



"Ye shall know the truth and the truth shall set you free" John 8:32
Andhra Christian College, Guntur

Andhra Pradesh, India

Re-Accredited with "A" Grade by NAAC

DEPARTMENT OF BOTANY & IQAC

jointly organise

A Two Day International Webinar

on

"Health, Environment & Educational issues of COVID - 19"

15th & 16th June, 2020

Chief Patron



Rev. K. F. Paradesi Babu
Moderator & Bishop, AELC

Principal & Chairperson



Dr. T. Anita Susan
Principal & Correspondent



Meeting ID : 792 712 8894
Password : 3KnY10

Session - I (Date : 15.06.2020; Time : 10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.)



Topic : COVID - 19 Pandemic Health issues

Resource Person :

Dr. Johnson T. Samuel MD, DNB, FRCP, PG Cert (FHEA)
Director of Medical Education,
Mid and South Essex University Hospitals group Consultant
Respiratory Physician Basildon University Hospital,
United Kingdom.
Honorary Clinical Senior Lecturer, University College London.

Session - III (Date : 16.06.2020; Time : 10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.)



Topic : COVID - 19 Pandemic Online Education : MOOCs

Resource Person :

Dr. M. Kamala Kumari M.Tech., Ph.D.
Associate Professor, Dept. of CSC,
Dean, College Development Council,
Adikavi Nannaya University, Rajahmundry, West Godavari Dist.,

Session - II (Date : 15.06.2020; Time : 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.)



Topic : COVID - 19 Pandemic Future Class Room : Google Class Room

Resource Person :

Prof. T. Bala Murali Krishna, M.Tech., Ph.D.
Head of the Department,
CSC, Siset, Nuziveedu, Krishna Dist.,

Session - IV (Date : 16.06.2020; Time : 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.)



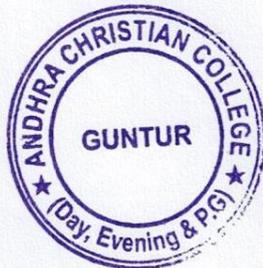
Topic : Environmental impacts of COVID - 19 Lockdown

Resource Person :

Dr. K. E. Mothi Kumar, M.Tech., Ph.D.
Sr. Scientist SG (Env),
Haryana Space Application Centre (HARSAC),
Hissar, Haryana.

Convenors

Dr. K. Moses, Convenor, IQAC & **Dr. V. Ezra Vijaya Sekhar**, HOD, Dept. of Botany



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PRINCIPAL
ANDHRA CHRISTIAN COLLEGE
(Day, Evening & P.G.)
GUNTUR

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Report on the Two-Day International Webinar on Health, Environmental & Educational Issues of COVID-19

Introduction

The COVID-19 pandemic, an unprecedented global crisis, has had far-reaching impacts on health, education, and the environment. Recognizing the need to address these critical issues, the Department of Botany and the Internal Quality Assurance Cell (IQAC) of Andhra Christian College, Guntur, organized a two-day international webinar titled “Health, Environmental & Educational Issues of COVID-19” from June 15th to 16th, 2020. The webinar aimed to provide a platform for experts from various fields to share their knowledge and insights on how the pandemic has affected different sectors and what could be done to mitigate its impacts.

The webinar was held via Zoom, with the Meeting ID 792 712 8894 and Password 3KnYL0. The event was conducted under the esteemed patronage of Most Rev. Dr. K. F. Paradesi Babu, Moderator Bishop of the Andhra Evangelical Lutheran Church (AELC) and Correspondent of Andhra Christian College, Guntur. Dr. T. Anita Susan, the Principal of Andhra Christian College, chaired the event, with Dr. K. Moses, IQAC Coordinator, and Dr. V. Ezra Vijaya Sekhar, Head of the Department of Botany, serving as the conveners.

