

Conference Report

Report of the Webinar on “Women Scientists in Biology & Medicine” held on 4th June 2022

On 4th June 2022, Institute of Science, Education, and Culture (ISEC), Kolkata has organised the Webinar through google meet platform based on the theme, “Women Scientists in Biology & Medicine”. The webinar was financially supported by the Department of Higher Education, Govt. of West Bengal.

The Secretary of ISEC, Kolkata, Prof. Santanu Das has conducted the webinar. Prof. Anil Kumar Ghosh, the President, delivered the inaugural speech of the webinar. He delivered an address to all the dignitaries attending the webinar. Though it is a male dominated society, in his speech, he mentioned that gender bias within scientists is not as par as the motto of science or research. He expressed his gratitude towards renowned speakers of that very day. Dr. Ghosh recalled the memory of Prof. Murali Mohan Biswas, the founder Secretary of ISEC, Kolkata. He also informed all about Indian Science Cruiser, the international peer reviewed journal published by the Institute. He wished the success of the webinar as well as good health of everyone. Then Dr. Kaushik Bharati, the Convener of the Webinar and Chairman of Seminar Committee, ISEC, Kolkata delivered the Welcome Address. In his speech, he mentioned names of some noted Nobel laureates. Dr. Bharati also welcomed all to the webinar. Then he wished success of the webinar.

After the Inaugural Session, Technical Session started. Prof. Santanu Das, the Secretary, ISEC Kolkata introduced the first speaker, Dr. Anindita Debnath, by reading out her short curriculum vitae. Dr. Debnath is a Faculty (Demonstrator) in the Department of Laboratory Medicine, School of Tropical Medicine, Kolkata. Topic of her lecture was “Immunity– the Game Changer”. She defined immunity as a complex biological system

which recognizes the innumerable self and rejects the foreign macromolecule (Antigen) or non-self system. She also pointed out that immunity system of every person is unique. Immunity system is normally of two types, viz. Active and Passive. Both are also of two subtypes. Those are Natural and Artificial. She warned all that before creating new variant, a virus can infect body. If someone gets vaccinated, then rate of infection from a virus would be low. Intake of supplementary food can destroy the natural immunity system of human body which results in autoimmunity. By wishing everyone’s good health, Dr. Debnath finished her lecture. Then, there was a good interaction between the speaker and the audience.

The second speaker was Dr. Ajeya Nandi who is a Postdoctoral Research Associate in the Department of Hemato-Oncology, Perelman School of Medicine, University of Pennsylvania, USA. Topic of her lecture was “Radiotherapy Resistance in Breast Cancer”. She described the background of breast cancer. Dr. Debnath also said about the two types of breast cancer, viz. TNBC and Non-TNBC. She also showed the biological figure of cell lineage in mammary duct epithelium. The steps of cancer prognosis started in a normal gland with an unnatural tumor growth (metastases). She also said that notch signaling pathway is very crucial for normal mammary gland development. The common treatments for breast cancer are surgery, chemotherapy, hormonal therapy, radiation therapy, targeted therapy, etc. Then she showed some experimental model of the study of breast cancer. After her lecture, there was an interactive session.

The third and last speaker of the webinar was Dr. Sudipta Pal. She is an Assistant Professor in

the Department of Human Physiology, Tripura University. Topic of her lecture was “Prevalence and Determinants of Menopausal Health Issues in Slum Dwelling Women in India: Combating Approaches”. In her lecture, she said menopause (known as climacteric) is a transition phase that happens to women when their menstrual period stops permanently. In India, average age of menopause is 46.2 years. Due to this, women used to face problem in central nervous system, change in skin, hair and mucosal, weight and metabolic change, sexual function, urogenital system, and musculoskeletal system. Dr. Pal mentioned that menopausal symptoms also vary individually due to ethnic and socioeconomic background such as rural or urban, lifestyle, culture, dietary habits. The genetic factors are also behind the individual symptom of menopause. She informed all that to foster the comprehensive well being of mature and elderly women, the Indian Menopausal Society (IMS) was established in India in 1995. This is a multidisciplinary society which collects all the information related menopausal symptoms and provides awareness and services to the less privileged women of the society. Dr. Pal showed some surveys done by

IMS in which they reported that coronary heart disease (CHD), vasomotor symptoms, different psychological disorder (anxiety, forgetfulness, poor concentration, losing control over emotion, worriedness), urinary problem may occur due to menopause. She warned that different awareness program, self-management techniques, stress and health management related to menopause can be conducted. After her lecture, the audience interacted with different questions to Dr. Pal.

