

HABITUS '21

DEPARTMENT OF SCIOLOGY, KAMALA NEHRU COLLEGE

Covid-19 and Structural Inequalities

2020-2021 EDITION

COVER ILLUSTRATION BY JEKULIN



THEME

The declaration of the Covid-19 as a global pandemic by the WHO has set in motion a shift in the regularity of day to day life, and at large, a change in the societal sphere. Although, the virus have had a profound impact on every walking motion, the social impact of Coronavirus has drawn the interest of researcher's and practitioner of social sciences, particularly Sociologists, at large. More than anything, the pre-existing structural inequalities and the insurmountable gap between the classes have surfaced; enough to be seen and noticed by everyone, with the new practices that accompanied the pandemic. A variegated impact of the virus on individuals, families, communities and social institutions in the backdrop of social inequalities, can be better articulated by Sociologists. Covid-19 has unsettled everyday practices of governance, economy and scientific expertise. Moreover, a critical analysis is required on the manufactured narrative of political institutions and media over the Covid-19 crisis and the widening gap between the societal groups, which seems to be validated by the ongoing practices. Alongside, the availability and inclusion of all sections- the truth, reality and constructed reports of it is also a matter for discussion.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL




COVID-19 pandemic has been prognosticated in the report 'World at risk' by the Global Preparedness Monitoring Board of WHO. Globally we have already experienced an outbreak of viruses H1N1 influenza, Ebola but international pandemic preparedness and the response has been discouraging. COVID-19 has challenged our conventional priority over security through militarization to overcome 'Risk'.

It is imperative to prepare and respond at all levels –community, government, global to overcome pandemic. For the reduction of the risk, it's significant that different sectors such as health, labor, education, social welfare, public distribution work in tandem. It's paramount to remain positive as an individual and community, learn from the current crisis, and utilize our resources more altruistically with awareness toward our eco-system.

Risk reduction strategies against the pandemic have introduced new norms for personal and public hygiene which are going to stay for long. Suddenly people are more inclined towards a healthy lifestyle because of increased risk to people suffering from obesity, diabetes, lung, and heart disease. Pandemic has surely brought in the public forum the necessity for a healthy lifestyle and protocol for immunity.

I appreciate this edition of Habitus for highlighting the impact of COVID-19. My best wishes to the faculty and students of the department to grow and blossom.

I wish them all success.



DR. Kalpana Bhakuni
Principal

MESSAGE FROM THE TEACHER-IN-CHARGE



The Covid-19 pandemic has no doubt created an unprecedented crisis that has further aggravated structures on inequality. The pandemic is not only a health and sanitary crisis. It is also a social and political crisis, and should be treated as a moment of rupture that will bring major change in our lives, our societies and our world across the globe. Amidst the rapidly growing impact of the pandemic, many hidden realities of our everyday lives have become apparent. Living amidst a crises so grave forces one to think and several questions come to our mind. What will the 'new normal' be like? What behavioural changes need to be made to contain the spread of virus? Why are people behaving irrationally? Why are patients running away from hospitals? "Are we all in the same boat?" "Are we really all in the same side?" Or would it be more appropriate to state, "we are all in the same storm but not in the same boat". For the ability to isolate, work from home, home-school your children, stockpile your shelves, access healthcare, and financially (and psychologically) put your life back together after the pandemic is class, gender, race, age, and geography dependent.

Answering these questions has put social science back to the centre stage. Sociology comes in handy for better understanding of the urgent challenges we face in times of pandemic, gather successful experiences, warn on threats and think about the world that will emerge out of this global crisis. The current issue of Sociology department newsletter, *Habitus*, makes an attempt to answer most of the question from a sociological perspective. Through articles, poems and snapshot, students have captured the structures of society impacted by the pandemic.

I take this opportunity to thank our Principal Dr. Kalpana Bhakuni whose constant support and motivation has gone a long way in taking out the publication. I also thank the editorial team and contributors for their hard work and support in making the newsletter a success. The publication of the newsletter is just a way to encourage and engage students in capturing the social reality through reading and writing. Lastly, I hope all of you relish the issue and wish all the readers happy reading.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Archana Prasad".

Dr. Archana Prasad
Teacher-In-Charge

MESSAGE FROM THE EDITOR (FACULTY)



The declaration of the Covid-19 as a global pandemic by the WHO has set in motion a shift in the regularity of day-to-day life, and at large, a change in the societal sphere. Although the virus had a profound impact on every walking motion, the social impact of Coronavirus has drawn the interest of researchers and practitioners of social sciences. The Pandemic has unsettled everyday practices of governance, economy, and scientific expertise. Moreover, the variegated impact of the pandemic on individuals, families, communities, and social institutions in the backdrop of social inequalities, requires sociological conceptualization.

This year's newsletter *Habitus* from the Department of Sociology shares the above concern and invited students to reflect on how the pandemic negotiated with social inequality, excluded and marginal's. Moreover, a critical interrogation is imperative on the manufactured narrative of political institutions and media over the Covid-19 crisis and the widening gap between the societal groups, which seems to be validated by the ongoing practices. Alongside, the availability and inclusion of all sections- the truth, reality and constructed reports of it is also a matter for discussion. Given the complexity of the issue and inter-sectionality of themes related to the pandemic, it is pertinent to welcome the perspective.

The overwhelming contribution from students gives me immense satisfaction, demonstrating our department's academic productivity. It's imperative that young students should be eager to understand new challenges occupying academic fraternity.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Pran Veer Singh".

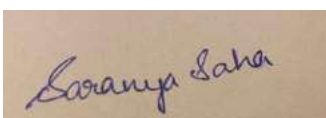
Dr. Pran Veer Singh
Editor(Faculty)

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT, SOCIOLOGY ASSOCIATION



Just as a child is special and very close to the mother, in the same way, 'Habitus' is that special child to the Department of Sociology. It is a platform inviting students to pen their thoughts about the chosen topic thus encouraging their flair for editorial work and giving them an opportunity to work for a real-time magazine. For the current session, the topic which was chosen was, 'Covid-19 and Structural Inequalities'. As the impact of Covid-19 has been normalized in today's day-to-day lives, the virus has a profound impact on every walking motion, the social impact of the virus has been able to draw the attention of the researchers and social practitioners.

It has been a long journey from the day the topic was decided to the day the magazine has been assembled together by the whole team with constant assistance from our professors. Thus having the magazine printed finally is a feeling which one might not be able to express altogether. There have been days of constant hard work, loads of hustle-bustle virtually, numerous meetings alongside rebuttal but at the end what matters is that it has been a fruitful journey- a journey which we all would embark upon with happiness, joy, and satisfaction.



Saranya Saha
President

FROM THE DESK OF THE STUDENT EDITOR



“So one day we get the news that college was going to close for 21 days, and that was the beginning of everything- students took the biggest fall that there was, in the lockdown, and at large, the pandemic”.

I've been part of the editorial team from the first month of the beginning of my college life- the events, works, procedure, all that goes into the making of the Habitus is part and parcel of what constituted “normal” for me. Shifting everything to the virtual mode came as a challenge that none of us were prepared to tackle. The Habitus is the department's brainchild- held very dearly by everyone, for it is our platform to let our creativity flow free, to let the inner sociologists speak for others to listen. We could not let the challenges derail us from bringing these opportunities. And we didn't; we adapted, hustled, pushed each other to the brink, and finally, after months of toiling put together this year's edition of Habitus. To finally see the product of all the hard work come to life is a feeling that words fail to express.

Being home to budding sociologists, it was only fitting for the department to get together and work on the topic which is here to stay- through its impacts and repercussions, and relevance for the social order, COVID-19. The news that circled around; the changes, and in-depth studies of the varied impacts pushed us to try and study the pandemic, through the lens of the impending structural inequalities. The theme for this session COVID-19 and the Structural Inequalities is significantly important for the discipline and for the better understanding of the long-term impacts that the coronavirus has set in motion.

The never-ending guidance of our Professors, the enthusiasm of our peers, that shows in the overwhelming numbers of contributions, and the sheer support of everyone in the editorial team- this edition goes to all of them, for being there every step of the way. It has been an enlightening journey, one that will walk with us throughout as experience.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to read 'Jekulin Thakuria', written over a horizontal line.

Jekulin Thakuria
Editor (Student)

FROM THE DESK OF THE STUDENT EDITOR



The declaration of Covid-19 as a pandemic undoubtedly created chaos, disheveling set social structures, and further shed light on the ever-widening gap between the haves and have-nots. In the past year, the world around us has seen changes that have been gigantic in nature, be it hygiene standards, a renewed focus on a healthy lifestyle to the concept of staycations and work from home, leading to the creation of various new norms and whole new reality drawing the attention of researchers and academicians from all walks of life. The effect of the pandemic on countries, governments, and people has been a constant source of research for people and sociologists are no different. Being from a sociological background, it seemed only right that the theme for this year's Habitus should be 'Covid-19 and Structural Inequalities.' The theme has been decided with the hope that we are able to shed light on the after-effects of coronavirus and how it has altered the DNA of the society as well as reinforced, perhaps more stringently the system that promotes structural inequalities.

I am indebted to the entire editorial team for making the magazine happen, to my Professors for their undying support and guidance, and finally, to the people who have contributed to the magazine, this one is for you. It has been an absolute honour to be a part of the behind-the-scenes for Habitus'21 and I hope the readers enjoy this as much as we enjoyed making it.

Samikhya Satpathy
Editor (Student)

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LIMITED ACCESS

Jaya Nigam

The "Covid-19" pandemic has had a staggering effect on human misery and tragedy. It has thrown light on the fact that -"Economy is a part of the society, but society is not a part of the economy". While markets and businesses have an irreplaceable role in society, even more, fundamental are the public goods and public systems-food, shelter, safety, and basic social security. Human well-being matters in all its dimensions equally. The covid pandemic has once again highlighted the importance of access to sufficient quantities of safe water and sanitation in public health. This pandemic revealed the fact that our government across the world has tended to ignore, and sometimes even punish the poor and marginalized communities. The public policies have attended to serve only the most privileged members of the society.

Limiting access to health care, enabling crowded and unsanitary housing conditions is unjust and it has made vulnerable citizens more susceptible to getting and dying from Covid-19. And all these jeopardizes our social and economic systems, as the world relies on these individuals to do essential work, stocking our groceries, farming, and processing our food, not to mention working in our hospitals.

The pandemic has even exposed how the public policies that seem the most objective maintain and reinforces inequalities. In this short article, I focused mainly on how the pandemic casts innovation policies-designed to encourage scientific research and technological development for the public goods -in a new problematic light. Some might assume that such policies might be immune but this is not the real truth. The government is peculiarly fitted to perform certain functions, such as the coordination and support of broad programs on problems of great national importance. It needs to innovate such policies which serve the citizens equally and all the inequalities must have vanished from our society.

Due to this pandemic, not only financial loss is happened, but the warmth has also disappeared. The glitter, excitement, and enthusiasm for celebration seem to have been subdued and mixed up with monochrome tones as the celebration is submerged in isolation. The colors and brightness were replaced by isolation with the empty streets resonating with survival crisis, keeping people indoors. Especially I feel an emotional emptiness hovering over when I missed out on my college visit and freshers party. I m sure most other college students also facing the lockdown in India these days have a similar experience of battling boredom and frustration on the one hand and keeping up hope and positivity on the other hand. The ongoing pandemic has taken off the excitement of being a new college student the most as the experience of the very first day on campus, joining exciting societies, and further enjoyment of college festivities. On top of an enormous loss of human lives, the pandemic passed many people's progress on long plotted family and career goals. So finally I'm hoping for the best in the upcoming future after all these upheavals that we had faced and I wish all the things are going to be good as soon as possible and we again started a fresh and new life with our loved ones and do celebration togetherly.

INEQUALITY PANDEMIC

Saiyana Kapoor

Inequalities are there all over the world, where some groups have benefits which other groups lag. Inequalities can be seen between rich-poor, urban-rural, male-female, etc. The COVID-19 Pandemic has only made these inequalities worse. The pandemic has exacerbated the gap between rich and poor making it impossible for the poor to make it through this pandemic. Low-income groups are more exposed to the effects of the pandemic be it economically, physically, or emotionally. They are more exposed to health risks and have a constant fear of losing their jobs in the pandemic. For the high-income groups, employment is not related to health i.e they can still have health benefits even if they have to stop their jobs for time being. There has also been a trend of 'work from home' which has helped a lot of people to sustain their jobs however, this is basically of no use for the low-income workers because the physical jobs they do cannot be managed from home. From the past few decades, the use of technology has been increasing and thus decreasing manual work, This pandemic is strengthening the idea towards such practices and causing loss of jobs for people whose lives function on the income generated by these manual jobs. There is also a direct link between jobs and health risks for the workers. Some may stay at home, taking precautions but will ultimately lose their jobs, others may go out to do their jobs but at the risk of their health. These people live in densely populated areas where the spread of covid-19 is more, thus making it more dangerous for the people. If we talk about the health sector, even after promising free testing and care for all, there have been many cases that show how factors like 'income' and 'status' played a role in achieving these health benefits. While the lower-income groups suffered and waited for them to get treated, the others either admitted themselves into private hospitals or 'bribed' the hospitals to get treated first. These issues have depressed the lower-income groups and stoked social discontent. For them, there is no option but to be detrimented by the pandemic.

Even after the pandemic settles, everything will get back to normal for the high-income groups with their jobs and health being intact. For the low-income groups nothing will be the same. They would've lost their jobs, and it would take years to bring themselves on track financially and even emotionally. Whether it is a Pandemic or any other issue, there will always be inequalities that will cause some groups to lose everything and start from scratch. As long as the informal sector is present in our society, there is nothing that can be done to save these workers from such disadvantages. It is important for us to facilitate measures that provide social security to these workers. There is no single solution that will work but a combination of measures that can help fight such situations of inequality. It is important for the government to come forward and provide basic amenities to people during this time, it is the duty of the government to bring back jobs once everything is settled and back to normal.

This pandemic is an eye-opener for us to start identifying the inequalities of the world and work towards reducing them. Not only the people in power, but it is the duty of all of us to come together to fight against these inequalities and have a just and equitable society.

A SOLUTION FOR ALL?

Trishna Thakuria

I have been nagging at my daily life activities for a long time, and I often remember saying, "I need a rest...a long, long, long rest." And I finally got it, as the coronavirus epidemic slowly turned into a pandemic and the world became bound to completely shut down. But after a good deal of rest, I got irritated. Anxiety about the various uncertainties that the bleak future held started haunting me. And I wondered..., will I be able to give the rest of the exams? Will I score a good percentile? Will I get into a good college? After all, getting into a good college was not a piece of cake.

However, the thing is, I was wondering about everything leaning my head back on a pillow, on my bed, munching on some delicious snacks. I was secure and comfortable to a considerable extent.

But that was not the case for everyone. 2020 was not the first year to bring with it the horrors of a pandemic and although the word 'pandemic' itself suggests suffering of the entire world, it cannot be ignored that always there are certain sections of people that take the hardest hit and suffer more than others.

While the authorities gave us clear instructions to stay indoors and protect ourselves from the virus, the livelihoods of people who were completely dependent upon stepping out of the house on a daily basis and searching for means to earn money were hanging on a cliff. While some of us were made aware of the protocols to wear masks, use sanitizers and maintain social distance, there were people in remote areas who couldn't even understand the situation.

I remember seeing many stories on the news. There was an old man who insisted the policemen let him go out and work, claiming that there was nothing to be afraid of as he has never "seen" the virus. There were people who walked miles for days to reach their homes, and unemployed parents crying for having to see their children starve. Many people were stricken with hunger. Although they received temporary material aid from some capable people, they never received empathy. Many took advantage of the poor to make themselves look philanthropic. The conditions of the poor became profitable news items.

The LGBTQ+ community didn't even receive the least attention. Even under normal conditions, they were subject to unemployment problems and physical distancing because of the homophobia that lurks in our country. But the pandemic made their situations worse.

A considerable number of people died from getting infected with the novel virus and these number were included in the stats. But there were also numerous deaths that did not make their way to the official data. These deaths were caused from either severe starvation or suicides caused due to fear and depression.

There is a scene in the movie, Titanic and its oddly memorable for me. As the majestic ship was slowly sinking, Rose's mother asked for a first class seat before getting on the lifeboat. Rose called out on her mother's heartless remark saying, "half of the people on this ship are about to die." To this Hockley, her fiancé reacted immediately by saying, "Not the better half."

There is a hint of the greater reality in this dialogue that cannot be simply ignored. Society is structured and is unequal. The same issue may cause varying degrees of pain and suffering. A problem occurred in 2020 in the form of a pandemic, and the obvious solution to it appeared to be a complete lockdown. But like as we know, people experience pain unequally because of unequal societal structures. Therefore, what could have been the magnitude of possibility for only one solution to be common for all? Felix Frankfurter stated, "It is a wise man who said that there is no greater inequality than the equal treatment of unequal."

It is a fact that we suddenly cannot wipe out these inequalities, especially in a country like India which is still at a developing stage. But how long will we continue to pretend that the poor do not even exist when it comes to finding a solution? How long will the depressed classes pay for the cost of a solution that benefits the privileged?

Fortunately, we are slowly returning to normalcy. However, it is obvious that the world will be confronted with many such challenges with the flow of time. But will the welfare of the depressed, marginalized, poor ever be a priority? That is a question very well known, but left unanswered...



THE FORGOTTEN: THE STRANDED MIGRANT WORKERS

There is no section in our country that remains unaffected by the difficulties caused by the affliction that is COVID- 19, however, it's safe to assume that, the most gravely affected by the crisis are the underprivileged labourers and workers. Their agony, their pain, their ordeal cannot be expressed in words. Who amongst us cannot understand and feel what they and their families are going through.

More than 92.5% of labourers, including daily wage earners, have lost work and are unemployed owing to the lockdown imposed by the country, according to a survey of migrant workers in north and central India. This is despite the labour ministry's plea to owners and contractors not to retrench workers.

Why are the migrant workers so hard hit during a lockdown?

The answer is pretty simple, while many people have lost the jobs, it's the migrant workers that have lost their only livelihood without any fall-back support. They don't have any fixed income, health insurance or savings. They get paid in wages, only if they work, most of them being employed in the informal sector. They are also devoid of sufficient monetary resources to sustain themselves and their families (who are dependent on them) during the unemployment period. Further, they are the only groups who have been displaced from their normal place of residence. Nearly six lakhs migrant labourers are stranded in government camps. They are more vulnerable to coronavirus infection as they have repeatedly failed to observe social distancing due to their special living conditions and full dependence on public transport.

The aforementioned consequences may have the following impact if they aren't monitored and checked by the government and the respective agencies. They might have to draw loans in order to sustain themselves with their home or land they own as collateral. It might push them further into economic insecurity and instability. The education of their children will also be affected, even during the post lockdown period as they might be unable to afford the fees. If left unaddressed, it might put the migrant labour under tremendous mental pressure and strain, leading to a substantial rise in mental health issues in the community. It'll also widen the gap between the rich and the poor, thus leading to increased economic inequality. There are possibilities of increased exploitation in terms of employee compensation in the post lockdown period, when a lot of people will be looking for work in an economy that was already suffering from unemployment.

How did their future become so grim?

When the Indian government announced a lockdown with just a four hours warning, large numbers of migrant workers all over the country were left stranded, with no idea of where to go and what to do. No arrangements had been made for them, whether to transport them back or to house them in shelters. As a result, there were tragic consequences. Panicked migrant workers going to buses and train stations and getting beaten by Police or being sprayed with bleach. Thousands of migrant workers trying to walk back hundreds of kilometers to their villages, with many dying on the way. I guess the decision-makers seemingly forgot about the most vulnerable people while deciding, why? When they could arrange transport for pilgrims and students, why was no thought put in about what would happen to migrant workers? Why is it that only the NRIs were retrieved from affected areas? Is it because they are voiceless and they don't have a pressure group.

