

National Seminar on Inequalities as the Source of Conflict: the case of COVID-19

Organised by

North Eastern Social Research Centre (NESRC), Guwahati

Venue: Seminar Hall, Jagriti, 3rd floor

Date: 18 -19th February, 2022

Day 1: Friday, 18 th February 2022	
9:00-10:00	Registration
10:00-11:00	<p style="text-align: center;">Inaugural Session</p> <p>Chairperson: Introduction to the Seminar: Keynote Speaker: Keynote Address: Chairperson speaks</p>
11:00-11:15	Tea Break
11:15-12:45	<p style="text-align: center;">Technical Session I: COVID and Northeast India</p> <p><i>With the outbreak of the pandemic, a specific racial group of people, “the Asians” mainly with Mongoloid features, have been stigmatised worldwide given the broadly accepted theories of Chinese origins of COVID. The Mongoloids of the Northeast do not exist in the Aryan-Dravidian concept of India. When people from this region go to the ‘mainland’, they are referred to as ‘chinki’, a pejorative racist term for the Chinese. This already existing racial profiling experienced by the people of the Northeast has been accentuated and reinforced, leading to intolerance against the people from this region. Thus for the people of the Northeast the fight is not only against the virus itself but also to get due recognition and acceptance as Indians with equal rights.</i></p> <p>Chairperson: Themes and Speakers: Speaker I: Speaker II: Speaker III:</p>
12:45-13:45	Lunch Break
13:45-15:15	<p style="text-align: center;">Technical Session II: COVID and Migrants</p> <p><i>According to the Census 2011, over 10 crore migrants have migrated to the host cities for economic reasons and do unskilled daily wage labour. The reverse migration during COVID-19 had a devastating impact on the livelihood of the migrants resulting in loss of jobs, abuses on their return journey and COVID-related social stigma on reaching their place of origin. The stranded migrants lacked the basic necessities of life like adequate food and shelter, and reported starvation during this period. The migrants from the lower economic background were the worst hit when the lockdown was suddenly imposed.</i></p> <p>Chairperson: Themes and Speakers: Speaker I: Speaker II: Speaker III:</p>
15:15-15:30	Tea break
15:30-17:00	<p style="text-align: center;">Technical Session III: COVID, Education and Inequalities</p> <p><i>Students in backward areas and subaltern communities India have been facing poor network, which leads to poor communication between the teachers and students. Continuous lockdown also causes mental stress to the students. They suffer owing to their financial instability and a home environment that is not suitable for online classes. Children from the middle class whose parents can afford smart phones and laptops for themselves and even for their children could continue online learning. Rural and other poor children</i></p>

	<p>could not even afford the electronic support system. Inequality in learning prior to the pandemic because of social inequality-based access to schools and to learning got intensified because of lack of electronic support.</p> <p>Chairperson: Themes and Speakers: Speaker I: Speaker II: Speaker III:</p>
Day 2: Saturday, 19 th February2022	
9:30-11:00	<p style="text-align: center;">Technical Session IV: COVID and Health Intensifying Inequalities</p> <p><i>The coronavirus pandemic has led to an increase in inequalities. Over 40 lakh people have died in India, thousands of people are forced into dire poverty. The disparity between the rich and the poor is strong in the health sector. The crisis has exposed our collective frailty and the inability of our deeply unequal economy. Yet it has also shown us the vital importance of government's transformative policies and action to protect the health and livelihoods of all its citizens.</i></p> <p>Chairperson: Themes and Speakers: Speaker I: Speaker II: Speaker III:</p>
11:00-11:15	Tea Break
11:15-12:45	<p style="text-align: center;">Technical Session V: COVID and Gender</p> <p><i>In the context of the "lockdown" created by the spread of the COVID-19 virus, the entire population suffered, but women were significantly more affected. The pandemic is exposed the vulnerabilities in social, political and economic systems, which led to an increase in the unemployment rate among women and also in the inequality. As the COVID-19 lockdowns trapped women at home with their abusers, domestic violence rates spiked throughout the world. In India, reports of domestic violence, increased marriage of girl children, cyber violence and trafficking of women and girls increased within the first few months of the pandemic. The poorest and the most marginalized, including women and girls, face more risks without the means to absorb the economic shocks and mitigate the health crisis.</i></p> <p>Chairperson: Themes and Speakers: Speaker I: Speaker II: Speaker III:</p>
12:45-13.45	Lunch Break
13:45-15:15	<p style="text-align: center;">Technical Session VI: Search for Alternatives</p> <p><i>Inequalities were not created but intensified by the pandemic. This issue has to be dealt with while searching for the solution. Medical alternatives are important but it is equally important to search for an economy leading to inclusive development. Papers presented by a panel will look at various possibilities in this direction.</i></p> <p>Chairperson: Themes and Speakers: Speaker I: Speaker II: Speaker III:</p>

15:15-16:00	Valedictory Session Chairperson: Summary of the Seminar Discussion: Valedictory Address: Chairperson Speaks Vote of Thanks:
16:00	Tea