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### **MIND Scholarship 2020/2021**

**We are delighted to welcome our new batch of MIND scholars!**

We thank everyone who applied and participated in the interview process via Zoom despite numerous challenges during this COVID times. Lack of accesses to internet, cost of it and having to attend during their employments are just a few such challenges.

- Hashini Gayanga Wijesekera – U of Colombo -Arts
- Manesha Bernadette Fernando- SJPU -Applied Science
- Malsha Nadeetharu -U of Moratuwa – Architecture
- Amanda Sheron Gamage – U of Moratuwa- Engineering
- Chinthaka Jayatilake – U of Moratuwa - Information Technology
- Thisarani Jayasundara -U of Colombo – Economics
- Sajani Suwanka Senadheera - U of Moratuwa -Architecture
- Rasudula Saheli Dissanayake U of Colombo, Arts
- Jathurshan Pradeepkumar - U of Moratuwa, Biomedical engineering

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### **Latest MIND Research**

in

[International Journal of Sustainable Development \(IJSJ\), Vol. 23, No. 1/2, 2020](#)

Professor Mohan Munasinghe's paper examines our sustainable development framework in the context of COVID; how we have benefited, suffered and the changes that need to take place. The pandemic has proved to be a much-needed wake-up call, as we near the critical point of no return.

Using COVID-19 as a real-world test, the paper looks at the effects of the pandemic on global sustainability and derives 7 important policy relevant lessons, shining light onto more complexed global issues that we neglect. If we continue to follow this unsustainable path, one can only hope for another 'do-over.' The rapidly spreading virus urges us to return to sustainable practices as we strive to reach our Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) in 2030.

How do we achieve this? The paper unfolds a transformative Balanced Inclusive Green Growth (BIGG) system which attempts to reverse the unhealthy relationship between ecological and socio-economic systems. It has become clear that greening the economy (Green Growth) alone will not ensure sustainability, and the adverse effects of the COVID-19 virus have brought this major issue into the spotlight. Worsening social issues like poverty, poor governance, injustice and inequality continue to hold us back. This is where BIGG comes into play. It is an important concept in this article, and is portrayed as the sturdy, most sensible and sustainable way forward. BIGG aims to reduce the threatening social issues holding us back, and concurrently enforce steady economic growth and environmental stability.

The importance of social capital is emphasized in this paper, for it is something we can all work on. "Harmonizing oneself is a critical prerequisite to harmonizing the planet," as stated by Professor Munasinghe. If we can learn and adapt to a more sustainable lifestyle, we are working towards a more robust and healthy future, for ourselves and others.

(Summary by Chetan Abhayaratne)

You can read the full article at  
[https://www.researchgate.net/publication/347732245\\_COVID-19\\_and\\_sustainable\\_development](https://www.researchgate.net/publication/347732245_COVID-19_and_sustainable_development)

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### **New Intern at MIND**

We are pleased to introduce Chetan Abhayaratne to MIND family, who is carrying out a 3-month



internship. Chetan is an Economics undergraduate studying at McMaster University in Canada.

“The world of environmental protection and policy is a keen interest of mine, and I am focused on pursuing a higher understanding of Environmental Economics and Sustainable Development to go along with my university degree. I am excited for the opportunity to learn and develop my skills, as well as contribute to the meaningful work here at MIND Lanka!”



### New Publications

MIND is working on a children's story book to convey the message of resource protection to our young generation.

To create this book, we are collaborating with -  
Ministry of Education  
SOAS University, London  
Kiribath Publishers  
Blue-Ocean Resources Sri Lanka

The story is based on our previous research on ecosystem services and local livelihoods in Kalpitiya.

Looking forward to sharing it with our MIND family soon!

### Connect with us



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