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INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

Inclusive and Equitable Quality Education for Sustainable Development and Global Citizenship: Rethinking Education on 24-25th January, 2023

Sponsored by NRC, ICSSR

Event Report

- **Name of the Organizing Department:** Centre for Sustainable Development (CSD)
- **Type of Activity/Event:** International Conference
- **Date:** 24th – 25th January 2023, 9.30 AM-3.30 PM
- **Venue:** VIPS Auditorium B-block
- **Notice of the announcement of Activity / Event:** September 2022



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Name of Guest(s)/Speaker(s):

1. Mr. RatneshJha, Executive Director, UNGC
2. Dr. Sanjeev Sharma, DAIC, Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment, Govt. of India
3. Dr. Shad Ahmad Khan, University of Buraimi
4. Dr. Randolph Seng, Editor-in-Chief, Management Decision, Journal Partner
5. Dr. Sapna Yadav, Head of Educational Technology Department, SCERT
6. Prof. Nidhi Nagabhatla, United Nations University, Belgium
7. Dr. Mahadeo Jaiswal, Founding Director, Indian Institute of Management (IIM), Sambalpur

Faculty Convener(S):

1. Dr. Swati Narula Puri

Student Coordinator(s):

1. Madhuranti
2. Parul
3. Kanika
4. Manika
5. Yash
6. Kunal
7. Samiksha Jindal
8. Sakshi Mishra
9. Gaurav
10. Kunal Singh
11. Aryan
12. Anupama
13. Ria Ahuja
14. Aastha
15. Ritika
16. Komal
17. Likita

Number of Students Who Participated - 200+

Number of Faculty Who Participated – 50+

The International conference on the theme "Inclusive and Equitable Quality Education for Sustainable Development & Global Citizenship: Rethinking Education" organized by Centre for Sustainable Development and IQAC in collaboration with FPT University, Vietnam, UN Global Compact and **sponsored by NRC, ICSSR** on January 24-25, 2023. The main theme for the conference has been "Education for all" in the sustainable development context, as highlighted by SDG-4. The first day comprised of inaugural session followed by a plenary session; while the second day is devoted to technical sessions and valedictory session.

In the welcome address, **Dr. Rattan Sharma, Chairperson of CSD and Professor Emeritus (DSB)** shared his rationale to establish the dedicated centre for sustainability. According to him, the focus of the centre is threefold: creation of knowledge through research papers, dissemination of the knowledge through conferences and conclaves and carrying out fieldwork to bring about a change in the society.

He shared a small video that highlighted how VIPS and DSB had joined each other's hands and had contributed to the development of the society by providing inclusive education. Further, the needs of the weaker sections of the society were taken care of by collecting books, stationery and subsequently donated to the people in need. There was a digital literacy drive that had taught Microsoft power point, excel and all such essential tools that are required in the world of employment. The Chairman of VIPS-TC & DSB in his address also echoed the core vision of CSD:

1. Create knowledge through research work
2. Disseminate knowledge through conferences and conclaves.
3. Create awareness and lasting impact in the society through fieldwork.

As there is collaboration for the conference with the FPT University, Vietnam, **Mr. Ha Nguyen** was invited as the first speaker of the day. He spoke on the topic **"FPT education & SDG4: A Vietnam experience"**. Mr. Ha Nguyen discussed at length the three core areas of Vietnamese education system which includes: a) Providing affordable education; b) Providing more choices to connect; c) Educate people for global citizenship.

He discussed the entire journey stating that it all started in 1988 with 13 founders who started a company in the area of food processing technology, and that's where the 'FPT' title comes from. Presently, there are 60,000 people involved in "Financing and Promoting Technology"- FPT. They have presence in 28 territories with 50+ international offices with focus on technology, telecom, and education. By 2035, they have aimed to reach 1 million with the mission to provide global competitiveness to learners, contributing to the intellectual development of the country. The institute is trying to make students ready to work anywhere in the globe and for that they have alliance with a renowned edtech firm Coursera.

