas, working in the high risk occupational setting, using public transportation to get to work, access to adequate personal protective equipment, precarious employments and lack of social measures are prone to differential exposure leading to increased risk of infection with COVID-19. And besides differential exposure there are also differential Susceptibility leading to increased risk of severe COVID-19. Therefore, individuals with poor general health and nutritional status, and those with underlying chronic conditions increase susceptibility for any infection and once the patients get infected, susceptibility increases. Also, delay in seeking care for COVID-19 due to poor health-seeking behaviors, health literacy, access to health care, socio-economic status and exacerbation of susceptibility because of the prevalence of smoking, obesity, chronic situations further aggravate the diseases.

Thus, when one has differential exposures and susceptibility, it results to differential Consequences of COVID-19. Thus, social determinants and the way political economy is operating, results in adverse impacts for those who have adverse exposure and also adverse susceptibility. Resulting in loss of wages, life, health, jobs and reduction in productivity, affecting the entire health status of physical and mental health, increased alcohol and substance use and family violence thereby widening the gap between the 'haves and have not'. In any sort of crisis, it is always the people who are in the extreme socioeconomic disadvantages in terms of low wages, reverse migration from urban areas living in crowded settings with non-feasibility of social distancing, scarce accessibility to screening and testing facilities gets victimized.

Prof. Giridhar questioned the participants as in, how the situation could be changed from vulnerable point of view? How should social inequalities be reduced? How should the homeless families who are at higher risk of viral transmission be taken care? How should smoke exposure and smoking that has been linked to adverse outcomes of COVID-19 be addressed? How should the cost of health services be taken care? What can be done? He further shared his opinion stating that, he is against of improving the knowledge of the vulnerable sections of the society, because besides knowledge they need food on time, cash transfers in meeting their basic essential needs and also access to health care services. Knowledge is more requisite among the policy makers, politicians, researchers and academicians who advocates for poverty alleviations

and development of the community. The government should take early actions to mitigate the various negative effects of COVID-19 and protect vulnerable groups without social protections. Also, local interventions should be informed by and designed in collaboration with the community with remedial plans to specifically address vulnerable communities.

Prof. Giridhar concluded that, strengthening and improving primary health care system is the need of the hour along with prioritizing the health equity and social determinants of health with a focus on people with poverty, educational and employment opportunities, reducing social inequities. An inter-sectoral approach is indispensable for substantial progress and health equity. Also, universal coverage of health, sanitation and hygienic measures, information, education and communication to the public and political determinants could be addressed through progressive legislation and policy.



To a question on Governments responds to growing mental health needs, Prf. Giridhar responded that, this is the most neglected area out of all the health services. Even though India exports most psychiatrist and psychologist, to other countries, India does not have enough care system that is already build. The pandemic situation has induced more mental health problems then the yearly physical health problems. The government has National mental health policy and under the policy there are mental health action plans being drawn at the district level. Yet, the need of the hour is to strengthen and build a capacity at the local level. Given that, there are inadequate human resources at the local level, there is also a need to build partnerships with the societies to take care of it and this is a great grave area where it needs lot of strength.

On a question to social and political determinants being critical for health and wellbeing even while the growing commercialization in private health care services, the neglect of the frontline workers at the grassroots and the inadequate budgetary provisions of public health care service what should be the priority focus for advocacy to create a rational and accessible health care system, Prof. Giridhar responded that, this is a serious issue in most of the middle and lower income countries. He further opined that, the contributions of the private health care services seen during COVID-19 clearly portrayed that the private sectors cannot be ignored, at the same time how the private sectors are being regulated is the most important aspect. At the same time, how can the government be not spending enough on improving the public health infrastructure and resources when the private sectors are focusing so much in the urban areas? The take on this is the need to strengthen on the public health care systems. If the country has tertiary care like AIIMS, there is need to have centre of secondary excellence even at the health and wellness centre. That's how things are going to change but that is just the beginning as unless there is a focus on the determinants of health, have good roads to walk, food to eat, water to drink. It would be like waiting for people to get sicker and then go the hospital. While one talk about



strengthening the hospital especially the public system, one should also focus on reducing these adversities of which the country (India) is not doing enough.

To a question on the positive things in the public health care system that helped during COVID-19, Prof. Giridhar replied that, India was not well prepared like the US and UK. But India was able to control the situation because of the leadership both at the central and state level. Also, the robust infrastructure created by the Integrated Surveillance Project by the National Centre for Disease Control, the research expertise and infrastructure by National Virology, ICMR and ICMR's unprecedented efforts during the pandemic situation despite being criticize at public media. Most importantly without the tremendous sacrifice and contributions of the Accredited Social Health Activist (ASHA), Auxiliary Nurse Midwife (ANM) and the other front line workers India would not have had reasonable success.

## Session 2: Social Work Profession Post Covid-19



**Dr. Nagmai Rao**

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Dr. Nagmai Rao accentuated on social work profession during COVID-19 and began the session defining social work as a practice-based profession and an academic discipline that promotes social change and development, social cohesion and empowerment and liberation of people. And for which, it is important for a social worker to take issues based on the philosophy by internalizing, expressing and shaping the basic perspectives of social work during work training and field action.

“The contention of social work profession is that social workers are concerned about macro factors as they affect and direct the interventions and perspectives for actions and this has been noticed during the COVID pandemic. Hence it is important for a social worker to take position on macro issues based on the philosophy of internalizing, expressing and shaping the basic perspectives of social work during work training and field action.”

She further emphasized on the COVID-19 pandemic stating that, it was an unprecedented experience and nothing like this has lived in the memories of the present generation. When the first case was reported at Wuhan, there was under estimation of its spread and impacts where, even the WHO took time to declare it as a global pandemic. Many national governments including India was slow to respond and when the COVID-19 cases increased sudden imposition of lockdown as an emergency measures were implemented to contain the spread of COVID-19. Neither the government nor the citizens were prepared for nationwide lockdowns which has gone into continuous three to four months with partial opening ups. And so, the social work professionals are also still groping with how to deal with the situation and define professional responses in a cohesive way taking into consideration of its long-term implications.

The immediate results of COVID were fear, disbelief and panic among the citizens. When lockdowns were imposed there were artificial panic stocking and shortages of basic essentials, of which the poor could not afford there by widening class differences. Forced and compelled confinement created many problems in terms of food, physical and mental health as well as social relations. Job and wage losses for toiling sections of the society such as domestic, sex workers etc., have greatly impacted their normalcy of living. The work from home was initially glorifying especially among relatively working in the formal

sectors. But gradually pros and cons and gendered impacts across classes particularly in the toiling classes and the media bombardments of statistics, illnesses, migrant marching out, impacted mental and social health and made it difficult to deal with it.

Dr. Nagmai, also highlighted on the prolonged lockdown emerging impact stating that, as lockdown continued, its impact began to emerge in a stronger way. Rumors began to monger leading to stigmatization fomenting fear, insecurity and sense of isolation among larger section of the society which were marginalized. It also created severe economic impacts and implications on gendered impacts, layers of vulnerabilities within work sectors, households, employers and employees' relationships. All this revealed the challenges ahead and the public reactions highlighted the weaknesses in governance, public health care systems, absence of transparency and democratic decision making. All these have brought in focus the (lack of ability) in pandemic disaster preparedness in emerging economies such as ours and the many intervention challenges before professionals who are working at it.

She further underlined that, during the COVID -19 pandemic, the responses of the social work professions have been remarkable. They have contributed either as independent or in collaboration with NGOs and through spontaneous volunteerism through civil society groups/ citizen initiatives. There was a major focus on relief work as that was in need of the hour, either as independent (NGOs, Schools of Social Work, Corporate foundations); or in coordination with local self-government bodies; Corporate NGO collaborations. Some of the noteworthy areas that the social work professions have contributed are as follow:

- Transport arrangements for migrants; channelizing Self Help Groups to manufacture mask and sanitization equipment and helping them market these
- Introducing helpline about COVID care centers, helpline to migrants to report barriers in meeting food and transport needs
- Fundraising to support NGO efforts, contributions to Chief Minister funds, and Prime Minister care
- Circulation of Information, Education and Communication (IEC) materials through social media
- Monitoring field needs and activities virtually

Nonetheless, what were the visibility and impacts of the COVID-19? Were the relief initiatives useful? Yes certainly! as they played an ameliorative role which resulted to limited impact. But did any of the initiatives have sustainability plans and alternative visions from a long-term perspective? Largely no! What has happened with the research studies? Are they yielding to critical perspectives and action plans that would respond to peer scrutiny? It is too early to be answer! Did the efforts give greater visibility to the profession in the public domain? Not really. Then why did the social workers fall short as a profession? It is so because-

- Many efforts initiated were small, fragmented, localized either by individual, professionals or by the local institutional of few people joining in

- Documentation of the ongoing situations were very limited and public media outreach was limited within its own circles
- Lack of coordination and partnership between NGOs (field practitioners) and school of social work
- Lack of coordination and partnership between schools of social work for joint planned actions
- Lack of sustained engagement with interdisciplinary platforms that are involved in sectoral long-term work and negotiating with the systems
- Lack of sustainability of interventions, insufficient macro perspective
- Very limited critical thinking and collective interdisciplinary engagement in concrete efforts to search for and develop alternate development paradigms

Dr. Nagmai Rao also highlighted the experiences and challenges in social work responses during the COVID-19 pandemic and of which are as follows-

