



# COVID – 19: Preparing for Success: During & After the Pandemic – A Digital Conclave



Organised

**6th and 7th November 2020,  
through Cisco webex platform.**

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UGC has given a clarion call for “**Jan Andolan**: People’s movement against COVID: 19” to enable us to conquer this disease. In this context, a 2 days digital conclave was organised on 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> November 2020 for students and faculty of VMRF in association with Sri Vishnu Mohan Foundation – a non-profit NGO, through Cisco webex platform.

A core team under the stewardship of Dr. Anuradha Ganesan, Director, Vinayaka Mission’s Research Foundation (VMRF) and Shri Shri Hariprasad Swamiji of Sri Vishnu Mohan Foundation got together in early October to translate this vision into practice for students. The faculty members from Aarupadai Veedu Institute of Technology (AVIT), Paiyanoor, consisting of Dr. Sangeetha, Vice Principal-Academics, Dr. Giri Rengasamy - Dean CSR, VMRF collaborated with Dr. V N Mahalakshmi, Dean-Health Professions Education, Dr. Lakshmi Jatiya, Prof & Head, Department of Physiology and Dr. Deepa, DMS from Aarupadai Veedu Medical College (AVMC) to enable this transition. This team was ably supported and aided by the team from Sri Vishnu Mohan Foundation represented by Sri Srikumar, Trustee and Mr Sibil, Tech support.

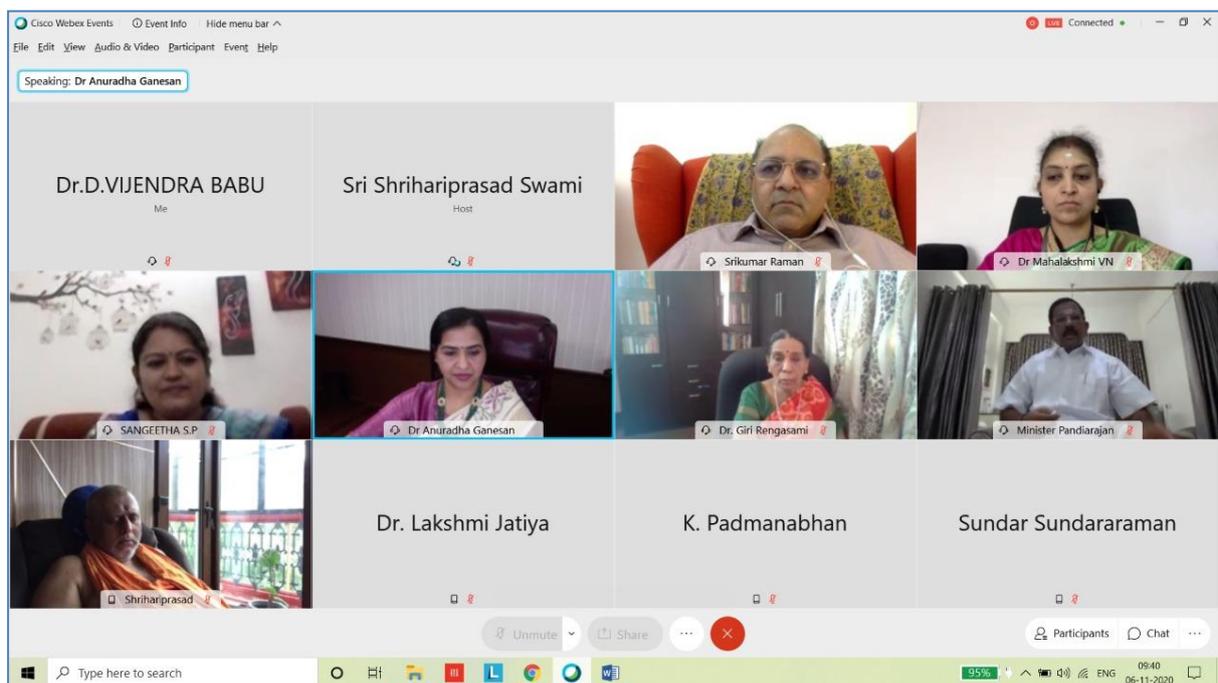
The aim of the program was to capacity build the youth, predominantly students, to fight the pandemic, in terms of developing coping mechanisms and mental powers to overcome the ill effects of ‘Pandemic Praxis’.

