



Jesus and Mary College

IQAC in collaboration with Department of History

Webinar Report

Topic: "Colonialism and History of Epidemics: Lessons from the Past"

Speaker: Dr. Saurav Kumar Rai, Senior Research Scholar, Research and Publications Division, Nehru Memorial Museum and Library, New Delhi

Date: 8 June, 2020

Time: 5:00 - 6:00 pm

Webinar platforms used: Google Meet

YouTube (live streaming)

[Click here](#) for video on YouTube.

[Click here](#) for video on JMC website.

Total Registrations: 645

Number of Registered Students: 457

Number of Registered Faculty Members: 188

Number of participants on Google Meet: 250

Number of participants on YouTube: 38

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 History: Dr. Amita Paliwal

Moderator: Dr. Richa Raj

Dr. Nilima Chitgopekar

Sr. (Dr.) Molly Abraham

Dr. Renu Gupta

Dr. Reena Marwah

Dr. Alka Sehgal

Dr. Saumya Varghese

Dr. Maya John
Dr. Christhu Doss
Dr. Tanu Parashar
Ms. Ishita Singh
Dr. Shikha Singh
Ms. Megha Jacob
Mr. Naveen Joseph Thomas
Ms. Vrinda Moda
Mr. Gaurav Verma

About the speaker: [Dr. Saurav Kumar Rai](#) has a Ph. D from Department of History, University of Delhi. His area of research interest is History of Health and Medicine. He has published extensively on health and medicine in India. Some of the very interesting articles deserve special mention. “Invoking ‘Hindu’ Ayurveda: Communalisation of the Late Colonial Ayurvedic Discourse” was published in *Indian Economic and Social History Review*; ‘Gendering Late Colonial Ayurvedic Discourse: United Provinces, c.1890-1937’ was published in *History and Sociology of South Asia*; “Gazing at the Woman’s Body: Historicising Lust and Lechery in a Patriarchal Society” was published in *Social Scientist*.

Webinar Summary

The webinar titled “Colonialism and the History of Epidemics: Lessons from the Past” was organized by IQAC in collaboration with the Department of History on 8 June 2020. The speaker Dr. Saurav Kumar Rai is an eminent historian. The webinar began with the Teacher-In-Charge Dr. Amita Paliwal’s welcome address and introduction of the speaker. Following this, the Principal Sr. (Dr.) Rosily T.L. addressed the audience. Sr. Rosily contextualized the importance of the webinar and invoked the blessings of God on all those in the world who were suffering. She also congratulated all the members of the Webinar Committee for organizing the webinar.

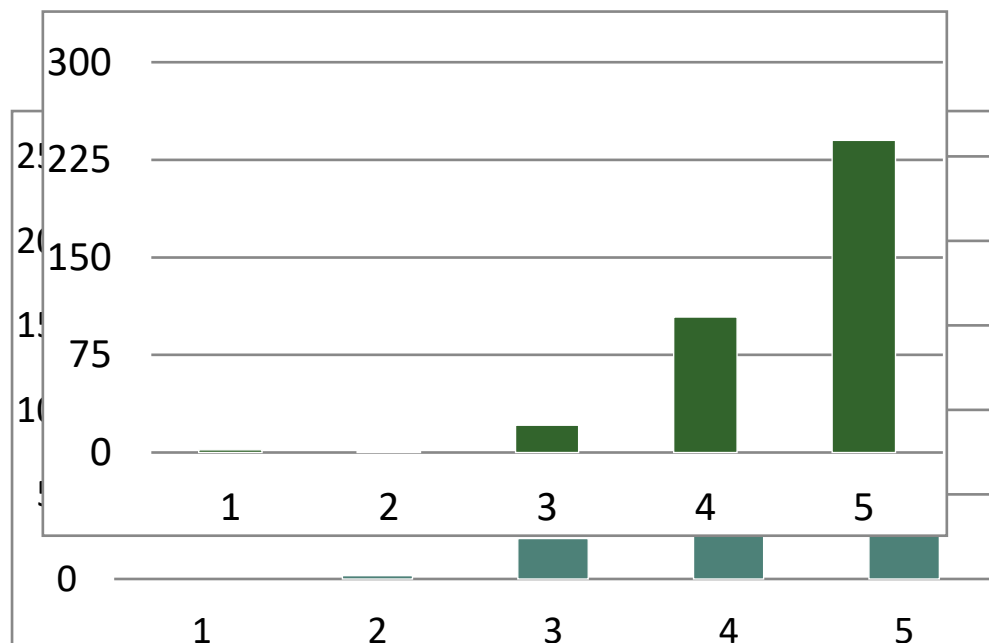
Dr. Saurav Kumar Rai began his lecture by dividing it into two parts; first, historicity of epidemics and second, how to make sense of the phenomena called epidemics. He argued that the history of disease is as old as the history of civilization. Pre-modern diseases were confined to particular geographies. He shared instances of spread of diseases from ancient and medieval India, which remained limited to small geographical areas. He argued that with modernity the nature of the spread of diseases changed. In the Indian context, colonialism and modernity being intertwined, colonialism played a significant role in this change. Dr. Rai further delineated how the mobility due to colonialism provided swiftness to the spread of diseases along with changing the nature of spread from endemic to epidemic to pandemic. He then went on to outline the history of the cholera outbreak in the 19th century. The outbreak of cholera led to concerns regarding containment of epidemic and sanitation, which directly impacted the structure, and design of modern cities in colonial India. Further, he discussed how the anti-plague measures led to discontentment amongst upper-caste Indians, which was a catalyst to the Indian National Movement. He concluded his lecture with a discussion of the socio-economic and political impact of epidemics on societies throughout history.

