

Report on Pre- Cursory Workshop 2020- “Changing Scenario of Rural Economy: Role of Research, Innovation & Digitalisation”.

Dr. VN Bedekar Institute of Management Studies, Thane had organized an online Pre-Cursory Workshop of the National Conference ,for the students of MMS and PGDM on Friday, 27th November 2020. The theme for the event was “Changing Scenario of Rural Economy: Role of Research, Innovation & Digitalisation”. The workshop was scheduled in two parts. Eminent guest speakers gave their valuable insights in the first part of the session. In the second part of the session, inter-collegiate competition named “Parivartan: A Step towards Rural Growth” was conducted for the students.

The first session peacefully started with the blessing of Goddess Saraswati with a vandana. After the vandana, the director of Dr. VN Brims Dr. Nitin Joshi welcomed the audience . He shared his valuable thoughts on the topic of how role of innovation is important in the rural economy and also shared his views about women empowerment and overall rural employment. He also made the students understand that digitalisation will play a crucial role for the development of the rural India to have a connect with the urban areas and also innovation in energy generation and manufacturing sectors will be helpful for the rural areas to be less dependent on urban areas. It was very interesting and informative session. Further, the professor of Dr. VN Brims Dr. Sreedharan Menon explained the genesis and the theme of the pre-cursory workshop. He emphasized about the economic parameters of rural India and its need for development as 46 percent of the Indian population belongs to the rural India. He also explained the problems faced in the rural areas and the improvements that are required for the rural transformation. After sharing the thoughts about the theme, a small video was showcased that had glimpses of the various scenarios of rural India and the initiatives taken by the students of Dr. VN Brims towards the rural development. Then the guest speakers were invited to share their valuable thoughts. The first guest speaker was Mr. Shymal Gupta, who is an experienced person in domain spanning and expertise in the field of International Commodity Trade, Institutional Hedging, Futures Trading, Structured Trade Finance, Warehousing and Commodities Exchange. He gave his views about the farmer’s bill, commodity market, the need for financial training and the role of regulators. He cleared all the queries of the students very nicely. He concluded by saying that there is a need to first improve the basics of the rural economy and not just coming up with the new schemes. New improved version of schemes are important but the final implementation of any scheme should be given more importance to make an actual impact in the development of rural sector. The next speaker was Mr. Harshal Dhikale, who is the general manager at Aussee Oats Milling Pvt Ltd. He talked about the various challenges faced while carrying out rural research. He went through the basics of rural market and explained how scope has to be defined for doing a research as it will differ from one rural area to other rural area. He also gave guidance to the students on various questions raised by them during his session by giving many examples of his own personal experiences while doing his own rural project. The session was quite interactive and did help the students to gain knowledge. . The first session of the event was concluded by vote of thanks by Dr. Smita Jape, Associate Professor of Dr. VN Brims. She proposed Vote of thanks to the chairman, Dr. Bedekar Sir ,Dr. Guruprasad Murthy ,director general BRIMS , Dr. Nitin Joshi , director, eminent guest speakers and the judges of the competition, for accepting the invitation. Also, she thanked the organizing committee of the faculties consisting of Dr. Meenakshi Malhotra ,Prof Kanchan Akshay and students committee consisting of Sayali, Revati, Sayli Walanj, Poorva and Devendra , the IT team, and the video making team for their efforts.

In the second part of the session, the inter college competition started wherein many students of Dr. V.N. BRIMS and students of different institutes had actively participated. The participants were asked one month ago, to identify a problem in the rural sector and accordingly provide a solution with respect to Research, Innovation and Technology. Many teams gave their solution and the Top 4 Teams were selected for the final round who presented their ideas in the session. The competition was judged by Dr Shirish Patil who has a work experience of over 28 years in various Agriculture Industries, Rural Management, & Agriculture Education and is presently working in our sister Institute VPM Joshi Bedekar College of Thane. Another judge was Mr. Anand Nikam who is currently with Indian Oil Corporation Limited as an Assistant Manager of Information System at the Head Office. All the teams presented their innovative ideas in front of the audience and the judges. The judges asked various questions and gave their feedbacks as well to the students. They evaluated the students' presentation on various criteria and accordingly gave the scores on the online google form shared with them. The winners were declared at the end of session. The runner up for the competition were Saniya Khan, Saloni Ambekar, Saloni Pasad who were from Vivekanand Education Society's College of Arts, Science & Commerce. The winners for the competition were Mangesh Tawade, Shraddha Jadhav, Sohail Tikekar who were students of VPM's center for Career and Skill Development Executive MBA Program

Overall, the entire pre-cursory workshop threw a light on the changing scenarios of the rural economy and the various ideas and insights of development in the research, innovation and digitalisation of rural India. The pre cursory workshop was successfully ended by thanking the director of Dr. VN Brims, Dr. Nitin Joshi and director general of Dr. VN Brims, Dr, Guruprasad Murthy for always being a constant motivation and support. The event was well anchored by the students committee and well organized by the combined efforts of the teaching staff, non-teaching staff and the student engagement committee of Dr. VN Brims.

Precursory Workshop organizing Committee