Then Dr. Sanchayan Mukherjee, the Chairman of Publication (other than journal) Committee and Member, Executive Council and Seminar Committee, ISEC Kolkata delivered the Vote of Thanks. He expressed his thankfulness to all the eminent speakers, the President, and the Secretary of ISEC Kolkata. He also thanked Dr. Kaushik Bharati, the Convener, and the Chairperson of Seminar Committee. He expressed his gratitude to the audience, to the Executive Council member and Mr. Rajat Kanti Pratihar, the Executive Editor of the journal published by the Institute.

Bandana Barman
Assistant Secretary, ISEC

Report of the Webinar on “Impact of COVID-19 Pandemic on the Education System” held on 20 August 2022

Institute of Science, Education and Culture (ISEC), Kolkata has organised a Webinar on 20th August, 2022 based on the title “Impact of COVID-19 Pandemic on the Education System”. The webinar was financially supported by the Department of Higher Education, Govt. of West Bengal.

Prof. Santanu Das, the Secretary, ISEC, Kolkata started conducting the webinar with the permission of Prof. Anil Kumar Ghosh, The President of the Institute. In the inaugural speech, Dr. Ghosh paid his homage to Prof. Murali Mohan Biswas, the founder Secretary of ISEC, Kolkata. He also recalled the vision and

mission of the Institute. Then he pointed out the significance of the topic of the webinar amidst the new normal situation existing after the lockdown period due to Covid-19 pandemic. After the inaugural speech, Dr. Kaushik Bharati, the Chairman of the Seminar Committee of ISEC, Kolkata and Convener of the webinar, welcomed the honourable speakers of the webinar as well as the President, Secretary, members of Executive Council and the audience. He wished success of the webinar. The webinar was organised in such a way that impact of Covid-19 pandemic on three levels of Education system, i.e., School, College, and University, can be analysed.

The name of first speaker was Dr. Swagata Basak (Mallik). She is the Headmistress of Govt. Sponsored Multipurpose School (Boys), Taki House, Kolkata. Topic of her lecture was on “School Education and COVID-19: Challenges, Strategies and Possibilities”. From her 28 years of teaching experience, she said that it was a challenging issue in education system of a school during the lockdown condition. Covid-19 pandemic, teaching learning process in the school faced a lot of gaps in learning. Most of the schools do not have good quality of internet service. But, to run the academic tasks, the concept of online class was imposed to both the teacher as well as the student. Everyone took that challenge and tried to develop different strategies and possible solution of several difficulties. Yet it was not sufficient. Finally, she concluded that online classes would not be the substitution to offline classes.

The second speaker of the webinar was Dr. Mousumi Dutta, the Assistant Professor of the Department of Physiology in Government General Degree College Kharagpur II. Title of her lecture was “Effects of COVID-19 Pandemic on the College Education System”. She explained the aim of Education as it develops the learning and thinking process. She described about three types of education systems, viz formal which imparts the basic academic knowledge to a student from school, informal which students get from their parents while they grow up with age, and nonformal education by which a student’s skill gets developed. But during Covid-19 pandemic, the entire education system became standstill. She also mentioned that almost 285 million students’ academic curriculum got affected or hampered. So, online teaching learning process became the mode of education that was not so effective. The concept of global education based on pedagogical approach was tried to be

implemented to accept global challenges and to promote sustainable lifestyle.

The third and last speaker was Dr. Rajen Haldar, an Assistant Professor in the Department of Physiology, University of Calcutta, Kolkata. His topic of lecture was “Education during and after COVID-19”. He expressed very clearly how the academic and research work got hampered during the pandemic and lockdown period since early 2020 up to early 2022. The physical, especially, health of eye and mental health of teachers as well as students became poor. To run academic activities, all were going towards online teaching-learning mode from a chalk and talk mode, but it was not enough.

Then there was an interactive session between the audience and the speakers. From the discussion, the following has been pointed out.

1. Number of child marriages and child labours has been increased,
2. Mobile addiction of people became very high,
3. Noticeable division between rich family student and poor family student got amplified,
4. For doubt clearing, students used to contact their teacher(s) over phone call,
5. Bangla siksha portal has been developed to guide the students’ academic activities.

After the Technical Session, Dr. Bandana Barman, Assistant Secretary, ISEC, Kolkata delivered the Vote of Thanks. She expressed her gratitude to the Speakers, Chairperson of Seminar committee, the President, the Vice President and the Secretary of ISEC, Kolkata. She gave her heartfelt thanks to the audience of that day, Mr. Rajat Kanti Pratihar, Executive Editor of Indian Science Cruiser, the international journal published by the Institute.

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