

National

Webinar Summary Report:

The Post Covid Issues & Challenges

July 1, 2020, Time 10 AM to 1 PM

Department of Social Sciences,
MVN JS & RVR College of Arts and Science,
Malkipuram – EG Dt.

Acknowledgements :

“The Post Covid Issues & Challenges” a national webinar held on July 1, 2020 was organized by the department of Social Sciences in association with IQAC of MVN JS & RVR College of Arts and Science, Malkipuram of East Godavari District of Andhra Pradesh. The organizers would like to thank Dr. B. Srinivasu, Associated Professor, Department of Economics, Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi and Sri M. Mahesh, Faculty of Economics, Sri Chaitanya IAS Academy, Hyderabad for their presentations. Introductions and conclusion were provided by Dr. V. Nageswara Rao, Asst. Professor in Economics, Govt. Arts College, Rajamahendravaram and Smt. Ratna Mary, Asst. Professor in Economics, Ch.S.D. St. Theresa College, Eluru.

About the Webinar

Today's emerging and continual response to the rapidly growing COVID – 19 is creating new ways of doing business. Many are focused on prevention of the spread, while others consider the “what if” and recovery. In this webinar you will hear from a few experts who are executing business continuity plans.

Who Can Attend

Academicians, Research Scholars and Students from all Higher Educational Institutions across the country.

Objectives of the Webinar

- Learn current challenges and solutions from insiders charged with managing their company's response to COVID – 19.
- Discover that leaders would do differently based on their experiences dealing with COVID – 19.
- Determine who is essential to be on-site and who may be better off working remotely.

Introduction

The department of Social Sciences of MVN JS & RVR College, Malkipuram organized a webinar to present selected knowledge products developed by prominent academicians from various reputed institutions across the country to the wider pedagogical peers' network and the interested public. The objective of the webinar served both to disseminate the products and to receive feedback and gather inputs on activities and improvements for future work purpose.

The webinar – “The Post Covid Issues and Challenges” – was held on 1 July 2020, 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM Indian Standard Time (IST). The contents of the webinar were based on the views and research output by the resource persons.

The webinar was attended by 138 participants plus three hosts/presenters across the country. The appendix provides an overview of the geographical and organizational background and the expectations of the participants. The webinar was structured in three presentations, each followed by Q&A; a panel discussion with the presenters; and a chat-based feedback collection from the This report presents a summary of the presentations and evaluates the

discussions and feedback from participants collected through Q&A on the presentations, the panel discussion and chat boxes dedicated to specific questions around the topic of Climate-Smart Agriculture (CSA) and the contents of the webinar participants.

This report presents a summary of the presentations and evaluates the discussions and feedback from participants collected through Q&A on the presentations and the contents of the webinar.

Presentations

1. Keynote Address presented by Dr. V. Nageswara Rao,
Asst. Professor in Economics, Government Arts College (A), Rajamahendravaram
The COVID – 19 Issues and Challenges with special reference to Indian economy. He touched every sector and the negative impact of COVID – 19 and the remedies to overcome.

2. "Impact of COVID – 19 Lockdown on Indian Economy – Challenges Ahead"
Dr. B. Srinivasu,
Associate Professor, Department of Economics,
Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi.

With an increasing number of coronavirus cases, the government has locked down transport services, closed all public and private offices, factories and restricted mobilization. Based on recent studies, some economists have said that there is a job loss of 40 million people (MRD report) in the country, mostly in the unorganized sectors.

As we have already acknowledged that India is a developing economy, it is stated as an economy passing through demand depression and high unemployment, with 21-day lockdown announced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on March 23, 2020, it would slowdown the supply-side, accelerating the slowdown further and jeopardising the economic wellbeing of millions.

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In this scenario, they are predicting that India would go into recession affecting the unorganized sector and semi-skilled jobholders losing their employment. It may also likely surface that at this time of eroding trust within and between countries – with national leadership under pressure from growing societal unrest and economic confrontations between major powers if we refer to the times of Ebola crisis in Africa.

The labour sector under the MGNREGA, 2005 are worst impacted as they are not provided jobs due to lockdown, most of the labour sectors are associated with the construction companies and daily wage earners. Travel restrictions and quarantines affecting hundreds of millions of people have left Indian factories short of labour and parts, just-in-time supply chains and triggering sales warnings across technology, automotive, consumer goods, pharmaceutical and other industries.

