



ONLINE DIALOGUE

ACADEMIC SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

Knowledge and Technology Dissemination for Sustainable Rural Development

Date: 07 October 2020

Platform: Zoom



INDIAN INSTITUTE
OF TECHNOLOGY
PALAKKAD

Introduction

Unnat Bharat Abhiyan is a flagship program initiated by the Ministry of Education to bring holistic development in rural India and is inspired by the vision of transformational change in rural development processes. The program will leverage the knowledge of institutions to help build the architecture of an Inclusive India. Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Palakkad will act as the Regional Coordinator for the districts Palakkad, Kannur, Kozhikode, Wayanad and Kasargod and as well as a Participating Institute. A UBA cell under the chairmanship of Director IIT Palakkad has been constituted for the implementation of the program at IIT Palakkad.

Dialogue Report

The Regional Coordinating Institute for Unnat Bharat Abhiyan, IIT Palakkad, organised a Dialogue on **Academic Social Responsibility- Knowledge and Technology Dissemination for Sustainable Rural Development** to encourage the faculty and staff of the participating institutes of the region for an inclusive and extensive engagement with the rural community. Dr. Joy Elamon, [Director-General, Kerala Institute of Local Administration \(KILA\)](#) was the key speaker for the dialogue. Dr. Soumya G Rajan, Assistant Registrar, IIT Palakkad facilitated the dialogue. The dialogue was conducted on the Zoom platform due to the COVID-19 limitation, on 07 October 2020 from 02:30 PM to 04:00 PM. The dialogue marked the attendance of around 50 participants.

Dr. Sahely Bhadra, Assistant Professor and Faculty Coordinator UBA, initiated the dialogue by briefly describing the activities of UBA Cell IIT Palakkad. She welcomed the key speaker Dr. Joy Elamon, facilitator Dr. Soumya G Rajan and other participants of the online dialogue.

Dr. Soumya G Rajan gave a brief introduction about the dialogue and the idea behind organising such a dialogue. She requested every participant of the dialogue to make an attempt to establish intimacy, initiate interactions, include the varied interests each represents and intentionally and consciously learn from each other for a fruitful gathering.

Dr. Joy Elamon, Director General, Kerala Institute of Local Administration started his dialogue by explaining different ways how local governments and academic institutions can work together. He said an ideal support system for the local government institutions means a group of organizations, institutions, governance and development experts, the network of peers, platforms for advocacy and knowledge management. This group should be available to the local government institutions to support and carry out its function as a local government and enable them to mature and strengthen themselves as local governments. He mentioned that there is a lack of understanding between Local Self Governments and the Higher Education Institutes

about the scope of their partnerships. Dr. Joy also described in detail the functions of local governments such as Statutory, Delegated, Ongoing and Potential functions. He also shared the previous experience of the collaboration of Higher Education Institutes with the local self-government in the areas of solid and liquid waste management, disaster management etc.

Later, Mr. Sebib Sunny, UBA Coordinator Sreepathy Institute of Management and Technology, shared their association with Unnat Bharat Abhiyan. He discussed their initiatives in Atal Tinkering Laboratories (ATLs), Solar Yatra, Bharathapuzha revival, Innovative Ecosystem etc.

Question and Answer section

IIT Palakkad Director Prof. P. B. Sunil Kumar asked a question on setting up a framework to ensure the relationship between Local Government and Higher Education Institutes. Dr. Joy replied that KILA and IIT Palakkad can have joint sessions to see how both the institutes can work together in future. He also mentioned that more interactive sessions for the faculty and students about local governance will equip the team with the scope and potential of working with the local governments. The facilitator then asked about if there is any state-level repository of rural livelihood related problem descriptions for which technological interventions are sought. He then replied there is no such repository at the state level and requested IIT Palakkad to take such an initiative. Replying to a question on the e-courses offered by KILA, Dr. Joy answered that KILA is currently offering more than 100+ courses online through their e-portal where most of the courses are available for the public. He also discussed the activities of KILA Centre for Organic Farming and Waste Management, Kannur and KILA Centre for Tribal Development and Natural Resource Management, Attappady, Palakkad. Dr. Joy discussed the question about possible future collaboration with KILA and one of the major suggestions is that the involvement of institutes in the module development of various sector-specific themes and in the areas of climate resilience, disaster management etc.