Objectives of the Webinar

The primary objectives of the webinar were to:

1. Discuss the health challenges posed by COVID-19 and explore strategies for managing them.
2. Examine the impact of the pandemic on education, particularly the shift to online learning platforms.
3. Analyse the environmental consequences of the COVID-19 lockdown and explore sustainable practices for the future.
4. Provide a platform for experts to share their insights and engage in discussions with participants from around the world.

Day 1: 15 – 06 - 2020

Session 1: COVID-19 Pandemic Health Issues

The first session of the webinar was held on June 15th, 2020, from 10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. The session was led by Dr. Johnson T. Samuel, MD, DNB, FRCP, PG Cert. FHEA, a distinguished respiratory physician and Director of Medical Education, Mid and South Essex University Hospitals Group, United Kingdom. Dr. Samuel is also an Honorary Clinical Senior Lecturer at University College, London.

In his presentation, Dr. Samuel provided a comprehensive overview of the health issues associated with the COVID-19 pandemic. He began by discussing the clinical characteristics of the virus, including its transmission mechanisms, symptoms, and progression. Dr. Samuel highlighted the challenges faced by healthcare systems worldwide in responding to the pandemic, particularly in

terms of managing the influx of patients and ensuring the availability of necessary resources such as ventilators and personal protective equipment (PPE).

Dr. Samuel also discussed the long-term health implications of COVID-19, including the potential for lasting respiratory and cardiovascular issues in recovered patients. He emphasized the importance of early detection and intervention in managing the disease, as well as the need for ongoing research to better understand its effects.

One of the key points raised during the session was the need for a coordinated global response to the pandemic. Dr. Samuel stressed the importance of international collaboration in sharing knowledge, resources, and best practices to combat the virus effectively. He also addressed the mental health challenges faced by both healthcare workers and the general population during the pandemic, calling for increased support and resources to address these issues.

Session 2: COVID-19 Pandemic Future Classroom: Google Classroom

The second session, held from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., was led by Prof. T. Bala Murali Krishna, M. Tech., Ph. D., Head of the Department of Computer Science and Engineering, Siset, Nuziveedu, Krishna District. Prof. Krishna's session focused on the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the education sector, with a particular emphasis on the future of classrooms and the role of digital learning platforms like Google Classroom.

Prof. Krishna began by discussing the abrupt shift from traditional classroom-based learning to online education due to the pandemic. He highlighted the challenges faced by educators and students alike in adapting to this new mode of learning, including issues related to digital literacy, access to technology, and the effectiveness of online teaching methods.

The session provided an in-depth analysis of Google Classroom, a widely used online learning platform. Prof. Krishna demonstrated how educators can use the platform to create and manage courses, distribute assignments, and communicate with students. He also discussed the advantages of using Google Classroom, such as its user-friendly interface, integration with other Google tools, and the ability to track student progress.

However, Prof. Krishna also addressed the limitations of online learning, particularly in terms of student engagement and the lack of hands-on experiences that are crucial in certain fields of study. He emphasized the need for educators to develop innovative teaching strategies that can overcome these challenges and make online learning more effective.

Prof. Krishna concluded the session by discussing the potential long-term impacts of the pandemic on education. He suggested that while online learning is likely to remain a key component of education in the future, it should complement rather than replace traditional classroom-based learning. He also called for greater investment in digital infrastructure and training for educators to ensure that they are equipped to deliver high-quality online education.

Day 2: 16 – 06 - 2020

Session 3: COVID-19 Pandemic Online Education: MOOCs

The third session of the webinar, held on June 16th, 2020, from 10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m., was led by Dr. M. Kamala Kumari, M. Tech., Ph. D., Associate Professor in the Department of Computer Science and Engineering and Dean of the College Development Council, Adikavi Nannaya University, Rajahmundry, West Godavari District. Dr. Kamala Kumari's session focused on the role of Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs) in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic.

