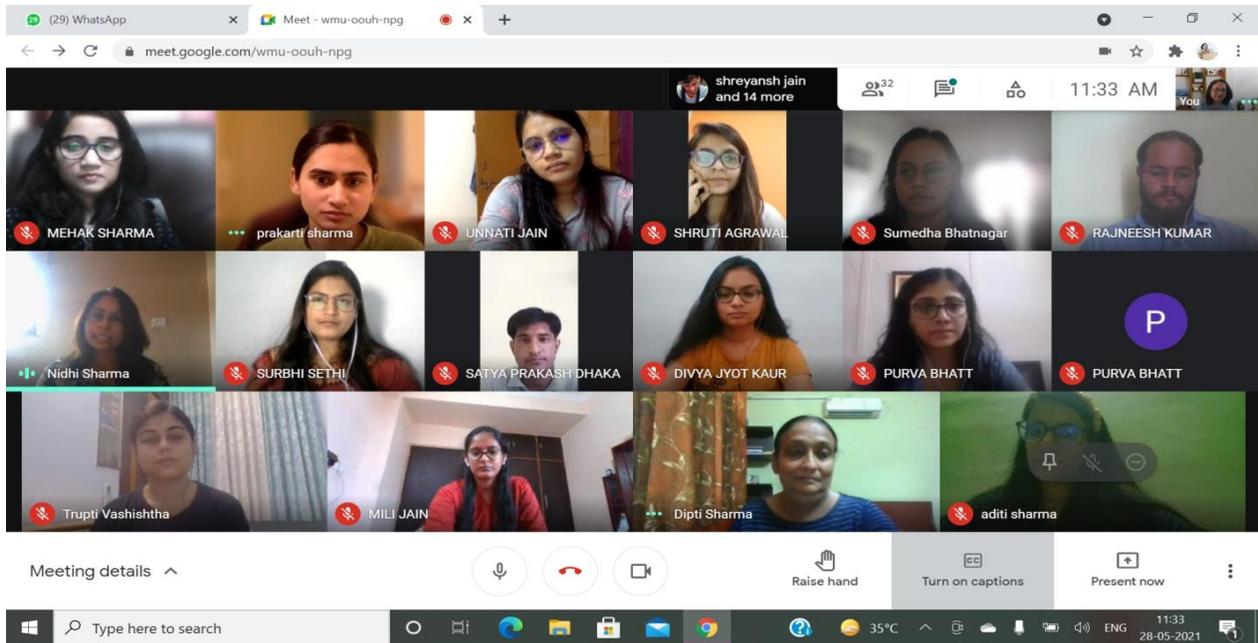


HUM PALS: PEER ACTIVE LEARNING FOR SCHOLARS

A report of the session conducted on May 28, 2021

The fourth session of HUM PALS was conducted virtually on May 28, 2021 from 11:00 am onwards to continue the spirit of self-learning, re-learning, and co-learning that builds the foundation of this noble and novel initiative undertaken under the aegis of the Department of Humanities and Social Sciences. The session started on an encouraging note by Prof. Manju Singh, Head of the Department wherein she emphasized the importance of adapting the research process and schedule to the 'new normal' of the current unprecedented circumstances. She further reiterated the ideation behind HUM PALS and motivated research scholars to interact openly with each other in order to invoke creativity and innovation.

The session was then taken over by the presenter for the day, Ms. Prakarti Sharma, a research scholar in the domain of economics from the Department of Humanities and Social Sciences. The topic under discussion was "Income Convergence in Emerging Market Economies: An Empirical Examination". The presenter started her presentation by explaining her concepts in layman terms in order to engage scholars from varying backgrounds. She delved upon the foundational premise of her research by explaining the Convergence theories, what are emerging market economies, and the countries in consideration. The presenter then, in a step-by-step manner, explained every aspect of her research proposal starting from her research area, research questions, objectives, variables, sources of data collection, hypothesis, methodology to the relevance of the study. In addition, she used her research journey to render her learnings and challenges faced to the participants by focussing on the importance of reading, patience, time management, etc. Further, she talked about the common yet very important challenge faced by every scholar which is how to select the appropriate journal for publishing and how to refine the articles in terms of novelty and language to ensure publication.



The comprehensive presentation by the scholar prompted many queries, feedback, and suggestions which led to an active discussion and debate among the scholars and the faculty members. The questions were asked pertaining to how regional differences will be inculcated in the comparison between different emerging economies, the macro-economic factors in consideration, tools for analysis, specificity of variables, the inclusion of Happiness Index among other social factors, etc. The multi-disciplinary nature of the audience broadened the scope of the discussion to the inclusion of political and governance factors in the research and led to much debate among the scholars and faculty members. The impact of the current pandemic on the emerging market economies was also discussed in terms of setbacks for the underdeveloped countries and the transformation of the marketing trends.

The faculty members also actively prompted and encouraged the discussion through their valuable feedbacks regarding different aspects of the research process. Dr. Nidhi Sharma emphasized the importance of persistence and continuous perusal of the literature as the key factors of the research process. In addition, she explained the importance of demarcation in order to streamline the research. Dr. Dipti Sharma reinforced the importance of specificity in the process of research as it aids in gaining novelty and momentum. Further, Prof. Manju Singh delved upon the importance of theoretical framework in order to bring clarity and a sense of direction to the research. Furthermore, Dr. Preeti Bhatt encouraged the research scholars to participate in the upcoming International Conference.

The session concluded with a token of thanks by the team and the presenter was felicitated with a certificate.