The next speaker for the day was **Mr. FhamAn Tuan,** who spoke on the topic **"Education in Digital Age"**. His focus was on the abbreviation SMAC i.e. S – Social, M -Mobile, A – Analytics, C – Cloud. According to him, it is essential to have digital maturity in the age of disruptive technologies accelerating the speed of innovation. He focused on the reasons behind the churning in the global education eco-system, it includes: growth of new global online providers, emergence of badges and micro-credentials, increased demand for part-time and customized study options, increased supply reduces the cost of qualifications,

reduction of government funding to universities, increased staff demand for flexible work conditions, emergence of strategic alliances between universities, development of new technological innovations.

Lastly, he focused on the 4 major mismatches of the current higher education system, which includes: Education programs vs Industry requirements; University's offerings vs Students' expectations; Teaching approach vs. learning behavior of students (Gen Z, Gen Alpha); Digital maturity of Higher Education Institutions vs Digital skill of students.

The Chief Guest of the event **Mr. Ratnesh Jha** started with the phrase **'SATAT VIKAAS LAKSH' i.e. Sustainable Development Goal**. Before SDG, it was Millennium Development Goal (MDG) and prior to MDG, there were the 10 universal principles. These goals and principles have mainly focused on shifting the planet and people to a green future which is sustainable. There are many ways global green initiatives have brought positive difference to the world.

Firstly, the social difference. As society is becoming more unequal because a major gap is being created between the HAVES and HAVE NOTS; the SDG's have brought the concept of equity and inclusiveness into the mainstream.

Secondly, the Governance part which focuses on the fact that if we appropriately govern ourselves then no policing will be required. We need to be accountable for our own selves. He stressed upon the declining participation of women in the labour force and its negative consequences. He said that there cannot be sustainable development without citizen participation in general or student participation in particular. Inclusivity is required for sustainable society but we are moving more towards exclusive development for the sake of efficiency.

Dr. Indira Bharadwaj presented a 'Vote of thanks' to the chief guest, where she pointed out the difference between U shape and V shape recovery by focusing on the impact that K shape economy has done to us post COVID recovery. She also talked about how G20 presidency for India could significantly alter the policy landscape in the world. She also discussed the innovation of ChatGPT and stated the benefits and the negative impacts that robots can bring to our lives. Finally, she focused on all-round development including: Physical Development, Development of life and energy, Emotional or mental development, Intellectual Development, and Spiritual Development.

The Keynote speaker **Dr. Sanjeev Sharma** from DAIC pointed out that we are **moving from Globalization to Localization.** He shared the story of rabbit and tortoise and shared the importance of participation. He had stressed the fact that sustainable development is a challenging social process. The various objectives of society – socio-economic and environmental needs to be integrated wherever possible, and traded-off where they are incompatible. The speaker also focused on the fact that institutional and individual roles and responsibilities must change, so that new patterns of behavior will foster the wellbeing of the community and safeguard of ecosystem.

The next keynote speaker was **Dr. Shad Ahmed Khan**, **University of Buraimi** started by saying that "Planet Earth" is not inherited by our elder but borrowed from our children. He highlighted some of the **challenges in the adoption of green practices**, which includes: Only a few green products are locally available, Local products are relatively expensive and of inferior quality than imported products, Expensive labour in the kingdom to produce goods, Small capacity of domestic enterprises in production and supply products along

with consistent quality and quantity, Lack of implementation practices in the policy and legal frameworks to practice GPP, Limited communication and coordination between procurer and suppliers, Lack of VCA (value chain analysis) and LCA (Life cycle analysis) pertaining to green products, Lack of incentive such as preferential procurement program, Lack of clarity in communication which leads to a gap between demand and supply.

According to him, the major steps taken by the policy makers especially in the middle east includes:

a) Biogas powered mess/ canteen.
b) Solar powered buildings
c) Rainwater harvesting
d) Ground water recharge
e) Green product procurement
f) Vertical farming
g) Hydroponic system
h) Aquaponic system

In the end, the Vote of thanks was delivered by **Dr. Anuradha Jain, Principal, VIPS-TC**. She said that education can remove all negativity and be sustainable. She talked at length about the importance of life-long learning to succeed in all spheres of life.