- Likelihood of lasting impacts on employment and income stability due to slow down in economy, lurking prospects of extreme poverty
- Development access barriers due to shrinking of state investment in social sector/diversion of CSR funds
- Diminished spaces for collective protest and advocacy to demand state accountability and response
- Policy shifts addressing inequities and access barriers for marginalized and socio-political and cultural impacts caused by enhanced disparities and inequality
- The compulsion to use digital platforms and restrictions on direct contact work
- Adapting to technology use and the question of access and dependence – likelihood gaps in field monitoring and outputs
- Inevitable slowdown in work-keeping the morale sustained
- Coordination to avoid duplication of work
- Barriers in access to public service systems (PDS, health care, transport, market, etc.) and non-responsiveness of implementing agencies in governance systems overwhelmed with COVID containment and management
- Uncertainty, anxiety and fear- addressing implications on mental health and enhanced violence how to create supply systems
- Addressing polarizations between growing conservative and regressive forces and progressive rational forces as well as disruptive elements – reinforcing and mainstreaming constitutional and scientific values in such an environment
- Developing abilities for constructive dissent with a fervor for positive change based on the philosophical underpinnings of social work where there are competing contestations based on identity and ideological cleavages in the field of practice as well as the student constituency (Convergence of the vision of ‘Sanghursh and Nirmaan)



### The Pathways to Explore

- Need to re-imagine our pedagogical methods for classroom teaching and field practicum in addressing the current challenges. Curriculum must address the connectivity between macro – systems and processes and micro realities
- Exposure in field work to see linkages between policies and bottlenecks in their implementation
- Exposure to alternative thinking and practice role models engaged in people centered development from within our own and other professions
- With use of digital technology as the norm, understanding about the ethics, safe and responsible use of these platforms and harnessing them for authentic and scientific information sharing
- Application oriented research to benefit and support field intervention (skills to develop databases, policy, budget and legislation analyses from a people centered perspective)
- Skills to engage and work with state system and agencies and negotiate for the marginalized sections
- Active engagement with inter-multi-disciplinary platforms relevant to each specialization

Dr. Nagmai, concluded the session with an encouragement that, there is need to come out of one's comfort zones and cocoons in order to break the barriers of labeled as agents of the establishment, status quo-ists, soft skilled professionals and generalists playing merely ameliorative roles. For which it is requisite to expand our horizons, perspectives and skill sets with critical discourses on the social and ecosystem violence of the current way of life to develop alternate non-exploitative humane societies based on equity and social justice. She further emphasized on the need for continuous field engagement through field action and research developing indigenous theoretical framework and testing these out.



To a question on the role of social work intervention in introduction of stigma enacted and perceived pertaining to COVID-19 in comparison to other diseases in the community, Dr. Nagmai, replied that, one should look at the reality from a scientific factual perspective. For example, the sex workers have always been tagged and stigmatized as the carrier of HIV/AIDS and COVID-19. However, HIV/AIDS in India has been controlled by taking precautionary measures and negotiating with their customers. As per a study which was conducted (by the speaker) in the month of September 2020, not a single COVID-19 cases have been reported among the sex worker communities. Nonetheless, people living in the slums have obviously been stigmatized as the carrier and wide spreader of COVID-19 because of the living conditions that they are in. But the fact of the matter is that COVID-19 has originated from the elites and middle classes. And so, there is a need to break this kind of myths that has existed by pointing out the mislead facts.

On being asked if the government has recognized the social workers and the institutes during the pandemic by including the social work profession in their action plans, Dr. Ngamani Rao responded that, the social work profession has not been included in their action plans. She further added that the social work profession in India is not being recognized as a profession sadly!

To a question on teaching social work education from right-based perspective as schools of social work, Dr. Roa replied that, right-based approach is part of the curriculum in most schools of social work. But the drawback in most of the curriculum is the lack in field-based exposures which is the most requisite in the social work profession. Besides that, the sad state of affair that in the social work profession is that, most of the social workers do not identify themselves as social work profession rather they call themselves as either community-based worker, organizers, social activist. And this is a concern as they as failing to understand the philosophy, basic terms and principles of what and where social work is mean to be!

### Session 3: Plight of Migrants during COVID -19



**Prof. Irudhaya Rajan PhD (IIPS, Mumbai)**

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Prof. Irudhaya Rajan, accentuated that COVID-19 is a health crisis and it is in-discriminatory among the poor, elites, men, women, rural-urban areas and states without any barriers. But

the policies illustrated in India in the name of covid-19 tended to be highly discriminatory especially among the migrant workers. When the nationwide lockdown was announced in India on 24 March 2020, the country had 500 COVID-19 cases. And it can be said that, it was not the right decision taken at that moment as the sudden declaration of national lockdown has destroyed the lives of the common and downtrodden people which otherwise would not have affected to such extend. When the country was fighting between life and death, the migrant workers were fighting for life and livelihood. The reason behind migrating to urban areas was to earn and support their family way back home but the sudden restrictions on mobility greatly impacted the livelihood opportunities. To the migrant worker, the lockdown meant non-payment of wages and non-availability of works. Most of the migrant workers were employed as casual or daily wage labourers without proper work contracts, social protection and no employer to demand wages from.

The country has failed to recognize the struggles of the migrants during the COVID-19 pandemic. As the Nation take pride of the heroes at the wars similarly, the Nation must also remember that, these migrants are heroes to their families. They have been fighting against poverty, unemployment and malnutrition of their children and family members. Without empathizing their struggles, they were being restricted from travelling back to their native villages and compelled to stay back without any opportunity of generating income, nor an access to social and financial support. With financial crisis and distanced from families for about a month, many of the workers as well as their families back home where psychologically disturbed.

Gradually E-pass was introduced to travel within the districts making it more difficult for the migrant workers who lack in using technologies to have an access to. Thereafter the Government

“COVID-19  
is a  
health crisis  
but the public and  
policy makers  
made it as a  
migrant crisis.  
We must realize that  
COVID-19 is not a  
migrant crisis,  
but,  
it is a  
health crisis.”

began to arrange Shramik special trains to send back the stranded migrant workers but it was amidst the wide spread of COVID-19 cases. This resulted to community spreading even in the villages which lead to the emergence of racism and stigmatization among the migrant returnees. The citizens failed to recognize them as fellow Indians and failed to treat them as Indian migrants. Besides, most of the employers failed to pay the salaries to the workers which forced the penniless stranded migrant workers to starve.

Many state governments intervened after the Supreme Court forbided the railways and state governments from extracting train and bus fares from stranded migrant workers waiting to return home amid the national lockdown. Normally when migrant workers go from city to village, they purchase gift for their family, friends, and neighbors, but with the pandemic crisis, purchasing gifts was unimaginable! They did not even have money to buy tickets, food and drinking water, while some of them died on the way. Reaching home alive was the most precious and priceless gift they could offered to their family members. Even then, the citizens continued to stigmatize and tag them as carriers of COVID-19. Returnees were made to quarantine both at the institution as well as home and their homes were put up with stickers in order to restrict visitors.

As per Prof. Irudhaya Rajan's estimation, an average of 140 million migrants in India has been affected during the COVID-19 pandemic lockdown. The Centre has taken certain initiatives in providing relief packages to the migrant workers which includes of short term, medium-and long-terms and some of which are as follows-

1. Supply of food grains for two months to every migrant worker irrespective of ration card holders comprising of 5kg of rice or wheat and 1 kg of gram
2. To implement 'One Nation, One Ration' scheme
3. To implement a scheme for affordable rental housing for migrants and urban poor to provide ease of living by converting government funded housing in cities into Affordable Rental Housing Complexes (ARHC)
4. To enroll and provide jobs to the returning migrants under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MNREGA)

In crisis situation such as the COVID-19 pandemic, the government's initiative of cash relief in the form of Direct Beneficiary Transfer (DBT) would have eased the hardships of the migrant workers as the lockdown has meant non-payment of wages and non-availability of work for the

"I saw with my own eyes...migrant workers were begging for tickets to go back home. Never in the history of migrants' workers, have they been forced to behave like beggars. The employers made them beggars. Public made them beggars! They asked for free tickets and none body supported them."



workers. The present situation of COVID-19 pandemic is not going to be reversed anytime soon and the pains of the migrant workers may worsen. Moreover, the possibility of migrant labours returning back to their workplace is bleak and, the sudden flow of reverse migration shall have far reaching impact on the agrarian economy which is already in a bad shape. Many migrant workers who have returned back to their native place after going through immense suffering and humiliation might prefer not to return at all to their respective workplaces. Thus, the need of the hour is to create and provide employment and livelihood opportunities to the migrant returnees.



To a question on his statistic average estimation of 140 million migrant workers in India, Prof. Irudhaya Rajan responded that, the data on average total number of migrant workers in India are not available. He further added that, in comparison to the 1971, 1981, 1991, 2001, and 2011 census data on migrant workers he calculated the average interval increase and concluded that the present average number of migrant workers in India could be on an average of 140 million.

When asked on his perspective on the role of trade unions during this pandemic in India, Prof. Rajan replied that the role of the trade union cannot be stated but if the migrant workers were taken care of by the employers then no migrant workers could have been left on the road. He cited an example of his personal experience where the employer of 20 migrant workers in a grocery shop supported his employees by providing rooms to stay and money to send to their family back home. However, many of the employers turned their backs on the migrant workers amidst the global pandemic. He further stated that, had the government taken actions on those employers, the migrant workers would not have suffered much.

## Session 4: Urban Water Resource Management during the Pandemic/ Disaster Crisis Flood Mitigation



**Prof. Kapil Gupta**

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Prof. Kapil Gupta began his session by stating that, the focus on the urban water resource management can be emphasized on the drinking water quality, wastewater disposal, storm water during monsoon and mitigating the urban flood disasters. The drinking water quality is being achieved by treating the source water at

the water treatment plant before supplying in the cities. Whereas, the problem in wastewater disposal is because of inadequate sewers and limited wastewater treatment capacity, the waste water overflows into the natural drains, lakes and rivers in the cities. And during monsoon seasons the high intensity rainfall in lesser duration leads to urban flood disasters resulting to epidemic.

