

12TH INDIAN SOCIAL WORK CONFERENCE 2024

24-26 OCTOBER 2024



Bridging Gaps, Building Bridges

WOMEN EMPOWERMENT AND WELBEING : SOCIAL WORK RESPONSE

BOOK OF ABSTRACTS

JOINTLY ORGANIZED BY

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION
OF PROFESSIONAL SOCIAL
WORKERS IN INDIA
(NAPSWI)



&

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL
WORK, BHAGAT PHOOL
SHINGH MAHILA
VISHVAVIDYALAYA,
KHANPUR KALAN,
SONIPAT, HARYANA
(INDIA)



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12th Indian Social Work Conference-2024

**Department of Social Work, BPS Mahila Vishwavidyalaya
(BPSMV)**

Khanpur Kalan (Sonipat)

&

**National Association of Professional Social Workers in India
(NAPSWI)**

24th to 26th October 2024

PRE-CONFERENCE EVENTS

23rd October 2024

11:00 AM - 1:00 PM 23 Oct. 2024 Workshop I: Venue Room no. 216, Second Floor, Teaching Block, 1	Workshop I: Drawing Parallels Between Medical Family Therapy and Social Case work: Gendered Reflection by Dr. Vasundhara S Nair, OP Jindal University and Dr. Bhubneshwari B, Christ University Bengaluru
Workshop II: Venue IQAC Conference Hall, Ground Floor, Teaching Block, 1	Workshop II: Understanding the Impact of domestic Violence in India: Factors, Consequences and Interventions and preventions by Dr. Saswati Chakraborti, IHBAS, Delhi, and Dr. Shashi Rani, Associate Professor, DSSW, University of Delhi, Delhi

DAY 1: 24th October 2024

9:00 AM to 10:30 AM	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Registration• Socialisation• Exchange of Information
Workshop III: Venue Multipurpose Hall, Teaching Block 1	Workshop III: From Object to Capital: A Road Map for Sustainable Empowerment and Well Being of Women by Prof Punita Gupta, Aditi Mahavidyalaya, University of Delhi

Workshop IV: Venue IQAC Conference Hall, Ground Floor, Teaching Block 1	Workshop IV: Building Evidence in Social work: Understanding and Using RCTs by Dr. Anish KR, Rajgiri College of Social Work, Rajgiri, Kerala
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Inaugural Session	
11:00 AM to 1:00 PM Multipurpose Hall, Teaching Block 1 BPSMV	Screening of Documentary on BPS Mahila Vishwavidyalaya
	Prof. Sudesh Vice Chancellor, BPSMV, Khanpur Kalan, Sonapat
	Dr. Sharan Jeet Kaur Chairperson, Rehabilitation Council of India (RCI), New Delhi
	Prof. Ravi Bhushan, Faculty of Social Sciences BPSMV, Khanpur Kalan, Sonapat
	Prof. RP Dwivedi President, NAPSWI
	Prof. Neelam Sukhramani, Social Work Department, Jamia Milia Islamia, New Delhi
	Dr. Manju Panwar Chairperson, Department of Social Work, BPSMV and Conference Organising Secretary
	NAPSWI Life Time Achievement Awards
1.00 PM to 2 PM - LUNCH	
Plenary session I	Chairperson: Prof. Anoop Kumar Bhartiya, Chairperson, Department of Social Work, Lucknow University
2:00 PM to 4:00 PM	Ms. Lakshmi Menon, Life Coach & Well-being Expert, New Delhi
	Ms. Medha Gandhi, Health Expert, New Delhi
	Prof. Amba Das Mohite, MASWE President, Amravati
	Dr. O.P. Giri, MSSO, Chandigarh
	Ms. Manju Bala Joshi Secretary, CECOEDECON, Jaipur
4.00 PM to 4.30 PM - TEA BREAK	

4:30 PM to 6:00 PM	Parallel Session I: Chairperson: Mr. Uday Shankar Singh, CEO, Vishwa Yuvak Kendra, New Delhi Co- Chairperson: Ms. Laxmi Menon, Life Coach & Well-being Expert, New Delhi
	Parallel Session II: Chairperson: Prof Ashvini Kumar Singh, Department of Social Work, Jamia Milia Islamia, New Delhi Co- Chairperson: Ms. Medha Gandhi, Health Expert, New Delhi
	Parallel Session III: Chairperson: Prof K R Anees, Rajgiri College of Social Work, Rajgiri, Kerala Co- Chairperson: Dr. Omprakash Giri, Psychiatrist Social Worker, Drug De-addiction Centre, PGIMER, Chandigarh
	Parallel Session IV: Chairperson: Prof Nimisha Gupta, Department of Social Work, MG Kashi Vidyapeeth, Varanasi Co- Chairperson: Dr. Sushma, IBHAS, Associate Professor, IBHAS, Delhi
6:00 PM to 6:30 PM	Screening of a Movie on Women Empowerment
6:30 PM to 7:30 PM	Cultural Programme by Students
7.30 PM onwards - Dinner	

DAY 2: 25th October 2024

9:00 AM to 10:30 AM Workshop V: Venue IQAC Conference Hall, Ground Floor, Teaching Block 1	Workshop V: Creating Safe Spaces: Barriers, Solutions and Role of Social workers by Divya Vaishnav, Director, <i>Bachche- Unki Duniya</i> (BUD) Foundation, Gurugram
Workshop VI: Venue Multipurpose Hall, Ground Floor, Teaching Block 1	Workshop VI: Use of Artificial Intelligence in Social Work: The Role of Technology in Social Work Problems by Prof U S Pandey, School of Open Learning, University of Delhi
10.30 A M to 11.00 AM - TEA BREAK	
11:00 AM to 12:30 PM	Plenary Session II
	Chairperson: Prof. Suresh Pathare, Director, Center for Studies in Rural Development, Ahmednagar

	Prof. Aarthi Jagannathan NIMHANS, Bangalore
	Ms. Sipra Deo Global Gender and Land Advisor, Landesa, Seattle
	Mohammed Asif Executive Director, PLAN International (India), New Delhi
	Prof. N Janardhan NIMHANS, Bangalore
	Mr. Suneel Vatsayanan NAPSWI-NADA India Healthy Project, Gurugram
	Ishita Singh Rajput, Senior Correspondent, Hindustan Times, Delhi
12.30 PM to 1:30 PM	Parallel Session V: Chairperson: Prof. Suresh Pathare, Director, Center for Studies in Rural Development, Ahmednagar Co-Chairperson: Ms. Sipra Deo, Global Gender and Land Advisor Landesa, Seattle
	Parallel Session VI: Chairperson: Prof. Mohammed Asif, Executive Director, PLAN International (India), New Delhi Co- Chairperson: Mr. Suneel Vatsayanan, NADA India Foundation, New Delhi
	Parallel Session VII: Chairperson: Dr. Aarthi Jagannathan, Professor, Department of Psychiatric Social Work NIMHANS, Bengaluru, Co-Chairperson: Dr. Rambabu, Assistant Professor, Department of Social Work, RGNIYD, Tamil Nadu
	Parallel Session VIII Chairperson: Dr. N Janardhan, Professor Department of Psychiatric Social Work, NIMHANS Bengaluru Co-Chairperson: Dr. Divya Vaishnava, Director, BUD Foundation (<i>Bachche- Unki Duniya</i>), Gurugram
1.30 to 2.30 PM - LUNCH	
2:30 PM to 4:00 PM	Parallel Session IX Chairperson: Prof. US Pandey, School of Open learning, Delhi University, Delhi Co-Chairperson: Dr. Saswati Chakraborti, IHBAS, Delhi

	<p>Parallel Session X Chairperson: Dr. Vani Narula, Professor, Department of Social Work, Jamia Milia Islamia, Delhi Co-Chairperson: Dr. Payal Chamatkar, Assistant Professor, Assistant Professor, MSSISW, Nagpur, Maharashtra</p>
	<p>Parallel Session XI Chairperson: Dr. Sanjay Onkar Ingole, Assistant Professor, Department of Social Work, Jamia Milia Islamia, Delhi Co-Chairperson: Dr. Vasundharaa S Nair, Assistant Professor, OP Jindal University, Sonapat</p>
	<p>Parallel Session XII Chairperson: Dr. Yangchan Dolma, Assistant Professor, Department of Social Work, Eliezer Joldan Memorial College, Leh Co-Chairperson: Dr. Rahul Kapoor, Assistant Professor, Department of Social Work, Gautam Buddha University, Greater Noida</p>
4.00 PM to 4.20 PM - TEA BREAK	
4:30 PM to 6:00 PM	<p>Parallel Session XIII Chairperson: Dr. Subhashree Sanyal, Assistant Professor, Department of Social Work, Vishva- Bharti Shanti Niketan, West Bengal Co- Chairperson: Dr. Balinder Singh, Assistant Professor, Department of Social Work, Kurukshetra University, Kurukshetra</p>
	<p>Parallel Session XIV Chairperson: Dr. Anoop Kumar Bhartiya, Professor, Department of Social Work, Lucknow University Co-Chairperson: Dr. M. Maria Antony, Assistant Professor and Head, Kalasalingam Academy of Research and Education, Virudhunagar, Tamil Nadu</p>
	<p>Parallel Session XV Chairperson: Dr. Jaimon Varghese, Assistant Professor, CSRD Institute of Social Work and Research, Maharashtra Co-Chairperson: Dr. Saima Farhad, Assistant Professor, Department of Social Work, University of Kashmir, Srinagar</p>
	<p>Parallel Session XVI</p>

	Chairperson: Asutosh Pradhan, Professor and Chairperson, Department of Social Work, Central University of Himachal Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh Co-Chairperson: Dr. Vijay Sansare, Assistant Professor, CSRD, Institute of Social Work and Research, Maharashtra
6:30 PM to 7:30 PM	NAPSWI GB Meeting

DAY 3 - 26th October 2024

09:30 AM to 11:00 AM	Parallel Session XVII Chairperson: Dr. Arvind, Director General, VV Giri National Labour Institute, Noida Co- Chairperson: Dr. Vishal Mishra, Assistant Professor, Department of Social Work, RGNIYD, Tamil Nadu
	Parallel Session XVIII Chairperson: Dr Ushvinder Kaur Popli, Professor, Department of Social Work, Jamia Milia Islamia, Delhi Co -Chairperson: Dr Anju Bajpai, Director, Utthan Institute of Development & Studies, Yamunanagar, Haryana
	Parallel Session XIX Chairperson: Dr. Manoj Jha, Professor, Delhi School of Social Work, and Member, Rajya Sabha Co- Chairperson: Dr. Anupam Kumar, Assistant Professor, Mahatma Gandhi Central University, Bihar
	Parallel Session XX Chairperson: Dr. Subhasis Bhadra, Professor, Department of Psychosocial Support in Disaster Management, NIMHANS, Bengaluru Co- Chairperson: Keshav Yalke, Professor, MSS Institute of Social Work, Maharashtra
11.00 AM to 11.30 AM - TEA BREAK	
11:30 AM to 1:00 PM	Plenary Session: Dr. Asutosh Pradhan, Professor and Chairperson, Department of Social Work, Central University of Himachal Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh

	Dr. Arvind, Director, V V Giri, National Labour Institute, NOIDA, UP
	Dr. Anju Bajpai, Director, Utthan, Yamuna Nagar, Haryana
	Mr. Uday Pratap Singh, Director, Vishwa Yuvak Kendra, New Delhi
	Prof. Manoj Jha, Professor, Delhi School of Social Work, and Member, Rajya Sabha
	Prof. Ushvinder Kaur Popli, Department of Social Work, Jamia Milia Islamia, Delhi
1.00 PM to 2 PM - LUNCH	
Valedictory Session	
2.00 PM to 3.30 PM Multipurpose Hall, Teaching Block 1, BPSMV	Prof. Sudesh Vice Chancellor, BPSMV, Sonipat
	Prof. Supriya Pattanayak VC, Centurion University of Technology & Management, Odisha
	Prof. Ankur Saxena Secretary (NAPSWI) MS University, Baroda
	Prof. V. Uma, Vice Chancellor, Sri Padmavati Mahila Visvavidyalayam, Tamilnadu
	Dr. Rajesh Tandon Founder-President, PRIA; Co-Chair, UNESCO Chair in Community Based Research and Social Responsibility in Higher Education
	Dr. Manju Panwar Chairperson, Department of Social Work, BPSMV and Conference Organising Secretary
	Dr. Deepali Mathur Associate Professor, Department of Social Work, and Conference Joint Organizing Secretary BPSMV, Khanpur Kalan, Sonapat

Farewell Photo

**We will meet at Department of Social Work, CU, Bhubaneswar to participate in 13th
ISWC 2025**



Technical Session Schedule - ISWC 2024		
Day 1 - 24th Oct, Timing- 4.30 to 6.00 PM		
Parallel Session 1		
Chairperson - Prof. P K Bajpai, Former Principal, Maharaja Agrasen College, Yamuna Nagar, Haryana		
Co-Chairperson - Ms. Lakshmi Menon, Life Coach & Well-being Expert, New Delhi		
Student Coordinator - Arti (Research Scholar), (Email: artidahiya97647@gmail.com)		
Venue: Room No. 216, Second Floor Teaching Block-1		
S.No	Topic	Name
1	ASSESSMENT OF SEXUAL VIOLENCE AGAINST GIRLS AND YOUNG WOMEN WITH DISABILITIES IN SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA	HALIDU IMURANA
2	Governance, Personally Types, Abuse and Trauma: Reassessing Relationship in Social Work Practice	Madhu Choudhary Bhatt, Dr. Rita Goel
3	Psychological impacts of Domestic violence on wives of Alcoholics in Chennai City"	Dr.K.Emmanuel
4	Trials and Tribulations: The Predicament of Homeless Women in India	Sanidhya Sanatan
5	A Comprehensive Survey of the Bora Community in Sukhna Village	Akshita verma
6	Status of women in present scenarios in India	Harshita Tanwar
7	Balancing between Empowerment and Subjugation: A study on Social and Political Experiences of Muslim Women	Zeba Malik
8	CHALLENGES FACED BY MOTHERS OF CHILDREN WITH LEARNING DISABILITY".	VIRAJ AMBADAS MOHITE
9	Economic well- being of Women: The key to Overall Wellbeing	Dr Ritu Mittal Gupta
Day 1 - 24th Oct, Timing- 4.30 to 6.00 PM		
Parallel Session 2		
Chairperson - Prof Ashvini Kumar Singh, Department of Social Work, Jamia Milia Islamia, New Delhi		
Co-Chairperson - Ms. Medha Gandhi, Health Expert, New Delhi		
Student Coordinator - Preeti (Research Scholar), (Email: preetidabas89@gmail.com)		

Venue: Room No: 214, Second Floor, Teaching Block-1		
S.No	Topic	Name
1	Transformation of Women from Vulnerability to Resilience during Flood Disasters: A Case Study of Silchar City, Assam	Aditi Nath
2	A Practice of Bride-Buying in Haryana: A Social Work Intervention.	Preeti Dabas
3	Facing challenges and issues by Single Women in Ahmednagar City, Maharashtra	Parvin Yunus Shaikh
4	Challenges to Human Rights: An insight and Perspective on Domestic Violence	Dr. Suresh K. Mugutmal
5	Bridging the women in Margins	PRAVEEN RAJ K.S
6	STRATEGIC APPROACHES IN ENHANCING WOMEN EMPOWERMENT THROUGH DIGITALISING SELF-HELP GROUPS: A SWOT ANALYSIS PERSPECTIVE.	Dr.R.Arjunan
7	A Study of Social Status of Korku Women in Semadoh Village of Chikhaldara block	Ayush Ganeshrao Shete
Day 1- 24th Oct, Timing- 4.30 to 6.00 PM		
Parallel Session 3		
Chairperson - Chairperson Dr Anish K R, Rajgiri College of Social Work, Rajgiri, Kerala		
Co-Chairperson - Dr. O.P. Giri, Psychiatrist Social Worker, Drug De-addiction Centre, PGIMER, Chandigarh		
Student Coordinator - Anita (Research Scholar) (Email: anita7stars@gmail.com)		
Venue: Room No: 204, Second Floor, Teaching Block -1		
S.N	Topic	Name
1	Role of self help groups in women empowerment.	Sanjay KFulkar
2	Bridging the women in Margins	PRAVEEN RAJ K.S
3	Trajectory of Women Empowerment in India – Envisioning Collective Contours	DR. SANJAY ONKAR INGOLE
4	A Comparative Study on the Impact of Kudumbashree and Mahimala Mandals in Political Empowerment of Women	Lalu P Joy
5	Female labour force participation, Gender Equality and Women Empowerment.	Vidhi Jain
6	Women Empowerment and Wellbeing - social work response	Vani Narula
7	प्रधानमंत्री आवास योजना ग्रामीण योजनेच्या लाभार्थ्यांच्या मताचे अध्ययन	Kalpesh Samadhan Mali
Day 1- 24th Oct, Timing:4.30 PM to 6 PM		
Parallel Session 4		
Chairperson -Prof Nimisha Gupta, Department of Social Work, MG Kashi Vidyapeeth, Varanasi		

	Co-Chairperson - Dr. Sushma, IBHAS, Associate Professor, IBHAS, Delhi	
	Student Coordinator - Renu (Research Scholar), (Email: chahalrenu61@gmail.com)	
	Venue: IQAC Conference Hall, Ground Floor, Teaching Block -1	
S.No	Topic	Name
1	Women and spirituality: A social work perspective	Shishpal, Priti
2	Awareness and Emotional Repercussions of Postpartum Depression: A Study on Women's Health	Dr. M. Maria Antony Raj
3	To study the mental health issues faced by women in agricultural farmworkers	Rushikesh Sunil Mankar
4	A study on the mental health problems of rubber cultivators with the special reference to kayyurcheemenigrampanchayat	Rosna Joseph
5	Social Construction of Emotional Labour and Nursing: An Exploratory Study on Nurses based on Compassion, Emotional Labour, Coping and Reflection	Shivangi Trivedi
6	A Study of Social and Economic Problems of Single Female Parents.	Suraj AjayraoShivankar
7	Health and Reproductive Challenges Faced by Female Sugarcane Cutters: A Case Study of Hysterectomies in Maharashtra	Dr. Pradeep Jare
8	Exploring the Quality of Life of Women with Spinal Cord Injury: A Comprehensive Review and Pathways to Empowerment	Jalaj Nagar
9	Application of Gender Sensitive Approaches Towards Psychosocial Rehabilitation of Persons with Mental Health Issues: Challenges and Gaps	Dr.SUSHMA KUMARI
	Day - 2 - 25th Oct, Timing- 12.30 PM to 1.30 PM	
	Parallel Session - 5	
	Chairperson - Prof. Suresh Pathare, Director, Centre for Studies in Rural Development, Ahmednagar	
	Co-Chairperson - Ms. Sipra Deo, Global Gender and Land Advisor, Landesa, Seattle	
	Student Coordinator - Ms. Sanju, MSW Student(Email: kadiansanju0@gmail.com)	
	Venue: Room No: 216, Second Floor, Teaching Block- 1	
S.No	Topic	Name
1	Education: Closing the doors of inequality for women	Abhishek Mehra
2	A study on Quality of life and stress work life among women Employee in Hospitals	Sandhya Kumari
3	Addressing anaemia in women and children:A study on intervention strategies in Gujarat, India	Divya Sharma

4	A study of Socio-Economic status and challenges of Female Domestic Household Workers of Lucknow City	Shadab Khan
5	Women in Unorganised Sector: A study of Street Vendors at Leh City in Ladakh	Dr. Yangchan Dolma
6	Muslim Women in Higher Education: A study of the challenges and aspirations	MOHD ZAID ALI
7	Educational Aspirations and Barriers for Young Women in Rural India: A Secondary Data Analysis.	AZAM NAWAZ
8	Breaking Barriers: The Evolution and Future of Gender Equality.	Dr. Vidushi Srivastava
Day 2- 25th Oct, Timing- 12.30 PM to 1.30 PM		
Parallel Session 6		
Chairperson - Prof Mohammed Asif, Executive Director, PLAN International (India), New Delhi		
Co-Chairperson - Mr. Suneel Vatsayanan, NADA India Foundation, New Delhi		
Student Coordinator - Anita (Email: anita7stars@gmail.com)		
Venu: Room No. 214, Second Floor, Teaching Block- 1		
S.No	Topic	Name
1	A Study of Jurists' Opinion on the Role of Article 14 of the Constitution of India in Women's Development.	Jitesh Sanjay Kambale
2	Menstrual Leave for Women: A Most Awaited Policy in India	Prakanshi
3	Marginalised Women and sustainable urban livelihood-Social Work and Legal Perspectives	Dr.J.Renee Arathi
4	Working women protection Act in working place in India	LAXMIKANT CHOPKAR
5	Punishment in Rape	Arthya
6	Role of New Education Policy in Problem Solving of Education of juvenile Delinquents (As a perspective of Mirzapur District)	Chandra Shekhar Singh
7	EMPOWERING CHANGE AND SHAPING FUTURES: GENDER SENSITIVITY AND COMBATING VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN	Dr.J.M.Arul Kamaraj
8	युवा महिलाओं की सुरक्षा से संबंधित अधिनियम की जानकारी के स्तर का अध्ययन	Saurabh Giri
Day 2- 25th October, Timing- 12.30 PM to 1.30 PM		
Parallel Session 7		
Chairperson - Dr. Aarthi Jagannathan, Professor, Department of Psychiatric Social Work, NIMHANS, Bengaluru		

	Co-Chairperson - Dr. Rambabu, Assistant Professor, Department of Social Work, RGNIYD, Tamil Nadu	
	Student Coordinator - Renu (Research Scholar), (Email: chahalrenu61@gmail.com)	
Venue: IQAC Conference Hall, Ground Floor, Teaching Block - 1		
S.No	Topic	Name
1	Psycho-social Impact of Divorce on Women in India	Radharani Jena
2	Issues related to wellbeing of women	Himanshi Chauhan
3	Left Behind and Lonely: The Gendered Psychosocial Well-being of Elderly Parents in Lucknow City	MOHD SHOAB IRFAN
4	THE CRUCIAL TRIO FOR ADOLESCENT GIRLS HAPPINESS: MENTAL HEALTH, STRESS AND SOCIAL SUPPORT	Loyola Aumose
5	Problem faced by Adolescent girls in observation home	Sakshi Subhash Bhange
6	Impact of Divorce on Well-being of Women and Children	Mayurika Chauhan
7	Social Protection and Women Workers: A comparative study of Women in Organised and Unorganised Sectors in India	Prashant Binny
8	Women Entrepreneurs with Disabilities in India: Challenges in the Process of Empowerment	Renu, Dr. Deepali Mathur
Day 2- 25th October, Timing: 12.30 PM to 1.30 PM		
Parallel Session 8		
	Chairperson - : Dr. N Janardhan, Professor Department of Psychiatric Social Work, NIMHANS Bengaluru	
	Co-Chairperson -Dr. Divya Vaishnava, Director, BUD Foundation (Bacheche- Unki Duniya), Gurugram	
	Student Coordinator - Kavita (Research Scholar), (Email: kavitasona7@gmail.com)	
Venue: Room No. 204, Second Floor, Teaching Block – 1		
S.No	Topic	Name
1	URBAN FEMALE DOMESTIC WORKERS LIVELIHOOD EXPERIENCES & CHALLENGES: A CASE STUDY ON SLUM AREAS OF DELHI.	Tanaya Sarma

2	A Study on Working Women and their Work Life Balance: Some Reflections	VISHWADEEP SINGH
3	Digital Empowerment or Disempowerment: Exploring the Impact of Technology on Roles of Women in Parenting in India	Aynee Arif
4	Empowering refugee women through entrepreneurship	CHETAN KUMAR
5	Work-Life Balance among Policewomen in Delhi	Bharti Singh
6	The Impact of Old Age Pension on the Empowerment and Well-being of Elderly Women: A Critical Evaluation	Kavita
7	Psychiatric Social Work Assessment and Intervention in Women with Schizophrenia: Addressing Psychosocial Determinants and Facilitating Rehabilitation and Recovery	Dr. Arif Ali
8	Intersectionality and Marginalization: Understanding the Daily Life and Resilience Among Women in Old Delhi's Urban Shelters	Faiqa Saleem
Day 2- 25th October, Timing: 2.30 PM to 4.00 PM		
Parallel Session 9		
Chairperson - Prof U S Pandey, School of Open learning, Delhi University, Delhi		
Co-Chairperson - Dr. Saswati Chakraborti, IHBAS, Delhi		
Student Coordinator - Anita (Research Scholar) (Email: anita7stars@gmail.com)		
Venue: Room No. 204, Second Floor, Teaching Block - 1		
S.No	Title	Name
1	Empowering Women and Enhancing Agriculture: The Impact of Avani Society's Pine Needle Gasifier and Biochar Initiative	Ayushi Tiwari
2	Assessing the potential of handloom / handicraft sector among the Women Entrepreneurs in Assam: Contribution of the SFURTI Scheme	Jyotirmoy Jishnu
3	INSTITUTIONAL ENGAGEMENT IN PEACE AND CONFLICT RESOLUTION	Pawan KUMAR
4	Reviewing the Women Empowerment Movement in 21st century.	Bushra Barkati
5	NUTRITIONAL AND MATERNAL HEALTH OF WOMEN IN INDIA: ACHIEVEMENTS AND CHALLENGES	Naresh Kumar
6	A study on the mutual coordination A study on the mutual coordination between various social organizations of Rohtak district, Haryana.	Anita
7	The Journey to Well-being Exploring the Health and Social Needs of Women and Girls (Special Reference to Central India)	Ms. Prachi Shirshat
Day 2- 25th October, Timing: 2.30 PM to 4.00 PM		
Parallel Session 10		
Chairperson - Prof Vani Narula, Professor, Department of Social Work, Jamia Milia Islamia, Delhi		

	Co-Chairperson - Dr. Payal Chamatkar, Assistant Professor, Assistant Professor, MSSISW, Nagpur, Maharashtra	
	Student Coordinator - Arti(Research Scholar), (Email: artidahiya97647@gmail.com)	
Venue: Room No. 214, Second Floor, Teaching Block - 1		
S.No	Topic	Name
1	Women's Skill Development and Career Outcomes: Analyzing Gender Gap in PMKVY	Shahbaz Akram
2	Maternal health literacy and service utilization among a PVTG community: A cross sectional study in the Nilgiris district	R. Kaviya
3	Assessing Government initiative for maternal health in Jammu and Kashmir: Successes and challenges	Jyoti Devi
4	ग्रामीण महिलाओं में जननी सुरक्षा योजना की जागरूकता का अध्ययन	MANJU SINGH
5	Empowering Women through the National Rural Livelihood Mission: Insights from Farming and Non-Farming Components with Special Reference to Himachal Pradesh	Pooja Sharma
6	Impact of Employment Issues Faced by Expatriate Women on Their Adjustment in Ruwais, Abu Dhabi: A Case Study	Sadhavi Sunil Rane
7	A study on Atrocities on Girls and women	Shilpa shivankar
Day 2- 25th October Timing: 2.30 PM to 4.00 PM		
Parallel Session 11		
	Chairperson - DR. SANJAY ONKAR INGOLE, Assistant Professor, Department of Social Work, Jamia Milia Islamia, Delhi	
	Co-Chairperson - Dr. Vasundharaa S Nair, Assistant Professor, OP Jindal University, Sonapat	
	Student Coordinator - Kritika Singh (Research Scholar), (Email: skritika2106@gmail.com)	
Venue: Room No. 216, Second Floor, Teaching Block - 1		
S.No	Topic	Name
1	An Integrated Social Work Intervention Model for Breaking the Cycle and Empowering Irula Tribal Young Women in Sriperumbudur, Tamil Nadu	DR RAMBABU BOTCHA
2	Causes and Consequences of Polygyny in Meghalaya: A Social Work Intervention Model Focused on Empowering Young Women	DR VISHAL MISHRA, RidashishaKharbani
3	Women empowerment and well-being – social work response	Anjali Makhija
4	Social Inclusion of Minority Women in India: Role of Social Work	Dr Muhammad Nayim

