Panel – 1: Digital Society: Digital Nomads, Indigenous Communities and Exclusion - Concept Note

In the last few decades, contemporary society has seen unprecedented progress in information and communication technology. It has become an integral part of human lives, resulting in fundamental changes in human communication, interaction, social, educational, and work environments. The use of digital technologies is transforming society into a progressive digital society where people have convenience in interactions, buying and selling, and availing themselves of the benefits of education, health, travel, and other services. All this is producing a new human reality in the form of digital nomadism, which is allowing people in society to have mobility and freedom of work without being confined to a specific location or geographic location for working, learning, and earning. Therefore, this digital culture is redefining the conventional conceptions of social relations, human interactions, home, work, education, leisure, entertainment, tourism, and so on. However, the possibilities and opportunities offered by these digital transformations are not available throughout society because of the wide variation in access to and knowledge of digital resources, thus giving rise to the digital. There are digital disparities in terms of gender, age, ethnicity, education, and economic status; these are more prominent in developing nations than in developed nations. This digital divide not only amplifies the existing socio-economic differences, but it also manifests itself in digitally disadvantaged groups and gives rise to new forms of social exclusion in contemporary society, with many more nations having diversified marginalised populations. Given this, the Sociology Department at Maulana Azad National Urdu University, in collaboration with the Anthropology Department, organises conference events on anthropological perspectives of the present, which are being held in New Delhi, India. The department of sociology is floating a panel on "Digital Society: Digital Nomads, Indigenous Communities, and Exclusion". The goal of this panel is to invite insightful papers around the issues of the transformation of world society into a digitally dichotomous space that is redefining human acts, actions, and interactions and perpetuating marginalities and exclusion in the contemporary world. Papers on the theme may be submitted by students, researchers, academicians, think tanks, and policymakers with quality content and considering originality as an important aspect.

Panel 2: Digital Technology in Education

Concept Note

Technology has influenced every aspects of human lives today. It has become part and parcel of our everyday life-world and activities. Humans though have evolved science and technologies in some forms or the other since time immemorial, however the information revolution in the last decades of twentieth century has sharply changed the ways we think, interact, learn and educate children. Smart network technology has led to significant changes in the organization and delivery of educational content today. After Covid-19 pandemic, education system in India took a significant turn towards digitization. EdTech giants have started to flourish in significant ways reaching to both urban and rural masses. Start-ups and business ventures pitch in to invest in the field of education. Online schooling, tutoring and coaching have become the new norms that are defining the very discourse of learning forms and education pedagogies. Emergence of Artificial intelligence and machine learning has led to newer apprehensions, at times both excitements and anxieties about the future forms and discourse of evolving education systems. The questions such as what will happen to the originality of content in education? How the key aspects of learning like criticality and innovation shall be shaped up in future? How will the existing inequalities, forms of discrimination and prevailing marginalities based on class, class, gender, region and religion shall be addressed and took shape in future? In nutshell, the concerns around pedagogy, nature and ownership of content and its socio-economic implications remain the critical apprehensions. Given this, the panel aims to focus and deliberate upon the evolving forms and future of the digital technology in education.

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