Centre for Inter Disciplinary Studies, under the aegis of IQAC, hosted an Online Lecture Series on Public Health by eminent speakers

Lecture 1: January 14, 2022 **Title:** Public Health in Times of the Pandemic

Speaker: Dr Chandrakant Lahariya, an eminent epidemiologist, formerly with WHO.

The lecture described the evolution of the public health since the 1800s. The lecture brought out the importance of the role played by the various partners of the public health system including academia, media, businesses, and government agencies among others. Dr Lahariya discussed the history of pandemics and their inevitability in the future. The need to learn from the challenges posed by pandemics to respond to future outbreaks in a better manner was highlighted.

(Attendance: 183)



Dr Roopali Goyanka Co-ordinator Prof. Babli Moitra Saraf Principal

## Lecture 2: January 18, 2022

Title: Food Systems and Transformations- Evolving Challenges for Nutrition and Health

**Speaker:** Prof. Prabhu Pingali, Professor of Economics at Cornell University, USA and Founding Director of Tata-Cornell Institute

Prof. Pingali discussed how societies have come a long way from grappling with hunger and starvation to food abundance. The lecture went on to explain how improvements in procuctivity have led to expansion in food production and creation of value chains in food supplies. This has been accompanied by wastage of farm products, emission of greenhouse gases, inequality in food distribution, excessive calorie intake and neglect of balanced nutrition. Policymakers need to pay attention to transform the food system for the sustainability of the environment and people's health. (Attendance: 120)



Lecture 3: February 10, 2022

**Title:** Health Communication: Improving Equitability and Inclusiveness in Healthcare and Promotion

**Speaker:** Dr Olaf Werder, Senior Lecturer of Media and Communication, Director Health Communication Master's Program, University of Sydney, Australia.

The lecture dwelt on the meaning of health communication and its role in the success of public health policies. The speaker talked about the skills required for health communication. Dr Werder discussed some of the campaigns that have been used in the public domain for health promotion. He highlighted the ways in which these campaigns can be made palatable to consumers by making use of short and catchy phrases and interesting visuals. He then discussed the problems and difficulties faced in effective health communication, such as resistance to change and the assumption of rationality on the part of consumers. He gave insights on the possible ways in which health communication can be made more inclusive. (Attendance: 110)



## Lecture 4: February 24, 2022

**Title:** Policy Making and Analysis: Experience of National Health Policy 2017 **Speaker:** Dr. Sanjiv Kumar, Public Health expert, Member of Governing Board of the National Institute of Health and Family Welfare, Former Executive Director, National Health Systems Resource Centre, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Govt. of India

The lecture outlined the basics of policy and policymaking. Dr Kumar explained that the nature of the policies is dependent on a multitude of contextual factors like the political inclination of the ruling party, the market structure of the economy, and the interests of the ruling government. He described the stages of policymaking which entail review, agenda-setting, formulation, and implementation of a policy. He shared his experiences in the process of drafting the National Health Policy, in this connection. He also spoke about some of the major challenges while drafting and finalising the Policy. (Attendance: 70)