5	The Challenges of Women Homemakers: A Social Work Response	Kritika Singh Bawaniwal
6	Intervention Through Social Work Practice about School Dropout Children.	Shubham RamkrushnaGaykwad
7	Challenges and Coping Strategies: A Case Study of Female Ph.D. Scholars in Social Work	Shreya Khosla, Dr. Ashvini Kumar Singh
8	Livelihood Struggles and Employment Gaps Among Women in West Singhbhum's Iron Ore Regions, Jharkhand	ASHISH TIRU, USHVINDER KAUR POPLI
Day 2- 25th October, Timing 2.30 PM to 4.00 PM		
Parallel Session 12		
Chairperson - Dr. Yangchan Dolma, Assistant Professor, Department of Social Work, Eliezer Joldan Memorial College, Leh		
Co-Chairperson - Dr. Rahul Kapoor, Assistant Professor, Department of Social Work, Gautam Buddha University, Greater Noida		
Student Coordinator - Jyoti (Research Scholar), Email id- jadkaushik784@gmail.com		
Venue: IQAC Hall, Ground Floor, Teaching Block - 1		
S.No	Topic	Name
1	Understanding of youth about professional social work services	Juhi dass
2	IMPACT EVALUATION OF SOCIAL WORK OF NSS VOLUNTIERS ON BOHAR VILLAGE OF ROHTAK DISTRICT, HARYANA	Jyoti
3	From Research to Practice: A Case Study of the Women's Manifesto	Dr. HabeebulRahiman VM
4	Empowering women's well-being in pregnancy: A Social Work Response	ASHOK KUMAR, DR BALINDER SINGH
5	Physical and Mental Well-being of Women in India	Nidhi Saini
6	COMBATING VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN: LEARNINGS FROM VIMUCHANA'S GOOD PRACTICES	Dr. Rahul Kapoor, Nisha
7	A study on the impact of postpartum depression on womens mental well-being and social support after childbirth	Dr. Kavita Gautam
Day 2- 25th October, Timing 4.30 PM to 6.00 PM		
Parallel Session 13		
Chairperson - Dr. Subhashree Sanyal, Assistant Professor, Department of Social Work, Vishva-Bharti Shanti Niketan, West Bengal		
Co-Chairperson - Dr. Balinder Singh, Assistant Professor, Department of Social Work, Kurukshetra University, Kurukshetra		

Student Coordinator - Arti (Research Scholar), (Email: artidahiya97647@gmail.com)		
Venue: Room No. 204, Second Floor, Teaching Block - 1		
S.No	Topic	Name
1	Advancing Womens Empowerment and Well-being Through Decent Work: Challenges, Opportunities, and Pathways for Inclusive Growth	Anurag kureel
2	तंबाकू का महिलाओं के स्वास्थ्य पर पड़ने वाला प्रभाव	Arvind Kumar
3	“SOCIAL PROTECTION AND WOMEN WORKERS: A COMPARATIVE STUDY OF WOMEN IN ORGANISED AND UNORGANISED SECTORS IN INDIA.”	Sakshi Pawade, Prashant Binny
4	Factors affecting well-being of adolescent girls in India	Dr. Divya Vaishnava
5	उभय लिंगी व्यक्तियों के सामाजिक समामेलन के संदर्भ में युवाओं का दृष्टिकोण	Mayank Shukla
6	Life as a “Dhukani”: A Case Study of Adolescent Girls in the Oraon Community of Ranchi, Jharkhand	Aishwarya Kumari, DR. ANUPAM KUMAR VERMA
7	Livelihood Struggles and Employment Gaps Among Women in West Singhbhum's Iron Ore Regions, Jharkhand	ASHISH TIRU, Prof. USHVINDER KAUR POPLI
Day 2- 25th October, Timing 4.30 PM to 6.00 PM		
Parallel Session 14		
Chairperson - Prof Anoop Kumar Bhartiya, Professor, Department of Social Work, Lucknow University		
Co-Chairperson - Dr. M. Maria Antony, Assistant Professor and Head, Kalasalingam Academy of Research and Education, Virudhunagar, Tamil Nadu		
Student Coordinator - Preeti (Research Scholar), (Email: preetidabas89@gmail.com)		
Venue: Room No. 214, Second Floor, Teaching Block - 1		
S.No	Topic	Name
1	FROM FERTILITY TO FAMILY PLANNING: A COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS OF WOMEN'S REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH IN KERALA BASED ON NFHS-4 AND NFHS-5	Sneha Pavithran, Prof. A. Shahin Sultana
2	Social work practice with widow women	Pawara Vishal Jaysing
3	Awareness about social security schemes among rural women workers in unorganized sector	Kiran
4	Exploring the Impact of Welfare Programme on Tribal-Women: Findings from Undivided Koraput District, Odisha, India	Dr Pradeep Kumar Sahoo

5	Inherited Empowerment: Exploring The Role of Matrilineal Practices in Meghalaya's Women-Led Enterprises and the Tourism Sector	Anukanksha Mohanty
Day 2- 25th October, Timing 4.30 PM to 6.00 PM		
Parallel Session 15		
Chairperson - Dr. Jaimon Varghese, Assistant Professor, CSRD Institute of Social Work and Research, Maharashtra		
Co-Chairperson - Dr. Saima Farhad, Assistant Professor, Department of Social Work, University of Kashmir, Srinagar		
Student Coordinator - Ms. Sanju, MSW Student (Email: kadiansanju0@gmail.com)		
Venue: Room No. 216, Second Floor, Teaching Block - 1		
S.No	Topic	Name
1	Breaking Gender Norms: College Students Views on Masculinity and Femininity	Suma Mani
2	The Interplay of Stigma and Self-Efficacy among Half-widows in Kashmir	Aksa Jan, Dr. Sandeep Chopra
3	Struggle of Widows for Survival and Social Acceptance	Dr. Vijay Sansare
4	Gendered Nature of the COVID-19 Lockdowns: An Exploratory-cum-Descriptive study on the Women Slum Dwellers of Gujarat	SHABNAM
5	A Study on Working Women and their Work Life Balance: Some Reflections	VISHWADEEP SINGH
6	FROM POLICY TO PRACTICE: IMPLEMENTATION OF POLICIES AND PROGRAMMES FOR EMPOWERING WOMEN IN RURAL HARYANA	Dr. Manju Panwar
Day 2- 25th October, 4.30 PM to 6.00 PM		
Parallel Session 16		
Chairperson Prof. Ashutosh Pradhan, Professor and Chairperson, Department of Social Work, Central University of Himachal Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh		
Co-Chairperson - Dr. Vijay Sansare, Assistant Professor, CSRD, Institute of Social Work and Research, Maharashtra		
Student Coordinator - Jyoti (Research Scholar), (Email: jadkaushik784@gmail.com)		
Venue: IQAC Hall, Ground Floor, Teaching Block - 1		
S.No	Topic	Name
1	Women Empowerment in Haryana vs India: A Comparative Analysis	Rahul

2	SELF WORTH: ESSENCE OF WOMEN EMPOWERMENT	Tasvir Kaur
3	Cultivating Change: The Role of Digital Services in Tribal Women Agricultural Empowerment	Shrestha Gautam
4	Economic Independence and Women Empowerment: A Comparative Study of Women with and Without Sustainable Livelihood in Srinagar.	Faryalla Farooq, Peerzada Ayash Ali Masoodi, Dr. Saima Farhad
5	Women in Cooperative sector : Issues and concerns	Dr. Shilpa Puranik
6	The study of the community Based Approaches to Fostering women Entrepreneurial Development	Dr Payal Chamatkar
Day 3- 26th October, Timing- 09.30 AM to 11.00 AM		
Parallel Session 17		
	Chairperson - Dr Arvind, Director General, VV Giri National Labour Institute, Noida	
	Co-Chairperson - Dr. Vishal Mishra, Assistant Professor, Department of Social Work, RGNIYD, Tamil Nadu	
	Student Coordinator - Anita(Research Scholar), (Email: anita7stars@gmail.com)	
Venue: Room No. 204, Second Floor, Teaching Block - 1		
S.No	Topic	Name
1	Assessment of impact of social worker in Social support of female cancer patient.	Bushra Firdous
2	बाह्य रोगी विभाग में चिकित्सा सामाजिक कार्यकर्ता की भूमिका	Aditya Dhananjay Lohar
3	An Integrated Social Work Intervention Model for Breaking the Cycle and Empowering Irula Tribal Young Women in Sriperumbudur, Tamil Nadu	DR RAMBABU BOTCHA
4	Causes and Consequences of Polygyny in Meghalaya: A Social Work Intervention Model Focused on Empowering Young Women	DR VISHAL MISHRA, RidashishaKharbani
5	Social Inclusion of Minority Women and Role of Social Work Intervention	Dr RUPESH KUMAR SINGH
6	Promoting Happiness among School Children through Protection of Rights: An Evaluation of Elementary schools in Haryana	Babita
7	Nutritional status among marginalised groups -A critical review of health outcomes through SES and NFHS, India	Maya Kumari
8	Stitching Hope: Empowering Women through Collective Emotional Healing and Social Well-being in Rafooghar – The House That Mends	Aiysha Umar, Yusra Khan,
9	Women in Police: A Qualitative Study on their Gendered Experiences.	Dr. Pushpa
Day 3- 26th October, Timing 09.30 AM to 11.00 AM		
Parallel Session 18		

	Chairperson - Prof. Ushvinder Kaur Popli, Professor, Department of Social Work, Jamia Milia Islamia, Delhi	
	Co-Chairperson - Dr Anju Bajpai, Director, Utthan Institute of Development & Studies, Yamunanagar, Haryana	
	Student Coordinator - Preeti(Research Scholar), (Email: preetidabas89@gmail.com)	
Venue: Room No. 214, Second Floor, Teaching Block - 1		
S.No	Topic	Name
1	A Study On Social And Economic Changes Among Women Due To Self-Help Groups	Mohan Sanjay Gase
2	वर्तमान समय में वृद्ध महिलाओं की समस्याएं एवं चुनौतियां	Damini pandey
3	Women Beneficiaries and ICDS Scheme: Knowledge, Satisfaction and Utilization in Selected District of Haryana	Shabbo
4	A journey of empowerment for women from literacy to SHG – a case study	Dr. Jaimon Varghese
5	Psycho-social Impact of Divorce on Women in India	Radharani Jena
6	Problems and Challenges Faced by the Disabled Women in India: A Study	Narender Kumar
7	A STUDY ON ENTREPRENEURIAL INTEREST AMONG SELF HELP GROUP (SHGs) GUDAPAKKAM	Geethanjali V G
8	Survey and review on role of society and work culture on postpartum depression in indian woman	Nisha
Day 3- 26th October, Timing- 09.30 AM to 11.00 AM		
Parallel Session 19		
	Chairperson - Prof. Manoj Jha, Professor, Delhi School of Social Work, and Member, Rajya Sabha	
	Co-Chairperson - Mr. Anupam Kumar, Assistant Professor, Mahatma Gandhi Central University, Bihar	
	Student Coordinator - Arti (Research Scholar) (Email: artidahiya97647@gmail.com)	
Venue: Room No. 216, Second Floor, Teaching Block - 1		
S.No	Topic	Name
1	Impact of Microfinance on Women's Empowerment in UT of Jammu and Kashmir: A Qualitative Approach	Faraaz Subla
2	"Being an Indian Superwomen" – An Exploratory study on What Goes behind the Act of Balancing Both Motherhood and Career	Keerthana
3	Nurturing Entrepreneurship, Empowering lives: Women from Marginalised Section in Dairy farming ,Haryana	KM DEEPA
4	Political Participation and Voting Behaviour of Women's in India :A Critical Analysis	Ujjwal Pandey
5	AN ANALYTICAL STUDY OF EFFECTS ON THE RESETTLED FARMERS OF DIMBHE DAM PROJECT	Deshmukh Tanvi Jalindar

Day 3- 26th October, Timing- 09.30 AM to 11.00 AM		
Parallel Session 20		
Chairperson - Prof. Subhasis Bhadra, Professor, Department of Psychosocial Support in Disaster Management, NIMHANS, Bengaluru		
Co-Chairperson -Keshav Walke, Professor, MSS Institute of Social Work, Maharashtra		
Student Coordinator - Kritika Singh (Research Scholar) (Email: skritika2106@gmail.com)		
Venue: IQAC Hall, Ground Floor, Teaching Block - 1		
S.No	Title	Name
1	SOCIOECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND CAESAREAN DELIVERY RATES: AN ANALYSIS OF INDIAN STATES USING HUMAN DEVELOPMENT INDEX AND NFHS DATA	Tushar Purohit
2	Maternal Health and Newborn Care in the Context of Disaster: Need for Promoting Healthy Motherhood	SubhasisBhadra, Dr. Anjali K P, Dr. Aryasree A M
3	Breaking the Silence: Empowering Women and Addressing Domestic Violence in Disasters.	Sona Francis
4	Social Security Policies for Economic Empowerment of Widows: A Case Study of Widow Pension Scheme in NCT Delhi	RAZA PARVEZ
5	New age parenting of adolescents and the way it shapes wellbeing of mothers in South India: A qualitative study	Dezma Savina Fernandez
6	Navigating Women Entrepreneurship in Rural Haryana: A Case study of Faridabad district	ABDUL QUADIR
7	Violence Against Women: An invisible public health crisis	SHELLEY SAHA SINHA, Dr. Subhashree Sanyal
8	Rural Women Vendors' Awareness and Utility of Entrepreneurial Schemes and its Effects on Social Capital"	Jimmy AJ
9	Women Empowerment vis a vis Male allyship	Madhukrishna Bhuyan
10	"Being an Indian Superwomen" – An Exploratory study on What Goes behind the Act of Balancing Both Motherhood and Career	Keerthana
11	Unlocking youth potential: Bridging guidance gaps for employment of youth in Block Dhanaura, District Amroha, Uttar Pradesh	Noor Jahan, Mohammad Faraz Siddiqui
12	Breaking the Silence: Exploring Substance Abuse and Recovery Challenges Among Women in Assam	Abhishek Chakraborty
13	Education Plays a Key Role in Women Work Participation in Haryana	Dr Anil Kumar

Our Speakers Brief Introduction

1. **Prof. Sudesh** is the Vice Chancellor of Bhagat Phool Singh Mahila Vishwavidyalaya (BPSMV), Sonapat, Haryana. With an extensive career dedicated to education and women's empowerment, she has played a pivotal role in driving the university's mission to provide quality education to women, particularly in rural areas. Under her leadership, BPSMV has continued to thrive as a hub for women's higher education, offering various programs in technology, management, social sciences, and the arts. Prof. Sudesh advocates for entrepreneurship and skill development, ensuring that students are not only academically sound but also equipped with practical skills that meet the demands of today's workforce. She is committed to fostering an environment that encourages innovation, research, and self-reliance among students. Her leadership has been instrumental in the university's initiatives that align with India's national goals, such as promoting gender equality and contributing to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). As a seasoned academic and administrator, Prof. Sudesh's work continues to shape the future of women's education in India, making a lasting impact on society by empowering women through knowledge and skill development.
2. **Prof. V. Uma** is currently serves as the Vice-Chancellor (In-charge) of Sri Padmavati Mahila Vishwavidyalaya (SPMVV) in Tirupati, Andhra Pradesh. She is a distinguished academic with over three decades of experience in the field of social work. Prof. Uma specializes in areas such as rural poverty, social development, and livelihoods, with a particular focus on women and children. Her notable work includes leading qualitative research for the "Young Lives" project, a multinational study on childhood poverty funded by the UK Department for International Development (DFID), in collaboration with the University of Oxford. She has also worked on several World Bank-funded projects like the Andhra Pradesh District Poverty Initiatives Project (APDPIP) and the Andhra Pradesh Rural Poverty Reduction Project (APRPRP), where she was a key figure in process

monitoring. In addition to her research, Prof. Uma is recognized for her expertise in participatory rural appraisal (PRA) techniques, having trained both field workers and government officials across various levels. She has received the 'Best Teacher Award' from the Government of Andhra Pradesh, acknowledging her contributions to academia and her leadership roles within the university.

3. **Prof. Supriya Pattanayak** is the Vice Chancellor of Centurion University of Technology and Management (CUTM) in Odisha. With over 25 years of experience in academia and the development sector, she holds a PhD from RMIT University, Australia, and an M.Phil. in Psychiatric Social Work from the National Institute of Mental Health and Neurosciences (NIMHANS), India. She also completed her MA from the Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS), Mumbai. Prof. Pattanayak has a diverse research background, focusing on gender and development, social work pedagogy, and sustainable livelihoods. In addition to her role as Vice Chancellor, she holds affiliations with several institutions globally, including being a Research Fellow at St. Petersburg State University in Russia and an Industry Liaison at RMIT University. She is actively involved in publishing academic work, particularly on social inclusion and skill integration for sustainable development. Her leadership at CUTM emphasizes competency-based education, which she believes is essential for promoting youth employability, entrepreneurship, and aligning with the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Prof. Pattanayak is also an advocate for women's empowerment, stressing the importance of skill-based education for increasing productivity and innovation in India.
4. **Dr. Sharanjeet Kaur** is the currently working as Chairperson of the Rehabilitation Council of India (RCI), since 2023. With nearly three decades of experience in social welfare, particularly focused on the empowerment of persons with disabilities, Dr. Kaur has made significant contributions to the field of disability rights and rehabilitation. She holds a Master of Social Work from Kurukshetra University and a Ph.D. in Social Work from Mahatma Gandhi Vidyapith in Varanasi. Before her current role, she served as the Chairperson of the Haryana Welfare Society for Persons with Hearing and Speech Impairment from 2017 to 2022. During her tenure, she initiated impactful programs, such as the establishment of digital sign language resources and skill development programs for the hearing impaired. Her efforts earned her recognition from the President of India in 2020 for her work in the field of disability welfare. Dr. Kaur's leadership in RCI is focused on maintaining excellence in rehabilitation services across the country, ensuring that the rights and needs of persons with disabilities are adequately addressed and supported through innovative solutions and policies.

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5. **Prof. R.P. Dwivedi** is the current President of the National Association of Professional Social Workers in India (NAPSWI), a leading body that promotes the interests and advancement of social work as a profession in India. He has been actively engaged in social work education and has a keen interest in Gandhian philosophy, which he integrates into his vision for "Green Social Work" and sustainable development. Prof. Dwivedi frequently speaks about addressing social issues through non-violent and ethical approaches, emphasizing the need for social work to focus on ecological balance, resource conservation, and the principles of sustainability. His recent contributions include discussions on the role of social work in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) through community engagement and eco-friendly initiatives. Prof. Dwivedi's leadership has been influential in addressing environmental and social justice issues, making significant strides in promoting socially responsible practices within the social work community.

 6. **Prof. Manoj Kumar Jha** is a professor at the Department of Social Work, Delhi School of Social Work (DSSW), University of Delhi, where he has been teaching since 2002. He holds a Ph.D. in Social Work from Delhi University and has been an influential figure in both academia and Indian politics. His areas of expertise include political economy, governance, social movements, and peace and conflict studies. In addition to his academic role, Prof. Jha is a prominent politician, serving as a member of the Rajya Sabha (Upper House of Parliament) representing the Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD). He is also the national spokesperson for the party. Known for his eloquent speeches and advocacy on issues such as social justice, minority rights, and equality, Prof. Jha continues to make significant contributions to both social work education and the political landscape in India.

 7. **Prof. Neelam Sukhramani** is a distinguished faculty member in the Department of Social Work at Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi. With over two decades of experience, she has made significant contributions to the field of social work, specializing in areas such as child protection, gender-based violence, and NGO management. She has been teaching at Jamia since 1995 and earned her Ph.D. from Jamia Millia Islamia in 2004. Her academic work includes research publications, with a focus on various social issues, and she is actively involved in scholarly discussions related to her field. Prof. Sukhramani is highly regarded for her efforts to advance social work education and her involvement in community-based interventions aimed at promoting social justice and equity. Her expertise also extends to guiding students and professionals in their pursuit of solutions to critical societal problems, emphasizing the role of social workers in addressing violence, child welfare, and the empowerment of marginalized communities.

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8. **Prof. Ankur Saxena** is a respected academic in the Faculty of Social Work at The Maharaja Sayajirao University of Baroda, Gujarat. With more than a decade of experience in social work education, he has completed his Bachelor's and Master's degrees in Social Work from the same institution and holds a Ph.D. in Social Work. Prof. Saxena is also the Secretary of the National Association of Professional Social Workers in India (NAPSWI). He is recognized for his work in corporate social responsibility, human resources, and active participation in various national and international conferences.

 9. **Prof. Ashutosh Pradhan** is a faculty member in the Department of Social Work at the Central University of Himachal Pradesh (CUHP), Dharamshala. He is actively involved in academic and research activities, contributing significantly to the field of social work. Prof. Pradhan's work focuses on community development, social justice, and the empowerment of vulnerable populations through planned social interventions. He has been instrumental in shaping the curriculum and guiding students in their pursuit of social justice and sustainable development. His contributions to various seminars and programs highlight his commitment to fostering positive change in society.
At CUHP, Prof. Pradhan plays a vital role in empowering students to become advocates for social justice, peace, and equal opportunities.

 10. **Prof. Ravi Bhushan** is a well-respected academic currently serving as the Dean of Social Sciences at Bhagat Phool Singh Mahila Vishwavidyalaya (BPSMV), Sonapat. His work is known for its interdisciplinary approach, particularly within the domains of literature, environment, and social sciences. Prof. Bhushan has contributed extensively to academic discourse, emphasizing the intersection between human society and ecological concerns, making him a prominent figure in his field. His leadership at BPSMV fosters critical research in social sciences, promoting gender studies and sustainability.

 11. **Prof. Anoop Kumar Bhartiya** is a Professor at the Department of Social Work, University of Lucknow, with extensive expertise in human resources, gender issues, social development, and population studies. He has been part of the academic faculty since 2001 and holds a Ph.D. in Social Work from the University of Lucknow, awarded in 2005. Prof. Bhartiya has made significant contributions to the field of social work, having supervised numerous Ph.D. and M.Phil. scholars and published several research papers, books, and chapters in academic journals. His research areas include HIV/AIDS awareness, livelihood security, and the impact of social schemes such as MGNREGA. He is actively involved in various committees and projects, including social impact assessments for infrastructure projects like the Purvanchal Expressway. Prof. Bhartiya is also a member of various

professional bodies like NAPSWI and serves as an advisor for several social work initiatives at both the national and university levels.

12. **Prof. Amba das Mohite** is the founder and President of the Maharashtra Association of Social Work Educators (MASWE). A retired professor of social work, he has contributed extensively to the field through both academic and social initiatives. Beyond his work in education, Prof. Mohite is involved in environmental causes, demonstrated by his unique initiative of distributing medicinal plants at significant events. His dedication to social activism, including his involvement in sustainable development and community welfare, has made him a respected figure in the field of social work.
13. **Prof. P.K. Bajpai** is a former Principal of Maharaja Agrasen College, Jagadhri, Haryana. Throughout his tenure, he played a pivotal role in leading the institution toward academic excellence, fostering a strong educational environment for students. Under his leadership, the college focused on value-oriented education, combining modern academic practices with ethical principles. His efforts contributed to making Maharaja Agrasen College a prominent educational hub in the region, particularly in the fields of arts and commerce.
14. **Prof. Ashvini Kumar Singh** is a professor in the Department of Social Work at Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi. With over two decades of experience in teaching and research, Prof. Singh has specialized in various areas, including social welfare, public health, disability studies, and corporate social responsibility (CSR). He holds a Ph.D. from the University of Lucknow and has been awarded the prestigious Doctoral Fellowship by the Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR). Prof. Singh is actively involved in academic administration and curriculum design and has authored and edited several books and research articles. He has also supervised numerous Ph.D. and postgraduate dissertations. His work extends beyond academia, as he has conducted multiple research projects in collaboration with government agencies and corporate organizations, particularly focusing on marginalized sections and inclusive development. Prof. Singh's contributions to social work education and research have made him a respected figure in the field of social work in India.
15. **Prof. Nimisha Gupta** is a prominent figure in the Department of Social Work at Mahatma Gandhi Kashi Vidyapith, Varanasi. With an extensive background in social sciences, her research interests span across areas like marginalized sections, social policy, and labor management. She actively participates in national conferences and seminars, contributing significantly to discussions on social work and inclusive development. She has served as a theme speaker at various academic forums, including a notable appearance at the Emerging

Trends in Social Sciences and Humanities conference. Prof. Gupta is highly regarded for her academic insights and is involved in both teaching and research, mentoring students at the postgraduate level and beyond. Her work emphasizes the role of social work in fostering social equity and justice.

16. **Prof. U.S. Pandey** is a senior faculty member at the School of Open Learning (SOL), University of Delhi, where he serves as the Deputy Director for the West Regional Centre. He has been instrumental in managing SOL's distance learning programs, focusing on providing accessible and affordable education to students from various socio-economic backgrounds. His work includes overseeing academic coordination, curriculum updates, and the implementation of modern learning tools to enhance the distance learning experience. Prof. Pandey has been a key figure in promoting educational opportunities for underprivileged students by integrating self-learning materials and technology-driven personal contact programs (PCP). His efforts aim to ensure that SOL meets the high standards of academic rigor while addressing contemporary challenges in distance education.
17. **Prof. Suresh Pathare** is a renowned social work educator, researcher, and practitioner with over 30 years of experience. He currently serves as the Director of the Centre for Studies in Rural Development (CSRSD) – Institute of Social Work and Research in Ahmednagar, Maharashtra. He holds a Master's degree in Social Work from Savitribai Phule Pune University, a Ph.D. in Social Work from the University of Delhi, and has completed post-doctoral studies at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, USA. Throughout his career, Prof. Pathare has been actively involved in various initiatives focusing on community resilience, rural development, gender equity, and social work education. He has authored several books and numerous research papers and has been instrumental in leading projects in collaboration with national and international organizations. One of his notable initiatives is the Adolescent Boys and Girls Program for Gender Equity in Maharashtra, which addresses gender-based issues through life skills training. Prof. Pathare is also a key figure in professional social work organizations, serving as the General Secretary of the National Association of Professional Social Workers in India (NAPSWI) and as a Joint Secretary for the Indian Network of Professional Social Workers Associations (INPSWA). His contributions to the field have earned him recognition both in India and internationally.
18. **Dr. N. Janardhana** is a highly esteemed Professor of Psychiatric Social Work at NIMHANS (National Institute of Mental Health and Neurosciences), Bengaluru. He has dedicated his career to working with children in difficult circumstances, including those in

institutional care. Dr. Janardhana's work emphasizes community-based interventions, particularly in rural India, where he collaborates with NGOs to support caregivers and improve mental health outcomes for children. Over his career, Dr. Janardhana has made substantial contributions to academic research, having published more than 250 scientific articles in national and international journals, books, and manuals. His research interests span a wide array of topics, focusing primarily on psychiatric social work, child welfare, and mental health interventions in underserved communities. He has successfully led 24 projects funded by national and international organizations, showcasing his leadership in research and program development. In addition to his extensive publication record, Dr. Janardhana has guided numerous doctoral and MPhil scholars, contributing to the growth of the next generation of psychiatric social workers and mental health professionals. His work continues to impact both academia and the practical implementation of mental health services in India, particularly for vulnerable populations.

19. **Ms. Shashi Rani** is Associate Professor in the Department of Social Work (Delhi School of Social Work), University of Delhi, Delhi. She also taught at the Department of Social Work, BPS Womens' University, Sonapat Haryana. She has done M. Phil. in Social Medicine and Community Health and her specialization is in Industrial Health Services and Quality of Health Care. She did Masters in Social Work from Institute of Social Sciences, Dr. BR Ambedkar University Agra, Uttar Pradesh. She has 11 years teaching and research experience of University Level. Along with teaching she has been actively engaged in research and training for more than ten years on various issues including Social Marginalization, Social Inclusion, Social Justice, Women and Child safety and Development, Health and Education, HIV/AIDS-Counselling, Public Private Partnership in Health Services. She is associated with various research and developmental organisations (working at national-international level) in the area of Social Justice and Development. She is also recognized as Master Trainer in HIV/AIDS under the Global Fund Project, Round-7, Department of Social Work, Jamia Millia Islamia (Central University), New Delhi. Also contributed the government through Monitoring and supervision of counselors working in HIV/AIDS at Hindu Rao Hospital, Malka ganj, Delhi. She is member of various advisory, monitoring and supervision committees of Government of NCT, Delhi.
20. **Dr. Manju Panwar** is the Chairperson of the Department of Social Work at Bhagat Phool Singh Mahila Vishwavidyalaya (BPSMV), Haryana. She holds significant leadership roles at the university, including serving as the Secretary and Organizing Secretary for various academic and social initiatives, including the 12th Indian Social Work Conference 2024. With a strong academic and research background, Dr. Panwar has contributed to social

work education and community development through her work in social policy, women's empowerment, and rural development. Her extensive experience includes over a decade of teaching, research, and practice in social work, and she is known for her leadership in organizing academic and developmental events at BPSMV.

21. **Dr. Deepali Mathur** is an Associate Professor in the Department of Social Work at Bhagat Phool Singh Mahila Vishwavidyalaya (BPSMV), Haryana. She also serves as the Joint Organising Secretary for the 12th Indian Social Work Conference 2024. Dr. Mathur has over 11 years of experience in teaching social work, and she completed her Ph.D. from Jamia Millia Islamia. In addition to her academic role, she actively participates in organizing national and international conferences and contributes to research in social work.

