

# Jesus and Mary College

#### IQAC in collaboration with Department of Psychology

# Webinar Report

Topic: "In a Relationship...with the screen"

Speaker: Dr. Aseem Shrivastava, Professor, Ashoka University

Date: 19 June 2020

Time: 4:30 - 6:00 pm

Webinar platforms used: Google Meet

YouTube (live streaming)

<u>Click here</u> for video on YouTube.

<u>Click here</u> for video on JMC website.

### **Total Registrations:** 258

Number of Registered Students: 180

Number of Registered Faculty Members: 52 (Assistant Professor: 35; Associate Professor: 17)

Others (including Principals, Researchers, NGO workers and other professionals): 26

Number of participants on Google Meet: 130

Number of participants on YouTube: 150

### **Organizing Team:**

Principal: Sr.(Dr.) Rosily T.L. r.j.m. IQAC Coordinator: Dr. Alka Marwaha JMC Webinar Coordinator: Dr. Ameeta Motwani TIC, Dept. of Psychology: Dr. Joan Antony Moderator: Ms. Annie Baxi Dr. Renu Gupta Dr. Reena Marwah Dr. Alka Sehgal Dr. Vinita Kshetrapal Dr. Shefali Mishra Dr. Sneh Kapoor Dr. Priya Bhatnagar Ms. Bhumika Kapoor Ms. Sumangali R Ms. Aishwarya Bajaj Ms. Sudha Shashwati Ms. Isha Mishra Ms. Radhika Raturi Ms. Reshma Jose Dr. Shikha Singh Ms. Ishita Singh Technical Team: Ms. Megha Jacob Mr. Naveen Joseph Thomas (live streaming) Ms. Vrinda Moda (live streaming) Mr. Gaurav Verma

**About the speaker:** Dr. Aseem Shrivastava is a Delhi-based writer, teacher and ecological thinker. He holds a Ph.D in Economics from the University of Massachusetts, Amherst. He currently teaches two different courses on Global and Indian Ecosophy every year at Ashoka University.He has taught at universities in India and the US. He also taught philosophy at Nordic College, Norway (2001-05). Since 2005, he has been working independently, researching, writing and lecturing nationally and internationally on issues associated with globalisation and its multiple ecological and other impacts.

He is the author (with Ashish Kothari) of the books *Churning the Earth: The Making of Global India* (Penguin Viking, New Delhi, 2012), and *Prithvi Manthan* (Rajkamal Prakashan, New Delhi, 2016) which offer critiques of, and alternatives to, India's development strategy since 1947. Besides mentoring and guiding many students, Dr. Aseem Shrivastava writes regularly for publications like The Hindu, Deccan Herald, Economic and Political Weekly, Seminar, Himal, Caravan, and Open magazine.

He is currently at work on a set of three books tentatively called *Srishti-Sutra*, which bring Rabindranath Tagore's spiritual and ecological vision into dialogue with the ecological challenges of 21st century modernity.

#### Webinar Summary

On 19 June 2020, an engaging webinar on "In a Relationship...with the screen" was hosted by the Internal Quality Assurance Cell (IQAC) in association with the Department of Psychology. Ms. Isha Mishra, Assistant Professor, Department of Psychology, gave a warm welcome to the esteemed speaker and the guests. Ms. Mishra invited Sr. (Dr.) Rosily T.L., Principal, JMC, to

address the audience. Sr. Rosily outlined the pertinence of the webinar's topic and invoked God's blessings on everyone. Following this the moderator of the session, Ms. Annie Baxi, Assistant Professor, Department of Psychology, introduced the speaker Prof. Aseem Shrivastava.

Prof. Shrivastava began his talk with a parable to indicate how in the last 5 centuries the market place has impacted the very organization of societies. So while earlier, market was embedded in human culture and ecology, it is now dis-embedded. Instead society and ecology are embedded in the market. He outlined the undeniable attraction of digital technology. He argued that it is therefore not surprising that in times of corona, we have come to live in a world of 'digital gravity', experiencing digital technology both as a hindrance and freedom. The potential of social media to replace real society is both the attraction and the danger of this technology. He argued that this technology encourages the virtualization of the self so that the Machine through our data knows us better than we know ourselves. This, he further argued, means that in this digital era, the human psyche becomes extremely important and accessible to the marketing ambitions of corporations. The loss of self is coupled with a desire for self which leads to the loss of self is the site where the self is sought. He concluded his talk with a discussion of the coercive consumption of social media in our society today.

The question-answer session moderated by Ms. Baxi was interactive and lively. A wide gamut of questions were posed to the speaker ranging from issues like couple intimacy, balance between digital and real in the era of online learning, notions of digital self, loneliness and digital dependency. The session ended with a warm vote of thanks by Ms. Reshma Jose, Assistant Professor, Department of Psychology, who expressed her gratitude for Sr. Rosily, the Webinar Committee, the participants and her colleagues in the Department without whom the webinar would not have been possible.

**Feedback Summary:** After the webinar, we circulated the feedback form to which we received 108 responses from more than 48 institutions all over the country. Of these responses, 60, i.e. 55.6% were from Jesus and Mary College. The feedback was overwhelmingly positive and the smooth coordination and the insightful and informative nature of the webinar was appreciated by all. Special praise was expressed for the erudition of the speaker. Below is a brief analysis of the data from the feedback forms:

**Relevance of the webinar to respondents (on a scale of 1 to 5):** 



Response to whether the content met the respondent's expectations (on a scale of 1 to 5):



Responses to their willingness to participate in more such webinars:











Prof. Aseem Shrivastava is a Delhi-based writer, teacher and ecological thinker. His areas of work include - Impact of Globalization and Ecological Challenges to Modernity. The talk shall explore the changing dynamics of the individual and collective with

the screen in the COVID-19 Era.

## ORGANIZERS

Psychology Member Coordinators

Sr. (Dr.) Rosily T.L. r.j.m. Officiating Principal

Dr. Ameeta Motwani Convenor, Webinar Committee

> Dr. Alka Marwaha Convenor, IQAC

Dr. Joan Antony - Teacher-in-Charge

Dr. Vinita Kshetrapal Dr. Shefali Mishra Dr. Sneh Kapoor Dr. Priya Bhatnagar Ms. Bhumika Kapoor Ms. Sumangali R Ms. Annie Baxi Ms. Aishwarya Bajaj Ms. Sudha Shashwati Ms. Isha Mishra Ms. Radhika Raturi Ms. Reshma Jose