Even if they were forgotten about while planning the lockdown, there was still a means to rectify the mistake. Day after lockdown, a relief package was announced by the government for the vulnerable section, which ended up being too little and too late. As soon as the lockdown was announced, this section immediately lost their jobs and because of the sustenance nature of livelihood, they immediately ran out of food and basic necessity. The moment lockdown was announced, all the relief should have been announced simultaneously. The gap between the announcement of lockdown and the announcement of the relief package was enough to create panic in these sections and due to uncertainty, they started taking the extreme step of walking back on foot to their home. And soon the situation got out of control. Because remember, we are not talking about a handful of people, not even thousands, they are millions in number.

There was still a scope of avoiding the unfateful. All the states had enough resources and means to take care of all these workers but they failed to pacify and communicate to them. The situation came to a point that the state government had to announce for hundreds of buses to carry them home in such a condition, losing the very purpose of lockdown. The risk of people dying of hunger became heavier than the outbreak itself.

STRUCTURAL CHANGE DURING THE PANDEMIC

Koishiki Chakma

The current Covid-19 pandemic has wreaked staggering human misery and tragedy. It has been a sharp reminder that the economy is a part of society, society is not part of the economy. Human well-being matters – in all its dimensions equally. The pandemic has been a magnifying glass for all the structural inequities and injustices, which excludes hundreds of millions of our fellow citizens from a life of basic dignity. From access to healthcare and green spaces to work and education, the pandemic has thrown socio-economic inequality.

Significantly, the pandemic has highlighted the impact of socio-economic conditions on health. As the World Health Organization explains, "there is ample evidence that social factors including education, employment status, income level, gender, and ethnicity have a marked influence on how healthy a person is". The different regions faced a distinct set of challenges for pandemic control, including a lack of public infrastructure and access to adequate health care, housing, and sanitation. Issues especially on education system like those with poor internet connections at home, even in countries with high levels of internet access, will find it hard to cope in a new virtual, video-conferencing world.

Illustrating on South Africa, it concerns about the co-option of the COVID-19 pandemic to enact oppressive governance policies are by no means specific to South Africa or sub-Saharan Africa. Political opportunism justified in the name of public health is happening in many countries around the world. The extreme examples of historical pandemic responses in South Africa help to illustrate the stakes of contemporary responses to COVID-19.

Many questions arise today because of the pandemic and the structural inequalities as it's not yet over with the challenge and help to understand in the deepest ways to overcome it.

**THANK YOU
DEAR LOCKDOWN**

Sakhi Talwar

Dear lockdown,

Thank you, Thank you for helping me understand the importance of spending time with myself.

This was a much-needed break from the fast-paced life;

Gave us all a minute to sit back and unwind,

Made us all look at all the good things in life,

Gave us the privilege to explore our own vibe,

The kid in me bloomed once again this time.

It made my heart happy just like the day when my mom for the first time offered me wine.

I am very grateful to you for making me realize what a privilege it is to have a roof Over my head with food on the table and a family so kind.

Thank you for giving me the time to binge-watch FRIENDS yet another time;

Without worrying about any deadline.

The artist in me got the courage to spread her wings and fly

And to paint the world in any color I like.

Thank you for also giving me the time to explore;

To feel a little more, to live a little more.

Yours truly, a girl who finally found her vibe.



THE DIGITAL EDUCATION DIVIDE

Anushka Verma

India has the world's largest educational system after China. Shutting schools to maintain social distancing during the COVID-19 crisis was a laudable decision to prevent community transmission. However, the prolonged shutdown of schools had a disproportionately negative effect mostly on the vulnerable students. The pandemic has not only widened the gap in educational inequality but also the access abated existing disparities.

A total of 320 million learners in India have been adversely affected by the COVID-19 pandemic and had a transition to E-Learning. An NSSO 2014 report highlights that 32 million children were already out of school before the pandemic- as the majority of them belong to the socially disadvantaged class in the country.

The notion of E-Learning

E-Learning depends on the availability and accessibility of technology. In a recent survey of 2017 to 18, the Ministry of Rural Development found that only 47% of Indian households receive more than 12 hours of electricity whereas more than 36% of schools in India operate without electricity. This shows that while students from privileged households can easily bridge the transition from classroom to online learning, the underprivileged students are likely to suffer because of a lack of technological resources and this might put their future into jeopardy. Also, e-Learning does not allow one-to-one discussion and problem-solving. Students are not the only ones struggling, teachers are struggling too. For them, taking online tests becomes really difficult and the same goes for students. Many teachers are also uncomfortable when it comes to using new technologies.

Gender divide

In many households, girls are forced to drop out of school because of increased household responsibilities and the fact that in the same households the education of boys is prioritized and considered more significant. As we step into this new normal, we know that the gendered fabric is a social virus that existed prior to COVID-19 and if not addressed, it will continue posing problems in the future of girl's education.

In order to bridge the rift created by online learning, the Indian education system must emphasize policies that bridge the digital divide.

STRUCTURAL INEQUALITY IN THE PANDEMIC

Adyasha Mishra

Each and every citizen of a country deserves to have a life of dignity. Inequalities and injustices were always present in our society, but the COVID-19 pandemic has presented a wider and broader view of these structural inequalities. It exposes the inequalities in a harsh new light. On March 11, 2020, when the World Health Organization declared COVID-19 as a pandemic, it's true that no one was immune to it. But it is also true that some communities suffered more. It is noticeable that the grievances of the most marginalized sections of society are always ignored. The responsible ones shut their eyes even to the basic needs, they are too concerned about catering to the wants of the privileged sections. It is observable that the cost of the pandemic is paid mostly by the poor people. With the decline in the economy, people from the poorer segments of society are the most vulnerable ones. The economically disadvantaged population are the most exposed to health risks, and with job losses, declines their well-being. The bottom 10% of India's households lost 30 percentage points more of their income than the top 10%. Even individuals with secure, salaried jobs—the cream of India's workforce—saw their income decline by about 12% in 2020.

In this pandemic, while there were some who got the opportunity to spend quality time with their loved ones, there were some who lost their dearest ones. Due to fewer available beds in health care institutions, many families lost their children and other members. While there are people who care more about not being able to party or meet their friends, there are people who cannot even get three proper meals of the day.

With the shut of many small-scale industries, the workers had to migrate back to their village. For them, it is like starting from zero. They had come to the urban cities in order to get better facilities, like better wages, better education, and better livelihood. For the children belonging to financially weaker families, it is difficult to afford things related to online studies and classes. There has been an increase in the number of deaths among the younger population because they can't continue with their studies because of their economic condition. The children from the rural areas especially the girls would have more difficulty in continuing with their studies.

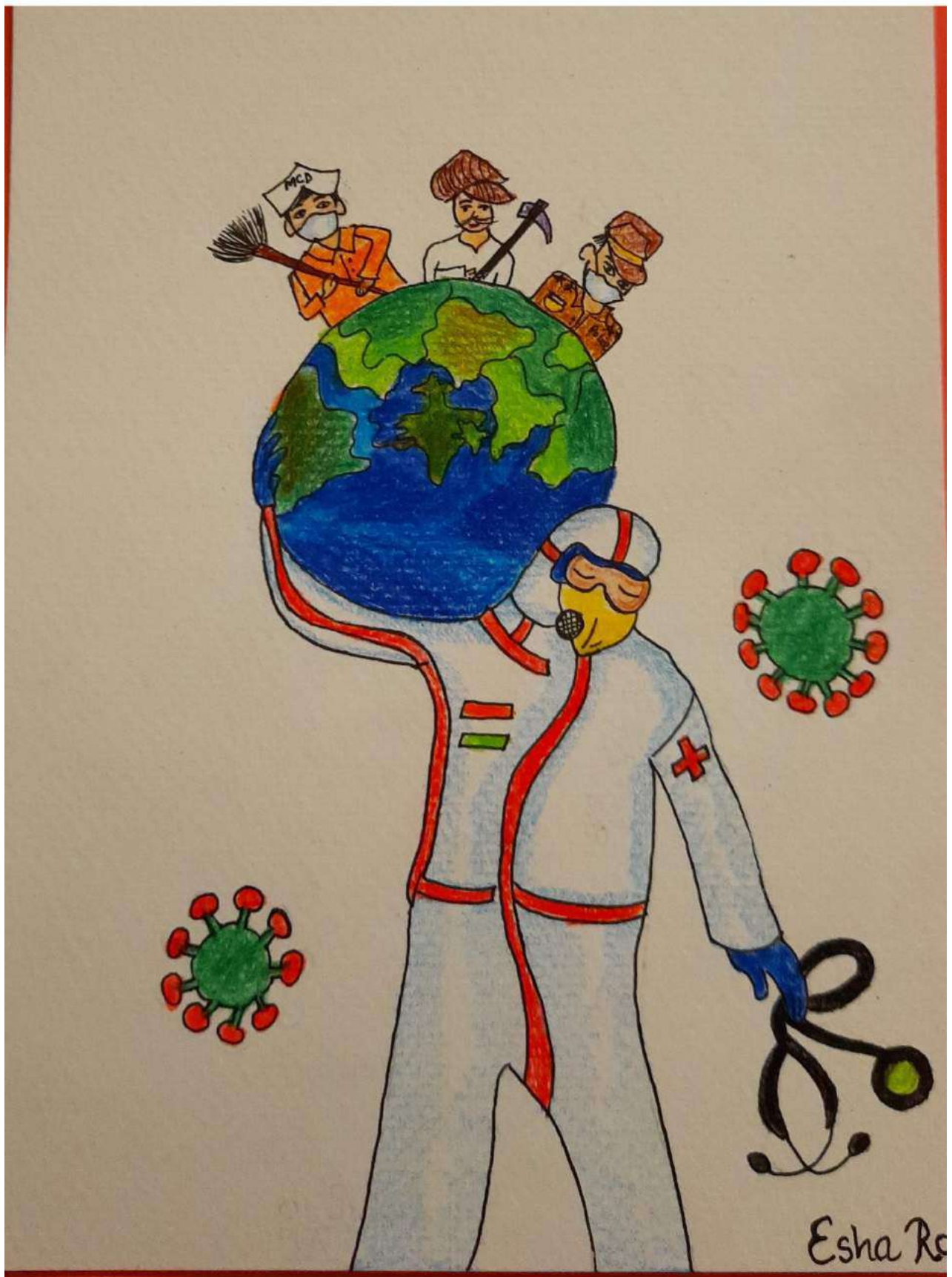
With the lockdown and isolation due to COVID-19, there have been other impacts too. While it is noted that crimes like robberies, murders, assaults in workplaces have reduced, crimes like domestic violence have increased.

The world just stopped one day due to COVID-19. It was like a pause. But it made us realize what all we have been missing. We tend to take things around us for granted, it made us realize their importance. Also, it made us realize that we need to keep working for the betterment of society, to reduce the inequalities around us.

THE MAGNIFYING GLASS

Pooja Tandia

This Coronavirus Pandemic has served as a “magnifying glass” to evaluate ourselves and has made us realize that the term “equality” is still far away from us. We cannot deny the fact that structural inequality still exists not only in our country but all around the world. During this lockdown, we realized that merely some people are there who could manage to fulfill their needs and have access to luxuries. No doubt that lockdown gave us an opportunity to spend some quality time with our family members and to know each other in this busy digital world but this is only one side of the coin. It seems like an irony to me when we say that we are in the digital age and when we see the ground reality. This Pandemic has the worse effect on the marginalized section of our country, poor, daily wage earners, etc. So many people lost their jobs because of this lockdown, so many women lost their kids because of improper nutrition, so many kids stopped going to school, so many people slept hungry at night, so many people suicided because they started feeling depressed and lonely. When we talk about the evolving 21st century, the Digital India program first we should think that how can we provide these services to those people who really need it. We talk about Digital India and so many students died during this lockdown because they don't have access to online studies, so many people are forced to leave the cities and move to their villages, every other day we saw so many people who went to their villages walking barefooted, we saw people doing murder, robbery and other criminal activities for money as they were thrown out of their jobs. We were having meals in our houses carefreely and people were dying in street because of hunger. The exploitation against women, children, and the poorer sections of the society has risen up. In India, around 33,000 cases are registered against domestic violence during the lockdown. And same is the case with other countries also. Many girls will not be able to return to school. Apart from all these, this pandemic has also broken the economic system of every other country. It has pulled the economic system to the starting phase again and now again we have to start thinking about how to tackle poverty, illiteracy, discrimination against women and children, and many such things. This Pandemic has helped us to see that where we actually stand in terms of progress and development. The various kinds of inequalities still persist in our society and we have to fight against them. This Pandemic has exposed the real picture of our society and in actual terms, it has shown that how much development has happened so far and who is the receiver of that. It can be used as a basis for evaluating ourselves and correcting in those places where we are wrong. Pandemic may have pushed people backward but still, the enthusiast to work harder and achieve the desired target has not gone. We will face the problem and will come out with a solution every time!



RACE, CLASS AND STRUCTURAL INEQUALITIES

Sameeha Alam

Our lives immensely changed when a global health emergency was declared by the World Health Organization (WHO) on 30th January 2020 because of the outbreak of Covid-19. This virus was first detected in Wuhan, China. Gradually, the virus spread all over the world. It was also declared a pandemic. In every country, people died in huge numbers as there was no cure for this virus. People are dying now also. Scientists are doing researches to find the cure for this virus. Everything was devastated because of this virus be it the economy or the society. The economy faced a lot of challenges as it was seen on news channels too. The problems faced by society especially the lower class was disregarded. News channels showed their problems but no one focused on this problem. Some people bothered to help them but as this world is full of corruption these people were not able to get their help too. This issue became a concern when people started discriminating against people according to their race and class. We should just think before discriminating against anyone that the same God created us who created the people we are discriminating against.

This pandemic highlighted this issue more prominently. These are also known as “structural inequalities”. It basically means discriminating against people on the basis of race, class, caste, status, etc. The lower-class people really survive with a lot of difficulties in normal scenarios so, in the pandemic, it really became strenuous for them to survive. The middle class and the upper-middle people were able to survive in the pandemic situation, unlike the lower class. These people who were getting affected by the virus were also not getting medical attention as the upper-class people were. The government provided a lot of facilities but these people were not able to access them. The scenario of the government hospitals was deteriorating day by day as India has a problem of overpopulation too. Racial discrimination was also visible during this pandemic. The United States is famous for the discrimination against Blacks over Whites. During this pandemic situation, a protest was initiated on May 6, 2020, because of the police brutalities against the Blacks.

In the United States, Whites have always looked down on Blacks. They always consider the Blacks inferior. During the pandemic, Blacks were also infected by the coronavirus but they were not given proper medical attention. I want to give an example here. My father went to the USA in 2019. When he came back, he told me that he observed that only the Blacks were seen working as a waiter, sweeper, car washer. Racial discrimination is highlighted more dominantly here. Discrimination by any means only divides the people, it does not unite the people. If we want harmony in the world, we should stop discrimination. I would like to conclude with a quote by Eugene Ionesco- “Ideologies separate us. Dreams and anguish bring us together.”

A GLOBAL CRISIS AND EDUCATION IN THE COUNTRY

Arundhati Agomacharyya

Yesterday, I came across an advertisement by Lenovo, which highlights the poor student-teacher ratio in the nation. With the outbreak of a global pandemic, the situation of our education system is only further going down the ruins. Talking about figures, we face a shortage of one million teachers in the country. The solution to this issue, proposed by Lenovo and many other multinational companies is to provide smart technology to reach out to students.

When talking about these fancy smart technology ideas, we often fail to realize that our nation not only lacks a shocking number of teachers but is also poverty-stricken and has a thought process that doesn't put education on the priority list. With a rise in the global pandemic, the country's education system has been trying to make necessary changes from online classes to providing e-resources, but is it really helping? Today, as a student of one of the best universities in the country, I have noticed that people come from extensive and diverse backgrounds. Diverse backgrounds also include diverse economic backgrounds, which brings out the point that not everyone is privileged enough to gain access to online classes and e-resources. Sometimes, it is also about the geographic location where one resides that may restrict their access to the internet. The crux of the matter is that the privilege of sitting back and attending online classes while reading e-materials is not available to many. The mere fact that our university was planning to conduct exams online came as a shock to the entire teaching faculty and students, because of the unavailability of resources to half of the student population. There was an outbreak of cry for help when the university made it compulsory for every student to fill their examination forms online, even though it had been filled offline once. All of these prove that there is a sheer lack of resources amongst many.

This is just the case for one university, not including the schools and other educational institutions in the country. As a country, we already face so many difficulties in terms of education that this pandemic has added to. Drawing from the documentary on Indian education, we learned that even if we keep the monetary issues aside, one of the foremost issues still remains the lack of motivation and support from the family of a student who wishes to get enrolled in a college, as education is not given so much importance. Hence, this ongoing pandemic not only hampers the reach of education to many but also hampers the child's motivation to learn from the materials available to them because they are in an unsupportive environment. We need to understand that the environment plays a huge role in making or breaking a student.

Beyond all these visible difficulties, there are students who go through mental health issues. As one draws from many examples, most of the time these issues stem from the home. The root cause usually lies in the never-ending exposure to the family they live and breathe in. It could also be due to non-exposure to their respective doctors, which affects their cognitive ability to do regular activities, let alone studying and making the most out of their education.

Thus, all these issues that are not being talked about and being addressed silently are hampering the entire education system of the country at this point in the middle of a global pandemic. We should definitely applaud whatever is being done, but does that mean it is solving the grave problem of the rampaging education system? Maybe not!

As we talk about the odds not being on our side this year, we also need to look at a number of competitive exams being canceled given the current scenario. We also need to give a thought to the lakhs of students who take a gap year to prepare for these competitive exams. How do we compensate them for their loss? After all, these are things that need to be tackled by the education system of our country.

Now, these problems need appropriate solutions, and that too really quick as these changing and ever-evolving times need speedy solutions. And, as a student one can only hope for better days.

CORONAVIRUS AND ENDLESS MILES IN PLIGHT

**Chitrangada
Kharbanda**

Living in a nation prominently known for a visible division among economic classes namely the creamy layer, middle class, and the poor class, a pandemic was going to be nothing but the icing on the cake. A national lockdown expectedly widened the gap amongst these classes, especially taking the poor class even lower than they used to be. The story of India's economic growth has showcased this persistent marginalization and exclusion for this class on yet another occasion.

This class of poor majorly constitutes migrant workers. In the current global crisis, due to the rapid spread of the COVID-19 virus, it was clearly evident that these migrant workers in cities were the most vulnerable and worst hit. They had to deal with triple jeopardy: first, grave threat of coronavirus pandemic, second, the heartless neglect of civil society, and finally, the hard and fast disciplinary measures by the state that rendered them unemployed, hungry, and homeless. A lockdown might have created temporary issues for the elite and middle-class in the comfort of their homes, but on the other hand, the government remained a mute spectator to economic deprivation and ostracism faced by the powerless poor.

In an epidemic fatality, the poor are the worst victims. Put yourself in the place of a security guard of a colony or healthcare staff, delivery boys, housemates, sweepers, rag and waste pickers, cleaners, sanitization staff, or any other essential service providers who constantly exposed themselves under a vulnerable environment outside. It is certainly not possible for any of them to be privileged enough to be able to 'work-from-home like any other corporate or middle-class person was allowed to. Most members of this poor class are daily wage workers who were rendered homeless as untouchables in a global pandemic. The majority of India's 470 million workers are designated as informal labor out of which 120 million are rural immigrants who came to the city to escape poverty. Fed up of their helplessness, deciding to return back home, this entire population faced further plight by being forced to walk back home while mercury was at its peak and their stomachs empty. They had no option but to return back to their villages rather than being rotten hungry in the empty city streets.

NGO interventions and government public donations might have helped them reach their homes but still few inferences seem obvious that constitutional directives or legal provisions for security and empowerment of each citizen don't appear to apply to the poor. In such a covid-stricken tragedy the middle class, civil society, and state have neglected any human claims of migrant laborers and forced them to resort to a mass exodus. The middle-class remains distant and powerless. It can only watch the exodus on TV and then wash its hands every 20 minutes to stay corona-free.

CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES AFTER COVID-19

Nandini

The Coronavirus outbreak came to light on December 31, 2019, when China informed the world health organization of a cluster of cases of pneumonia of an unknown cause in Wuhan city in Hubei Province. Subsequently, the disease spread to more provinces in China, and to the rest of the world. On January 9, 2020, the WHO issued a statement saying –'The Chinese researchers have made a 'preliminary determination' of the virus as novel coronavirus. Since then, more than 270k+ deaths are reported worldwide with 3.85 million confirmed cases by May 8. United States, Spain, Italy, and the UK are among the severely hit countries because of this pandemic. Cases have been reported from more than 180 countries including India. Lockdowns, Curfews, massive airport screenings, quarantining, and social distancing have become the norms across the globe.

