

Travel Grant: Three-tier A/C fare (except Rajdhani) will be provided (only one author) to the selected participants along with local hospitality. There is no registration fee to attend the seminar.

Submission of Abstract: Abstracts are invited in any of the proposed sub-themes. An abstract not exceeding 250 words to be sent. The author must indicate the sub-theme under which the paper falls.

Submission of full paper: The selected authors will have to send the full paper, which (not exceeding 6000 words) should reach by due date. The selected papers might be published in an edited book by a well-known publisher after necessary revisions.

Mode of event: We are planning to organise the event in-person. In any case lockdown will impose by the state, we may go for a hybrid mode for organising the event.

Abstract and Paper Submission:

Email: csdg.ansiss@gmail.com

Important Dates

Abstract Submission	8 th January
Abstract selection	10 th January
Submission of Full Paper	15 th February

Seminar Co-ordinator

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National Seminar

On

COVID-19 in India & Sustainable Development Goals:

Challenges, Responses & Way forward

February 18th-19th, 2022

Organised by

A.N. Sinha Institute of Social Studies, Patna

In Collaboration with

Indian Council of Social Science Research, New Delhi

&

Centre for Catalyzing Change-Sakshamaa, Bihar

The COVID-19 pandemic which appeared as a health shock, adversely affected the labour market, public health system, education system and lives of people across the globe. The economic and social disruptions caused by the pandemic has affected the development agendas of the countries and progress towards SDGs. The pandemic has decimated millions of jobs, increased livelihood risks and driven millions into poverty. The massive loss of jobs has triggered an exodus of informal migrant workers from employment hubs in urban areas to their villages and has a devastating impact on the economy and households. With experiences of income losses, households may resort to negative coping strategies, such as distress sale of assets, predatory loans or child labour. Many families have seen their food and nutritional security in jeopardy. Alongside livelihood losses, lockdown has reduced the domestic and international food supply chains, increased prices and reduced access to healthy and diverse diets with severe nutritional implications. School closures have affected learning outcomes, creating unequal access to education through digitisation of education. There are concerns that many students are dropping out of school altogether, becoming child labour and entering into child marriage. The outbreaks of pandemic had a differential impact on women by affecting their economic participation, reproductive health and social relations in the family. Women's participation in employment which was already low and declining in pre-covid times, became more aggravated due to pandemic and affected their

psychological well-being. The public health system struggled more to save the lives and access to health care services has been severely affected.

Indian governments made strides to mitigate the socioeconomic crisis by implementing various measures involving a combination of both stimulus and fiscal relief efforts, such as safety net reforms, fee concessions and increased budgetary allocation for different sectors. The intensity however, seems to be much higher than the support received. Under such circumstances, the 2030 vision of SDGs appears to be challenging. This raises the question whether the social support measures will help to lift the poor out of extreme poverty and food insecurity? India is already showing an unsatisfactory progress in achieving the targets of SDG prior to novel coronavirus disease and unfortunately the outbreak of the disease made it even much slower and may reverse the progress in many of the indicators unless serious efforts will be taken. These requires effective policy decisions and reforms for long term structural changes that can help the country for a sustainable future. Addressing the socioeconomic challenges, analysing the effectiveness of government initiatives, and rethinking of the ways to develop long-term strategies is critical in the progress towards SDGs.

Against this backdrop, A.N. Sinha Institute of Social Studies, Patna is organising a two-day national seminar on "*COVID-19 in India & Sustainable Development*

Goals: Challenges, Responses & Way forward", in collaboration with Indian Council of Social Science Research and Centre for Catalyzing Change-Sakshamaa.

The seminar will address the following questions:

- How the states of India were placed in achieving Sustainable Development Goals in pre-covid context?
- How are the socioeconomic challenges related to COVID-19 impact SDGs?
- Whether and to what extent government responses are effective in addressing the multidimensional crisis of the pandemic?
- What are the adaptive policy measures for achieving SDGs and a sustainable future?

Sub-themes

- ✓ Labour market challenges: Issues of employment & sectoral impacts
- ✓ Educational inequalities: Learning outcomes, digitisation, enrolment & dropouts
- ✓ Public Health system: functionality and management
- ✓ Demography and Access to healthcare services
- ✓ Food insecurity, dietary diversity and nutrition
- ✓ Gender equality: Economic participation, reproductive health & violence
- ✓ Reverse migration, coping up issues & household economy