CALL FOR PAPERS & PARTICIPATION

International Conference

on

A Culture of Learning and Experimentations for Fostering Well-Being: Some Lessons

(CL&E-18)

December 17, 2018

organised by

DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMICS
BHAGAT PHOOL SINGH MAHILA VISHWAVIDyalaya, SONEPAT, INDIA
(First State Women University in North India)

in association with

BURGUNDY SCHOOL OF BUSINESS, DIJON, FRANCE

Venue: India International Centre, New Delhi

DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMICS
BHAGAT PHOOL SINGH MAHILA VISHWAVIDyalaya, KHNUPUR KALAN
SONEPAT, INDIA 131305
Tel. No. +91-1263-283036, Fax No. +91-1263-283154
www.bpswomenuniversity.ac.in
The world differs substantially in development, cultural practices, and well-being. Cultural factors impact development as there is a direct connection between a culture of learning and well-being. The countries with higher level of growth have been often associated with higher well-being owing to cultural practices of learning and experimentation embedded in their effective governance. Societies with higher well-being are usually more economically developed; having effective governance with low levels of corruption, with high levels of trust, and can meet the basic needs of citizens. However, a majority of countries still have to go a long way to develop such culture or cultural practices and developing sufficiently for delivering even basic needs to their citizens. Cultural Change is marginal, selective and slow. It is specific, unique and invites different action and reaction from different societies. Cultural change influences values and emotions such as happiness and perceptions of fairness. However, at a more micro level, we have found that organizations do try to change their culture to better align it with their strategy by making use of both top-down and bottom-up approaches to change the culture. Change in the societal culture at the macro level is also being witnessed, one towards a more technology orientation. The objective of initiating culture change is to achieve a higher state of well-being. Well-being usually refers to a state of happiness and it can be described as judging life positively and feeling good. Good living conditions like, food, health care, housing, employment is fundamental to well-being. One way to judge it is to see whether people perceive that their lives are going well.

At a global level, we are witnessing widespread inequalities between and within regions and countries. A significant part of the global population is living in regions with uneven and low growth rates, a non-egalitarian structure of societies, and a lower well-being. These gaps necessitate some entrepreneurial agents of change. Social entrepreneurs, cultural entrepreneurs, institutional entrepreneurs, ecopreneurs and sustainable entrepreneurs have emerged and have demonstrated their innovative capabilities augmenting well-being of the society. Entrepreneurs undertake innovations, and with the division of labour, specialization and team building, enhance productivity. They are creating and sustaining social values, consistently pursuing new opportunities, adapting, learning and taking risks in activities and in the process promoting the ultimate well-being of a society. At times when the policymakers are busy in finding solutions to the many socio-economic problems (poverty, violence, climate change, health, socio-economic inequality etc.), these entrepreneurs are coming up with many innovative skills such as critical thinking and problem solving, nurturing collaboration across networks and leading by influence, agility and adaptability, effective communication (oral and written), accessing and analyzing information, along with curiosity and imagination with a view to promote societal well-being. The development of these diverse kinds of entrepreneurs is associated with the institutionalization of learning processes promoting an entrepreneurial culture. There is a requirement of redesigning of problem-solving step-by-step; monitoring and evaluating intermediate outcomes and constant learning, feedback and adjustment mechanism.

The interaction between culture and organizations are many. For example, microfinance is the most notable social innovation in the last century with more than 200 million borrowers, even though there is a highly skewed concentration in South Asia with more than 80% of microfinance clients while poor people are found equally in Africa. This may be because microfinance succeeds in cultures where repayment is the norm and has difficulty in cultures of non-repayment. For example, in a non-repayment culture, borrowers perceive loans as a gift if it comes from the wealthy or from the States or NGOs that have forgiven loan repayments in the past. At the same time, even in countries where regulation and cultures seem similar, such as the West African Economic and Monetary Union where the microfinance legislation is the same, microfinance has not spread evenly. This uneven spread may be because of different poverty levels, differences in economic growth, differences in remittances, differences in life expectancy, as well as differences in public governance indicators. Therefore, the culture of the country may influence the strategy and performance of microfinance institutions. Organizational culture also influences loan repayment and growth and since the late 1990s, we have witnessed a large number of NGOs/MFIs started transforming themselves into for-profit organizations with financial sustainability a key goal.

Social entrepreneurs create a positive influence on the overall social and economic framework and play an important role in promoting the well-being of a country. They are mission-driven individuals aiming for the long-term social benefit and persistently adapting to the social and market needs. To promote social innovation and social entrepreneurial work, which is at the heart of this process, it is necessary to institutionalize the dissemination of information such as best practice and mentoring schemes. This is facilitated by cultures which foster sharing and learning and which document the evidence of the past. For the very success of entrepreneurial innovations, it is necessary that the social entrepreneurs and policy-makers should learn from the failures of past experiments. Indeed, microfinance has gradually been taken over by the market mechanism and its impact on resolving poverty and well-being is unclear. It is growing tremendously without demonstrating the income growth of the poor, thus evidently increasing inequalities in the developing world. Obviously, social entrepreneurs need to learn from the microfinance experiment and try something different. Indeed, doing nothing does not help and learning from past experiments is the way to progress and even spiritual discrimination, so essential for well-being.
The conference deliberations are open for academicians, researchers and policymakers with a view to developing new strategies on the various aspects of cultures of learning and experimentation and promoting wellbeing in developing countries and evolve strategies for the cobweb of many socio-economic problems. *The conference is particularly interested in theoretical papers on Theories of Learning, Theories of Experimentation, Theories of Cultural Change and the interaction of these three domains.*