India, the emerging superpower today is doing its best for the containment of this deadly disease. The first case of the Covid-19 pandemic was reported on 30 January 2020 in India originating from china. As of 8 May 2020, the ministry of health and family welfare confirmed a total of 56,342 cases 16, 254 recoveries, and 1886 deaths in the country. Experts suggest that the number of infections could be much higher as India's testing rate is much low than that of the other countries. Like many nations, India does not have enough kits to test most of its population. the country is instead relying on man's power thousands of health workers are fanning out across the country to trace and quarantine people who might have had contact with those infected already with coronavirus. People are only tested if they have symptoms. Some scientists say that India's mass surveillance approach could achieve a similar goal, and be relevant for other low and middle-income countries facing kit shortages.

Coronavirus and the Crumbling world order:

The COVID-19 pandemic could not have come at a more difficult time. The world already had to contend with an uncertain economic environment, with industries in turn facing newer challenges such as having to adjust to a shift from cost efficiencies to innovation and breakthrough improvements. Added to this were: a global slowdown, increasing political and policy uncertainties, alterations in social behavior, new environmental norms, etc. Newly emerging economies, such as India, were even more affected by all this, than some of the older established ones. a blame game is now started between the affected countries especially that of the US and China that this virus is the result of possible failures of some kind of experiment in the Chinese lab and china along with WHO has shown utter irresponsibilities in warning the countries for the possible disruptions. Otherwise, the situation might not be this worse.

ECONOMIC CHALLENGE:

At one point, India was estimated to be among the 15 most-affected economies by the COVID-19 epidemic, but as the pandemic has raged unchecked, all bets are off. An early estimate by the Asian Development Bank, soon after the epidemic was declared, was that it would cost the Indian economy \$29.9 billion. A recent industry estimate pegs the cost of the lockdown at around \$120 billion or 4% of India's GDP. The Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) had at one point warned that the COVID19 impact, and the existing stress in the financial sector, meant that India would require up to six months even after the entire course of the COVID-19 epidemic is over to restore normalcy and business continuity.

The prognosis as to what lies ahead is indeed bleak. On the economic plane, according to most experts, a global recession seems inevitable. Uncertainty, panic, and lockdown policies are expected to cause demand worldwide to decline in a precipitous way. This will inevitably lead to a vicious downward cycle, where companies close down, resulting in more lay-offs and a further drop in consumption. A precipitous decline in GDP would follow. To compensate for this loss, massive inflows of government funds would be needed, but most governments, India included, might find it difficult to find adequate resources for this purpose. Equally important, if not more so, is that such massive inflows of funds (if they are to be effective) should be here and now, and not later, by which time the situation may well have spiraled out of control.

SOCIAL CHALLENGES:

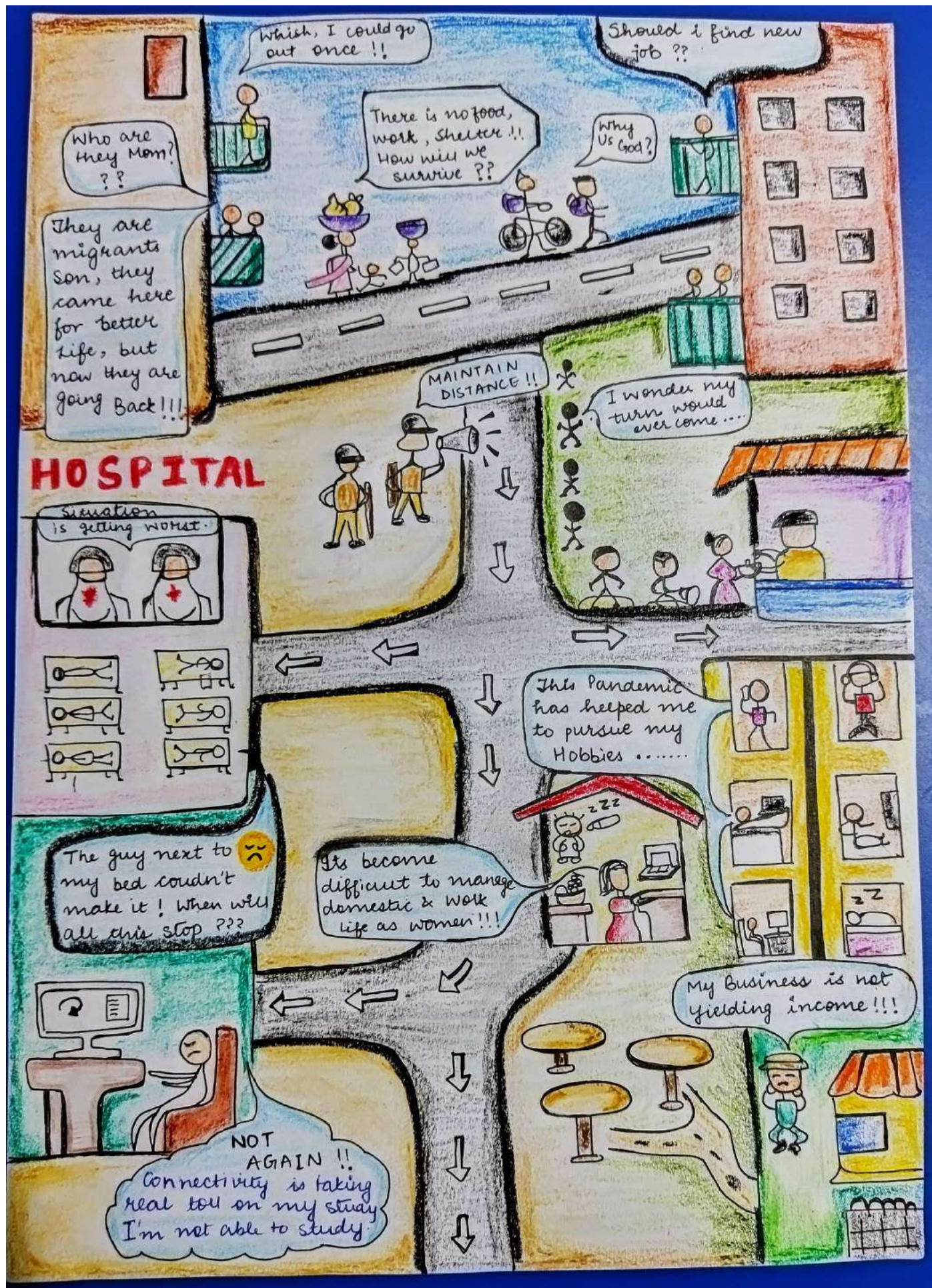
Moving away from the political and economic consequences of COVID-19 are other concerns arising from an extended lockdown, social distancing, and isolation. Psychologists are even talking of an 'epidemic of despair' arising from a fear of unknown causes, resulting in serious anxiety and mental problems. Extended isolation, according to psychologists, can trigger a different kind of pandemic even leading to possible suicidal tendencies, fits of anger, depression, alcoholism, and eccentric behavioral patterns.

Another Fallout from the current epidemic might well be the extent to which inequality in incomes impacts segments of the population, facing a common malaise. Countries lacking a comprehensive national health system would find this an even more difficult situation to handle. Meantime, as the economy weakens, accompanied by job losses, those without high levels of skills would fall further behind. The pandemic has thrown many a govt. and their healthcare system under the bus exploring the glaring disparity between adaptive capacities of different sections of populations. Like the brunt of most disasters falls on the poor this one too. Especially in a country where a large chunk of the population is below the poverty line. The migrant laborers carrying the virus are migrating and most of them left stranded, homeless, and helpless after the lockdown imposed by the national government.

OPENING THE WAY FOR OPPORTUNITIES:

It is said that with challenges come opportunities, and the same can be felt in today's scenario. This pandemic has paved the way for testing the efficiency of the government in dealing with the ongoing crisis and all the intellectual population of our country to bring out innovative solutions for the containment of the ongoing crisis. And we have seen the young entrepreneurs and private organizations along with the government working towards this. The prime minister of our country has also brought many occasions to us where we felt the same. The digitalization of education, as well as work from home strategy, is bringing out the change in the traditional way of thinking. With India emerging as a global leader and supplying essential medicines and other items to neighboring countries is highly commendable. New job opportunities in the medical sector and the growth of the medical sector are the call of the hour for a country that spends only 2% of its GDP in the health sector. And the fact that India's disease surveillance system needs a reboot is indicating the fields in which India needs to work further. Spreading awareness and sensitization among the population especially in rural areas is opening avenues to the administrators of the countries. And if India needs to win this war against its invisible enemy the country must focus on these areas.

We may have to live with COVID-19 and many more such virus illnesses for years to come. To survive them, we need to find more ways to redesign ourselves and adopting new habits like physical distancing, washing hands, and hygiene along with developing ways to fight this virus. Then only we will be succeeding.



P A N D E M I C A N D T H E G R O W T H O F A R T

Titasa Ray

The pandemic has created a situation of plight for a lot of people. However, it has also been a boon in disguise for many, especially, the youth. Let us delve more into how this pandemic became a stroke of luck! Art got its representation. The youth resorted to art, with a sprinkle of freshness, to voice their wishes and desires which otherwise got ceased within the four walls of a room. Art lives everywhere. However, before the lockdown imposition, during the bustling uproars of life, we couldn't always focus on self-discovery, trying our hands at different activities, etc. But, this lockdown taught us to be comfortable in our own skin and create art as a way to articulate our inner poise, determination, wishes in a natural way, not to keep up with any societal expectations. For some, art became a distraction, for some, art became a necessity to survive this tough time. Each one of us is massively connected to social media, internet, so putting up our creations on social media has always been an incentive to work harder. As for myself, over the past ten months, I've started engaging in activities that got lost in the way of my adulthood. I started dancing, singing and the most refreshing part was to put up your art no matter how imperfect it is, how nonchalant it is, not because it had dearth but because it portrayed our real, unkempt self. In this era of globalization, virtual motivation through sharing each other's art lends support, approves us socially and a healthy competition prevails everywhere, which is essential for fluidity.

This nauseating virus has affected all of us in different ways, some have even succumbed to it. The upshot kept us rooted to our houses, but, human beings always find an alternative and this time, for the budding faces, art became the respite. Long-lost dreams of becoming a dancer or a singer, or maybe an author, actor or orator all got recognition through social media. There are a lot of virtual events, competitions, workshops being held for the enthusiasts to take their step in. Every weekend brought in a sprinkle of freshness by some distant friend or acquaintance posting a snippet of his/her work on social media. At the end of the day, we all want to be known and praised a little bit to push ourselves further, break every inhibition that resides in our mind. Not to forget, the enthusiasm among the youths also gave a boost to the parents to encourage them. Everyone started appreciating the little things.

Finally, it's been a moment of triumph for the youth, the aspirants to show the way of making ourselves happy through art. This pandemic has been tough, creating boundaries has been tougher but with the help of art, our daily bits of keeping up with our wishes have made everything a bit better. Let us remember that every step is progress when you do it with passion and love. Art has truly been a way of survival during this pandemic.

UNQUESTIONED LEVELS OF A SOCIAL PANDEMIC: RACIAL AND ETHNIC INEQUALITIES DURING COVID-19

Prashanti Komal

The year 2020 stood still for the entire human race bearing feelings of chaos, uncertainty, and dismay as a consequence of the coronavirus pandemic. Spreading through almost all the nations of the world, the virus, which claimed the lives of millions of people reflected the frailty of the human race in just a matter of months. With more than half the world's population locked inside their homes for months unable to carry out their normal lives, an array of social as well as economic problems rose. Amongst these include issues of discrimination and racial inequality, which are mainly faced by minor communities on most land.

From the onset of the pandemic, there was a prevalent idea of associating the virus with the country where the first Covid-19 case was reported. With this came the labeling of the virus in different names were often xenophobic and discriminatory. A certain political leader's declaration of a new name for the virus which was influenced by a place and/or ethnicity drew the attention of most people. Although uneasiness and resentment were the major reactions of the masses; the declared name trended for a considerable amount of time in social media influencing and encouraging many laypersons to use this name instead of the scientific one. It is pertinent for us to understand that such use of words and language has a power of its own, especially in times of crisis. After this, it was reported that many belonging to the ethnic community who was the victim of such labels faced hostile and indifferent attitudes in different parts of the globe, including the minority of our nation where unity is promised for diversity. Moreover, people who returned to their homes from coronavirus-affected areas also became the target of stigma. Unconfirmed rumors about the virus and its origin along with misinformed as well as misleading circulation of fake news gave prominence to biased and negative thoughts and indifferent behaviors.

Many small-scale business owners of stores and restaurants belonging to different races and ethnicity took their concerns over social media underlining their struggles as a minority group. The pandemic widened the gap of inequality when most people of color took the burden of economic fallout and lost jobs in the country where they met ends to make their living. Many were demanded to return to their home country after being laid off. According to the Centre for American Progress while White households lost 43 percent of their employment income; Asian Americans, Blacks, Hispanics, or Latinos have lost their income by 49 percent, 54 percent, and 63 percent respectively in the United States. Other domains where the minority faced disparity during the pandemic include access to healthcare services, food consumption, and housing conditions. Rampant cases of segregation and discrimination everywhere during the peak outbreak of the virus revealed a cruel reality.

We have witnessed a new outbreak of patterns of inequality alongside the outbreak of the COVID-19 virus. Moreover, the stigmatizations resulting among the masses have left the minority community with mental consequences making it worse and burdensome. The principle of inclusiveness among diverse regions of the world will work when we acknowledge and address these issues with significant and radical interventions creating awareness and raising voices against the rigid prejudices and stereotypes.

The requirement for such time is comprehensive policy and programs to provide equitable conditions to all humans. Also, core human values of unity and compassion are crucial when humanity is at the risk of decline. In times of such a global issue, recognizing fundamental human rights problems is of utmost importance. Tackling the facets of discrimination and inequality of ethnic and racial spheres needs prime importance from government and non-government actors.

PANDEMIC AND STRUCTURAL INEQUALITIES

Shivanya Soni

The outbreak of COVID-19 brought social and economic life to a standstill. International and internal mobility is restricted, and the revenues generated by travel and tourism, which contributes 9.2% of the GDP, will take a major toll on the GDP growth rate. The crisis witnessed a horrifying mass exodus of such a floating population of migrants on foot, amidst countrywide lockdown. Their worries primarily were loss of job, daily ration, and absence of a social security net. India must rethink on her development paradigm and make it more inclusive. COVID 19 has also provided some unique opportunities to India. There is an opportunity to participate in global supply chains, multinationals are losing trust in China. To 'Make in India', some reforms are needed, labour reforms being one of them. For instance, there was a piece of news in the newspaper that India is trying to recreate an i-phone as well. During the midst of the lockdown, we also saw that the Indian government banned around sixty to sixty-five Chinese apps and started emphasizing the notion of "aatma-nirbhar". The pandemic changed a lot of things, in a negative manner as well as in a positive manner. The sudden outbreak of the pandemic and sudden lockdown all over the world changed the lives of a lot of people. Some started working from home while some had to leave their job and return to their hometown. The industrial workers walked miles, barefoot, to reach their homes and meet their families. There is a multi-sectoral impact of the virus as the economic activities of nations have slowed down. The crisis has already transformed into an economic and labor market shock, impacting not only supply but also demand.

COVID-19 pandemic affected the manufacturing and the services sector—hospitality, tours and travels, healthcare, retail, banks, hotels, real estate, education, health, IT, recreation, media, and others. The economic stress had started growing rapidly. While lockdown and social distancing resulted in productivity loss, on the one hand, they cause a sharp decline in demand for goods and services by the consumers in the market on the other, thus leading to a collapse in economic activity. However, lockdown and social distancing are the only cost-effective tools available to prevent the spread of COVID-19. We should also note that there were structural inequalities as well that started as the world was hit by the pandemic. The COVID-19 pandemic exposed global inequality in a harsh new light. Countries and people faced severe risks because of structural global inequalities. This region faces a distinct set of challenges for pandemic control, including a lack of public infrastructure and access to adequate health care, housing, and sanitation. Many precarious livelihoods depend on rich social interaction in close proximity to others, and the most socially vulnerable citizens—including informal workers, older adults, and those in poor health—may suffer substantially not only from the virus but also from the enforcement of physical distancing measures. These issues have important ramifications for cities, urban policies, and urbanization across the continent. We all are usually saying that we are together in this, but no this isn't the truth. Rather truth is that we are all not together in this. this is simply because everyone is facing some of the other impacts of a pandemic but there are few people at loss only and are left out. People who have enough people are firing poor and needy people from jobs just to not waste their money on providing salaries. Most people have committed suicide because of a lack of monetary resources which is quite disturbing.

While the COVID-19 pandemic is unprecedented in recent human memory, infectious disease pandemics of this scale are not new. The contemporary responses to COVID-19 will have long-term effects throughout the world. As we enter a global situation with striking parallels to pandemics of a century ago, we must not lose the opportunity to engage with history. We must guard against the co-option of pandemic control by states to enact nativist, racist, classist, and anti-poor governance. The stakes of our collective response to the COVID-19 pandemic are high, and investments in social, public, and health infrastructure ought to be its foundation.



BIHAR GIRL WHO CYCLED 1200 KM
CARRYING INJURED FATHER
DURING LOCKDOWN.

STRUCTURAL INEQUALITIES IN THE FACE OF THE PANDEMIC

The Covid-19 pandemic exposes global inequality. Countries and people of many countries face severe risks because of structural global inequalities. This region faces a distinct set of challenges for pandemic control, including a lack of public infrastructure and access to adequate health care, housing, and sanitation. Many precarious livelihoods in Sub-Saharan Africa depend on rich social interaction in close proximity and the most socially vulnerable citizens – including informal workers, older adults, and those in poor health – may suffer substantially not only from the virus but also from the enforcement of physical distancing measures.

These issues have important ramifications for cities, urban policies, and urbanization across the continent. Geographical research is and will be needed to understand the immediate and the long-term social, economic, political, and public health impacts of the covid-19 pandemic in Sub-Saharan Africa. The African continent has led to deep structural inequality where many countries are without adequate resources to respond to the Covid-19 pandemic. The covid-19 pandemic has and will continue to have important ramifications for urban governance as the extremely poor housing and sanitation for millions of people is brought into stark relief. Immediate and long-term governance strategies and ideologies will need to deal with these severe socio-spatial infrastructures and economic shortcomings.

It is therefore essential to guard against the instrumentalization of this crisis to justify nativist racist, classist, and antipoor urban governance. This conjuncture highlights the historical and structural inequalities embedded in the global history of capitalism since its onset. Because these problems are so deeply bound in the historical development of inter and international inequalities. Understanding them and attempting to disentangle them will remain difficult after Covid-19.

COVID-19 AND THE HISTORY OF PANDEMICS

Antara Banerjee

The coronavirus pandemic has engulfed half of the population and many more are awaited. The covid-19 pandemic exposes countries and people to severe risks because of structural global inequalities. This can be seen as a harsh new light. The regions where inequality prevails, lack public infrastructure and access to adequate health care, housing, and sanitation. Thus the social inequalities were visible in many spheres. Some of the areas where people were adversely affected were economic downfall and the lack of food. During the strict lockdown, each and everyone was left with some of the other necessity but still, the elite group of people managed to gain access to many resources. At this time middle-class people and especially lower-class people suffered from enormous problems. To name some, middle and lower-class people who worked in private offices were kicked out of jobs due to the stagnant economic condition. People who were entirely dependent on anyone member from the house had to curb their wants and look for their needs which in some phases of the pandemic nearly disappeared. Another major sphere was the health sector. Due to the entire focus on the patients who were carrying the virus, the other patients received less attention. Adding to which there was a countable number of beds to admit the patients with the virus. In private hospitals a poor person or a middle-class person could not afford the treatment therefore they had to rush into the government hospitals.