The program, envisaged as a digital conclave for students, faculty and other stakeholders boasted of various activities like interactive lectures and webinars, panel discussion featuring the students and a highly enjoyable experience sharing session by students on their attempt to overcome and overturn ‘nEgativity to crEativity’.

6<sup>th</sup> November 2020 saw the inauguration followed by passionate and eloquent speeches by various luminaries. The event was anchored by Dr. Sangeetha, VP-Academics, AVIT and Dr. V N Mahalakshmi, Dean-HPE, AVMC.

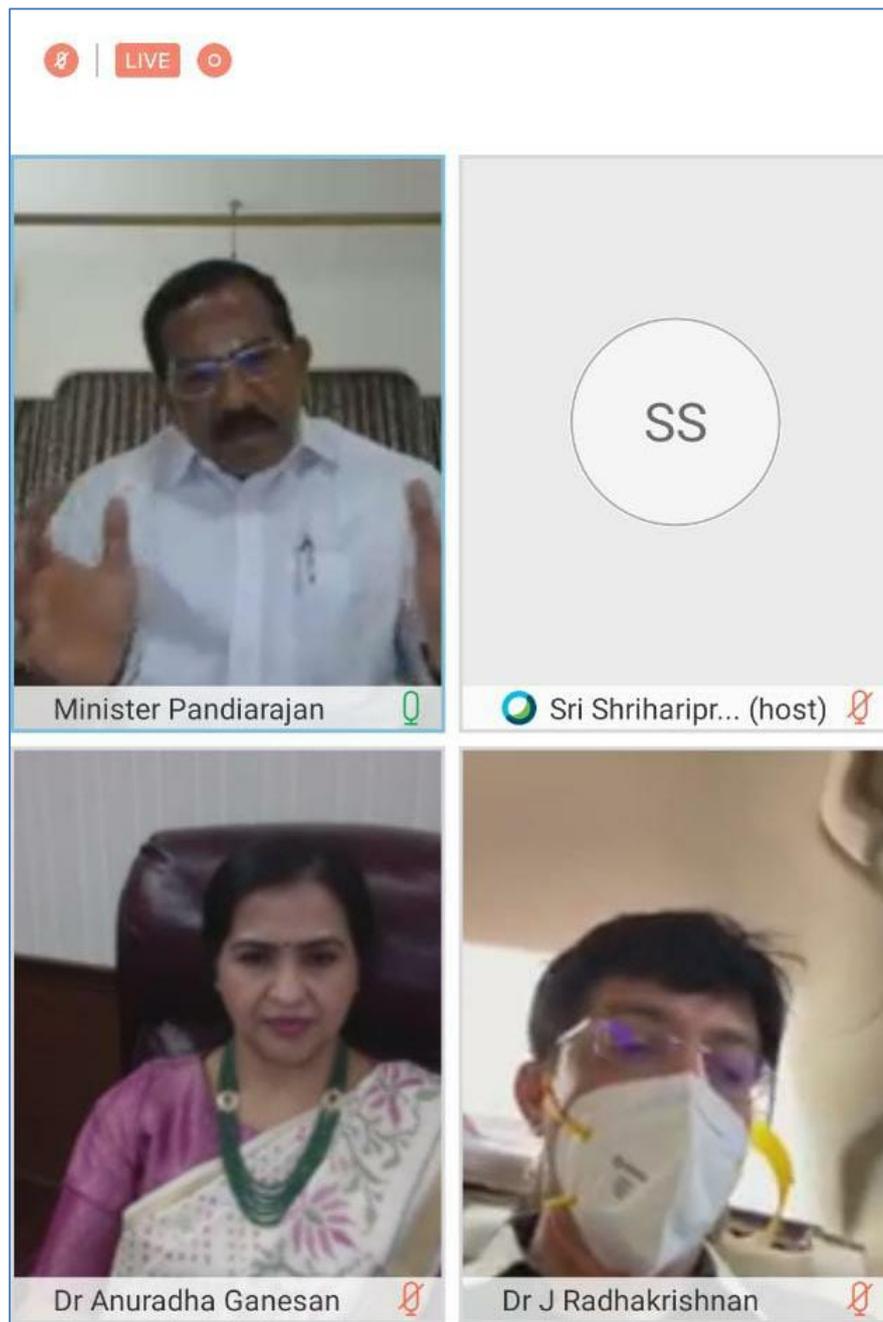
**Mr Srikumar Raman**, Trustee, Sri Vishnu Mohan Foundation welcomed the gathering and introduced the conference theme. He said that our youth are experiencing heightened concerns due to this pandemic that needs to be recognized and addressed not only by the government but also by responsible institutions and organizations. This webinar being jointly organised by Sri Vishnu Mohan Foundation and VMRF is yet another testimony of the commitment of these two organizations working with a common goal of a better, more harmonious, more positive future, with special focus on the young.”

