

School of Management (U.G.)
Rural Immersion Programme 2020 - 21
Online Guest Lecture Series

Every year **School of Management (UG)** organises a Rural Immersion Programme where they take their students to rural areas to give them exposure to the rural regions and development. This year, due to the outbreak of the novel coronavirus and the pandemic situation, as an alternative to rural visits, the School of Management (UG) had arranged an online guest lecture series in order to curb academic loss and rural exposure, as per the schedule below:

Day & Date	Topic	Details of the Guest
Wednesday 6 th January 2021	Sustainable Inclusive Rural Development Practices	Mr. Ameya Joshi, CMD of Opash Socio Commercials Pvt. Ltd. and the Founder Trustee & President of Deepastambha Charitable Trust (DCT), Pune.
Saturday 9 th January 2021	Rural Development – Issues Related to Rural Employment and Migration	Dr. Nagmani Rao, Social Activist and Associate Professor (Retired) at Karve Institute of Social Service, Pune.
Tuesday 12 th January 2021	Role of Women in Rural Development and Their Human Rights	Adv. Archana More, Advocate and Legal Advisor, Vice President of MHRC, WICCI, Social Scientist and Trainer on Law and Human Rights, Pune

Day 1: Wednesday, 6th January 2021

Guest Speaker: Mr. Ameya Joshi

Topic: “Sustainable Inclusive Rural Development Practices”

The lecture was hosted by Prof. Shweta Deshpande as she welcomed and hosted the guest for the day. After the introduction of the guest, greetings were shared by Prof. Neelam Pandit and Prof. Dr. Prasad Pathak. As per MIT World Peace University tradition, the lecture was started with the World Peace Prayer which was followed by the opening remarks given to the attendees by Prof. Neelam Pandit.

The Guest Speaker, Mr. Ameya Joshi shared his story about how he started his journey in rural development and its progression. While at it, he told us about their initiative in implementing watershed management in various villages and also about their use of a holistic approach to focus on rural development in education and healthcare aspect. He also shed light on how CSR and collaboration with other companies play an important role in funding for the project.

The session was very informative as the speaker shared various development practices and told us what approach to follow while focusing on rural development. The take away of this session was that Rural Development is a need-based approach and may differ from village to village, however people's participation is very crucial to make the project successful. While implementing any rural development project, it is necessary to make the residents of that village understand that we're one of them and are helping them develop their region, and also it is necessary to make them the driving source of the project. Mr. Ameya Joshi also told that while carrying out a project, it is necessary to have an exit plan ready to be implemented when the time comes, however it shouldn't be abrupt and we should always hand over the things to the villagers before exiting to sustain that project in the long run.

To conclude the lecture, Mr. Ameya Joshi took up various questions from the students and answered them, during which Prof. Neelam Pandit also shared her views on the topic as a part of her closing remarks.

Day 2: 9th January 2021

Guest Speaker: Dr. Nagmani Rao

Topic: "Rural Development – Issues Related to Rural Employment and Migration"

During the session, Dr. Nagmini Rao shared her insight on the rural development in India and also discussed various issues related to rural employment and migration and shared real-life cases on these issues.

Dr. Nagmini Rao discussed the classification of rural households by occupational categories and also the need for diversification of rural livelihoods. While at it, she also discussed problems related to agriculture. During the session, she also shed light on the key components and factors that play a very important role in the development of rural areas. Dr. Rao later discussed policy implications in which she talked about backward agriculture, productivity, unemployment issues, and which factors cause migration. Dr. Rao further spoke about various measures taken by the government in the form of reforms, initiatives, and programmes to mitigate these implications. She later shared her insight on these measures and spoke about limitations, failures, and issues with certain initiatives and programmes. To conclude the session, Dr. Rao shared the future vision of rural development moving towards alternatives.

At the end of the session, Dr. Nagmini Rao took a quick question and answer round for the students. Prof. Neelam Pandit also shared her views on the topic discussed and later gave closing remarks after Pasaydan was played to conclude the session.

Day 3: 12th January 2021

Guest Speaker: Adv. Archana More

Topic: “Role of Women in Rural Development and Their Human Rights”

On the day 3 of lecture series, Adv. Archana More, Advocate and Legal Advisor, Vice President of MHRC, WICCI, Social Scientist and Trainer on Law and Human Rights, Pune, was invited for conducting a lecture on Women’s role in rural development and their rights.

Prof. Shweta Deshpande welcomed and introduced the guest for the day. To commence with the session, Head of School, Prof. Gautam Bapat briefly addressed the students and told them the motive behind inculcating the Rural Immersion Program in their curriculums and its importance and for the session to progress, Prof. Neelam Pandit gave the opening remarks.

Later the session was carried forward by Adv. Archana More where she shed light upon the issues about women in rural areas and their rights. Her talk started with how women are perceived by the patriarchal system, our society, and all around the globe. She later shared statistics related to literacy and employment of the population and also shared statistics on how hazardous livelihood activities are for women in rural areas. Adv. Archana further emphasised on development of women and women empowerment where she spoke about the barriers in women empowerment and also mentioned various policies and programmes which encourage the development of women in India. She further spoke about how the government rightly changed its approach from the welfare of women to the development of women. She later briefly spoke about National Policy for the Empowerment of Women (2001) and the 10th Five Year Plan (2002-2007). Further Adv. Archana More talked about the Convention on Elimination of all kinds of Discriminations Against Women (CEDAW) and discussed its Article 14 which encourages women empowerment and also spoke about the Charter of Demands for Women Farmers – Mahila Kisan Adhikaar Manch (MAKAAM). To conclude the session, Adv. Archana More went over the important points to remember such as women’s rights are human rights and focus should be given to their holistic health and not just their reproductive organs, to reduce drudgery and increase their efficiency with the help of technology and also to include them in decision making and encourage women empowerment.

With this session, the Rural Immersion Program’s online guest lecture series came to an end. The guest lecture series was very informative as the students got to learn various new things related to rural areas and their development. The students and staff of SOM (UG) are thankful to the Head of School, Prof. Gautam Bapat, Prof. Neelam Pandit, Head of Rural Immersion Program, and Prof. Dr. Prasad Pathak, Rural Immersion Program Convener for arranging such sessions.