It was followed by a PLENARY SESSION where the Key Note Speaker was **Dr. Sapna Yadav** from SCERT. She stressed upon the fact that a student passes 14,400 hours of time in school. Her main topic of discussion was **'Innovation through Education'**. She stated that education is not merely learning the facts but training of the mind to contemplate. The focus of academic institutions must be on holistic development i.e. students need to be well equipped with certain skills like: Communication, Creativity, Innovation, Out of box thinking, Critical thinking. She further discussed the "Innovative pedagogies" that can ensure productive and fun filled learning. She elaborated on a set of principles for the modern educators:

- Collaborate with people who do not share your location.
- Communicate and empathize with people whose perspective differ from your own.
- Curate and create content relevant to real world issues.
- Reflect on and take responsibility for your learning and that of others.
- Organize your time and tasks to learn independently.
- Leverage digital tools to support and show your learning.

Lastly, she talked about various techniques that can be adopted by instructors to enhance the quality of learning, which include: Flipped classroom, using visual tools effectively, Gamification, Art integrated learning, Project based learning, Group Discussions, Integration of technology, Cooperative learning strategy, and Field Work.








The **second day (Jan 25, 2023)** began with technical sessions where researchers were invited to present their papers within the stipulated timeframe. The presentation guidelines were duly shared with the researchers well in advance and the criterion for evaluating the papers was shared with 'Session chairs' respectively.

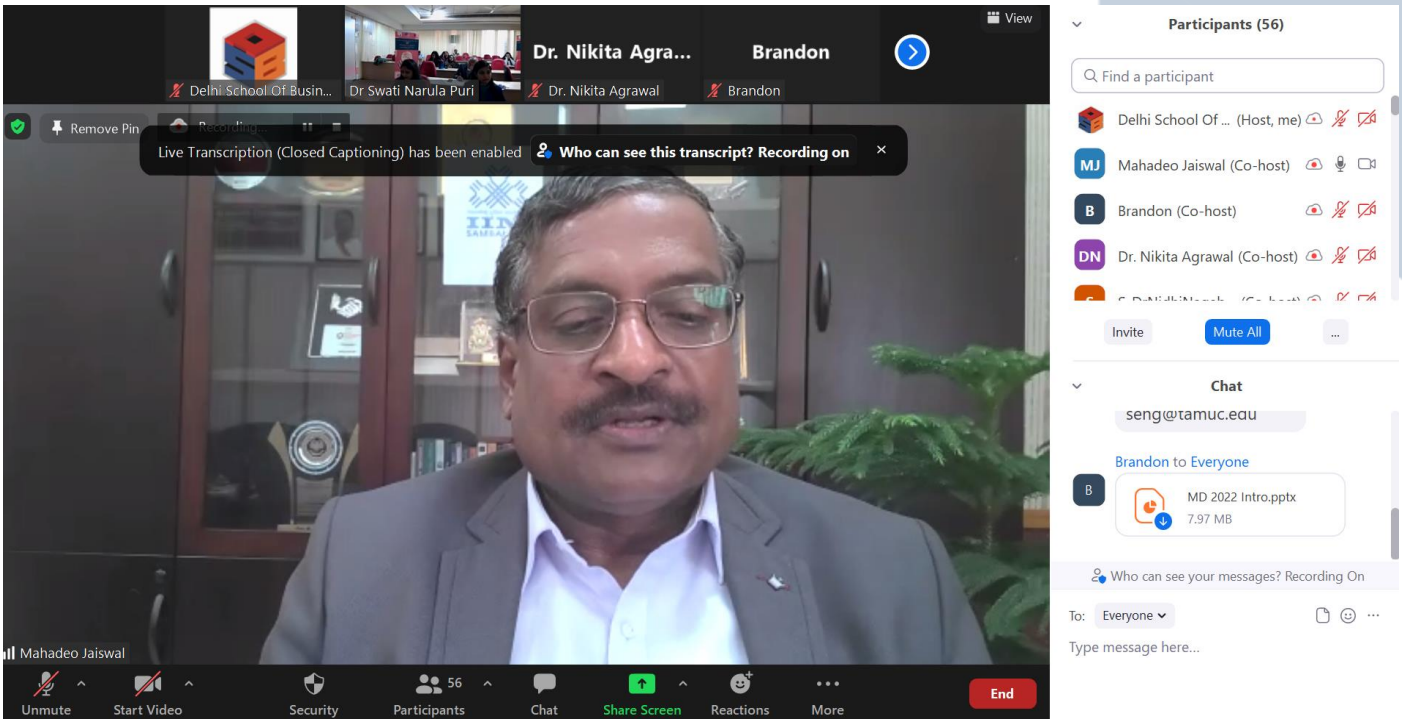
The **Technical session 1** was chaired by Dr**. Taufeeqque Ahmad Siddiqui (Jamia Millia Islamia); the co-session chair was Dr. Noopur Saxena (VIPS-TC) and the rapporteur was Dr. Anuj Aggarwal (VIPS-TC)**. In total six papers were presented by the researchers, out of which one paper was not related to the core theme of the conference. The key areas outlined in the presentations include: using EQ aids to develop sustainable learning management systems, creating multi-disciplinary programmes to build carbon-neutral communities, challenges of ideology driven schools, long-term effects of demonetization on digital adoption, innovative teaching pedagogies for proper business communication and leveraging ICT tools for quality education.