22. **Dr. Punita Gupta** is an Associate Professor in the Department of Education at Aditi Mahavidyalaya, University of Delhi. With over two decades of experience in teaching, she specializes in the Bachelor of Elementary Education (BELED) program. Her areas of expertise include Social Science Education, Elementary Education, Gender & Sexuality, and Teacher Research. Dr. Gupta's doctoral dissertation focused on the construction of sexuality in early childhood. A prolific researcher, she has published articles in peer-reviewed journals such as *Jamia Journal of Education*, *Journal of Indian Research*, and *Journal of Exclusion Studies*. She has also edited two Hindi books on gender and women's issues. Dr. Gupta has worked extensively as a gender expert, including an eight-year collaboration with the Delhi Police, conducting workshops and training on gender awareness. She has also been associated with NACO GFATM Round 7, addressing issues related to HIV/AIDS. Dr. Gupta has been the Co-Principal Investigator for the FRP project, "Quality Schooling and Social Work Engagement: NEP2020 Vision," funded by the University of Delhi. Additionally, she has led several innovation projects focused on partition survivor women and adolescent girls. Currently, she is directing a research project funded by the ICSSR, exploring folk art and storytelling traditions in Uttarakhand.

23. **Dr. Vasundhar S Nair** is an Assistant Professor at the Jindal Institute of Behavioural Sciences (JIBS), O. P. Jindal Global University, and Deputy Director for the Centre for Community Mental Health (CCMH) at JIBS. She completed her MPhil and PhD in Psychiatric Social Work from the National Institute of Mental Health and Neurosciences (NIMHANS) in 2023. Her doctoral research focused on developing a checklist on the different social determinants of health associated with brain infections along with

guidelines to care. She is a trained psychotherapist for providing care for psychiatric and neurological conditions at individual and family levels. She currently is engaged in researches focussed on child development, intersection of psychophysiology and students' mental health, social determinants of health in NCD's, climate change and inclusive education. She has received grant from NIHR, APYE, UGC etc to name a few. She has been awarded at various national and international platforms for her papers and contributions and has published papers in PubMed/Scopus indexed national and international journals of repute. Other than her academic interests, she is a trained dancer, is a team leader and is always up for a good laugh.

24. **Dr Bhuvaneshwari** is an Assistant Professor at Christ University, Bengaluru. In 2022, she completed her MPhil and Ph.D. in Psychiatric Social Work from the National Institute of Mental Health and Neurosciences (NIMHANS) Bengaluru. Her doctoral research focused on developing a social casework model for chronic daily headaches. She is a trained psychotherapist and clinical supervisor with a specialization in Family therapy and Clinical Social Work. She is currently engaged in research in therapeutic relationships, psychotherapy (family and couple therapy), parenting, addiction medicine, and public health nutrition. She has presented research papers at many national and international conferences. She has published original research papers in PubMed/Scopus-indexed journals. Other than academic achievements she is an avid reader.
25. **Dr. Saswati Chakraborti** is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Psychiatric Social Work at the Institute of Human Behavior & Allied Sciences (IHBAS), Delhi. With a Ph.D, M.Phil, and M.S.W, she has dedicated 19 years to the field of mental health, specializing in Psychiatric Social Work. Dr. Das is actively involved in clinical service delivery, rehabilitation, and aftercare for individuals with mental illness. She serves as the Officer in Charge of the Mobile Mental Health Unit, extending community mental health services. In addition, she holds the position of Member Secretary in the Internal Complaint Committee (ICC) at IHBAS since 2018, and Faculty-Coordinator for the School Mental Health Initiative under the Government of NCT of Delhi since 2023. Dr. Das has participated in several key research projects, including a situational analysis of homeless women in Delhi for the National Commission for Women and projects with the WHO. Her research extends to inclusive community living strategies and suicide risk reduction among students. She has published numerous papers in national and international journals and regularly presents at conferences. Dr. Das also serves as the Joint Faculty Coordinator for the Sakhi One Stop Centre at IHBAS.

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26. **Dr. O.P. Giri** is a notable Medical Social Service Officer with a distinguished career in Chandigarh. He has been actively involved in the field of medical social work for several years, contributing significantly to both clinical practice and community outreach initiatives. Dr. Giri has worked extensively in mental health and psychiatric social work, offering services such as rehabilitation and aftercare for individuals with mental illness. He has also played a leadership role in organizing national seminars and conferences, including the first National Seminar of the All India Association of Medical Social Work Professionals (AIAMSWP) held at PGIMER, Chandigarh in 2014. Dr. Giri's contributions extend to research and collaboration with various national health initiatives aimed at improving social work standards and services across India.
27. **Dr. Anish** completed his MSW (SSUS), M Phil (NIMHANS), and Ph.D. (MGU). Dr. Anish has 25 years of experience in social work practice, research, and teaching. He has received research grants from the University Grants Commission, Indian Council for Social Science Research, Australia India Council (partner with Queensland University), German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD), IASSW, Government of Kerala, NIRDPR, etc. He has authored several articles in refereed journals and is a reviewer of international journals. He has delivered 17 invited talks, presented papers at 32 international conferences, and received a travel award from WAPR for best paper. He had served as Chairman of BOS of MG and Kannur Universities and Rajagiri College of Social Sciences (Autonomous).
28. **Mohammed Asif** is the Executive Director of Plan India, a leading non-profit organization that works towards promoting child rights and advancing gender equality across India. With over 25 years of experience in the development and humanitarian sectors, Asif has played a pivotal role in implementing large-scale child-centered community development programs. His expertise spans multiple areas, including maternal and child health, education, nutrition, HIV, and disaster risk reduction. Before his appointment as Executive Director, Asif led Plan India's program implementation, overseeing a wide range of initiatives that positively impacted millions of girls, boys, and marginalized communities. He is also well-regarded for his work in promoting quality education, youth employment, and skill development initiatives. Under his leadership, Plan India has focused on addressing critical challenges such as child labor, malnutrition, and the protection of girls from early marriage, especially in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic.
29. **Mr. Suneel Vatsyayan** is a prominent social work practitioner and the Chairperson of Nada India Foundation, an organization that promotes healthy and drug-free lifestyles, focusing on non-communicable diseases (NCDs) and youth empowerment. He has a background in

social work, with specialization in criminology and correctional administration, and has been actively involved in public health advocacy for over two decades. Through Nada India, he has led numerous campaigns and initiatives to prevent tobacco and alcohol use among youth and raise awareness about health issues in marginalized communities across India. Vatsyayan is also a key figure in the National Association of Professional Social Workers in India (NAPSWI), where he has been involved in projects that focus on capacity building and promoting responsible social policies. His work includes pioneering peer counseling programs for individuals with addiction and HIV, contributing to national-level health policy discussions, and spearheading the "Youth for Wellbeing" initiative, which seeks to empower youth and promote community-based health solutions.

30. **Dr. Rajesh Tandon** is a globally recognized leader in participatory research and development, serving as the Founder-President of Participatory Research in Asia (PRIA), an organization dedicated to participatory research and capacity building. With an engineering degree from IIT Kanpur, an MBA from IIM Calcutta, and a Ph.D. in Management from Case Western Reserve University, USA, Dr. Tandon has revolutionized the field of research by promoting community involvement and empowerment. He is Co-Chair of the UNESCO Chair in Community-Based Research and Social Responsibility in Higher Education, supporting UNESCO's mission to foster knowledge societies. His pioneering work in participatory research has reshaped the researcher-researched dynamic, advocating for grassroots knowledge in development.

In addition to his role at PRIA, Dr. Tandon chairs the Forum for Indian Development Corporation (FIDC) and serves on several expert committees, including the University Grants Commission of India. His contributions have earned him numerous accolades, including the Nehru Literacy Award and the Social Justice Award by the Government of India. An accomplished author, Dr. Tandon has published over 100 books and articles and has lectured extensively worldwide, championing participatory governance, civil society, and higher education's social responsibility. He was inducted into the International Adult and Continuing Education Hall of Fame in 2011.

31. **Dr. Arvind** is the Director General of the V.V. Giri National Labour Institute (VVGNI) in Noida, Uttar Pradesh. He leads this premier institution, which is dedicated to research, training, and education on labor-related issues. The institute plays a key role in shaping labor policies and empowering labor stakeholders, including workers, trade unions, and government officials. Under Dr. Arvind's leadership, VVGNI has expanded its focus on addressing contemporary labor challenges such as labor migration, industrial relations, and social security for unorganized workers. The institute also collaborates with international

organizations like the International Labour Organization (ILO) to provide advanced training and support labor-related research.

32. **Mr. Uday Pratap Singh** is the Director of Vishwa Yuvak Kendra (VYK), a prominent non-governmental organization based in New Delhi. Established in 1961, VYK focuses on youth development, capacity building, and community empowerment. Under his leadership, the organization continues to work toward national integration, skill development, and fostering youth leadership, with a strong emphasis on capacity enhancement for NGOs and community organizations. Mr. Singh oversees various projects aimed at social transformation, including initiatives in rural development, environmental conservation, water and sanitation, and elderly care. One notable initiative, “Samarthya Pariyojana”, is designed to strengthen grassroots civil society organizations through governance and sustainability training. Mr. Singh is instrumental in guiding the organization’s mission of engaging young people as active agents in socio-economic change.
33. **Dr. Anju Bajpai** is the Director of “Utthan”, a prominent NGO based in Yamuna Nagar, Haryana. Founded in 1992, Utthan is committed to fostering social change and development, particularly focusing on marginalized communities. Under her leadership, the organization has been involved in various initiatives aimed at promoting education, social empowerment, and sustainable development. Dr. Bajpai is a well-regarded social work professional, frequently participating in national seminars and community development programs. In addition to her work with Utthan, she is an active voice in promoting gender equality and youth development, striving to create a positive impact through her humanitarian endeavors. She has also contributed to various government and civil society collaborations aimed at addressing rural development issues.
34. **Ms. Manju Bala Joshi** is the Secretary of CECOEDECON (Centre for Community Economics and Development Consultants Society), based in Jaipur. She plays a key role in managing and overseeing the organization’s initiatives, which focus on sustainable development, climate change, and community empowerment. Under her leadership, CECOEDECON works on promoting human rights, enhancing community capacities, and implementing various social and environmental programs across India. Her work significantly contributes to building sustainable and resilient communities.
35. **Dr. Aarti Jagannathan** has completed her Masters in Psychiatric Social Work from Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS), Mumbai, and her M.Phil and Ph.D. in Psychiatric

Social Work from NIMHANS, Bangalore. She is currently working as an Additional Professor of Psychiatric Social Work/ Psychiatric Rehabilitation Services at National Institute of Mental Health and Neurosciences (NIMHANS). Her areas of interest include Rehabilitation of patients with psychiatric disorders (especially schizophrenia), Human rights of mentally ill, Yoga for mental health, Dance, art and spirituality, Caregiver interventions, and Psycho-oncology. She has clinical experience of psychotherapy, rehabilitation and counseling of more than 2500 psychiatric in and outpatients at National Institute of Mental Health and Neuro Sciences, Bangalore (NIMHANS; 2003-2011). She has published more than 75 publications to her credit in National, International journals and books. Has coordinated Merck (MSD), CCRYN, FOGARTY, TISS funded Research projects in schizophrenia, dementia, play therapy and yoga. She helms multiple research projects in the area of Yoga, Rehabilitation, etc funded by ICMR, NIMHANS, and the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment. She has attended multiple National and International conferences for the presentation of paper and won awards. She is also a recipient of the 5th National Women's Excellence Award 2012: Nav Kiran (Young women Achiever) by the Government of India (GOI) and Women's International Network (WIN).

36. **Ms. Shipra Deo** is a seasoned development practitioner and the Director of Women's Land Rights at Landesa, where she focuses on strengthening land rights for women in India. With over 20 years of experience, she has worked extensively in areas such as women's empowerment, violence against women, agriculture, livelihoods, and institution building. Shipra has collaborated with prominent international organizations such as the UNDP, USAID, and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, along with grassroots and government bodies, to advance gender-responsive policies and legal frameworks. Her work emphasizes the importance of land ownership in empowering women and tackling gender-based violence and exclusion. She is passionate about using participatory development processes to promote gender equity and has experience working across South Asia, Africa, and Central Europe. Shipra holds advanced degrees in Gender and Development, Environmental Sciences, and Agriculture. In her role at Landesa, she leads initiatives aimed at improving awareness, policy reform, and capacity building to secure land and inheritance rights for women, contributing significantly to the global discourse on gender equality and land governance. Her international experience includes collaborations in countries like India, Kenya, Ethiopia, Bangladesh, and Tajikistan.
37. **M.S. Lakshmi Menon** is a prominent life coach and well-being expert, known for her work in personal development and holistic wellness. Based in both New Delhi and Bengaluru, she helps individuals achieve a balanced and fulfilling life through mental, emotional, and physical well-being strategies. With a strong focus on empowering her

clients, Menon integrates mindfulness, emotional intelligence, and practical techniques to foster personal growth, resilience, and self-awareness. Her expertise spans across life coaching, stress management, and wellness, catering to diverse individuals seeking clarity in their personal and professional lives. She also conducts workshops and one-on-one sessions, providing customized guidance to improve well-being and foster a positive mindset. Menon's holistic approach emphasizes the importance of aligning one's physical, emotional, and mental states for overall wellness, making her a sought-after expert in the coaching community.

38. **Ms. Medha Gandhi** is a well-respected health expert based in New Delhi, known for her contributions to promoting wellness and public health. She focuses on preventive healthcare, emphasizing a holistic approach to physical and mental well-being. With a background in health sciences, she actively engages in creating awareness about balanced lifestyles, nutrition, and mental health management. She is recognized for her workshops, health talks, and one-on-one counseling sessions, which help individuals adopt healthier lifestyles. Her work is dedicated to empowering people to take control of their health through informed choices, preventative measures, and sustainable wellness practices. Gandhi also collaborates with various organizations to promote community health and has been a part of initiatives aimed at improving public health outcomes in urban settings. Her dedication to enhancing well-being through education and practical advice makes her a sought-after expert in the health and wellness community in India.
39. **Ravi Gupta** is a young entrepreneurship and employability sector practitioner. He has completed his education in social work (BSW from B R Ambedkar College in 2002 and M.A. in Social work from Delhi University in 2004). In last twenty years, he has earned expertise in Entrepreneurship and Livelihood Development, Business Incubation and Design Thinking, Marketing & Networking and Self & Life Management. He is an excellent motivational speaker and trainer at par excellence. He has already trained and mentored more than 100,000 (One Lakh) youth, budding entrepreneurs & women groups across the country including many hundred youths and officials from SAARC & African Countries for the same. He considers himself blessed to mentor and guide many hundred youth/women to set up their small business enterprises with the support of government schemes and programs in and around the country Mr. Ravi has trained various target groups like SHGs, Women, Defense Personnel, Youths, School children and adolescent girls. He has been associated with institutions like Institute for Industrial Development (IID), National Institute of Entrepreneurship & Small Business Development (NIESBUD), Entrepreneurship Development Training, and NGOs.

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40. **Prof Sanjai Bhatt** has received a Master and Doctorate in Social Work and Law degree from Lucknow. He served as a Professor of Social Work at the Delhi School of Social Work, the University of Delhi and presently working as Adjunct Professor , Department of Social work, BPS Mahila Vishwavidyalay , Khanpur Kala, Sonipat. He has been a social work educator, trainer, and development consultant with his felt presence over more than four and half decade (46 years). He has nurtured the National Association of Professional Workers in India (NAPSWI) since its inception and served as Immediate Past President (2013-2020).He has also instrumental in initiating INDIAN SOCIAL WORK CONGRESS (since 2013), NATIONAL SOCIAL WORK WEEK (since 2020) and Life time achievement awards for social work educators and practitioners, and Best Teacher award, Excellence Award for Teachers by Delhi university.

ABSTRACTS

ROLE OF NEW EDUCATION POLICY IN PROBLEM SOLVING OF EDUCATION OF JUVENILE DELINQUENTS (AS A PERSPECTIVE OF MIRZAPUR)

Dr Chandra Shekhar Singh

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Mirzapur district is one of the major religious places in India . People from other district adjoining Varanasi border keep coming here. Some of the people of different community who come here start living here. They make their living by walking on the Ghats and laying them around the temples. There children often walking around the railway station, Bus station. Due to this tendency, they continue to violate the law, which we call juvenile delinquent. Juvenile Delinquency arises in children due to lack of education, literacy and lack of law knowledge is main reason. Thus the number of juvenile delinquents is increasing in Mirzapur. Their biggest problem is lack of education. Education is main medium Education is play main important role in holistic development of deviate Juvenile delinquent. He is established to self in society and also Juvenile delinquency is recent origin problem. But at present it has become one the most important social problems which has attracted the attention of all serious thinking people. Who is Juvenile Delinquency. It is thus evident from the above observation that a child who commits an offence is called juvenile delinquent. It includes peddling, begging, disorderly conduct, malicious mischief and ungovernable behaviour. But technically, it is difficult to define juvenile delinquency. In popular usage the term 'juvenile delinquent. It includes peddling, begging, disorderly conduct, malicious children and youth. In this sense, almost everything that others do not like is called juvenile delinquency. In other words, juvenile delinquency refers to behaviour which society does not accept and which it feels justified some kind of admonishment, punishment or corrective measures in the Public interest such a behaviour is predominantly governed by psychological and social factors it is because we often find that juvenile delinquents belongs to the lower socio-economic strata of society. Some of the important definition of juvenile delinquency areas below:-1. Dr. Sushil Chandra – 'Delinquency', as observed by Dr. Sushil Chandra, "may be defined as that branch of social sciences which studies the anti-social behaviour of children. Every society, whether civilized or preliterate, possesses a body of social value which accumulated as a result of its culture and heritage. The customs, convention, traditions and mores of that society define the rules of conduct so as to protect and preserve these fundamental values. Deviation from the conduct norms, so established, distinguishes the delinquent from the society conductive normal behaviour."2. Gillin and Gillin According to Gillin and Gillin, "sociologically either a criminal or a juvenile delinquent is one who is guilty of an act believed, by a group that has power to enforce its belief, to be injurious to society, and therefore prohibited."3. Albert Cohen- Expressing his views on delinquency, Albert Cohen observed that the only 'possible definition of delinquency is one that relates to the behaviour in question to same set of rules.' Sociologically, juvenile delinquency is that type of behaviour pattern of children which is injurious to society and therefore prohibited. Delinquency is such type of abnormality in which behaviour pattern deviates from the normal. We may say criminal behaviour as delinquent behaviour but we cannot say that delinquent behaviour is criminal behaviour. Therefore when a juvenile below a specified age behaves in such a way which may prove dangerous to society or to himself, he is called a juvenile delinquent. Thus juvenile delinquency is an anti-social behaviour by a juvenile who a below a specified age.

THE ROLE OF SOCIAL WORK INTERVENTIONS IN ENHANCING ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT AND MENTAL HEALTH AMONG MARGINALIZED WOMEN

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The intersection of economic empowerment and mental health among marginalized women is a critical area of study within social work. This research investigates the role of social work interventions in enhancing economic empowerment and promoting mental health outcomes among marginalized women. Marginalization, often compounded by factors such as poverty, discrimination, and lack of access to resources, significantly impacts women's ability to achieve economic independence and maintain positive mental well-being. Through a comprehensive literature review and analysis of empirical studies, this paper examines various social work approaches and interventions aimed at addressing these challenges. Key interventions include skills training programs, microfinance initiatives, policy advocacy for gender equity, and community-based support systems. These interventions are designed not only to provide economic opportunities but also to empower women by enhancing their self-efficacy, sense of agency, and social support networks. The research synthesizes findings from qualitative and quantitative studies to highlight effective strategies and identify gaps in current practices. It explores how empowerment-oriented social work practices contribute to improving mental health outcomes, reducing psychological distress, and fostering resilience among marginalized women. Furthermore, the study underscores the importance of culturally responsive and contextually appropriate interventions that recognize the diverse needs and experiences of marginalized women across different socio-cultural settings. Ultimately, this research aims to inform social work practice, policy development, and future research agendas by emphasizing the critical role of empowerment in enhancing both economic opportunities and mental health outcomes for marginalized women. By promoting inclusive and sustainable interventions, social workers can play a pivotal role in advancing gender equity and social justice within diverse communities.

Keywords: Mental Health, Women Empowerment, Marginalization, Social Workers

PSYCHIATRIC SOCIAL WORK ASSESSMENT AND INTERVENTION IN WOMEN WITH SCHIZOPHRENIA: ADDRESSING PSYCHOSOCIAL DETERMINANTS AND FACILITATING REHABILITATION AND RECOVERY

Dr. Arif Ali

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Schizophrenia is a mental disorder characterized by disruptions in thought processes, perceptions, emotional responsiveness, and social interactions. Women with schizophrenia face unique challenges, including gender-specific social and cultural stigmas, increased caregiving responsibilities, and higher vulnerability to abuse and discrimination. These factors can significantly impact their mental health and complicate their rehabilitation process, necessitating gender-sensitive approaches to psychiatric social work intervention. Aim and Objectives: To explore and enhance the rehabilitation process for women with schizophrenia through targeted psychiatric social work interventions, focusing on improving social functioning and quality of life. Methodology: A single case study design was employed, comparing pre and post-intervention baseline data. The study was conducted at a tertiary care psychiatric

institute. Tools administered included the Semi-Structured Clinical and Socio-Demographic Data Sheet, Knowledge of Schizophrenia Interview (KASI), Mayor Gross Social History Performa, The Zarit Burden Interview, and The Family Questionnaire (FQ), Work Behavior Inventory, Work Rehabilitation Questionnaire, Self-Esteem Scale, WHO Quality of Life (QOL) Scale, Family Assessment Device, internalizes stigma scale and Positive and Negative Syndrome Scale (PANSS). The intervention comprised 20 individual sessions and 6 family sessions, targeting both the client and her family members. Results and Conclusion: Significant improvements were observed in the patient on post-intervention scores on the Work Behavior Inventory, WHO QOL Scale, Self-Esteem Scale, and PANSS. Family knowledge regarding the illness improved, expressed emotion reduced, and care burden was lessened. This case study demonstrates that psychiatric social work assessment and intervention effectively address psychosocial issues and improve the overall quality of life for women with schizophrenia. Keywords: Schizophrenia, Psychiatric social work, Psychosocial determinants, Rehabilitation, Work behavior, Social functioning, Expressed emotion, Care burden, Quality of life, Women with schizophrenia.

"ECONOMIC WELLBEING OF WOMEN: THE KEY TO OVERALL WELLBEING"

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Through the case studies of two successful women, this paper delves into role of economic empowerment in overall wellbeing and empowerment. The objective was to analyse the successful entrepreneurial journey of Ms Anita Goyal of urban Ludhiana while comparing it with budding entrepreneur, Ms Gurpreet Kaur from rural area. Both the entrepreneurs are product of push factor as financial needs motivated them to start emprise.

Ms Anita's journey started after a personal tragedy, where she leveraged her cooking skills to start Zaika Cooking Classes. With time, her passion evolved into a formal business—Zaika Products, where she diversified into making pickles, spices, and other products. Through her persistence, she not only created a profitable business but also established self-help groups (SHGs) to support other women in her community. Another budding entrepreneur Ms Gurpreet Kaur after taking vocational trainings from Punjab Agricultural University has recently formed self-help group as she is also keen to empower rural women of her village.

The paper aims to provide insights into the challenges faced, the technical assistance received, and the strategies employed by them to grow united with other women. Both of them also tackled significant challenges like financial constraints, societal pressures, and skill gaps by leveraging family and institutional support. It also examines their contributions in empowering other women and their influence as a role model for women. Overall, their success stories exemplifies the way their economic empowerment lead to their physical, mental, social, emotional wellbeing. Though one is urban and another is from rural setting, both succeeded due to strong family and institutional support besides group approach.

FEMALE LABOUR FORCE PARTICIPATION, GENDER EQUALITY AND WOMEN EMPOWERMENT

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Female labour force participation indicates the proportion of women who are engaged in the labour market, whether through employment or actively seeking work. Higher participation rates are associated with economic growth and can lead to improved family incomes, improved social outcomes and greater economic stability. It also helps to challenge traditional gender roles. The equal participation of both men and women is an essential requisite for providing women a status in our nation. The gender-based discrimination encompasses various aspects of life, including access to education, healthcare, job market opportunities, workplace environment and economic resources. Promoting gender equality ensures that women can fully participate in all areas of society, including the labour market. It is essential for sustainable development and contributes to social justice. In addition, Women empowerment involves giving women the ability and agency to make choices about their lives, including economic decisions, education, and health. Empowered women are more likely to contribute to the economy, advocate for their rights, and influence community and political decisions. This empowerment can have a ripple effect, benefiting families and communities.

The paper intends to study the impact of female labour force participation and the concept of women empowerment for promotion of sustainable development keeping in view the past as well as present endeavours in this regard. It will also study the probable remedial focus areas for proper sustainable development through the concept of gender equality.

As Noble prize winner, Amartya Sen said; “Advancing gender equality may be one of the best ways of saving the environment, and countering the dangers of overcrowding and other adversities associated with population pressure. The voice of women is critically important for the world’s future – not just for women’s future.”

Gender equality policies, such as parental leave and childcare support, can increase female participation in the labour market. Changing societal attitudes toward gender roles can enhance both women's empowerment and participation in the workforce. Promoting female labour force participation, gender equality, and women’s empowerment is essential for achieving sustainable development and building more equitable societies. It requires concerted efforts from governments, businesses, and communities to create an environment where all individuals can thrive.

Keywords: Female labour force participation, Gender Equality, Status of Women, Women Empowerment, Economic and Sustainable Development.

PSYCHOLOGICAL IMPACTS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE ON WIVES OF ALCOHOLICS IN CHENNAI CITY

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This study investigates the psychological impacts of domestic violence on wives of alcoholics in Chennai City, focusing on various abuse types, including verbal, physical, sexual, emotional, cultural, and financial abuse. Utilizing a self-administered scale, data were collected from 11 de-addiction

centres across Chennai through a multi-stage probability sampling technique to ensure a representative sample of the affected population. The study reveals a significant burden of domestic violence borne by these wives, as evidenced by elevated scores across all abuse categories. The findings underscore the profound psychological distress experienced by these women, highlighting the necessity for targeted psychological support and intervention. The methodological approach, which ensured a diverse and representative sample, allowed for a comprehensive analysis of the impact of living with an alcoholic spouse. The results emphasize the critical need for specialized mental health services within the broader context of addiction treatment and support. Overall, this study provides valuable insights into the psychological challenges faced by wives of alcoholics and stresses the importance of developing effective support mechanisms to address their mental health needs.

Keywords: Domestic Violence, Alcoholism, Psychological Impact and Abuse

EMPOWERING REFUGEE WOMEN THROUGH ENTREPRENEURSHIP

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Women empowerment can be described as promoting female sense of self-worth. Women empowerment has become a debated social issue to bridge the gender gap and to achieve gender equality. It is equally important to view women empowerment in the context of women refugees. Women face various challenges when they are forced to leave their country. They experience social isolation, trauma, loss of support system and separation of family members. After much difficulty, when they reach a foreign land, life proves to be difficult with insufficient resources to fulfil their basic needs. Those who are forced to displace and arrive under extreme circumstances generally have more motivation and capacity to build a second life for themselves. As a forcibly displaced person, refugee women face economic and professional challenges to re-build their life. It is not easy for women to make a living when they must struggle against regressive traditions, societal expectation and scarce resources. These obstacles become more intense when living in refugee camps. Migrants and refugee face lot of challenges, employability being one of them. Refugee women are at the Centre of these problems and unfortunately because of their gender roles and gender norms, they face obstacles not only in family and community but also at societal level. However, in the middle of these difficulties, many refugee women have shown their spectacular resilience and determination by becoming successful businesswomen in their host country. These women not only support their family but also contribute to local economy. By becoming successful entrepreneur, they reduce their reliance on aid and become self-dependent. Studies have shown that these social enterprises have ripple effect, spurring a micro-economy in the camp. UN Refugee Agency has launched Made51, an innovative market-based model, that promotes financial inclusion of refugees in global market. It helps in bringing refugee craftsmanship to the world. Syrian and Malian refugee women living in refugee camps outside Athens are learning to weave on a simple loom. They are making sustainable range of clothes and homeware and selling them online. The doormats, cushion and throws are being sold through e-commerce platforms. In the context of India, Afghan refugee women residing in the national capital, Delhi, have started a successful food venture with the name, ILHAM, that offers Afghan delicacies. They are also providing their cuisine through online food delivery portal. These initiatives are aiming at fostering economic growth among women. The present paper tries to conceptually understand women refugees and their entrepreneurship in host countries. The paper aims to fill a literature gap with regards to

gendered aspects and effects on empowerment and well-being. This paper is based on secondary source information which was used to collect data for this study. The secondary data includes journals, magazines, books, periodicals and websites. The finding of the study shows that refugee women are engaging in entrepreneurship to overcome employment obstacles through their creativity and resilience. The entrepreneurship is a root to their empowerment, autonomy, challenging gender norms and their well-being.

