

A Report on Guest Lecture
"International Human Solidarity Day"
Organised by Department of Computer Applications
23.12.2024



Report Submitted by: Dr. J. Jude Moses Anto Devakanth, Assistant Professor, Department of Computer Applications.

Participants: Post-Graduate Students (MBA, MCA, M. Tech) – 145

Venue: Auditorium

Mode of Conduct: Offline

Time: 10.30 AM to 4.30 PM

Report Received on 30.12.2024

About the Event:

International Human Solidarity Day is observed annually on December 20th, a day that emphasizes the importance of unity, cooperation, and collective action in addressing global challenges. This year's event engaged post-graduate students through three dynamic activities designed to promote awareness of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the role of solidarity in achieving them. The three key activities were:

1. **Essay Writing:** An opportunity for students to critically engage with the concept of solidarity and its impact on SDGs.
2. **PPT Presentations:** A platform for students to explore various SDGs and present their findings on how solidarity plays a crucial role in achieving these goals.
3. **Treasure Hunt:** A fun and interactive activity that encouraged teamwork and problem-solving while exploring SDGs in practice.

The event aimed to inspire students to understand their role in fostering global solidarity and tackling pressing global issues.

Keynote Speakers and Their Presentations:

1. Dr. K. Raghavendran – SDGs MITs Institutional Co-ordinator

Topic: "Aligning SDGs with Global Solidarity for a Sustainable Future"

Dr. K. Raghavendran, an expert in sustainable development and global cooperation, provided a comprehensive analysis of the **United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)** and their significance in addressing the world's most urgent issues. Through his presentation, **Dr. Raghavendran** demonstrated how achieving the SDGs requires not just global efforts but a strong sense of **solidarity** among nations, institutions, and individuals.

Key Points:

- **Interconnectedness of SDGs:** **Dr. K. Raghavendran** explained how the 17 SDGs are deeply interconnected and how progress in one area often leads to positive outcomes in others. For example, efforts to **reduce poverty** (SDG 1) have direct impacts on **quality education** (SDG 4) and **good health and well-being** (SDG 3).

- **Role of Solidarity:** He emphasized that SDGs are not just the responsibility of governments or organizations but of every individual. **Global solidarity**—through partnerships, knowledge sharing, and community-led efforts—is crucial to achieving these goals.
- **Practical Solutions:** **Dr. K. Raghavendran** presented practical solutions such as **international partnerships**, **technology transfer**, and **climate finance mechanisms** that can accelerate progress towards the SDGs.

Dr. K. Raghavendran keynote speech highlighted the importance of **collective responsibility**, urging students and the audience to think globally and act locally in promoting sustainable practices.



2. Dr. Jagadeesh Babu Vellam – UHV Cell Co- Ordinator / Universal Human Values

Topic: "Universal Human Values: Building the Foundation for a Just and Peaceful Society"

Dr. Jagadeesh Babu Vellam, UHV Cell Co- Ordinator in Universal Human Values (UHV), explored how the principles of UHV are essential for creating a more **just, peaceful, and sustainable society**. He argued that the foundation of the SDGs rests not only on external efforts like economic growth and technological innovation but on the internal transformation of human behavior, ethics, and values.

Key Points:

- **Core Human Values:** **Dr. Jagadeesh Babu Vellam** identified **love, compassion, integrity, respect, and justice** as the core values that should guide human actions. These values are not only crucial for individual development but also for societal progress.
- **Alignment with SDGs:** He demonstrated how UHV is inherently aligned with several SDGs. For instance, **SDG 16 (Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions)** is directly supported by values like **non-violence, equality, and respect for human rights**, all of which are key aspects of UHV.
- **Role of Education:** **Dr. Jagadeesh Babu Vellam** advocated for the inclusion of **Universal Human Values** in educational curricula, suggesting that values education is essential for developing ethical leaders who will champion the SDGs.
- **Internal Transformation for Global Change:** He emphasized that **inner transformation**—developing compassion, empathy, and mindfulness—will lead to **outer transformation**, fostering a more equitable and sustainable world.

Dr. Jagadeesh Babu Vellam concluded by urging the audience to reflect on how they can integrate UHV into their academic, professional, and personal lives to promote **positive societal change**.

Objectives of the Event:

- **Raise Awareness** of the importance of human solidarity in achieving the SDGs.
- **Engage Students** in meaningful discussions about global challenges and solutions.
- **Promote Collaboration** and teamwork among post-graduate students from various disciplines.
- **Enhance Communication Skills** through written and verbal presentations.
- **Encourage Critical Thinking** about how solidarity can solve complex global issues.

Event Highlights:

Essay Writing Competition: "The Role of Solidarity in Achieving the SDGs"

The **Essay Writing Competition** invited students to explore the theme:

"How does global solidarity contribute to achieving the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals?"

Students were asked to focus on one or more SDGs and discuss the role of human solidarity in creating solutions to challenges such as poverty, inequality, climate change, and more. Essays were evaluated based on their clarity, depth of analysis, relevance to SDGs, and originality.

The essay discussed how shared responsibility and cooperation between nations, communities, and individuals are key to overcoming global challenges like climate change.

