



Educating for informed Family Planning Choices for a sustainable population and Planet

20th September, 2024 at 11:30-13:00 Hrs

Venue: IHC, Silver Oak, New Delhi

Concept Notes

Background

Achieving sustainable population growth is not about stagnation or decline of population, but about attaining a balance where human numbers harmonize with nature, ensuring development does not undermine ecological foundations. This balance necessitates a multifaceted approach, particularly focusing on the roles of education and healthcare accessibility. Education empowers individuals to make informed decisions regarding family size and resource utilization. Equally critical is the accessibility to quality healthcare that can ensure individuals to lead healthy lives, reducing mortality rates and improving overall quality of life. Comprehensive healthcare services, including reproductive health, enable informed family planning decisions, aligning population growth with environmental capacities. Achieving sustainable population growth necessitates the synergistic efforts of education and healthcare. This combined approach not only enhances individual well-being but also fosters a collective responsibility towards preserving the planet's ecological integrity.

The International Conference on Sustainability Education (ICSE), organized annually by the Mobius Foundation with global partners, explores a broad range of sustainability topics through expert deliberations. It also emphasizes the integration of discussions on population stabilization into its initiatives, convening experts to address the challenges posed by unsustainable population growth.

In line with this commitment, *the 6th ICSE features a Special Plenary Session titled “Educating for Informed Family Planning Choices for a Sustainable Population and Planet.” This Session aims to emphasize to policymakers, sustainability experts, educators, and youth the vital importance of responsible population management for the planet’s continued well-being and also that population stabilization is essential for completing the discourse on sustainability education,*

Session Objectives

- 1. Raise Awareness:** Highlight the critical role of education in empowering individuals to make informed family planning decisions, thereby promoting sustainable population growth.

2. **Promote Integration:** Advocate for the integration of population stabilization into broader sustainability education strategies, emphasizing its importance in achieving a balance between human numbers and ecological capacities.
3. **Foster Dialogue:** Create a platform for policymakers, sustainability experts, educators, and youth to discuss and share insights on responsible population management and its implications for environmental stewardship and socio-economic well-being.
4. **Showcase Initiatives:** Present successful initiatives and case studies, such as Project Aakar, that exemplify the synergy between education, healthcare accessibility, and sustainable population growth.
5. **Encourage Policy Action:** Engage policymakers and stakeholders in discussions to formulate and implement policies that support informed family planning choices and sustainable development goals.

Outcome

The expected outcomes of this plenary session are:

Enhanced Understanding: Participants will gain a deeper understanding of the interconnections between family planning, sustainable population growth, and ecological sustainability.

Collaborative Efforts: Foster collaborations among international and national experts, organizations, and policymakers to promote and implement sustainable population strategies.

Policy Recommendations: Develop actionable recommendations for integrating population stabilization efforts into national and global sustainability agendas, informed by expert insights and case studies presented during the session.

Increased Engagement: Inspire educators, youth, and sustainability enthusiasts to actively participate in and advocate for initiatives that address population stabilization as a critical component of sustainability education.

Public Awareness: Raise public awareness about the importance of informed family planning choices and their impact on achieving a sustainable future for all.

Session Flow

FIRESIDE CHAT (10 minutes): Mr. Pradip Burman, Chairman, Mobius Foundation in conversation with Anchor

PANEL DISCUSSION (50 minutes)

- Dr. Kanta Singh, Deputy Head, UN Women, New Delhi
- Dr. Purushottam Kulkarni, former Professor Centre for study of Regional Development, Jawahar Nehru University, New Delhi
- Ms. Amy Jankiewicz, CEO, & Ms. Shweta Shirodkar, Coordinator, Population Matters, London, UK (Virtual)
- Dr. Leela Visaria, Honorary Professor and former Director, Gujarat Institute of Development Research, Ahmedabad (TBC)
- Prof. Saroj Yadav, Dean (Academic) & Project Coordinator, National Population Education Project (NPEP) and School Health Programme (SHP), NCERT, New Delhi

GROUND REALTIES, ACHIEVEMENTS & CHALLENGES (30 mins)- curated and coordinated by PFI

- **Mr. Ashish Bahuguna, IAS(R), Ex. Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture, GOI (Chair)** (TBC)
- Health Officials, Family Planning Champions & ASHA workers
- Govt. of UP representatives