The online dialogue was indeed fruitful with the active participation of 50+ participants in the Zoom. Further, as suggested during the discussion, IIT Palakkad agreed to work with the collective initiatives which enhance the involvement of HEIs in rural development.

Google drive link for the recorded session:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1sZdlaEiIrWxklFhvs-8SoayE4zcMHhOt/view?usp=sharing>



IIT PALAKKAD UNNAT BHARAT ABHIYAN



Online Dialogue on Academic Social Responsibility 'Knowledge and Technology Dissemination for Sustainable Rural Development'

Date: 07 October 2020, Wednesday
Time: 02.30 PM to 04.00 PM

Key Speaker:
Dr. Joy Elamon,
Director-General,
Kerala Institute of Local Administration (KILA)



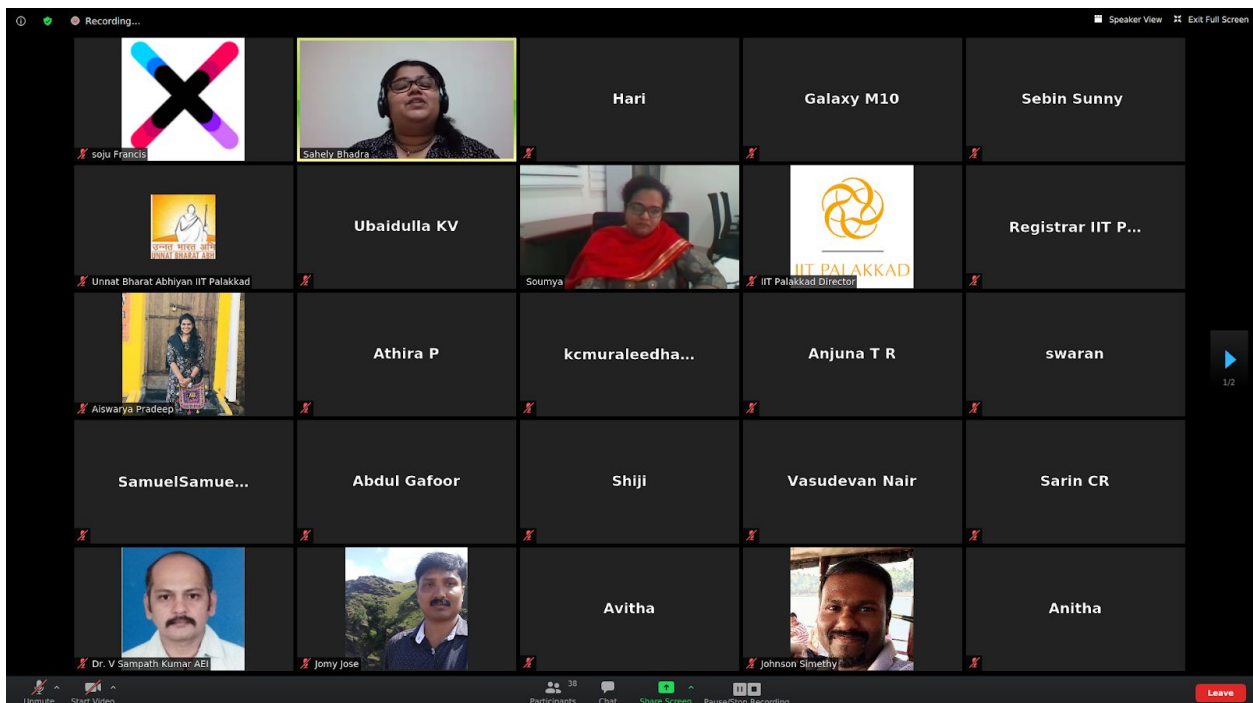
Facilitator:
Dr. Soumya G Rajan,
Assistant Registrar,
Indian Institute of Technology Palakkad

Participants:

- > UBA Participating Institutes (Palakkad, Kozhikode, Kannur, Wayanad and Kasargod)
- > Gram Panchayat officials of the adopted villages in the region

Organized by Indian Institute of Technology Palakkad UBA Cell

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Switch to Shared Content Recording... You are viewing Joy Elamon's screen View Options

Hypothesis

- Local governments have very little knowledge and understanding about potential support
- Organisations too do not know that there is need and are capable
- Lack of understanding about the scope of their partnership
- Leading to a win-win situation

• A few efforts in the past

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Recording...

Talking: IIT Palakkad Director

IIT Palakkad Director