

Conference Report

12th International Conference of Comparative Education Society of India (CESI)

‘Educational Transformations: Crisis and Resilience’

9th, 10th and 11th December, 2022

Hosted by

Department of Sociology,

Maulana Azad National Urdu University, Hyderabad, (T.S.), India

This is the brief report of the 12th International Conference of Comparative Education Society of India (CESI) on the theme *‘Educational Transformations: Crisis and Resilience’* hosted by Department of Sociology, Maulana Azad National Urdu University, Hyderabad.

Besides inaugural and valedictory, the conference had a total of 36 parallel sessions, two highlighted sessions, two special panel discussions and two distinguished lectures spread over three days of the conference. A total of 175 presentations were made in the various RIG (Research Interest Groups) proposed thematic sessions in the conference.

Inaugural Session

The inaugural Session of the conference was held on 9th December 2022 in the DDE Auditorium MANUU from 09:30 AM - 11:00 AM, which was chaired by Prof. Sayed Ainul Hasan, Hon’ble Vice Chancellor, MANUU, Hyderabad. Prof. V. S. Raju, Former Director, IIT, Delhi was the Guest of Honour. Prof. P. H. Mohammad, conference convener and head of the department of sociology, MANUU welcomed the guest. Prof Nandini Manjrekar, President CESI addressed the house and Dr Ruchira Das, Joint Secretary CESI spoke about the CESI. Dr Saheed Meo, Conference Organising Secretary introduced the theme of the conference.

Prof Yusuf Sayed, from University of Sussex delivered the keynote address on *‘Crises, the state and education policy making for social justice’*. He delved into the plight of education system during covid 19 pandemic. His deliberation was centered around school choice, learning loss, increasing inequalities and the hollowness of e-learning system. The session was ended with a vote of thanks offered by Dr. Saheed Meo, organising secretary of the conference.

Technical Sessions, Plenary and Distinguished Lectures

The conference had several parallel sessions, special sessions and distinguished lectures spread over the three days of the conference.

On the **Day 1**, in a total of 15 parallel sessions, research papers were presented. Critical Issues like exclusion in higher education, disability and accessibility of education, innovative pedagogical practices, new education policies and programmes, state of education during violence, communalism and communal riots, transgender education and the education in conflict zone were discussed.

On **Day 2** a total of 14 parallel sessions were conducted. The papers covered diverse issues and concerns such as historical legacy of the education systems in Indian context, changing landscape of education under New Education Policy, academic freedom, emergence of new assessment system of education, Gender education and challenges in the technological world, Education markets and the school choices, education and emerging technologies, exclusion, cultural resilience and violence.

Same day, a distinguished lecture on “Educational Inequality: The Development Interface” by Professor Amitabh Kundu also given. He analysed the disparity among Indian communities specifically focusing on the educational status of Muslims in India.

A special panel on “*Marginalities and Education*”, chaired by Prof S. Srinivasa Rao was organised. As panellists Prof. Geetha. B. Nambissan, Prof. Anita Rampal, Prof Farah Farooqi, and Prof. P. H. Mohammad spoke on the issues of marginalities in education with regard to the mobility, religious customs, urbanization and ghettoisation.

On the same day, one Highlighted Panel of TESF Network on “*inequalities on sustainable future*” was conducted in hybrid mode. This session was chaired by Prof Nandini Manjrekar. Latief Ismael from Somalia, Michal Rwibasira from Rawanda, Heilal Lotz - Sisitka from South Africa and Poonam Batra from India were the panellists. The panellists discussed interaction of social capital, inequality in marginality and the role of education for sustainable futures.

A distinguished lecture by Leon Tikly from TESF, the University of Bristol, UK was given. In the lecture, Prof. Tikly spoke on “*Decolonising Education for a Sustainable Future*”. He deliberation focused on the discourse of decoloniality, hegemony-counter hegemony and Eurocentric nature of modern capitalist world, and need of struggle of the people at margins.

On the **Day 3** of the conference, a total of 13 parallel sessions were conducted. The papers reflected on the gender, childhood and educational experiences, market branding, internationalization and regulatory framework in higher education, educational aspirations of the minorities, teacher training policies, reinventing the Indian education system to fit to global transformations, digitization in neoliberal world, the political economy of Edu- tech organisations and their negotiations with education vis a vis India.

On this last day of the conference, we also had a special session '*CESI: Looking Ahead*' chaired by Prof. Geetha Nambissan. In this session the panellists were the ex-presidents, Prof. S. Srinivasa Rao, Prof. Poonam Batra, Prof Sauman Chatopaddhyay and Prof. Nandini Manjrekar. The panel conversed on the emergent needs for strengthening CESI as a society. The discussions were on ensuring regional representations in the annual conferences, quest to explore new research areas, reaching the unreached and the financial strengthening of the society in terms of its funding.

Valedictory Session

The Valedictory session of the Conference was held on 11th December 2022 02:30 PM – 04:00 PM. It was chaired by Prof. Sk. Ishtiaque Ahmed, Registrar, MANUU. Prof. Maxine Bernstein, Professor Emerita, TISS was the Guest of Honour. Dr Saheed Meo, Conference Organising Secretary, presented the Conference Report.

Prof. Deepak Kumar, Formerly Professor ZHCES, JNU, Honorary Professor, MANUU presented the valedictory address titled "*Quest for Knowledge: A Historical Perspective*". He critically discussed various knowledge forms, quest for critical discourse, and numerous religious and secular traditions related to knowledge generation in India. He also examined numerous scholarly traditions in Asia, Europe and their linkages with the civilisational growth and historical trajectories in ancient, medieval and colonial India.

The Conference ended with the concluding remarks of Prof. P. H. Mohammad, Conference Convener followed by Chair's remarks and the Vote of Thanks by Dr K. M. Ziyuddin, Assistant Professor, Department of Sociology, MANUU. This session was coordinated by Dr. Saheed Meo, Conference Organising Secretary.

In nutshell, what was heartening was the diverse profile of the conference this year and its uniqueness in many ways. The 12th Annual-International Conference is the first and a remarkably a huge conference in-person that happened after the covid-19 pandemic at

MANUU, Hyderabad. The conference had a good number of female participants; scholars of national and international repute came from different institutions across the country and from abroad. The conference also had a sizable number of PhD. research scholars, and young researchers besides the renowned, disciplinary experts working on very diverse, critical areas pertaining to educational studies.
