PGGC-11 HOSTS INTERNATIONAL WEBINAR DURING WORK FROM HOME

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CHANDIGARH,18.07.20-In first of it's kind in city Beautiful a 2 -days International Webinar on "Redrawing the Domestic Paradigm: Family Bonding, Gender concerns and Health Issues amidst COVID-19" was hosted by Post Graduate Government College, Sector 11, Chandigarh. The webinar was addressed by distinguished professional from Lebanon, Argentina Singapore, USA and India. The webinar started with the welcome address by Dr. Rakesh Thakur, Director of the webinar, followed by the inaugural speech by Mr. Rubinderjit Singh Brar, Director Higher Education, Chandigarh Administration, Chandigarh. He expressed that "we all are in the middle of a health calamity that is disrupting the economy and the need of the hour is to accept, fight and adapt to the new normal."

Prof. Rama Arora, Principal, Post Graduate Government College, Sector 11, Chandigarh, welcomed the distinguished guests and shared the fact that existence of human race is under threat. She complemented the efforts made by Dr. Rakesh Thakur and team embrace technology and connect the global audience with the institution. Chief Guest of the international webinar Ms. Mugdha Sinha (IAS), Secretary Science and Technology and Art & Culture, Government of Rajasthan gave the keynote address in which she apprised one and all that this ongoing coronavirus pandemic has affected nearly four million people and has devastated economies across the globe so much so that the new normal has forced people to re-evaluate and prioritize their needs for the future. Furthermore, she stressed on the need for introspection, awakening and gave the mantra of "return to roots".

Mr. Ajit Kumar Jha, Editor Research, India Today ,a Senior Journalist of repute was the invited distinguished speaker for morning session, he highlighted how women are affected during lockdown and raised the issues like economy, health, rising domestic violence, lesser enrolment in schools and colleges and reduction women's employment. He in his address urged the Government to restart campaigns to fight gender disparity with respect to women in Covid-19 times.

Mr. Mithilesh Kumar Jha, from IIT Guwahati emphasized on the role of "community in solving the social crisis." Prof. Aswini Kumar Nanda, Professor, CRRID in the valedictory session, shared extensive demographic data

from gender perspective. He pointed out, "All demographic changes are revolving around women." He concluded that "recession combined with pandemic has aggravated the issue mostly affecting the marginalized group." Dr. Rakesh Thakur conceptualized Pandemic as revolving around the troika of Family, Gender and Health and aims to work towards finding a global solution within socio-cultural context so as to future proof humanity against the paranoia, disease and crisis of Covid-19. He expressed his gratitude to the Principal and other dignitaries for giving him this opportunity as an academician to make his contribution towards humanity during Covid-19 crisis.

On the second day of the International Webinar, The invited speaker of the morning session of day 2, Dr. Nada Tawil, Head of Anthropology, Social Science Institute, Lebanese University, Lebanon, spoke about how the Mediterranean region including Lebanon, Iran, middle east and gulf area is suffering due to the prevalence of Covid-19 like any other country. She added that community togetherness and solidarity is required to combat any crisis situation. The keynote speaker, Mr. Anshul Sonak, Senior director at Global AL Readiness, intel corporation, Singapore avowed that women potential needs to be realized for future growth. Mr Sonak said that the mindset should be Disruption Ready to negotiate the challenges . Mr. Manodeep Guha, Indian Representative Workers Right Consortium, raised issues of migrant labour and garment industry workers , highlighted financial, social, family and health implications of Covid-19 especially among migrating women. Prof Andrea Matallana, Professor of the Historical and social studies Department of the University Tocuato Di Tella & the Ricardo Rojas Cultural Centre(UBA) from Argentina shared the experiences from Latin America. The keynote speaker of the afternoon session Dr. Sharique Nazir, Diplomate American Board of Surgery discussed Covid-19 from medical perspective and discussed the COVID-19 situation in USA.The invited speaker, Dr. Manjeet Brar, Mission Coordinator, Samagra Siksha, Chandigarh Administration, UT, Chandigarh explained how Government is actively facilitating collaborating and coordinating for operationalising of govt. schools of Chandigarh. The valedictory speaker, Dr. Dalip Kumar, Mission Coordinator, RUSA, Chandigarh Administration spoke about the impact of Covid-19 in higher education.

After the vote of thanks by Mr. Ranjjan Verma, Dean, PGGC-11, Chandigarh, Dr. Rakesh Thakur, Director of the Webinar expressed his gratitude to the Principal and other dignitaries of the day 2 for making their diverse academic contributions on a single platform The webinar was attended by 1288 participants from India and abroad who had registered for webinar and the Live streaming on youtube has garnered more than 3k hits for both the days.