He further pondered upon on how should the following disasters be mitigated?

### 1) Climate crisis

As per Professor Richard Fenner, the world is facing a climate due to rising global temperatures, intense and uncertain weather patterns, unregulated development, urban forms increasing hard impermeable surfaces and exposure of urban populations to catastrophic flood damage causing economic loss and inconvenience. This resulted to the need for flood-resistant urban infrastructure resilient to both future climate uncertainties and increasing urbanization.

### 2) Increasing Rainfall in Indian cities

In the year 2020 almost all the state capitals like Dehradun, Delhi, Chennai, Hyderabad, Kolkata, Jaipur, Bengaluru, Ahmedabad, Bhubaneswar, etc., have experienced recurring and catastrophic floods to causing destruction in lives of the people and traffic which greatly hinders the ambulances in reaching the hospitals on time. The past three years data (2018-20) reveals that state capitals and other cities have been increasingly experiencing more than 50 mm per day and even more than 100 mm per hour resulting to more flooding!

### 3) The problem and its challenges

“Irrespective of the pandemic the regular disaster which happens every year is the water crisis in summer and flooding during the monsoon seasons.”

The inter-governmental climate change has clearly established that the India will be receiving more intense rainfall in lesser duration of time and for which the country needs to be prepared. How is India going to prepare? Because the major problem is that the downstream flooding is caused by excessive upstream flows and the conventional solution will require larger relief sewer, and the drainage has to be modified or upgraded.

4) Conventional solution of larger relief sewer

With the lack in spaces and constructions of houses, roads, telephone lines, gas pipelines etc., the expansion of the drains will be costly. Moreover, the downstream flow will also increase and it will not effective unless it is fully implemented. Also, with non-availability of spaces in urban areas, it will be difficult to modify or upgrade the drains.

Prof. Gupta, also discussed on the other mitigation measures that could be adopted and of which are as follows-

- 1) Non- structural measures using sensors for rainfall, water level and flow measurement to trigger alarms/ alerts for pre-set threshold.
- 2) Structural measures using various sustainable drainage measures.
- 3) Hydrograph Schematic of Downstream Flooding which has a capacity of limiting the flooding
- 4) Hydrograph Schematic showing effects of flooding control and attenuation (storage). The different types of storage are structural controls using Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SUDS), green roofs and infiltration, porous pavement, and source control through rooftop rain water harvesting,
- 5) Detention/ Retention ponds constructed along urban drainage system to provide temporary storage for U/S storm water peak flows, controlled pond outlet. Detention pond dry between flood events and retention pond always have some water. Whereas, wetlands have retention ponds with plants and reed family helps in pollution retention as well.

He concluded with guidance that while planning for Sustainable Urban Drainage in SMART/ AMRUT cities, catchment should be a unit of planning and sustainable urban drainage should be part of the drainage master plan. Also, in each area, cities the locations for source control, on-site detention and inline detention should be identified in low-lying areas/ river flood plains to be used as parks/ holding ponds so as to avoid flooding and the drainage features of existing drains should be improved.

“If the cost of doing is Rs.1, the cost of damages will be seven times more! So, it is always better to adopt the various measures as doing so will enhance one benefit cost!”



To a question on how to integrate Trans disciplinary perspective on water resource management, Prof. Gupta responded that. There is a need to have group from various disciplines and the sustainable group with the ministry of environmental climate change have such a group to work who are expert in these areas such as climate change, humanities, social science, biology, civil engineers, planners etc. Thus, when such a group of various disciplines are involved, it will be possible to integrate Trans disciplinary perspective on water resource management.

Being questioned upon the cope for community participation in water resources during covid-19, Prof. Gupta replied that, the people do not have money even to eat, and how they do which is one step ahead. The first step should be to provide food and employment for the people, and then they could be involved in the other construction and society building activities.

To a request to illustrate further on his statement that, ‘if the cost of doing Rs.1, the cost of damages will be 7 time more, so it is always better to adopt the various measures as doing so will enhance one benefit cost’, Prof. Kapil explained citing an example that, if one person is storing out the water it will not going to road. Thus, if everybody does this instead of having 5 feet water, they will have 2 feet water. These 2 feet of water will not damage but when the 5 feet of water will overflow and it will damage the property and the people’s house. The cost of installing a tank will only be on an average of Rs. 2000 but if they don’t do that, and if the water enters the low land houses, the TV set, refrigerator etc., will be damaged and the losses will be much more.



## Session 5: Gender and Development during COVID-19: New Thinking about Social Institutions



**Archana Dassi**

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Prof. Archana Dassi presented a primary research study that has been conducted by her during the nationwide lockdown of COVID-19 pandemic, by using google forms among the literate

working women. She began her presentation by stating that ‘gender’ is a pertinent topic to discuss upon as the priority on gender has not been emphasized even amidst the crisis.

She continued stressing that, the COVID-19 pandemic being considered as the world’s most virulent pandemic in human history has infected an approximately of 36.8 million people with the death toll surpassing to an average of 1.07 million (as on October, 2020). India too has borne the brunt with cases increasing every day! COVID-19 has affected all the population groups, but it has been detrimental to members of those social groups who are more vulnerable. Early evidence indicates that health and economic impacts of the pandemic are felt disproportionately by the people. It also created a social crisis which increased inequality, gender discrimination and large-scale of unemployment among the haves and have not. Thus, it can be stated that COVID-19 is a human development crisis, compounding risks towards gender inequality.

The Human development report of May 2020 has emphasized the immediate effects of COVID-19 on gender inequality in the sectors of health, education, care work and gender-based violence. But COVID-19 crisis has affected Indian women cruelly. Women have been perceived as second-class citizen and so, their needs have also been considered secondary in nature not requiring the immediate attention. Thus, there is a need to render an emergency response to women needs. In India, women and girls have always been the primary caregivers in the family and the pandemic has increased the household responsibilities in terms of caring for elderly, infirm and disabled individuals besides, caring for children. The pandemic has forced the women folks to work three times as much as the unpaid and domestic work as men. Male involvement in the domestic activities has been minimal due to the gender division of work by the patriarchal

“The importance on gender has always been considered as secondary and it is a pertinent topic as the priority on gender has not been emphasized even amidst the crisis.”

society. The restrictions imposed on the women due to the global pandemic have affected the physical and mental well-being.

She also emphasized on the theoretical framework of the study conducted which throws light about women during the pandemic. She stated that gender analysis frequently highlights the triple burden on women in everyday life. According to Moser (1993), women most often have carried the heaviest works. It is also, well known that the women's vulnerabilities are exacerbated during times of disaster, such as famine, war, natural disaster and disease outbreak so covid-19 being one of them. The three spheres of women's triple burden that have been depicted across-the-board categories are protective role, reproductive role, and community work. This is because the additional responsibilities which are cast upon the women built upon their pre-disaster vulnerability in which gendered burdens are already inequitable. So, the impact of additional and intensifying burdens on women can be long lasting to which they may endure well beyond the resolution of the disaster itself. Thus, it can be concluded that women's burden in the context of the novel Corona virus disease, covid-19, are no different.

#### **Present study:**

The present study aims to examine and ascertain the situation of women during covid-19 lockdown and understand its psychosocial impact on women in India.

To carry the study a Google form was prepared and which had questions covering domains like socioeconomic profile of women, attitude of payment towards work life balance, interpersonal relationships in the family, psychosocial impact of lockdown during pandemic and coping strategies.

The respondents were only women between the age ranges of 18 years to 65+ years. There were 3:30 women respondents who responded to this study. The inclusion criteria were that only literate women who had a Smart phone participated in the study.

#### **Findings:**

The information was gathered from women on the following five domains – Socioeconomic profile of the women; Attitude of the women towards work-life balance; Psychosocial impact of lockdown on women; Interpersonal relationship with the family; and Coping mechanism and psychosocial support.

##### **1. Socioeconomic profile of the women**

The age distributions of the respondents showed that majority of women were in the productive age group and it is being observed that all of them have received formal education ranging from matriculation to Doctorate of Philosophy. About 80 percent of the women were reported to have been married and two-thirds of the women were living in a nuclear family and one-third in joint family. Among the respondents, two-thirds of the women were employed either in government or private sector thus, carrying out dual responsibilities of both their jobs and household chores. Sadly, most of the homemakers' works has never perceived as an economic contribution to the family!

## **2. Attitude of the women towards work-life balance**

More than four-fifths of the women responded that they have experienced physical, mental, emotional and financial implications amidst the nationwide lockdowns due to COVID-19 pandemic. Only half of the women stated that they were able to balance between their jobs and household responsibilities as their family members stepped forward in sharing the works. Whereas, about 60 percent of the women struggled in shouldering the dual responsibilities, as they did not receive helping hand from their families with their notion that it is women's responsibility to take care of the domestic works when they are home without considering that working women are also accountable to their employer even during the lockdown. Astonishingly, some of the women did not say anything on their level of satisfaction and chose to remain neutral about it.

## **3. Psychosocial impact of lockdown on women**

In regard to the psychosocial experiences among women during the national lockdowns, three-fourth of them shared that they experienced derange of negative emotions like gloomy, sad, angry, fearful, apprehensive, and insecure. About 49 percent of the women of experienced generalized fatigue or weakness in doing the works. On an average of about two-third of the women responded to have faced loss of concentration and memory issues. The experience of being disturbed while sleeping among more than three-fourths of the women during global pandemic lockdown reflected the emotional and psychological pressures they went through. And, with uncertainty resulting from the lockdown an average of 74.5 percent of the women tended to be worried about their future on ample reasons such as health, finances, children, elderly etc.

