

International *Online* Conference

“COVID-19: Emergence and Resurgence of Communicable Diseases from Social Sciences Perspectives”

21-22 July 2020

Organized by

School of Social Sciences & Humanities,
University of Science & Technology,
Meghalaya, India



In collaboration with



भारतीय प्रौद्योगिकी संस्थान गुवाहाटी
INDIAN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY GUWAHATI



Indian Sociological Society



दिल्ली विश्वविद्यालय
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About the Organizer

The University of Science & Technology, Meghalaya (USTM), is the first State Private University on Science & Technology in the entire North East India, sponsored by ERD Foundation, Guwahati. The University has been established under the provisions of the University of Science and Technology, Meghalaya Act (No.6 of 2008) enacted by the Legislative Assembly of Meghalaya and started its first academic session in 2011. The USTM is approved by the UGC, AICTE, NCTE, ERC, Bar Council of India & Pharmacy Council of India. It is in a scenic landscape in Assam-Meghalaya border at Baridua about 85 kms from Shillong & 6 kms from Dispur, and is well connected by road, rail & air. The university is offering UG, PG and PhD programmes under various Schools of studies. The School of Social Sciences & Humanities is one of the first schools and has six disciplines – Sociology, Social Work, Rural Development, Library & Information Science, Political Science and English.

Concept Note

The morbidity, mortality or disease burden, at global level, has transited, mostly from communicable to non-communicable diseases. The major contributing factors to such changes are improvements in our education, economy, and especially the medical science and technology. However, the emergence and resurgence of communicable diseases are still the major concerns in the contemporary risk society or liquid society. In fact, a look into the history of communicable diseases makes it clear that at different times such diseases have shattered the human lives. The emergences of SARS, MERS, Ebola, chikungunya, avian flu, swine flu, Zika and Corona (COVID-19), have challenged our quality of education, science and technology we developed and the way of life we are leading.

Education is undoubtedly the most powerful weapon to combat all evils and diseases. Right from antiquity to present situation, education is playing multiple of direct and indirect roles in promoting health and wellbeing of people across the globe. As education is enhancing overall socioeconomic status of people and nations, we are able to fight or even eradicate diseases, mainly the communicable ones. However, with growing modernity or post-modernity along with individualism and materialistic world views, many threats or risks are being posed on mankind and on all creations at global level. The postulates of Thomas Malthus, Ulrich Beck, Anthony Giddens and others are well explanatory of such natural imbalances and balances we are encountering. A look into the history of epidemics or pandemics, may explain such claims. In Indian society, we also experience improvements in socioeconomic status and general decline in communicable diseases. However, new lifestyles are posing emerging risks of many non-communicable diseases, likewise in countless developed and developing nations. In fact, the major challenge is how to analyse the relationship between socioeconomic development and pandemics of communicable diseases

(including COVID-19) and its control. Probably, the nature of education lesser imbued with moral and ethical values; coupled with global population growth, industrialization, environmental destruction and materialistic lifestyle are responsible for many of such endemics or pandemics. Indian society, being a diverse in its structure is also maintaining diversity in disease stratification and in prevention and treatment, including that of covid-19. It is also pertinent to note the roles of the media, including social media, in portraying the real picture of a pandemic and creating right awareness.

Epidemics and pandemics have troubled the human lives and property from time to time. Though our education, technology and economy have improved considerably, we are unable to sustain such epidemics and pandemics, rather we vulnerable to these yet. The COVID-19 pandemic has uprooted the mighty USA and some European nations. We should behave not only for individual interests but also for the interests of all beings. In a diverse country like India the challenges of equality and equity are much deeper, as we are lacking scientifically and technologically, though we are comparatively better off in terms of social and community life in contrast to western way of life.

In terms of specific suggestions pertaining to the epidemics or pandemics, the roles of the governments and civil society are crucial in its prevention and treatment. There is need for appropriate forms of global or macro governance on key issues to improve systems of prevention, control and treatment. There is also need for greater attention on the infectious disease burden of policy decisions taken in other sectors like trade and investment, large infrastructure projects, migration, agriculture, transportation, communications, etc.

Sub-Themes:

Social Sciences Perspectives and Theories on Health and Illness

Education, Health, Stigma, Demography

Modernization, Post-modernization and Globalization

Emergence and Resurgence of Communicable Diseases

Communicable Diseases in India

COVID-19 – Impacts on society, Disaster Management & Role of Media

Political Economy and Policy Implications

Important Dates:

Abstract submission: up to 25th June 2020.

Acceptance of papers: 30th June 2020

Full paper submission: up to 1st July 2020

Last Date for Registration: 2nd July 2020

Guidelines for Abstract and Full paper: All the Abstracts should be within 500 words, along with 5 keywords. The full paper should be within 5000 words, using endnotes for references in APA format.

Registration: All paper presenters as well as participants without paper need to register online. No registration fee for paper presenters. E-Certificates will be issued only to the registered paper presenters and participants.

Publications: All the Abstracts will be published in the Conference Proceeding. In addition, selected papers will be published in edited volume/s.

For any queries and information, contact: Baharul Islam Laskar (blaskar69@gmail.com/9401440015).

Registration form

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