

A National Seminar

on

Sustainable Development: Issues & Challenges

(October 22 & 23, 2021)

Introduction

Nestled in the lap of nature and housed in a heritage building, the Centre of Excellence, Govt. College Sanjauli, Shimla, HP, has been providing an academically and intellectually stimulating environment to the students. Situated in the heart of the city, this College has a long tradition of excellence. This institute carries the legacy of teaching and learning, as in its initial days, it was an “industrial orphanage” named as “Himalayan Christina Orphanage and Industrial School for female orphans”. It was upgraded during the pre-independence days to B.Ed/B.T. College for girls, affiliated to Punjab University. Since 1969, this college has been catering to the needs of the students from the length and breadth of Himachal Pradesh. The college earned the status of “Centre of Excellence” in the year 2006 and earned a B+ grade from NAAC in the year 2017.

Sustainable Development is a very tricky concept. On the one hand, it calls for a judicious use of luxury and privileges by the economically self-sufficient, whereas on the other it calls for rescuing millions out of poverty, by helping them taste the nectar of modernization and development. Consequently, conflicts over control and management of fossils based energy and water reserves are becoming more pronounced. Shrinking of glaciers, lowering of water-table and emerging droughts are leading to large scale migrations across the world. Sustainable Development can come to the rescue of humanity as it vouches for striking a balance between conservation, preservation and utilization of precious natural resources hidden in the bosom of mother earth. It calls upon sustained efforts by mankind in diverse areas such as population control, climate change, environmentally sustainable economic prosperity, clean energy production, energy preservation, judicious use of natural resources, scientific waste management, bio-diversity, water conservation and safe drinking water, modernization of agriculture, clean politics, food security, human values and commercial ethics. All these factors need to be taken into account for effective and sustainable development.

Detailed Session-wise summary of the proceedings of the Seminar

Session-I

The technical session-I was conducted on October 22, 2021 in the conference hall of the COE, Govt. College Sanjauli. The session was chaired by Prof. D. D. Sharma, Department of Geography, HPU, Shimla. The session was moderated by Dr. G. P. Kapoor, Associate Professor, and Department of Economics.

In this session, the following speakers presented their papers on various aspects related to theme of the seminar:

1. Prachi Chauhan, Research Scholar, HPU, Shimla, title 'Emerging Food Security Crisis: Assault on People and What is to be Done?'.
2. Ajay Chanjta, Research Scholar, HPU, Shimla title 'Land use land cover change and forest depletion due to land encroachment in Kui Panchayat of Rohru Block, Himachal Pradesh' .
3. Sandeep Kumar, Department of Zoology, GC Bhauranj, Hamirpur title 'Biodiversity and Conservation of Maan Stream Himachal Pradesh, India.'.
4. Dr. Naveen Bhardwaj, Department of Economics, Govt. Degree College, Bilaspur title 'Globalization and Food Security in India'.
5. Dr. Ravinder Kumar, Assistant Professor, Govt. Degree College Kandaghat, title 'Disaster Management for Future Generation'.
6. Dr. Sudhir Kumar, Department of Geography, RKMV, Shimla, title 'Evaluation Of Mitigation Measures for Landslide Disasters: A Case Study of Shimla District '.
7. Dr. Hemlata Sharma, Asst. Professor, Govt. College Sanjauli, Shimla, title 'Role of Nature in Literature with Special Reference to Poetry'.
8. Dr. Nek Ram, Department of Geography, Govt. Degree College Kotshera, Shimla, title 'Climate change and its Impact on Sustainability'

The completion of the session was framed by our two rapporteurs Dr. Nidhi Dhadwalia, Department of Zoology and Dr. Kishori Lal Chandel, Department of History.

In sum, all the papers were highly appreciated by the chairperson and relevant discussions were held. The technical session-I was very informative and enlightening.

Session-II

Another technical session simultaneously was conducted on October 22, 2021 in the Chemistry lecture hall on , the session was chaired by Prof. N. S. Bisht, Rtd. Professor and Chairperson, Department. of Economics, HPU, Shimla and the session was moderated by Dr. Meenakshi Kohli, Department of Botany.

In this session, the following speakers presented their papers on various aspects related to theme of the seminar:

1. Naina Sambher, Research Scholar, HPU, Shimla, title 'Contemporary Urban Challenges and Smart Solutions: Case of Shimla'.
2. Dr. Meena Kumari, Associate Professor, Dept. of Bio-Science, HPU, Shimla, title 'The Studies on the role of natural enemies in Environment protection'.
3. Dr. Vandana Thakur, Department of English, St. Bede's College, Shimla, Research Scholar, HPU, Shimla, title 'Sustainability of the Literature '.
4. Shakuntla, Librarian, GDC Dhami at 16 Mile , title 'Environment and Sustainability'.
5. Manila Gupta, GDC Kotshera, title 'Sustainable Development: Issues & Challenges'.
6. Shubham Chaudhary, Asst. Professor, GDC Sanjauli, title 'Pattern of Active Tectonics in Shimla Klippe Zone (Allochthonous) of Lesser Himalayas, Himachal Pradesh, India'.

