INTERNATIONAL WEBINAR ON
POST-COVID-19 EDUCATIONAL SCENARIO: PROSPECTS AND CHALLENGES

COVID-19 pandemic has severely affected education system worldwide. In this scenario, School of Education, Hemvati Nandan Bahuguna Garhwal University (A Central University) in collaboration with Modern Institute of Technology Rishikesh under the MHRD scheme of Pandit Madan Mohan Malviya National Mission on Teachers and Teaching (PMMMNMTT)has organized one day international webinar entitled "**International Webinar on Post-Covid-19 Educational Scenario: Prospect and challenges**"on 6th of June 2020 to develop an insight on Post-Covid education scenario. The duration of the sessions was from4:00 PM to 7:30 PM (IST). The total no of participants were more than 900 which included teachers working in higher education/research scholars/academicians from the higher education and others. Participants were from across the globe including USA, Malaysia, UK, Germany and from different states of India. Honorable Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Annpurna Nautiyal was the patron of the webinar while Prof. P.K. Joshi, Project Coordinator (PMMMNMTT) and Head, School of Education, HNBGU Srinagar, Uttarakhand was the Program Coordinator. Prof. Jyoti Juyal was the Organizing Secretary. The Organizing committee included Dr. Sidharth Lohani from Department of Education, HNBGU, Prof. Koushalya Dangwal and Mr. Anshu Yadav from Modern Institute of Technology, Rishikesh. The eminent speakers of the webinar included Prof. O.P. Pandey, Former Scientific Advisor, Govt. of India, Prof. Arbind K. Jha, Dean, School of Education,Baba Bhim Rao Ambedkar University(A Central university) Lucknow, Dr. Deepak Khazanchi, Professor of Information Systems and Quantitative Analyses, Associate Dean of Academic Affairs and Community, Engagement and Internationalization, University of Nebraska at Omaha, USA, and Dr. Atul K. Saxena, Professor of Finance, Georgia Gwinnett College, University of Georgia, USA.

Proceeding of the Webinar

Webinar started with the welcome speech by Prof.Jyoti Juyal, Organizing Secretary of the program. Prof. Jyoti Juyal welcomed all the eminent speakers, guests and participants and invited Prof. P.K. Joshi, Head, Department of Education, HNBGU, Srinagar to present the brief introduction of the webinar. Prof. Joshi stated that the student communities at both school and higher education are the biggest sufferer of COVID-19 pandemic.Prof. Joshi said that although online education has emergedas a vital alternative in recent times, the fact remains that avast community of youth has been deprived of themainstream systems of teaching, learning and evaluationdue to the pandemic.He stressed on sustainable development of education and society. Lastly, he introduced the guest speakers and invited Dr. O. P. Pandey.

The first speaker of the webinar was Prof. O.P. Pandey, Former Scientific Advisor, Govt. of India. He explained about the COVID-19 infection, symptoms, and treatments in details. He also stressed on boosting the immune system by consuming more medicinal vegetation and remaining fit by exercise and meditation. He compared the old and present education system and also emphasized on use of intellect by the people to make their life changing decisions. He said that practical knowledge is very essential and explained various challenges students and teachers are facing during COVID-19.

Prof. P. K. Joshi thanked Dr. Pandey for hiswonderful talk and invited Prof. Jyoti Juyal to give brief introduction of Prof. A.K. Jha.Prof. Jyoti Juyal then highlighted the career achievements of Prof. A.K. Jha and invited him to deliver his presentation.

Prof. A.K. Jha delivered his talk on the topic **"Educational Scenario: Contextualizing the education in larger perspectives".** He explained the World Bank data that during COVID-19,a large number of students around 1.38 billion were devoid of education on 23 March and this condition was slightly improved further in reduction of students no to 1.18 billion across the world who have been out of education. He emphasized on the facts that online teaching is insufficientand is no match of Face to Face (F2F) teaching. He explained the immerging questions related to pedagogical /socio-cultural/economical consequences. He also enlightened the larger discourse of education scenario in light of economic and financial condition. He presented his education model based on transition from F2F to MOOC during COVID 19. Prof. Joshi greatly appreciated Prof. A. K.Jha's presentation and invited Prof. Jyoti Juyal to briefly introduce Dr. Atul Saxena by briefly highlighting his accomplishments.

