

Report
On
“National Webinar on the impact of Covid19 Pandemic on informal sector and casual labour market in India”

Organized by
Department of Economics & Department of Commerce,
In Collaboration with IQAC

Date: July 21, 2020 (Tuesday), Time: 12.00 pm – 2.00 pm

Today, the world economy is passing through a very serious crisis due to the sudden outbreak of Covid19 pandemic. More than 200 countries and territories all over the world have confirmed effective medical cases and deaths, caused by corona virus declared a pandemic by the World Health Organization. Globally, as of 20th July, 2020, more than 14 million confirmed cases and 597,105 deaths caused due to COVID-19 infection have been reported.

The situation of India, in this respect, has also been worse during this pandemic. As of 20th July, 2020, India had the 3rd highest caseload in the world after overtaking Russia with more than 1 (one) million confirmed cases and more than 26 thousand deaths, caused by this pandemic. However, beside these, there have been manifold impacts of Covid19 pandemic in the socio-economic front of the Indian economy. During and after the pandemic, Indian economy and its different sectors had almost come to a standstill; become stagnant. The two sectors of Indian economy that were largely affected due to this pandemic are-the informal sector and the casual labour market. The Lockdown in the country to combat the corona virus infection lead to manifold impacts; causing to increased unemployment, particularly, in the casual labour market, decline in GDP and productivity of agricultural and allied sectors, rise in prices and thereby inflation in the commodity market, and other impacts. Based on recent studies, some economists in India have also highlighted the fact that over a 40 million people, particularly from the unorganized sectors in the country, lost their jobs during and after the pandemic. Therefore, the regeneration of employment opportunities and the implementation of effective employment guarantee programs, particularly in the informal sectors of the country, have been the major concern of the Government, the Researchers and the Policy makers.

In this context, The Department of Economics and the Department of Commerce, in collaboration with IQAC, Naba Barrackpur Mahavidyalaya organized a **National Webinar on “The impact of Covid19 pandemic on informal sector and casual labour market in India”** on July 21, 2020 (Tuesday) at 12.00 pm – 2.00 pm. The Webinar was introduced by Dr. Malay Das, Department of Economics and Jt. Convenor of the Webinar, and assisted by Mr. Swapan Kumar Maity, Department of Commerce and Jt. Convenor of the Webinar. The webinar was commenced with a thought-provoking welcome address by Dr. Sunil Kumar Biswas, Hon’ble Principal, NBPC Mahavidyalaya. Prof. (Dr.) Pratip Kumar Chaudhuri, Retd. Professor of Physics, WBSSES, Ex- DPI, Member Secretary, W.B. State Council of Higher Education inaugurated the webinar with a very brief thought-provoking speech. Dr. Suryakant Yadav, Asst. Professor, Department of Development Studies, International Institute for Population Sciences (IIPS), Deonar, Mumbai was the first invited speaker to deliver a lecture on the topic.

Dr. Yadav presented his lecture very nicely based on recent survey data and empirical analysis. In his lecture, he highlighted the sector-wise scenario of both employment and unemployment in India after the pandemic. He also put emphasis on the effective implementation of different Government's employment programs in rural areas of the country such as-MGNREGA, Pradhanmantri Garib Kalyan Yojana, and others. Prof. (Dr.) Sudipti Banerjea, Retd. Professor, Department of Commerce, University of Calcutta, Kolkata was the second and last invited speaker to deliver a lecture on the issue. Prof. Banerjea delivered a very informative and thought-provoking lecture on the theoretical aspects of both formal and informal sectors with respect to employment and unemployment in India during and after the pandemic situation. He also pointed out the underlying problems of formal and informal sectors in India and scarcity of data to probe the situation.

Finally, the programme was concluded with a very heartfelt vote of thanks by Swapan Kumar Giri, Associate Professor of Commerce and Coordinator of IQAC, NBPC Mahavidyalaya.

N.B: The webinar was conducted through the web platform-Google meet and also enabled for live streaming on YouTube and Facebook, with the help of Dr. Angana Deb, Department of Economics, Shanu Das, Department of Computer Science and other members of the organizing committee. There were 196 registered participants, out of which, more than 100 participants joined the webinar through Google meet. Out of 196 registered participants, 178 participants gave their feedback by praising the topic of discussion and appreciating the organization of the webinar.

Dr. Malay Das
(Jt. Convenor of Webinar)
Swapn Kumar Maity
(Jt. Convenor of Webinar)

Swapn Kumar Giri
(Coordinator of IQAC)

Dr. Sunil Kumar Biswas
(Principal)