



Webinar Report

On

Impact of Pandemic on Sundarbans

Sunday, May 23, 2021 (12.00 PM to 02.00 PM)



Jointly Organised

By

SHAHID MATANGINI HAZRA GOVERNMENT COLLEGE FOR WOMEN
Chakshirishnapur, Kulberia, P.O: Kulberia, Dist: Purba Medinipur, PIN: 721549

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**Shahid Matangini
Hazra Government
College For Women,
Purba Medinipur,
West Bengal**

**National Institute of
Disaster
Management
Ministry of Home
Affairs, New Delhi**

Organizing Team:

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Executive Director,
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Organiser:

Dr. Bijoy Krishna Roy
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Webinar Coordinator:

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Co-Coordinator:

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Name of Programme	Impact of Pandemic on Sundarbans	
Date and Time	May 23, 2021	12.00 PM to 02.00 PM
No. of Participants	64	

Background:

An archipelago of islands, the Sundarbans is located in the Bay of Bengal with territories in both India and Bangladesh. The Sundarbans is also the largest river delta in the world, home to fading natural mangroves and protected tiger populations.

The Sundarbans’ economy is heavily dependent on agriculture, fishing and eco-tourism. All of these industries have suffered from COVID-19. With migrant workers returning due to lockdown, many have been left jobless and unable to live off of their land. Since subsistence from one’s land is no longer a viable option for many Sundarbans residents, many islanders must venture into the forest to forage for food. This has led to an uptick in cases of tiger attacks as desperate Sundarbans inhabitants are venturing into areas where and when they should not be.

At first, the landfall of the cyclone and its coincidental timing with the spread of the virus made cyclone shelters potential hotbeds of the spread of COVID-19. Healthcare officials COVID-19-proofed these shelters later on, however. Additionally, in order to make as little contact with outsiders as possible, the islanders blocked the entry of relief workers and devised methods for relief materials to be left on the shore for them to pick up. As a result, the Sunderbans have had a relatively low COVID-19 infection rate. Unlike the rest of India, the pandemic has affected the Sundarbans much less in healthcare than its livelihood.

In view of the above, the National Institute of Disaster Management, New Delhi and Shahid Matangini Hazra Government College For Women, Purba Medinipur, West Bengal jointly organized one day webinar pertaining to community awareness and vaccination management in pandemics for tribal communities, particularly in Sundarbans.

Objectives:

Objectives of the webinar were to:

- Provide valuable insight into the economic issues faced by the people living in Sundarbans.
- Understand the plight of the people living in Sundarbans because of the Pandemic
- Emphasize the effects of various cyclones in the everyday life of the people in Sundarbans.
- Analyse the extent of ecological changes during the post-Amphan period in comparison to the pre- Amphan situation.
- Highlight the solutions and suggestions for reviving the economy of the people living in Sundarbans.

Webinar Schedule:

Session	Speaker/Expert
Welcome Address	Dr. Ajinder Walia Assistant Professor NIDM New Delhi
Impact of Pandemic on Sunderbans	Dr.C. Jerome Samraj Assistant Professor, Department of Economics, Pondicherry University, Puducherry
Impact on Super Cyclonic Storm Amphan on Sundarban	Mr.Nabendu Sekhar Kar Assistant Professor, Dept of Geography, Shahid Matangini Hazra Government College for Women, Purba Medinipur, West Bengal
Socio-Economic effect of Pandemic on People in Sundarbans	Mr.Rahul Reghu Assistant Professor School of Excellence in Law, Tamil Nadu Dr Ambedkar Law University,Chennai, Tamilnadu
Vote of Thanks	Shri. N. Karpoorasundara Pandian Young Professional, NIDM, New Delhi

Banner:

SHAHID MATANGINI HAZRA GOVERNMENT COLLEGE FOR WOMEN
Chakshirikrishnapur, Kulberia, P.O: Kulberia, Dist: Purba Medinipur, PIN: 721649





Resilient India - Disaster Free India

SHAHID MATANGINI HAZRA GOVERNMENT COLLEGE FOR WOMEN
&
NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF DISASTER MANAGEMENT
MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS, GOVT. OF INDIA

Jointly Organized webinar on

Impact of Pandemic on Sundarbans

Date & Time: SUNDAY, 23 May 2021 at 12:00 pm – 02:00 pm (IST)



Patron
Major General Manoj Kumar Bindal
Executive Director, NIDM



<https://meet.google.com/mwg-ceha-umk>

Organizer
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Registration link: <https://training.nidm.gov.in>

Speakers



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[Website: www.nidm.gov.in](http://www.nidm.gov.in)



**Stay Protected
from Corona**



Wear your Mask
Properly



Wash your Hands
Regularly



Maintain Social
Distancing

Speakers:

SPEAKERS

- Dr.C. Jerome samraj
- Assistant Professor,
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Impact on Super Cyclonic Storm Amphan on Sundarban

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- Socio –Economic effect of Pandemic on People in Sundarbans

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Key Takeaways:-

The Webinar was streamed through Cisco WebEx and witnessed the participation of 68 students, teachers, researchers and other professionals. The following are the important issues and challenges discussed in the webinar programme:-

- The pandemic has caused severe damage to the functioning of the economy and people, especially those engaged in the informal sector have been severely affected. Their economic conditions have worsened due to loss of livelihood and a lack of alternative sources of survival. This webinar took note of the relatively minimalist lifestyle of the tribal population and addressed the concerns of deprivation and emphasised the need to develop sustainable livelihood patterns among the tribals in Sundarbans.
- Cyclone Amphan being associated with very high-intensity winds, storm-water surges, tidal inundation, saline water invasion and flash floods caused irreversible damage to the biodiversity and people dependent on the fragile landscape for life and threatening livelihood regeneration activities.
- West Bengal Forest Directorate and The World Wildlife Fund (WWF) have joined forces to distribute hygiene and food supplies around the Islands to tackle the aftermath of COVID-19 and Cyclone Amphan.
- To address the worsening tiger issue, Rapid Response Facility along with The WWF is working to create several miles of nylon net fencing to separate tiger and human populations from negative interactions.
- WWF is also working with the community at the grassroots level for a more climate-sustainable future that fosters the islands' ecosystem.
- The Sundarbans face a multitude of challenges. Its residents have experienced the effects of climate change firsthand. Community-led innovation with the help of the government and other key organizations is crucial for a disaster-ready future for the islanders.
- Despite all these, the practitioners and policymakers need to develop a holistic disaster mitigation report to understand the degree of ecological disaster caused by the cyclone. There is need to develop the sustainable Sundarban ecosystem among the new challenges

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