Nearly two third of the women facing loss of concentration and memory issues sometimes or the other and more than three fourths of the women reporting disturbed sleep during lockdown reflects the emotional and psychological pressures which they are facing during the pandemic lockdown.

### **Interpersonal Relationship with Family:**

Majority of women responded that they were able to good quality time with their family, children, spouse, in-laws, and siblings during the nationwide lockdowns. Whereas, about 49.1 percent of them said that the increase in managing dual responsibilities without any help from their family members strained their relationships. The struggle experienced while carry out this study was that most of the women were reluctant in opening up and sharing their real hardships.

### **Coping Mechanism and psychosocial support**

When questioned upon the coping mechanisms adopted amidst the nationwide lockdown, most of the women responded that they kept themselves busy in religious prayers, meditation, self-introspection, self-ventilation, listening to motivational talks and engaging in social media/networks. Whereas, when asked on their dependency of psychosocial support, about 48 percent of the women responded that they counted on their spouses. Hence, this showed that women have evolved ways to maintain their emotional and psychological balance through



different types of activities as per their personality, interest and availability. Although the lockdown has intensified the triple burden on women, a brighter side of it was the opportunity to spend quality time with family member. The lockdown has bonded relationship among many families. However, when in situations as nationwide lockdowns, establishment of facilities that will provide free tele-counseling, health education through the channels of telemedicine, mental health and outreach services to women are found to be requisite.

Dr. Archana concluded her presentation citing suggestions that it is critical for the government utilize the rights-based approach to ensure that everyone, including the most marginalized, has access to necessary information, support system and resources during current crisis. There is need for the family members to share the household works so as to reduce the dual responsibilities of working women. Ensuring women's timely access to necessary and comprehensive sexual and reproductive health services during the crisis, such as maternal health services should be emphasized. NGOs resources should be increased so as to respond to women who need help including shelter, counseling as well as tele-counseling, and legal aid – to survivors. The government needs to declare 'helpline and shelters as essential services' and should be made accessible even during emergencies. Finally, media can sensitize the public on equitable distribution of resources among males and females, against gender-based violence, publicize resources and service available and accessible to women among emergencies such as COVID-19.



To a question to throw views on health and safety of women with special needs during COVID-19 and informal sector women workers, Professor Dassi responded that, vulnerability of the special needs was two-fold. Health care services were not accessible, and they had to depend on the support of caregivers to go about their daily activities. On the other side, migrant women working in the unorganized sectors were hit-hard by the COVID-19 lockdown. Neither of their health nor jobs was secured due to financial implications and not being covered by the labor social protection laws and so their implications were higher in comparison to women who got the opportunity to work from home.

When questioned upon women's empowerment in the context when they have been confined with their abuser (husband) during the nationwide locked down, Professor Archana stated that firstly, women must be recognized as an individual entity with their own mind and brain and body. Don't the citizens feel that a woman who is locked with her abuser during the lockdown and is at the risk of being literally killed by that men or may be harmed badly? At such times isn't shelter an essential service for women? Isn't helpline an essential service? Isn't crime against women an essential service? One should change the notion that only women have to think about women's safety because talks on gender actually refer to both men and women in the



society. The reason why the talks on gender emphasize more on women is because somewhere in the patriarchal society women are suffering more than men!

Being asked on her views on reporting amidst the nationwide lockdown; reinforcement on self-discipline among the other family members; and the role of legal enforcement system in our country to protect women, Professor, Dassi responded that reporting cases became a major issue since the all the police professional were all addressing to the needs of law and order to be maintained during the lockdown. And so even the helpline cells were actually not being entertained and that was the tragedy during the lockdown. The harsh reality in India is that, gender-based violence are not still a priority because majority of the policy makers still feel that domestic violence's are family matter. The intimate partner violence was being encouraged not to publicize at public domain. Thus, the social work professionals are in need to work towards the change in attitude of the people and join hands and say that behavior change communication is the need of the hour.

## Recommendations

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The National Virtual symposium-III on Society, Economy and Development during the COVID-19 Pandemic: Lessons for Emerging Economies and its associated research projects hopes to initiate policy briefs that can give direction to the policy makers and produce training manuals for the Health Practitioners. After synthesizing the keynote sessions of the expert speakers participated at the virtual symposium, the following recommendations have been put-forward.

1. Strengthening and improving primary health care system prioritizing on health equity and social determinants of health with a focus on people with poverty, educational and employment opportunities, reducing social inequities.
2. Universal coverage of health, sanitation and hygienic measures, information, education and communication to the public and political determinants through progressive legislation and policy.
3. Social workers should conduct continuous field engagement through field action, research developing indigenous theoretical framework and testing so as to develop alternate non-exploitative humane societies based on equity and social justice.
4. Government's initiative of cash relief in the form of Direct Beneficiary Transfer (DBT) would have eased the hardships of the migrant workers as the lockdown has meant non-payment of wages and non-availability of work for the workers in the informal economy.
5. Many migrant workers who have returned back to their native place after going through immense suffering and humiliation might prefer not to return at all to their respective workplaces. Thus, it is necessary to create and provide employment and livelihood opportunities to the migrant returnees.
6. Shifting from the notion that, 'household's chores are women's work', there is need for every family member to share the works reducing the dual responsibilities of women.
7. NGOs resources should be increased so as to respond to women who need help including shelter, counseling as well as tele-counseling, and legal aid – to survivors.
8. The government needs to declare 'helpline and shelters as essential services' and should be made accessible even during emergencies.
9. Media should sensitize the public on equitable distribution of resources among males and females, against gender-based violence, publicize resources and service available and accessible to women among emergencies such as COVID-19.
10. While planning for Sustainable Urban Drainage in SMART/ AMRUT cities, catchment should be a unit of planning and sustainable urban drainage should be part of the drainage master plan.
11. Also, the locations for source control should be on-site detention and inline detention should be identified in low-lying areas/ river flood plains to be used as parks/ holding ponds so as to avoid flooding and the drainage features of existing drains should be improved.

## Way Forward / Closing Remarks

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### **Dr. F.X. Lovelina Little**

Professor and Head  
Department of Social Work  
Bharathiar University, Coimbatore.  
E-mail ID: lovelinabu@gmail.com

Dr. F.X. Lovelina Little Flower, sighted the Virtual Symposium as an enriching and insightful thought provoking in shedding light on the way the COVID 19 has impacted society, economy and development in emerging economies. This National Virtual Symposium-III is the third event of the virtual symposia series jointly organized Department of Social Work, Bharathiar University, Coimbatore; Centre for Applied Research, The Gandhigram Rural Institute, Gandhigram; and Department of Social Work, Central University of Tamil Nadu, Thiruvavur. The joint academic effort was emerged from the need to take a lead in building collations that will share and adapt existing expertise to address issues fueled by the pandemic and to create a vast reservoir of literature that would be fundamental for dealing with future challenges.

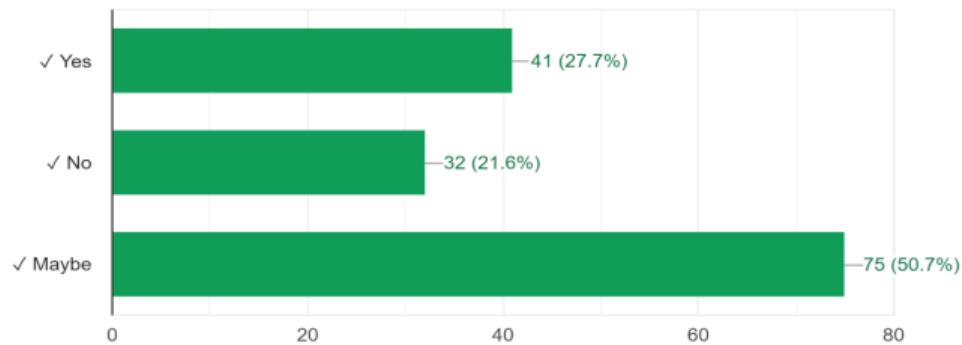
Dr. Lovelina stated that the virtual symposium is the first step of a three-stage initiative which will be followed by an international book publication, and eventually culminating into joined research project collaborations. She invited interested participants to associate with the team in the next stages. Timeline for the entire project was shared.

Dr. Lovelina also thanked the Vice Chancellors of the host institutions for their continuous encouragement and support. She thanked all the keynote speakers, fellow organizing team members, technical team and the participants for making the virtual symposium a huge success.

## Participants' Feedbacks

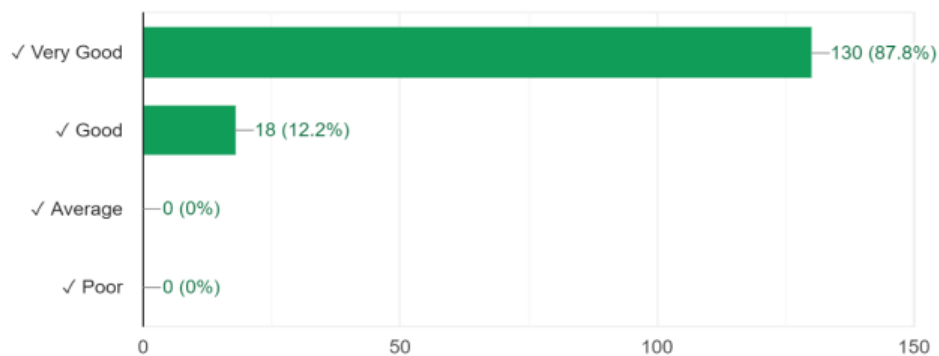
Do you wish to contribute a paper?