Keywords: Refugee women, Employability, Entrepreneurship

CAUSES AND CONSEQUENCES OF POLYGYNY IN MEGHALAYA: A SOCIAL WORK INTERVENTION MODEL FOCUSED ON EMPOWERING YOUNG WOMEN

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Polygyny is the most common form of polygamy, refers to the practice of man having more than one wives at the same time, it is often rooted in cultural, religious or economic factors that can be practiced formally or informally. While it is prevalent in various regions of the world, it also raises significant legal, social, and ethical concerns, particularly regarding the rights and well-being of women and children involved. Polygynous marriage was found to be higher in the North East region of India with a high tribal population among which, Meghalaya has the highest polygyny practice. According to the National Family Health Survey (NFHS) data 2019-2020 conducted by the International Institute of Population Sciences (IIPS) Mumbai, Meghalaya has the highest rate of polygyny among the Northeastern states, standing at 6.1 percent. Meghalaya is one of the few regions and the largest society that follows the matrilineal system, it has several Indigenous ethnic groups with the Khasi, Jaintia and Garo being the major tribes in the state.

Due to polygyny in the state of Meghalaya, several families are facing problems related to health, education, sexual abuse, mental health issues, and marital conflicts. In this context, empowering young women in Meghalaya is crucial to addressing the life challenges they face due to polygamy.

The author seeks to understand the causes and consequences of polygyny through qualitative and quantitative research and to propose a social work intervention model to address these issues in Meghalaya, with the aim of empowering women through social work.

BREAKING GENDER NORMS: COLLEGE STUDENTS VIEWS ON MASCULINITY AND FEMININITY

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Masculinity and femininity are foundational concepts in the study of gender, representing the qualities, behaviours, and roles traditionally associated with men and women, respectively. This study delves into

the concepts of masculinity and femininity, examining how these gender constructs shape individual identities and societal expectations. Drawing on sociological and psychological theories, the research examines the ways in which masculinity and femininity are defined, performed, and internalized across different contexts by often linking masculinity with power, dominance, and rationality while associating femininity with emotion, nurturing, and subservience. This study also investigates the role of socialization processes, including family, education, and media, in reinforcing or challenging traditional gender roles.

Findings- reveal that while masculinity and femininity have often been framed as binary opposites, contemporary perspectives increasingly recognize these constructs as fluid and overlapping, allowing for more diverse and inclusive expressions of gender. While there is some progress towards more diverse and inclusive portrayals of gender, many media still perpetuate outdated stereotypes. The study calls for a critical re-examination of the messages conveyed through socialization and media, advocating for greater representation of gender diversity and more balanced gender role models in all spheres of life. By unpacking the complexities of masculinity and femininity, this research contributes to a deeper understanding of gender as a dynamic and multifaceted aspect of human experience, with important implications for promoting gender equity in various social contexts. The research highlights how masculinity and femininity are not fixed traits but dynamic processes that can vary depending on cultural context, personal experiences, and social interactions. The research concludes by discussing the implications of these evolving definitions for individuals, social institutions, and policy-making, highlighting the need for a more inclusive understanding of masculinity and femininity in a rapidly changing world.

Keywords: Gender Norms, Gender role, Gender Stereotypes, Socialisation, Masculinity, Femininity

LEFT BEHIND AND LONELY: THE GENDERED PSYCHOSOCIAL WELL-BEING OF ELDERLY PARENTS IN LUCKNOW CITY

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Migration is a defining socio-economic phenomenon that profoundly impacts the families of those who relocate, especially in countries like India, where internal and international migration rates are high. Uttar Pradesh, with Lucknow as its capital, exhibits one of the highest migration rates in the country, leading to significant socio-demographic changes. This study examines the psychosocial well-being of elderly parents left behind in Lucknow, focusing on the gendered experiences of loneliness and social support among these parents whose adult children have migrated for work or business. By exploring the current psychosocial conditions of these elderly individuals, this research aims to provide a nuanced understanding of how migration affects their emotional and social lives differently based on gender.

Utilizing a qualitative research methodology, the study involved in-depth, semi-structured interview guides with elderly parents residing in Lucknow. Participants were selected based on specific criteria: they must be living alone or with a spouse, with adult children who have migrated to other cities, states, or countries for economic opportunities. The interviews were designed to explore various aspects of the psychosocial well-being of the participants, including emotional health, social relationships, support

networks, and coping strategies. The data were analyzed using thematic analysis, which allowed for the identification of key patterns and themes in the experiences of the participants, with particular attention paid to gender differences.

The findings reveal that migration of adult children has significant psychosocial impacts on left-behind elderly parents, with noticeable gender differences. Both mothers and fathers experience heightened feelings of loneliness and emotional distress; however, the manifestations and coping mechanisms differ. Mothers often report stronger feelings of emotional isolation and a greater sense of loss, primarily due to traditionally closer emotional bonds with their children. They are more likely to experience depressive symptoms and express a need for emotional support. Fathers, on the other hand, while also experiencing loneliness, tend to focus more on the loss of practical support and increased concerns about financial security and household management. They often face challenges in maintaining social networks, which can exacerbate feelings of isolation.

The gendered nature of these experiences underscores the need for targeted interventions that address the specific needs of elderly mothers and fathers. Policymakers and social service providers should consider developing community programs that foster social engagement and provide practical support, with a focus on gender-specific strategies.

This study contributes to the growing body of literature on migration and ageing by highlighting the importance of gendered perspectives in understanding the psychosocial impacts of migration on left-behind elderly parents. It calls for a more inclusive approach to policy development that considers the unique experiences and needs of elderly men and women, ultimately aiming to improve their quality of life in the context of widespread migration.

Keywords: Psychosocial Well-being, Left-Behind, Gendered, Elderly Parents, Migration, India

"IMPACT OF DIVORCE ON THE WELL BEING OF WOMEN AND THEIR CHILDREN"

Mayurika Chauhan

Wellbeing is paramount concern for individual in their life. Family institution plays a significant role for maintaining the health and well being of each member of the family. With the family, the marriage institution is also working parallel for everyone's life, which provides companionship, economic security and support. Due to social and demographic changes, the concept of the family and marriage institution undergone into changes and gave birth to the divorce. The old concept of the marriage, converted from indissoluble union to dissoluble union. This paper reveals how the divorce is affecting the women and children well-being and also about to understand how divorce alters the lives of the women and their children. Researcher is focusing upon the multifaceted effects of divorce on women and their children in various dimensions such as social, emotional, economic, psychological well being and physical health too and this paper review discovered factors that such women and children faced more social isolation. Due to this paper finds various emotional and psychological factors which include feeling of unhappiness and loneliness, low level of confidence, depressive, anger issues, sleeping disturbance, suicidal thoughts, etc. From socio-economic well being perspective, women financial instability, social stigma which also impact on their children in the form trust issues, insecurities, poor academic performance, before marriage engaged in sexual activities, etc. In order to mitigate the impacts on the well being of women and their children researcher discuss some coping mechanism.

Key Words: Well Being, Women, Children, Divorce.

ASSESSMENT OF SEXUAL VIOLENCE AGAINST GIRLS AND YOUNG WOMEN WITH DISABILITIES IN SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA: A REVIEW

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Research schola

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A review of studies on the prevalence of sexual violence against girls and young women with disabilities in Sub-Saharan Africa. This evidence is critical in reaching the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) aim of reducing all type of violence in Sub-Saharan Africa. The study looked at the characteristics of sexual violence against girls and young women with disabilities in sub-Saharan Africa. To achieve the desired goal, a desk review was undertaken on the subject of sexual violence against girls and young women with disabilities. The study focuses on susceptibility variables, offender settings, sexual abuse consequences, and coping methods. The study found that girls and young women with disabilities are more likely to be victims of sexual violence because they are seen as weak and lack enough protection. Disability and poverty are additional risk factors that contribute to gender-based violence. It was shown that the majority of women with disabilities became victims of sexual abuse as a result of conditions such as limited mobility, poverty, rejection by relatives, and unemployment, which kept them inactive and indoors, making them easy targets. In terms of repercussions, sexual violence has been linked to unexpected pregnancies, homelessness, divorce, and problems getting married. The urgency of combating sexual violence against women and girls with disabilities cannot be over emphasized. The consequences of this sexual violence are extensive, and the cost of sexual violence against women and girls is significant, both financially and socially, preventing women and girls from reaching their full potential as members of society. The interaction of gender and disability must be investigated more thoroughly in order to fully comprehend and address the intricacies of sexual abuse against women and girls with disabilities. The review sought to investigate the causes and repercussions of sexual violence committed against girls and women with disabilities. It was discovered that the majority had become victims of sexual violence. Due to conditions such as limited mobility, poverty, rejection by families, and unemployment, women with disabilities remained inactive and indoors, making them accessible targets. In terms of repercussions, sexual violence has been linked to unexpected pregnancies, homelessness, divorce, and problems getting married. This appears to have exacerbated the already dismal situation of girls and women with disabilities. Girls and women with disabilities will continue to be at risk of sexual violence because little has been done to protect them. Steps must be taken to address the threat of sexual violence. As a result, policy-oriented initiatives such as national awareness campaigns must be implemented to create awareness among families about the importance of supporting their disabled members. Secondly, it is critical that girls and women with disabilities are taught about reproductive health and equipped with protection strategies in the case of an attack. Further research is required to guide policymakers towards ?rm multi-sectoral action towards the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) aim of reducing all type of violence in Sub-Saharan Africa.

Key Words: Sexual Violence, Disability, Impairment, Sub-Saharan Africa

AN INTEGRATED SOCIAL WORK INTERVENTION MODEL FOR BREAKING THE CYCLE AND EMPOWERING IRULA TRIBAL YOUNG WOMEN IN SRIPERUMBUDUR, TAMIL NADU

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The tribal population is an integral part of India 's social fabric, with the second-largest concentration globally after Africa. As per the 2011 census, the population of tribal communities recognized as Scheduled Tribes (STs) in the Constitution of India was 10.42 crores, accounting for 8.6% of the total population. One of the largest tribes in Tamil Nadu is the Irula, a Dravidian tribe found in Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Andhra Pradesh (Chittoor), and Karnataka. The word 'Irula' is derived from the Tamil word "Irul," which means 'darkness.' 'Irula' thus refers to those who live in darkness. The Irulas are characterized by their curly hair and dark complexion. They speak a Tamil dialect and are socially, economically, and politically marginalized. Their socio-economic conditions are marked by poverty, illiteracy, ignorance, and a lack of social and economic security. They struggle to meet their basic needs. Due to widespread illiteracy, they have been unable to escape their dire living conditions. Overall, the living conditions of the Irulas are unstable and pitiable. Nearly 100 Irula tribal families reside in Sriperumbudur. These families face numerous challenges, including poverty, lack of education, school dropouts, inadequate housing, poor health, child marriages, and alcohol consumption. These problems have persisted for generations, and the community has become accustomed to them. In this context, the role of young women is crucial. If these young women, who are often victims of some of these issues, are empowered, it could lead to a holistic transformation among the tribal families in Sriperumbudur. The author of this paper seeks to understand the root causes of these challenges through qualitative and quantitative research and proposes an Integrated Social Work Intervention Model for Breaking the Cycle and Empowering Irula Tribal Young Women in Sriperumbudur, Tamil Nadu. Keywords: Irula, Women, Empowerment, Integrated, Social Work Intervention.

CAUSES AND CONSEQUENCES OF POLYGYNY IN MEGHALAYA: A SOCIAL WORK INTERVENTION MODEL FOCUSED ON EMPOWERING YOUNG WOMEN

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Polygyny is the most common form of polygamy, refers to the practice of man having more than one wives at the same time, it is often rooted in cultural, religious or economic factors that can be practiced formally or informally. While it is prevalent in various regions of the world, it also raises significant legal, social, and ethical concerns, particularly regarding the rights and well-being of women and children involved. Polygynous marriage was found to be higher in the North East region of India with a high tribal population among which, Meghalaya has the highest polygyny practice. According to the National Family Health Survey (NFHS) data 2019-2020 conducted by the International Institute of Population Sciences (IIPS) Mumbai, Meghalaya has the highest rate of polygyny among the Northeastern states, standing at 6.1 percent. Meghalaya is one of the few regions and the largest society that follows the matrilineal system, it has several Indigenous ethnic groups with the Khasi, Jaintia and Garo being the major tribes in the state. Due to polygyny in the state of Meghalaya, several families are facing problems related to health, education, sexual abuse, mental health issues, and marital conflicts. In this context, empowering young women in Meghalaya is crucial to addressing the life challenges they face due to polygamy.

The author seeks to understand the causes and consequences of polygyny through qualitative and quantitative research and to propose a social work intervention model to address these issues in Meghalaya, with the aim of empowering women through social work.

Keywords: Polygyny, Causes, Consequences, Social Work Intervention, Young Women

COMBATING VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN: LEARNINGS FROM VIMOCHANAS GOOD PRACTICES

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The article brings to fore an understanding of the factors that perpetuate violence against women inculcating field based learnings from Vimochana, a renowned womens rights organisation in Bangalore. The study highlights the multifaceted forms of violence experienced by women as well as the factors that contribute to the instances of violence against women. The study is Qualitative in nature and has employed a descriptive research design. A total of 15 women were chosen as research participants of the study using the purposive sampling method. The data was collected through in-depth interviews and observation of women coming to Vimochana. The article identifies the fundamental causes of violence against women and also presents a typology of the cases handled by Vimochana, shedding light on the organisations character and its good practices. The holistic social work interventions proposed in the article will benefit social work educators, practitioners, civil society organisations and government agencies working in the field of women rights and empowerment.

DIGITAL EMPOWERMENT OR DISEMPOWERMENT: EXPLORING THE IMPACT OF TECHNOLOGY ON ROLES OF WOMEN IN PARENTING IN INDIA

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In India , the widespread adoption of digital technology has significantly influenced family dynamics, particularly affecting mother-child relationships. This paper critically examines the evolving role of technology in shaping maternal parenting practices, highlighting the empowerment opportunities it offers and addressing the complex challenges women face within the India n socio-cultural framework. The analysis provides insights into the nuanced impact of technology on contemporary maternal roles and responsibilities.

Objectives:The study aims to explore the impact of digital technology on maternal roles in India , examining how it both enhances and impedes women's ability to fulfil parenting responsibilities. By exploring the intersection of technology, gender, and parenting within India 's diverse and culturally intricate society, the research provides a nuanced analysis of the varying experiences across urban and rural settings, shedding light on the broader implications for women's empowerment and family dynamics. **Methods:**A comprehensive literature review was conducted, focusing on academic and local sources that discuss the influence of digital technology on women's parenting roles in India . Thematic analysis was employed to identify key themes, such as communication, social connection, safety, emotional responses, and parental boundaries. Also, a comparative analysis with global trends was

undertaken to highlight the unique challenges and opportunities faced by Indian women, particularly in the context of the digital divide, socio-economic disparities, and cultural norms. Results: The findings indicate that digital technology can empower Indian women by granting them access to essential information, communication tools, and support networks, particularly in regions with scarce traditional resources. However, this empowerment comes with significant challenges, including increased workload, heightened pressures from digital surveillance, and the potential to exacerbate existing gender inequalities. The study underscores the dual-edged nature of the impact of technology in Indian society, revealing that its benefits and drawbacks are closely interwoven with the cultural and socio-economic fabric of the nation, necessitating a nuanced understanding of its role in shaping experiences of women.

Discussion: The discussion focuses on how digital technology empowers Indian women in their parenting roles, such as through access to educational resources, improved communication with children, and participation in online support communities. However, it also addresses the disempowerment experienced by many women, particularly due to the increased burden of managing digital devices, exposure to online risks, and the challenges of maintaining traditional parenting roles in a rapidly changing digital environment. The digital divide, particularly between urban and rural areas, and socio-cultural factors such as patriarchal norms and societal expectations, are also examined. Conclusions: The paper concludes with policy and practice recommendations specifically tailored to the Indian context, highlighting the necessity for digital literacy programs, equitable access to technology, and culturally sensitive strategies for incorporating technology into parenting. These recommendations seek to enhance the positive impacts of digital technology while addressing its potential challenges, thereby promoting the empowerment and well-being of Indian women in their parenting roles. Consequently, this approach aims to cultivate a balanced and supportive digital ecosystem for families.

Keywords: Empowerment, Women, Technology, Parenting, Gender, India .

WOMEN IN THE COOPERATIVE SECTOR: EMERGING ISSUES AND CONCERNS

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The cooperative sector has always been regarded as an essential pillar of economic and social development. It represents a unique organizational structure that promotes community empowerment and economic self-sufficiency. The cooperative sector serves as a crucial source of economic empowerment and social development for many women around the world. However, it is widely recognized that gender disparities persist within the sector, limiting the ability of women to fully benefit from cooperative initiatives. While cooperatives have made significant contributions to various sectors, including agriculture, finance, and retail, the effective participation and representation of women in this sector have been a subject of ongoing concern. This research abstract provides a comprehensive overview of the issues and concerns faced by women in the cooperative sector and offers recommendations for transformative and gender-responsive interventions to promote women's empowerment in this sphere. It serves as a valuable resource for policymakers, researchers, and practitioners working towards gender equality and social justice in the cooperative sector. Information presented in this paper is based on literature review.

Key words: Cooperative sector, gender equality, social justice

NAVIGATING WOMEN ENTREPRENEURSHIP IN RURAL HARYANA: A CASE STUDY OF FARIDABAD DISTRICT

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This research paper explores the challenges and success factors influencing rural women entrepreneurs in the Faridabad district of Haryana, India . Using a qualitative approach, the study delves into the experiences of ten women entrepreneurs from five villages in the district. Through case studies, the research identifies a range of internal and external challenges faced by these women. Internal challenges include limited education, inadequate training, and restricted access to finance and markets. Externally, cultural and societal barriers such as patriarchal norms, traditional gender roles, poor infrastructure, insufficient support from government and non-governmental organizations, and competition from established businesses further complicate their entrepreneurial journey. The findings highlight the resilience of these women in overcoming substantial obstacles, but also underscore the urgent need for targeted interventions. The study suggests that collaborative efforts from stakeholders, including policymakers, educational institutions, and financial entities, are crucial in designing and implementing effective strategies to support rural women entrepreneurs. Such initiatives can empower these women to not only contribute to their families and communities but also to drive inclusive and sustainable economic growth. The independent narratives of the women entrepreneurs highlighted in this study illustrate the profound hardships they endure in pursuit of their entrepreneurial dreams. These stories serve as a poignant reminder of the spontaneous impetus required from stakeholders to effect meaningful change. The research emphasizes the importance of collaboration among stakeholders to design and implement policies that empower rural women entrepreneurs, promoting equitable economic development. In conclusion, this research not only sheds light on the challenges faced by rural women entrepreneurs in Faridabad but also calls for urgent action to support and nurture this critical segment of the economy. The study aims to be a catalyst for change, inspiring stakeholders to implement strategies that can drive growth and sustainability for rural women entrepreneurs in Haryana and beyond.

GENDERED NATURE OF THE COVID-19 LOCKDOWNS: AN EXPLORATORY-CUM-DESCRIPTIVE STUDY ON THE WOMEN SLUM DWELLERS OF GUJARAT-

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The COVID-19 pandemic created disruption in people's lives. Especially, the sudden imposition of lockdowns affected different people in apocalyptic ways. The pandemic led to rise of peculiar social and psychological phenomenon like the process of 'othering', 'social distancing', 'class angle dilemma', 'distinct psychological domineer', 'induced social change', 'social vulnerability', 'social solidarity', 'xenophobia', 'fear psychosis', 'learning crisis' and much more. Additionally, apart from the economic fallout, the pandemic showcased its regressive effect on gender as well. The Sustainable Development Goal of achieving 'Gender Equality' was far from becoming a reality prior to the COVID-

19 era and the pandemic further aggravated this concern. During the pandemic, slums were considered to be the ‘clusters of infection’ and major ‘hotspot areas’ responsible for increasing the number of cases of the virus-affected people. The slum dwellers were stigmatized to be the ‘carriers of the deadly virus’ and they were worst hit during the pandemic due to absence of any safety net for them in cataclysmic situations like the pandemic. Hence, this research paper attempted to highlight concerns regarding the gendered nature of the COVID-19 lockdowns grounding its theoretical lens from the radical feminist perspective. The empirical data was retrieved using qualitative research methodology utilizing exploratory-cum-descriptive research design. 30 women from the slums of Surendranagar city of Gujarat were interviewed in-depth using the interview schedule method for the same. The five major domains which laid the foundation for our empirical study includes: ‘household responsibilities’, ‘status of employment’, ‘food security concerns’, ‘toll on physical health’ and ‘trepidations on mental health’. This qualitative study will draw the life stories of these women slum dwellers during two different phases: i.e. prior to the COVID-19 pandemic and during the COVID-19 lockdowns. The theoretical foundation and empirical data as part of this study will collaboratively help in discussing and developing ways and means of understanding and reflecting about our existing system and how it worked (positively as well as negatively) during crucial times like the pandemic. This will help in developing resilient practices on the part of us as development professionals to build a prosperous and sustainable future for everyone in general, and to cope up with pandemic-like situations, in particular.

Keywords: COVID-19, COVID-19 Lockdowns, Gender, Slum dwellers, Gujarat.

MARGINALISED WOMEN AND SUSTAINABLE URBAN LIVELIHOOD-SOCIAL WORK AND LEGAL PERSPECTIVES

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This Paper analyses the implications of social, physical, human, financial and natural capital challenges (Based on SLA,DFID) of marginalised women in Central Chennai. The primary data collected from the respoThe implications will be interpreted in the light of Social Work and legal perspectives. The main objective of this study is to bring out strategies and policy level recommendations to empower marginalised urban women through sustainable livelihoods encompassing the five livelihood capitals.

IMPACT OF MICROFINANCE ON WOMEN’S EMPOWERMENT IN UT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR: A QUALITATIVE APPROACH

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Microfinance has emerged as a pivotal tool for poverty alleviation and women's empowerment in UT Jammu and Kashmir. By providing financial services to underserved women, microfinance institutions (MFIs) aim to foster economic independence and social progress. This study investigates the impact of microfinance on women's empowerment in the region using a qualitative approach, focusing on economic, social and psychological dimensions. **Materials and Methods:** The study employs a qualitative method to gain in-depth insights into the experiences of women microfinance beneficiaries. Data were collected through in-depth interviews and focus group discussions with 21 women from district Srinagar. Participants were selected using purposive sampling to ensure a diverse representation of age, socio-economic status and types of microfinance activities. The interviews and discussions explored themes such as changes in income and employment, participation in decision-making, social mobility and psychological empowerment. Data were recorded, transcribed and analyzed using thematic analysis to identify recurring patterns and significant narratives. **Findings:** The qualitative data revealed that access to microfinance led to substantial improvements in economic conditions for women. Many participants reported increased income and savings, enabling them to invest in small businesses and household needs. Socially, women experienced greater involvement in household decision-making, enhanced mobility and improved social status. Participants also expressed a significant boost in self-confidence and a sense of agency, highlighting how financial independence contributed to their overall empowerment. However, the research also pointed out challenges such as over-indebtedness, pressure to repay loans and limited financial literacy. These issues underscored the need for complementary services, such as financial education and support networks, to sustain the positive impacts of microfinance. **Conclusion:** The qualitative findings underscore the transformative impact of microfinance on women's empowerment in UT Jammu and Kashmir. Improved economic conditions, enhanced social status and increased psychological well-being were evident among the participants. Nonetheless, addressing challenges like over-indebtedness and limited financial literacy is crucial for maximizing the empowerment potential of microfinance. Policymakers and MFIs should focus on integrating financial education programs and developing robust support mechanisms to mitigate risks and enhance the sustainability of microfinance initiatives. **Key words:** Microfinance, Women, Empowerment, Enhanced Economic and Social Status, Srinagar

THE CRUCIAL TRIO FOR ADOLESCENTS GIRLS HAPPINESS : MENTAL HEALTH, STRESS AND SOCIAL SUPPORT

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This study explores the various factors affecting adolescent happiness, specifically focusing on mental health, stress, and social support. Adolescence is a crucial developmental period marked by complex challenges that greatly influence well-being and happiness. To promote positive outcomes for adolescents globally, it is important to understand these factors. The research examines how mental health, stress, and social support interact to affect adolescent happiness. Using a quantitative approach, data was gathered from 120 adolescents in Rameswaram Island, India, through validated scales and structured questionnaires. A descriptive research design was used, with quota sampling to ensure demographic diversity. Tools such as the Oxford Happiness Questionnaire, Mental Health Inventory

(MHI-18), Perceived Stress Scale, and Multi-Dimensional Social Support Scale (MDSSS) were employed to evaluate happiness, mental health, stress levels, and social support. The results underscore the interconnected nature of mental health, stress, and social support in determining adolescent happiness. Positive correlations were found between social support, mental health, and happiness, while higher stress levels were associated with lower the mental health and lower the happiness among adolescents. These findings highlight the need for comprehensive approaches to adolescent well-being, stressing the importance of supportive environments and targeted interventions to improve happiness.

ADDRESSING ANAEMIA IN WOMEN AND CHILDREN: A STUDY ON INTERVENTION STRATEGIES IN GUJARAT, INDIA

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Anaemia is a significant public health issue globally and in India, particularly affecting women and children. The National Family Health Survey (NFHS) 2019-21 indicates that 57% of women and 67% of children in India are anaemic. Anaemia is defined by haemoglobin levels below 12 g/dl in women and 11 g/dl in children, with iron deficiency being the primary cause. The condition can lead to severe health outcomes, including maternal mortality, impaired cognitive development in children, increased susceptibility to infections, weakness, perinatal mortality and premature delivery. This study focuses on Gujarat, where anaemia rates surpass the national average, with 79.7% of children and 65% of women affected. Conducted in June 2024 in collaboration with the NGO Aatapi Seva Foundation, the research targeted pregnant and lactating mothers and adolescent girls across five villages - Gajera, Piludara, Vedach, Kareli, and Kahanava - in the Jambusar block of Bharuch district of Gujarat. Among the 600 adolescent girls and 450 pregnant women surveyed, 550 girls and 300 women were found to be anaemic. Key contributing factors identified include poor awareness, inadequate iron-rich diets, neglect of women's dietary needs within patriarchal families, women's limited control over diet and meal timing, restricted access to quality healthcare, blood loss during menstruation, early marriage and pregnancy, and son-meta preference. The study employed a comprehensive methodology, including baseline surveys conducted via Google forms, non-participant observation, case studies, and schedules, to evaluate the impact of various interventions aimed at reducing anaemia prevalence. The interventions implemented included the preparation of IEC materials, one-to-one counselling, family therapy sessions to foster necessary behavioral changes, Kishori meetings, recipe demonstrations, WASH (Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene) training, and Yoga sessions to promote overall health and well being. The effectiveness of these interventions was assessed by examining improvements in awareness, dietary habits, access to government schemes (including Mamta card), use of Kitchen Garden kits, adoption of recipes demonstrated under ICDS and the impact of Kishori meetings for early education and intervention.

Following the interventions, awareness about anaemia and the importance of consuming an iron-rich diet increased substantially. All the women obtained Mamta cards and became aware of schemes like the Nammo Shri Yojana and Nammo Laxmi Yojana. Kishori meetings provided a platform for adolescent girls to confidently share their concerns with Arogyasathis while ensuring their privacy. The women expressed a willingness to learn new recipes but mentioned that they could only prepare them if the elder or male members of the household were willing to eat them. Adolescent girls enthusiastically participated in WASH training and Yoga sessions. This multi-pronged strategy has yielded positive outcomes.

These efforts are crucial for achieving Sustainable Development Goal 2.2.3, which aims to reduce anaemia among women aged 15-49 years by 2030. By empowering women and adolescent girls with

the knowledge and resources to improve their health, this study lays the groundwork for sustained progress in combating anaemia in these vulnerable communities.

