



## SRM INSTITUTE OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

### FACULTY OF SCIENCE AND HUMANITIES

#### **Report on SDG 10: Reduced Inequalities (December 4, 2024)**

The **National Conference on Sustainable Development Goal 10: Reduced Inequalities in Education** held at **SRM Institute of Science and Technology (SRMIST), Kattankulathur** on **December 4, 2024** was a pivotal event focusing on the persistent issues of educational inequalities organized by the **Faculty of Science and Humanities**. The conference addressed critical topics connected to **Sustainable Development Goal 10**, which emphasizes reducing inequalities.

The conference opened with a traditional prayer song and lamp lighting ceremony. **Dr. A. Duraisamy**, Dean, Faculty of Science and Humanities, SRMIST welcomed the gathering and highlighted the importance of reducing inequalities in education and initiated a thoughtful discussion about their societal implications. **Dr. A. Vinaykumar**, Pro-Vice Chancellor of SBL, followed with the presidential address, where he discussed about bridging the skill gap and emphasized education as essential for development.

The inaugural address was delivered by **Dr. R. Suresh Babu**, a renowned economist and Director of Madras Institute of Development Studies, Chennai. He explored the challenges in achieving sustainable development in higher educational institutions and stressed the educational gaps that exist across states and countries. He also provided insights for Goods and Services Tax (GST) which affects the public and highlighted the inequality that perpetuates among wealthier groups. His session resonated well with both students and participants.

A Panel discussion moderated by **Dr. S. Albert Antony Raj**, Deputy Dean, Faculty of Science and Humanities. The panel, comprised with the experts such as **Dr. Nisha**, Director of Student Affairs, and **Dr. Anand Babu**, discussed issues related to marginalized communities. Dr. Nisha stressed the need for skill development initiatives for marginalized groups, while Dr. Anand Babu highlighted the economic empowerment education offers to these communities. **Dr. Shalini**, an eminent professor from VISTAS, Chennai spoke about self-business ventures and skills for success in small business, and also reflected on the changes in work dynamics, particularly due to the rise of remote work post-pandemic. **Dr. A. Duraisamy** continued to focus on strategies to reduce inequalities, emphasizing the importance of region-specific solutions for marginalized youth.

In the afternoon session, the conference featured **two parallel paper presentation sessions**, showcasing **63 research papers** from Indian and International scholars. Forty papers were presented physically, and 23 were papers were presented virtually.

The conference concluded with a Valedictory address delivered by **Prof. Desh Pande**, the Former Director of the Institute for Social and Economic Change, Bangalore, who emphasized the economic importance of both small and large sectors. He highlighted that while large sectors, such as multinational corporations and industries, play a crucial role in driving national economic growth, creating jobs, and fostering technological advancements, small sectors also contribute significantly to the economy by ensuring inclusivity and supporting local communities. Small enterprises, including micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs), provide employment opportunities, especially in rural and underserved areas, and promote entrepreneurship.

Finally, the conference was concluded with a formal Vote of thanks by **Dr. K. Selvasundaram**, Professor in the Department of Commerce.

The organizing committee was led by:

- **Dr. A. Duraisamy** (Convenor)
- **Dr. S. Alber Antony Raj** (Co-convenor)
- **Dr. K. Selvasundaram** (Coordinator)
- **Dr. M. Selladurai & Dr. L.S. Abhilash** (Co-coordinators)
- **Dr. V. Prakash, Dr. D. Bhuvaneswari, Dr. G. Sangeetha and Dr. C. Fredrick Jorgenson** (Assistant Professors)

This event marked a significant contribution to the conversation on educational inequalities and the steps needed to achieve a more inclusive educational system.

## Photo Gallery



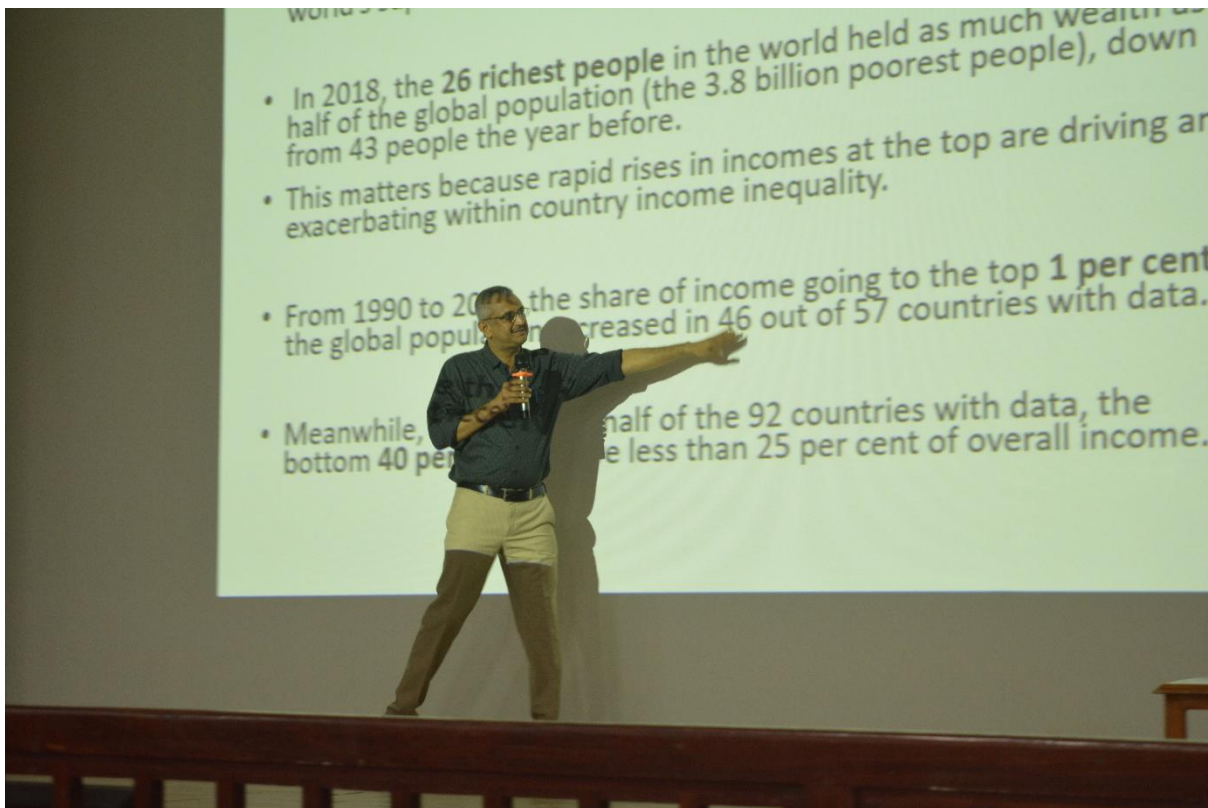
**The National Conference on SDG 10: Reduced Inequalities in Education held at SRM Institute of Science and Technology (SRMIST) on December 4, 2024**



**Session inaugurated by the Convener Dr. A. Duraisamy**



**Pro-Vice Chancellor Honouring the Chief Guest**



**Technical Session by Dr. R. Suresh Babu, Director, MIDS, Chennai**



**Panel Discussion** moderated by **Dr. S. Albert Antony Raj**, Deputy Dean, FSH, SRMIST



**National Conference on SDG10: Inequalities in Education Valedictory Session**



**National Conference on SDG10: Inequalities in Education Valedictory Session**