

Report on One Day Round Table Discussion on "Sustainability, Tourism & Local Livelihood"

On May 31st, 2024, the University of Ladakh, in collaboration with Columbia University and the University of Colorado Boulder, hosted a one-day round table discussion on "Sustainability, Tourism & Local Livelihood." The event aimed to bring together academics, policymakers, local stakeholders, and students to explore the interplay between tourism development and sustainable local livelihoods in the Ladakh region.

The primary objectives of the discussion were to understand the impact of tourism on the local economy, society and environment and to identify sustainable tourism practices that can be implemented in Himalayan regions. It also aims to explore strategies for enhancing local livelihoods through sustainable tourism.

The round table discussion featured a diverse group of participants, including the Faculty and researchers from the University of Ladakh, Columbia University, and the University of Colorado Boulder.

Some of the Key Discussions were:

The Impact of Tourism on Local Economy and Environment. Tourism has significantly boosted the local economy by creating jobs and increasing income for local businesses. The rapid growth in tourism has led to environmental degradation, including waste management issues, water scarcity, and loss of biodiversity.

The connection of climate change and grazing pattern and the climate change and coping strategy for it along with the effect of caterpillar fungus based livelihood practices and climate change in Himalayan region.

Mr. Chris Jack a USA based rancher expressed his experiences views about sheep herding and challenges he is facing in his farm in USA. He advocated the adoption of rotational use of farm land for grazing to minimize the impacts of cattle on ecosystem.

The sessions were followed by question answer session including climate change, resolving of tourism impacts, grazing and climate change, livelihood and climate change, sustainable tourism practices in Ladakh, future research domain in Ladakh to develop a sustainable and community centric livelihood practices.

The one-day round table discussion on "Sustainability, Tourism & Local Livelihood" was a significant step towards fostering sustainable tourism in the Himalayan Region. The collaboration between the University of Ladakh, Columbia University, and the University of Colorado Boulder highlighted the importance of academic partnerships in addressing global challenges. By implementing the recommendations from this discussion, Ladakh can work towards a more sustainable tourism model that benefits both the environment and the local communities.