Third speaker of the webinar was Dr. Atul Saxena, Professor of Finance, Georgia Gwinnett College, University of Georgia, USA. Prof. Saxena talked on **"COVID-19 scoring in USA"**. Dr. Saxena explained in detail how COVD-19 has worst impact on health and livelihood of the people of USA and how it has severely affected the economy of USA with loss of millions of job due to lockdown. He stated education as the first causality of COVID-19. He further explained that the COVID-19 forced lockdown has severely affected every level of education including elementary, middle, high school and higher education. Prof. Saxena detailed various

challenges imposed by COVID-19 on to the students, parents,teachers and administrates of educational Institutions. Dr. Saxena recommended integrating environment & health course in the curriculum, to strengthen the hygiene practices and environment policies, to incorporate online mental health and medical services, align curriculum competencies and scale of teachers having the online learning and to strengthen theresearch efforts for data monitoring of evidence based practices.

Prof. P.K. Joshi thanked Dr. Saxena for his very informative talk. Prof. Juyal introduced the last speaker of the webinar Dr. Deepak Khazanchi by discussing his achievement and inviting him for his lecture.

Dr. Deepak Khazanchi, Professor of Information Systems and Quantitative Analyses, Associate Dean of Academic Affairs and Community, Engagement and Internationalization, University of Nebraska at Omaha, USA talked on the topic "**Strategies for effective e-learning: theoretical foundations and best practices".** He explained various methodologies of e-learning available and various challenges students and faculties are facing during online teaching. He also emphasized that e-learning is not the equivalent of F2F learning however given the condition of no possibility of F2F teaching, best practices could be developed to improve the e-learning process. He suggested 10 different best practices which could improve the e-learning methods and help students to learn effectively. Prof.Khazanchi emphasized on the need of clear and communicated syllabus, use of stable and robust e-learning platform, need of thorough communication between learners and teachers, breaking up of online classes into smaller sub-session. He further elaborated that Post-COVID-19, effective e-learning would need hybrid model of education that include e-learning supported with F2Fcomponents and suggested that there is a strong need of choice of pedagogical approaches aligned with the multiple learner style.

At the end of program,Prof. P. K. Joshiappreciated all the participants for their active participation in the seminar with great enthusiasm and spirit and delivered the vote of thanks to honorable Vice-Chancellor, HNBGU,Prof. Annapurna Nautiyal, Chairman, Modern Institute of Technology, Mr. H.G. Juyal, and Prof. Jyoti Juyal, Organizing Secretary and organizing committee of the webinar. The webinar was then concluded. The webinar was grand success with the brain-storming discussions on the topic "**Post-Covid-19 Educational Scenario: Prospect and challenges"** by eminent speakers and huge numbers of participants not only across the India but also from abroad.

Recommendations and Conclusion:

Most governments around the world have temporarily closed educational institutions in an attempt to contain the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic. Some 1.3-1.5 billion students and youth across the planet are affected by school and university closures. These nationwide closures are impacting over 72% of the world's student population. Several other countries have implemented localized closures impacting millions of additional learners. Governments around the world are making efforts to mitigate the immediate impact of school

closures, particularly for more vulnerable and disadvantaged communities, and to facilitate the continuity of education for all through remote learning.

In this time of crisis, a well-rounded and effective educational practice is what is needed for the capacity-building of young minds. It will develop skills that will drive their employability, productivity, health, and well-being in the decades to come, and ensure the overall progress of India and the world as a whole. However, since there are not many options for the time being, the education process with face-to-face interactions, is trying its best to adjust and adapt to the new normal.

Major Recommendations:

- The immune system should be boosted by consuming more medicinal vegetation and remaining fit by exercise and meditation.
- Practical knowledge is very essential and people should use their intellect to make life changing decisions.
- Education helps t maintain normalcy during a crisis and recover more quickly with some useful new skills. Social distancing and online teaching are some examples of the new skills that Covid-19 has taught us.
- Environment, health, mental health and medical course should be integrated in the curriculum, to strengthen the hygiene practices and environment policies and to align curriculum competencies and scale of teachers to strengthen the research efforts for data monitoring of evidence based practices.
- Online learning can be enhanced by giving learners control of their interactions with digital media and prompting learner reflection.
- Online teaching is insufficient and is no match of Face to Face (F2F) teaching and education should now be based on transition from F2F to MOOC during COVID 19.
- There is a need of clear and communicated syllabus, use of stable and robust e-learning platform, need of thorough communication between learners and teachers and breaking up of online classes into smaller sub-session.
- Post-COVID-19, effective e-learning would need hybrid model of education that include e-learning supported with F2F components and there is a strong need of choice of pedagogical approaches aligned with the multiple learner style.

Some glimpse of the Webinar is presented below: