

XLV INDIAN SOCIAL SCIENCE CONGRESS

(February 28-March 04, 2022, B.S. Abdur Rahman Crescent Institute of Science and Technology, Vandalur, Chennai)

A NOTE ON FOCAL THEME

ENVIRONMENT, ENERGY, AND HEALTH

0100 PREAMBLE

The Indian Social Science Academy and B.S. Abdur Rahman Crescent Institute of Science and Technology have resolved to focus the deliberations of the 45th Indian Social Science Congress on ‘Environment, Energy, and Health’ to enable people of India in particular, and the people of the world in general, to enjoy healthy-happy-creative life while preserving the symbiotic relationship among environment, energy, and life on Planet Earth. The environment of the planet earth and the life on the planet are symbiotically related (all the five forms). We are being warned that any damage to the environment will have disastrous consequences to all life forms, including the human species. Some of the effects are irreversible, both to the human species and planet earth’s environment. We have seen the effects of the Corona pandemic.

0200 CONTEXT

Corona pandemic since 2020 world over has threatened the very survival of all humans on Planet Earth today. Significantly, large number of people of all age groups in many countries have lost lives. Public Health Systems in India and many other countries have been stressed, and the Private Health System has proved futile and incapable of meeting the challenges. Quite a large number of medical doctors and health workers too have died. To date, scientists researching in Health Sciences and related subjects have not found proper scientific understanding and solution. Corona pandemic continues unabated, and devastating. It has changed the lifestyle of people and also human values. The spread of deadly contagious viruses among human population and its relation to the degradation of habitats and anthropological encroachment into the environment seems to be highly connected and needs to be addressed urgently.

Corona pandemic has led to severe social pressures and at the same time provided opportunities to cope up with this extreme scenario. Societies have to rise above the average and should adopt innovative methods to overcome the losses incurred by the pandemic.

0300 QUESTIONS

Scientists and social activists from all over the world have been drawing attention toward the breakdown of symbiotic relationship between environment, energy, ecology, climate, and the existence of life, including humans, repeatedly. The call for stopping deforestation, controlling mining, polluting air, water, soil and preserving bio-diversity has been ever-growing since the realization about climate degradation. The threat to the existence of all forms of life on Planet Earth from growing global warming and climate change is becoming deeper and deeper day by day. World scientists’ warning that ‘Business as usual cannot go on’ should be seriously considered and alternative ways should be explored. Biological laboratories, particularly virological laboratories and nuclear research institutions, need to be better monitored and augmented for the betterment of human life on earth. There is an urgent need to redefine our means of cohabitation with other species and nature itself. In this backdrop following questions may be pertinent to be addressed:

- 0301 Is the environment and energy in India and elsewhere clean, unpolluted and congenial to existence of all forms of life including humans on Planet Earth? If not, why?
- 0302 Is the symbiotic relationship between environment, energy and ecology congenial and sustainable? If not, why? Is Energy clean? If yes, why do people talk about ‘clean energy’ or ‘Green Energy?’.
- 0303 What is the state of bio-diversity and natural resources in India and other countries. How has accelerated process of deforestation, desertification and mining affected biodiversity, environment and ecology?

- 0304 What is the quantum of pollution of water, forest, air, health, in terms of continuous consumption and unsustainable growth?
- 0305 Is extensive use of plastic goods safe for the environment and health?
- 0306 What is the effect of chemical fertilizers, large irrigation projects and water management on natural habitats?
- 0307 Is radiation produced by nuclear reactors, satellites towers and digital technology good for environment and peoples health?
- 0308 How do the 24x7 hour radiations produced by TVs, Smartphones, Social Media, Twitters, Googles, etc. affect peoples health? Does long hours of work on computer affect health? Is digital technology created virtual world causing psychological disorders and mental illness?
- 0309 Are on line education and webinars good for health, education and research? Does it not destroy all creative potentialities of learning in children and students?
- 0310 How has use of chemical fertilizer affected health of soil, foodgrains, vegetables and fruits, etc.? Can we say that food that all humans eat is healthy and safe? If yes, how? If no, why?
- 0311 How to manage air and water resources that are fundamental for existence?
- 0312 How to improve healthcare methods?
- 0313 How do high rise buildings affect environment, energy and health of the people?
- 0314 Are the highways and high speed vehicles safe? How do large scale buses, trucks, cars, trains, etc. affect environment, energy and peoples health?
- 0315 What about Greenhouse Gas and its ill-effects? What is Green Energy? Is it available? Is it necessary for good health? Is it possible to produce 'Green Energy' and free the world from Greenhouse Gas without abolishing the present system of production-distribution-and-consumption?
- 0316 What is the state of Public Health System in India, United States, Great Britain, France, Germany, Russia, China, Cuba and other countries? Is the public health system conducive to the good health of all irrespective of their class-caste-creed-gender?
- 0317 How is Private Health System in India and abroad? Is it conducive to the health of all irrespective of their economic status? What is the experience of Private Health System during Corona pandemic?
- 0318 How to formulate and regulate the pharmaceutical industry and research in order to optimize maximum benefits for the human healthcare?
- 0319 Who promotes spurious drugs in India and Third World Countries and why?
- 0320 What is the relationship between drug industries and doctors, between drug industries and politics? How do such relations affect peoples health?
- 0321 What is the State of Medical and Health Science Education and Research in India and other countries? How have privatisation of Medical Education and policy of reservation affected quality of medical and health science education and research?
- 0322 What is the state of all other alternative practicing medicines?