She began by explaining what MOOCs are and how they have evolved over the past decade. She highlighted the key features of MOOCs, such as their accessibility, flexibility, and the wide range of subjects they cover. Dr. Kamala emphasized that MOOCs have become an essential tool for continuing education during the pandemic, allowing learners to access high-quality educational content from top universities and institutions around the world.

The session also explored the challenges associated with MOOCs, including issues related to course completion rates, the lack of personalized feedback, and the potential for disparities in access to technology. She discussed strategies for overcoming these challenges, such as incorporating interactive elements into courses, providing additional support to learners, and leveraging data analytics to track student progress and identify areas where they may need additional help.

She also addressed the broader implications of MOOCs for the future of education. She suggested that MOOCs could play a significant role in democratizing education by making it more accessible to learners from diverse backgrounds. However, she also cautioned that MOOCs should not be seen as a one-size-fits-all solution, and that they should be integrated into a broader educational framework that includes other forms of learning.

The session concluded with a discussion on the potential for MOOCs to complement traditional higher education. Dr. Kamala argued that MOOCs could be used to supplement in-person learning, providing students with additional resources and opportunities to explore subjects in greater depth. She also suggested that institutions should consider offering credit for completed MOOCs as a way to enhance their educational offerings and attract a wider range of students.

Session 4: Environmental Impacts of COVID-19 Lockdown

The final session of the webinar, held from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. on June 16th, 2020, was led by Dr. K. E. Mothi Kumar, M. Tech., Ph. D., Senior Scientist, SG (Env.), Haryana Space Application Centre (HARSAC), Hisar, Haryana. Dr. Kumar's session focused on the environmental impacts of the COVID-19 lockdown.

He began by discussing the significant environmental changes observed during the lockdown, such as reductions in air and water pollution, decreased greenhouse gas emissions, and the resurgence of wildlife in certain areas. He presented data from various studies that showed how the lockdown had led to a temporary but noticeable improvement in environmental quality.

However, Dr. Mothi Kumar also highlighted the potential negative impacts of the lockdown on the environment. He pointed out that the increased use of disposable personal protective equipment (PPE) and the surge in medical waste had led to new environmental challenges. Additionally, he raised concerns about the long-term sustainability of the environmental gains made during the lockdown, noting that they could be reversed as economies reopen and activities resume.

The session also explored the lessons that could be learned from the environmental impacts of the COVID-19 lockdown. He argued that the pandemic had provided a unique opportunity to rethink our approach to environmental management and to consider more sustainable practices. He called for a greater emphasis on reducing pollution, conserving natural resources, and promoting green technologies in the post-pandemic world.

Dr. Mothi Kumar concluded his presentation by discussing the role of remote sensing and geospatial technologies in monitoring environmental changes during the pandemic. He demonstrated how these technologies could be used to track pollution levels, assess the impact of human activities on ecosystems, and inform policy decisions aimed at promoting environmental sustainability.

Conclusion

The two-day international webinar on “Health, Environmental & Educational Issues of COVID-19” organized by Andhra Christian College, Guntur, was a resounding success. The event brought together experts from various fields to discuss the multifaceted challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic and to explore strategies for addressing them. The webinar provided valuable insights into the health, environmental, and educational impacts of the pandemic, and offered participants a platform to engage in meaningful discussions on these critical issues.

The sessions highlighted the importance of a coordinated and multidisciplinary approach to managing the pandemic’s effects. The insights shared by the resource persons underscored the need for continued research, innovation, and collaboration in responding to the ongoing crisis. The webinar also emphasized the importance of learning from the pandemic and using these lessons to build a more resilient and sustainable future.

Overall, the webinar was well-received by participants, who appreciated the depth of knowledge and expertise shared by the speakers. The event not only enhanced the understanding of the issues related to COVID-19 but also provided practical guidance on how to navigate the challenges posed by the pandemic. The Department of Botany and IQAC of Andhra Christian College, Guntur, should be commended for organizing such a timely and impactful event, which has made a significant contribution to the ongoing global conversation on COVID-19.