



**NETAJI SUBHAS OPEN UNIVERSITY**  
**SCHOOL OF EDUCATION**

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**A BRIEF REPORT ON THE TWO-DAY INTERNATIONAL WEBINAR ON “FUTURES OF  
EDUCATION: LEARNING TO BECOME”**

Organised By

SCHOOL OF EDUCATION

In Collaboration with  
Centre for Disability Studies and Educational Research

NETAJI SUBHAS OPEN UNIVERSITY, SALT LAKE, KOLKATA 700064

*Date & Time: 3<sup>rd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> August 2020; 10:30 AM-3 PM (IST) on both days*

*Web Platform: Google MEET*

**Background:**

In response to UNESCO's worldwide call, School of Education (SoE) in collaboration with Centre for Disability Studies and Educational Research (CDSER) organized an a two-day International WEBINAR on “Futures of Education: Learning to Become”, a global initiative to re-imagine how knowledge and learning can shape the future of humanity. Reflections on probable/anticipated and possible/alternative futures is well underway within the UNESCO's ‘International Commission on the Futures of Education: Learning to Become’ initiative and the series of webinars may further explore the possible deep and fundamental transformations in how societies, politics, economies, developmental priorities, research studies and even cultures may be re-organized in the future.

Being invited by this University, International, National level experts and UNESCO representatives attended the event and contributed through their respective deliberations. Around sixty research papers on the themes were presented by faculties, research scholars, students and interested aspirants from various Educational Institutions across India. The attempt on behalf of SoE, NSOU was taken for quality enhancement of the present education to step up to the future so that the in-house faculties as well as the other stakeholders can accrue benefit from it.

**Invitees:** The following luminaries from various institutions across India and Overseas were the cherished academicians in the International Webinar:

1	Prof. Marmar Mukhopadhyay, Former Director, NIEPA, New Delhi
2	Prof. A. K Jalaluddin, Former Advisor, SE region, UNDP/UNESCO
3	Dr. T. S Powdyel, Former Education Minister, Royal Govt of Bhutan
4	Devishobha R, Founder, Kidskintha, Representative, UNESCO
5	Tarush Jain, Founder & Director, Brainwiz, New Delhi; Representative, UNESCO
6	Prof. Madhu Parhar, Director, CEMCA, New Delhi
7	Dr. N. Rajiv Kumar, Principal, IRE, Wangjing, Manipur
8	Prof. Taposh Kr Biswas, Institute of Research & Education, Dhaka University, Bangladesh
9	Prof. Debasri Banerjee, Dept of Education, C.U
10	Prof. P. K Biswas, Former Director, STRIDE, IGNOU
11	Prof. Debabrata Debnath, HoD, Dept of Education, University of Gourbanga
12	Prof. Dibyendu Bhattacharya, HoD, Dept of Education, University of Kalyani
13	Dr. K. N Chattopadhyay, HoD, Dept of Education, University of Burdwan
14	Prof. Abhijit Kr Pal, HoD, Dept of Education, West Bengal State University
15	Prof. Bishnupada Nanda, Professor, Dept of Education, Jadavpur University
16.	Registrar, Directors and Officers of NSOU

**Participants:** Around a total of 180 participants registered for the webinar; out of which, 60 were paper presenters while others actively participated in the two-day International Webinar on the digital platform.

### Programme Highlights

#### **Day-I, 3<sup>rd</sup> August 2020**

- ✚ Inaugural Session
- ✚ Two Plenary Sessions
- ✚ Interactive Session
- ✚ Summing up

The inaugural session began with opening words by Dr. Papiya Upadhyay, Jt Organizing Secretary and introduction of the house. At the very outset, she expressed good wishes for the International Webinar as conveyed by the Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, NSOU. Prof. Sanat K Ghosh, Convenor of the Webinar was invited for the welcome address. He extended a warm and hearty welcome to all dignitaries, guests, delegates, and learned participants along with the objectives of the present International Webinar on the

web platform to set the pace of discourse in the seminar. To situate the tempo of the webinar further, Prof. Swapan Kr Sarkar, HOD, SoE presented the thematic introduction of the two-day webinar in brief. The renowned educationist Prof. Marmar Mukhopadhyay was the keynote speaker. He diligently spoke on learning to become and digital imperatives in a very crisp and eloquent way. Sri. Sachindra Ch Kar, Finance Officer, NSOU delivered a short speech on the significance of such webinar as an academic fruitful initiative in this despondency. Presidential address was delivered by Dr. A. N Dey, Chairman, IWDirector, SoE, NSOU and Coordinator, CDSER.

The next sessions were two plenary sessions. Each Plenary session comprised of three deliberations by eminent educationist/academicians in the field of Education per se.