The **Technical session 2 was chaired by Dr. Amrita Bajaj (Shaheed Bhagat Singh College, University of Delhi); the co-session chair was Dr. Nikita Agrawal (VIPS-TC) and the rapporteur was Dr. Sakshi Sundaram (VIPS-TC).** In total, six papers were presented by the researchers. The key themes outlined in the presentations include: rethinking social work education in India through TISS case study, social acceptance of online education and its significance highlighted by NEP, 2020, impact of spiritual intelligence on psychological well-being of teachers, an Indian Ashram culture, importance of capacity building of stakeholders for delivery of quality education, redefining roles of teachers, students and administrators to transform learning environments etc.

The Technical **session 3 was chaired by Dr. Miklesh Prasad Yadav (Indian Institute of Foreign Trade); the co-session chair was Dr. Insha Vats (VIPS-TC) and the rapporteur was Ms. Manini (VIPS-TC)**. There were 21 participants and 6 presentations in total by the researchers. The session primarily focused on the digital education roadmap including challenges ahead and the long-term ramifications on the academic performance and happiness levels of students. Sustainability in higher education was also covered in two of the papers presented in the session.

The **Technical session 4 was chaired by Dr. Meghna Chhabra (Delhi School of Business), while the co-session chair was Dr. Sandhya Sharma (VIPS-TC)**. Overall, 7 papers were presented in the session. The session primarily focused on innovative pedagogies in India at various levels of education, including the training and development of competitive skills of future managers, incorporating innovative technology for sustainable businesses. One of the papers presented explained how to execute successful waste to wealth programs that would help attain sustainable environment.