If we refer to the recent measures announced by the government and the RBI to mitigate the impact of the pandemic, as said by the RBI governor, these are only for short term and may not deliver the desired results as the problem is severe and has been further aggravated by the lockdown.

The quarterly GDP growth has consistently fallen since Q4 of FY18. If there is a deviation in Q4 of FY19, as shown in the graph below, it is because the National Statistical Office (NSO) revised its data on February 28, 2020, drastically cutting down growth rates in the first three-quarters of FY19 (from 8% to 7.1% for Quarter 1; from 7% to 6.2% in Quarter 2 and 6.6% to 5.6% in Quarter 3).

Referring to the recent happenings and data, the unorganised sector excluding this likely to suffer a great downfall in the coming days as the job generation is going down in an alarming rate with the prolonged lockdown and weak GDP.

With the commencement of 2020-21 financial year the effects of coronavirus have affected the stability of the economy of 150 countries - jeopardising their lifestyle, economy, impacting business and assumption of common wellbeing which we had taken for granted. The lockdown has adversely have affected service sector like banks, restaurants, food vendors, and food delivery providers at par with providing health safety and medical sustenance, we should also have to think about the health of the sickening economy by mobilizing the resources and make plans of job creation and job continuity.

The key notable points are:

Daily essentials categories are massive 200% hike in searches driven by hygiene and healthcare needs.

Lifestyle categories sales witnessed a drop between 15% to 30% with an increase in consumer price sensitivity.

Purchase growth skewed to family vs individual purchases.

Increase in searches skewed to brand agnostics.

Above points stated mostly the negative impact of the lockdown, but we would miss out something if we do not acknowledge the growth of digital infused technological gain. With the advent of the lockdown most of the sector shifted their functioning online the MNC are utilizing their work from home option to carry on an uninterrupted working.

While these trends were already in the baby steps, they were forced to hit the fast-forward button. The digital world got such a push that the small retail sectors like the Bricks and Mortar stores are also using apps like Pay TM and other digital channels. The education sector is now completely based on the digital platforms the colleges and universities are conducting their routine classes being in the comfort of their home with various online platforms such as Google classrooms, zoom, etc. they are also introducing new software to their curriculums such as digital campus where the students can access their college library, fee payments, online exams etc. This present crisis has highlighted the importance of investing in technologies like cloud data and cyber security, self-service capabilities, and e-governance.

"Now we face a generational catastrophe that could waste untold human potential, undermine decades of progress, and exacerbate entrenched inequalities," said Guterres as he launched a UN "Save our Future" campaign.

"Once local transmission of Covid-19 is under control, getting students back into schools and learning institutions as safely as possible must be a top priority," he said. "Consultation with parents, carers, teachers and young people is fundamental."

Educationist and former University Grants Commission (UGC) member Dr Inder Mohan Kapahy said: "Covid-19 pandemic has caused an unprecedented existential crisis in the whole world, particularly in the developing nations. In India alone, a minimum of 30 million school students are adversely affected. In poorer countries, schools provide not only education but also nutrients, food and life skills. A conservative estimate is that disruption in school education may continue for at least four months more."

According to a global projection covering 180 countries by the UN education agency UNESCO and partner organisations, some 23.8 million additional children and youths from pre-primary school to university level are at risk of dropping out or not having access to school next year due to the pandemic's economic impact.

According to the policy briefing, "the unparalleled education disruption" from the pandemic is far from over and as many as 100 countries have not yet announced a date for schools to reopen.

There is no doubt this is one of the greatest human crises that has taken place. And its largest impact has been felt on children — regular students, more so children in rural areas across the world because they have absolutely no access to education. So there is no doubt an entire aspect of learning that will be affected by the pandemic because there are these ages of learning that will face a gap at different levels because of the pandemic, whether it is the foundation, primary, middle level or another level."

"We need to start working as a community to create a mesh network of the internet to make it available to the poor. There should be measures to raise funds for digital devices and internet connection to enable children from poor families to continue learning at their homes. The continuity should not break because once students step out of learning; coming back is very difficult. The relationship between students and schools should be continued".

Feedback collection

Further to the Q&A sessions after presentations, feedback from the participants was collected at the end of the webinar through chat boxes asking the following questions:

- What stands out for you from the knowledge shared today?
- What has surprised you today?

- As we look forward to planning the next year, what do we need to do more of?
- As we look forward to planning the next year, what do we need to do less of?
- Synthesising everything you learned today, what is the key message you would like to send to the department of social sciences of our college?
- What other comments or questions would you like to share?

Evaluation of discussion and feedback

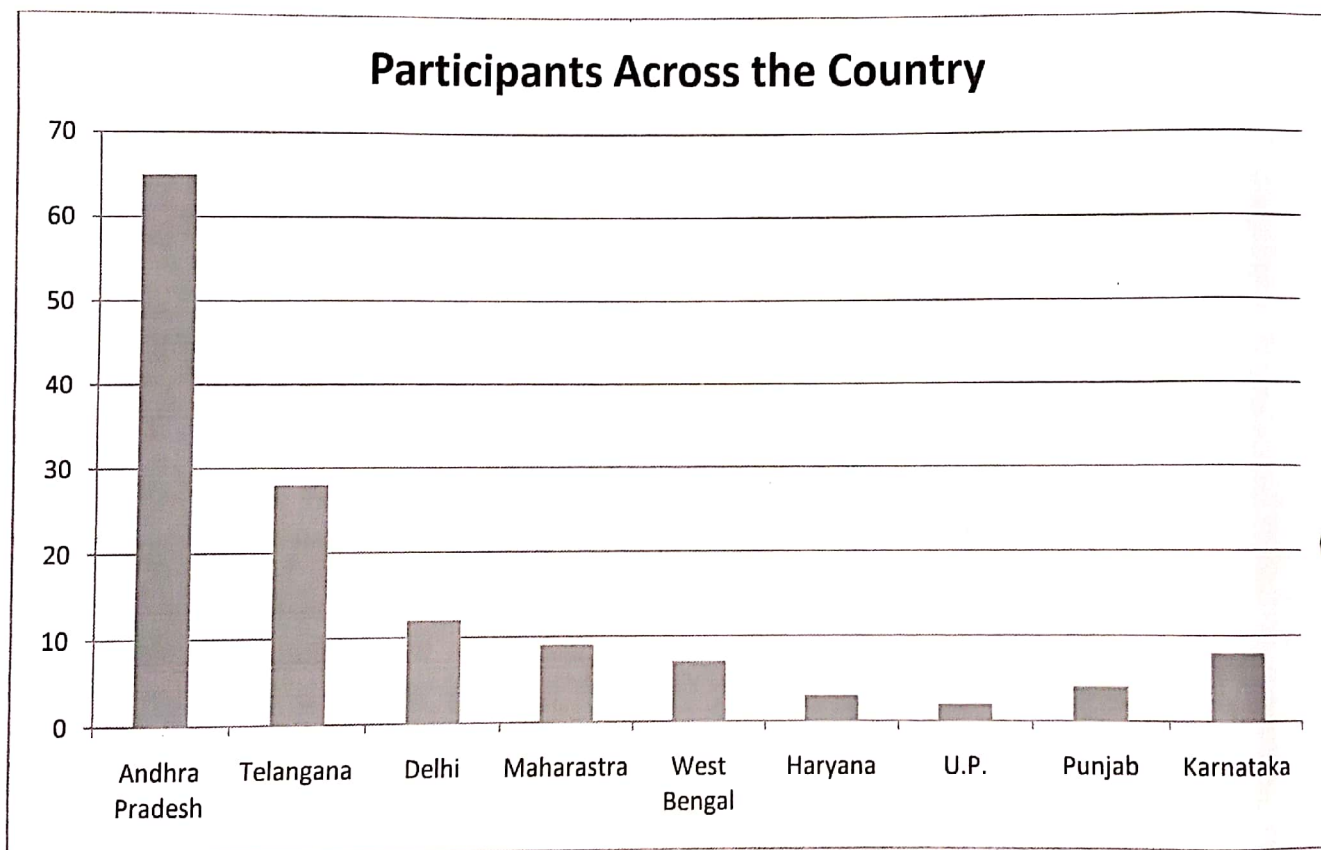
Generally, participants received the webinar positively and appreciated the practical examples provided by the presentations. Summarized below are the most recurrent and pertinent comments and from the Q&A, and feedback collection.

Webinar participants – profile

Number, geographical and organizational background of participant

Total number of participants: 138

Of whom hosts/presenters : 03



Convener

IQAC Coordinator

Principal