The coronavirus pandemic has been recent enough to draw one's focus to the structural inequalities but there were many such epidemics that popped out the very problem of structural inequalities. Due to structural inequalities, the people who stand lower on the ladder that reaches the level of inhuman conditions which even if we reform our economy and polity, we can never reach to curb such pandemics. For instance, the third bubonic plague pandemic reached South Africa in 1901 after spiking in Hong Kong in 1894 and spreading throughout the world. As the plague circulated in South Africa, so did anti-black and anti-Semitic sentiments. Terms like 'raw natives' and 'dirty Jews' were mobilized as both blame and an 'urban' solution were sought illustrates how the amended Public Health Act of 1897 was invoked to expel Africans from Cape Town to 'native locations'. The Act which was the only law enabling this action at that time was used to relocate people to a sewage farm on the outskirts of the city. This instrumentalization of public health governance became an issue of social control and a means to cheaply maintain black labor 'without having to pay the heavy social costs of urbanization or losing the domination of white over black'. The proposed cure to the South African bubonic plague outbreak was to move labor—in this case, non-white labor—as far from its designated borders as possible without ultimately preventing its supply. These actions can be seen as a precursor to national racial residential segregationist policies under South African apartheid, beginning in 1948.

While the COVID-19 pandemic is unprecedented in recent human memory, infectious disease pandemics of this scale are not new. In the early 20th century, South African state policies in response to the bubonic plague and Spanish Influenza pandemics formalized racial residential segregation and class divides. In the same vein, contemporary responses to COVID-19 will have long-term effects throughout the world. As we enter a global situation with striking parallels to pandemics of a century ago, we must not lose the opportunity to engage with history. We must guard against the co-option of pandemic control by states to enact nativist, racist, classist, and anti-poor governance. The stakes of our collective response to the COVID-19 pandemic are high, and investments in social, public, and health infrastructure ought to be its foundation.

COVID-19 AND WIDENED INEQUALITIES

Tanya Aswani

Structural inequality is defined as a condition where one category of people are assigned an unequal status in relation to other categories of people existing in a society. This relationship is further stemmed and strengthened by the unequal relations in roles, functions, decisions, rights, and opportunities existing in our society. It refers specifically to the inequalities that are systemically rooted in the normal operations of dominant social institutions. These structural inequalities can be divided into categories of economy, healthcare, education, etc.

Due to these existing structural inequalities our society is divided between haves and have nots, rich and the poor, privileged and the unprivileged. There is a huge unbridgeable gap existing between them.

Especially last year had brought many challenges not only to our country alone but the whole world. The year 2020 was an extremely bad year as it had brought the catastrophic effects of the covid-19 pandemic all over the globe. The Covid-19 pandemic has been a magnifying glass for all the structural inequities and injustices in our society which has excluded hundreds of millions of our fellow citizens from a life of basic dignity.

This pandemic has enormously increased the staggering human misery and tragedy. It has been a sharp reminder of the prevailing structural inequalities in our society. Making us aware of the fact that the economy is a part of society; society is not part of the economy. Equality is an important aspect in all its dimensions. No one should be denied equality as it's a basic human right.

This pandemic has been an unprecedented period of pain-causing a lot of stress and confusion among the population. It has widened levels of inequality and it has had unavoidable negative impacts on the economy. Leading to consequences of many people losing their jobs permanently, not being paid at all, with the stagnation of businesses and economic activities for months. The poor became poorer unable to sustain themselves and their family without proper jobs and earnings. Many families were unable to get the bare minimum for survival, in fact getting one square of meals was a big thing. People were largely exploited even by the hospitals. The affected covid patients were being charged large sums of money at the hospitals which made them vulnerable. The rich could easily afford the high expenses and their businesses were largely intact. The losses were majorly suffered by the poor masses which constitute more than 50 percent of our population. There was a sharp digital divide created due to the covid-19 pandemic as studies and work shifted from offline to online modes. There are many people still in our country who do not have access to the internet and many can't afford computers or laptops.

There is an urgent need for the government to make new and better laws amid pandemic to support people who have been adversely affected by the pandemic. Many private companies can also support their employees by giving them some amount of money monthly even if their work is not needed. The problem can also be solved by the government, civil bodies, industries coming together and fighting these uncertain and harsh times with unity and each other's support.



CYBER-CRIME IN COVID-19 PANDEMIC

Prathyusha
Jagadeesh

World's largest Pandemic was Covid-19 also called Corona Virus which started in the month of mid-March. The severity of this virus was witnessed when the death rate had a striking increase in some parts of the world. On one hand, where people were trying to figure out ways to protect their family and themselves, some people saw this time as a way to earn money through crimes. The economy had crashed during this covid-19 period, many laborers became homeless, many homes had no food, and more devastating was for street animals as well. Amidst this, Interpol, an international organization that makes it possible for the police forces of different countries to help each other to solve crimes; reported that several crimes took place during this 10-month lockdown, mostly cyber-crimes.

What is a cyber-crime? It is a crime that is done through computers, it can include hacking, false business proposals, false credit card calls, and so on. Ansh Singhal rightly quoted, "Cyber-crime is a way to jail, Cybersecurity is a way to avail", unquote. Cybercriminals may infect computers by spreading a virus and malware to damage the devices. They can also delete or share the stored data on computers. Several criminal activity accounts to cyber-crime such as:

Malware Attacks: It is a kind of attack that happens on computers by sending a virus and collecting and sharing the stored data from the computer which can be later on used for blackmailing, Ransome, etc.

Phishing: It happens in emails where it is spammed or any other communication method like calling and they manipulate users to do something that they are not supposed to do. They attract people with expensive deals or like "earn-money" in simple ways and more and making people fall into their trap.

Cybercriminals are developing and boosting their attacks at an alarming pace, exploiting the fear and uncertainty caused by the unstable social and economic situation created by COVID-19." Jürgen Stock, INTERPOL Secretary General. The Interpol report states that during Covid-19, these cybercriminal's attack shifted their target from individuals and small businesses to major corporations, government, and critical infrastructure. It was stated in the report that criminals took a lot of advantage from the Covid-19 situation where people were told to work from homes, the increased security vulnerabilities helped cybercriminals to steal data, generate profits, and cause disruption. According to Interpol statistics in a four-month period that is from January to April, some 907,000 spam messages, 737 incidents related to the malware, and 48,000 malicious URLs – all related to COVID-19 – were detected. The main reason behind this increase in cybercrime is the major dependency of people on the internet due to the Covid-19 period as many businesses and individuals are not ensuring that their cyber defenses are up to date or not. Cyber-crime is an evil factor in society. It disrupts the functioning of society for example; if there is a report of sexual harassment on the internet (which will fall under cyber-crime), it is very sociological because whether the girl's situation is fine or not, millions of questions are raised upon the girl and her family. This disrupts the functioning of the family in society. Not only sexual cyber-crimes also other types of cyber-crimes disrupt the lives of individuals in society. The victims of cyber-crime lose apparently everything in their lives whether that's respect in the society or their prestige, everything comes to zero and they are forced to start from scratch.

Covid-19 increased the cyber-crime rates in the society, which not only impacted the economy or the political sector but also impacted individuals and their relationship with others in the society. The vulnerability of working from home increased the rate of cyber-crime. People have to become more aware and safer from these cyber-crimes and from the fake messages, emails, notifications and so on they get on social media platforms are also a way for cyber-crime.

SOCIO-ECONOMIC CONDITIONS OF PEOPLE IN PANDEMIC

Vedika Khaitan

It's been a year since humans have been quarantined, 2020 was one of those major years of our lives which can be seen as both good or bad. However, we had to deal with it no matter if we wanted it or not. Some occupied themselves by joining online courses and some by taking up hobbies like cooking, gardening, painting, playing an instrument, and many other activities but at the same time the unprecedented pandemic had affected many countries in a major way, many people including some of the poor and marginalized sections of the society faced a ton of inequalities in terms of healthcare facilities, gender inequalities and economy.

In the African continent, this has led to deep structural inequality, where many countries lack adequate resources to fight the COVID-19 pandemic; it has been estimated that sub-Saharan African countries have around 0.1 (Mali) and 6.3 (Gabon) hospital beds per 1,000 people with ICU beds to provide respiratory support for severe COVID-19 cases. Despite all the global inequalities for access to healthcare resources, the early actions, precautions, and cooperation between African Union Countries have led to moderate success in COVID-19 control but the police and other important forces there have used physical violence and coercion to enforce physical distancing with recorded killings of individuals who did not adhere to physical distancing orders. This kind of violence has and will affect poor people in African cities.

America has taken an important step to open admission in colleges and schools, eventually, their next goal is to make this possible for a large number of students which will require substantial resources like food, security, child care, health insurance, counseling, proper employment conditions, racism, and economic equality and solve various other issues. A solution to their problem could be community colleges, there are social justice institutions, not just convenient, affordable, and an alternative for four-year colleges. They are actively engaged in street-level work of translating typical American ideas about civil rights, social justice, and equal opportunity for all their students.

India is a striking exception to this rebooted economic thinking as the world confronts economic inequalities which are made worse by the pandemic. Government consumption in the quarter ended 30 September fell by 22%. For the first half of the financial year, it was down a more muted 4% but that it was declining when it should have been boosting demand which is alarmingly contrarian.

There is also little evidence that the government is beefing up competition policy to counter the worries that Reliance Industries and the Adani Group maybe carving up large tracts of India's consumer and infrastructure sectors, respectively between them. What this leads to is that India, one of the world's most grotesquely unequal countries is becoming more unequal. Profits of listed non-financial firms jumped 35% in the quarter ended 30 September. But as JP Morgan's Sajjid Chinoy points out, given that gross domestic product declined, this underlines that "unlisted firms whether small and medium enterprises, wages and employment contracted very sharply". He cites a sample of 4,000 firms that showed pressures on real wages and salaries starting from December 2018. It was pointed to the marked deceleration in GDP growth over the past couple of years—from 7% to about 3% in the quarter ended 31 March 2020.

The Indian economy was already suffering before COVID struck, targeting lower-income workers. As per this incident, on asking a gym manager at a five-star hotel how he was faring, he reported that his human resources manager called him back in May to brief him about his career options and sign either a leave-without-pay agreement or a resignation letter. Millions of such stories about people trying to clamber up the middle-class ladder now being kicked off means that next year is unlikely to provide the V-shaped recovery that India's stock market seems to be projecting.

PLIGHT OF EQUITY DURING THE PANDEMIC

Srishti Dwivedi

"It is not great wealth in a few individuals that prove a country is prosperous, but great general wealth evenly distributed among the people . . . It is the struggling masses who are the foundation of this country; and if the foundation be rotten or insecure, the rest of the structure must eventually crumble."-VICTORIA WOODHULL

The covid-19 pandemic has been a magnifying glass for structural inequality that exists in India. The COVID-19 pandemic has been one light microscope for inequalities and imbalance between every stratum of our society. It has affected everyone, regardless of their social or economic standing. Structural inequality has been a part of our society for centuries, but it was highlighted more during this pandemic. The differential treatment of rich and poor has been evident for a long time. Even though India's leaders had promised covid-19 testing and genuine care for all in need of it, regardless of earnings, treatment options are highly stratified and unequal. As we all know, due to the covid uprise, the global economy faces a potential black swan event. Regardless of the major backdrop in the economy, the rich privileged class was able to survive and the worst hit were the urban poor, daily wage workers, small shop owners, auto and taxi drivers.

The inequality amplified after the spread of covid across the world and in major Indian cities. The Central Government, on one hand, sent 64 flights, 3 Navy warships to 13-14 countries to bring back over 14,000 stranded Indians, while the migrant workers who wanted to go back home were left to die. Hundreds and thousands of workers started to leave cities, standing in queues hoping to find space in buses or trains, those who could not find space anywhere started on foot. They traveled 1000 km on foot to get back home, without proper access to food or drinking water, the government instead of helping the workers get back home safely turned a blind eye to the situation.

Even in normal times, compared to the rich and middle-class, the poor have less access to health services and as a result, are more likely to die if they fall ill. Moreover, most poor cannot work remotely at home and cannot buy essential goods online either. They prefer hand-to-mouth feeding and their families survive from their daily earnings. If they are forced to stay at home, they will not be able to earn and have limited savings in comparison to the rich or middle class. Also, their children cannot study online as few poor households don't have the internet. In some cases, most public schools with inadequate facilities are therefore not equipped for digital teaching. The poor could not practice proper sanitization either! Because of their lack of access to necessities like sanitizers and hand wash.

The differential treatment of the poor was also seen during the treatment of the covid-19. Most of the poor people couldn't afford private hospitals and had to rely for their treatment on government hospitals which were overburdened by the high number of patients. The rich people got quick and better treatment while the poor were denied the treatment for hours or days because of the overburdening of the doctor. Equal attention was not paid to the poor people in terms of their treatment.

This pandemic highlighted the inequalities that the poor had to face on a daily basis because of their status in society. While we do not think that this disaster will move the conscience of the privileged to give the workers what is rightfully theirs, we can ask governments to provide safety nets during this humanitarian crisis. The threat to the lives of those who can not afford to 'work from home, have access to good health systems or have enough nutrition to build up their immunity is very grave. The workers or the lower strata of the society is a major part of our lives which we cannot ignore. Even though we cannot completely eradicate the structural inequalities we can still try to help the people in need in order to fight the pandemic better.



Anisha Chetry

THE IMPACT AND ROLE OF MASS MEDIA DURING THE PANDEMIC

Chhavi Prajapati

Coronavirus disease is a pandemic, not an epidemic or endemic because a pandemic is a disease that affects a large number of people within a community, population, or region. A pandemic is an epidemic that is spread over multiple countries or continents. An endemic is that which spread in a particular people or country, so the basis of this definition, we can say that firstly, when COVID spread in China, It was an endemic which spread but by air transportation over the world through mass media. Mass media plays a very good role in everyday life. Mass media refers to a diverse army of media technologies that reach a large audience.

Mass media encompasses much more than just news, although it is something misunderstanding in this way. It can be used for various purposes. Advocacy business and social concerns can include advertisement advertising and marketing propaganda, marketing and political communication. The critical role of mass media is to keep people connected well informed and entertained.

Coronavirus disease was named COVID-19 by the world health organization (WHO). The speedy spread of his infection globally becomes a source of public worry. Mass media became the major source of information about the novel Coronavirus. The covid-19 pandemic highlighted multiple social, cultural, and economic issues across.

Coronavirus disease spread from China to other countries. In India, it became around March 2020 by air transportation and it was started from approx November or December 2019 in China. Some days that it started from the eating of fat (animal) some says from the laboratory during the experiment. We cannot say it clearly that what exactly happened, through mass media the audience knew about it.

Mass media have some positive effect and negative effect of mass media doing their work truly it will become positive effect because when we knew that what exactly happened in the world or a particular people or a country or a community. Same as if the mass media of China had been awoken so it cannot spread over the large area or other countries or we can say a word. But it also has a negative fact in the sense of free mass media. Mass media can not do their work freely. Mass media doing their work under the government. But the awareness of the disease through the mass media and example of awareness, beating the thali and spoon, and burning the Diya, it's a kind of awareness against covid-19.

Basically, Mass media means the technology used to reach a mass audience. We have some kind of mass media like newspapers, radio, magazines, the Internet, and television. We were able to get information on covid-19 from time to time from mass media.

MIGRATION WORKERS AND INEQUALITIES

Vandana

The Covid-19 pandemic has played an important role in highlighting growing inequalities. It is popularly mentioned as the “pandemic of inequalities”. Recent estimates have suggested the pandemic is impacting the poor more than the others. It is impacting those areas more which were already under crisis. For example in India, the people most affected were the poor and it has exposed the vulnerability of the urban casual workers, many of whom are migrants. Sudden announcement lockdown led to a devastating impact on their livelihood forcing them to migrate to their homes. The unequal labor market in India had seen widening disparities after the Covid-19 struck. Those at the bottom with few skills, partially literate, and without security have been affected the most. They were among the first to be jolted by the lockdown measures as economic works were halted threatening the survival of many small urban units and jobs of these workers. An improper infrastructure and management led to the suffering of these workers. The informal sector faced these disparities as most of these require accommodation at the workplace and the unemployed forced them to vacate their houses. Those working in large business companies and literate ones had the option to “work from home”. But the interstate migrants were prone to higher degrees of exploitation. Labour is not a homogenous category. The labor force mirrors the prejudices of the larger societies. Women and adolescent girls, most of whom were employed informally, are paid

significantly less than men for the same work. They were exploited verbally, physically as well as sexually. Those belonging to the minorities were relegated to perform inhuman and degrading work, with scant regard for their life and wellbeing.

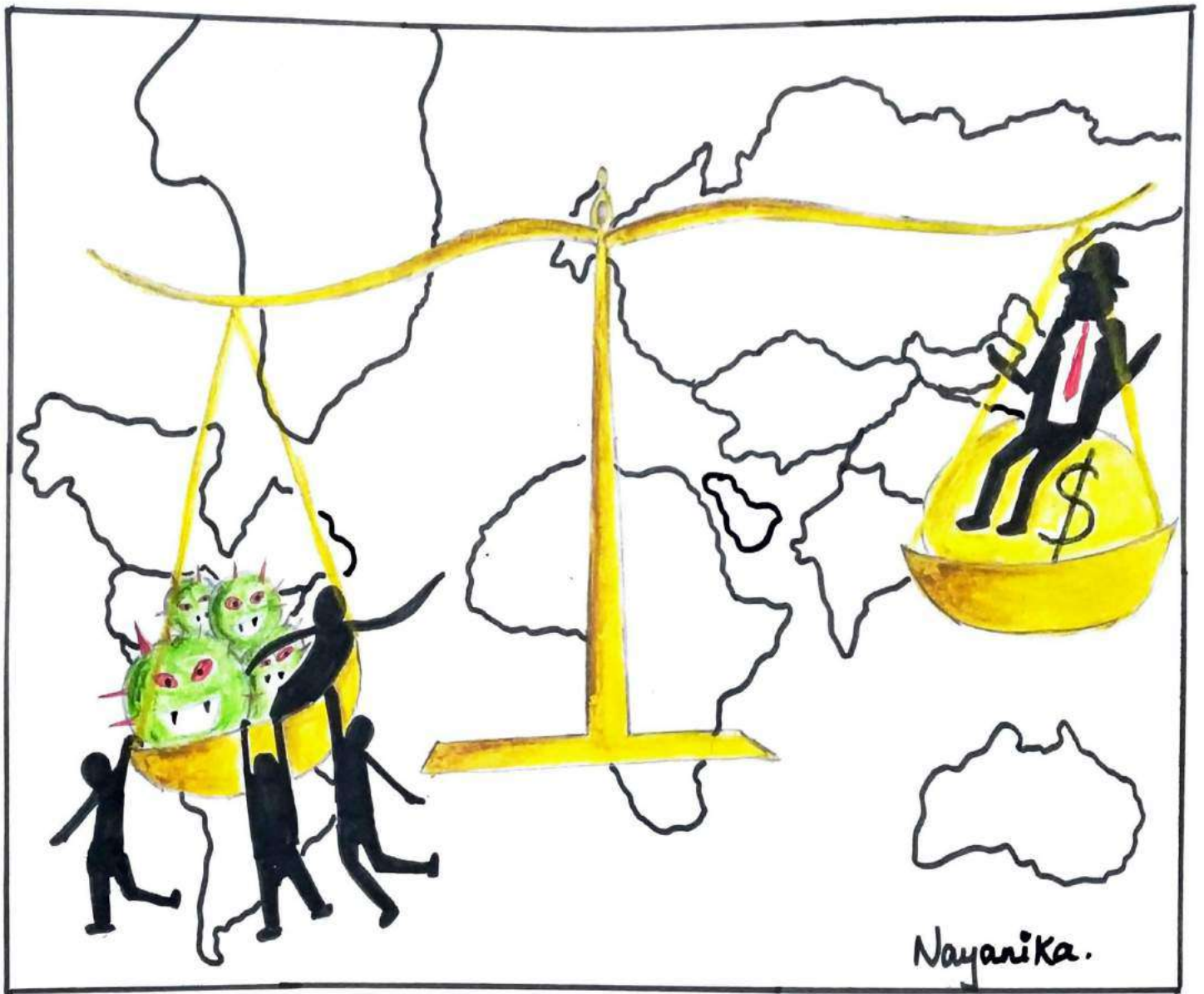
The pandemic led the low-skilled migrant workers to work for long hours at low wages. Their migration and suffering were a result of the unplanned and improper structure of the government which resulted in inequalities based on status, sex, and community. The infrastructure needs to be modified in order to treat all sections of a country equally, where no one faces such kind of inequalities.

