



Report of

One Day Online National Webinar on Commemorating the International Day of Labour, 2021

on the theme

Quality of Life and Workforce amid Pandemonium of COVID-19

Submitted by

Department of Sociology

&

Department of Food Technology

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Acknowledgements

We are highly thankful to the Hon'ble Vice Chancellor of RGU, Prof. Saket Kushwaha for his immense support and motivation in organising the One Day Online National Webinar on “Commemorating The International Day of Labour, 2021” on the theme “Quality of Life and Workforce amid Pandemonium of Covid-19”. His constant effort and encouragement stand as great motivating factor for the entire Organising Team in organising the programme successfully, at a time when the entire world is grappling with the Covid 19 pandemic and everyone at home is strained to think positive how to utilise time.

The selection of a theme on the quality of life and workforce amid the current global pandemic on International Labour Day holds great relevance. With complex interconnected nature of our world today, the pandemonium of pandemic has adversely affected every human on this planet. The world of work is being profoundly affected by the global virus pandemic. In addition to the threat to public health, the economic and social disruption threatens the long-term livelihoods and wellbeing of millions.

The Organizing Team deeply acknowledges the unflinching moral and material support received from the highest office of the Vice Chancellor which inspired the team to organise the programme with a lot of zeal.

Sincere acknowledgements are also due to esteemed Pro Vice Chancellor, Prof. Amitava Mitra for his continuous guidance and insightful motivation in hours of need. Prof. Tana Showren, Dean Faculty of Social Sciences, RGU and Prof. R.K Singh, Dean Faculty of Life Sciences, RGU as a guide and mentor have been the motivating factor behind our initiatives and hence, heartfelt thanks are also due to all concerned.

We also acknowledge the contributions of Prof. Sumpam Tangjang, HOD, Botany & Coordinator of Food Technology, Rajiv Gandhi University (RGU) and Dr Shashank Yadav, HOD i/c, Department of Sociology, RGU as organising secretaries for the webinar and sincerely thank them for their guidance at every step.

Our sincere and heartfelt gratitude are also due to Dr. Pragya Tiwari Gupta for being so generous in taking out time from her busy schedule to share her insightful deliberations on the quality of life and the workforce in light of the pandemic that has swept the world.

We also acknowledge the contributions of Ms Nani Umie, Assistant Professor, Department of Sociology, RGU and Mr Deependra Rajoriya, Assistant Professor, Department of Food Technology, RGU as Deputy Coordinators, for carefully guiding the event to take off and addressing session with insights on the significance of international Labor Day.

Special thanks to Dr Bikash Bage, Assistant Professor, Department of Sociology, RGU for his support in making this event a success.

Our heartfelt thanks to all the participants for their interest and active participation in our maiden initiative and look forward for their meaningful learning experience.

Along with many younger colleagues, academicians, students and research scholars who have enriched the programme through their active participations also deserve our sincere acknowledgements and this is to put on record that we value the association of each and every participant as a stakeholder in realizing and inculcating the dignity of labour in our everyday life.

In the end, a big ‘thanks’ to each one of you going through this report for your interests and acknowledgements to our sincere efforts towards making this webinar successful.

Dr. Padi Hana
Assistant Professor,
Department of Sociology,
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Convenor

Executive Summary

With a view to mark the International Labour day 2021 amid the pandemonium, the Department of Sociology & Department of Food Technology, Rajiv Gandhi University organized a One-Day Online National Webinar on the theme “Quality of Life and Workforce amid Pandemonium of Covid-19” from 10.30 am to 1.00 pm on 1st May, 2021 (Saturday) through Google Meet in response to UGC D.O. No. RGU/REG/COVID-19/1/20 dated 30th April, 2021.

Under the patronage of Prof. Saket Kushwaha, Hon’ble Vice Chancellor, RGU; Prof. Amitava Mitra, Pro-VC; Prof. Tana Showren, Dean Faculty of Social Sciences, RGU, Prof. R.K Singh, Dean Faculty of Life Sciences.

The event was graced by distinguished resource persons, Dr Pragya Tiwari.

Around 212 applicants registered and participated in the event.

The Inaugural Programme continued for half hour from 10.30 am followed immediately by a Technical Session wherein the speaker for the day deliberated on the quality of life and workforce amid the pandemonium. The detailed programme report is presented herewith.