EXPLORING THE IMPACT OF WELFARE PROGRAMME ON TRIBAL-WOMEN: FINDINGS FROM UNDIVIDED KORAPUT DISTRICT, ODISHA, INDIA

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A civilization's value is reflected in how it treats women; as the saying goes, "where women are honored, there reside the gods." India n society has both revered and despised women in different time periods due to dramatic changes in social systems (class and caste), the supremacy of patriarchy, superstitious beliefs, and other factors. However, the role of women in India has always become vital in social, economic, political, and cultural spheres. Because of their socio-cultural significance, tribals are at the core of India n society. In tribal society, the role and importance of women are significant in the socio-cultural setting, livelihood arrangement, political decision-making, and accelerating the growth and development. By realizing the importance of tribal women in the overall growth and development of the tribal society, the government of India has made numerous constitutional provisions and implemented several welfare and development programmes in the tribal regions for their development and sustainability. In order to assess the impact of the welfare and development programme on tribal women and their families, we conducted a study covering 328 tribal households under four scheduled area blocks of the undivided Koraput district in Odisha, India . The study's findings reveal that resource-rich tribal regions are facing numerous socio-economic issues such as relative poverty, absolute unemployment, landlessness, and scarcity of natural resources for livelihood and occupation. These challenges primarily stem from steady population growth and rising living standards. Alongside, the rise in the aspiration among tribal youth combined with the adoption of the dominant capitalist narrative exacerbate their issues and challenges. In such predicaments, government programmes like MGNREGA, MAMATA, Mission-Sakti, Ujjwala, PMSBY, JSY, AMSY, MMSY, SAMPURNA, Sudakhya Yojana, etc. play a significant role in the empowerment and development of tribal women by enhancing overall education, health, vocational skill, employability, standard of living, socio-economic security, and the overall quality of life of their family. However, due to lack of awareness and poor participation in the implementation of development programmes, tribal women have yet to achieve complete benefit from the programmes for their safety, security, empowerment, and development.

Key Word: Aspiration, Capitalism, Development, Socio-Economic Security, Tribal Women, Welfare Programme

SOCIAL CONSTRUCTION OF EMOTIONAL LABOUR: AN EXPLORATORY STUDY ON NURSES BASED ON COMPASSION, EMOTIONAL LABOUR, COPING AND REFLECTION

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A feminist Arlie Hochschild defines emotional labour in her book “The Managed Heart” as regulating or managing emotional expressions with others as a part of one's professional work. Pam Smith in her book “The Emotional Labour of Nursing Revisited: Can Nurses Still Care” focuses on the significance of emotional labour with modern healthcare practice. She particularly emphasises on the challenges that nurses have to face emotionally with their profession precisely with death & dying on the ward. Catherine Theodosius in her book “Emotional Labour in Health Care: The Unmanaged Heart of Nursing” again reckons the sociological idea of Arlie Hochschild’s emotional labour & says that emotional labour is mainly found in places in nursing profession that are not easily recognisable. She goes ahead giving a suggestion that nursing profession has a vital and impeccable responsibility to include emotional labour as emotional labour is fundamentally related to personal and social identity. In this era where everything is so fast paced, automated & where health care is predominantly guided by biomedical & clinical models of health, this research paper delves into understanding of whether there is a room for emotional labour. Nurses are supposed to have greater awareness about emotional labour as the professional competence of nursing demands detachment so that patients can be treated in a more prolific way. Data was collected through interview schedule with 30 nurses of government & private hospitals. This paper picks up the idea of emotional labour & nursing & talks about narratives of nurses, barriers related to gender & profession which includes emotional labour in health, therapeutic value of emotional labour, linkage between emotional labour & emotional exhaustion, interrelation of gender & emotional labour, the effect of emotional labour on communication, competence & resilience of nursing performance, linkage between emotional labour & psychological capital etc. Keywords: Emotional Labour, Professional Competence, Gender, Psychological Capital

EDUCATION PLAYS A KEY ROLE IN WOMEN WORK PARTICIPATION IN HARYANA

Prof Anil Kumar

Women participation in economic activity has been considered as an indicator of their overall well being status in society. Higher participation of women in economic activity is also symbolized for their autonomy status and social and economic empowerment. The present study deals with the women participation in economic activities and how women work participation rate and education are correlated with each other. The study is mainly based on secondary data. The required data has been collected from the census of Haryana and from the census of India . The study revealed that the women participation in economic activities in Haryana is significantly lower than the national average. The work participation rate of women in Haryana is only 17.84% which is very low in comparison to man participation rate 50.44%. The women work participation rate in Haryana has declined from 27.8 % in 2001 to 17.8% in 2011. The rural area has better female work participation rate of 20.80% as compared to urban area which is only 12.1%. However the women are engaged in low paying agriculture work in rural areas. The reason behind the low work participation is low sex ratio, low female literacy rate, responsibilities of family, man dominance etc.

Keywords: Economic Activities, Work Participation Rate, Sex Ratio, Literacy Rate, Man Dominance.

A STUDY ON WORKING WOMEN AND THEIR WORK LIFE BALANCE: SOME REFLECTIONS

Mr Vishwadeep Singh

Prof. Anoop Kumar Bhartiya

In modern society, the shifts in the societal structure resulted in the shifts in the traditional roles of the women. They are now providing financial support to the family like their male counterparts to convene the economic and social needs. Performing dual roles for the working women is a challenging issue where women find complexities in managing their work roles together with their individual life and societal life. They are obliged to manage their domestic tasks, family obligations, personal health accompanied by their work. Women are burdened with the collective responsibilities on private and professional ground directing to the stressful situations for them which affects their physical, mental and social wellbeing. Therefore, there is an essence to maintain an equilibrium between personal life and work domain, known as work life balance. It is the symmetrical state in which a working woman maintains balance between her work and personal life dimensions. Work life balance includes maintaining balance among personal life, family life and professional life. This study focuses on the current issues of working women and their work life balance. Desk review method is used in this study. The papers and published reports relevant to the topic from the years 2006 to 2023 are reviewed. **Key words:** Work, Life, Working women, Work Life Balance.

‘STRENGTHENING WOMEN FARMERS WITHIN THE FABRIC OF INDIA N VILLAGES’

Ms Anjali Makhija & Ellora Mubashir

A crucial question facing India is food security of a population which is growing at a significant rate, while the arable land is limited. This calls for sustainably enhancing agricultural efficiency, by improving resource efficiency and increasing productivity and quality of produce. For this, substantial support is necessary to be provided to women farmers who comprise about 75 percent of the full-time workforce in agriculture and engage about 80 percent of the rural women. These women farmers cultivating more than 85 percent of the land holdings are small and marginal, with an average field size of only 0.8 hectares. However, though they contribute around 60% of the total food grains and over half of the country’s fruits and vegetables, their agriculture is characterized by low productivity and income, perpetuating a cycle of poverty and indebtedness, which undermines national development. This demographically significant segment of women faces social, economic, and governance challenges that are deeply interconnected. Thus, tackling these adversities requires a multifaceted approach that combines targeted interventions and policies alongside initiatives enhancing their overall well being, with the active participation of diverse stakeholders. The issues faced by women farmers include (i) inadequate water for irrigation, for most of them (ii) absence of farm mechanization (iii) not being able to practice climate resilient agriculture (iv) low access to government benefits (v) not knowing scientific way of crop cultivation or having the required facilities for this. Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) in conjunction with the government can deliver these requirements. The central and state government budgets have meagre financial allocation specifically for women farmers and they are expected to benefit under other categories like women empowerment or allocations meant for both men and women farmers. In the latter case, often women farmers do not avail these opportunities due to factors like lack of awareness about them, low self confidence, limited education and restricted mobility. There is a need for the government to earmark resources specifically for women farmers and CSOs to assist these women in obtaining them, through information dissemination and undertaking initiatives addressing gender stereotypes. R&D, especially in farm mechanization that is suitable for small and marginal land holdings, climate resilient high yielding seeds, and other agricultural inputs, is another crucial area requiring intensified focus from both government and private sector. While CSOs have a role in

facilitating the adoption of new and superior cultivation practices through training women farmers. Women farmers would be assisted if the government – simplifies procedures in their schemes and programs, includes gender budgeting in agricultural policies, incentivises joint land titles, digitizes land record systems for safeguarding women’s rightful shares, emphasises credit availability for women farmers and introduces joint eligibility for key government schemes. Women collectives are now widely recognised and enabled by both government and CSOs for benefiting the members and enhancing efficiencies. Agri enterprises including processing units are successfully being set up by collectives. Examples of some women groups are – Mahila Sangathans, Farmer Leadership Schools, women Farmer Interest Groups (FIGs), Custom Hiring Centers (CHC). The government is committed to putting SHGs in place throughout the country as they are a proven success. A more recent development is Farmer Producers Organizations (FPOs), having both men and women members, which are being actively promoted by both the government and CSOs. They operate across the entire agricultural value chain and leverage economies of scale and have increased bargaining power. FPOs are a platform for training, dispensing farm machinery on hire to its members and effective marketing. Even though still rare, wherever exclusively women FPOs have been established they have vastly transformed the lives of women farmers. Knowledge is at the core of sustainably empowering women farmers and CSOs are crucial facilitators for delivering this. By enhancing both technical and leadership skills, while also fostering progressive mindset within the community, women farmers can become confident decision-makers and gain recognition as farmers, water champions, and change makers.

ADVANCING WOMENS EMPOWERMENT AND WELL-BEING THROUGH DECENT WORK: CHALLENGES, OPPORTUNITIES, AND PATHWAYS FOR INCLUSIVE GROWTH

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Dr. Sanjay Ingole

This paper explores the critical role of decent work in advancing women’s empowerment and well-being, focusing on the challenges, opportunities, and pathways that contribute to inclusive growth. As the global economy evolves, the significance of creating equitable work environments that empower women has become increasingly evident. However, persistent barriers such as gender discrimination, unequal pay, and limited access to leadership positions continue to hinder progress. This study examines these challenges while highlighting the potential for decent work to drive both individual and collective well-being among women. The paper identifies opportunities for fostering gender equality in the workplace and enhancing women’s socio-economic status. Additionally, it outlines actionable pathways that can be implemented by governments, businesses, and civil society to ensure that the benefits of decent work are accessible to all women, thereby contributing to broader societal development and inclusive economic growth. It underscores the importance of a multi-stakeholder approach in advancing women’s rights, achieving sustainable development goals, and building resilient economies that prioritize the well-being of all

ACID VIOLENCE ADDRESSING HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATION AGAINST WOMEN

Ms Kajal

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VPO Joshi.

The globe over, gender-based violence is a common occurrence. There are many different types of gender-based violence and violence against women, including child marriage, forced marriage, violent relationships, eve teasing, rape, girl trafficking, honour killings, and acid attacks. The acid assault is often referred to as acid throwing or Vitriolage. Men and women can both be victims of acid attacks; however, the proportion of female victims is higher than male victims. Acid attacks on women have their roots in gender inequity and masculine dominance. When a girl or woman assumes the role of decision maker and acts in opposition to a mans wishes, it affects the ego and control, which makes males more likely to commit crimes or use violence against women. This paper attempts to examine the menace of acid violence against women and human rights violation. It will discuss the reasons of acid violence against women and its horrific impacts. This paper is completely based on the secondary data, written in a descriptive manner on various themes. The theoretical stance of the paper is guided by the Feminist perspective to understand violence against women and the violation of their human rights.

A STUDY ON QUALITY OF LIFE AND STRESS WORK-LIFE AMONG WOMEN EMPLOYEES IN HOSPITALS

Sandhya Kumari
Dr.Ranvir Singh

In the present scenario, the issue of work-life balance has gained more attention for many reasons. The individual's work and personal life may have conflicting demands, while demands for both spheres are equally important. Over some time, women accomplished extraordinary progress. Women employees struggle to do justice for both the roles i.e. personal and professional lives. In the process, they spend more time pursuing one role as opposed to other role. Only if the working environment is conducive, they will freely work for the development of the organization, which in turn develops themselves as well. In this regard, an attempt is made to study the quality of work life of women employees working in hospitals. Workplace stress is a universal issue that poses a risk to occupational health and contributes to far too many aspects of health disparities. Workplace stress might make it more challenging for a professional to provide the high-quality care that patients need. The quality of life for a professional's family may also suffer as a result of stress from the workplace. their physical, mental, and social well-being, and the work environment and coping mechanisms used by healthcare workers have an impact on their mental and emotional health. i) Emotional (stress, symptoms of depression, anxiousness, emotional disinterest, and a decreasing sense of sympathy for the suffering) are all effects of workplace stress. ii) Physical consequences, such as the complete range of psychosomatic illnesses, short migraines, eczema, constipation, cardiovascular diseases, and strokes; iii) Behavioral changes, such as irritation, drinking, and addictive behaviors.

Aim: The study aims to assess the quality of life and stress working life among women and the safety measures and motivational factors of women employees

Method:

Area of the Study: The area of the study refers to Mathura City Uttar Pradesh.

Sample Size: For the study, 30 women employees working in hospitals were taken.

Sources of Data: For the study, both primary and secondary data were used. The primary data is collected by a scheduled questionnaire. The secondary data is collected by using various journals, articles, and websites

Result: We will get the result of the study

Conclusion Overall, primary healthcare employees experience high levels of occupational stress. A personal life should be balanced by women employees in the organization to stabilize their quality of work life. The hospital management can concentrate on various safety, health care, motivation, and job satisfaction factors to attain the quality of work life for employees

Keywords: Quality of life, stress, job satisfaction mental health, hospital setting.

BALANCING BETWEEN EMPOWERMENT AND SUBJUGATION: A STUDY ON SOCIAL & POLITICAL EXPERIENCES OF MUSLIM WOMEN

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This study investigates the diverse social and political realities of Muslim women in Delhi/NCR, challenging common preconceptions that portray them primarily as oppressed and disenfranchised. While much of the existing research focuses on Islamophobia, media representations, and the portrayal of Muslim women as minority within a minority, this study aims to shed light on the dynamic and active roles these women play in their communities.

The study is based on qualitative research, which includes extensive interviews with Muslim women in Delhi/NCR. An orientalist viewpoint frequently portrays these women as repressed and mute, yet this piece depicts them as change agents. They navigate a difficult socio-political landscape, confronting gender prejudice and discriminatory practices while remaining resilient and resourceful. Their participation in social and political activism, social services, education, the professional sector, and women's emancipation movements exemplifies a dynamic empowerment narrative. By concentrating on their lived experiences, this study hopes to provide a more nuanced perspective of Muslim women's struggles and successes. It emphasizes their ability to survive and thrive despite societal limits, providing a counter-narrative to the prevailing discourse, which frequently ignores their agency and accomplishments.

Stereotypes and misrepresentations have frequently veiled the significance and prominence of Muslim women in India's mosaic of rich cultural diversity. The stories told about Indian Muslim women have changed over time, from veiled and silent to oppressed and marginalized. But throughout the last decade, Muslim women's visibility and participation in Indian political spheres have seen a radical change. This study aims to investigate this paradigm change by examining the forces, movements, and obstacles that have influenced the changing context of Indian Muslim women's participation in public life. These women have not only reclaimed a spot in public sphere but gave an adherent turn to political and human rights discourse. The origin of this self-high awareness among them to come out of their houses leaving behind all the societal norms to participate in such mass movement is raises a question that how these marginalized identities are coming out of their household to participate and shaping the discourses.

This study not only bridges gaps in existing literature but also amplifies the voices of Muslim women, fostering a more comprehensive understanding of their experiences and perspectives in contemporary India. The conclusion chapter summarized the main findings and discussed the contribution made to the literature and the ongoing dialogue on Muslim women's experiences, rebellious activism against any social and political cause, and doing well at home and in public spaces while facing oppressive practices as a minority community. This study seeks to emphasize their resilience and accomplishments, challenging common preconceptions and shedding light on their active participation and leadership in political arenas. Furthermore, the research expands on the premise that the issues highlighted in the

media ignore the actual lived experiences of Muslim women and serve as simply instruments to further the agenda of Muslim women as victims of men in their community.

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This study investigates the diverse social and political realities of Muslim women in Delhi/NCR, challenging common preconceptions that portray them primarily as oppressed and disenfranchised. While much of the existing research focuses on Islamophobia, media representations, and the portrayal of Muslim women as minority within a minority, this study aims to shed light on the dynamic and active roles these women play in their communities. The study is based on qualitative research, which includes extensive interviews with Muslim women in Delhi/NCR. An orientalist viewpoint frequently portrays these women as repressed and mute, yet this piece depicts them as change agents. They navigate a difficult socio-political landscape, confronting gender prejudice and discriminatory practices while remaining resilient and resourceful. Their participation in social and political activism, social services, education, the professional sector, and women's emancipation movements exemplifies a dynamic empowerment narrative. By concentrating on their lived experiences, this study hopes to provide a more nuanced perspective of Muslim women's struggles and successes. It emphasizes their ability to survive and thrive despite societal limits, providing a counter-narrative to the prevailing discourse, which frequently ignores their agency and accomplishments. Stereotypes and misrepresentations have frequently veiled the significance and prominence of Muslim women in India's mosaic of rich cultural diversity. The stories told about Indian Muslim women have changed over time, from veiled and silent to oppressed and marginalized. But throughout the last decade, Muslim women's visibility and participation in Indian political spheres have seen a radical change. This study aims to investigate this paradigm change by examining the forces, movements, and obstacles that have influenced the changing context of Indian Muslim women's participation in public life. These women have not only reclaimed a spot in public sphere but gave an adherent turn to political and human rights discourse. The origin of this self-high awareness among them to come out of their houses leaving behind all the societal norms to participate in such mass movement is raises a question that how these marginalized identities are coming out of their household to participate and shaping the discourses. This study not only bridges gaps in existing literature but also amplifies the voices of Muslim women, fostering a more comprehensive understanding of their experiences and perspectives in contemporary India. The conclusion chapter summarized the main findings and discussed the contribution made to the literature and the ongoing dialogue on Muslim women's experiences, rebellious activism against any social and political cause, and doing well at home and in public spaces while facing oppressive practices as a minority community. This study seeks to emphasize their resilience and accomplishments, challenging common preconceptions and shedding light on their active participation and leadership in political arenas. Furthermore, the research expands on the premise that the issues highlighted in the media ignore the actual lived experiences of Muslim women and serve as simply instruments to further the agenda of Muslim women as victims of men in their community.

Keywords: Muslim Women, Empowerment, Activism, Public Sphere, Leadership

WOMEN EMPOWERMENT IN HARYANA VS INDIA : A COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS

Mr Rahul

This research examines the status of women empowerment in Haryana compared to the rest of India , focusing on key indicators such as education, economic participation, political representation, health, and sports achievements. The analysis reveals that while Haryana outperforms national averages in areas like literacy rates and sports accomplishments, it faces significant challenges in women workforce participation and economic empowerment. The state shows mixed results in health indicators, with better performance in some aspects but lagging in others. The paper identifies sociocultural, financial, and political barriers as major challenges to implementing women empowerment policies effectively. It highlights the need for targeted interventions to address the intersectional challenges faced by marginalized groups of women. The research emphasizes the importance of a comprehensive approach to women empowerment, suggesting improvements in education systems, gender equity in leadership, reproductive health, and dismantling of socio-economic constraints. Future research directions include evaluating the effectiveness of current policies and exploring community-based approaches to enhance the impact of empowerment initiatives. The findings contribute to the existing literature on women empowerment and offer practical recommendations for achieving gender equity in Haryana and India .

SOCIAL SECURITY POLICIES FOR ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT OF WIDOWS: A CASE STUDY OF WIDOW PENSION SCHEME IN NCT DELHI

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This research paper provides a comprehensive evaluation of the impact of social security policies on the economic empowerment of widows, with a specific focus on the Widow Pension Scheme in the National Capital Territory (NCT) of Delhi. Widows in India represent a particularly vulnerable section of society, often facing social exclusion, economic marginalization, and a lack of access to basic resources. The Widow Pension Scheme, implemented by the Delhi government, aims to address these challenges by offering financial assistance to widows, thereby enhancing their economic stability and social inclusion. This study critically examines the extent to which the scheme fulfils its intended objectives and contributes to the broader goal of economic empowerment for widowed women. The research adopts a mixed-methods approach, combining quantitative and qualitative insights gathered through interviews with beneficiaries of the scheme. The quantitative component focuses on assessing the reach and coverage of the scheme, analysing trends in the disbursement of pensions, and evaluating the economic outcomes for beneficiaries. This includes an examination of indicators such as changes in household income, access to education for children, health expenditures, and overall quality of life. The qualitative component, on the other hand, provides a nuanced understanding of the lived experiences of widows under the scheme, highlighting both the benefits and the challenges faced by them. Findings from the quantitative analysis reveal that the Widow Pension Scheme has had a positive impact on the economic security of a significant number of widows. Widow pension benefit amount of Rs.2500/- per month has contributed to improving their dwelling conditions, afford for better food and cloths, provide education to children, empowered them to participate in financial decisions and also contributed in reduction of financial instability and shocks. There are critical areas where the scheme falls short. One of the major issues identified is the adequacy of the pension amount, which is often insufficient to meet the basic needs of beneficiaries, particularly in a high-cost urban environment like Delhi. Furthermore, the study finds challenges faces by widows in availing the scheme due to its inclusion criteria. The qualitative findings underscore the importance of the Widow Pension Scheme as a lifeline for many widows, providing them with a sense of financial autonomy and dignity. However,

the interviews also reveal systemic challenges such as delays in the disbursement of pensions, the stigmatization of widows in their communities, and the limited scope of the scheme in addressing broader issues such as employment opportunities and social integration. These challenges suggest that while the scheme plays a crucial role in alleviating immediate financial distress, it is insufficient on its own to achieve holistic economic empowerment for widows. Based on the findings, the paper argues for a more integrated approach to social security for widows, recommending policy enhancements that include increasing the pension amount, and expanding the scheme to encompass additional support services such as skills training and employment opportunities. The paper also advocates for greater community engagement and awareness programs to reduce the stigma associated with widowhood and to ensure that all eligible widows can access the benefits of the scheme. This research contributes to the on-going discourse on social security and gender equity in India by providing a detailed case study of the Widow Pension Scheme in NCT Delhi. It underscores the need for more comprehensive and inclusive policies that go beyond financial assistance to address the multifaceted challenges faced by widows, thereby advancing their economic empowerment and social well-being.

Keywords: Widows, Economic Empowerment, Women Empowerment, Widow Pension Scheme, Financial Assistance

EMPOWERING CHANGE AND SHAPING FUTURES: GENDER SENSITIVITY AND COMBATING VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

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Gender inequalities have a vast and wide-ranging impact on society. It contributes to gender inequalities in health, employment, education, income, and political participation. Always inequalities in Gender increase the risk of acts of violence by men against women. Women and girls are vulnerable to physical, emotional, and sexual violence because of the traditional beliefs that men always have a right to control women. Gender inequality fuels violence against women and results in power imbalances. Gender sensitization aims to make people aware of the power dynamics and promote gender equality, thereby combating violence against women and empowering change. This study examines attitudes towards gender amongst students at the Arts and Sciences College, especially how significant gender sensitivity appears with respect to its impact on female suffering violence. It also fills a gap where insufficient awareness exists regarding college students' perceptions relating to gender awareness alongside gender-linked aggression within Chennai District area. Sequential Explanatory Research Design was used employing quantitative and qualitative methods in combination. A questionnaire was utilized in quantitative data collection while Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) collected qualitative information about the same issue. The number of respondents participating in the quantitative sampling was 380 in total and were selected randomly through Proportionate Stratified Random Sampling method from co-education colleges in Chennai. Likewise, as regards qualitative sampling sessions were done after FGDs to interpret the quantitative findings. The analysis and interpretation of data are meticulously carried out, ensuring a triangulation of qualitative and quantitative data to draw accurate inferences. The findings suggest that more research in the area of gender can support government measures and schemes for well-being. The study concludes with recommendations and suggestions for future research, emphasizing the need for interventions and strategies to promote gender equality and enhance women's social respect and dignity.

Key Words: Genders Sensitivity, Violence against Women, Arts and Science College Students

THE IMPACT OF OLD AGE PENSION ON THE EMPOWERMENT AND WELL-BEING OF ELDERLY WOMEN: A CRITICAL EVALUATION

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The elderly population in Haryana, especially women, is facing problems including declining physical and mental health, financial security and limited access to many amenities. The Samman Allowance Old Age Pension Scheme aims to provide financial assistance to elderly people in Below Poverty Line (BPL) families, to alleviate some of these problems. This paper critically evaluates the impact of Old Age Pension (OAP) schemes on the empowerment and well-being of elderly women, utilizing a cross-sectional research design. A total of 30 participants, elderly women who are beneficiaries of OAP, were selected through a random sampling method, and data was collected using a pre-designed interview schedule. The findings highlight the multifaceted benefits that OAP can provide, including financial security, improved health outcomes, and enhanced social participation. Through comprehensive analysis, the study illustrates how OAP serves as a pivotal tool for reducing poverty among elderly women, thereby allowing them to assert greater autonomy in both personal and communal spheres. Additionally, the evaluation addresses the challenges and limitations of current OAP programs, including accessibility issues and the varying socio-economic contexts that influence their effectiveness. The implications of this study are significant for policymakers and researchers, as it underscores the importance of optimizing OAP initiatives to better meet the needs of elderly women, ultimately enhancing their empowerment and overall quality of life.

• Keywords: Elderly Women, Empowerment, Well-being, Financial Security, Social Participation, Cross-Sectional Study, Poverty Reduction

FROM POLICY TO PRACTICE: IMPLEMENTATION OF POLICIES AND PROGRAMMES FOR EMPOWERING WOMEN IN RURAL HARYANA

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The status of women in rural areas often differs significantly from that of their urban counterparts, influenced by a range of socio-economic, cultural, and infrastructural factors. Women in rural areas face a unique set of challenges but also have opportunities for empowerment through targeted policies and programmes. Haryana has been known for its patriarchal society, where traditional gender roles often limited women's opportunities in education, employment, and decision-making. The status of women in rural Haryana reflects a mix of progress and ongoing challenges. The state has faced challenges such as low female literacy rates, high rates of female foeticide, and social practices that restrict women's autonomy. Women empowerment through policies and programs is essential for achieving gender equality and improving the socio-economic status of women. Effective strategies encompass various aspects of women's lives, including education, health, economic opportunities, legal rights, and social status. In recent years, there has been a concerted effort to improve the status of women through various policies, programs, and social initiatives. Haryana has implemented a range of policies and programs aimed at enhancing women's empowerment and addressing gender disparities. Schemes such as Beti Bachao Beti Padhao Scheme, Ujjwala Scheme, One-Stop Centre (OSC) Scheme,

skill development Programmes, Sakhi Kendra and others. These policies and programmes reflect Haryana's commitment in empowering women's. Main aim of these programmes is to address multiple dimensions of women's empowerment including safety, education, health and economic independence. These successes reflect a broader commitment to improving the status and opportunities for women in Haryana. Despite these efforts, translating these policies into tangible benefits for rural women remains a complex challenge. This paper explores the implementation challenges of women-centric programs in rural Haryana, assessing the gaps between policy formulation and practical outcomes. There are many challenges being faced during the implementation of programmes and policies related to women's empowerment. Apart from traditional gender roles and social norms, patriarchy also play important role in limiting women's access to resources and opportunities in utilizing the schemes and programmes being implemented for them. Scarcity of funding, resources, lack of proper infrastructure particularly in rural areas also affect the delivery of services. However, challenges remain, and continued efforts are needed to address issues such as gender-based violence, economic inequality, and cultural biases. Policies and programmes can create a supportive environment that empowers women, promotes gender equality, and contributes to overall societal development. Improving the status and opportunities for women in rural Haryana requires a multi-faceted approach that integrates education, healthcare, economic empowerment, legal protections, and infrastructure development. By addressing these areas comprehensively, and ensuring the active involvement of rural women in programme design and implementation, Haryana can foster a more equitable and supportive environment for its women

STRATEGIC APPROACHES IN ENHANCING WOMEN EMPOWERMENT THROUGH DIGITALISING SELF-HELP GROUPS: A SWOT ANALYSIS PERSPECTIVE

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Self-Help Groups (SHGs) have a revolutionary opportunity to improve women's empowerment through digitalization, particularly in areas where women have traditionally had limited access to markets and resources. Using a SWOT (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats) analysis framework, this paper investigates strategic approaches to empowering women through the digitalization of SHGs. This provides a comprehensive understanding of the potential benefits and challenges associated with this transition. This paper addresses this gap by reviewing the literature. The paper reviews the role of digitalization in empowering women to actively participate in the self-help groups activities and also analyses the strengths, opportunities, weaknesses and threats revolving around it. **Strengths** The digitalization of SHGs brings numerous strengths that can be leveraged to empower women more effectively. Enhanced connectivity and communication tools allow SHGs to reach a broader audience, fostering stronger networks and community bonds. The introduction of digital financial platforms promotes financial inclusion, enabling women to access banking services, microfinance, and digital payments. Additionally, digital platforms facilitate skill development through e-learning opportunities, providing SHG members with access to training in entrepreneurship, digital literacy, and other essential skills. **Weaknesses** Despite these strengths, the digitalization of SHGs also reveals several internal challenges. The digital divide remains a significant barrier, particularly in rural and underdeveloped areas where access to technology and the internet is limited. Cybersecurity and data privacy concerns are critical issues that must be addressed to maintain trust and protect members from potential risks. Furthermore, resistance to technological change, often rooted in cultural or generational differences, can hinder the adoption of digital tools within SHGs. **Opportunities** The shift towards digital SHGs

opens up a wide range of opportunities for expanding women's empowerment. E-commerce platforms provide SHG members with new market access, allowing them to reach a global audience and increase their income potential. Digitalization also fosters collaboration and networking, enabling SHGs to connect with other groups, NGOs, and government bodies for resource sharing, knowledge exchange, and joint initiatives. Moreover, the availability of data analytics tools allows SHGs to make informed decisions, optimize their strategies, and tailor their programs to better meet the needs of their members. Threats However, the digital transformation of SHGs is not without external threats. Cybersecurity risks, including data breaches and fraud, pose significant challenges that require robust security measures and ongoing education for members. The potential for digital exclusion is another critical threat, as members with limited technological proficiency or access may be left behind. Social and cultural barriers may also limit women's participation in digital SHGs, particularly in regions where gender norms and expectations restrict women's access to technology. Conclusion: The digitalization of SHGs offers a powerful tool for enhancing women's empowerment, but it requires a strategic approach that carefully balances strengths, addresses weaknesses, exploits opportunities, and mitigates threats. By adopting a holistic and inclusive strategy, SHGs can effectively navigate the challenges of digitalization, ensuring that all members benefit from the opportunities it presents. This paper provides insights into how SHGs can leverage digital tools to empower women, promote economic independence, and foster sustainable community development in the digital age.