148 / 148 correct responses



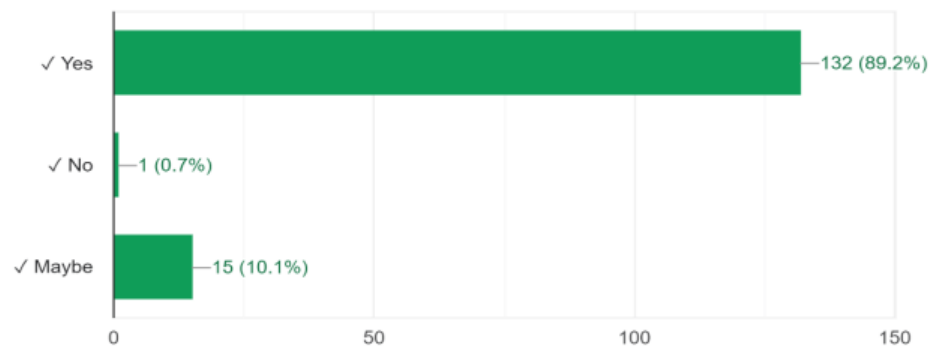
Your overview about the National Virtual Symposium

148 / 148 correct responses



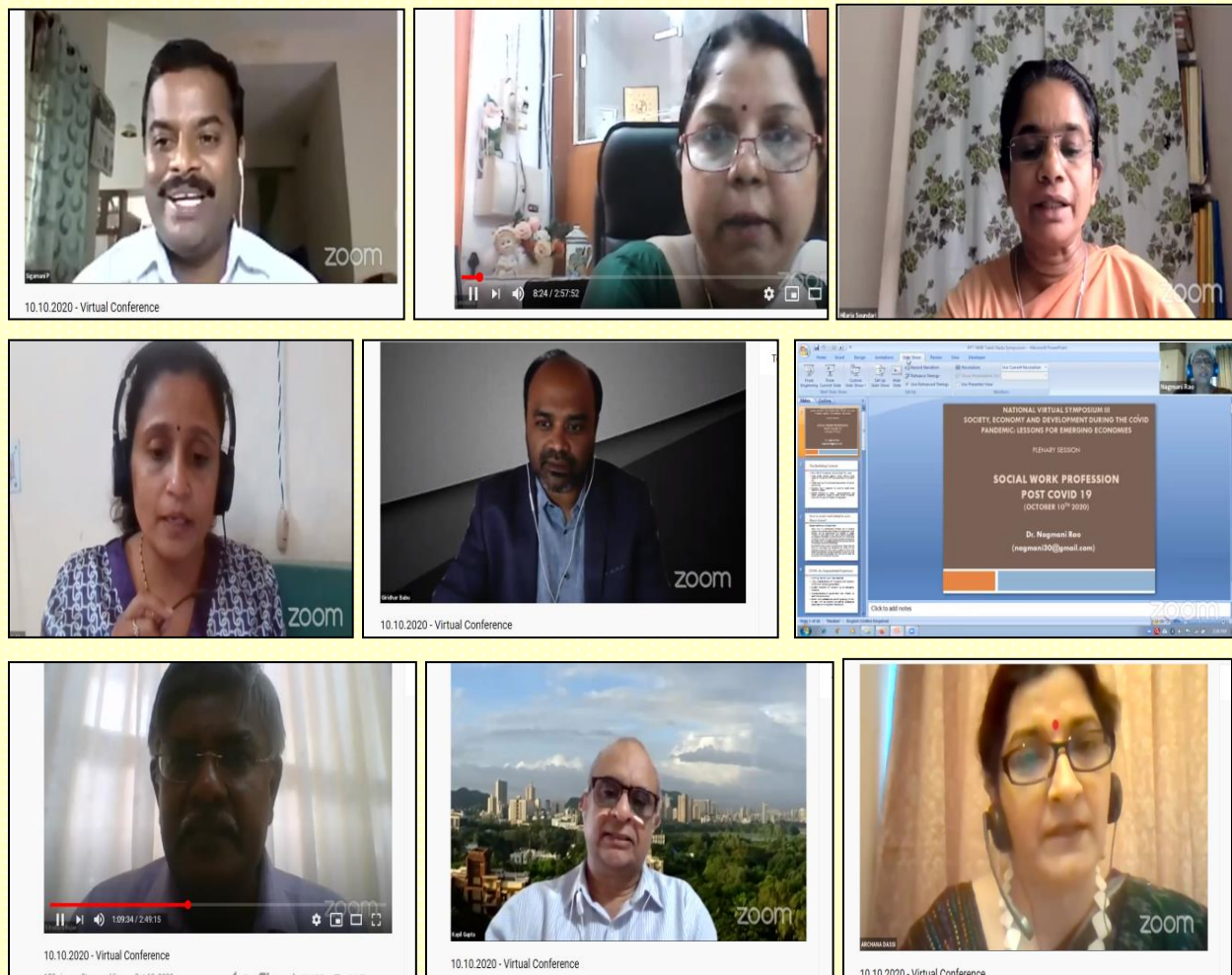
Do you wish to join more for such webinar in future?

148 / 148 correct responses





## Desktop Snap Shots



For more details / Paper submission contact

**Dr. F.X. LOVELINA LITTLE FLOWER**

(Symposium Director)

Professor & Head

Department of Social Work,

Bharathiar University, Coimbatore-641046

Mobile: 00-91-9443346668 Email: lovelinabu@gmail.com

## Annexures

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Flyer

Brochure

Programme Schedule

Participants' List

## NATIONAL VIRTUAL SYMPOSIUM III

(FOLLOWED BY CALL FOR PAPERS FOR AN EDITED BOOK ON)

### SOCIETY, ECONOMY AND DEVELOPMENT DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC: LESSONS FOR EMERGING ECONOMIES

**National Virtual Symposium-III: 10<sup>th</sup> October 2020**  
**Book Proposal: Paper Abstract Submission by 20<sup>th</sup> October 2020**  
**Joint Research Projects: EOI: 22<sup>nd</sup> Dec 2020**

The unprecedented COVID-19 pandemic is a universal crisis affecting everyone both globally and locally. Despite its impact on health systems it has disrupted the functioning of the society, devastated global economy and has debilitated development. The appalling impacts of the pandemic differs widely across the globe albeit commonalities. While fatalities due to COVID-19 are reported to be higher among the developed economies the repercussions of the pandemic is worsening the pre-existing inequalities and problems in the emerging economies. The virtual symposium followed by the book projects is an attempt to amalgamate knowledge from diverse disciplines and subsequently develop models and strategies to respond effectively to current challenges and future pandemics.

#### Keynote/Plenary Speakers

##### POLITICAL ECONOMY AND SOCIAL DETERMINANTS OF HEALTH DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC



**Prof. Giridhar R Babu PhD (ULCA)**  
Professor and Head Lifecourse Epidemiology,  
Public Health Foundation of India (PHFI)  
New Delhi, India

##### PLIGHT OF MIGRANTS DURING COVID -19



**Prof. Irudhaya Rajan PhD (IIPS, Mumbai)**  
Professor, Centre for Development Studies  
Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala  
Email: [rajan@cds.ac.in](mailto:rajan@cds.ac.in)

##### WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT DURING DISASTER



**Prof. Kapil Gupta PhD (Sheffield, UK)**  
Professor, Department of Water Resources Engineering  
Indian Institute of Technology Bombay,  
Powai, Mumbai, India.  
Email: [kgupta@civil.iitb.ac.in](mailto:kgupta@civil.iitb.ac.in)

##### SOCIAL WORK PROFESSION POST COVID-19



**Dr Nagamani Rao PhD**  
Associate Professor (retd) ,  
Karve Institute of Social Service, Pune  
Email: [nagmani30@gmail.com](mailto:nagmani30@gmail.com)

For further details / paper submission contact  
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(Symposium Director)  
Professor & Head  
Department of Social Work  
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Coimbatore-641046  
Mobile: 9443346668  
Email: [lovelinabu@gmail.com](mailto:lovelinabu@gmail.com)

#### Our Patrons



**PROF. P. KALIRAJ, PhD**  
Vice Chancellor  
Bharathiar University,  
Coimbatore, India



**PROF. R. KARPAGA KUMARAVEL, PhD**  
Vice Chancellor (Acting)  
Central University of Tamil Nadu,  
Thiruvavur, India



**PROF. B. SUBBURAJ, PhD**  
Vice Chancellor i/c  
Gandhigram Rural Institute,  
Gandhigram, Tamil Nadu, India

#### Organizers



**F.X. LOVELINA LITTLE FLOWER, PhD**  
Professor and Head, Department of Social Work,  
Bharathiar University, Coimbatore,  
Tamil Nadu, India



**SIGAMANI PANNEER, PhD**  
Professor and Head, Department of Social Work,  
School of Social Sciences and Humanities and  
Coordinator, Centre for Happiness,  
Central University of Tamil Nadu,  
Thiruvavur, India



**M. HILARIA SOUNDARI, PhD**  
Assistant Professor,  
Centre for Applied Research,  
Gandhigram Rural Institute,  
Gandhigram, Tamil Nadu, India

**Symposium Registration Link:**  
<http://forms.gle/TNeMhS1rT7mqChMFA>





## NATIONAL VIRTUAL SYMPOSIUM – III

(FOLLOWED BY CALL FOR PAPERS FOR AN EDITED BOOK ON)

### SOCIETY, ECONOMY AND DEVELOPMENT DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC: LESSONS FOR EMERGING ECONOMIES

The unprecedented COVID-19 pandemic is a universal crisis affecting everyone both globally and locally. Despite its impact on health systems it has disrupted the functioning of the society, devastated global economy and has debilitated development. The appalling impacts of the pandemic differs widely across the globe albeit commonalities. While fatalities due to COVID-19 are reported to be higher among the developed economies the repercussions of the pandemic is worsening the pre-existing inequalities and problems in the emerging economies. The virtual symposium followed by the book projects is an attempt to amalgamate knowledge from diverse disciplines and subsequently develop models and strategies to respond effectively to current challenges and future pandemics.