**Examples of papers that could be interesting are**

- Culture of learning and experimentation and wellbeing;
- How to change the culture of a country or of an organization?
- How to adopt the culture of learning and experimentation?
- How the culture of learning from experience impacts microfinance sector.
- Can social entrepreneurs change the culture of a people by making such a culture desirable?
- Lessons from experimentation in different sectors such as agricultural finance, disaster finance, micro-finance etc.
- Social entrepreneurship and well being
- Culture, Microfinance and religion
- Cultural connections and social entrepreneurship
- Culture of learning and experimentation and social innovation

Do social entrepreneurs need to learn from the microfinance sector?  
**For further details:** [https://www.researchgate.net/publication/321913378_Fostering_Well_being_through_Cultural_Change_Lessons_from_Microfinance_for_Social_Entrepreneurs](https://www.researchgate.net/publication/321913378_Fostering_Well_being_through_Cultural_Change_Lessons_from_Microfinance_for_Social_Entrepreneurs)  
**Note:** The above examples are indicative; the participants can submit their papers on any aspect relating to the theme of the conference.

**SUBMISSION OF MANUSCRIPT:** Research Papers up to 5000 words (including bibliography) in word format in APA style may be sent to *ecobpsmv2018@gmail.com*. The manuscript for deliberations shall be selected by the scientific committee /Technical Committee. The conference aims to publish the conference proceedings in the form of two edited books with ISBN. One book published by a reputed International publisher (having branches abroad) will be released on the day of the conference. Whereas, the second book comprising of some high-quality theoretical papers will also be published by March/April 2019 after incorporating reviews/comments (second stage) from the editors (Prof. Asha & Prof. Mor) and from the scientific committee. International publishers (Sage, Springer, Wiley) are being contacted. The publication schedule is as under:

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Publication</th>
<th>Book I / Proceedings (20 papers)</th>
<th>Book II (10-12 papers)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Abstract deadline</td>
<td>5th November, 2018</td>
<td>5th November, 2018</td>
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<tr>
<td>Acceptance of abstract</td>
<td>12th November, 2018</td>
<td>12th November, 2018</td>
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<tr>
<td>Full paper</td>
<td>25th November, 2018</td>
<td>25th November (1st draft)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Acceptance of Full paper</td>
<td>30th November, 2018</td>
<td>5th December, 2018</td>
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<td><strong>Registration Fee</strong></td>
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<td>5th December, 2018</td>
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<td>5th December, 2018</td>
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<td>Paper presentation</td>
<td>17th December, 2018</td>
<td>7th December, 2018</td>
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<td>Book release</td>
<td>17th December, 2018</td>
<td>15th January 2019 (2nd Draft)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Full Paper</td>
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<td>31st January, 2019</td>
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<tr>
<td>Reviews/Comments</td>
<td></td>
<td>28th February, 2019 (Final)</td>
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<td>Revised paper</td>
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<td>April 2019</td>
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**REGISTRATION:** The Registration fee (per author) covers the cost of conference kit, publication fee and lunch & refreshments and is non-refundable. On acceptance of their papers, the participants are requested to send the duly filled registration form along with the requisite fee as detailed below:

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Indian &amp; SAARC Participants</th>
<th>Academicians (₹ 3000*)</th>
<th>Others (₹ 5000*) Foreign</th>
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<tr>
<td>Participants/Academicians</td>
<td>(US $ 100*)</td>
<td>Others (US $ 150*)</td>
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* Including GST.
MODE OF PAYMENT: Registration fee can be deposited or electronically transferred to Registrar, BPSMahila Vishwavidyalaya, A/C No. 01911450000269 HDFC BANK (SWIFT CODE HDFCINBB, IFS CODE HDFC0000191). The participants are requested to send the scanned copy of the receipt of the same along with the registration form.

BURGUNDY SCHOOL OF BUSINESS: Burgundy School of Business focusses on Entrepreneurial Management for Business and Society. The School's mission is to provide current and future managers with high quality education supported by research activities, and to contribute to the development of the region's economy. It has campuses in Dijon, Lyon, Paris and Beaune. Founded in 1899, Burgundy School of Business-BSB belongs to the top 1% of business schools in the world to have received double AACSB and EQUIS accreditation. BSB also offers particular expertise in areas relating to French excellence, namely wine management via its internationally-reputed School of Wine & Spirits Business, and also arts and cultural management, for students seeking to transform a personal interest into their future career.

BHAGAT PHOOL SINGH MAHILA VISHWAVIDYALAYA (BPSMV): Established in 2006, Bhagat Phool Singh Mahila Vishwavidyalaya is the first State Women University in North India providing education from KG to PhD level, and has earned the place of 'University with a Difference' in the arena of Higher Education in the Rural Heart of India. The campus of the Bhagat Phool Singh Mahila Vishwavidyalaya is spread over lush green, pollution free 200 Hectares of Land and 5500 girl students are presently on its roll. The university is well connected with the road and rail transport as it is just 90 kms from New Delhi.

DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMICS BPSMV: Established in 2009, the Department endeavours to impart specialised knowledge in the field of Economics to create a class of skilled professional and intellectuals to cope with the challenges in the era of globalisation. The Department achieved a milestone in short span of time by organising two International Conferences in association with BanquePopulaire Chair in Microfinance of the Burgundy School of Business, France in 2013 and 2015 in which more than 250 participants from 12 countries deliberated. The Department has also organised a National Seminar in 2015 as well as in the year 2018 on Indian Economic Issues. In addition to these, international and national conferences, two workshop—has also been organised in 2013 and 2018 respectively.

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