Despite some bearing worse off than others, what unifies labor in India are experiences of injustices and indignity. The Covid-19 pandemic, ostensibly a health crisis, is also a wake-up call up critically relook at the inherent structural inequalities and systems that allow them to continue. The critical juncture we find ourselves at is also an opportunity to build an inclusive, human economy that cares for the most marginalized and treats all with equality.

COVID 19 AND HEALTHCARE

Vartika Vatsa

Lives were lost and what the future held was not known. The covid 19 outbreak was declared as a public health emergency by the World Health Organisation on 30th January 2020. And since then it has had jarring implications on our lives. In these unprecedented times, access to essential services like healthcare and basic food items needed great attention and importance. Although the pandemic reconnected several households with the public distribution system, it had stumbling blocks of its own. When the lockdown happened in India, many people thought that the essential food items would be blocked, so they started hoarding food items like pulses, rice, and other essential items. These perplexing situations had consequences of their own. People suddenly found themselves helpless in the middle of a pandemic because no one had ever experienced or even heard of something like this before in their entire lifetime. The Healthcare systems of the country gained even more importance because it was our most valuable currency (health) which was on the radar this time. The most important question that arose was 'Was the Indian Healthcare system ready for supporting the vulnerable from the pandemic'? The pandemic had put enormous strain on the Healthcare Systems in our country. In a country like India, it was not easy to support a population of 136.64 crores from the coronavirus. There were operational disruptions on the part of the healthcare system. Proper sanitation with healthcare workers being properly quarantined was something that lacked in many hospitals. There was a sudden rise in the number of patients in hospitals that brought unanticipated pressure on the Healthcare Industry. Medical tourism declined at a faster rate than ever before. Clinical guidelines and protocols were issued by the Ministry of Health And Family Welfare. Additional insurance cover of INR 50 lacs for frontline healthcare and sanitation workers was organized under the 'AYUSHMAN BHARAT' program. Emergency relief and 'MAKE IN INDIA' packages were announced by the government. Lifestyle changed and people started valuing their health more than ever. Life isn't coming back to normal anytime soon but it has surely made us understand the importance of how little changes in life can help us go a long way.



Nayanika

GLARING INEQUALITY

Chelsi
Phurailatpam

Inequality as a fact of life has been long embedded into our everyday consciousness. And the COVID-19 pandemic is worsening the situation creating a wider gap between the poor and the rich. The pandemic had a severe impact on everyone irrespective of their economic or social status. We shall begin with the healthcare facilities provided in our country, as access to timely and affordable health services varies considerably for different peoples. Even though Indian leaders have promised coronavirus testing and care for all who need it, the care which is provided ranges from crowded wards at hospitals towards the public hospital to that of the spacious suites at private hospitals which only the wealthy can afford. A distinction also exists between the urban and rural regions. For instance, the distribution of doctors working in these regions creates hurdles for the people with less access to medical care in this crucial time. The union government in this course is doing its part by providing supplementary resources along with free testing and treatment for COVID-19 to 50 crore beneficiaries of the Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana, while every state also needs to look into this matter and determine its priorities with respect to health financing and infrastructure. Because of parity in the health care system inequality among people has highly intensified. Next, we shall look into gender inequality. Due to the continuation of lockdown, crime against women has increased by a great number, including the increase in domestic violence, sexual abuse. And it has become more difficult for women to report their experience and seek help amidst the pandemic. According to the NCW (National Commission of Women), received 13,000 complaints of domestic violence during the COVID-induced lockdown (March-September), of these 53% cases were from Uttar Pradesh and Delhi. Also, according to the OECD, Indian men spend around 52 minutes on unpaid work every day while Indian women spend 5 hours on unpaid work per day. Another aspect of gender inequality during the pandemic is that women are generally expected to be the primary caregivers for the sick which increases the risk of infections. Inequality in the urban areas, as according to the Periodic Labor Force Survey (PLFS) of India (2017-18) 41% of urban households comprise of salaried employees, 32% comprise of self-employment while the remaining 11.8% earned their income from casual labor. In a larger context, the salaried and employed workforce should not be troubled by the lockdown. However, inequality exists among the regular wages earned or the salaried, non-agriculture sector employees. The pandemic has worsened the matter, as this pandemic has happened at a time of global slowdown and a public health crisis of this magnitude, there has been an additional negative impact on the economy. The pandemic has hit India's poor the hardest from the disease as well as the economic and social factors. There is a need to mend the structural inequalities which have deepened with the recent occurrence. The central, as well as the state government, need to take up certain measures to cope up with this.

INEQUALITY

Sidra Ali

'Life is unpredictable' we all have heard this quote many times but we realize this only when we face difficult situations or when we have to deliver a moral lecture to others. However, 2020 was a year in which the whole world literally the whole world had gone through a pandemic known as Novel Coronavirus Disease or Covid-19. I would explain 2020 as a very important year as it showed as many bitter truths and positivity, humbleness, unity, braveness, and so on.

The disease slowly captured the world and left very painful memories. It is said by elders if you want to know a person ask them to help you in your tough days, the true colors of people bloom. Though without any doubt it was visible how much people helped each other for about 7 to 8 months financially, by providing cooked food, raw grocery, etc. But still all the needy didn't get it as the population we all know, the hurdles face especially by labor class was distressing. Many lost their lives while traveling by foot to their hometown, 1000 kilometers walking with their luggage, children, and family. Many were fighting for survival. Imagine all this again is troublesome.

But there was a hero or messiah of 2020, Sonu Sood, the person who came forward and provided his power in a very humble way to the needy. Unforgettable memory it is, arranging bus services so that the migrant workers can safely reach their home.

As a part of the 'Ghar Bhejo' campaign, he has helped approximately 12,000 migrants reach home and arrangements were made for another 45,000.

This is the highlighted story, but there were many others who helped each other on a daily basis, weekly basis, or monthly. 2020 has proved there is still Kindness in society, we have been able to save our mother earth from turning into a monster, not fully but to some extent we are successful.

'Humanity stands above everything', this quote is always represented by the Sikhs. No matter what happens they are always there to serve the society irrespective of their religion, caste, class, status, etc. learn it. We should imitate them for sure, a huge lesson can be learned from them and the world should learn from it. Yet, a question is striking my mind. Why only a particular section of society have to face inequality?

India is a developing country, there are 3 central problems namely how to produce, what to produce, and for whom to produce. The task of the government is to produce all the resources efficiently so that every stratum of society gets access to it.

In Indian society structural inequality is prevalent, it is defined as; a condition where one category of people is attributed to unequal status. Unequal status refers to not getting an equal opportunity in various streams. And this is not new as is evident, Dr. B.R Ambedkar fought for the Dalits, for their equal status. We have reservations or quotas so that the category people can also get into the mainstream. If we talk about poverty it's a major concern, the population of poor people is huge in number. 2020 again made us realize about the problem of poverty, some people of your society are not getting what you have, in your mind you are happy but there are other people waiting for your initiative to help them in raising their lifestyle. So, a moral was taught, always be united and have sympathy. By sympathy, I mean, think by stepping into the shoes of others, then you will realize there are many reforms that need to be made. And structural inequality not only implies to poor but also to women, elderly people, 3 gender men, and so on.

Individually we are one drop, together we are an ocean. Hence look around your vicinity, be humble.

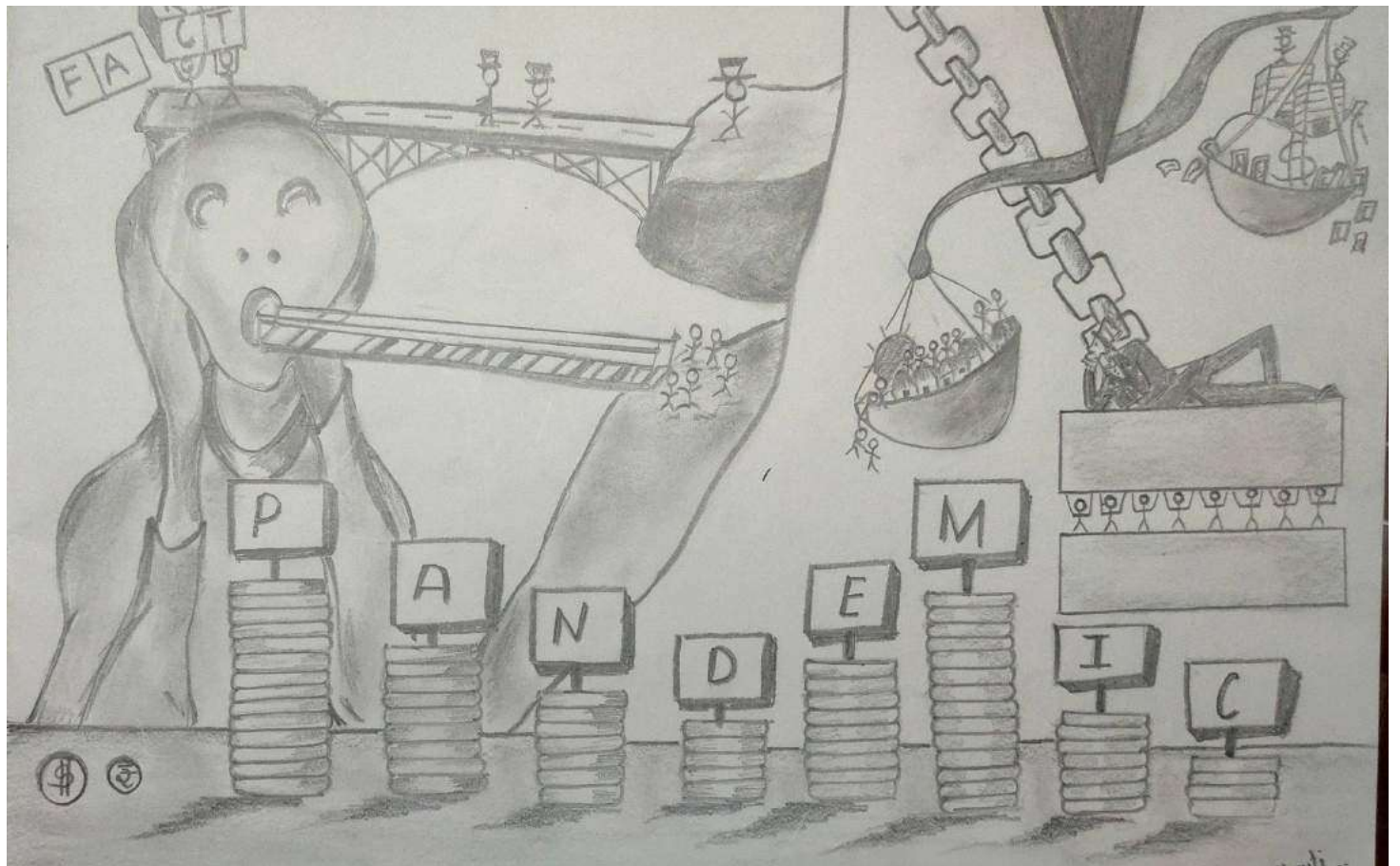
UNEQUAL DISTRIBUTION OF HOUSEHOLD CHORES DURING THE PANDEMIC

Rupal

Chores are something that are generally associated with women and creates a typical stereotype about women who should know all the chores to convert a house into a home. This biased view has become a new normal for society due to the fewer working-class women. Women account for only 19.9% of the total labour force in India and this prejudice has prevailed in the pandemic too. The advent of the novel coronavirus opened Pandora's box in our life and affected all sectors of society. It brought in a new reality which was unexposed till now. Everyone was bound to sit in their homes and carry on with their lives by being enclosed within the four walls. However, the association of women with chores did not change in spite of both sexes living in the same house.

We all have seen in the daily soaps how the male protagonist goes to work and earns money while the female protagonist sits in their home and takes care of it. But we never imagined what will happen if both of them have to stay at home for months. Will there be a division of chores? or the status quo will remain as it was before. The lockdown brought the answers to these unasked questions and unfortunately, women still did all the chores in spite of the male presence in the house. The man of the house had the ultimate excuses of being busy, important work, extreme headache, and the time to relax after a hectic schedule. Although, all these reasons seem justified what about the woman who also has these same issues she still has to do household chores. Women spent an average of three times as many hours as men on household chores, childcare, and caring for needy or elderly loved ones, long before the pandemic. Widespread everyday life pressures, school closures, industry disruptions, and a significant increase in working from home have made many activities more time-consuming and arduous. In addition to it, the requirement of social distancing and sanitization has created new unpaid chores, especially for women. The social stigma of women doing all the work is still not abandoned in this 21st century which was clearly evident in this lockdown period.

The never-ending chores and the limited help exhaust the women and affect their physical and psychological state which needs to be stable for regular functioning of the body. Perhaps the biggest step would be simply recognizing the value of the unpaid domestic and caring work done by women. Thus, it's high time for men to realize their role in performing household chores without waiting for a special occasion to give their equal contribution towards domestic work and eliminate prejudiced thinking. Lockdown or not, it is a responsibility of both men and women to contribute equally towards the chores and childcare and to remove the gender inequality in the household works because if the home belongs to both of them then so does the work.



Shruti Singh

THE PROFOUND IMPACT OF THE ONGOING PANDEMIC ON THE ANIMAL KINGDOM

**Anoushka
Choudhary**

The novel coronavirus has had a humongous impact on everyone by some means or others. The pandemic has coerced the entire planet to stand still and to confine ourselves in our homes, thereby making our lives extremely monotonous. While we were up against this invisible and enemy, static, it seems to have influenced wildlife in unusual ways. As humans are in confinement now, there has been an increase in the cases of rare wildlife sightings in urban areas where they would not be found usually. A herd of deer walking the streets on Haridwar, a Nilgai roaming outside a mall in Noida, Cougars wandering in Chile, Penguins waddling in Cape Town, wild boars in the centre of Barcelona, and Jackals in Israel are some instances. Even insects like ants or bees do not have to be worried about getting trampled by the humans. There has been a mammoth surge in the number of Olive Ridley sea turtles, due to the abandonment of Indian beaches. About 60 million eggs have been deposited on Indian beaches this year. As less waste is being dumped in our seas, there has been tremendous growth in oceanic life as well. There have also been talks of banning the wet markets. Animals like Elephants have been freed from their forced labor as the tourism industry was shut down. However, the lockdown has come to be seen as a two-edged sword. Although these animals enjoy the freedom of roaming around currently but once the traffic levels surge, it would put them in grave danger. Hunters and Poachers are reported to have taken advantage of the silence pertaining to national parks and reserves, resulting in an increment of illegal activities like wildlife trafficking and poaching. A spike in the killing of wild cats like jaguar, tigers, pumas is witnessed in Columbia, India, and the continent of Africa. Even the black rhinos are being poached in Botswana. It appears that we have completed the tour of a full circle because we have come from where we actually started. The advent of the pandemic resulting from an illegal wild animal market to an increase in illegal killings of wild animals during the pandemic. And we thought we would learn something!

The rare sightings of the animals could also be attributed to hunger and search for food. Numerous Urban-dwelling animals like monkeys, abandoned cows, street dogs and cats, rats, ducks in ponds have over the years become extremely reliant on us to provide them with their daily bread in addition to having no other sources of food has made their sustenance challenging. The Elephants are also struggling with starvation as their owners are not able to meet ends due to loss of remuneration in the pandemic, leading to elephant-human conflicts in certain places as the poor animals look for sources of food. The pandemic has given us a chance to re-imagine our relationship with entities exterior to ourselves, namely nature and wildlife. It has proved yet again that we all are, in fact, not a thing without each other and a cause-effect relationship exists both ways. This symbiosis of humans and nature is inevitable, and we must learn to embrace this beautiful relationship.

FAKE PANACEA OF GOVERNMENT SCHEMES

Ishika Garg

Coronavirus which originated from China proved to be fatal for the entire human race. It not only led to several impositions of lockdown all over the world but also turned out to be a 'magnifying glass for all the structural inequalities and injustices in our society.'

Inequality was at its zenith already and the COVID-19 pandemic made it worse by exploring a new nadir for the underprivileged. Due to this a large section of the marginalized communities were very vulnerable to the health and economic crisis. During this time of hardship and sorrow Government should have focused more on the marginalized communities, but they failed to do so which further strengthened the gap between the privileged and the unprivileged.

It would be wrong to say that the Government didn't put any effort into the betterment of these groups during such hard times because of initiatives such as free ration and requesting the privileged to pay their house help or workers during the lockdown period to show their feeling of oneness and contribution towards the nation. But after the 'UNLOCK', the situation for this community worsened. For instance, domestic workers struggled to meet their ends as employers chose to keep them away even in the "UNLOCK PHASE."

Workers in Delhi were more vulnerable than any other state. This is due to the absence of any recognized organization in the NCT. While Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu have welfare boards for domestic workers and other states also guarantee the unorganized worker's welfare boards, unfortunately, workers in Delhi cannot enjoy the aid of either of them. Even the national capital did not fix the minimum wages for domestic workers as done by other States such as Kerala, Karnataka, and Tamil Nadu. After the lockdown, the Delhi government announced ₹5,000 for registered construction workers and later extended it to the drivers of licensed mini and rural public transport. Although, it turned out to be a mendacious promise as no such help is provided to domestic workers under the said scheme.

Though the domestic workers have faced the worst hit, the problem is more deep-seated. The unorganized Workers' Social Security Act was passed by Parliament in 2008 but after 12 years, it is still not pertinent in the city as the Delhi government has not formed rules based on the Act to implement it. The Act covers domestic workers and provides a formulation of social security schemes for life and disability cover, health and maternity benefits, and old age protection by the Central government. The State governments are mandated under the Act to formulate suitable welfare schemes for unorganized sector workers relating to provident fund, employment injury benefits, housing, education schemes for children, skill up-gradation of workers, financial assistance, and old age homes. After the advent of the right-wing rule in 2014, they started working to codify and simplify 44 existing labor laws into four codes. One of the codes, The Code on Wages Bill, has been cleared. But the other three codes are yet to be passed by Parliament.

In a nutshell, the lack of government welfare schemes and one-time monetary assistance has compounded their woes which were already on the edge due to the inflation and proliferation of basic needs.

THE IGNORANT BEHAVIOR OF GOVERNMENT

KAJAL
AGGRAWAL

Covid-19 came into our life like a pandora box and caused destruction up to another level. The frightened souls were locked in the four walls of their home without the ray of hope. The lockdown imposed by the government last year in March is still being lifted in phases and normalcy has yet not been restored.

The country has been facing some major issues with the businesses being shut and everyone is bound to stay at home, the coronavirus has not left anyone unaffected in the whole world. People being forced to stay at home with apparently no source of income in the starting phase of the pandemic found it difficult to meet the ends and make a living in such tough situations. The economy of the country also faced a great deal of set back and was also in the state of recession for a couple of quarters. The worst section of society affected by this were the daily wage workers with no means of income and no savings of their own due to which they found it difficult to support their living. Then we also faced the challenge of educating the youth who is seen as the future of the country. Due to the lockdown, nobody was allowed to step out of their houses but then the idea of online education got much recognition and cell phones and the internet which were forbidden in schools now started teaching through and with the help of the same.

But this also has its share of problems as many students in the remote areas of the country did not have an adequate internet connection or for that matter even smartphones or any such means to support their education through these situations. Many plans and schemes were introduced to reduce the digital disparity and provide means to the maximum number of students, but yet if we look today at the statistics the numbers would still put you and me in thought.

With such issues in light, it was also noted that India needed some major infrastructural developments in some important sectors but whether it was the lack of judgment or ignorance of the government that in place of development of some needed structures, the government felt the need to have an updated parliament and came up with the central vista project. Well, it might be an important project but it was not the most significant and the needed project especially in the current situation.