#### About the Previous Symposiums

This symposium is a follow-up of the International Virtual Symposium (IVS) on Pandemics, Climate Change and Growing Inequality: Emerging Paradigm Shift in Helping Professions organized on 28.08.2020 in which seven resource persons across the globe enriched hundreds of scholars, faculty members and practitioners and the National Virtual Symposium II (NVS-II) on Informality, New Forms of Work, Labour Concerns of the Pandemic: Evolving Strategies for Helping Professions organized on 12.09.2020 in which four resource persons from premier institutions of the country enlightened the participants from 33 universities and 43 colleges on the plight of the informal sector. The symposiums were jointly organized by the Department of Social Work, Central University of Tamilnadu, Thiruvallur, Department of Social Work, Bharathiar University, Coimbatore and Centre for Applied Research, Gandhigram Rural Institute, Gandhigram.

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Xu\\_U6c0Gfs4&t=11420s](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Xu_U6c0Gfs4&t=11420s)  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QMtHKMUc7Ic>

#### Organized By

- Department of Social Work  
Bharathiar University,  
Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu,  
India
- Department of Social Work  
Central University of Tamil Nadu,  
Thiruvallur,  
Tamil Nadu, India.
- Centre for Applied Research  
Gandhigram Rural Institute,  
Gandhigram, Tamil Nadu, India

Symposium Registration Link: <http://forms.gle/TNeMhS1rT7mqChMFA>

National Virtual Symposium-III: 10<sup>th</sup> October 2020

Book Proposal: Paper Abstract Submission by 20<sup>th</sup> October 2020

Joint Research Projects: EOI: 22<sup>nd</sup> Dec 2020



## The Context

The world today is battling the biggest disaster of the 21<sup>st</sup> century - COVID-19 which has infected over 29 million individuals globally and led to fatalities surpassing nine hundred thousand. Though it appears to be a health crisis on a superficial level it is a multidimensional crisis with far-reaching consequences on society, economy and development. Despite the universality of the crisis the implications are varied for different countries depending on economy, health infrastructure, socio-political factors and the like. This in turn has reflected in their responses to the pandemic where a few have fared well and some have catastrophically failed. The challenges are projected to be much severe for the Emerging Economies with large populations, inadequate health infrastructure, economic instability and inequalities. International bodies such as World Bank, ILO and UN have predicted the socio-economic consequences of the pandemic for the emerging economies in terms of poverty, increasing unemployment, gender inequality and issues affecting the vulnerable groups. This scenario makes it inevitable to analyze the responses of those countries that have successfully managed the challenges and build effective strategies for the future based on the lessons learnt.

## The Projects

The proposed projects/ initiatives are synergistic intellectual responses addressing issues in the context mentioned above. The international virtual symposium aims to expose the problems, explore the responses, and endeavor to identify new emerging paradigms. The Book project is a continuation of this symposium and it invites the intellectual community (both academic/ practitioners) to reflect upon the reality, consider impacts and come up with innovative solutions. This will eventually culminate into research collaborations and create joint researches with trans or inter-disciplinary approaches

## Objectives

- ♦ To examine the repercussions of Pandemic Crisis on Society, Economy and Development in Emerging Economies
- ♦ To understand the social, economic and political dynamics of pandemics
- ♦ To comprehend the interconnection between pandemic, economy and development
- ♦ To analyze the policy and institutional responses to the pandemic crisis
- ♦ To explore the initiatives of national, state and local governments.
- ♦ To highlight the problems of vulnerable groups namely frontline workers, children, women, elderly, persons with disabilities, prisoners, refugees , homeless and migrant populations

## Organizing Institutions

The Key Organizing Institutions are:

Department of Social Work, Bharathiar University, Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu, India

The primary focus of the department is to build the capacities of young graduates on the threshold of fruitful careers in social work. The focus of our efforts has been on a synergy of theory and practice with both components receiving equal importance in moulding the personality of the students.

<https://www.b-u.ac.in/Home/DeptSocialWorkAbout>

Department of Social Work, School of Social Sciences and Humanities, Central University of Tamil Nadu, Thiruvavur-05, Tamil Nadu, India

Established in 2013 to provide professional training in the discipline of Social Work. The Department offers a regular two years fulltime postgraduate programme in Social Work, titled as Master of Social Work (MSW). Currently the Department offers three specializations: (i) Medical & Psychiatric Social Work, (ii) Community Development, and (iii) Human Resource and Labour Management

<https://cutn.ac.in/social-work/>

Centre for Applied Research, Gandhigram Rural Institute, Gandhigram, Tamil Nadu, India

Established in 1976 under the Faculty of Rural Development plays a key role in enabling the Institute to achieve its overall objective of rural development by promoting interdisciplinary, problem solving and development research.

[https://www.ruraluniv.ac.in/faculties?department=AppliesResearch\\_profile](https://www.ruraluniv.ac.in/faculties?department=AppliesResearch_profile)

## Keynote / Plenary Speakers

### **POLITICAL ECONOMY AND SOCIAL DETERMINANTS OF HEALTH DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC**

**Prof. Giridhar R Babu PhD (University of California Los Angeles)**

Professor and Head Lifecourse Epidemiology,

Public Health Foundation of India (PHFI)

New Delhi, India

### **PLIGHT OF MIGRANTS DURING COVID -19**

**Prof. Irudhaya Rajan PhD (Indian Institute of Population Studies, Mumbai)**

Professor, Centre for Development Studies

Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala

Email: [rajan@cds.ac.in](mailto:rajan@cds.ac.in)

### **WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT DURING DISASTER**

**Prof. Kapil Gupta PhD (Sheffield, UK)**

Professor, Department of Water Resources Engineering

Indian Institute of Technology Bombay,

Powai, Mumbai, India.

Email: [kgupta@civil.iitb.ac.in](mailto:kgupta@civil.iitb.ac.in)

### **SOCIAL WORK PROFESSION POST COVID-19**

**Dr Nagamani Rao PhD**

Associate Professor (retd) ,

Karve Institute of Social Service, Pune

Email: [nagmani30@gmail.com](mailto:nagmani30@gmail.com)



## Broad Themes

The Broad themes of this book project are:

**Society, Economy and Development during Covid-19 Crisis: Lessons for Emerging Economies**

## Sub-Themes

- Social determinants of health and pandemics
- Demographic, economic and social implications
- Health disparities emerging from social disadvantage
- Uniformity in pandemic responses
- Pandemic and families
- Success models and catastrophic failures in pandemic response
- Implications of uniform standards amidst diversities
- Lockdown and human rights
- Mental Health issues
- Social Inequalities and Social injustice during lockdown
- Economic implications
- Education: Threats and Opportunities
- Gender issues
- Covid19 response strategies-Rural-Urban Contrast
- The vision of the governments
- Covid 19 and India's SDGs
- The great India lockdown- critical analysis
- Government Policies and Schemes
- Impacts on Vulnerable Groups: Children, Women, Aged, Marginalized, Persons with Disabilities, Refugees, Incarcerated etc.
- Media during Pandemic
- Challenges to development
- Non-Profits during pandemic

## Full Length Paper Submission

Final and completed papers may be submitted after the abstracts have been accepted by the editors. A few guidelines are in place at the time of submission:

- The paper should be written in English (UK) and should not exceed 6000 words.
- It should be original, unpublished, and should not have been copyrighted. It should not have been presented or accepted for presentation at professional meetings and should not be currently under review for presentation at other professional meetings. A declaration to this effect must accompany the final paper, which must include ethical responsibilities and Standards as well.
- The manuscript should include a separate page containing the following in the order mentioned: title, authors, affiliation, abstract, keywords, main text, acknowledgements, appendix and references.
- The title page should be concise and informative and should include: the name(s) of the author(s), institutional affiliation(s), addresses of the author(s), E-mail, contact address, and telephone number(s) of the corresponding author.
- Authors are requested to submit a Camera-ready paper following the prescribed guidelines (see below).
- Authors should take responsibility of Content-Editing, Grammar-check, Proof-reading, formatting etc.
- The completed paper may be submitted in Microsoft Word (doc format only) on or before 25 October 2020 via email to [lovelinabu@gmail.com](mailto:lovelinabu@gmail.com)

The manuscript preparation should be adhered to while preparing the final paper:

### Text Formatting

Manuscripts should be submitted in Word.

Use a normal, plain font (e.g., 10-point Times Roman) for text.

Use italics for emphasis.

Use the automatic page numbering function to number the pages.

Do not use field functions.

Use tab stops or other commands for indents, not the space bar.

Use the table function, not spreadsheets, to make tables.

Use the equation editor or MathType for equations.

Save your file in docx format (Word 2007 or higher) or doc format (older Word versions).

Manuscripts with mathematical content can also be submitted in LaTeX.