The Rapporteur for this session were Dr. Meenakshi, Department of Zoology and Dr. Pooja Dulta, Department of English. The session ended with vote of thanks by Dr. Meenakshi Kohli.

Session-III

The technical session-III was conducted on October 22, 2021 in the Physics lecture hall; the session was chaired by Dr. Ram Lal Sharma, Associate Professor, and Department. Of Economics, Govt. College Theog and Dr. Satya Narain Snehi was the moderator of the session.

In it, the following speakers presented their papers on various aspects related to theme of the seminar:

1. Gulshan, Research Scholar, HPU, Shimla, title 'Disaster Management and Reduction of Landslides: A Case Study of Ashwanikhad Watershed in Lesser Himalayas of Himachal Pradesh, India'.
2. Diksha Kumari, Research Scholar, HPU, Shimla, title 'Hydropower Projects and its Impact on Society: An Overview' .
3. Twinkle Vaid, Research Scholar, HPU, Shimla title 'Livelihood Pattern in Thatri Village, District Kangra, Himachal Pradesh'.
4. Sarita Verma, Research Scholar, HPU, title 'Folk Food Habits of Trans-Giri Region in Sirmour District'.
5. Gaurav Sharma, Associate Professor, RKMV, title 'Sustainable Economic Development: A concept for 21 Century'.
6. B. N. Kamal, Asst. Professor, GDC Kandaghat, title 'Gender Issues and Sustainability'.
7. Radha Verma, GDC Kotshera, Shimla, title 'पर्यावरण संरक्षण में हिंदी कवयित्रियों की भूमिका'.

The completion of the session was framed beautifully by our two rapporteurs Dr. Aditya Singh Dulta, Department of English and Dr. Devender Chand, Department of Political Science.

In sum, all the papers were highly appreciated by the chairperson and relevant discussions were held which was followed by vote of thanks by Mr. Satya Narain Snehi, Department of Hindi.

Session-IV

The technical session-IV was conducted on October 22, 2021 in the conference hall, the session was chaired by Dr. B. R. Thakur, HOD, Department of Geography, HPU, Shimla and Dr. Kamayani Bisht , Associate Professor, Department of English was the moderator of the session.

In it, the following speakers presented their papers on various aspects related to theme of the seminar:

1. Janhavi Thakur, MSc. Geography, HPU, Shimla, Asst. Professor, RKMV Shimla, title 'Sustainable Resource Development: A Need to Rejuvenate Traditional Water Mills'.
2. Rajeev Kashiv, Research Scholar, HPU, Shimla, title 'Impact of Non – Performing Loans on the Financial health of banks: Study on a Rural Cooperative bank' .
3. Sangeeta, Research Scholar, HPU, Shimla, title 'Quality of Drinking Water in Mahendragarh District, Haryana'.
4. Yogesh Kumar, Asst. Professor, GDC Sanjauli, title 'Issues and Challenges in Environment vis-à-vis Sustainable Development'.

5. Prof. Kuldeep Kumar Atri, Professor, HPU, Shimla, title 'Fintech And Financial Inclusion in India: Opportunities and Challenges'.
6. Reena Sharma, Asst. Professor, GDC Ghumarwin, title 'Himachal, Development and Wounds'.
7. Sangeeta, Research Scholar, MDU, Rohtak, title 'Quality of Drinking Water in Mahendragarh District, Haryana'.
8. Dr. Babita, Asst. Professor, GDC Sanjauli, title 'सतत विकास में साहित्य का योगदान'
9. Dr. Jitender Kumar, Asst. Professor, GDC Kandaghat, title '21 वीं सदी की हिंदी कहानियों में महिला सशक्तिकरण'.

The completion of the session was framed beautifully by our two rapporteurs Dr. Nidhi Dhadwalia, Department of Zoology and Dr. Pooja Dulta, Department of English.

In sum, all the papers were highly appreciated by the chairperson and relevant discussions were held which was followed by vote of thanks by Dr. Kamayani Bisht, Associate Professor, Department of English.

Session-V

The technical session-III was conducted on October 23, 2021 in the Chemistry lecture hall, the session was chaired by Mrs. Bharti Bhagra, Associate Professor, Department of Geography, COE, Govt. College Sanjauli, Shimla and Dr. Aditya Singh Dulta was the moderator of the session.

In it, the following speakers presented their papers on various aspects related to theme of the seminar:

1. Dixit Garg, MSc. Geography, HPU, Shimla title 'Level of Civilization: A Mediator in Man-Environment Transactions'.
2. Amit Kumar, Research Associate, IDC, Chandigarh, India, Asst. Professor, GDC Sanjauli, title 'The Status of the Status Quo: Locating Punjab in Contemporary Farmers' Protest'.
3. Dr. Vibha Saraswat, Asst. Professor, GDC Kotshera, title 'Resource Management'.
4. Dr. Poonam, Asst. Professor, GDC Dhami at 16 Mile, title 'Women: Guardian of Environment'.
5. Dr. Anupama Choudhary, Asst. Professor, GDC Theog, title 'Sustainable Development'.
6. Dr. Purnima Thapar, Asst. Professor, GDC Sanjauli, title 'Women and the Environments'.
7. Dr. Dinesh Kumar Negi, Asst. Professor, GDC Kandaghat, title 'भावी पीढ़ियों के लिए संसाधन प्रबंधन'.