Key Words: Women empowerment, Digitalization, Self-help Groups (SHGs), SWOT Analysis, Strategic Approaches.

EMPOWERING WOMEN TEACHERS IN BIHAR: A CATALYST FOR EDUCATIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND SOCIAL CHANGE

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In Bihar's educational system, women teachers play a crucial role, yet there is still more work to be done in terms of their empowerment. This study explores the interconnections of gender, education, and empowerment as it looks at the situation of women teachers in Bihar. We examine the experiences, difficulties, and goals of female educators in Bihar using a qualitative method, emphasizing the effects of BPSC policies and programs on their professional and personal development. Our findings show that there are a variety of obstacles that women instructors must overcome, such as institutional prejudices, cultural norms, and fewer prospects for career progression. We contend that attaining gender equality, social change, and educational advancement in Bihar depends on empowering women educators. The report suggests tactical measures, such as legislation changes, mentorship programs, and capacity building, to address the particular requirements of needs of women teachers for their overall development and empowering them for societal change

वर्तमान समय में वृद्ध महिलाओं की समस्याएं एवं चुनौतियां

Ms Damini Pandey

Researcher, Prof. Rajendra Singh (Rajju bhaiyya) University of prayagraj, Naini, Uttar pradesh

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वर्तमान समय में एकल परिवार की बढ़ती अवधारणा की वजह से वृद्ध महिलाएं कई चुनौतियों का सामना कर रही हैं। आधुनिकता के बढ़ते प्रभाव ने नगर के साथ ग्रामीण क्षेत्रों तक में वृद्धों के प्रति सम्मान और सेवाभाव को घटाया है। जिसके परिणाम स्वरूप वृद्ध जनों के सामाजिक, आर्थिक, मनोवैज्ञानिक, भावनात्मक और

स्वास्थ्य पर प्रतिकूल प्रभाव पड़ा है। संवेदनहीन होते समाज की वृद्धों के प्रति इस शैली से उनका जीवन दुरूह हो रहा है। वृद्ध महिलाओं के सामने उत्पन्न हो रही चुनौतियों को समझा जाए तो उनकी स्वास्थ्यगत चुनौतियां बढ़ती उम्र के साथ आम है। मधुमेह, उच्च रक्तचाप, डिमेंशिया तथा मोतियाबिंद होना इस अवस्था में कोई अतिशयोक्ति की बात नहीं है। आर्थिक सुरक्षा की दृष्टि से भी देखने का प्रयास करें तो वृद्ध महिलाएं असुरक्षित महसूस करती हैं। खासकर वे महिलाएं जो विधवा हैं, अथवा जिनके पास पेंशन या अन्य सामाजिक सुरक्षा का लाभ नहीं है। मानसिक स्थिति को समझें तो विघटित परिवार के कारण वृद्ध महिलाएं अक्सर अकेलापन महसूस करती हैं तथा हम कुछ आंकड़ों को समझें तो वृद्ध महिलाएं वृद्ध पुरुषों की तुलना में अधिक उपेक्षित महसूस करती हैं। वर्तमान में बढ़ती तकनीकी भी उनके लिए बड़ी चुनौती खड़ी हो गई है।

WOMEN BENEFICIARIES AND ICDS SCHEME: KNOWLEDGE, SATISFACTION AND UTILIZATION IN SELECTED DISTRICT OF HARYANA

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In 1975, on the auspicious day of Gandhi Jayanti, the Integrated Child Development Service (ICDS) Scheme was launched. It aims at the holistic development of the child and the empowerment of mothers in terms of her wellbeing. The primary target group encompasses pregnant women, lactating mothers, and children from birth up to the age of 6 years. The essence of ICDS through Anganwadi Services is fulfilled when it effectively reaches those it is meant for. Women, being key beneficiaries, have their level of knowledge regarding various components of the ICDS scheme directly linked to the program's ultimate outcomes and its utilization. Thus, the objective of this study is to assess the Knowledge, Satisfaction, and Utilization among Women Beneficiaries of Anganwadi regarding ICDS services and the barriers to non-utilization of Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS). This objective aligns well with the broader goal of promoting the empowerment and well-being of women, as it aims to evaluate how effectively these women are accessing and benefiting from these services. This study will adopt a quantitative and qualitative approach using a descriptive survey design. A purposive sampling technique will be used to collect data from 50 women beneficiaries between the age group of 18–45 years from the Kurukshetra and Panipat districts of Haryana, India. An Interview Schedule will be used to collect the data. The findings of this study will provide valuable insights into the current state of awareness and satisfaction among women regarding ICDS services. By identifying barriers to utilization, the study will offer recommendations for improving the effectiveness of the ICDS program, ultimately contributing to the empowerment of women. Empowered with knowledge and access to resources, these women will be better equipped to make informed decisions for their well-being and that of their children.

Keywords: Women Beneficiaries, Anganwadi Worker, Awareness, Beneficiaries, Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS)

EXPLORING THE QUALITY OF LIFE OF WOMEN WITH SPINAL CORD INJURY: A COMPREHENSIVE REVIEW AND PATHWAYS TO EMPOWERMENT

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Women with spinal cord injuries (SCI) encounter a unique set of challenges that impact their quality of life on multiple levels. The literature highlights that women with SCI are particularly vulnerable due to factors such as limited access to specialized healthcare services, societal stigma, and the psychological burden of adjusting to life with a significant disability. Additionally, their quality of life is often influenced by their socioeconomic profiles, which include their lifestyle, family background, and the level of support they receive from their immediate environment. This paper explores the challenges faced by women with spinal cord injuries (SCI) by examining their socioeconomic, psychological, and physical experiences, while identifying pathways to empowerment. Through a review of existing literature and 4 to 5 in-depth case studies, the study aims to highlight the underrepresentation of women in SCI research, leading to a lack of gender-sensitive support systems. It also examines factors such as family dynamics, career opportunities, societal expectations, and the role of caregivers in shaping their experiences.

The study also addresses infrastructural barriers that limit mobility, low awareness of government welfare schemes, and the need for psychosocial support. It emphasizes the importance of financial independence, education, and self-empowerment through self-advocacy and skills training. Special attention will be given to the societal pressures related to marriage, as cultural norms and expectations often place additional burdens on women with SCI. The paper will discuss how these pressures impact their personal decisions and overall well-being, and what can be done to support them in navigating these challenges. The findings from this study aim to contribute to the ongoing discourse on women's empowerment by offering actionable recommendations for improving the lives of women with spinal cord injuries. By adopting a holistic approach that considers gender-specific needs, the study seeks to inform the development of more inclusive healthcare policies and social support systems. Ultimately, this paper will highlight the importance of self-empowerment and the effective implementation of government schemes in enhancing the quality of life for women living with spinal cord injuries. **Keywords:** Women with spinal cord injuries, Spinal cord injuries, SCI, Infrastructural barriers, Socio-economic profiles, Psychosocial support, Self-empowerment

EMPOWERING WOMEN AGAINST WORKPLACE HARASSMENT THROUGH THE POSH ACT

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Sexual harassment in the workplace is a pervasive and deeply major issue that significantly impacts individuals, organizations, and society. It can have devastating consequences for those who experience it, leading to emotional distress, decreased job satisfaction, and long-term trauma. The ramifications extend beyond the individual level, affecting organizational dynamics as well. Sexual harassment undermines morale, productivity, and employee retention, which can ultimately damage a company reputation and financial performance. Moreover, the prevalence of workplace sexual harassment reflects broader societal issues of gender-based discrimination and power imbalances, highlighting the need for effective interventions to foster a more equitable and inclusive work environment. In India, the Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition, and Redressal) Act, 2013, commonly known as the POSH Act, represents a landmark legislative effort aimed at protecting women from workplace harassment. This Act mandates organizations to establish Internal Complaints

Committees (ICCs), develop comprehensive policies to prevent harassment, and provide mechanisms for addressing complaints. The POSH Act emerged in response to growing awareness of sexual harassment as a significant barrier to women full participation in the workforce. Its enactment reflects a commitment to addressing this issue through legal and institutional frameworks. The effectiveness of the POSH Act is contingent upon several factors. The successful implementation of the Act at the grassroots level is crucial. This includes ensuring that organizations comply with its requirements, that employees are aware of their rights and the procedures for reporting harassment, and that there is a genuine commitment from organizations to adhere to the guidelines outlined in the Act. Despite these legal provisions, challenges persist in effectively enforcing the POSH Act. One of the key challenges is the cultural and societal attitudes towards workplace harassment. Social stigma and victim-blaming attitudes often deter women from coming forward with complaints. These attitudes not only hinder the reporting process but also impact the resolution of harassment cases. Despite the existence of legal frameworks, shifting these entrenched cultural norms remains a significant hurdle. Addressing these attitudes is essential for creating an environment where victims feel supported and empowered to report harassment without fear of retribution or stigma. Research into the POSH Act indicates that while it provides a strong framework for protecting women, its success is dependent on continuous efforts to change workplace norms and public perceptions regarding gender equality. The study highlights the need for ongoing education and training on gender sensitivity and harassment prevention. Implementing mandatory and ongoing training for all employees can help increase awareness and foster a culture of respect and equality. Additionally, enhancing the capacity and impartiality of Internal Complaints Committees (ICCs) is critical for ensuring fair and effective handling of complaints. Stricter penalties for non-compliance should also be enforced to hold organizations accountable. This research aims to explore new approaches and strategies for addressing and preventing sexual harassment in the workplace. Through a scoping review, the study will provide a comprehensive overview of the current state of workplace sexual harassment research, identifying gaps, trends, and areas for further exploration. Following PRISMA guidelines will ensure greater transparency and consistency in the review process. Understanding the current landscape of workplace sexual harassment is crucial for fostering safer and more inclusive work environments. By enhancing our knowledge, this research aspires to contribute to the creation of a work environment free from harassment, discrimination, and fear, thereby supporting broader efforts toward gender equality in the workplace.

Key Words: sexual Harassment, Workplace, POSH Act, Reporting Mechanisms, Internal Complaints Committees (ICC), gender-based discrimination, Legal Framework,

UNDERSTANDING THE PORTRAYAL OF WOMEN IN THE MEDIA

Dr Tushar Singh

Media shapes our perceptions, influences societal values, and plays a crucial role in agenda-setting, framing, and representation. As consumers, critical media literacy empowers us to engage thoughtfully with content. Gender representation in media has long been a topic of scholarly interest, particularly in the context of contemporary and digital platforms. As technology advances and media consumption patterns evolve, understanding how gender is portrayed becomes crucial. Data was collected from several national and international journals, books from various publishers, reports of international organisations, and other sources available on the internet. This article explores several themes (historical context; stereotypes and gendered imagery; digital media and empowerment; intersectionality and representation; media literacy and critical consumption; and, challenges and future directions) related to gender representation, stereotypes, and the impact of digital media on societal

perceptions. Minor details of the aforementioned themes have been discussed as under: (a). Historical Context: Media has historically perpetuated gender stereotypes, reinforcing traditional roles and norms. However, contemporary media—especially digital platforms—offers both challenges and opportunities for redefining these narratives. (b). Stereotypes and Gendered Imagery: Contemporary media often relies on visual imagery to convey messages. Unfortunately, gender stereotypes persist and women are frequently depicted in domestic roles, emphasising physical appearance, and reinforcing the idea that their primary value lies in attractiveness. (c) Digital Media and Empowerment: Digital platforms have democratised content creation, allowing marginalised voices including those of women to be heard. Social media, blogs, and podcasts provide spaces for women to challenge stereotypes, share experiences, and advocate for change. (d). Intersectionality and Representation: Intersectionality—the recognition that identities intersect (race, class, sexuality, etc.)—is crucial in analysing gender representation. Media must move beyond binary portrayals and recognise the diversity of women's experiences. (e). Media Literacy and Critical Consumption: Promoting media literacy is essential. Consumers need tools to critically analyse media content, recognise biases, and challenge harmful representations. (f). Challenges and Future Directions: Despite progress, challenges persist. Women continue to face online harassment and threats. Conclusion: Gender representation in contemporary and digital media is multifaceted. While progress has been made, there is still work to be done. By fostering critical awareness, promoting diverse narratives, and advocating for equitable representation, we can create a media landscape that reflects the complexity and richness of human experiences.

MENSTRUAL LEAVE FOR WOMEN: A MOST AWAITED POLICY IN INDIA

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A woman is an important unit of creation who takes the creation forward through reproduction. In females, this process begins with menstruation, commonly referred to as menstrual periods. It is a natural and healthy process that involves the shedding of blood and tissue from the lining of the uterus on a monthly basis, which occurs when the body is ready for conception and pregnancy does not occur. Most women find this process quite painful, experiencing symptoms such as abdominal cramps, body pain, vomiting, and mood swings due to hormonal changes that may differ among individuals. In such a situation, women in employment have to work at their workplace without taking any time off, as India does not provide any form of menstrual leave. However, other countries like Japan, Spain, South Korea, the Philippines, Indonesia, Taiwan, Vietnam, and Zambia have implemented policies that allow for paid menstruation leave. Menstrual leave is a policy that allows women to take time off from work or educational institutions while they are experiencing menstruation. The idea of paid menstrual leave has sparked controversy in India as a result of the country's continuous struggle for gender equality. In July 2024, the Supreme Court of India directed the Central Government to contemplate creating a standardized strategy for granting paid menstruation leave. However, there have been concerns raised about the potential drawbacks, which include discouraging employers from hiring women and making gender discrimination worse. However, as of 2024, only a limited number of Indian enterprises, such as Zomato and Swiggy, have established specific rules concerning menstrual leave. Furthermore, the discussion delves into broader subjects about gender dynamics within the professional environment, including disparities in income, opportunities for career advancement, and the long-term retention of female staff members. This study, which is based on qualitative type of research and uses secondary data, aims to examine various factors associated with the issue of menstrual leave in India, study related provisions in other countries, assess the feasibility of the argument, and promote policy that maximizes

the beneficial effects of the argument and minimizes its negative consequences. Keywords: menstrual or period leave, women's struggle, gender equality, moral sensitivity, India n government

WORK LIFE BALANCE AMONG POLICEWOMEN IN DELHI

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Work-life balance can be a significant challenge for policewomen. Their demanding job, characterized by irregular working hours, exposure to cruelty and violence, high stress, and rigorous physical and mental requirements, intersects with their responsibilities at home, which often include cooking, raising children, caring of elderly family members etc. Undoubtedly, a work environment that requires constant availability of 24/7 becomes a significant challenge, especially for women. The impact of police personnel's service on their families is multifaceted and intricate phenomena. This research is undertaken to study the complex challenges that striving for work-life balance poses on the personal lives of policewomen. Policewomen face unique challenges that their male counterparts might not experience to the same extent. These challenges include societal expectations and cultural norms that place a disproportionate amount of domestic responsibility on women. The dual demands of a career in law enforcement and managing a household can lead to significant stress and conflict, impacting their overall well-being and job performance. This research study aims to identify the impacts of work-life balance and investigate the primary factors contributing to work-family challenges experienced by policewomen within the police department. The study was conducted in the police station of Central District of Delhi. A purposive sampling was used for the selection of potential participants, that is, Policewomen. Due to the paucity of time, the sample size was limited to 10 participants. A qualitative approach was used to gain an in-depth understanding of issues related to work-life balance among policewomen. This method allowed for a comprehensive exploration of personal experiences and perceptions, providing valuable insights into the complexities of their daily lives. A questionnaire method was initially used to gather basic demographic information and preliminary data, followed by in-depth interviews with the participants, allowing for a deeper exploration of their experiences. Data was collected using a structured interview schedule, which ensured consistency while allowing for the flexibility to explore relevant issues as they arose during the conversations. The findings of the study revealed that factors such as family size, child care arrangements, children's age, unpredictable working hours, colleague attitude and job rigidity have resulted in dissatisfaction and are more likely to have adverse effects on personal life, family relationships and work performance. Consequently, this situation has led to reduced satisfaction levels and increased conflict between family and work responsibilities. This research highlights the need for systemic changes within the police force to address these issues. Some recommendations based on the findings of the study are – to increase the size of the staff, especially women in police force, supportive working conditions is required, timely promotion, commutation facilities for late night duties for women, better leave and transfer policies. Addressing these issues can lead to improved job satisfaction, better mental health, and enhanced performance among policewomen, ultimately benefiting the police force as a whole.

EMPOWERING WOMEN THROUGH THE NATIONAL RURAL LIVELIHOOD MISSION: INSIGHTS FROM FARMING AND NON-FARMING COMPONENTS WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO HIMACHAL PRADESH

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This paper explores the impact of the National Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM), a World Bank-supported initiative launched in June 2011, designed to empower women by creating strong institutional platforms. Central to the mission is its inclusive approach, particularly in mobilizing the most vulnerable women from socially and economically marginalized households. NRLM's primary objective is to enhance household income by improving livelihoods and expanding access to financial and public services, with a special focus on marginalized groups such as scheduled tribes, vulnerable tribal communities, single women, landless labourers and those in remote or politically unstable areas. The mission emerged from the restructuring of the Swarnajayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY) and was informed by successful experiences in states like Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, and Odisha, as well as insights from the Dr. Radhakrishnan Committee report. NRLM provides financial support to Self-Help Groups (SHGs) through the Revolving Fund (RF) and Community Investment Fund (CIF). This support is strengthened by a three-tier community organizational structure consisting of Self-Help Groups (SHGs), Village Organizations (VOs), and Cluster Level Federations (CLFs) specifically designed to sustain and empower women-led organizations. The mission addresses key thematic areas such as food security, health, WASH (Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene), education, and local governance. Additionally, NRLM contributes to India's Sustainable Development Goals by enhancing access to public services, entitlements, and safety nets. It supports women's empowerment through financial literacy, self-employment opportunities, and land access while strengthening SHGs to improve agricultural productivity, market access, and trade terms, ultimately fostering economic independence and social inclusion. In 2016, the NRLM was renamed Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana, a program jointly funded by the central and state governments. To ensure the effective implementation of NRLM, State Rural Livelihoods Missions (SRLMs) have been established as dedicated special-purpose vehicles. On the same line, in Himachal Pradesh, the mission operates under the Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana which spans 86 blocks and empowers and links SHG to the local market through initiatives like Him Ira SHG Shops and weekly markets etc. However, the mission's objectives are achieved through investments in four main components: (a) social mobilization and the promotion and strengthening of self-managed and financially sustainable community institutions for rural poor women; (b) financial inclusion; (c) sustainable livelihoods; and (d) social inclusion, social development, and access to entitlements through convergence. However, this study specifically examines the sustainable livelihood component of NRLM, including both farm and non-farm livelihoods, and their role in empowering rural women, with a particular focus on Himachal Pradesh. The program includes over 43,152 SHGs and has trained more than 2.15 lakh women in agro-ecological practices and sustainable livestock management. These efforts have led to improved productivity, better market access for women's enterprises, reduced cultivation costs, and stronger local markets for natural, handmade products. HPSRLM (Himachal Pradesh State Rural Livelihood Mission) has established a network of 1,200 Farm Livelihood Community Resource Persons (CRPs), including Krishi, Pashu, and Krishi Udyog Sakhis who provide essential services at the village level. These services include seed selection, soil and water management, pest control, harvesting, post-harvest processes, nutritional security, and livestock health, with a focus on preventive measures like deworming and vaccination. Moreover, Himachal's Pashu Sakhis were

notably commended by the Additional Secretary of MoRD, GoI, for their exemplary work in combating lumpy skin disease in animals through vaccination and herbal treatments. The paper employs a mixed research methodology, drawing on primary data from SHG-run enterprises such as Him Ira Shops, HIMIRA Book Cafe and Him-Annapurna Food Van. These case studies capture the experiences and journeys of these enterprises. Secondary data is sourced from various platforms, including official websites, research articles, reports from development agencies like the World Bank, and concept reports provided by HPSRLM. The findings underscore NRLM's effectiveness in empowering women, promoting local products, and reducing cultivation costs through agro-ecological practices, ultimately enhancing produce quality and marketability.

Keywords: NRLM, Sustainable Livelihood, Farming, Non-Farming, Women empowerment and Himachal Pradesh

TRIALS AND TRIBULATIONS: THE PREDICAMENT OF HOMELESS WOMEN IN INDIA

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Lately, it has been observed worldwide that the number of homeless women is an increasing proportion of the homeless population. The sight of homeless women on the streets, often together with their children, not only arouses public disquietude but also signifies the human rights infringement of this disenfranchised and vulnerable population. Women have historically been subject to gender-based discrimination, oppression, and stigma and victims of forced evictions, abuse, and violence. They cope with adverse childhood experiences, grow up in disorganized families, lack affiliation to maintain stable relationships, and face difficulty in parenting. In the traditional Indian society women thus have the tendency to conceal both their homelessness and violence, till the matter spirals out of hand. This paper attempts to elucidate why women become homeless, the nature of violence faced by them, and offer prescriptions to mitigate the violence and ensuing homelessness. An empirical study was conducted by interviewing more than 100 homeless women residing in three shelter homes run by voluntary agencies located in the Delhi National Capital Region. Five case studies were culled out from a pool of interviews to explore the trials and tribulations of homeless women in India. The study revealed that each homeless woman has a unique story to narrate. They encounter multiple social stressors determined by their multi-dimensional role in society and face aggravated circumstances that are diverse and complex. Domestic violence or family disruptions on account of death, divorce, or abandonment are common pathways to homelessness. Despite difficulty in "coping," homeless women are more likely to maintain parental relationships with their children, which is of vital importance. Women on account of social stigma are subject to untreated mental health conditions and tend to unwittingly wander away from their home as the sickness aggravates. On the streets, homeless women are particularly vulnerable to risk for violence, abuse, and trauma and live their lives in fear and desperation. Homelessness and mental illness frequently overlap, and women in particular are more likely to experience "complex and severe" mental health issues, including depression, anxiety, psychosis, and other personality disorders. Many face multiple episodes of homelessness due to irregular follow-ups and non-compliance with medications. Ensuring the safety and security of these women and providing for their subsistence are matters of paramount concern. While home-based care and rehabilitation would be ideal, there are a lack of guidelines in this regard. Shelter homes exclusively for homeless women are woefully inadequate. The scenario of rising numbers of homeless women with mental health issues reflects the need for

community-based rehabilitation efforts and gender-sensitive trauma-informed care and services as prescribed by the Mental Healthcare Act, 2017. The Act also calls upon the government to set up less restrictive community-based establishments, including daycare centers and halfway homes for those who no longer require treatment, and to facilitate gradual reintegration with the family and community. Mental health professionals, voluntary organisations, legislative bodies, and grass-roots institutions have the onerous responsibility of crafting awareness across the communities to fight the stigma associated with homelessness, including the importance of psychosocial care and rehabilitation. Homeless women have a unique set of requirements that demand appropriate and safe interventions, making gender-specific services imperative.

Keywords: Women, Homelessness, Mental health, Rehabilitation, Shelter home

AWARENESS AND EMOTIONAL REPERCUSSIONS OF POSTPARTUM DEPRESSION: A STUDY ON WOMEN'S HEALTHDR.

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This study aims to find the level of awareness and emotional problems faced by women with postpartum depression. Postpartum depression is a complicated set of physical, mental, and behavioral changes that some women experience following childbirth. According to The Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, Fifth Edition, postpartum depression is a kind of serious depression that starts within four weeks of giving birth. The incidence of postpartum depression is increasing at an alarming rate, and a significant portion of the population is oblivious of this fact. Women are frequently discouraged from obtaining treatment due to the stigma associated with mental health and the lack of knowledge regarding postpartum depression. Postpartum depression can have a detrimental impact on the children of a mother who fails to receive treatment. In order to prevent postpartum depression and enhance their mental well-being, it is imperative to cultivate awareness and knowledge. Additionally, there were relatively few studies and research conducted in the field of postpartum depression, particularly in Tamil Nadu. The study's main objective is to investigate the prevalence of postpartum depression among women aged 21 to 35, to investigate the extent of women's awareness of postpartum depression, to comprehend the physical and emotional challenges they encountered and to evaluate the strategies for managing postpartum depression. This study adopted a descriptive research design and 60 samples were collected using a purposive sampling method from Virudhunagar, Tamil Nadu, India . The researcher used a self-prepared questionnaire to find the level of awareness and emotional problems faced by women with post-partum depression. The findings include that the effects of postpartum depression are not only limited to the woman but also extend to her spouse and the entire family. Children of mothers who experienced postpartum depression have a long-term adverse effect on their socio-emotional development, as evidenced by follow-up studies. Disruptions in the mother-child relationship that commence in the early postpartum period appear to be the cause of these adverse child outcomes. This underscores the significance of the primary care health team's early detection and treatment. It also implies that the primary focus should be on the identification of high-risk samples, as well as the development and evaluation of preventive interventions. **Keywords:** Post-Partum Depression, Awareness, Emotional Problems, Women

ECONOMIC INDEPENDENCE AND WOMEN EMPOWERMENT: A COMPARATIVE STUDY OF WOMEN WITH AND WITHOUT SUSTAINABLE LIVELIHOOD IN SRINAGAR.

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Women's empowerment can be defined to promoting women's sense of self-worth, their ability to determine their own choices, and their right to influence social change for themselves and others. Empowerment is paramount to enhancing women's quality of life, particularly in socioeconomically challenged regions. Srinagar has all sorts of socio-economic and political complexities and, therefore, very challenging for women. This paper compares the empowerment of women of Srinagar who have a sustainable livelihood with those without access to sustainable livelihood. The paper will evaluate the impact of economic stability on the empowerment of women concerning autonomy, participation in communities, and access to resources. The study will focus on the women of Srinagar working in informal sector and whose household income from all sources, before implementing any sustainable livelihood interventions is below 6000 per month. The research will adopt a mixed-method approach, combining quantitative data analysis with qualitative interviews and case studies. The sample size for the study will be decided after doing pilot study and the participants will be divided equally between the two groups, and data will be analyzed using thematic analysis and quantitative data analysis methods to identify key patterns and insights. The research will focus on analyzing how women who have access to sustainable livelihood enjoy significantly greater social empowerment compared to their peers who lack such opportunities. The study will also focus on comparing how sustainable livelihood empowers women through improved economic stability, better health outcomes, higher educational levels and greater influence in household and community decisions with those who do not have any access to a sustainable livelihood. The study will further highlight the pivotal role of sustainable economic resources in enhancing women's social status and will provide actionable recommendations for policymakers and organizations to develop and support programs that promote financial stability and empowerment for women in Srinagar.

Keywords: Women Empowerment, Sustainable Livelihoods, Economic Stability, Informal Sector.

THE ROLE OF HIGHER EDUCATION IN WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT

Ms. Priyanka Saini & Dr. Balinder Singh

As it promotes the growth of critical thinking, self-awareness, and socioeconomic independence, higher education is a potent catalyst for women's empowerment. This abstract examines the many ways in which higher education contributes to women's empowerment, highlighting how it may be a transforming tool for severing the bonds of conventional gender roles, advancing gender equality, and developing female leadership. Higher education not only helps women grow personally and professionally but also makes a huge contribution to society by giving them the information, abilities, and confidence to fully engage in all facets of society. The development of women's employment options is the first important component of this empowerment. Women can pursue employment in a variety of fields, such as science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM), where they have historically been under-represented, by obtaining specialized knowledge and skills through higher education. The gender wage gap is closing and women's economic standing is improving as a result of

their greater ability to compete on an equal basis with men. Women are more equipped to make decisions that impact their lives, families, and communities as they become financially independent, which feeds back into the circle of empowerment. The effect of higher education on women's social and cultural roles is another important factor. Through education, women are empowered to question society expectations and claim their rights by challenging traditional gender conventions and stereotypes. Graduate-level women gain a deeper awareness of human rights and gender equality through exposure to a range of perspectives and critical conversation. Increased activity and support for women's rights both inside academic institutions and in larger society are frequently the results of this understanding. In order for future generations to live in a more just and equitable world, educated women are paving the way by speaking up more in favor of equal rights and opportunities. Furthermore, a university degree is essential for the advancement of female leadership. Higher educated women are more likely to take on leadership roles in a variety of industries, including academia, business, and politics. These women leaders inspire other women to follow their dreams and shatter the glass walls that have traditionally prevented them from advancing in society by acting as mentors and role models. Education-leveled women in leadership roles contribute a variety of viewpoints to In conclusion, with far-reaching effects on both individual women and society at large, higher education is an essential tool for women's empowerment. In addition to empowering women, higher education advances the larger objectives of social justice and gender equality by empowering them to become economically independent, question established conventions and take on leadership responsibilities. A more just and progressive world can only be fostered by women's access to higher education continuing to be expanded.