The proposed cost of the central vista is now supposed to be 13, 450 cr. which is very likely to rise with increasing inflation. Such a huge amount of money is now getting used for something which is not of utmost importance and neither claims to benefit the people directly in any way. It is not the need of the hour and if the government had been more empathetic towards the people and society then they would have understood that it is not the time to propose such projects whereas they should have come up with projects catering to the needs of the society in such difficult and delicate times.

This decision also raised several questions on the reasoning and the decision-making capabilities of the government. When the whole world is fighting with a virus and an ambiguous disease in which people are already facing breathing problems and are not getting enough fresh air to breathe in, the government is ready to eliminate acres of green cover that too in Delhi which is known for its unending pollution issue and requires afforestation rather than the removal of the already existing ones.

Even after being aware of the ramifications of the decision, the government's choice to continue with the plan and the supreme court allowing such a decision does raise a lot of questions in the functioning of the government and the future of India.



CRISIS KNOWS NO BOUNDARIES

Archita Raghav

2020 year of surprises

World saw crisis

Like never before

But wait there's more

People were panicking

They never saw such a thing

Everyone bound inside

Finally animals walk freely outside

Everyone bound together by fate

Isn't that great

That took a major pandemic to realize

That there's nowhere inequality as in eyes

Sooner the world came to know

That it's time to grow

You can however say that you're greater

But realise sooner or later

That threat has no boundaries

It's just us humans yet to realise

Everyone is equal with two eyes

However much diversity

Alas strength comes from unity.

P A N D E M I C A N D I N E Q U A L I T Y

Pratibha Priya

After a century, the world witnessed a serious pandemic situation. From economy to education, everything was ruptured. Big companies got shut down, schools and universities were closed, countries followed a strict lockdown imposition, which resulted in a large scale of unemployed workforce. Huge number of people were left homeless and jobless. We knew that the structural inequality was already in a bad form in many countries but, the COVID-19 pandemic made it worse. For decades, governments across the world have tended to ignore, suppress and sometimes even punish the poor and marginalised communities. The privileged members have always benefited from the policy programmes of the government. This pandemic has thrown into a stark relief the structural inequality all over the world. Inequalities in income has risen in practically all major advanced economies over the past two or three decades. Those belonging to the middle class strata, their incomes have been squeezed and the big businessmen are still continuing to make good profits out of them.

The pandemic caused massive dislocation among several small businesses just few weeks after it's onset. Street vendors and small shops were most affected due to the lockdown imposition. They didn't have any earning source to sustain their families during this period. Many of them migrated to their hometowns in search of foods and jobs.

The smaller firms with less technology and human capital suffered a setback during this period as, on the other hand, large technological advanced firms were further increasing market shares. Industries with business models heavily reliant on human contact and low skilled workforce were hit specifically hard. The risk of the virus was more on the low wage section compared to higher paid section, as the higher paid workers were working from home and on the other hand, low paid blue collar workers specifically didn't have this option. Also, the lower paid workers are more represented in the sectors that have been shut down during the pandemic such as hotels, restaurants, tourism services. A recent survey of thirty seven countries indicates that three out of four households suffered a decline in their income since the beginning of the pandemic, along with eighty two percent of the poorer households affected.

The labour class is the another section which was very badly affected by the pandemic. According to the CMIE data, more than a hundred million workers have lost employment. It says that the figure is likely to be even larger given that it would be difficult to capture the employment status of the migrating workers. The workers were really desperate as they they were daily wage labourer, they didn't have anything to support their families, their only option was to risk contacting COVID-19 or face starvation. So many of them set out to walk hundreds if not thousands of kilometres to return to their villages, carrying their belongings, children on their shoulders with no food in their stomach. Some of them had perished on their way.

As with the previous crises, minorities were hit hard and were recovering more slowly than the COVID-19 shutdown. The survey showed that number of black- owned businesses collapse was higher than the number of white owned businesses that got shut down. One reason for this disparity was due to the way pandemic hotspots got concentrated in poorer neighbourhoods. Black owned businesses generally had weaker underlying finances, fewer reserves, and much weaker contacts with banks and other financial institutions.

While most people's lives have been negatively affected by the crisis, analysis shows that overall, women's jobs and livelihood are more vulnerable due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Data shows that female job loss rates are about 1.8 times higher than male job loss rates globally, at 5.7% versus 3.1% respectively. The temporary jobs were shut down and women were assigned in the temporary part. These jobs came out with lower pay, weaker legal protection and difficulties accessing social protection. Levels of precarious work are particularly high among young women, women with low qualifications and migrant women.

The other important thing is the increase in the unpaid workload among females. As, with the closure of schools and workplaces, and elder members possibly getting sick, their workload is likely to increase further. The situation for single parents can be even more difficult, especially when having to juggle between working from home and caring for children alone. Single parents are also more likely to be at risk of poverty compared to single people, or people in relationships with or without children. Data shows that number of female single parents is more than male single parents. Another issue associated with the response to the pandemic is violence and sexual harassment against women. Data shows that about 243 million women are thought to have experienced sexual abuse in the hands of their partners at some point over the last twelve months. Many of these women have been trapped with their abuser. Within the first week of lockdown, reports of domestic violence had surged by 30%. Even the house was not a safe place for lakhs of girls and women.

Another major effect of the pandemic fell on the education system. Governments around the globe took the decision to shut down schools and universities to mitigate the spread of the novel coronavirus. The lockdown imposed particularly affected the low-achieving students because of the lack of educator support. The online education system created gap in terms of availability to academic resources coupled with economic disparity amongst the students created problems. Students from poor economic backgrounds and rural areas without proper access to internet and technology faced a lot of problems in attending classes. These students are having to live through a pandemic while their dreams are left at the mercy of an unpredictable future in remote villages without proper infrastructure.

The pandemic has already worsened the existing cultural inequality in the society. To make the situation better the government should prioritise protecting the disadvantaged and vulnerable from the health and economic aspects of the crisis. The government should come out with more employment schemes and support more labour intensive industries. In order to improve the education system the government should partner with business and non-profit organisations that has the resources to assist the rural students and access to these remote areas. Students from low economic backgrounds should be able to avail these resources. The government should also look into the matters of women's safety and fostering employment opportunities. Small house-scale industries should be encouraged by the government where women workers would be employed. Strict actions should be taken against domestic violence offenders.

PAUSE - RETHINK, REVISE, REDO

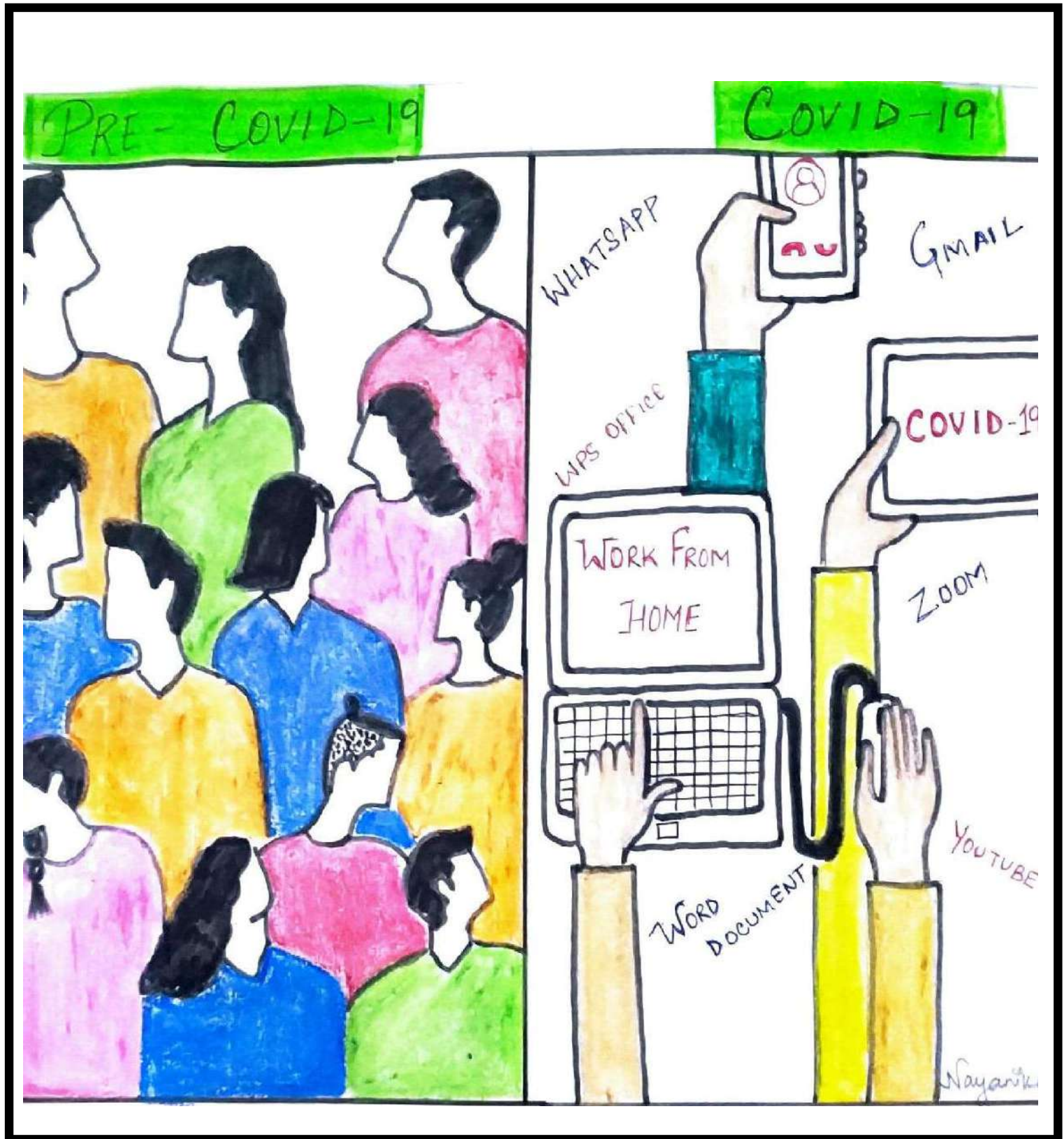
Bhaivika Mehta

Wuhan Municipal Health Organization, China, reported a cluster of cases of pneumonia in Wuhan, following which, the novel coronavirus was eventually identified by WHO on 31st December 2019. In no time coronavirus or COVID-19 spread across the globe, resulting in umpteen number of life loss and chaos all around.

Since forever, there has been a divide between the have's and have not's whereby a certain minority controls the maximum resources. Covid-19 and its consequence, i.e the lockdown, in our country as well as in other parts of the world, highlighted the problems with our reality- the deeply embedded structural inequalities that exist in our society.

Corona virus had had the world pause with no preparations by the state or the country. Many, with access to resources, survived, however, many also lost their lives- workplaces were shutdown, leaving people either jobless or on a long break. Fortunately, white collar workers could resume their work sooner and do it from home, but the same could not be said for the blue collared jobs- the ever existing structural inequality left them with no option to sustain during the impending situation. Our house help, daily wage workers such as laborers, rickshaw pullers, shop helpers etc were all left at an even more vulnerable state than they were in before. With no preparedness, minimal savings, lack of resources and facilities to deal with the virus along with lack of awareness for prevention, the have not's, who constitute the majority, suffered the most. People with resources hoarded the necessary amenity leaving the stores empty for those who couldn't afford to spend it all at once.

It comes without a doubt that where people despite having resources lost their lives battling the coronavirus, but various others must have also lost the battle due to starvation alongside corona. This phase, the year of Pandemic, was ought to teach us all the lesson of equity and fair distribution, having similar if not same opportunities. It was an era for us to rethink and improvise our action and the unjust happening around us instead of glorifying it. Every life whether young or old, black, brown or white, rich, middle class or poor, matters equally. This pandemic has been an opportunity for all of us to pause- rethink, revise and redo, what we've been doing- and we have been doing it all wrong.



CURVES OF THE CHAOS

Konjengbam
Meria Chanu

Through this chaos
One finds themselves:
As a poet, gilded artist, rich and poor.

Beautiful chaos that one gets to find the lost self
Terrible chaos that one dug a ditch of beggarly.
For some, it's laughter for family
Like an occasion
Getting to unite and innovate new delightful cuisines,
But
For some, their laughter is heard
As an echo from the building while living an unfair life
Fighting for survival become an issue
And they find themselves
Waiting
For the worst to happen
As the virus approach
And can hardly fulfill oh what you call!
Yes, a basic need.
Starving stomach force them
To make an entrance into the pool of virus
Today and everyday,
Fever is common for their starving bellies,

Invisible gets noticed.
Their hunger stricken pale faces
Gives a clear picture that they grow soon before time
And leave without any traces.

Reoccurring of La Belle Epoque for the rich folks,
Where one gets full leisure time and rides of new pearls.
Inequalities spilt out their deadly venom to the education too,
when some cozily sits at their room affording all kinds of tech,
while some miss the whole opportunities to inculcate the knowledge
As if they are not the right ones to celebrate this right.

Differentiation is the central theme of human society
Society rest on the idea of difference
But this time it's so limpid and yet too opaque.

The poor suffers the most
They start with the lows
And they end themselves in the lows.
Poors rarely die naturally
Either they die suffering
Or leave the suffering behind by giving up on their life
Yes by suicide.

This stratification system never showed consistency and it's a mess
Pandemic in some ways constrain or direct human behaviour
People were stripped of their fundamental rights,
forcing them to fight.
The cries of help can be heard through
It is clear that the sufferers are suffering
Inside their tents in slums
Slowly dying.
The pain is visible in their face
The sad victims of inequalities.

Time to put their prayers on ours.
If for just one magical day
eradicate Poverty
Vanish inequality
restore sensibility
prohibit inhumanity
instil humility
eliminate brutality
generate amity
crush depravity
celebrate diversity
end disunity.

LOCKDOWN - AN AWAKENING

Jekulin Thakuria

It all started from- we don't really know when or where it started, or how. But we have let it breathe in our society- sometimes it is in religion, sometimes in gender, sometimes in caste and class. We have laws that ineffectively prohibits us from practicing it, Article 15, for instance. Yet here we are, writing, discussing and experiencing it in every wake of life. Yes, we're talking about inequality- in resources, opportunities, workspaces, religion, etc. While it is easy to say that inequalities stem from the caste system, it doesn't come true in all case and scenario. The pandemic, and the resulting lockdown has brought up the curtain from the underlying and neglected structural inequalities existing in our society. While the lockdown has been, for many of us, a time to rekindle our lost touch with our hobbies and catch up on lost time with family, for many, it has been the height of hardship and troubles. While for many of us, switching to the virtual mode has been as swift and easy as logging into facebook or Instagram and scrolling through the news feed, there were many, even in our close groups, for whom this transition was near impossible. The fact that while we were at home, enjoying high speed internet connectivity, there are, even today, places with bare minimum network coverage. The unpreparedness, lack of viable solution to make the education system inclusive and accessible, triggers a lot of questions about the unequal distribution of resources, and at large, opportunities. The education sector has always been highly influenced by the structural inequalities. From the privilege of attaining good and quality education, getting admitted to higher and further studies to getting the bare minimum education, dropping out before higher studies due to various reasons ranging from financial crisis, unavailability of options, lack of support- different segments of society has differing experiences when it comes to education. While girls from the lower strata are often seen dropping off after or during higher studies, many have to fight their way through stereotypes and opposing opinions to study further. Also to be noted here is the essence of English as a benchmark; association with the language is seen as a class act, something which a lot of students don't have the privilege to learn- sometimes due to lack of opportunity, sometimes due to lack of resources.

While the network troubles highlighted during the pandemic pushes us to mull over the varying levels of inequality in the education sector, another thing that has always been right under our nose has been the environment surrounding a family. While most of us have been privileged enough to be born and brought up in a non-violent household, the lockdown did see a significant rise in the number of domestic violence cases. While it is nothing surprising, but it does put one in unease seeing the gender biases and the crimes based on those biases. What pertains these scenarios to our line of discussion is the observation that crimes against the lower placed group, community, gender are at a staggeringly increasing pace. Be it be crimes against women or the LGBTQ community, against Dalits, Northeasterns and religious minority, the disregard for the ingrained inequality has been a major playing factor for this outcome. This inequality extends and joins with the education sector, workspaces and opportunities at large.

While there has been collective consciousness for a lot of the existing inequalities, it did take a pandemic and a lockdown to bring these to the forefront, which speaks for the level of understanding and concern for the problems. There has been uproar, demands, revolutions for the sake of equality- many of them thrashed, silenced, but many still survives, and serves as a hope for the making of a better space with no scope of these pertaining structures and the inequalities that comes accompanying it. The lockdown has been, in many ways, an awakening, the effects of which will be felt in the form of changes and evolution in the time to come.

'INTERNAL' CONFLICT

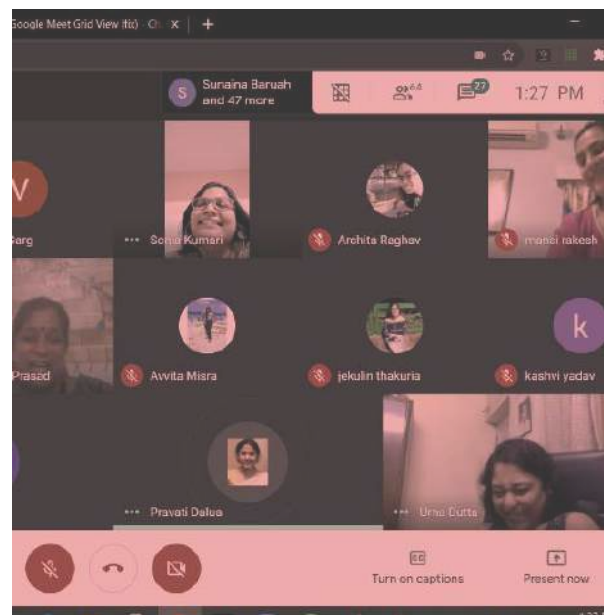
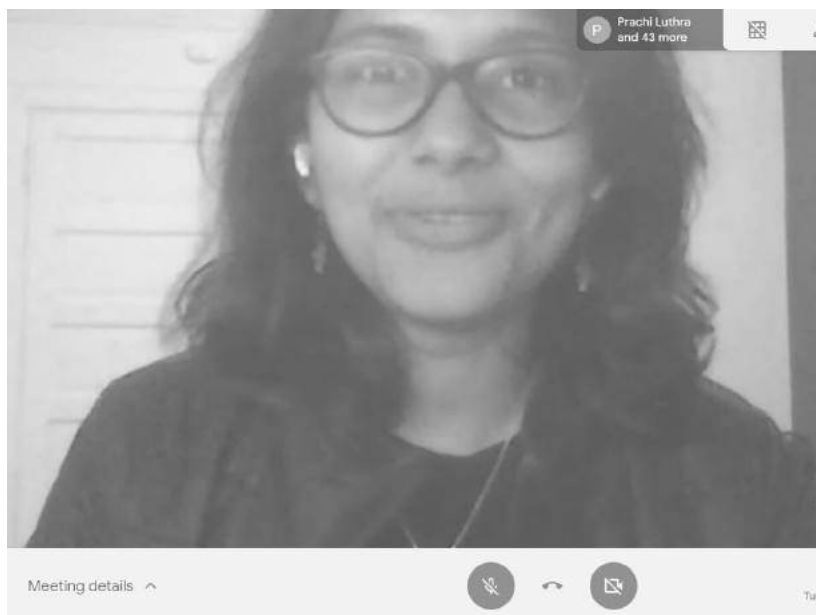
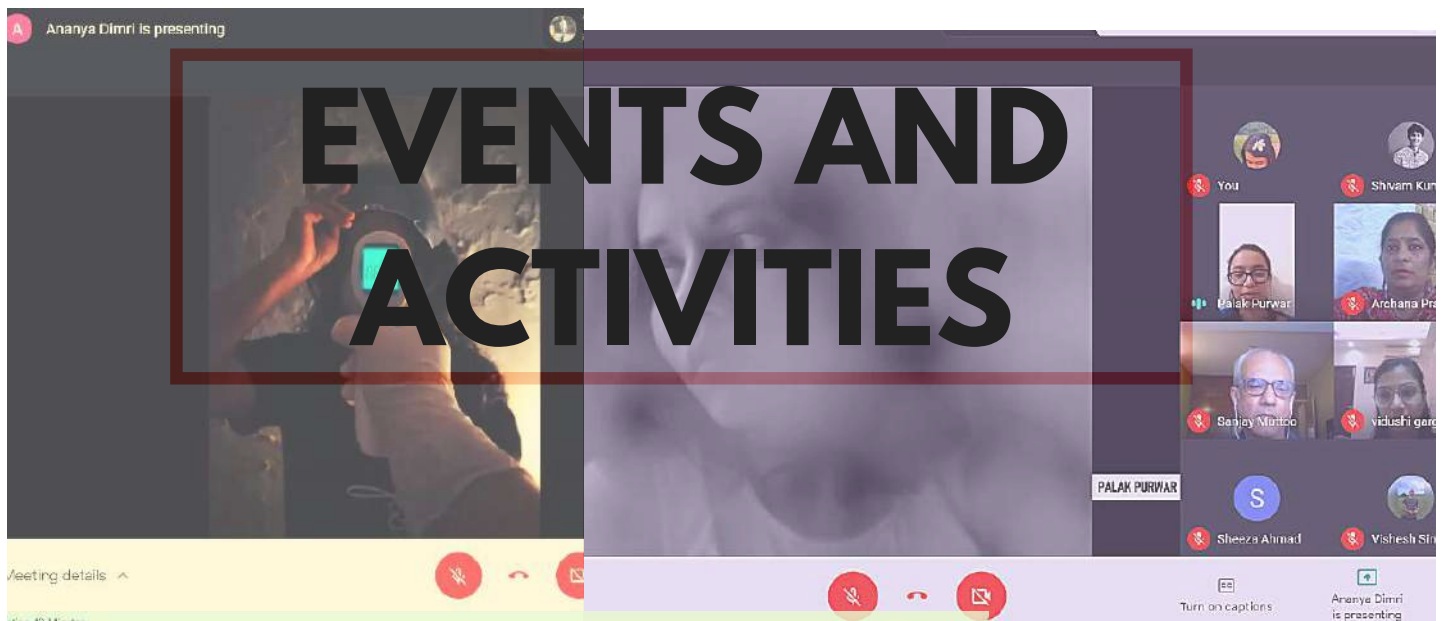
Samikhya Satpathy