Tables should be editable in Microsoft Word easily, i.e., they should NOT be in picture format. Table titles should be concise and exactly to explain what the table shows

[LaTeX macro package \(Download zip, 188 kB\)](#)

[https://www.springer.com/journal/10902/submission-guidelines#Instructions%20for%20Authors\\_Manuscript%20Submission](https://www.springer.com/journal/10902/submission-guidelines#Instructions%20for%20Authors_Manuscript%20Submission)

## Editors/ Editorial Board

**F.X. LOVELINA LITTLE FLOWER, PhD.**, Professor and Head, Department of Social Work, Bharathiar University, Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu, India

**TRESA SUGIRTHA J, (PhD).**, Assistant Professor, Department of Social Work, PSG College of Arts and Science, Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu, India

**SIGAMANI PANNEER, PhD.**, Professor and Head, Department of Social Work, School of Social Sciences and Humanities and Coordinator, Centre for Happiness, Central University of Tamil Nadu, Thiruvavur, India

**M. HILARIA SOUNDARI, PhD.**, Assistant Professor, Centre for Applied Research, Gandhigram Rural Institute, Gandhigram, Tamil Nadu, India

**LEKHA BHAT, PhD.**, Assistant Professor, Department of Epidemiology & Public Health, School of Life Sciences, Central University of Tamil Nadu, Thiruvavur, India



## Joint Research Projects

- ♦ Expression of Interest (EOI) for Joint Research projects are welcome after the National Virtual Symposium III on 10<sup>th</sup> October 2020.
- ♦ Welcoming new vistas of exploration, especially with regard to **Society, Economy and Development during Covid-19 Crisis: Lessons for Emerging Economies**, the joint research projects could be multi/trans disciplinary, aimed either at short term or long-term projects.
- ♦ Submission of actual proposals will be announced in due time after the expression of interest.
- ♦ Individuals or institutions willing to collaborate with the organizers can send in their queries on or before **10 Dec 2020** to [lovelinabu@gmail.com](mailto:lovelinabu@gmail.com)

## Expected Outcome

The expected outcome of all these above three exercises will be:

- ♣ A deeper understanding of the reality Society, Economy and Development during Covid-19 Crisis: Lessons for Emerging Economies.
- ♣ A better comprehension into the causes and consequences of the pandemics and its recovery, mitigation, response and preparation.
- ♣ A revisit of existing datasets and a redefinition of relevant methodologies
- ♣ An exploration of facilitating better access to online resources and exploring culturally relevant approach to the issues studied thus so far.
- ♣ A reassessment of the quality of our current responses, works, etc. and a better collaboration with the multi-stakeholders.
- ♣ A strengthening of community-based crisis risk management strategies, and a better understanding of connecting the dots.

## IMPORTANT DATES

**Virtual Symposium: 10<sup>th</sup> October 2020**

**Last date for receiving abstracts and authors short biography: 20<sup>th</sup> October 2020**

For further details / paper submission contact  
**F.X. LOVELINA LITTLE FLOWER, PhD**  
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# Programme Schedule



## **NATIONAL VIRTUAL SYMPOSIUM—III** (FOLLOWED BY CALL FOR PAPERS FOR AN EDITED BOOK ON) **SOCIETY, ECONOMY AND DEVELOPMENT** **DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC: LESSONS FOR** **EMERGING ECONOMIES**

### **Organized by**

Department of Social Work,  
Bharathiar University,  
Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu, India

Department of Social Work,  
Central University of Tamil Nadu,  
Thiruvavur, Tamil Nadu, India

Centre for Applied Research,  
Gandhigram Rural Institute,  
Gandhigram, Tamil Nadu, India

**DATE: 10<sup>TH</sup> OCT 2020**

**TIME: 14.00 HRS IST**

**JOIN VIA: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/6939337279>**

**Book Proposal: Paper Abstract Submission by 20<sup>th</sup> October 2020**

**Joint Research Projects: EOJ, 22<sup>nd</sup> December 2020**

**Symposium Registration Link: <http://forms.gle/TNeMhS1rT7mqChMFA>**

**Brochure Link: <https://cdn.b-u.ac.in/seminar/2020/webinar/sw2020.pdf>**

**[https://cutn.ac.in/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/Brochure\\_NV-III-1 for CUTN Web07102020.pdf](https://cutn.ac.in/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/Brochure_NVS-III-1_for_CUTN_Web07102020.pdf)**

TIME	PROGRAMME
14.00 – 14.05	<b>WELCOME NOTE</b> M. HILARIA SOUNDARI, PhD Assistant Professor, Centre for Applied Research, Gandhigram Rural Institute, Gandhigram, Tamil Nadu, India
14.05 – 14.10	<b>MECHANICS OF THE SYMPOSIUM</b> SIGAMANI PANNEER, PhD Professor and Head, Department of Social Work, School of Social Sciences and Humanities and Coordinator, Centre for Happiness, Central University of Tamil Nadu, Thiruvavur, India
<b>ADDRESS BY KEYNOTE/PLENARY SPEAKERS</b>	
14.10 - 14.35	<b>POLITICAL ECONOMY AND SOCIAL DETERMINANTS OF HEALTH DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC</b> Prof. Giridhar R Babu PhD (UCLA) Professor and Head Lifecourse Epidemiology, Public Health Foundation of India (PHFI) New Delhi, India
14.35 - 15.00	<b>SOCIAL WORK PROFESSION POST COVID-19</b> Dr. Nagmani Rao PhD Associate Professor (retd) , Karve Institute of Social Service, Pune
15.00 - 15.25	<b>PLIGHT OF MIGRANTS DURING COVID -19</b> Prof. Irudhaya Rajan PhD (IIPS, Mumbai) Professor, Centre for Development Studies Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala
15.25 - 15.50	<b>WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT DURING DISASTER</b> Prof. Kapil Gupta PhD (Sheffield, UK) Professor, Department of Water Resources Engineering Indian Institute of Technology Bombay, Powai, Mumbai, India
15.50 – 16.15	<b>GENDER AND DEVELOPMENT DURING COVID-19: NEW THINKING ABOUT SOCIAL INSTITUTIONS</b> Prof. Archana Dassi PhD Professor & Head, Department of Social Work Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi, India
16.15 - 16.30	<b>WAY FORWARD AND VOTE OF THANKS</b> F.X. LOVELINA LITTLE FLOWER, PhD Professor and Head, Department of Social Work, Bharathiar University, Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu, India



## ABSTRACTS & BIOGRAPHY

### **Political Economy and Social Determinants of Health during the COVID-19 Pandemic**

**Dr. Giridhara R Babu**

**Professor and Head Lifecourse Epidemiology, PHFI, New Delhi, India**

The pandemic caused by the novel coronavirus has afflicted the global political economy along with the social determinants of health. More broadly, the effects of COVID-19 have exposed the weak health systems and broad disparities within our society. Across the board, people have been directly or indirectly affected, with most social determinants of health (SDH) including poverty, physical environment (e.g., smoke exposure, homelessness), and race or ethnicity, education having a considerable effect on COVID-19 outcomes. SDH also includes health and health care, social and community context, neighborhood and built environment, education and economic stability. These determinants are interrelated and play an important role during Covid 19 pandemic.

Socioeconomic factors influence Covid 19 infection and mortality rates. Loss of wages in India leads to reverse migration, with unskilled and daily wage workers returning to their homes in rural India. Social distancing in neighborhoods that are crowded may not be feasible as seen in the example of Dharavi slums. Low income families are at higher risk of viral transmission because of crowded living spaces and scarce access to COVID-19 screening and testing facilities. Current pandemic has involved people from all the socioeconomic groups, in low, middle and high-income countries alike. A myriad of studies linked smokers to have severe COVID-19 symptoms as well as an increased risk of intensive care unit (ICU) admission, mechanical ventilation, or COVID-19-related mortality. Modality of education in schools and colleges, have switched to online mode. However, poor children may not have access to computers, or the internet and are losing out on the academic year. The deep-rooted inequities in the country play a central, and likely devastating, role in the magnitude and distribution of COVID 19. If the current trends persist, it will take a heavy toll on the working class while largely sparing the wealthy, the coronavirus, in all likelihood, will prey on existing structural inequities and exacerbate them.



There is a need to use this opportunity to strengthen and improve its primary health care system. There is a need to prioritize health equity and SDH during Covid 19 pandemic. With no definitive treatment available yet, the current COVID-19 crisis is a challenge for the health system and containment and mitigation efforts focusing on all the determinants of health. Focusing on people with poverty, educational and employment opportunities, reducing social inequities, applying equity principles while delivering health care, universal coverage of health, sanitation and hygienic measures, information, education and communication to the public, avoiding 3Cs such as close space, close contact, crowd and also following 3Ws such as wear mask, washing hands and watch distance from another individual are very essential. Political determinants can be addressed through progressive legislation and policy. An intersectoral approach is indispensable for substantial progress and health equity. Thus, efforts to mitigate the damages caused by COVID-19 must include research priorities, increased funding for public health, and policy implementation, and prevent or lessen any future pandemic morbidity and mortality.

#### **Biography**



Giridhara R Babu is Professor and Head – Life Course Epidemiology at Public Health Foundation of India. He has done MBBS from Kasturba medical college Manipal, MPH and PhD from UCLA (University of California Los Angeles). He has worked for two decades in public health research, practice and academics. He began his career at the Center for Community Medicine of the All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi as a Junior Resident. Next, he worked with World Health Organization where he led the efforts in stopping polio transmission in the state of Karnataka. He initiated advocacy for Measles surveillance in Karnataka leading to constitution of Multi Year Plan (MYP) for Measles elimination in India. He is awarded the prestigious intermediate fellowship of Wellcome Trust-DBT India Alliance to start a cohort study. The cohort is named as MAASTHI (Maternal Antecedents of Adiposity Studying the Transgenerational role of Hyperglycemia and Insulin). Giridhara has over 80 papers published in national and international high impact journals. He is the Member of Epidemiology and surveillance Research group constituted by ICMR National Task Force for COVID-19. He is also on the Technical Analysis Committee of the Government of Karnataka to tackle COVID-19. He is actively involved in writing articles for general public, providing his expert opinion to media houses and consultation to several states. His work on COVID-19 can be accessed here <https://giridhar.org/covid-19/>.