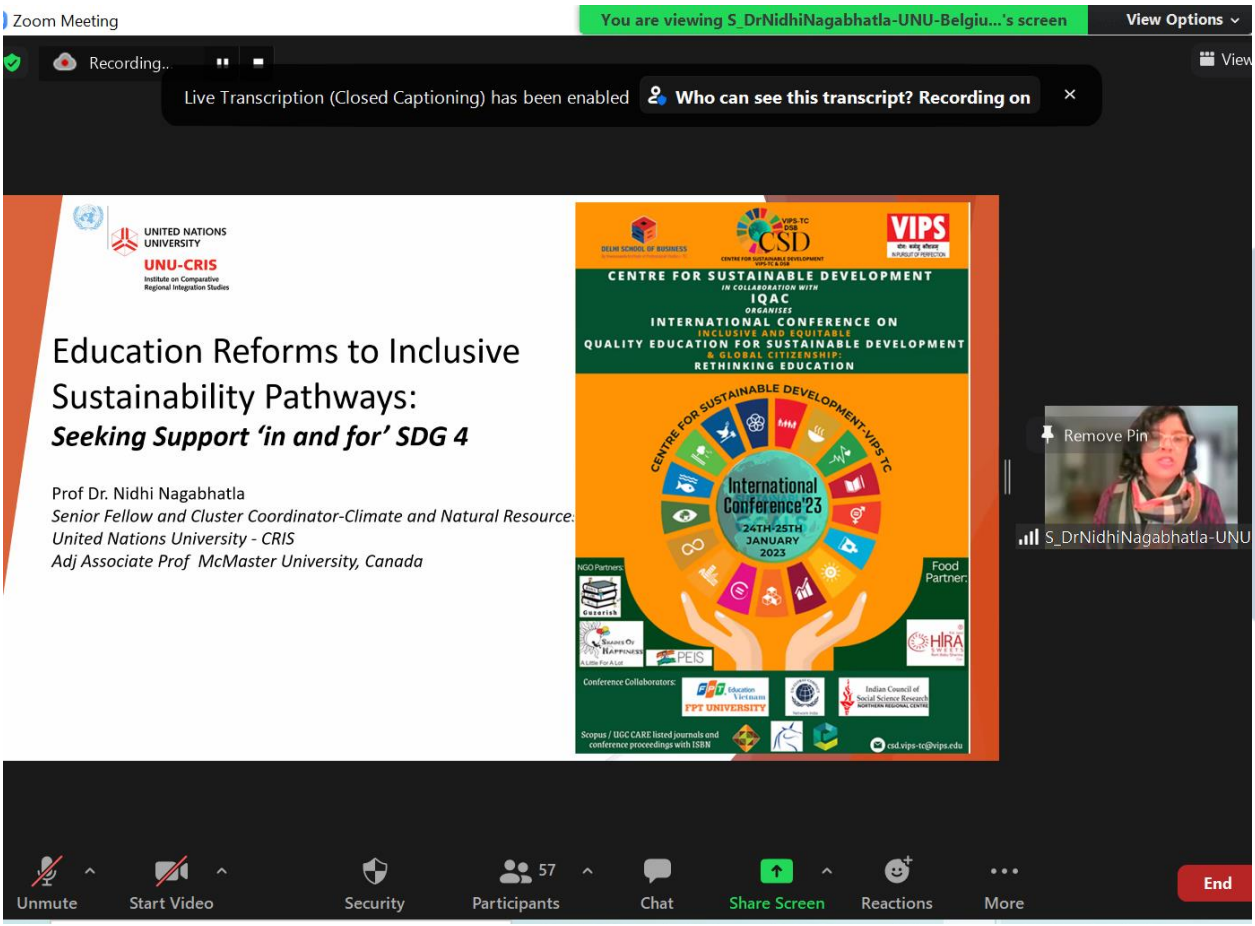
Lastly, the **Valedictory session commenced with the address by Dr. Swati Narula, the conference convener.** She invited the **'Guest of Honour' Prof. Nidhi Nagabhatla** who is currently working in the United Nations University, Belgium. She delivered the Valedictory address on the theme **"Education Reforms to Inclusive Sustainability Pathways: Seeking Support in and for SDG4".** She outlined the pressing need for reforms in the education sector at all levels, whether it's primary, secondary or higher education. She laid emphasis on adopting innovative methodologies to unleash our creative potential and achieve sustainability goals.



The next speaker was **Dr. Randolf Seng, Editor-in-Chief, Management Decision**, who is a journal partner of the international conference. He outlined the criteria for shortlisting research papers for the publication consideration in the prestigious Emerald journal i.e. 'Management Decision'. He also shared some of the strategies and offered valuable advice to researchers on how to get published in well-reputed journals.

The **Chief Guest of the session Dr. Mahadeo Jaiswal, Founding Director, IIM Sambalpur** was then invited to share his ideas on the overarching theme of the conference i.e. rethinking education in terms of inclusivity, equity, and quality for the achievement of sustainable development in the context of SDG-4. He drew upon his vast experience as an educator and administrator and discussed the series of challenges that he

faced and how he still managed to build world-class institutions. He also talked about the **importance of sustainability in the B-school curriculum and its larger role in transforming societies.**





First, second and third prize were given as following:

- 1st Prize – Dr. Miklesh Prasad, Dr. R S Rai, Dr, T. V. Raman, Gaytri Malhotra – Dynamic connectedness and hedging among sustainable bonds, biofuel and fintech in the epoch of the fourth industrial revolution
- 2nd Prize – Kavya Arora, Shilpa Bhandari, Effect of Personality Types on Happiness Among University Students
- 3rd Prize - JeganKaruppiah&Nivetha Marin, Multidisciplinary programmes a means of creating Carbon Neutral Communities

After the Chief guest's address, Dr. Isha Narula, shared the conference report and the Vote of thanks was given by Ms. Kriti Dhingra. In the end, **Prof. (Dr.) Rattan Sharma, Chairman, CSD (VIPS-TC & DSB)** offered closing remarks where he reiterated the core vision and mission of the centre and brought the event to a close.