The completion of the session was framed beautifully by our two rapporteurs Dr. Meenakshi, Department of Zoology and Dr. Kishori Lal Chandel, Department of History.

In sum, all the papers were highly appreciated by the chairperson and relevant discussions were held which was followed by vote of thanks by Dr. Aditya Singh Dulta, Department of English.

Gist of deliberations/ information shared made by the Resource Persons

The two day national seminar on sustainable Development: Issue and Challenges commenced on 22nd October, 2021. The inaugural session being with the welcome of the Chief Guest Mr. Deepak Shanani Former Additional Chief Secretary to the govt. of Himachal Pradesh and the keynote speaker Prof. Simrat Kahlon, HOD, Department of Geography, Punjab University followed by felicitations. To invoke the blessing of goddess Saraswati a lamp lighting ceremony was held which was followed by Saraswati Vandana by students of Music Department.

Dr. C.B. Mehta, Principal Govt. College Sanjauli formally welcomed the guest and addressed the audience. He laid emphasis on sustained efforts by mankind for environment conservation and sustainable development. The book of abstracts on the sustainable development Issues and Challenges was released by the chief guest and other dignitaries. Dr. Kamayani Bisht introduced the theme of the national seminar and made audience aware of the proceedings of the event. Thereafter Dr. Ram Lal Sharma, Associate Professor, Department. Of Economics, Govt. College Theog introduced the concept of the seminar. He elaborated on need to address issues such as poverty/environment conservation/food security/Healthy life, education for all and gender equality to achieve goal of sustainable development. He hoped for the concrete outcomes of the National Seminar.

The keynote speaker, Prof. Simrat Kahlon, began by appreciating the collaboration of Department of Geography and Economics for organizing the National seminar. She laid emphasis on taking the geographical aspects into consideration while town planning and how ignoring the local routes and cultures have led to faulty town construction which goes against the principles of sustainable development as can be seen in Shimla city itself. She stressed the need to preserve local cultures and wisdom without experimenting with different models of development based on exploitation of environment and reorient our thinking in order to produce a sustainable society and stress the need to shift from inanimate to animate source of energy.

The chief guest Sh. Deepak Shanani enlightened on seriousness of proximate threats to sustainable development in our country such as pollution of water bodies, deforestation, global warming, intense farming and zoonotic diseases. He also talked about the agriculture crisis that is looking around due to salinity of water, droughts and temperature variation. He also spoke on degradation of land, water and public health posed by horrendous sanitation. He stressed upon the collective behavior change with instinct of self preservation. He also highlighted the ill effects of misleading false data and declarations. He appealed to the audience that fight for sustainability must also be a fight for a just, liberal and democratic world order and comity of nations.

Dr. Rajesh Dhoria Associate Professor and HOD, Commerce, COE, GC, Sanjauli proposed a vote of thanks after the inaugural session which was followed by the plenary session.

Dr. S. S. Randhawa, Principal Scientific officer, H.P. Council for Science technology and environment was the first speaker of the plenary session. He gave an informative lecture on 'Hazard vulnerability of HP'. He apprised the audience about natural and manmade

hazards; major seismic zones based on the seismic map of India, major tectonic plates and how to reduce earthquake risk by reducing structural and non structural hazards.

Prof. N. S. Bisht, Rtd. Professor and Chairperson, Department. of Economics and Director, Centre for population studies being the second speaker gave an elaborate presentation on sustainable development. He focused on the implementation of policies so that the sustainable development can address the problems found by the poor people. He concluded his lecture by stating that immediate attention needs to be given to overcome the challenges of sustainable development. Sh. S.N. Joshi, Rtd. IAS officer and a renowned author and columnist gave a presentation based on original experiences and encounters on the topic 'Biodiversity loss in and around Shimla'. He highlighted efficiently how the development and anthropogenic activities have led to biodiversity loss in Shimla. He stated that 40% biodiversity loss is due to habitat loss and 32 herbal plant species are on the verge of extinction. He also stated that radiations have caused reduction in sparrow population. His enchanting poetic discourse held human beings responsible for such a distortion of natural habitat and fetched lots of attention from the audience.

Mr. Vaneet Jisthy, Scientist, Himalayan fresh research institute, was the last speaker of the plenary session. He gave a wonderful pictorial presentation on forest and sustainable cities. He succeeded in increasing the horizon of knowledge of the audience on various aspects of vegetation diversity of HP, impact of colonial establishment and effects of urbanization. He concluded by listing various parameters for sustainable city such as planned house construction, proper drainage system, waste management practices and also expressed on the need to develop urban forestry and green spaces. The plenary session came to an end with a vote of thanks proposed by Dr. Tulsi Raman, Associate Prof. & Head Department. of Economics.