**Dr.AnuradhaGanesan**, Director and Madam Chancellor, VMRF delivered the inaugural address.She spoke on the value of 3 important assets for students– Discipline, Hard work and Perseverance.



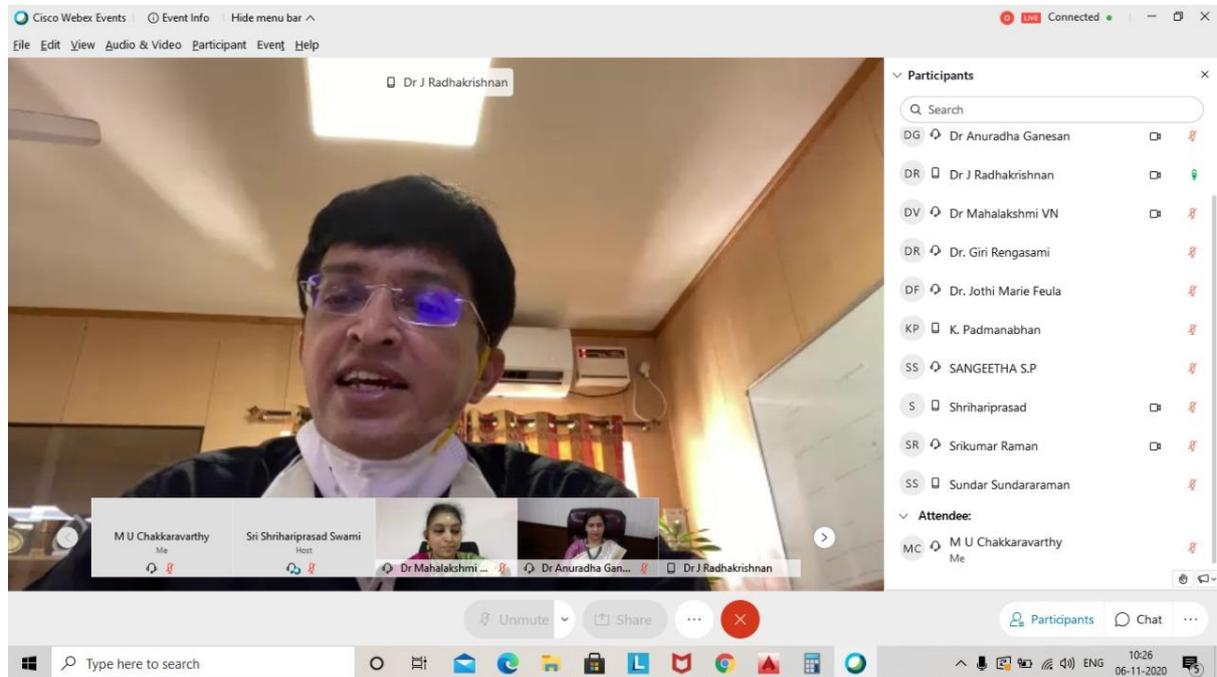
Dr.AnuradhaGanesan, Director and Madam Chancellor, VMRF delivering the inaugural address.

This was followed by address by the Chief Guest, **Thiru. K. Pandiarajan**, Honourable Minister for Tamil Official Language, Tamil Culture and Archaeology, Government of Tamil Nadu. He spoke on the importance of indigenous healthcare system in India and robust measures taken by the government to combat COVID. He aptly put forth the similarities between opportunities created the pandemic and that of Y2K boom.



Thiru. K. Pandiarajan, Honourable Minister for Tamil Official Language, Tamil Culture and Archaeology, Government of Tamil Nadu addressing the attendees.

Guest of Honor, **Dr. Radhakrishnan**, IAS, Health Secretary, Government of Tamil Nadu walked us through the journey undertaken by TN and how effectively the entire system sprung into action with lightening speed to deal with the deadly corona virus. He drew from his vast experience of dealing with various natural calamities and how interdisciplinary teams came together in this fight.



Guest of Honor, **Dr. Radhakrishnan**, IAS, Health Secretary, Government of Tamil Nadu addressing the participants.

