



GARHBETA COLLEGE

(Affiliated to Vidyasagar University)

Accredited by NAAC

Website : www.garhbetacollege.ac.in

E-mail : garhbetacollege48@gmail.com

Phone No. - (03227) 265143/267154

☆ At - GARHBETA ☆ P.O.: GARHBETA ☆ DIST.: PASCHIM MEDINIPUR ☆ STATE.; WEST BENGAL ☆ PIN- 721127

Report on the International Webinar (17th September, 2021)

1. **Title of the Workshop/Seminar/Webinar:** “Homo Sapiens as Pathogens: Humans, The Environment and Disaster”
2. **YouTube Link:** <https://youtu.be/GYFelixiHy0>
3. **Name of the organizing Department(s):** Department of Economics and Department of Geography, Garhbeta College.
4. **Date:** 17th September, 2021
5. **Level:** International
6. **Number of participants:** 127
7. **Details of Resource Person(s):** Professor Roby Rajan, Department of Business, University of Wisconsin-Parkside.

On 17th December, 2021, Friday, the department of Economics and Department of Geography of Garhbeta College had organized a one-day international webinar on ‘Homo Sapiens as Pathogens: Humans, The Environment and Disaster’.

In the beginning, Dr. Sarkar emphasised the main target of the webinar, which was to spread awareness about the role of humans in environmental degradation. It is of utmost importance to understand the significance, impact and our responsibilities of and about environmental degradation.

The speaker, Dr. Rajan explained how the era of Homo Sapiens is irreversibly altering the world, We are living in an age that is unofficially called the Anthropocene. All the activities are centered around the humans. Every other members of our eco-system had to take a backseat. Humans alter the geologic, atmospheric, hydrologic, biospheric and other earth system processes, control the living, feeding and breeding of all the other non-humans (the *Nature* magazine calls it the Human Epoch). We can remember, with example, all the destructions, adverse impacts on water, soil, sea, other life forms, biodiversity...everything is messed, interfered with by humans (remembering how Aral Sea has changed in shape, size, water volume, atmosphere as well as history). Humans, as they become more and more civilized and modern (and with serious value judgment put on the notions), they become alienated from the nature (*The Nature-Culture divide*). And for Culture, *Nature* is nothing more than natural resources. On the other hand, the volume of human waste is greater than the natural biomass! Homo Sapiens is the ONLY species to now live in all the continents, in every environment, in all kinds of ecological niche. Can we think of the impact of this? The controlling of and destruction of diverse atmospheres are intervened with by this ONLY species to make them what and how they want it to be. And in the process, we have already unleashed the beginning of sixth mass extinction.

In this process, humans have altered, selected, modified, favored only those plant and animal species useful to them (think of agriculture, transformation of our modern-day vegetables from their wild, i.e., natural versions. domestication of animals).

After Dr. Rajan's captivating delivery, an engaging interaction session took place. The teachers and students actively involved into this session.

The webinar concluded with the remarks of the principal, Dr. Hariprasad Sarkar announced.