The lecture was followed by the Question and Answer session moderated by Dr. Richa Raj, who succinctly summarized Dr. Rai’s lecture briefly for the audience before taking up questions posed to Dr. Rai on Google Meet chat and YouTube comments. Dr. Rai responded to a variety of questions ranging from issues of gender bias in the Ayurvedic discourse, relation of authoritarianism or fascism with control of epidemics, philanthropic and missionary work amongst leprosy patients in Colonial Uttarakhand, psychological impact of quarantine during the Spanish Flu, Epidemic Disease Act of 1897, to communalization of Ayurveda in late colonial India. The Q/A. session was interactive and informative. The webinar concluded with the vote of thanks proposed by Dr. Ameeta Motwani, Convenor, Webinar Committee. Dr. Motwani thanked Dr. Rai for addressing the audience, Sr. Rosily for her encouragement, Dr. Alka Marwaha, IQAC Coordinator, for her consistent support and the entire Webinar Committee for their tireless efforts in the smooth running of the webinar. She concluded by congratulating the Department of History for organizing this webinar with a record participation of 250, the highest number of participants till date for a JMC webinar.

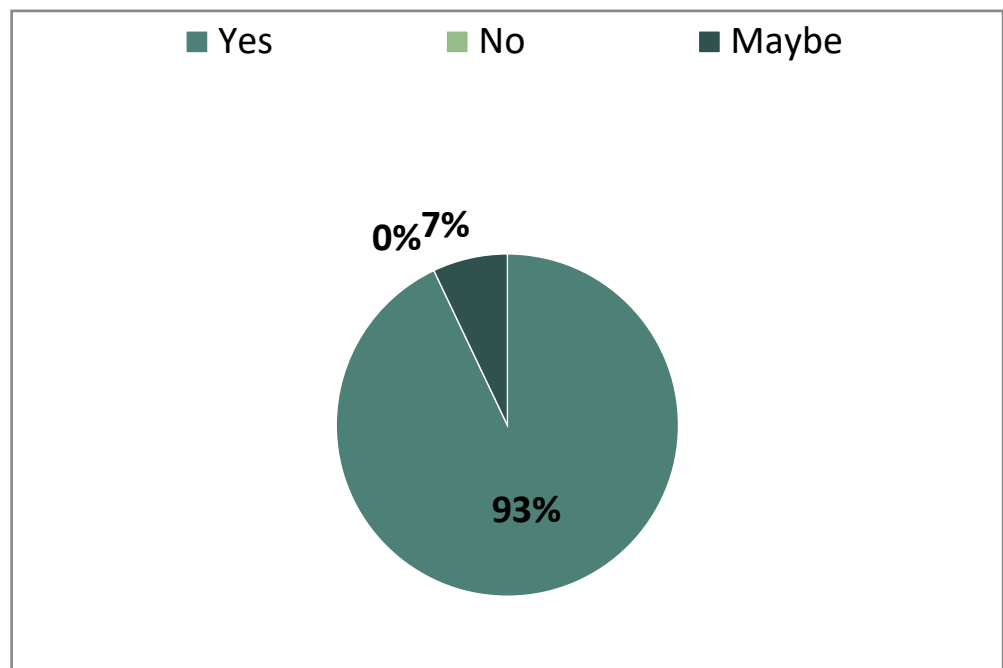
Feedback Summary: After the webinar, we circulated the feedback form to which we received 368 responses from more than 104 institutions all over the country. Of these responses, only 130, i.e. 35.3%, were from Jesus and Mary College. Below is a brief analysis of the data from the feedback forms:

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:





JESUS & MARY COLLEGE

UNIVERSITY OF DELHI

Internal Quality Assurance Cell (IQAC)

In association with

Department of History



Cordially invites you to a Webinar on

***Colonialism and History of Epidemics:
Lessons from the Past***

Date: 8 June 2020

Time: 5:00-6:00pm



Senior Research Scholar, Research and Publications Division, Nehru Memorial Museum and Library, New Delhi.
Published 15 research articles on History of Health and Medicine in India

Dr. Saurav Kumar Rai

**Moderated By : *Dr. Richa Raj*, Assistant Professor, Dept. of History
Jesus and Mary College**

For Registration

CLICK HERE

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

Dr. Alka Marwaha
Convenor, IQAC



**Internal Quality Assurance Cell
(IQAC)**

in collaboration with
**Department of History
Jesus and Mary College,
University of Delhi**

invites you to an interactive
Webinar on

'Colonialism and History of Epidemics: Lessons from the Past'

8 June 2020 at 5:00 PM

Programme Schedule

- 5:00 – 05:05 pm** Introduction by **Dr. Amita Paliwal**, Assistant Professor and Teacher-in-charge, Department of History, Jesus and Mary College, University of Delhi
- 05:05 – 05:10 pm** Special Address by **Sr. (Dr.) Rosily T.L. r.j.m.**, Principal, Jesus and Mary College, University of Delhi
- 05:10 – 05:50 pm** Talk by **Dr. Saurav Kumar Rai**, Nehru Memorial Museum and Library, New Delhi
- 05:50 – 06:15 pm** **Dr. Richa Raj**, Assistant Professor, Department of History, Jesus and Mary College would moderate the session
- 06:15 – 06:20** Vote of thanks by **Dr. Alka Marwaha**, Convenor, IQAC, Jesus and Mary College