**Dr. Sundaraman**, Public health Consultant gave the key note address. He compared and contrasted COVID-19 with the HIV pandemic.

**Swamiji Shri Shrihariprasad**, Managing trustee, Sri Vishnu Mohan Foundation gave the benedictory address. His Holiness advised us to make God part of our lives, who will help us sail us through our rough and tough times.

**Dr. G Srinivas**, Additional Secretary, UGC shared his thoughts on COVID and its impact on education, health and economic systems of nations and effective usage of technology for Teaching, Learning and Assessment. He emphasized on imparting quality education to our youth not only to make them job ready but good human beings.

**Mr.Srikumar Raman**, Trustee, Sri Vishnu Mohan Foundation explained the challenges posed by COVID, uncertainty factor and importance and techniques to build resilience.

**Dr.Sreepriya Menon**, Mental health social worker gave an insight into effective handling of emotional turmoil caused due to COVID. Team from AVMC also shared their experience on student counselling services provided through the Wabi -Sabi(Wabi-Sabi means finding beauty in every aspect of imperfection in nature) program.

The last talk of the day was a video message by **Mr K N Ramaswamy**, Director, SriBhartiyaVidyaBhavan. He spoke on the role of arts and culture in building inner strength and resilience.

Day 2 i.e. 7<sup>th</sup> November 2020 started with recap of Day 1 by the MC's for the day -Dr. Lakshmi Jatiya and Dr. Deepa from AVMC. This was followed by a talk by **Dr. K P Suresh Kumar**, Head, Cardiology department, Kavery Hospital, Chennai. He spoke on "Successfully coping with stress arising from the COVID-19 pandemic".He eluded the role of Acceptance, Adaptation and Accommodation to deal with stress.

**Prof. Uma MaheshwariShanker**, Principal & Head, Department of Philosophy, SIES College of Arts, Science and Commerce, Mumbai spoke on "Coping with the present and future scenario by young professionals". She shared interesting anecdotes from history of Indian culture to emphasise her views.

**Dr. P F Kotur**, Dean, AVMC & Hospital, spoke passionately on ""Emerging role of medicos in the fight against COVID-19.

**Dr.GiriRengasamy**, Dean, CSR, VMRF gave an overview on "CSR activities by VMRF during the pandemic" and Dr. K Jaya Singh, Medical Superintendent, AVMC & H spoke on the "Hospital and Community based services undertaken by AVMC & Hospital during COVID -19."

**Dr. K MeenakshiSundaram**, Medical Director, Vinayaka Mission's Speciality Hospital gave an overview of the role of private hospitals in combating this pandemic.

**Dr.Mahalakshmi**, Dean -Health Professions education, AVMC and Hospital moderated a panel discussion on “Covid -19: Impact on students and learning”. The panellists were Students-Mr Abhijeet Singh Rathore, Ist MBBS student from AVMC & H, Ms Aishwarya, IIndYr-BTech student, Ms Maheshwari, IIndYr-Management studies student from AVIT. Other panellists from AVMC & H were Dr. Dhaval, postgraduate student from the Department of Obs and Gynae, Dr.Navin, Tutor, Biochemistry department, Mrs Rama, Student’s Councillor and Dr. Lakshmi Jatiya, Prof & Head, Department of Physiology as parent of child undergoing higher education. Issues related to the impact of COVID on learning, social life, new normal and contribution as an individual and families to help tackle this pandemic. Some interesting stories and life lessons learnt from the pandemic were also shared by the students.

Digital conclave also featured an event namely: “**nEgativity to crEativity**”- a students and faculty activity on both days that was put together by Dr.Jothi Marie Feula, AP, Department of Physiology , Dr.Arun Daniel, Associate Professor, Department of CM and Dr. Lakshmi Jatiya. This event featured portrayal of various activities of students and staff like dance, painting, photography, poetry, artwork during COVID times. 2 videos were also presented - a video prepared by Dr. Deepa, DMS on ‘AVMC and its support to government agencies in tackling COVID’ and ‘Frontline warriors’ by Dr.Mahalakshmi.

Finally, **Sri Padmanaban**, AGM (retd.), State Bank of India expressed gratitude and appreciation for Chief Guest, Guest of Honour, Resource faculty and participants.

Two days digital conclave successfully came to an end with soulful rendition of National Anthem.

YouTube Link: <https://youtu.be/FMqAX19TIKk>