## **Gender and Development during Covid-19: New Thinking about Social Institutions**

**Prof Archana Dassi, PhD, Head Department of Social Work,  
Jamia Millia Islamia University, New Delhi**

The COVID 19 is a human development crisis, compounding risks towards gender inequality. The immediate effects of COVID 19 on gender inequality are already observed in the areas of health, education, care work and gender based violence (HDR, May 2020). Keeping this in view an empirical study was planned to examine the situation of women during the COVID-19 lockdown and comprehend its psycho-social impact on women in India. The objectives of this study were to exploring socioeconomic profile of the women, attitude of women towards work life balance, interpersonal relationships in the family, and coping strategies in women in India. With inclusion criteria of availability, willingness, 330 women across the country were selected using comprehensive sampling technique. Descriptive statistics were used for data analysis. The findings revealed that lockdown mostly affected the two sets of women, the first, who are working as homemakers only and the other set includes those who are employed and managing their work from home. It was revealed that women were overburdened with household work and found it difficult to plan their daily routine. The study has revealed that working women are unhappy with their situation during lockdown and experienced negative emotions such as gloominess, anger, fear and insecurities. Most of them are encountered with worries about – parents, child education, and financial crisis, and career, physical and mental health. The results roundabout that women are in need of mental health counseling

services, one stop centers to share their gender based violence issues through mobile devices and addressing their health concerns through community health workers/ANMs so as to outweigh the situation.

**Keywords:** Psychosocial Impact, Work Life Balance, Coping Strategies, Interpersonal Relationships, Covid-19, Lockdown, Women



### **Biography**

Prof Archana Dassi , MSW, PhD, Post Doctoral UGC Research Awardee is presently teaching in the Department of Social Work, Jamia Millia Islamia. She has expertise in teaching methods of social work especially case work, group work and community work, practice skills of social work and issues and concerns related to women, children and differently abled. She has written numerous articles in national and international research journals. She has authored two books, one on slum children and another on valmiki children. She has been on the expert committee of Govt of India for framing the Bill on the Rights of Transgender 2016. Prof. Archana Dassi has been involved with many non-governmental and governmental organizations for training, monitoring and evaluation of their programs. She is a consultant resource person and expert to NISD, MSJE and MHA and non-governmental organizations working in the field of Women and Children. She has extensive field experience and has been actively involved in research projects. Prof Archana Dassi has guided doctoral students in the areas of Sexual Harassment at Workplace, Child Rights, Adolescents, HIV/AIDS, Gender based violence, Weaker Sections, differently abled, transgender rights and Social Defence. She is also a recipient of Dr. Radha Kamal Mukherjee Award



for young Social scientists from the Indian Social Sciences Association. Prof. Dassi is the Anti-Discrimination Officer of Jamia Millia Islamia. Presently, Prof. Archana Dassi is Head of the Department of Social Work.

**Plights of Migrant Workers during COVID-19**  
**Dr S. Irudaya Rajan**  
**Professor at the Centre for Development Studies (CDS), Kerala.**

The COVID 19 pandemic caused great disruption to the world economy and, as a result, has led to widespread return of migrant workers from their destinations due to a loss of livelihoods. India, being one of the largest senders of migrant workers in the world will be particularly hit, with migrants returning from all parts of the globe and especially the Gulf Cooperation Council countries – which hosts around 10 million Indians. This talk will focus on the impacts of return migration to India. Through an estimation of the number of return migrants and the conditions in which they are expected to return, it will focus on its economic and social impacts. Finally, the talk will also highlight some key policies to enact in order to facilitate the rehabilitation and re-integration of these migrants back into Indian economy and society. It will also look forward at the various ways in which new corridors of migration can be encouraged in the future.

**Biography**



Dr S. Irudaya Rajan is Professor at the Centre for Development Studies (CDS), Kerala. He is Chair of the KNOMAD Thematic group on internal migration and urbanization, managed by the World Bank. With more than three decades of research experience at the CDS, he has coordinated eight major migration surveys in Kerala since 1998 (with Professor K. C. Zachariah); conducted migration surveys in Goa (2008), Punjab (2011) and Tamil Nadu (2015); also provided technical support to the Gujarat Migration Survey (2010). He has published extensively in national and international journals on social, economic, demographic, psychological and political implications on migration. He is editor of the annual series 'India Migration Report' ( Routledge) since 2010 and the editor-in-chief of the Journal, Migration and Development, (Taylor and Francis), since 2012. He works closely with the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India and Department of Non-Resident Keralite Affairs, Government of Kerala.

## Water Resource Management during the Pandemic/Disaster Crisis

Prof Kapil Gupta,

Professor, Department of Water Resources Engineering, IIT Bombay

Urban Water Resource Management has several components- water supply, wastewater treatment and disposal, and storm water flood management. Maintaining drinking water quality standards in water supply is achieved by treatment of source water at the water treatment plant before supply to the city. Wastewater disposal is a major issue due to the inadequate sewer connections and limited wastewater treatment capacity, with the net result that wastewater is often discharged into the natural water bodies like drains, lakes and rivers in the cities. Add to this the Indian monsoon, during which we are seeing high intensity rainfall in lesser durations, and we have a recipe for an urban flood disaster!! This presentation looks at the various ways of mitigating the urban flood disasters and at the same time, supplementing the urban water supply resources.

### Biography



Dr. Kapil Gupta is Professor of Civil Engineering at IIT Bombay, Mumbai, India. His key area of work is in the area of Hydrologic Disaster Management focusing on urban water and flood mitigation strategies. He has been providing continuing support for policy and plan formulation for urban flood disaster management, response and mitigation to the World Bank and Government of India agencies namely the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) and Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA). He has been the Convener and Member of the Core Expert Group for development of "Disaster

Management Guidelines: Management of Urban Flooding" for the National Disaster Management Authority, Government of India, New Delhi. He has served as member of expert committee for mitigating urban flooding for many cities, notably Mumbai, Guwahati and Hyderabad and provided expert opinion to many other cities. He has contributed to the Flood Risk Assessment for the DRMMP- Disaster Risk Reduction Master Plan for Mumbai. He has also served as member of the UNESCO International Working Group on Sustainable Urban Water Strategies, VII IHP (International Hydrological Program). He has been a member of the chapter team for the IPCC "Special Report on the Ocean and Cryosphere in a Changing Climate" (SROCC-AR6) focusing on Sea Level Rise and Implications for Low Lying Islands, Coasts and Communities. Contact: [profkgupta@gmail.com](mailto:profkgupta@gmail.com)



## Social Work Profession Post COVID 19

Dr. Nagmani Rao

Associate Professor (retd), Karve Institute of Social Service, Pune

According to official information the COVID 19 virus entered India in January 2020 with the first cases reported from Kerala when students studying in China returned home following the outbreak there. It took two months for the government of India to recognize this as a pandemic with far reaching consequences. Under the cloak of preventing its spread the government imposed a nationwide lockdown, first as a Janata curfew on March 22<sup>nd</sup> and an official lockdown from March 24<sup>th</sup>, announced abruptly by the Prime Minister during a nationwide speech late evening on March 23<sup>rd</sup>. Citizens were given little time to prepare themselves for a prolonged lockdown and it has had wide-reaching impacts – economically, socially and politically, leaving no-one untouched. However the consequences of COVID and the lockdown have not been the same -- shaped by one's social status and position and defined by one's placement on the economic hierarchy and livelihood and income stability.

What are the implications of the situation created by COVID for the social work profession, in the field of practice as well as training? How has the profession risen to the occasion? Has the profession got the kind of visibility that should have occurred in such a grave situation? What were the challenges faced? What do the discourses amongst educators and practitioners reflect? The current paper seeks to discuss these questions and bring to the fore that the pandemic has exposed the weaknesses of a profession yet to make a visible impact in the public mind and also the potentials that have opened up for social workers to engage at various levels of work through direct engagement, research and public policy advocacy by actively becoming involved in interdisciplinary initiatives and social movement networks that are critically looking at state responses and alternative development paradigms.

**Key Words:** COVID 19; Professional social work; Impacts; Weaknesses; Potentials; Interdisciplinary engagements; Networks; Alternate paradigms

### Biography

**Nagmani Rao** is a feminist activist, researcher and a retired social work educator with multifarious experiences in the fields of gender, community mobilisation, social movements, training and editorial work. As an academic she has experimented with participatory pedagogies, bringing inclusive systems and contributed to curriculum development. She has been a team member in strengthening research and skill laboratories at her Institute. As a trainer she has been a resource person in training fieldworkers, government officials and also educators in academic staff training programmes.



Her research work includes evaluation studies of community interventions and national programmes, functional review of government departments, drought and degenerated agriculture, informal sector women workers, and panchayati raj. Her writings cover papers in peer reviewed journals, popular media and periodicals, monographs, and in edited books. These range a spectrum related to gender issues, health, disabilities, women and natural resources, women migrant workers, social work skill and research training, and field practicum. Her doctoral work looked at women in relation to panchayati raj institutions, also exploring the intersections between class, caste and patriarchy in women's political leadership.

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### IMPORTANT DATES

Virtual Symposium: 10th October 2020 @ 14.00 hrs. IST via ZOOM  
Last date for receiving abstracts and authors short biography: 20th  
October 2020 Intimation of acceptance of Abstracts: 27th October 2020

Symposium Registration Link: <http://forms.gle/TNeMhS1rT7mqChMFA>

Brochure Link: <https://cdn.b-u.ac.in/seminar/2020/webinar/sw2020.pdf>

[https://cutn.ac.in/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/Brochure\\_NVS-III-1\\_for\\_CUTN\\_Web07102020.pdf](https://cutn.ac.in/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/Brochure_NVS-III-1_for_CUTN_Web07102020.pdf)

Connect Via: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/6939337279>

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Lessons from Emerging Economies  
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