**The first plenary session** was chaired by Prof. Abhijit Kr Pal, HoD, Dept of Education, West Bengal State University and Prof. Bishnupada Nanda, HoD, Dept of Education, Jadavpur University

- *Education as a Noble Sector* - Speaker: Dr. T.S Powdyel, Former Education Minister, Royal Government of Bhutan
- *ICT and Education* - Speaker: Prof. Madhu Parhar, Director, CEMCA, New Delhi
- *Untethering Education-Initiatives and Possibilities* - Speaker: Devishobha R, Founder, Kidskintha & Representative, UNESCO

**The second plenary session was chaired by** Prof. P. K Biswas, Former Director, STRIDE, IGNOU New Delhi and Prof. Sumanta Chattaraj, Professor, SoE, NSOU

- *Futures of Education-Learning to become: An Overview* - Speaker: Tarush Jain, Founder and Director, Brainwiz, New Delhi & Representative, UNESCO
- *An outlook: Transforming education by the content curriculum into developmental process for future* - Speaker: Dr. Narengam Rajib Kr Singh, Principal Institute of Rural Education (College of Teacher Education), Wangjing, Manipur
- *Impact of Research and Education for the future* - Speaker: Dr. Taposh K Biswas, Professor, Institute of Education and Research, Dhaka University, Bangladesh

This was followed by the **interactive session**. Numerous questions/ observations were raised and aptly addressed by the eminent speakers and audience participants one at a time. It was a vibrant session lauded with relatable discussion and appreciation. The resource speakers had ice breaking deliberations & threadbare discussions on emerging issues and the prerogative areas of futures of Education.

Dr. Papiya Upadhyay acted as a moderator for the entire day's activities on the digital platform.

Prof. Sanat K Ghosh scrupulously summed up the day's deliberations and reminded the significant addresses.

Dr. Papiya Upadhyay, Asst Prof & Organizing Secretary proposed the Vote of Thanks to the Day one of the International Webinar.

## **Day-II, 4<sup>th</sup> August 2020**

- ✚ Three Technical Sessions: Oral Presentation of Papers
- ✚ Interactive Session
- ✚ Valediction
- ✚ Closing

Day Two commenced with the opening words by Dr. Parimal Sarkar, Jt Organizing Secretary. Guided by him and the Schoolguru, NSOU ICT Agency, Special Audio address by Prof. A. K Jalaluddin, Former Advisor, UNDP/UNESCO, South East Asia was played. The twenty minutes audio was a narrative on rapid changes in the various national and international socio-political sectors and their interrelatedness in the developmental aspect. Prof Jalaluddin put thrust on the last three centuries of development and role of education thereto. He hinted on the present goals of Education, i.e., meaning making education. He also narrated on the comprehensive goals of Education in nation building: Individual and social goals in particular. The session was coordinated by Prof. Sanat K Ghosh.

This was followed by the Technical sessions or Paper Presentation, I, II and III. The first two technical sessions were conducted through parallel G-Meet links.

### **Paper Presentation-I**

- ✚ Moderator: Dr. Abhedananda Panigrahi, Coordinator, B.Ed, SoE, NSOU
- ✚ Panelist: Prof. Debasri Banerjee, Dept of Education, University of Calcutta
- ✚ Total no. of papers presented - 29

### **Paper Presentation-II**

- ✚ Moderator - Dr. Parimal Sarkar, Jt Organizing Secretary, IW & Assistant Professor, SoE, NSOU
- ✚ Panellist: Prof. Dibyendu Bhattacharya, HoD, Dept of Education, University of Kalyani
- ✚ Total no. of papers presented - 27

### **Paper Presentation-III**

- ✚ Moderator: Dr. Papiya Upadhyay, Jt Organizing Secretary, IW & Assistant Professor, SoE, NSOU and
- ✚ Session Coordinator: Prof. Anirban Ghosh, Director, CIQA and Director, i/c SPS & SVS, NSOU
- ✚ Panelists: Prof. Debabrata Debnath, HoD, Dept of Education, University of Gourbanga & Dr. K. N Chattopadhyay, HoD, Dept of Education, University of Burdwan
- ✚ Total no. of papers presented - 30

These sessions were followed by interactions among the participants and the panellist on some basic questions:

- ✚ What are the existing crises in the present system of education?
- ✚ Why learning to become?
- ✚ How does it approach the future society?
- ✚ Why look for new knowledge and learning system for the future world (beyond 2030 agenda)?

**Valediction:**

*Comprised of the following valedictorians:*

- Prof. P. K Biswas, Former Director, STRIDE, IGNOU
- Prof. Anirban Ghosh, Director, CIQA, NSOU & Director, i/c, SPS & SVS
- Prof. Sanat K Ghosh, Convenor, IW & Professor, SoE, NSOU
- Prof. Sumanta Chattaraj, Professor, SoE, NSOU

The innovative ideas/inputs/suggestions as came out from the two-day academic exercise intended to shape the future of Education as to be painted in the UNESCO's Education Commission. The valedictorians lay emphasis on the following components:

- ✚ Identifying key-challenges of the future education
- ✚ Finding educational opportunities foreseen for the future,
- ✚ Providing inputs/suggestions to the UNESCO Education Commission.

Prof. Sanat K Ghosh emphatically summed up the second day's activities and outcomes.

Dr. Parimal Sarkar acted as the moderator for the entire day very efficiently and effectively and proposed the words of thanks.

Dr. Papiya Upadhyay came up with post webinar announcements. Feedback link was sent to all the participants for submission. Certificate dispatch was assured to be emailed to all the registered participants within fifteen days from the completion of the event. The full paper submission was extended in view of e-proceedings publication with ISBN.

The Two-Day International Webinar reached its closing with the National anthem tune play.

Prepared by  
Dr. P. Upadhyay & Prof. S. K Ghosh, SoE, NSOU

Dr. A. N Dey, Director, SoE, NSOU

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