

REPORT ON WEBINAR

“THE EFFECTS OF Covid-19 ON THE INDIAN ECONOMY AND THE SIGNIFICANCE AND IMPORTANCE OF THE IDEA OF “SWADESHI””

3RD JUNE 2020

Under the aegis of the IQAC’s of Anand Institute of Social Work, Anand, Bhopal School of Social Sciences, Bhopal, and Sri Guru Nanak Dev Khalsa College, New Delhi, a webinar on the “Effects of Covid-19 on the Indian Economy and the Significance and Importance of the Idea of *Swadeshi*” was organized on 3rd June 2020.

The resource persons for the webinar were Dr. Vijay Kumar Karn, Associate Professor, Vedant Hindu Post Graduate College, Lucknow University, and Mr. Kamal Jeet, a mentor at the Swadeshi Jagran Manch.

Dr. Deepak Sharma, Coordinator IQAC, of Shri Guru Nanak Dev Khalsa College, welcomed the speakers. He briefly introduced the theme for the session, highlighting the importance of the concept of *Swadeshi* as essential for the revival of the Indian Economy. He stressed on the role of Civil society in alerting and pressurising the government to turn to Indian products and modes of production.

The first speaker, Dr. Vijay Kumar Karn, proposed a scenario where society willingly and aggressively shifts to Indian goods and services. He discussed the comparative roles of products and markets in the economy, and stressed how advertising contributed to defining attitudes of the consumer. Dr. Karn advocated that all aspects of the economy—market, manpower, material, machines and management—be integrated into the thought of *Swadeshi*.

He advised the restriction of our wants, and separating them from our needs. Pride in oneself is important. Indian goods are more organic than bulk produced goods, and therefore, all responsible and influential members of the society, like scientists and artists, should encourage *Swadeshi*.

The next speaker of the day, Dr. Kamal Jeet also spoke about the importance of shifting our attention from foreign products to indigenous products. He suggested a paradigm shift in our basic way of life. Adopting a simple way of life can encourage us to restrict our needs and therefore not be unduly dependent on other countries, especially China. He spoke of how the values and political thought that were prevalent before independence, which drove us to attain our independence, need to be brought back.

The only way we can revive our economy, post Covid-19, is to develop indigenous industries, and provide more employment for our local masses. The migrant issues that our country has had to face during Covid-19 is a genuine problem that he said needs to be solved on an urgent basis. He suggested that Start-ups, through social problem solving and innovative ideas can lead the way in this direction. Innovation and invention are very important for us to sustain our economy. Agriculture and Industrial production will pick up, and the economy, though it has faced obstacles, will definitely be able to recover. The

lockdown has ended and we must encourage our people to return to our traditional methods of both agriculture and industry, he advised.

Dr. Bhupinder Kaur took forward the session by summarising the thoughts of both speakers. This was followed by an interactive session with the participants, who addressed their concerns to speakers.

The programme concluded with the vote of thanks, which was delivered by Dr. Ninad Jhala, the principal of Anand Institute of Social Work, Anand.

The screenshot shows a Zoom meeting interface. The main window displays a presentation slide with the following text in Hindi:

डा. विजय कुमार जी,
एसोसिएट प्रोफेसर,
वेदांत हिंदू पोस्ट ग्रेजुएट कॉलेज,
लखनऊ विश्वविद्यालय।

सम्मान:

- ❖ सर्वश्रेष्ठ शैक्षिक सम्मान
- ❖ संस्कृत सेवा सम्मान
- ❖ युवा साहित्यकार सम्मान आदि

पुस्तकें:

- ❖ व्यवहारिक संस्कृत प्रशिक्षक
- ❖ एक विशिष्ट व्यक्तित्व
- ❖ प्रसार भारती शब्दावली आदि
- ❖ पत्र पत्रिकाओं का संपादन
- ❖ शोध-अलेख प्रकाशित और रेडियो पर प्रसारित

The slide also features a small portrait of Dr. Vijay Kumar Ji. The Zoom interface shows participants: Govind Rathee and 113 more, Bhupinder kaur Madan, and Vijay Karan. Chat messages from Dr. Devendra Kumar and wachaspatinath jhamani are visible. The system tray at the bottom shows a 93% battery level and the date 03-06-2023.