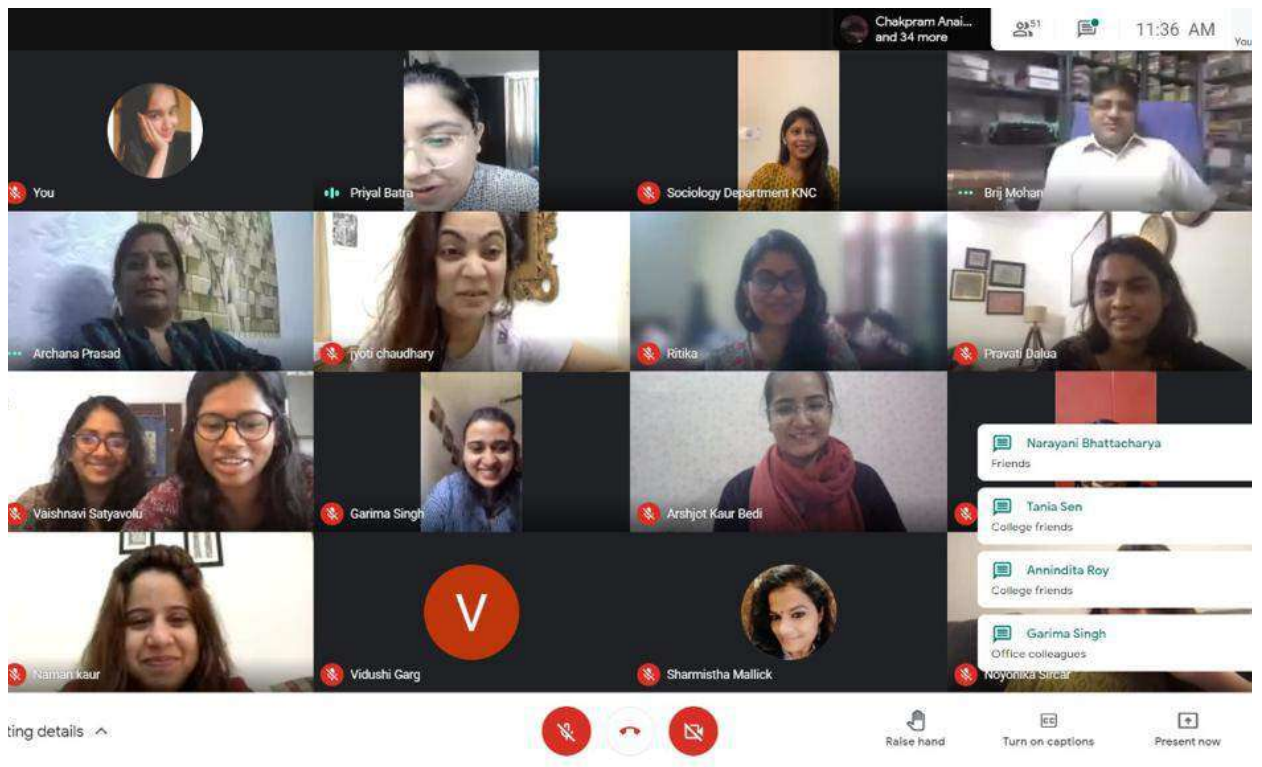
Women and children have always been on the receiving end of the economic and social fallouts during times of crisis and the pandemic was no exception. The loss of livelihood, limited or no access to social support, and exposure to increased violence were among the pallbearers of increased turbulence in women's lives during the pandemic. In a report by The Hindu, in the first four phases of the lockdown in India, the recorded number of domestic violence cases were higher than the cases recorded during similar periods in the last 10 years but, even this unusual surge was only the tip of the iceberg as a staggering 86% of the cases of domestic violence go unreported. While domestic violence cases aren't new to limited to the pandemic, their rates during the past year can be, at best, described as alarming. Facts and figures aside, the question that remains is why was this voluminous increase seen? Researchers say that the loss of jobs, lack of space and being enclosed in a small space, intensification of already existing aggressive tendencies due to the frustration of being inside, or the classic patriarchal need to dominate the vulnerable in the house were among the top reasons for the increase in domestic violence.

Another scenario that was seen during the pandemic was the blurring of the professional space and the personal space, which for women meant more work. Before Covid, working women were still handling the pressures of both their offices and their homes and were burdened by both, however, there was still a little distinction between these spaces but with the pandemic, this space vanished into thin air, and women all over the world had to assume and were expected to do both the household work as well as the office work, causing burnouts and leaving them with almost no personal time or time for recuperation.

These two instances, however distant and unrelated they might seem, are tied by a single thread, the thread that has wrapped itself around the society, making an inescapable cocoon, the thread that puppeteers women's lives, the thread known as patriarchy. It is a proven fact that when adversities strike, it is always vulnerable who are affected the most, be it socially or economically. Further, the internalization of guilt in women for not being able to manage the household or believing that they deserved to be abused, etc is a gift from patriarchy as well which has led women to believe that they have to be the perfect, submissive, devoid of desires, working machines whose only work is to reproduce and look after the household and in the pandemic, women had to battle this shadow force trying to uproot their lives.

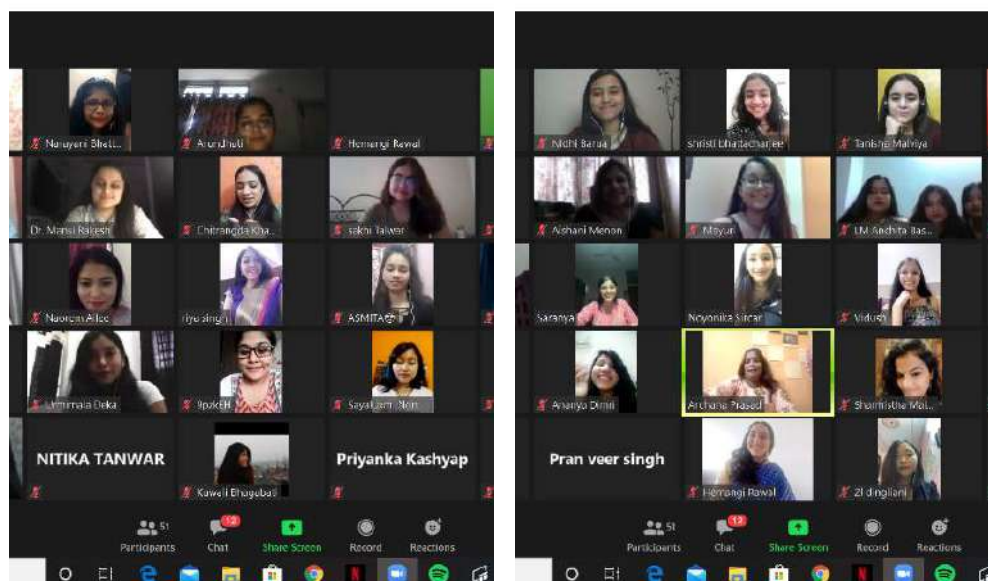
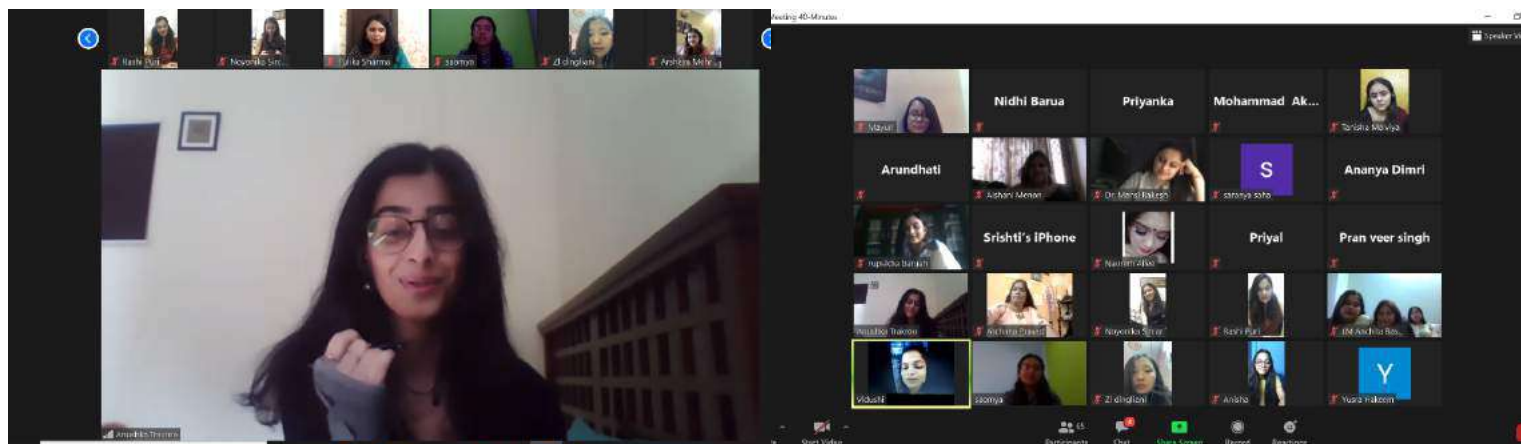


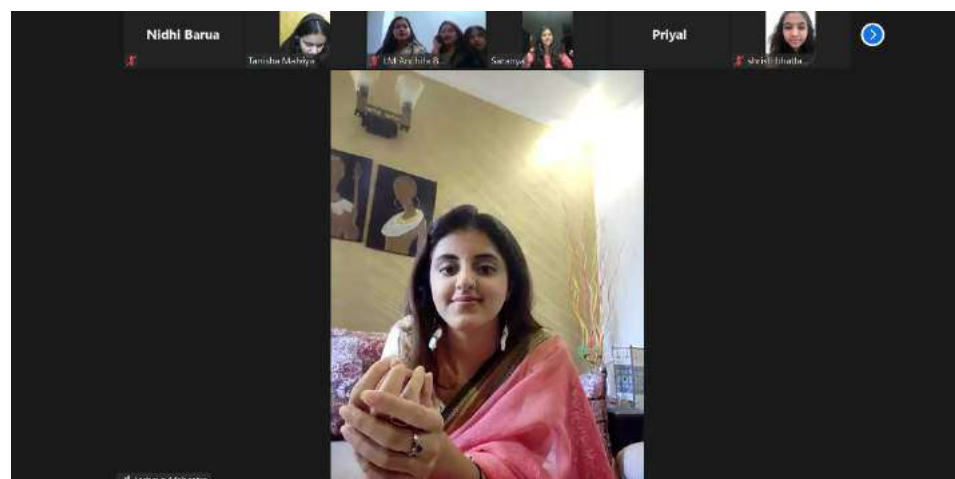
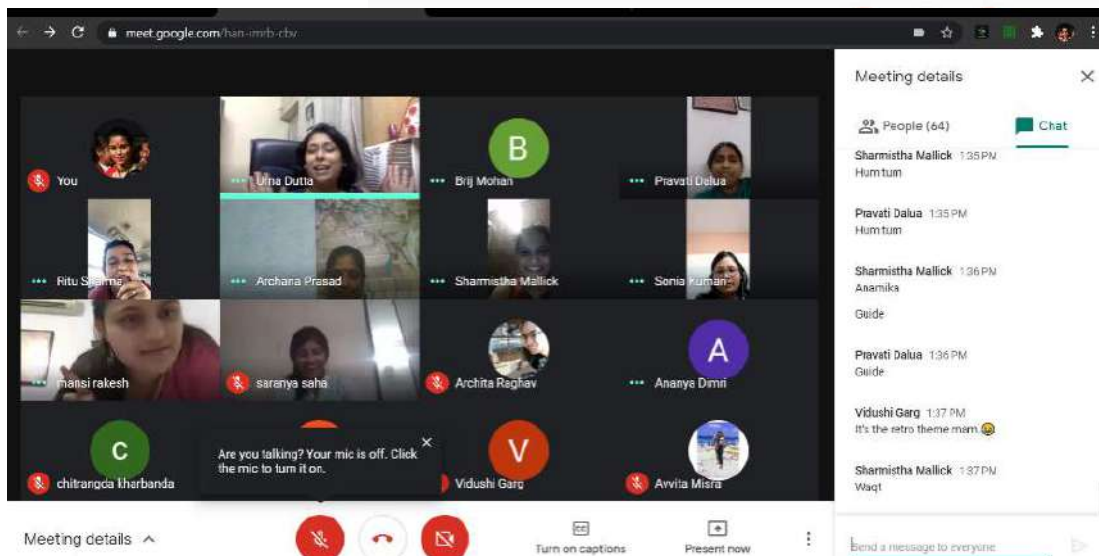
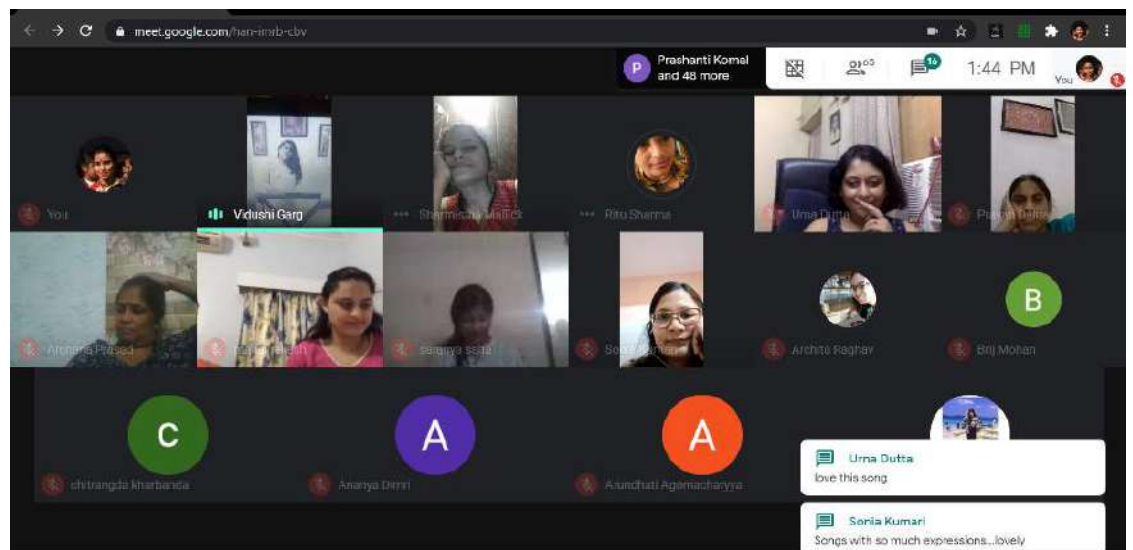


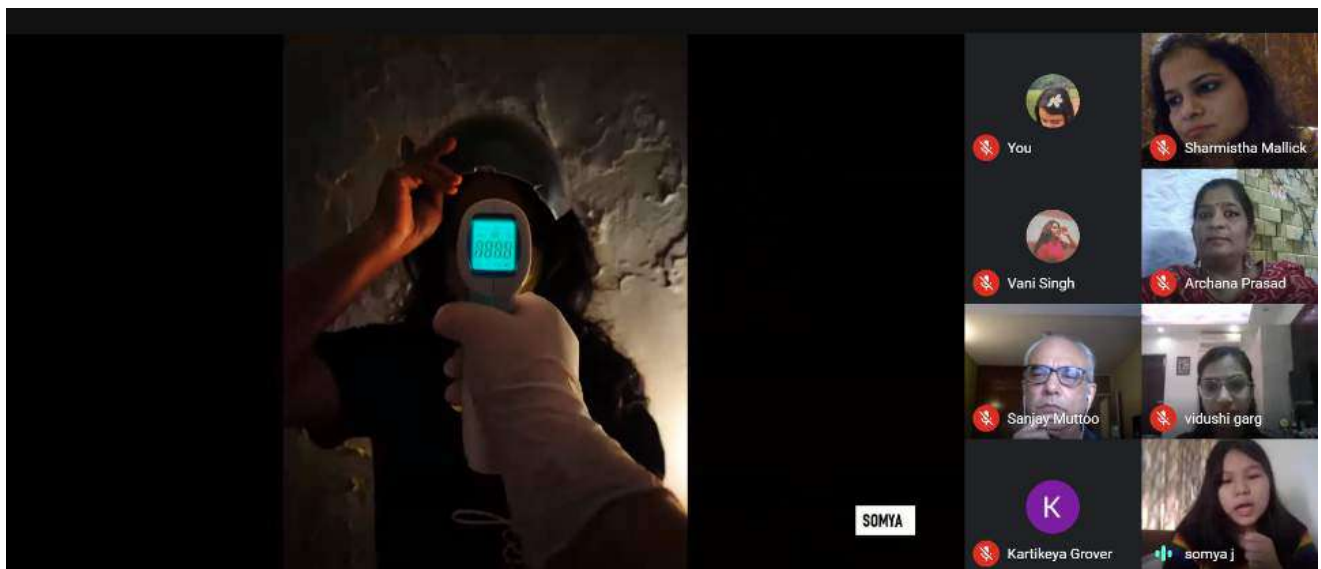
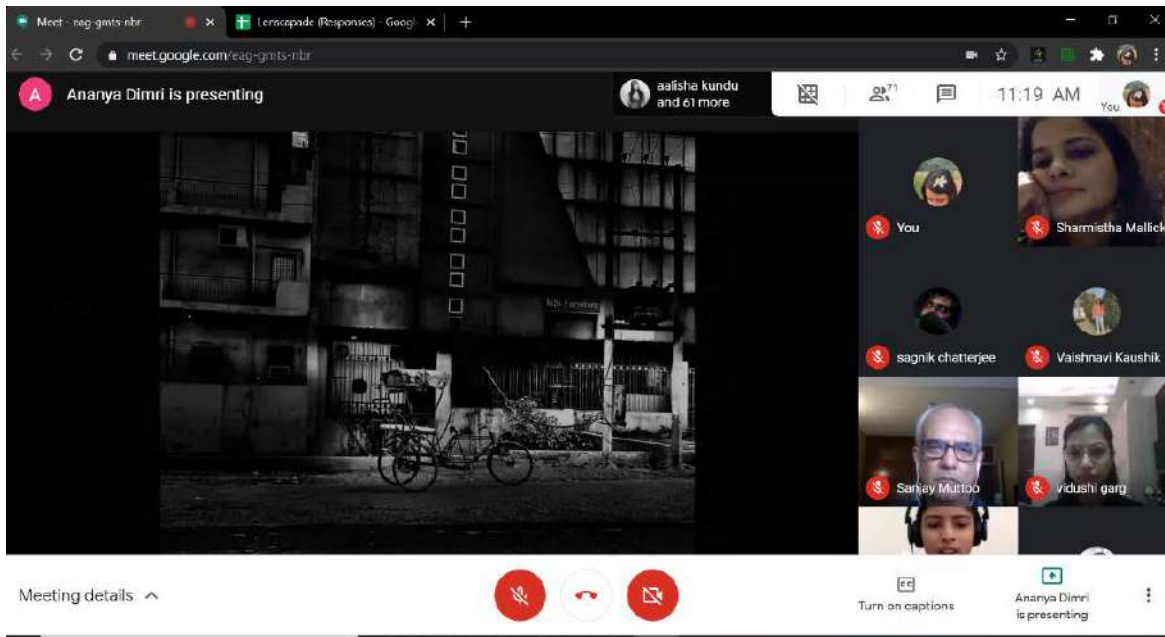


1. CYNOSURE'20
2. RAZZMATAZZ'20
3. TEACHER'S DAY'20
4. LENSAPADE'20
5. ONLINE LECTURE'20
6. BOOK DISCUSSION'20
7. CONVIVIAL'20
8. STUDENT-FACULTY EXCHANGE PROGRAM'21
9. REMINISCENCE'21
10. ONLINE LECTURE SERIES'21

The year has been a very eventful and fruitful for the Department of Sociology. Despite the unforeseen situations, the department was successful in organising a variety of events for the students and faculty including the other annual festivals. From online lecture series, book discussions, students exchange in collaboration with Sophia Girl's College to Fresher's, Alumni Meet, and Farewell, the department has seen a successful year in terms of garnering knowledge and keeping up with the celebrations all the same.











DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY
KAMALA NEHRU COLLEGE
UNIVERSITY OF DELHI



invites you all for
A Book Discussion
On

**ADMITTED: THE MISSING GUIDE
TO CRAFT A WINNING
APPLICATION & STUDY ABROAD**

AUTHOR: SOUNDARYA BALASUBRAMANI



Her book entitled, "ADMITTED: THE MISSING GUIDE TO CRAFT A WINNING APPLICATION & STUDY ABROAD", provides an informative guide for graduates and professional aspiring to pursue higher education abroad.

MODERATOR: DR. SHARMISTHA MALLICK

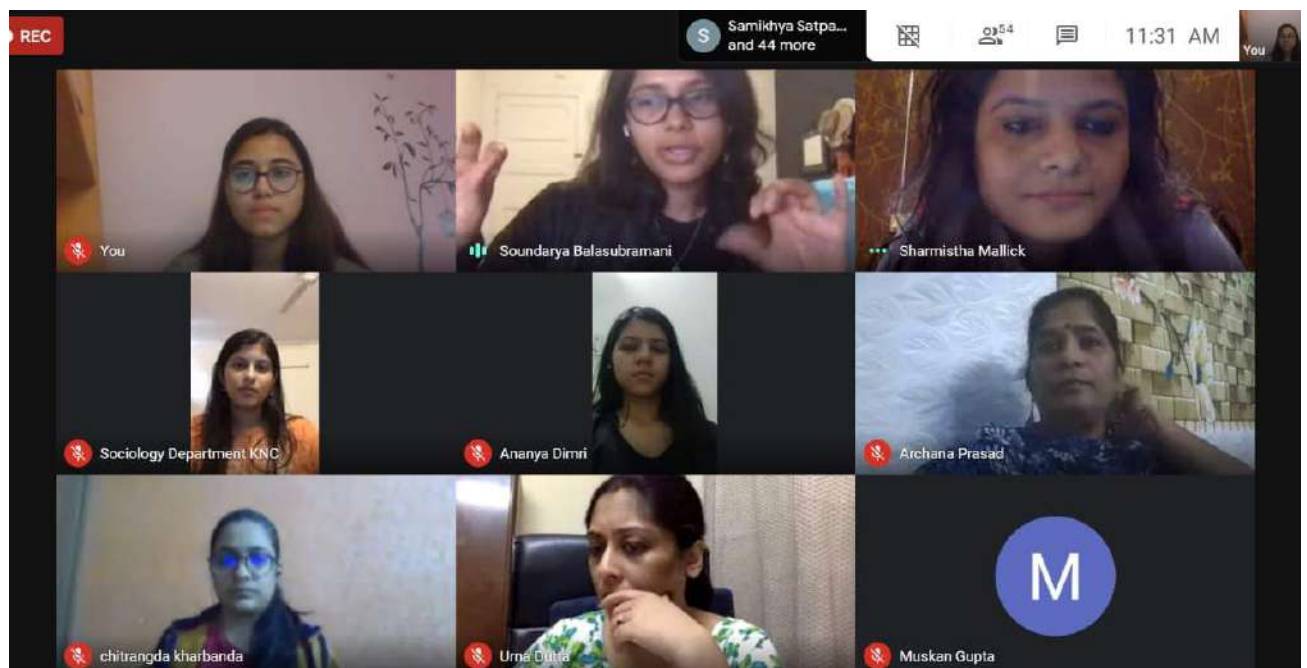
Dr. Sharmistha Mallick is an Assistant Professor at Department of Sociology, Kamala Nehru College, University of Delhi.



DATE: 7th November, 2020

TIME: 11:00 am

G MEET LINK: <https://meet.google.com/nqy-vjbf-sfr>







DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY
KAMALA NEHRU COLLEGE
UNIVERSITY OF DELHI

in collaboration with

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY
SOPHIA GIRLS' COLLEGE, AJMER
organises

STUDENT-FACULTY EXCHANGE PROGRAM

SUBJECT EXPERTS:

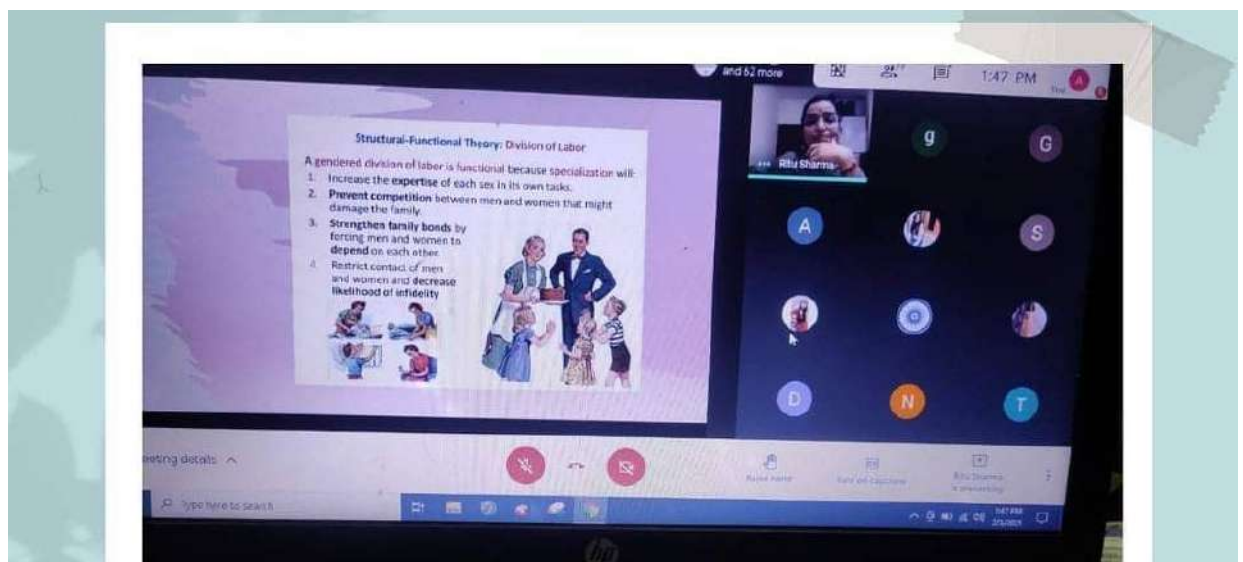
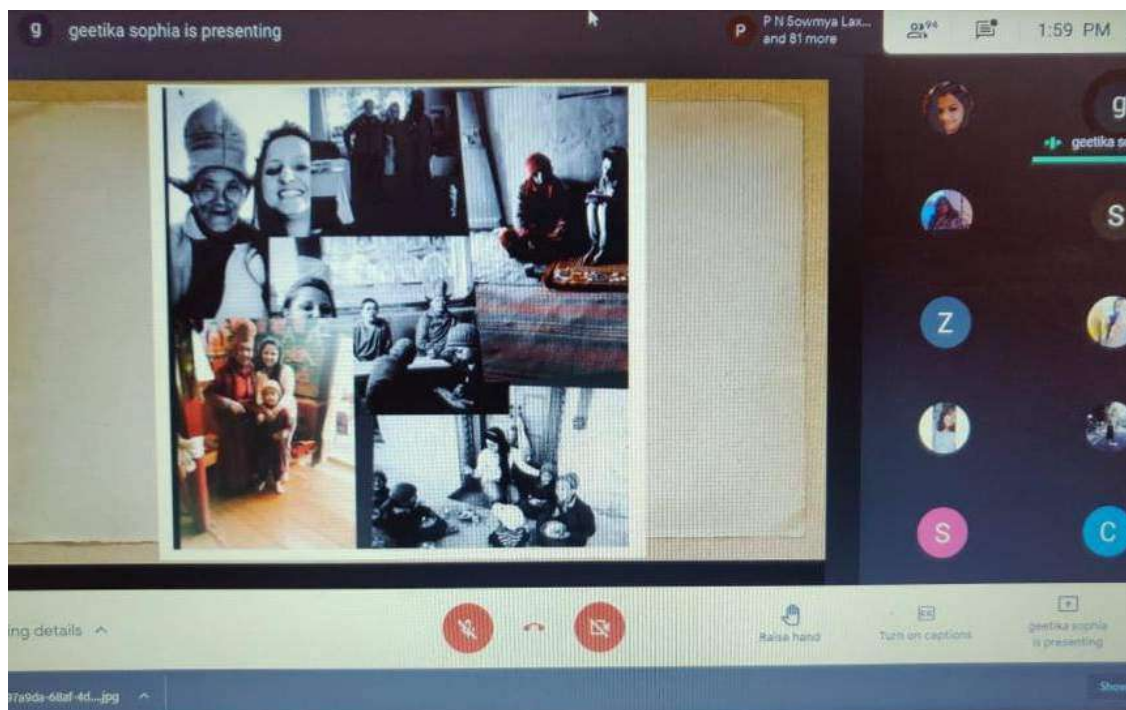
Mrs. Geetika Yadav
Assistant Professor,
Department of Sociology,
Sophia Girls' College
Topic: Gender and Stratification
Date: 27 January 2021
Time: 1:15pm - 2:30pm

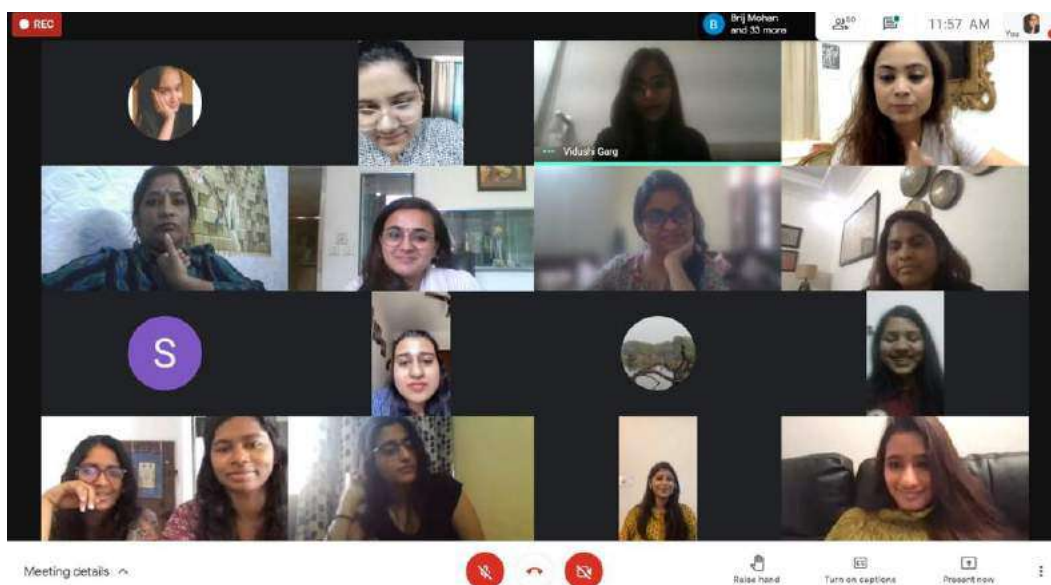
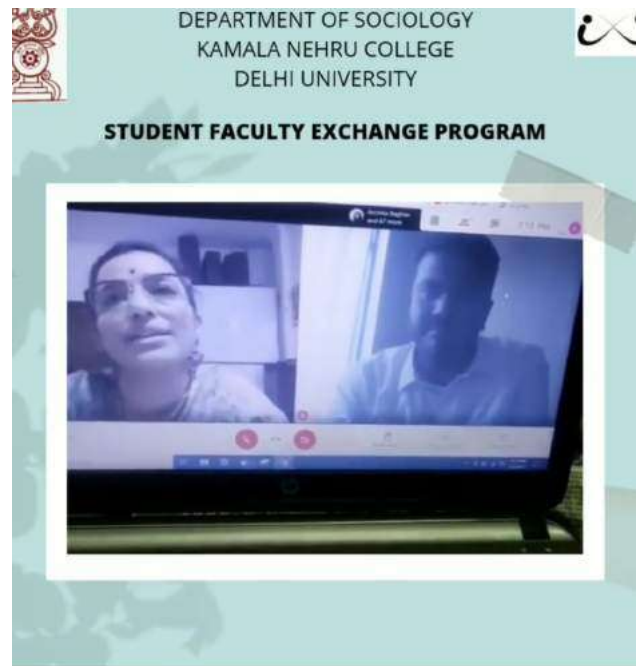
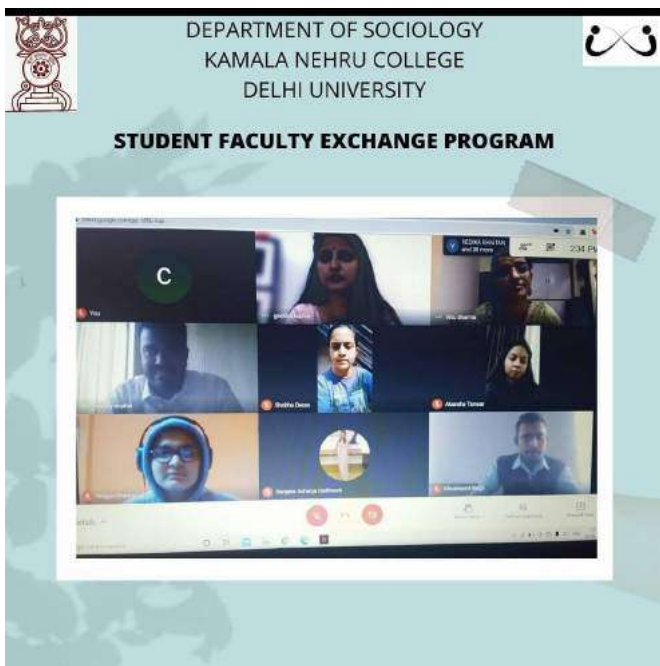
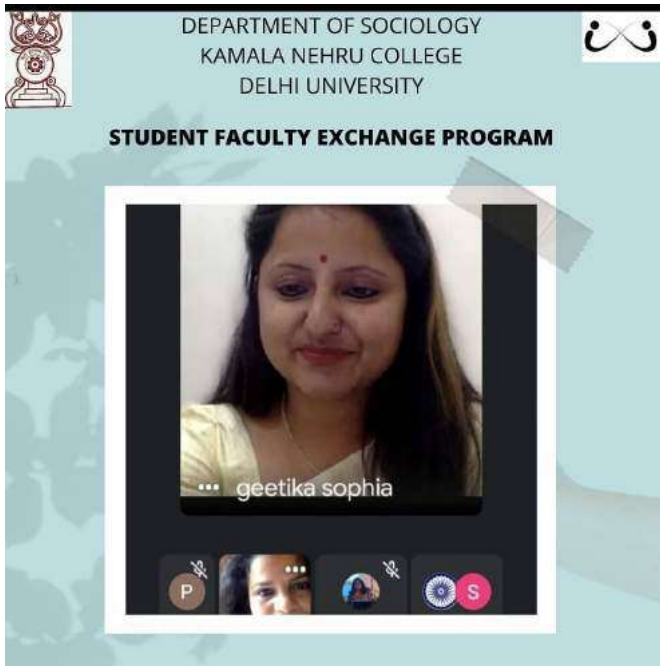


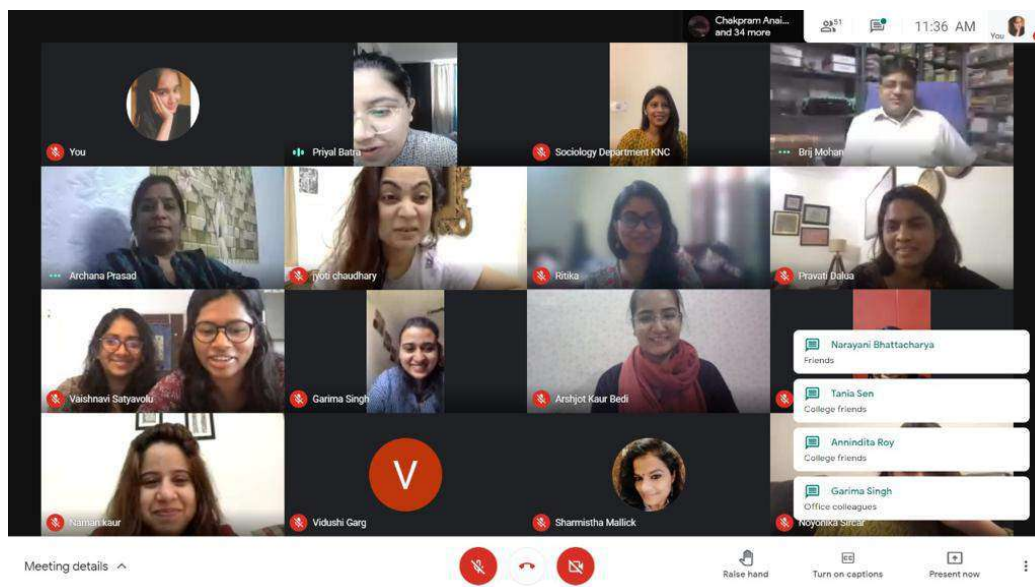
Dr. Ritu Sharma
Assistant Professor, Department of
Sociology, Kamala Nehru College
Topic: Gender and Labour Processes
Date: 3 February 2021
Time: 1:15pm - 2:30pm

Google meet link: <https://meet.google.com/dct-negc-eze>

All are cordially invited!









**DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY
KAMALA NEHRU COLLEGE
UNIVERSITY OF DELHI**

Presents
Online Lecture Series II



Dr. Pranta Pratik Patnaik

About the speaker :

Pranta Pratik Patnaik, Assistant Professor, Department of Culture and Media Studies, Central University of Rajasthan. Specialising in Sociology of Media, his recent publication is titled "Gendered Representations in Media."

Topic of lecture : Masculinity In Indian Media

DATE : 10th March, 2021
TIME : 1:15 pm
LINK : <https://meet.google.com/fjh-uhia-dka>

FACULTY PHOTOGRAPH



EDITORIAL TEAM



THIRD YEAR



SECOND YEAR



FIRST YEAR

