

UNNAT BHARAT ABHIYAN REPORT

Submitted by Participating Institution – St. Xavier's
College(Autonomous),Kolkata

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Unnat Bharat Abhiyan Progress Report of June 2020

This month, 90 household survey data have been uploaded in the UBA reporting portal for further analysis. Beside this the staff attended two webinars which was collaborated by National Coordinating Institute (NCI) – IIT Delhi. Below is a synopsis of the webinars:

- a) **International Webinar on Science and Engineering for Nature Conservation** scheduled on 5th June 2020: The Webinar was divided into two sections – (i) Industry and Environment and (ii) Sustainable Development Vs Developmental Engineering. The sessions focused on advocating for incorporating the environment sensitive developmental ideas for any form of socio-economic development. For example, rejuvenation of rivers or other water bodies through preserving biodiversity around it or by developing or conserving wet lands. Several industrial representatives spoke about ways to incorporating environment friendly development plans. Such as the real estate industry can promote and ensure construction of green building which has amenities such as rain water harvesting units, installation of solar panels and having a significant patch of greenery incorporated in the plan. Representatives from ASSOCHAM also spoke about the same and also shared about an initiative called GEM (Green & Ecofriendly Movement), which is sustainability certification programme for construction of buildings in an eco- sensitive way.
- b) **National Webinar on Role of Technologies in Rural Areas for Skill Development, Livelihood for Atmanirbhar Bharat** scheduled on 16th June 2020: During the introductory speech, Prof. Virendra Kumar explained how it is getting compulsory for faculty and staff to be involved in UBA. Faculty promotion will depend on the number of hours, the faculty has spent on outreach work. Also students will soon have to undertake outreach work for 2 credits. All the sessions elaborated how one can go local for the benefit of the nation. Dr. Acchal Mittal, Head, Structural Engineering, CSIR-Central Building Research Institute, Roorkee took a session on ***Contribution of CSIR-CBRI Technologies in Housing and Skill Development*** wherein he explained that sustainable technologies focused on four focal points namely- (i) Affordability, (ii) Sustainable and energy efficient technologies, (iii) Labour intensive, (iv) Rural centric economic model. Prof Vivek Kumar, Professor, Centre for Rural Development and Technology, IIT Delhi took a technical session on ***Karigar Aur Kutir Udyog and Skill Development***, highlighting that higher education & technical institutes can have a major role in knowledge intervention and technical innovation to revive the handicraft industries and skill development of the artisans. He also added that pandemic situation has resulted in the migration flow back to the rural areas which can be utilized as a scope for the revival and strengthening of this sector as a whole. The session on ***Processing Agro-Residue to Value Added Products*** by Prof. Priyanka Kaushal from IIT Delhi lay focus on correlation between energy and human development. She also spoke about Biomass Conversion and scope for technological innovation in sustainable and efficient utilization of the energy resources. Dr. Vandit Vijay (IIT Delhi) during his session on ***Energy Self-Sufficiency in Rural Areas using Biomass: A model of Gram Urja Swaraj*** gave an insight into the scope for energy self -sufficiency in rural areas using locally available energy resources. He emphasized that there is need for Local Energy Planning keeping in mind 4As- Accessibility, Acceptable quality, Affordability, and Adequate availability. This local energy planning is to done with the respective rural community to make it more practical and efficient and most importantly sustainable. He also shared about a project based on same approach, conducted at IIT Delhi.