



ICSE FORUM 2



World Population Day Webinar

“POPULATION AND SUSTAINABILITY IN COVID ERA”

11th July, 2020, 11 00 – 12 30 hrs (IST)

Keeping in view the theme of the World Population Day 2020, and in line with the vision of Mobius Foundation on population stabilization and sustainable living, the ICSE-2 Forum webinar titled “**POPULATION AND SUSTAINABILITY IN COVID ERA**” was organised on Saturday July 11th, 2020 between 11:00 AM to 12:30 PM (IST) by Mobius Foundation in partnership with CEE (Centre for Environment Education) and The Climate Reality Project India.

The overall objective of the webinar was to observe the World Population Day **to enhance awareness of population issues, including their relations to the environment and development in the context of COVID19.**

The webinar was attended by 245 participants. The online broadcast was further viewed by 2000+ viewers from all across the globe through Facebook/ @themobiusfoundation.

The webinar was chaired by Ms Ms. Shailaja Chandra Former Secretary, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Govt. of India.

Dr Ram Boojh, CEO, Mobius Foundation moderated the discussion and started with a welcome note to the distinguished speakers and participants. While setting the tone of the webinar. He emphasized on the linkages between Population, Sustainability and Environment. He introduced project “Aakar” by Mobius Foundation that’s covering 200 villages of the two highly populated districts of Uttar Pradesh, Baharaich and Barabanki and focusing on the health counselling of married couples and school students falling in the marriageable group of 17 – 20 years.

He stated that the rising **human population is the driving force behind the unprecedented loss of biodiversity which may lead towards the sixth mass extinction.** He further stressed on the need to address issues related to population dynamics including fertility rate, access to sexual and reproductive health care, education and empowerment of women as part of overall strategy for sustainable development as these undermine the achievement of most of the SDGs.



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Mr. Kartikeya V Sarabhai, Founder and Director, Centre for Environment Education (CEE) in his keynote address spoke on 'population in the context of sustainability and universal education'. He focused on the concept of social justice and recommended to focus more on SDG 4 on education as there is a huge connection between Literacy-Fertility Rate and Human Development. He opined that the status of women should be improved in society to bring the viable change in the population status. He further emphasized on the need to increase the handprint (action towards sustainability) and decrease the footprint (negative impact of human activities on planet).

Ms. Poonam Muttreja Executive Director, Population Foundation of India delivering her special address in the webinar said that the best contraceptive approach to control population is education with no side effects. She stated that women, especially young women do not have access to temporary methods of family planning thus undergo large number of abortions which further lead to lowering their physical and mental health. She recommended for increased investment in Family Planning services to make contraceptives accessible to all strata of women in society. Health education and social communication strategy will play a crucial role in transforming regressive social norm for women, she further stated.

Prof. R B Bhagat, International Institute for Population Sciences, Mumbai spoke on correlation between population stabilisation and migration. He focused on having a formal institutional setup for migrant workers to ensure sustainable livelihood opportunities for them in the times of emergencies. By providing the social security, better living standard and urban inclusion will help to manage and monitor the migrant population in more organised way. He further emphasized that even SDGs talk about managing migrant population for sustainable development.

Interactive Q&A session brought to light some interesting issues which were taken up by panelists. Here are the highlights: :

1. Issues related to majority vs minority population should not be the point of discussion for population stabilisation. These parameters are irrelevant to work upon, the focus should be on social and economic status.
2. Strong communication strategy should be devised to reach youth and bring about change.
3. Instead of comprehensive sex education we should focus on comprehensive health education which includes awareness on child marriage, contraception, social issues in adolescent etc.
4. As fertility rate declines in India sex ration is going to get worse and reach adverse proportions just like china. This will in turn impact gender equality as well.
5. Strict legal measures need to be put in place to maintain sex ratio. Policies like "Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao" should be strongly advocated.
6. The right attitude towards a girl child can only be created by educating the families and empowering women.

Ms. Shailaja Chandra Former Secretary, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Govt. of India, thanked Mobius Foundation and Panellist for their time and efforts put forward during the webinar. She said that we need to reach deep in to rural regions s to address the



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real issues of population stabilisation and family planning. There is a possibility of having a reverse problem with rapidly decreasing fertility rate that there will not be enough care-givers for elderly and this is going to be the new kind of population issue. Momentum of population growth will not come to a halt, thus there is a need to work for developing skilled and healthy population for sustainable living.

The session was concluded with a vote of thanks from **Col Santhosh Kumar (Retd) Head – Project WESc Mobius Foundation** and concluded by the quote “ The greatest threat to a planet is the belief that someone else will save it “ .

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International Conference on Sustainability Education

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"POPULATION AND SUSTAINABILITY IN COVID ERA"
11th July 2020, 11:00 AM – 12:30 PM (IST)
Register at: www.icse2019.org
Platform: Zoom (Login details will be shared on registered email id of participants)

SPEAKERS

 Dr. Ram Boogh CEO, Mobius Foundation	 Mr. Kartikeya V Sarabhai Founder and Director, Center for Environment Education (CEE)	 Ms. Poonam Muttreja Executive Director, Population Foundation of India
 Prof. R.B. Bhagat Professor and Head, Department of Migration and Urban Studies, International Institute for Population Sciences	 Ms. Shailaja Chandra Joint Secretary, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare	

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THEMES

- ✓ Pandemics & Environmental Stress
- ✓ Population & Sustainability Issues
- ✓ Link b/w Environmental Trends & Demographics
- ✓ Educating people about the drastic impacts of population explosion

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