

## **Ecologists' Experiences on 'Work from Home' during the COVID-19 Pandemic**

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**ABSTRACT** This paper's primary objective was to investigate the experiences of ecologists in an Indian research institute regarding Work from Home (WFH) during the first wave of the COVID-19 pandemic. Purposive and volunteer sampling of 52 respondents of different age groups (21-30, 31-40, 41-50, 51-60 years) and professional positions (research fellows, research scholars, research associates) was conducted. The study revealed that young ecologists perceived a steady decline in productivity and working hours during WFH. Furthermore, there was no significant relationship between the perceived increase in working hours and the perceived increase in productivity while working from home. Ecologists are usually recognised as scientific workers in outdoor fields and this paper analysed their work-life experiences when their fields got restricted to indoors. Providing a new perspective on human's collective interaction with their job environment, this paper is metaphoric to an intermediate progress report preparing the world for future virtual working scenarios.