PowerPoint Presentations: "Exploring SDGs through Solidarity"

The **PPT Presentation Session** asked students to select one of the SDGs and create a presentation that demonstrated how solidarity could accelerate progress toward that goal. The event featured presentations on **10 SDG topics**, each addressing a unique global challenge and its connection to human solidarity. The following topics were covered:

4. SDG 1: No Poverty

- Presentation focused on how solidarity-driven partnerships between governments, NGOs, and communities are vital in eradicating poverty globally. The importance of shared resources and social safety nets was emphasized.

5. SDG 2: Zero Hunger

- The presenter discussed how global solidarity can combat hunger through sustainable agricultural practices, food security initiatives, and international cooperation in times of crisis, such as during pandemics or natural disasters.

6. SDG 3: Good Health and Well-Being

- The role of solidarity in health systems was explored, particularly in times of global health emergencies like the COVID-19 pandemic. The presentation highlighted how collective action can improve healthcare access and outcomes worldwide.



7. SDG 4: Quality Education

- Solidarity in education was the central theme, exploring how cross-border collaborations, scholarships, and educational reforms can help provide quality education for all, especially in underprivileged regions.

8. SDG 5: Gender Equality

- The presentation discussed the transformative power of solidarity in achieving gender equality, focusing on global initiatives that promote women's rights, empowerment, and participation in leadership roles.

9. SDG 7: Affordable and Clean Energy

- This presentation highlighted the importance of international cooperation to transition to renewable energy sources. The role of solidarity in financing and technology transfer for clean energy projects was discussed.

10. SDG 10: Reduced Inequalities

- The presentation explored the idea that reducing inequalities is not only a moral imperative but a global responsibility. Solidarity-based policies, such as social protection programs and fair wages, were emphasized as solutions to inequality.

11. SDG 13: Climate Action

- A presentation focused on how countries can unite to combat climate change through shared commitments to reduce carbon emissions and adopt sustainable practices. Global solidarity in climate finance was also discussed.

12. SDG 16: Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions

- Solidarity's role in fostering peaceful societies and justice systems was explored. The presentation discussed international cooperation in resolving conflicts and building democratic institutions.

13. SDG 17: Partnerships for the Goals

- The importance of multi-stakeholder partnerships in achieving the SDGs was the focus of this presentation. The role of governments, private sector, civil society, and international organizations working together was emphasized.

Students were assessed on the quality of their research, the clarity of their presentation, and how effectively they connected solidarity with the achievement of their chosen SDG.

The use of impactful visuals and real-world case studies impressed the judges.

Treasure Hunt: "Solidarity in Action"

The **Treasure Hunt** was a team-based event where students worked together to solve clues and challenges related to the SDGs. The activity aimed to promote teamwork and quick problem-solving, while also deepening participants' understanding of the SDGs. Teams navigated through clues that focused on different SDGs and their solutions, such as:

- **SDG 7: Affordable and Clean Energy** – Identifying sustainable energy solutions and how solidarity drives innovation.
- **SDG 10: Reduced Inequalities** – Finding examples of successful global collaborations that reduce inequalities.
- **SDG 3: Good Health and Well-Being** – Understanding the role of collective action in tackling global health challenges.

The event fostered friendly competition while emphasizing the importance of collaboration in achieving global goals.

Their ability to apply theoretical knowledge to real-world solutions was impressive.



Participant Feedback

Feedback collected from participants indicated the following:

- **Essay Writing:** 88% of participants appreciated the essay competition, noting it encouraged them to deeply reflect on the relationship between solidarity and the SDGs.
- **PPT Presentations:** 85% of participants enjoyed creating and presenting their PPTs, with many highlighting the opportunity to research an SDG of their choice and share their findings.
- **Treasure Hunt:** 92% of participants found the treasure hunt to be an engaging and educational experience. It allowed them to work in teams, solve problems, and learn about SDGs in a fun and interactive way.

Outcomes of the Event:

- **Increased Awareness and Understanding:** The event succeeded in raising awareness about the SDGs and the importance of solidarity in achieving them. Students gained a deeper understanding of how collective action can solve global problems.
- **Enhanced Critical Thinking:** Participants demonstrated critical thinking in their essays, presentations, and problem-solving during the Treasure Hunt. Many students expressed that the event inspired them to explore ways they can contribute to the SDGs in their academic work and beyond.
- **Improved Collaboration Skills:** The Treasure Hunt and collaborative nature of the PPT Presentation helped participants develop their teamwork and communication skills, which are vital in both academic and professional settings.

- **Motivation for Global Action:** Students left the event feeling motivated to engage more actively in global solidarity initiatives. Many expressed a desire to continue exploring the SDGs through their academic research and future projects.



- **Communication Skills Matter:** Whether through writing, presenting, or collaborative activities, the ability to communicate complex issues effectively was seen as an important skill for students to develop in their academic and professional careers.
- **The Power of Teamwork:** The Treasure Hunt emphasized the importance of collaboration, showing how collective action is crucial in addressing global challenges and achieving common goals.

Closing Statement:

As the event concluded, participants were encouraged to take the lessons learned about solidarity and SDGs into their academic and professional lives, working together to create a better world for all.