Keywords: Women, Empowerment, Higher Education,

SOCIOECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND CAESAREAN DELIVERY RATES: AN ANALYSIS OF INDIA N STATES USING HDI AND NFHS DATA

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The increasing global prevalence of Caesarean Section (CS) deliveries raises concerns about potential overuse and the associated impact on maternal and child health. India , with its complex healthcare system, mirrors the global increase in CS deliveries. Significant income inequality within a country may lead to CS overuse in affluent populations, alongside limited access to necessary CS procedures in underserved communities.

Aim: This study investigates the relationship between the Human Development Index (HDI) and Caesarean Section rates across India n states using data from the National Family Health Surveys (NFHS-4 and NFHS-5) and the Global Data Lab for the years 2015 and 2020. **Method:** This study employs a longitudinal design to investigate the association between HDI (Primary independent variable) and CS rates (dependent variable) over 5 years period (2015 – 2020) in 34 states and UTs of India . Descriptive statistics is used to summarize the distribution of HDI scores and CS rates; correlation coefficients (Pearson's correlation) is employed to examine the strength and direction of the

association between HDI scores and CS rates and paired t-test to assess the statistical significance of changes in HDI scores and CS rates within each state over the five-year period.

Result: The positive correlation coefficient $r = 0.6633$ for year 2015 and $r = 0.7791$ for year 2020 ($p < 0.001$) suggests that states with higher HDI values tend to have higher Caesarean section rates, and vice versa. However, The Pearson correlation coefficient (r) of 0.2267 indicates a weak positive linear relationship ($p = 0.1969$) between the change in HDI scores and the change in CS rates.

Conclusion: A strong positive correlation was found between HDI scores and CS rates in both years, with the association strengthening over time. However, the change in HDI scores and CS rates from 2015 to 2020 showed a weak positive correlation that was not statistically significant. Here we show that while higher HDI is associated with increased CS rates, the relationship between changes in these variables over time is complex and requires further investigation.

Recommendations: The study highlights the need for a holistic approach to improve both human development and maternal health outcomes, considering potential confounding factors and disparities within states. Additionally, a larger sample size or data from additional years could be analysed to increase the power of the study and potentially detect a significant relationship if one exists.

STITCHING HOPE: EMPOWERING WOMEN THROUGH COLLECTIVE EMOTIONAL HEALING AND SOCIAL WELL-BEING IN RAFOOGHAR – THE HOUSE THAT MENDS

Aiysha Umar & Yusra Khan

In the face of deep-rooted gender disparities that continue to marginalize women in India, Rafooghar emerges as a beacon of hope – a women-led participatory initiative that fosters emotional healing and social empowerment through the art of traditional Kantha embroidery. Rafooghar, meaning “The House That Mends,” is more than a creative space; it is a sanctuary where women from diverse religious and cultural backgrounds come together to share their stories, stitch their narratives, and heal emotionally within a supportive community. The paper aims to understand the significance of Rafooghar as a community initiative, assess its impact on the social well-being and emotional healing of women, and investigate its role in fostering community-led social interventions. Utilizing a qualitative approach this study strives to explore the transformative impact of Rafooghar on the lives of its participants, examining how collective stitching and creative expression foster emotional healing and social well-being. By conducting in-depth interviews with 20 women and observing the community dynamics during Rafooghar’s creative activities, the research provides insights into the personal and collective experiences, highlighting the transformative power of the initiative. The findings reveal that Rafooghar serves not only as a space for emotional support and healing but also as a powerful catalyst for social change. Through their engagement in Rafooghar, women were empowered to express their aspirations and take greater control of their lives. Many participants, for the first time, earned an income by selling their intricately embroidered bags during exhibitions. These exhibitions provided them with opportunities to directly interact with stakeholders, potential buyers, and future partners. Additionally, their work received recognition from renowned artists, civil society organizations, and independent designers, marking a transformative milestone in both their personal and professional lives. This study emphasises the importance of women-led participatory methods in addressing social and emotional challenges faced by them, offering valuable implications for future community-based interventions aimed at enhancing collective healing and social well-being. Furthermore, it exhibits a model that can guide professional social work practices in creating safe spaces for emotional healing, social well-being, and empowerment. Rafooghar’s approach demonstrates the profound potential of creative methodologies in social work, inspiring new pathways for fostering collective healing and

enhancing well-being across communities. The results of this study will offer evidence based guidance for social workers and policymakers striving to design inclusive and transformative interventions that enable women to reclaim their voices, express their identities, and build stronger and resilient communities.

IMPACT OF PHYSICAL, MENTAL, AND SPIRITUAL HEALTH IN WOMENS WELL-BEING

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This study aims to explore the combined impact of physical, mental, and spiritual health on womens overall well-being. By reviewing a wide range of literature and credible online sources, the research seeks to highlight the importance of a holistic health approach and its positive effects on womens quality of life. This research involves an extensive literature review, drawing on peer-reviewed journals, books, and reliable online sources. The study examines the interplay between physical, mental, and spiritual health. Key areas include the benefits of exercise, nutrition, and regular medical check-ups for physical health; the role of emotional well-being, stress management, and psychological resilience in mental health; and the influence of spirituality, meditation, and religious practices on spiritual health. The findings suggest that an integrated approach to physical, mental, and spiritual health significantly enhances womens well-being. Women who incorporate physical activities, mental health practices, and spiritual routines into their daily lives experience improved quality of life. This study underscores the need for health practitioners and wellness program developers to adopt holistic health strategies that address all three aspects of well-being. Encouraging women to engage in regular physical activities, offering mental health support, and promoting spiritual practices can create a supportive environment for holistic health. Understanding and addressing these interconnected aspects can lead to more effective health interventions and a higher quality of life for women. **Keywords:** Womens well-being, physical health, mental health, spiritual health, holistic wellness.

WOMEN IN UNORGANISED SECTOR: A STUDY OF STREET VENDORS AT LEH CITY IN LADAKH

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This study highlights the socio-demographic spectrum, economic well-being and various issues and concerns of women street vendors of Leh city in Ladakh region. The main thrust of the study is to do a situational analysis and provide realistic remedial measures for their socio-economic advancement. Gender's prominent role in labor participation as well as within the wages equality are the prime concerns. Socio-economic assessment along with their participation in this unorganized sector highlights various issues and concerns which demands immediate resolution on humanitarian ground. The present study is based on Exploratory and Descriptive research design. The study focused on women street vendors who have fixed location. While using simple random sampling technique, data has collected from 50 women street vendors from Leh city. Study found that education is an operative

variable within the livelihood opportunities in unorganized sector. Women's resilience is also observed to a greater extent within the financial well-being in this engagement, their self-sustained financial enterprises has the potential and should be strengthened more with institutional mechanisms.
Key Words: Women, street vendors, unorganized sector, Leh Ladakh

MATERNAL HEALTH LITERACY AND SERVICE UTILIZATION AMONG A PVTG COMMUNITY: A CROSS-SECTIONAL STUDY IN THE NILGIRIS DISTRICT

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Maternal Health is an area of significant concern for public health systems particularly in low and middle -income countries. For a developing country like India , Maternal health stays as an indicator for human and national well-being goals. Maternal health literacy is the ability and capacity of mothers and pregnant women to collect, process and comprehensively access the basic information and services related to health and about women having safe pregnancy, childbirth and postpartum period, as well as the assistance and support that both mother and child require during the postnatal period. The study aims to analyse the impact of health literacy on maternal health care utilization among the Irulas, a Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Group (PVTG) in the Nilgiris district who experience numerous obstacles to healthcare access. Among Irulas, low literacy rates and lack of information to health care stays as a major concern. The Irulas also face challenges of being India 's most disadvantaged population, with high rates of poverty, illiteracy, and poor health outcomes. Limited access to healthcare services, traditional beliefs discouraging them from seeking modern medical care, and a lack of awareness about the importance of antenatal care (ANC) and institutional deliveries add as a burden. This study also seeks to address these concerns by investigating the association between health literacy and maternal health care utilization among Irulas women, using a cross-sectional methodology to provide a picture of this relationship at a specific point in time. A small-sized survey of 30 Irulas women from diverse settlements in the Nilgiris district was carried out using a standardized health literacy assessment questionnaire designed to measure their ability to understand and utilize health-related information, with a focus on maternal health services. The cross-sectional technique enables the detection of relationships between health literacy and health behaviors, providing useful insights for future interventions and study. The findings emphasize the critical role of health literacy in improving maternal health outcomes among Irulas women, implying that increasing health literacy could provide them with the knowledge and skills needed to understand the importance of maternal health services and make informed decisions about their health and their children health. By enhancing health literacy, these women may increase their use of maternal health services, which is critical for lowering maternal and newborn mortality rates as it is a public health concern in the still backward residing Irulas community.

Keywords: Maternal health, Maternal health care services, Maternal health literacy.

PSYCHOSOCIAL IMPACT OF DIVORCE ON WOMEN IN INDIA

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In India women are dependent on marriage for their survival and identity in society. Still divorce status of a woman is not encouraging by the society in any circumstances. Divorce brings societal stigma and cultural disapproval for women as compare to men. The Psychosocial impact of divorce on women is multifaceted, it affects their life from various aspects like health, career, family relationships and religious life. This article reviews about the psychological and various sociological impact of divorce on woman from the existing literature. Divorced women are prone to domestic violence and sexual violence by their colleagues and frequently encounter discrimination by the surroundings. The conclusion draws a broad understanding about the difficulties faced by post divorced women which includes stress, anxiety, depression and social hardship.

Keywords: Divorce; Psycho-social; Women; Impact

A STUDY ON ENTREPRENEURIAL INTEREST AMONG SELF HELP GROUP (SHGs) GUDAPAKKAM

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This study explores the entrepreneurial aspirations of Self-Help Group (SHG) women in Gudapakkam panchayat, Thiruvallur district. Despite facing livelihood challenges due to relocation, some SHG members expressed interest in starting their own businesses. However, the dismissive nature towards entrepreneurship due to lack of cognizance most of the members of the SHG groups are only engaged with saving the money and the SHG members are taking loans under the name of business purposes, but the loans are being used to supplement family income by forming SHG. However, lack of confidence, limited resources, and illiteracy hinder their participation in entrepreneurship. Using a descriptive research design and qualitative methodology, this study investigates the challenges faced by SHG groups, their understanding of entrepreneurship, and the need for awareness programs. Primary data was collected through in-depth interviews and focus group discussions with 15 selected samples from 35 SHG groups. Thematic analysis revealed key concepts such as entrepreneurial aspiration, financial barriers, and balancing roles. Findings highlight the inability to manage businesses, lack of basic knowledge, and work-life balancing issues as major obstacles. The study demonstrates the impact of entrepreneurship awareness programs in enhancing knowledge and empowerment among SHG women. This research aims to foster dialogue and evidence-based interventions, such as community outreach programs, to determine entrepreneurial interest among SHG women and enhance their livelihood. By addressing these challenges, this study contributes to the development of effective strategies for promoting entrepreneurship among marginalized women. Sub Themes:-Women Entrepreneurship
Keywords:-Entrepreneurship, livelihoods (self-help group), awareness program, women empowerment.

URBAN FEMALE DOMESTIC WORKERS LIVELIHOOD EXPERIENCES AND CHALLENGES: A CASE STUDY ON SLUM AREAS OF DELHI

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This study examines the livelihood experiences and challenges of urban female domestic workers in the slum areas of Delhi, focusing on their socio-economic conditions, employment challenges and systemic marginalization. The research was conducted by social work trainees from the Centre for Community Development and Action (CCDA) as part of their field internship, under the Delhi School of Social Work. Urban female domestic workers, often migrants, are part of the informal sector, excluded from formal employment policies and protections. This study aims to understand the factors driving women into domestic work, the challenges they face—such as wage disparities, lack of social security and financial literacy and their aspirations for better livelihoods. The study also explores the intersectionality of gender, class and migration status, highlighting how these factors compound the vulnerability of this demographic. Using a descriptive research design, the researchers employed snowball sampling to gather data from 15-20 respondents in slum areas such as Burari, Timarpur, and Trilokpuri. In-depth interviews and case studies revealed that domestic workers face numerous challenges, including poor working conditions, low wages and a lack of awareness about their rights and available support programs. The findings underscore the need for stronger policy implementation and targeted interventions to improve the livelihoods of female domestic workers in urban slums. The study calls for further research to address the nuanced and complex challenges faced by this overlooked group and to develop effective measures for their upliftment. Keywords- Urban slum, FDW(Female Domestic Workers), Domestic Workers, Unorganized sector, Financial literacy. Sub Theme:- Livelihood and Women in the Unorganized sector. Author(s)Details: 2nd year social work (MSW) students from Rajiv Gandhi National Institute of Youth Development, Sriperumbudur, Chennai.

मधुमक्खी पालन व्यवसाय में महिलाओं के लिए रोजगार की संभावनाएं

Mr Ashish Kumar Maurya

मधुमक्खी पालन एक उभरता हुआ कृषि व्यवसाय है जिसमें महिलाओं के लिए असीम संभावनाएं हैं। यह उद्योग न केवल पर्यावरणीय दृष्टिकोण से महत्वपूर्ण है बल्कि महिलाओं के आर्थिक और सामाजिक उत्थान के लिए भी एक सशक्त माध्यम है। मधुमक्खी पालन के क्षेत्र में कम पूंजी निवेश के साथ अधिक मुनाफा कमाया जा सकता है, इसे कृषि के साथ साथ पूरक व्यवसाय के रूप में अपनाया जा सकता है, जिससे ग्रामीण और शहरी दोनों क्षेत्रों की महिलाएं स्वावलंबी बन सकती हैं। इस व्यवसाय में महिलाओं की भागीदारी न केवल उनकी आय को बढ़ाती है, बल्कि उन्हें उद्यमिता के क्षेत्र में भी प्रेरित करती है। महिलाओं की इस क्षेत्र में बढ़ती भागीदारी से उनके परिवारों की आर्थिक स्थिति में सुधार हो रहा है और समाज में उनकी भूमिका को सशक्त बनाया जा रहा है। इसके अलावा, मधुमक्खी पालन का कृषि उत्पादन में महत्वपूर्ण योगदान है, क्योंकि इससे परागण में वृद्धि होती है, जिससे फसल की उपज भी बेहतर होती है। सामाजिक और सरकारी योजनाओं की मदद से महिलाएं इस क्षेत्र में प्रशिक्षण प्राप्त कर सकती हैं और अपने स्वयं के मधुमक्खी पालन व्यवसाय की शुरुआत कर सकती हैं। मधुमक्खी पालन न केवल एक लाभकारी व्यवसाय है, बल्कि यह पर्यावरण संरक्षण और सतत विकास की दिशा में भी महत्वपूर्ण योगदान करता है। इस प्रकार, मधुमक्खी पालन में महिलाओं के लिए व्यापक संभावनाएं हैं, जो उन्हें आर्थिक रूप से सशक्त बनाने और समाज में उनके सम्मान को बढ़ाने में मदद करती हैं। मधुमक्खी पालन व्यवसाय में शहद उत्पादन के साथ साथ शहद प्रसंस्करण, शहद पैकेजिंग, पराग उत्पादन, मोम उत्पादन एवं शहद, पराग और मोम से विभिन्न प्रकार के उत्पादों को बनाकर अपने तथा अन्य महिलाओं को इस व्यवसाय से जोड़कर उनकी स्थिति में सुधार किया जा सकता है। मुख्य शब्द महिला सशक्तिकरण, रोजगार, मधुमक्खी पालन, स्व रोजगार, आत्म निर्भर भारत, पर्यावरण, सतत विकास, शहद प्रसंस्करण परागण, कृषि उत्पादकता, मधुमक्खी पालन से संबंधित उत्पाद।

IMPACT EVALUATION OF SOCIAL WORK OF NNS VOLUNTIERS ON BOHAR VILLAGE OF ROHTAK DISTRICT, HARYANA

Jyoti

Voluntary services are one of significant forms of the social services which are rendered to uplift the different segment of society. The role of voluntary organizations is a self less service for the people. Present paper examines the role of NSS, National Social Scheme and the associated students have played a very significant role in executing of some of sanitary programmes at village, Bohar, located in Rohtak block of Rohtak district of Haryana. This study is an empirical study which was carried out on the 100 volunteers; affiliated to National Social Services department of Pt. Neki Ram Sharma, Government P.G. College, Rohtak. The field study was carried out by the researcher on 150 households of the study area. The findings of the study show that there is a significant impact of the services, rendered by NSS volunteers in the village; as it was tested by the t-test on the observed data during the field study. The volunteers have also reviewed the TSC, Total Sanitary Campaign program, which was executed earlier by the Gram Panchayat, Bohar village, the study area; taken for the study.

Key words: The voluntary services, significant impact, NNS, observed data, Gram Panchayat

ASSESSING GOVERNMENT INITIATIVES FOR MATERNAL HEALTH IN JAMMU AND KASHMIR: SUCCESSES AND CHALLENGES

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Maternal health plays a crucial role in the development of any nation and consider as an essential facet of public health. It is the critical measure of the general well-being of the community. Mothers' survival and well-being are important not just for their own sake but also for addressing many other, more significant problems in the areas of development, the economy, society, and politics. India 's government signed up to the Sustainable Development Goals of the United Nations, which set a target for the worldwide maternal mortality ratio of fewer than 70 deaths per 100,000 live births by 2030. Maternal health outcomes in India varies significantly between states and regions, with Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) being an exceptional instance because of its difficult topography, socio-political unrest, and economic inequality. The government of India has launched a number of programs with particular modifications for the J&K area with the goal of enhancing maternal health nationwide. This study aims to evaluate the impact of the government programs on maternal health outcomes in J&K, highlighting both the obstacles that continue to be overcome and the accomplishments that have been made. Improving maternal health outcomes in J&K is significantly hampered by social and cultural barriers, including as customs that forbid institutional births. Even with the achievements, there are still big nuisance. For the purpose of bettering maternal health outcomes in the area, policymakers and medical professionals can gain insight from this research's thorough evaluation of the achievements and difficulties of government programs for maternal health in Jammu and Kashmir.

Keywords: Maternal health, Government, Jammu and Kashmir, Programs

A CRITICAL REVIEW OF NUTRITIONAL STATUS AND HEALTH OUTCOMES OF CHILDREN OF MARGINALISED GROUPS IN INDIA

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The nutritional status of children is an important parameter for the health outcome assessment. The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the Goal No. 3 Ensure healthy lives and wellbeing for all ages call for actions in this area. It also targets the prevention of diseases and protection of life of children. In this context nutritional status and health outcome discourse is important. The nutritional status can be assessed through national level health surveys such as National Family Health Survey (NFHS). It is critical to review the nutritional status and health outcome of marginalised group children, as data suggest that their health outcome is different in different social categories. Although the health of all children is a major area of review and assessment, it becomes more important to look at the social category based on the social economic and regional background of the children for policy, program and ground level intervention viewpoints. Though there are various health initiatives taken by the government to provide health for all but despite these initiatives the marginalised section population is comparatively having low health status due to their social economic status. Thus, this paper is aimed at critical review of nutritional status and health outcomes of marginalised children of different social categories with major focus on marginalised sections to understand the impact of socioeconomic status on health outcomes.

Keywords: sustainable development goals, nutritional status and health outcome, marginalised group, social economic status

A COMPREHENSIVE REVIEW OF MATERNAL HEALTH AMONG WOMEN RAGPICKERS IN INDIA : CHALLENGES, INTERVENTIONS, AND FUTURE DIRECTIONS

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Background This paper, titled "A Comprehensive Review of Maternal Health Among Women Ragpickers in India : Challenges, Interventions, and Future Directions," examines the critical health challenges faced by women engaged in ragpicking, with a specific focus on maternal health. As key players in India 's waste management system, ragpickers are often marginalized, facing profound social, economic, and health-related adversities. This study aims to highlight the intersection of occupational hazards, social exclusion, and maternal health among these women, emphasizing the urgent need for targeted interventions and policy reforms. **Objective** The primary objective of this research is to explore the unique health risks that ragpicking women encounter, particularly those of reproductive age, and to analyze the systemic factors contributing to these risks. This study employs a comprehensive literature review and data analysis, drawing from sources like the National Family Health Survey (NFHS-5) and studies by Khambekar, Joshi, and Godam (2020). **Results** The findings of this study reveal that the health of women ragpickers is severely compromised by inadequate nutrition, limited access to healthcare, and constant exposure to hazardous materials. Over 50% of the women were found to be anaemic, a condition worsened by their inability to access nutritious food and essential prenatal care. This has a direct impact on their children's health, with a significant number of babies being born underweight, leading to long-term developmental challenges. Moreover, the study identifies occupational hazards as a significant contributor to the health problems faced by these women. Despite

the critical need for healthcare, the study highlights a significant gap in access to medical services for these women. The RMNCH+A (Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn, Child, and Adolescent Health) approach, although designed to be inclusive of vulnerable groups, often fails to reach women ragpickers due to systemic barriers, including their marginalized status and the inefficiencies within the healthcare delivery system. This paper concludes by advocating for comprehensive interventions that address both the occupational and maternal health needs of women ragpickers. It calls for policy reforms that ensure better access to healthcare, improved working conditions, and the implementation of social protection measures tailored to this vulnerable group. Through this research, the paper aims to shed light on the often-overlooked plight of women ragpickers and to contribute to the discourse on improving maternal health outcomes for this marginalized group in India.

Keywords: Women Rag pickers, Maternal health, occupational hazards

A STUDY ON THE IMPACT OF POSTPARTUM DEPRESSION ON WOMEN'S MENTAL WELL-BEING AND SOCIAL SUPPORT AFTER CHILDBIRTH

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Postpartum depression (PPD) is the most prevalent psychological condition after childbirth and can negatively impact the social and cognitive well-being of women. The postpartum period marks a significant transition in life of women, filled with challenges as she takes on the role of a mother, which can make her susceptible to psychological distress. Postpartum depression (PPD) is typically defined as the onset of depressive symptoms within four weeks after childbirth, often presenting as feelings of desperation, sadness, and nausea, as well as alterations in sleep and eating patterns, reduced libido, episodes of crying, anxiety, irritability, a sense of isolation, emotional instability, and intrusive thoughts about self-harm or harm to the infant, along with suicidal ideation. Postpartum depression may manifest at any point during the first year following childbirth and can persist for several years thereafter. A study published in the Indian Journal of Medical Research in October 2023 reports that postpartum depression (PPD) affects 22% of women in India, with a higher prevalence in the southern region (26%) compared to the northern region (15%). It is estimated that up to 20% of women globally experience postpartum depression. This research aims to provide a comprehensive understanding of how PPD affects mental health of women and the role of social support systems in mitigating its impact.

Keywords: Postpartum Depression, Psychological distress, Childbirth, Anxiety, Social Support.

BALANCING BETWEEN EMPOWERMENT AND SUBJUGATION: A STUDY OF MUSLIM WOMEN IN SOCIAL AND POLITICAL CONTEXTS VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN: AN INVISIBLE PUBLIC HEALTH CRISIS

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Violence against women (VAW) is a global human rights violation, affecting women throughout the world across cultural and economic boundaries. It is one of the leading causes of mortality and morbidity among women of all ages. According to 2018 WHO global estimate, 26 percent of ever-married women experienced intimate partner violence (IPV) in their lifetime. Since the 1980's, VAW

has been increasingly recognized as a public health issue, largely due to the efforts of women's movement and the civil society. In 2013, the WHO called it a "global public health problem of epidemic proportions, requiring urgent action". Since then, the public health model is increasingly being recognized as the most effective form of violence intervention, to the extent that it was acknowledged in the National health policy of 2017, requiring health sector response. Objective: This paper would Explore the types of violence experienced by women and its consequences on their health by selected background characteristics. • To suggest public health strategies to address VAW in India Methods and procedure: Data from NFHS – 5 (2019-21) national survey would be analysed as it has a strong sampling procedure to ensure differential analysis. A review of literature would also be undertaken to explore the public health strategies adopted to address VAW in India . Findings: NFHS-5 survey revealed that 32 percent of women aged 18-49 experienced physical or sexual violence, and women from rural areas were found to be more prone to facing violence. The survey reveals that women also faced physical violence even when they were pregnant, and this is more common among women with less schooling and from lower economic background. Virtually in most of the cases it is a male member who is usually the perpetrator of violence. Although NFHS do not separately provide data on economic and psychological violence, however, in this paper an attempt is made to infer about this aspect from data presented by NFHS on the scope of women's decision making and autonomy. Studies have suggested that low level of autonomy and high level of gender inequality is positively associated with women facing different forms of violence. Discussion and Conclusion: Violence leads many women to seek care from health services. The health system can also be the point of entry to a network of supporting social and legal services. Thus, the health system has a crucial opportunity and duty to respond to violence against women. Effective responses to violence against women depend on a well-functioning system that can provide survivors with immediate care and safety through quality mental, physical, and reproductive health services. Health care services for women seeking care needs to be available at every level of health-care delivery, from primary to tertiary hospitals. This paper through review of literature examined the evidence base of interventions of health system service delivery towards women facing violence and concludes by providing suggestions to overcome barriers faced by health care providers in providing effective health care services.

CHALLENGES AND COPING STRATEGIES: A CASE STUDY OF FEMALE PH.D. SCHOLARS IN SOCIAL WORK

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India has made considerable progress in increasing the enrolment of females in Ph.D. programs, yet several challenges experienced by female Ph.D. scholars are reported globally. The participation of females in higher education is important to promote equal opportunity and empowerment in diverse fields. However, the existing challenges in their doctoral journey can hinder both their academic progress and well-being. Social work as a practice-based profession and academic discipline plays an indispensable role in addressing the myriad social issues that confront India , such as poverty, inequality, healthcare, education, and gender disparity. Understanding the challenges of those undertaking doctoral studies in social work is pivotal to enhancing the quality of research that can lead to and improve the efficacy of social work interventions. Therefore, the present study examines the complex challenges faced by female Ph.D. scholars in social work within the socio-cultural context of Delhi, alongside the coping strategies they employ. Utilizing a qualitative case study design, the research focuses on six female Ph.D. scholars studying social work in Delhi. The data was gathered

through face-to-face interviews, providing a platform for participants to articulate their experiences of challenges and coping strategies in detail. The findings revealed that the challenges are multifaceted and deeply embedded in both the academic and social fabric of their lives. Participants reported insufficient supervision, lack of research resources, and time management difficulties as academic challenges, while family responsibilities, stress & anxiety, self-doubt, and financial demands emerged as personal challenges. The study also highlights the strategies these scholars adopt to overcome these challenges, including self-motivation, family support, peer support, and support from supervisors, with a focus on the availability and effectiveness of these coping strategies. Although informal support networks, including family and peer support, provide essential emotional and practical assistance, they are not always sufficient to counterbalance the challenges faced by these scholars. In conclusion, the research underscores the need for developing a more inclusive environment and strategies within the field of social work to address the unique challenges faced by female Ph.D. scholars. Further, the study provides recommendations informed by the experiences of the scholars to help ease and improve their doctoral journey. These recommendations cover a holistic perspective from the individual to the institutional level demanding the need for a reciprocal relationship where the individuals involved at both levels can work systematically to increase the academic productivity and the quality of research produced by the Ph.D. scholars. At the individual level, the recommendations were the preparation of a checklist and time plan to complete the necessities for attaining the Ph.D. degree and indulgence in physical and creative activities. At the institutional level, the recommendations came for proper access to research resources, engagement in career opportunities, improvement in infrastructure & accommodation, sessions for maintaining well-being, and increased awareness of important UGC guidelines, for ensuring the timely completion of the doctoral degree. Therefore, this research plays a pivotal role in underlining the present challenges and coping strategies of female Ph.D. scholars pursuing higher education in social work in Delhi.

NURTURING ENTREPRENEURSHIP, EMPOWERING LIVES: WOMEN FROM MARGINALIZED SECTIONS IN DAIRY FARMING, HARYANA.