- 0323 What is the way out? Is it possible to create a new democratic social system in which all are healthy and happy? If yes, how? If no, why?
- 0324 Is the global economic paradigm of 'economic growth' at the root of climate change, environment degradation, energy pollution and animal health, human industries, civilisation under survival threat because of economic growth paradigm.
- 0325 Does Science need paradigm shift? If yes, what would be its parameters? Should it be freed from market and politics? If yes, how?

0400 CONCEPT

Today Science of Environment, Energy, Ecology, and Health is well developed. All that constitutes environment, organisms, biological and physical interrelationships between and among all the constituents of the Environment is ecology. Air, water, forest, hills, mines, all forms of life, including humans, are integral to the environment, and the nature of interrelationship is vital to the birth, growth, and survival. The harmony between the inorganic and organic world appears to be severely disturbed. All the species and human activities tend to produce powerful positive and negative effects on the environment, which in turn tend to affect the health and wellbeing of humans and other forms of life. Breakdown of food chains in habitats of living species leads to their extinction. It is, therefore, necessary to examine the interrelationships between and among environment, ecology, and health.

The concept of health includes the well-being of both physical and mental states. Health is defined as freedom (absence of) from physical and mental disease. Freedom from physical disease depends upon nutrient food, clean air, water, hygienic living conditions and easy access to the healthcare system, whereas mental health depends upon pleasant and peaceful family, community, and social relationships.

0500 MAJOR THEMES

- 0501 Environment, Energy and Ecology in today's world.
- 0502 Environment, Energy and Ecology in Today's India.
- 0503 Deforestation, Mining, Desertification and Environment, Energy and Ecology.
- 0504 Impact of Nuclear and Digital Technologies on Environment, Energy, Ecology and Health.
- 0505 Impact of Industries on Environment, Energy and Health.
- 0506 Energy and Health
- 0507 Impact of chemical Fertilisers and Pesticides on fertility of Soil, Agriculture, Environment and living organism including human beings.
- 0508 Material Science, Technology, Impact of new materials like Plastics, Semiconductors, paints, etc. on Environment, Ecology and Health.
- 0509 Environment, Ecology and Health.
- 0510 Food and Health.
- 0511 Urbanisation and Health.
- 0512 Public Health System versus Privatisation of Health.
- 0513 Newer Forms of Diseases and Health Hazards.

- 0514 Contemporary Social-Economic-Political System and Problems of Peoples Health.
- 0515 Global Warming, Climate Change and Health.
- 0516 Sociological perspective of Equity-based Distribution of wealth and national resources.
- 0517 Any other.

0600 SEMINARS/SYMPOSIA/WORKSHOPS

It is proposed to organise international, national, regional, local seminars/symposia/ workshops/colloquia on following issues:

0601 INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIA

- 060101 Environment, Energy, Ecology and Health.
- 060102 Impact of Nuclear and Digital Technology Radiations on all living organism including Peoples' Health and Survival.
- 060103 Global Warming, Climate Change and Peoples' Health.
- 060104 Biological Laboratory Borne Health Hazards.
- 060105 Minia-borne Health Hazard.
- 060106 Genesis and Growth of Corona like Health Hazards.
- 060107 Creating conflict-free and war-free world.
- 060108 Any other.

0602 NATIONAL SEMINARS/SYMPOSIA/WORKSHOPS

- 060201 Public Health System Vs Private Health System in India: Corona Pandemic's Experience.
- 060202 Poverty, Hunger and Health.
- 060203 Uranium Mining and Health.
- 060204 Nuclear, RF Radiations and Health.
- 060205 Health Hazards of wastes.
- 060206 Education and Health.
- 060207 Current Status of Medical and Health Science Research Vis-à-vis Growing Health Hazards.
- 060208 Current Status of Biomedical Engineering and Biotechnology.

0700 APPROACH

Problems of Environment and Health are multidimensional and complex as it involves all constituents of Nature-Humans-Society. To be precise, it is a systemic problem demanding systemic understanding and systemic science for a solution. Indian Social Science Congress represents all subjects and branches of Science of Nature-Humans-Society through 28 Subjects Research Committees and 21 Interdisciplinary Thematic Panels. Therefore, it is

possible to apply a multidisciplinary approach to the task of systemic understanding and systemic solution of the problem of environment and health without prejudice or politics. A National Academic Advisory committee comprising eminent scientists representing all science subjects of nature-Humans-Society, Vice-chancellors/Directors of all universities/Research Institute/Laboratories health activists, policy planners, creative thinkers, and philosophers has been constituted for the purpose of planning and organization. Chairpersons, Conveners, and members of all the 28 Subject Research Committees and 21 Thematic Panels shall be nominated and requested to organize deliberations in their respective Committees. Eight Interdisciplinary Plenaries and five Public Lectures on 'Environment, Energy and Health' shall be held during the 45th Indian Social Science Congress. Besides, pre-and-post XLIV ISSC local-regional-national symposia/colloquia will be organised all over India. An effort will be made to organize one or two international seminars/symposia.

0800 PUBLICATIONS

All good papers shall be published in all Indian languages, including English. Universities, Institutes, colleges, Foundations, Trusts, and philanthropists interested in promoting the publication of the volumes on '**Environment, Energy and Health**' in all Indian languages are welcome to contact the President or General Secretary of the Indian Social Science Academy.