Dr. Padi Hana
Assistant Professor
Department of Sociology, RGU
Convenor

Part 1: Preface

1.1. About the Host Institution

The University

Rajiv Gandhi University (formerly Arunachal University) is the premier institution for higher education in the state of Arunachal Pradesh located at the picturesque tabloid of Rono Hills approximately 25 km away from the state capital Itanagar. Late Smt. Indira Gandhi, the then Prime Minister of India, laid the foundation stone of the University on 4th February 1984 at Rono Hills. Ever since its inception, the University has been trying to achieve excellence and fulfill the objectives as envisaged in the University Act. The University was recognized as a Central University in the year 2007 established under the Act of Parliament. Being the only Central University of the State at present there are Twenty-Six (26) Departments and Two (02) Institutes functioning fewer than Nine (09) Academic Faculties. The Faculty members have been actively engaged in research activities. The University has been maintaining its academic excellence. The students from the University are contributing at significant positions not only in State and Central Government Services, but also in various Institutions, Industries and Organizations. The University has continuously maintained its premier status among top hundred (100) educational institutions in NIRF ranking across India.

About the Organizing Department

The Department of Sociology at Rajiv Gandhi Central University was established in 2011 with Masters programme. Subsequently, M.Phil. and Ph.D. programmes were introduced in 2014. The department is devoted toward crafting competent and socially sensitive intellectual capitals through rigorous training and research activities. The faculty members of the department have a wide range of interests and proficiency who are currently engaged in research in areas such as Sociology of North-east, Tribal Studies, Social Exclusion, Ethnicity, Tribal Development, Education, Environment, Ethnic Conflicts, Gender, Environment, Natural Resource Management and so on. The students pursuing their Masters in the department not only have involved

in theoretical learning in the classroom but are also encouraged to participate in empirical fieldwork as part of their obligatory research methodology assignment.

The Department of Food Technology, Rajiv Gandhi University (A Central University) was established in 2020. This department started with two year M.Sc. programme with an intake of 09 students. The main aim of the department is to create trained and skilled human resources to cater to the needs of the rapidly growing food processing industry. This department also focuses on research programmes in frontline areas of Food Science and Technology. This course offers educational tours, seminars and industrial training. Students are also encouraged to undertake summer projects in Research Laboratories and Industries.

1.2. About the Sponsoring Agency

There was no external funding for the programme. The programme was sponsored by the host institute i.e. Rajiv Gandhi University, Rono Hills, Doimukh, Arunachal Pradesh.

1.3. Background

Labour Day on 1st May is celebrated all over the world to respect the achievements of Labourers or the working class. The observation of International Day of Labour every year is more than a celebration. It signifies the Haymarket Affair in Chicago on May 4, 1886 in which labourers who had assembled for a rally for demanding an eight-hour work day were killed in police firing. This single event has influenced the history of labour in the U.S and the world at large, the consequences of which is still being felt today. In India, the first May Day was observed in Madras (now known as Chennai) on May 1, 1923 by the Labour Kisan Party of Hindustan. It was also the first time when the Red Flag, which symbolises Labour Day was used.

The second wave of the COVID-19 pandemic has accelerated in terms of intensity and expanded its global reach. In the current situation, the impact on income-generating activities is especially harsh for unprotected workers and the most vulnerable groups in the informal economy especially in emerging and developing economies. Informal economy workers lack the basic protection that formal jobs usually provide, including social protection coverage. They are also disadvantaged in access to health-care services and have no income replacement. In India, with a share of almost 90 per cent of people working in the informal economy, about 400 million workers are at risk of falling deeper into poverty during the crisis.

In this context, the proposed national webinar on the theme “ Quality of Life and Workforce amid Pandemonium of COVID-19 ” is an attempt to understand the ways in which the pandemic has affected the workforce in the context of their quality of life with regard to social, economic and physical and mental health concerns.

1.4. Objectives

The proposed national webinar intends to discourse the different stakeholders on the precise objectives as specified below:

- a. To commemorate the International Day of Labour and their contributions.
- b. To acknowledged and appreciate the contribution of the workforce during the pandemic.

1.5. Expected Programme Outcome

The expected learning outcomes of the current webinar are:

- a. Contribute to a greater understanding and awareness of the profound economic and health implications on the informal sector workforce.
- b. Creating awareness and encouraging a discourse on mental and physical health of workers in the formal sector amid the pandemic.

1.6. Theme

The theme was "Quality of Life and Workforce amid Pandemonium of COVID-19" commemorating the International Labour Day 2021.

1.7. Resource Persons

The resource person was Dr Pragya Tiwari Gupta, Associate Professor, Ethiopian Civil Services University, Ethiopia.

1.8. Programme Beneficiaries

The national e-conclave aims to directly benefit academia, researchers and students through informative, brainstorming, insightful and thought-provoking deliberations from leading professionals.

1.9. Budget

The consolidated budget of the programme was Rs. 10,000/- which included honorarium to the Resource Persons and other Miscellaneous Expenses.

