

Swami Atmapriyananda addresses Seminar on Inclusive Growth in Rural India at IUJ –  
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## Swami Atmapriyananda addresses Seminar on Inclusive Growth in Rural India at ICFAI University

Valedictory session of the National Seminar on 'Inclusive Growth in Rural India through Self-Help Groups (SHG) & Farmer Producer Organisations (FPO)' was conducted through an online video conference at ICFAI University, Swami Atmapriyananda, Pro Vice-Chancellor, Rama Krishna Mission Vivekananda University, Dr. K.K. Nag, Former Vice Chancellor of Ranchi University, Sri Pardeep Hazari, Special Secretary, Dept. of Agriculture, Animal Husbandry and Co-operation, Government of Jharkhand and Sri S.K. Majumdar, former GDMNABARD were the guest of Honour.

Welcoming the participants at the Valedictory Session, Prof. D. S. Rao, Vice-Chancellor of the University said, "The seminar attracted distinguished academicians, researchers, government policy makers and industry practitioners from diverse sectors from across India. Besides taking stock of the situation with regard to growth of Rural India, the seminar



helped in understanding of the issues and challenges, sharing of real life case studies and best practices and arriving at points of action for implementation.

Highlighting the power of Self-Help Groups (SHG), Sri Pardeep Hazari said, "Today there are over one Crore SHGs operating in India, supporting over 12 crore families. During COVID-19 times, about 1.32 Crore face masks were produced by them". "It is important to integrate their contribution into the value-

chain of Rural Economy", added Sri Hazari. Dr. K.K. Nag advised all the participants to do service to the vulnerable sections of the society so that growth is inclusive.

Recalling the messages of Swami Vivekananda, Swami Atmapriyananda exhorted the participants to live a wholesome life and inculcate the attitude of "giving to the poor". "Besides academics and research, Universities should take up Social Responsibility as an extension activity. Students must be

made aware of the problems of the country and must be encouraged to solve the problems, using their learnings at the University", added Swamiji. He explained how the students of RKV University learn by "living a few days among the villagers" and how that learning is more valuable than learning in the classrooms. He was full of praise to the ICFAI University, Jharkhand for creating awareness among the students and the general public on SHG and FPOs in the context of Inclusive growth of Rural India.

Sri Bakrisha Singh and Dr Vishal Kumar were given the Best Paper award. Congratulating the winners, Dr Hari Haran, who headed the jury, explained the parameters that went into the selection of the best paper.

Prof. Arvind Kumar, Registrar proposed vote of thanks. Dr Bhagabat Barik, Asst Dean and the Seminar co-ordinator and other faculty members and students participated in the event. Ms Tanya Priya, MCA student anchored the event.

