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Plenary Session 3

Significance of Human Capital in the Post-pandemic Landscape



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The recently concluded international conference at JAIN (Deemed-to-be University) served as a dynamic platform for intellectual exchange and collaboration, bringing together eminent speakers from diverse backgrounds to explore and delve into pressing issues that shape our world. The thought-provoking plenary session emerged as a focal point, addressing critical themes that are instrumental in defining the post-pandemic landscape.



Panel Members during the 3rd Plenary session

The plenary session of the conference commenced with Dr. Priyanca Mathur, the session moderator, introducing the esteemed chair and four distinguished speakers.

The focus of the session centred on the pivotal theme of human capital and its profound significance in the post-pandemic landscape. One of the central themes that resonated throughout the plenary session was the intersection of Science and Climate Change. The speakers, hailing from various disciplines, engaged in illuminating discussions on the profound impact of climate change on our planet. They elucidated the latest scientific advancements, innovative technologies, and sustainable practices aimed at mitigating the adverse effects of climate change. The conference fostered an environment where experts and attendees alike could contemplate actionable solutions to address the urgent environmental challenges facing the global community.

Mental health emerged as another pivotal theme, drawing attention to the psychological repercussions of the pandemic and beyond. Distinguished speakers, including mental health professionals and scholars, shared valuable insights into the evolving landscape of mental well-being. Discussions delved into the challenges posed by the pandemic, emphasizing the need for holistic approaches to mental health that encompass societal, cultural, and individual dimensions. The conference provided a platform to explore strategies for destigmatizing mental health issues, promoting resilience, and advancing mental health policies.

The theme of Migration added a socio-cultural dimension to the discourse, highlighting the intricate dynamics of population movement and its implications. Renowned experts in the field of migration studies examined the impact of the pandemic on migration patterns, emphasizing the role of governance in shaping inclusive policies that address the needs of diverse migrant communities. Insights from this session contributed to a nuanced understanding of the challenges and opportunities presented by migration, fostering a dialogue on the importance of fostering an inclusive and equitable society.

Governance in India emerged as a focal point, with experts shedding light on the evolving landscape of policy, administration, and governance structures. The discussions encompassed a wide range of topics, including the role of technology in governance, the need for transparency and accountability, and strategies for

addressing complex socio-economic challenges. The conference facilitated a multi-dimensional exploration of governance issues, encouraging participants to critically analyse and contribute to the on-going discourse on effective governance practices.

In essence, the international conference at JAIN (Deemed-to-be University) provided a rich and comprehensive exploration of Science and Climate Change, Mental Health, Migration, and Governance in India. By bringing together experts from various fields, the conference fostered a collaborative environment that not only enhanced the collective understanding of these crucial themes but also inspired actionable solutions and initiatives for a more resilient and sustainable future.

Some Highlights

Chaired by **Dr. K Sridhara Murthi**, *Member of the Chancellor's Advisory Board at JAIN (Deemed-to-be University)*, the session delved into critical topics ranging from the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on education to socio-economic progress in Bangladesh and the role of the Indian Ocean in the post-pandemic world.



Dr. Sridhara Murthi chairing the 3rd Plenary Session

The first speaker in this Plenary was Prof. **(Dr.) Vinitha P. Guptan**, *Vice Chancellor, Saito University, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia* who spoke on "Deconstructing Education Post-Pandemic: A Time for Academic Reflection." Delving into the challenges posed by Covid-19, she highlighted the pandemic's role in necessitating a deconstruction of standardized education systems. Dr. Guptan underscored the importance of adapting education to meet the needs of marginalized communities, sharing insights from her work and emphasizing the transformative power of education. She emphasized the need for academia to adapt to the challenges posed by the pandemic and reflect on innovative approaches to education.

Prof. Guptan highlighted the importance of leveraging technology, fostering resilience, and creating inclusive learning environments to navigate the evolving landscape of education in a post-pandemic world.



Prof. (Dr.) Vinitha P. Guptan Presenting her paper in 3rd Plenary Session

The second speaker was **Dr. Fahmida Khatun**, *Executive Director, Centre for Policy Dialogue, Dhaka, Bangladesh*, who spoke on 'How the COVID-19 Pandemic Impacted on Bangladesh's Socio-Economic Progress?' Dr. Khatun addressed the new social problems arising globally due to Covid-19. She particularly highlighted the setback in globalisation during the pandemic, shedding light on the reluctance of developed nations to share vaccines with the developing world. Dr. Khatun's presentation underscored the challenges posed by global disparities and the need for international cooperation. She discussed the challenges faced by Bangladesh in terms of socio-economic setbacks during the pandemic and emphasised the need for strategic policy measures to address the impacts. Her presentation shed light on the resilience of the Bangladeshi people and the importance of international cooperation in overcoming the socio-economic challenges posed by the pandemic.

She was followed by **Saliya Weerakoon**, *President and CEO, Eqwta Limited Winsocially, Colombo, Sri Lanka*, who spoke on, 'The Power of Indian Ocean: The Post-Pandemic Story'. Saliya Weerakoon, brought a unique perspective to the plenary session in his presentation and shifted the focus to the geopolitical realm by emphasising the paramount importance of the Indian Ocean. He engaged the audience by discussing the decline of the American dream and the rising significance of South Asia. He highlighted the role that both India and Sri Lanka play in shaping the future dynamics of the region. Mr. Weerakoon delved into the strategic significance of the Indian Ocean in the global recovery process post-pandemic. His insightful analysis explored the potential for collaboration among nations

bordering the Indian Ocean to drive economic growth, trade, and sustainable development in the wake of the pandemic.



Saliya Weerakoon, addressing the audience during plenary Session

The fourth speaker for this Plenary session was **Ms. Simraatraj Kaur**, *Head of Social Policy & Human Rights at Bait Al Amanah, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia*, who focused on "Post-Pandemic Policy Approaches for Socio-Economic Recovery: Safeguarding Migrants and Refugees in Malaysia." As the final speaker, Simraatraj Kaur, addressed the critical issue of safeguarding migrants and refugees in Malaysia through her presentation titled "Post-Pandemic Policy Approaches for Socio-Economic Recovery: Safeguarding Migrants and Refugees in Malaysia." Ms. Kaur brought attention to the challenges faced by these vulnerable groups during the pandemic and criticised the discriminatory policies of the Malaysian government. She argued for a shift towards recognizing the untapped economic potential of these populations instead of categorizing jobs as "dirty, dangerous, and difficult." Her presentation addressed the challenges faced by vulnerable populations, particularly migrants and refugees, in the aftermath of the pandemic. She highlighted the importance of implementing policies that ensure the well-being and rights of these communities while contributing to the overall socio-economic recovery of Malaysia.



Ms. Simraatraj Kaur presenting her paper in the 3rd plenary session

The plenary session concluded with a vibrant question-and-answer session, engaging the audience in a stimulating dialogue with the esteemed speakers. The insights shared during this session not only enriched the academic discourse but also provided a roadmap for addressing the multifaceted challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic in diverse contexts. The conference, with its diverse and insightful sessions, marked a significant contribution to the global dialogue on post-pandemic recovery and resilience. The plenary session encapsulated a diverse range of perspectives, sparking meaningful discussions on education, globalization, geopolitical shifts, and socio-economic recovery strategies in the post-pandemic era.



Dr. Srividya Shivakumar felicitating Dr. Vinita Gupta



Dr. Rubina Pradhan presenting the memento to Dr. Fahmida Khatun