1.10. Modus Operandi

There was no registration fee for the participants. Live web sessions were conducted through Google Meet Platform.

Part 2: Session Deliberations

2.1. Inaugural Session

One-Day Online National Webinar on the theme “Quality of Life and Workforce amid Pandemonium of COVID-19” was organized by the Department of Sociology and Department of Food Technology, RGU on 1st May 2021 on a Google Meet Platform.

Marking the International Labour Day 2021, the Webinar session was initiated by Dr. Padi Hana, Assistant Professor, Department of Sociology and Coordinator of the Webinar with welcoming of all the distinguished resource persons, dignitaries and participants. He stated that the department looks forward to more such collaborative events in the future which would benefit both the faculty members and students in general.

In conclusion, he expressed immense gratitude to the Vice Chancellor, Rajiv Gandhi University for conceptualizing the webinar with profound enthusiasm.

At the very outset, Prof. Saket Kushwaha, VC, RGU, in his address congratulated the two departments and expressed his happiness over the in-house manpower of RGU for organizing the one day symposium together in collaboration. He said that as his role as VC, it's his duty to push all the departments to conduct seminars (now webinars) to learn and observe these programs with fruitful outcomes. He also spoke briefly about the historical background of the Labour movement and the contributions of social activists Jyotirao Phule, Savitribai Phule, BR Ambedkar and Madan Mohan Malaviya to demand the dignifying life of labour in India. He encouraged the participants to respect the dignity of labour. He also discussed briefly about the major impact of COVID-19 on jobs in organised sector.

Prof. Amitava Mitra, RGU Pro-VC spoke on three very important areas namely education, health and economy during the Covid-19 pandemic. While Registrar Dr. N.T. Rikam spoke on the significance of celebrating Labour Day every year. He opined that the government should “prioritize vaccination for the labourers.”

The Dean Faculty of Life Sciences, HoD of Department of Botany and Department of Sociology appreciated the organizing team for bringing up the Labour issues and their quality of life during the pandemic.

The session was moderated by Dr. Padi Hana, Assistant Professor, Department of Sociology, RGU.

2.2. Technical Sessions

Moderator: Dr Padi Hana, Assistant Professor, Department of Sociology, RGU.

Speaker: Dr. Pragya Tiwari Gupta, Delhi delivered an expert deliberation on the theme: *Quality of life and workforce amid the pandemic*

Summary:

The speaker for the day, Dr Pragya Tiwari Gupta spoke at length on the theme. She started out by clarifying the meaning of labour and worker and the historical context of the labour movement as such. She discussed about the labour work force in broad perspective and focuses on organised sector. Further, she addressed the problems of labour migrants during the current pandemic in India.

In addition, she also contextualised the discussion in three main aspects of Quality, Vulnerability and Workforce with relevant insights from her work experience of twenty years of her academic career.

In her concluding her remarks, Dr. Pragya Tiwari also importantly brought the attention of the participants on the condition of working and non-working women during this pandemic. She expressed her gratefulness to the organising team of the webinar for inviting her as a speaker to share her thoughts and expertise.

Bringing the webinar to a close, Mr. Deependra Rajoriya, Deputy Coordinator of the Webinar, Department of Sociology, proposed the vote of thanks. He expressed his deepest gratitude to Prof. Saket Kushwaha, VC, RGU, also the Patron of the webinar, for his constant guidance and support and gracing his presence as Chairperson of the Inaugural Session. He thanked and congratulated the Coordinators of the webinar and his Co-conveners for the success-

ful completion of the webinar. He also thanked all the distinguished resource persons for having consented to be a part of the programme and shared their insightful expertise on the theme selected and scholars for their active participation. He also thanked the participants for responding to this national webinar and actively participating in the deliberations on quality of life and workers mind the pandemonium.

Part 3: Major Takeaways

3.1. Academic Context

It is pertinent to discuss the issue regarding the effect of COVID-19 on the migrant population. These impacts are most troubling for low-income households, which are less well positioned to cope with earnings losses during a recession, have no alternative earnings and have no social security available. Most of these workers earn little more than a subsistence wage and have no other means to protect their incomes if they lose their jobs. Migrant workers constitute quite a large proportion of such vulnerable population.

As such, millions of migrant workers are unemployed in India due to the lockdowns. The risk is particularly higher for those who are working in unorganised sectors. On the one hand, lockdowns and social distancing measures are drying up jobs and incomes, whereas they are likely to disrupt agricultural production, transportation systems, and supply chains on the other. This poses a challenge of ensuring food security and controlling already rampant malnutrition, particularly among children, which is likely to result in increased infant and child mortality. There is a need to relook at the national migration policies, which should accommodate the assistance and protection of migrants arriving from, or faced with the prospect of returning to, areas affected by health crises. Also, there is a need to establish resilient food systems that could reduce food insecurity and the pressure to return to origin among migrants.

The proposed webinar focused on the issues underlying the quality of life and workforce amid the pandemonium i.e. focusing and bringing to light areas which require academics to throw light and pave way for a greater understanding of the problem and plight of the labourers.

3.2. Research Context

In the current context when Covid-19 pandemic has brought on untold miseries on the people across the globe, it has become pertinent to interrogate and introspect the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on society in every aspect. There is urgent need for applied scientific research at the social science level to understand the pandemic issues and taking action on priority need based at societal and cultural level.

3.3. Policy Making and Practice Context

The onset of the corona virus pandemic has devastated the world of work, destroying jobs, enterprises and livelihoods, throwing millions into poverty and global development into reverse. And most importantly, it has hit the weakest and the most vulnerable, the hardest, making an unequal world even more unequal.

Hence, the need for a human-centred recovery, with justice and equity, a recovery that is sustainable and inclusive of all. Policy choices need to address these issues and to build a resilient system of workers by generating jobs and decent working conditions for everybody, to extend social protection and to protect worker's rights and to use social dialogue. In the words of Guy Ryder, Director General, International Labour Organisation, "Today, workers, employers, governments, international organizations and all who are committed to building back better need to join forces to bring in a world of work with justice and dignity for all.'

Part 4: Annexure

Annexure 4.1.: Programme Schedule

Inaugural Programme Schedule

Time	
10:30 am - 10: 35 am	Welcome address by Dr Padi Hana Department of Sociology & Coordinator, Webinar Rajiv Gandhi University, Arunachal Pradesh
10: 35 am - 10: 50 am	Inaugural Address Prof. Saket Kushwaha, Vice Chancellor Rajiv Gandhi University, Arunachal Pradesh
	Technical Session
10:50 am - 10: 55 am	Introduction of speaker Nani Umie Assistant Professor Department of Sociology
10:55 am - 11: 30 am	Resource person Dr Pragya Tiwari Gupta Associate Professor
11:30 am - 11:35 am	Vote of Thanks Mr Deependra Rajoriya Assistant Professor, Department of Food Technology, RGU

Programme Schedule for Technical Session

Annexure 4.2.: List of Participants

Altogether 205 participants comprising students, researchers, academicians, administrators and scientists from all over India participated in the webinar.

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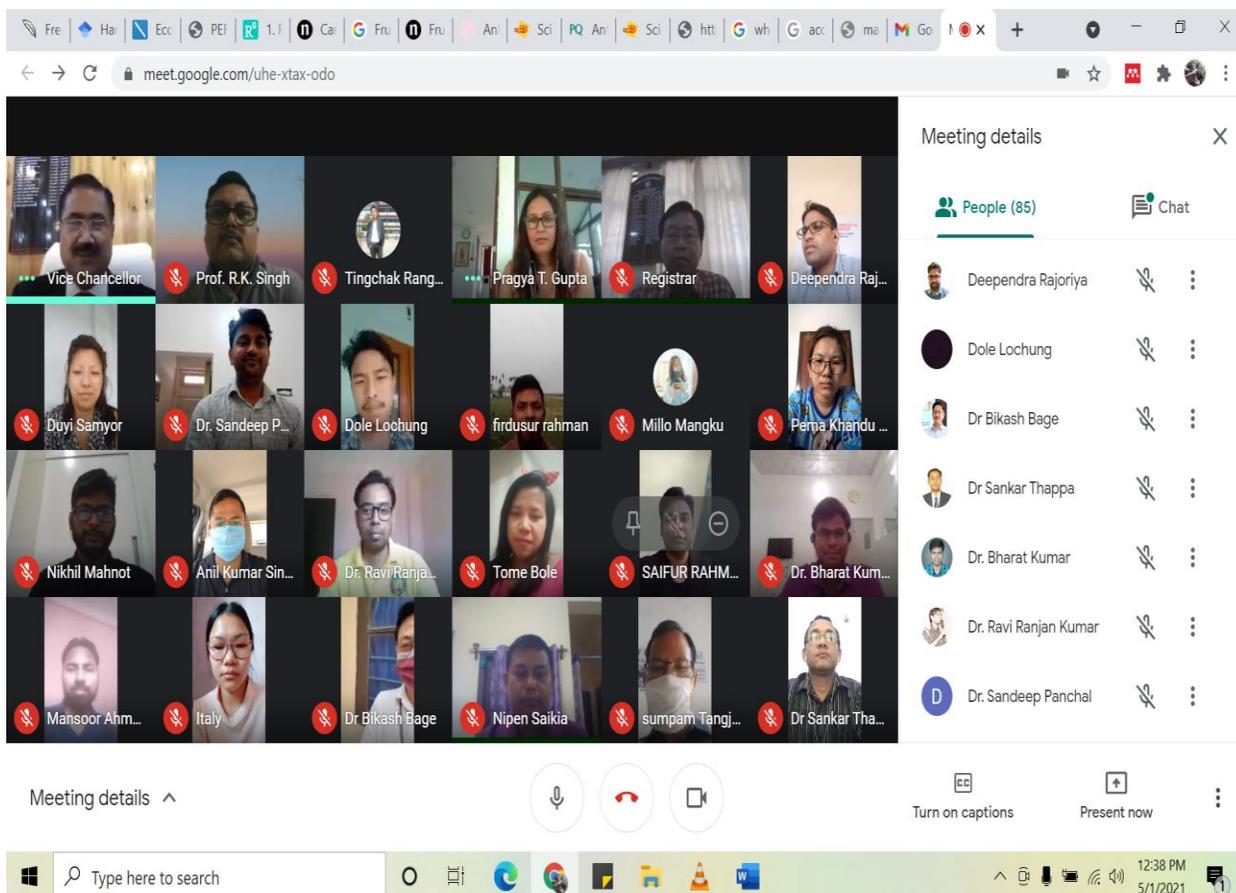
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204	Miss	Nang Wenika	Namchoom	wenikanam-choom@gmail.com	One day national webinar on commemorating
205	Mr	Apong	Boham	bohamapong915@gmail.com	Rajiv Gandhi University, Rono Hills, Doimukh

Annexure 4.3 : Photographs





ARUNACHAL TIMES Published on 4th May'2021.

The screenshot shows the homepage of The Arunachal Times. The main navigation bar includes links for STATE NEWS, READERS FORUM, EDITORIAL, RING SIDE VIEW, MONDAY MUSING, SPARK, and E-PAPER. A featured article titled "National webinar on IDL held" is displayed, dated May 4, 2021. The article reports that the sociology and food technology departments of Rajiv Gandhi University (RGU) organized a national webinar to commemorate the International Day of Labour (IDL). It notes that 205 participants from across India took part. A poll titled "Should there be a lockdown in ICR?" is also visible, with radio buttons for "Yes" and "No".

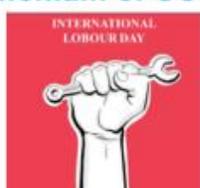
The screenshot shows the homepage of Eastern Sentinel. The main navigation bar includes links for Articles, Videos, State of the State, Editorials, Ads & NITs, Classified, Letter to Editor, Archive, About, Gallery, and Contact. A featured article titled "RGU'S MAY DAY WEBINAR DISCUSSES PANDEMIC'S IMPACT ON LABOUR COMMUNITY" is displayed, dated 3rd May 2021. The article reports that a day-long national webinar commemorating the International Day of Labour was organized by the Departments of Sociology and Food Technology at Rajiv Gandhi University. It mentions 205 participants and discusses the impact of the pandemic on the job sector. A cartoon titled "State of the State" is also visible, depicting a person standing in front of a police station with a speech bubble containing the text: "BAAA... SOUTH INDIAN PLIM SCOTING MORAI JEGAAA... SOPED SOPED PAARI.. ITNAAA JAADAA...".

EASTERN SENTINEL, Published on 4th May 2021

ANNEXURE 4.5:

PROGRAMME BROCHURE

One Day National Webinar Commemorating The International Labour Day "Quality of Life and Workforce amid Pandemonium of COVID-19"



Date: May 1, 2021 (Saturday)
Time: 10:30 AM-12:00 NOON

Jointly Organized by:
Department of Sociology
Department of Food Technology



Rajiv Gandhi University
(A Central University established in 2007 by an Act of Parliament of India)
Rono Hills, Doimukh-791112, Arunachal Pradesh, INDIA

Organizing Secretaries

Prof. Sumpam Tangjang, HoD Botany &
Coordinator of Food Technology
Dr. Shashank Yadav, HoD (i/c),
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Dr. Padi Hana, Coordinator
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Prof. Rajiv Kumar Singh
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Prof. Tana Showren
Dean, Faculty of Social Sciences

SPEAKER



Dr. Pragya Tiwari Gupta
Associate Professor
New Delhi



<https://forms.gle/r2dE1etGNHozRPoJ6>