Ms K.M Deepa

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This study explores the entrepreneurial journey of women from marginalized section in dairy farming in Haryana, India. Despite facing caste, class, gender-based barriers, these women have ventured into dairy farming, contributing significantly to their families, livelihood and local economies, communities. Through a qualitative research approach, a total 40 participants, who are involved in dairy farming, were selected through a random sampling method, and data was collected using a pre-designed interview schedule. This study explores the challenges, awareness about program and scheme, factors affecting the participation of women in dairy farming from marginalized section in Haryana. The findings reveal that entrepreneurship in dairy farming has enabled these women to transcend socio-economic constraints, fostering economic independence, social recognition, and empowerment and gender equality. The study recommends social work intervention, including training, credit facilities and market linkages and suggestive suggestion in dairy farming, ultimately promoting inclusive rural development and social transformation in Haryana.

INTERSECTIONALITY AND MARGINALIZATION: UNDERSTANDING THE DAILY LIFE AND RESILIENCE AMONG WOMEN IN OLD DELHI'S URBAN SHELTERS

Ms Faiqa Saleem

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Dr. Habeebul Rahiman VM

Urban shelters are pervasive in major metropolitan areas, where residents often endure challenging conditions that severely impact their quality of life. The urban shelters behind Jama Masjid in Old Delhi house a considerable number of marginalized women, providing refuge but often falling short in delivering a conducive living environment. This study delves into the various challenges these women face, with a particular focus on their living conditions, health status, and access to education. By employing a qualitative approach, supplemented with in-depth interviews, this research aims to gather detailed data that illuminates the critical issues and identifies potential solutions. Living conditions within these shelters are a major concern. Initial findings reveal that many shelters are plagued by inadequate sanitation, insufficient safety measures, and a lack of privacy. These conditions negatively impact both the physical health and mental well-being of the residents. Issues such as overcrowding, lack of clean water, and inadequate facilities for personal hygiene are common, contributing to a cycle of poor health and well-being. Health is a crucial area of focus in this study. Women in these shelters often suffer from a range of health issues, exacerbated by their living conditions. Limited access to quality healthcare services further compounds these problems. Many women report significant barriers in accessing basic health services, let alone specialized care. These barriers are often rooted in economic constraints, geographical challenges, and social discrimination. Education is another key factor in breaking the cycle of poverty and marginalization. However, the access to education for women in these shelters is severely limited. Economic hardships, cultural norms, and social discrimination often prevent these women from pursuing educational opportunities. This lack of access not only limits their personal growth but also their ability to secure better employment opportunities, further entrenching them in poverty. Based on our findings, we aim to propose several interventions to address these issues. This includes improving the availability and quality of medical care, as well as providing health education and preventive services. Educational programs tailored to the specific needs and circumstances of these women can make a significant difference. These programs should focus on basic literacy and vocational training, empowering women to improve their socio-economic status. Our research also aims to inform and guide stakeholders, including government agencies, NGOs, and community leaders, in their efforts to create sustainable solutions. By addressing these critical issues, significant strides can be made towards enhancing the quality of life for these women and helping them break free from the cycle of poverty and marginalization. Faiqa Saleem is pursuing her doctoral degree in the area of post-conflict reconciliation and peacebuilding, from the UGC Centre for Advanced Study, Department of Social Work, Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi. She pursued her graduation from Janki Devi Memorial College, University of Delhi, and post-graduation from Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU), providing her with critical perspectives and a deepened sense of purpose, steering her towards a focused exploration of social and political issues. She can be reached at 8800455461 or via email at faiqakhn96@gmail.com for further insights and academic engagements.

ASSESSING THE POTENTIAL OF HANDLOOM / HANDICRAFT SECTOR AMONG THE WOMEN ENTREPRENEURS IN ASSAM – CONTRIBUTION OF THE SFURTI SCHEME**Jyotirmoy Jishnu**

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The handloom-handicraft sector in Assam has a historic value attached to it. People in the state have been dependent on the handloom-handicraft products from time immemorial, and women have been the primary force of production. However, in the later time, when the handloomhandicraft sector were in the process of organising into formal production hubs, the industry was mostly headed by men, i.e. 67%, (Mahanta, 2023) even though 60.40% of the working force were women (Phukan, 2012). The forces of patriarchy and social norms have restricted most of the women to even take up their traditional work as their profession. Nevertheless, in the recent times under the government initiatives of formation of SHGs and thriving of the Micro Credit Loans, there has been an increase in the number of women engagement in the sector to a 77.94 % (Kalita, 2019). At this junction, with the recent thrust for the entrepreneurial boost from the government, we have seen a rise in the number of women entrepreneurs in Assam in the sector of handloom/handicraft. Through this paper, the author tried to see the potential of the handloom / handicraft sector in creating financial stability for the Women Entrepreneurs using the Sustainability Livelihood Framework model and comprehending the contribution of the SFURTI scheme in this regards. The aim of the author also included to take a look at the major challenges and co-create a set of probable solutions for the same. For the paper, the author has used a mixed method approach with quantitative questionnaire and qualitative in-depth interviews. The geographical area is Assam with a sample size of 5 women entrepreneurs and their respective female artisans. The sampling method used was purposiveconvenient sampling. The tools used for data collection involved questionnaire and interview schedule. The research has finally landed to the realisation that the handloom-handicraft sector has a huge potential in Assam. Specifically when this is seen from the lens of increasing financial stability of women, the sector has ample opportunities for them. Again, the increasing numbers of women entrepreneurs have also boosted engagement of women artisans in professional level in Assam, with increased safety in workplace and more inclusive work environment. Even the various government schemes has contributed a lot while boosting the moral of these entrepreneurs to step out from their houses and enter into a professional and competitive work environment. Nonetheless, even if there is an increase in the number of women entrepreneurs and higher engagement of women artisans in the industry, there are certain major challenges that people face. Market is one big challenge and fixation of the price is another major challenge that they have been going through. Even though the knowledge of infusion of the modern technology and traditional handicraft has happened in the recent times with number of training programs, these entrepreneurs are facing issues of continuing the practices and usage of the skills and trainings received. The paper also draws a potential of the international market and the current challenges attached to it. The paper at the end comes up with a few suggestions which can be used in any policy formation or by any organisation that works in the formalization of the handloom handicraft industry in Assam.

PSYCHOSOCIAL IMPACT OF MENSTRUATION ON VISUALLY IMPAIRED GIRLS OF LUCKNOW CITY

Amit rawat

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Menstruation is a normal and natural bodily function,which starts between the age 11 and 14 . Yet millions of menstruators are denied the right to manage their menstruation cycle in a healthy way . Despite of being a natural and normal part of life it can have a significant psychosocial impact on school girls, especially those who are visually impaired. Visually impaired Girls face double stigma due to social norms related to menstruation around them and having disability . This study aimed to assess the emotional , social , psychosocial impact of menstruation on visually impaired school girls .

A qualitative study was conducted with visually impaired school girls (age 12 - 17 years) in Lucknow district of Uttar Pradesh . The findings of the study showed that visually impaired girls experienced a range of psychosocial challenges related to menstruation

EXAMINING THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN PATRIARCHAL BELIEFS, WOMENS EMPOWERMENT, AND WELL-BEING

Rahul Kumar

Research Scholar, Prof. Rajendra Singh (Rajju Bhaiya) University, Prayagraj

This study explores how patriarchal beliefs influence women's empowerment and overall well-being. Patriarchal beliefs are societal norms that often place men in more powerful positions than women. Patriarchy creates rules about how men and women should act, saying that men should be one way and women another. These rules make the unfair power differences between men and women even stronger. Empowerment of women has been an area of study for quite some time in the past. Studies on empowerment of women have focused on factors like autonomy (Dyson & Moore, 1983; Basu & Basu, 1991; Jejeebhoy & Sathar, 2001), women's land rights (Quisumbing, Ellen, Aidoo, & Keijiro, 1999), domestic economic power (Mason 1998), bargaining power (Beegle, Frankenberg, & Thomas. Overcoming the belief and practice of patriarchy is termed as eve empowerment. By analyzing data from various sources to understand whether stronger patriarchal beliefs lead to lower levels of empowerment and well-being among women. help improve policies and support systems that promote gender equality and enhance women's lives, well being and social norms.

Keywords: Patriarchal Beliefs Women's Empowerment Well-being Gender Equality eve empowerment

INSTITUTIONAL ENGAGEMENT IN CONFLICT RESOLUTION AND PEACE BUILDING

Mr Pawan Kumar

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Institutional engagement has a big role in conflict resolution and peacebuilding, providing a critical way to address and lessen conflicts. This paper explores the many dimensions of institutional involvement in peace processes, focusing on how diverse institutions—ranging from governmental bodies and international organizations to non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and local community groups—contribute to conflict resolution and the establishment of sustainable peace. This research on "Institutional Engagement in Conflict Resolution and Peacebuilding" employs a mixed-methods approach, integrating both qualitative and quantitative research techniques to provide a comprehensive analysis of institutional roles in peace processes. The methodology is designed to capture a broad range of perspectives and data to understand how different institutions contribute to conflict resolution and peacebuilding. Challenges and limitations of institutional engagement are also discussed, including issues of political will, resource constraints, and the need for inclusive strategies that incorporate diverse perspectives. The paper argues that while institutions are crucial in the peacebuilding process, their effectiveness is often contingent on their ability to collaborate across sectors and levels, integrating local knowledge and addressing underlying grievances that fuel conflicts. In conclusion, the paper emphasizes the importance of a holistic and coordinated approach to institutional engagement in

conflict resolution. By leveraging the strengths of various institutions and fostering collaborative efforts, the international community can enhance its capacity to resolve conflicts and build sustainable peace. The findings suggest that future peacebuilding initiatives should prioritize inclusive and adaptable strategies that align institutional actions with the needs and aspirations of affected communities, thereby strengthening the overall effectiveness of conflict resolution.

ROMANTIC LOVE AND HONOUR

Dr. Risha Baruah

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This paper attempts to critically analyse and deconstruct the concept of honour and its relationship with a woman's expression of her sexuality through self-arranged adult adolescent and consensual bonds i.e. her preferences and choices of a mate/partner/groom across the semi-urban and rural hinterlands of Haryana, finding forms of violent repercussions like honour killings perpetrated by the existence of patriarchal norms and institutions like khap panchayats. The study, based on my fieldwork in Sisana and Dhankot, across 2014-2015 for an M.Phil degree submitted to the Department of Social Work, University of Delhi, intends to descriptively understand the same from the perspectives of the native population using a multiplicity of qualitative research techniques.

MUSLIM WOMEN IN HIGHER EDUCATION: A STUDY OF THE CHALLENGES AND ASPIRATIONS.

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Abstract: This paper explores the challenges and aspirations of Muslim women in higher education, with a focus on understanding the macro and micro-level factors impacting their higher educational experiences and aspirations. While gender inequalities in higher educational attainment have received considerable attention, there is a notable lack of research on minority-concentrated regions, particularly in underprivileged colleges situated in small towns where students from both urban and rural areas are enrolled for higher education. Therefore, this study is conducted on students belonging to small towns of Western Uttar Pradesh. This study employs a mixed-methods research design, integrating both quantitative and qualitative data to comprehensively understand the factors influencing the higher educational experiences of Muslim women. The findings highlight significant factors such as economic status, societal expectations, and biases. Despite these challenges, the study also reveals strong aspirations for academic success among these women. This research contributes to the broader discourse on educational equity and inclusion, offering practical recommendations to improve the higher educational experiences of Muslim women.

THE CHALLENGES OF WOMEN HOME MAKERS: A SOCIAL WORK RESPONSE

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According to the National Family Health Survey (NFHS) India 2022, it is reported that 32% of married women aged 15 to 49 years are employed, which means the remaining 68% are housewives or, rather, full-time homemakers, which is a more gender-neutral term. As per 2023, there are 160 million women in India who are engaged as homemaker. Full-time homemaker or homemaker was used interchangeably in the study, and women homemakers or homemakers also conveys the same meaning in the study. The homemaker takes up the household task and look after the house and the family which is certainly the only job that is unpaid and demands 365 days to a working mode. While homemaking is not counted in the formal economic structure but it is a no small feat, consuming the physical, mental and emotional energy of the homemaker. Being a homemaker is not easy and she sacrifices a lot at the expense of managing the home and the family. Family welfare is an important area in social work practice and the social workers are trained to cater to the needs of well-being of family and women in specific. The homemaker like paid working women, also face challenges at her workplace i.e. home, however, she gets little attention in the social work-related research articles. Research Gap: There is a dearth of literature on homemaker and social work in India n context. The aim of the study is to understand the challenges of a homemaker in India , and to identify the scope of a social worker in addressing these challenges. This study is descriptive in nature to identify in detail the various challenges of homemaker and scope of social work intervention in this area. Researcher used secondary data i.e., research articles, newspaper articles and government surveys and reports, and other secondary sources for literature review. Findings indicate that there is a diverse set of challenges faced by homemakers while managing the home. Challenges like economical, physical, mental, and emotional; lack of awareness, identity crisis, were the key challenges identified. There is a dire need to generate awareness about homemakers health and well-being at both the individual and family levels. The social worker has a significant role to educate the homemaker and the family about the challenges faced in the homemaking and how the family can contribute in addressing them for the better well- being of the homemaker. It was concluded that the social worker has a crucial role to address the challenges of a homemaker through counselling, creating support groups, advocating for the development of a special guidance and counselling centers at the government hospitals, encouraging social gatherings of homemakers, and crafting & coordinating household skill management programs for the homemakers. Keywords: Homemaker, Women, Well- Being, Household, Family, Stress, Social Worker, Response, Challenge, Homemaking, Social Work

A STUDY OF SOCIO-ECONOMIC STATUS AND CHALLENGES OF FEMALE DOMESTIC HOUSEHOLD WORKERS OF LUCKNOW CITY

Mr Shadab Khan

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This study investigates the socio-economic status and challenges faced by female domestic workers in Lucknow, India . Domestic work, predominantly performed by women, is essential yet undervalued in urban economies, often lacking recognition in policy frameworks. This research aims to illuminate the working conditions, socio-economic backgrounds, and daily challenges experienced by these women. A descriptive research design with a mixed method approach was employed, involving structured interviews with 30 female domestic workers in Lucknow. The participants, identified through snowball sampling, provided insights into various aspects of their lives, including demographic details, working conditions, wages, job satisfaction, and experiences of harassment. Findings reveal that most female domestic workers in Lucknow are middle-aged, married women with limited formal education, serving as the primary earners for their families. Despite their labour-intensive work across multiple

households, they earn low wages, often below the minimum wage standard, with no access to benefits like paid leave or health insurance. Their working hours are long, with little recognition of overtime. Wage dissatisfaction is a prevalent issue, compounded by the absence of formal contracts, which leaves workers vulnerable to exploitation and dismissal. Additionally, many workers reported experiencing verbal and physical harassment from employers, exacerbated by a lack of legal protections and support mechanisms. The study concludes by highlighting the urgent need for policy interventions to address the vulnerabilities of female domestic workers. Ensuring fair wages, job security, and legal protections is crucial. There is also a need for greater enforcement of existing labour laws to protect these workers from exploitation and abuse, thereby improving their socio-economic conditions in Lucknow.

NUTRITIONAL AND MATERNAL HEALTH OF WOMEN IN INDIA : ACHIEVEMENTS AND CHALLENGES

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A number of such health programs have been launched in the country right from ages but even after so many years, India continues to face some challenges as basic and intrinsic primary care needs such as high maternal mortality rates, limited access to healthcare services, nutrition-related inequality and challenges associated with mental health problems. The latest Sample Registration System (SRS) data shows that the Maternal Mortality Ratio (MMR) of India for 2018-20, is 97 per Lakh live births, declining by 33 points, from 130 per Lakh live births in 2014-16. The Government of India has launched several programs at different periods. Such programs are the National Nutrition Mission (POSHAN Abhiyan), Janani Suraksha Yojana (JSY), Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana (PMMVY), etc. The present study aims to analyse the achievements of such programs and highlight the major issues and challenges in delivering the services at the ground level. The data of the study has been driven from National Family and Health Survey (NFHS-4, NFHS-5) reports and Sample Registration System (SRS). The study concluded that despite all the achievements, India 's high maternal death rate is still a severe health problem, made worse by enduring differences in the use of healthcare services for mothers and the results of those services across states. Key Words: Nutrition, Maternal Health, Maternal Mortality, Women in India .

GENDER AND DISABILITY: THE CHALLENGES FACED BY INDIA N WOMEN"

Mr Narender Kumar

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This study emphasizes the challenging conditions faced by women with disabilities, particularly their struggle for inclusion and equality in a society fraught with difficulties for people with impairments. Although both men and women with disabilities experience discrimination, women are disproportionately disadvantaged due to the intersection of gender oppression and physical limitations, often referred to as "double discrimination." This vulnerable population faces violence, abuse, unemployment, social isolation, and prejudice. Through a comprehensive analysis of secondary data sources, the study explores the compounded difficulties encountered by women with disabilities in India

. It investigates the specific problems these women face and highlights how cultural and societal norms further exacerbate these challenges, leaving disabled women with limited access to education, healthcare, and economic opportunities. By drawing attention to these obstacles, the paper details the violence, abuse, joblessness, prejudice, and isolation that women with disabilities face due to their intersecting identities of gender and disability.

Keywords: Gender and Disability, Discrimination, oppression, vulnerable, prejudice, violence

SOCIAL PROTECTION AND WOMEN WORKERS: A COMPARATIVE STUDY OF WOMEN IN ORGANISED AND UNORGANISED SECTORS IN INDIA .

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This paper explores the comparative experiences of women employed in the organized and unorganized labor sectors in India , with a particular focus on how social work interventions can enhance their empowerment and well-being. By analysing the working conditions, wage disparities, and social protection available to women in these sectors, the study provides insights into the challenges and effectiveness of existing support systems. The research is based on the idea that women working in both the organized and the unorganized sectors are equally important parts of the workforce and thus it tries to highlight different aspects of the lives of women working in both sectors, as they are not considered an equal part of the workforce by the society. The research intends to find differences and draw similarities between the condition of women working in the organized and the unorganized sector. The study employed a mixed-methods approach to gather comprehensive data on women's labor experiences. A quantitative survey was conducted using a Google Form, targeting a diverse sample of women from both organized and unorganized sectors across various industries. The survey covered aspects such as job security, wage levels, working conditions, health and safety, access to social protection, and empowerment. In addition to the survey, qualitative interviews were conducted with a subset of respondents to gain deeper insights into their personal experiences and challenges. The quantitative data was analyzed using statistical techniques to identify significant differences between the sectors, while thematic analysis was employed for the qualitative data to uncover nuanced insights. The findings reveal several disparities between women in the organized and unorganized sectors. Women in the unorganized sector face substantial challenges including lower wages, unsafe working conditions, lack of job security, and limited access to social protection. Whereas, women in the organized sector generally experience better working conditions and more comprehensive support systems, issues such as gender discrimination and unequal pay persist. The study also brings attention to the alarming state of mental and physical health of these women as a result of their efforts in contributing to the workforce and handling the social burden of being the binding force of the family. It also discusses the barriers women have to overcome in order to become a part of the workforce, whether in the organised or the unorganised sector. It talks about the various reasons behind the greater participation of women in the unorganized sector, undertaking unskilled tasks as compared to skilled tasks in the organized sector. The study highlights the problems faced by women, due to their gender on different levels as a part of the workforce and problems that arise in their personal lives due to their participation in the workforce which might make them an offender in the eyes of the flag bearers of patriarchy. It also brings in light, the discussion around women specific provisions like period leaves and maternity leaves, especially in the organised sector and the problems faced by women in the unorganised sector due to absence of such provisions. The study highlights the role of social work in

addressing these disparities. Effective social work interventions, including advocacy for policy reforms, development of support programs, and targeted initiatives, have been shown to improve working conditions and enhance empowerment for women in both sectors. The paper provides actionable recommendations for social workers and policymakers to strengthen support structures and promote gender equality in the workplace. The comparative analysis underscores the need for continued and targeted social work interventions to address the specific needs of women in both organized and unorganized sectors. By focusing on the gaps identified and leveraging successful strategies, social work can play a pivotal role in improving the empowerment and overall well-being of women across different employment contexts.

ISSUES AND CHALLENGES OF INDIAN WOMEN IN INTERNATIONAL POLITICS

Isha sing

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India's growing influence on the global politics, women from India continue to face significant obstacles in international politics. This research paper examines the underrepresentation of Indian Women in international politics, highlighting the structural barriers, gender stereotypes and socio-cultural norms that hinder their participation. It also argues that Indian women's exclusion from global decision-making processes perpetuates gendered power dynamics, undermining India's potential as a global actor. The first objective of this paper is that Indian women faces some challenges in international politics like gender discrimination, caste, class, religion second objective of this paper is analyzes how these intersections impact their access to resources, network and decision-making positions and argues for inclusive policies to enhance Indian women's participation in global governance. This paper is based on secondary sources and methodology of this paper is descriptive and analytical. This paper studying that the ontological and epistemological underpinning of Indian women's absence in international politics, probing the nexus of power, knowledge and subjectivity that perpetuates them ensure. The study gestures towards a counter-narrative that reimagines the global as a contest terrain, where Indian women subjectivities and agencies are reconfigured as pivotal to the geopolitics of knowledge and power.

Key Words- Indian Women, International Politics, Gender Discrimination, Women Participation, Global Politics.

FROM RESEARCH TO PRACTICE: A CASE STUDY OF THE WOMENS MANIFESTO

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It had been an unfortunate practice that our academic researches are mostly confined to the shelves in the university libraries. There are exceptions to this. The Womens Manifesto is one such exception. The

Womens Manifesto an initiative by a group of women from diverse background joined their hands together with a vision of holistic development and welfare of humanity in general and of women in particular. This humble initiative in the form of a registered non-profit organization primarily aims to empower women and address the issues of their concern. The initiative started with Sharnas Muthu, who was pursuing her phd on the issue of the Dignity of Women and when the Nirbhaya case shook Delhi streets, she felt the need for registering an organisation meant for ensuring dignity of women in the country and do everything possible for the same. The paper presents a case study of the Womens Manifesto, its inception, progress, challenges faced and the plans ahead. This case study can be beneficial for the young candidates who pursue their research in the field of women empowerment

A COMPARATIVE STUDY ON THE IMPACT OF KUDUMBASREE AND MAHILA MANDALS IN POLITICAL EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN

Mr Lalu P Joy

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Significance of the study Women empowerment could be discussed in several dimensions such as Political Empowerment, Economic Empowerment, Gender Empowerment, Social Participation etc. The first feminist movement being coined to impart the right to suffrage for Women; The Women Self Help Groups (SHGs) had played their role in the later stage of feminist movements in the World. This study focuses on the political participation of women in Panchayath Raj Institutions of Kerala and Himachal Pradesh and the role of Women Self-help Groups in it. Objective: To study and analyse the role of Kudumbasree and Mahila Mandals in Political empowerment and Political participation of Women in Panchayat Raj Institutions in the States of Kerala and Himachal Pradesh Methodology: The study is based on Qualitative research design and data will be collected through case studies from Women in Kudumbasree Mission in Velukkara Panchayath, Thrissur and Gharoh Village, Kangra District, Himachal Pradesh.

WOMEN SCHOOL SOCIAL WORKERS IN GUWAHATI EXPERIENCES AND CHALLENGES

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As per the NEP 2020, the role of social workers in school complexes is as important as that of a teacher or counsellor. Some of the key takeaways are : “Children are unable to learn optimally when they are undernourished or unwell. Hence, the nutrition and health (including mental health) of children will be addressed, through healthy meals and the introduction of well-trained social workers, counsellors, and community involvement into the schooling system Trained and qualified social workers from civil society organizations/departments of Social Justices and Empowerment could be connected to the schools through various innovative mechanisms to be adopted by State/UT Governments For providing equitable and quality education from the Foundational Stage through Grade 12 to all children up to the age of 18, suitable facilitating systems shall be put in place. Counsellors or well-trained social workers connected to schools/school complexes and teachers will continuously work with students and their parents and will travel through and engage with communities to ensure that all school-age children are attending and learning in school Meanwhile, counsellors and/or well-trained social workers that work

with and connect with students, parents, schools, and teachers in order to improve attendance and learning outcomes have been found to be especially effective for children in urban poor areas. Students will be sensitized through this new school culture, brought in by teachers, trained social workers and counsellors as well as through corresponding changes to bring in an inclusive school curriculum. As we celebrate the National Social Work Week 2024 the theme for 5th NSWW is also 'School Social Work: Opportunities and Challenges' which has emerged due to the importance given to school social work and school complex in New Education Policy 2020. As per NAPWSI, "Social work is an academic discipline and human service profession that concerns itself with individuals, families, groups and communities in an effort to enhance social functioning and overall well-being. A school social worker provides psycho-social services and support, counselling to children and adolescents in schools at both micro and macro levels. School social workers are addressing students' issues, concerns and problems on one hand and they align with peers, teachers, school, and community especially with parents on other. These professionals are not only working on crisis intervention, problem solving, developmental needs. Besides health and mental health issues, they take care of social and emotional development and well being of the school children, school community, family-school liaisons, and program development." This study is an exploratory study on the experiences and challenges of women school social workers in the city of Guwahati. The research will be qualitative in nature. This study applies the phenomenological method within qualitative research to investigate individuals lived experiences. And the data will be collected with the help of a semi-structured interview guide. The sample size will be of 10-15 respondents. The data collected will be analysed with the help of thematic analysis.

ADDRESSING ANAEMIA IN WOMEN AND CHILDREN: A STUDY ON INTERVENTION STRATEGIES IN GUJARAT, INDIA

Ms Divya Sharma

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Anaemia is a significant public health issue globally and in India, particularly affecting women and children. The National Family Health Survey (NFHS) 2019-21 indicates that 57% of women and 67% of children in India are anaemic. Anaemia is defined by haemoglobin levels below 12 g/dl in women and 11 g/dl in children, with iron deficiency being the primary cause. The condition can lead to severe health outcomes, including maternal mortality, impaired cognitive development in children, increased susceptibility to infections, weakness, perinatal mortality and premature delivery. This study focuses on Gujarat, where anaemia rates surpass the national average, with 79.7% of children and 65% of women affected. Conducted in June 2024 in collaboration with the NGO Aatapi Seva Foundation, the research targeted pregnant and lactating mothers and adolescent girls across five villages - Gajera, Piludara, Vedach, Kareli, and Kahanava - in the Jambusar block of Bharuch district of Gujarat. Among the 600 adolescent girls and 450 pregnant women surveyed, 550 girls and 300 women were found to be anaemic. Key contributing factors identified include poor awareness, inadequate iron-rich diets, neglect of women's dietary needs within patriarchal families, women's limited control over diet and meal timing, restricted access to quality healthcare, blood loss during menstruation, early marriage and pregnancy, and son-meta preference.

The study employed a comprehensive methodology, including baseline surveys conducted via Google forms, non-participant observation, case studies, and schedules, to evaluate the impact of various interventions aimed at reducing anaemia prevalence. The interventions implemented included the preparation of IEC materials, one-to-one counselling, family therapy sessions to foster necessary behavioral changes, Kishori meetings, recipe demonstrations, WASH (Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene)

training, and Yoga sessions to promote overall health and well being. The effectiveness of these interventions was assessed by examining improvements in awareness, dietary habits, access to government schemes (including Mamta card), use of Kitchen Garden kits, adoption of recipes demonstrated under ICDS and the impact of Kishori meetings for early education and intervention.

Following the interventions, awareness about anaemia and the importance of consuming an iron-rich diet increased substantially. All the women obtained Mamta cards and became aware of schemes like the Nammo Shri Yojana and Nammo Laxmi Yojana. Kishori meetings provided a platform for adolescent girls to confidently share their concerns with Arogyasathis while ensuring their privacy. The women expressed a willingness to learn new recipes but mentioned that they could only prepare them if the elder or male members of the household were willing to eat them. Adolescent girls enthusiastically participated in WASH training and Yoga sessions. This multi-pronged strategy has yielded positive outcomes. These efforts are crucial for achieving Sustainable Development Goal 2.2.3, which aims to reduce anaemia among women aged 15-49 years by 2030. By empowering women and adolescent girls with the knowledge and resources to improve their health, this study lays the groundwork for sustained progress in combating anaemia in these vulnerable communities.

WELL BEING OF WOMEN IN HARYANA: CHALLENGES AND THE ROLE OF SOCIAL WORKERS

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Women in Haryana face numerous challenges including the following

- a. Gender Discrimination- Women in Haryana face discrimination right from their early childhood reflecting deep-rooted gender biases.
- b. Education Inequality-Education remains a problem area with girls dropping out of school due to family problems, early marriages, financial constraints or societal pressures.
- c. Health Issues:- Lack of adequate quality healthcare access leads to issues in maternal care, nutrition, and general health of the adolescent girls and women.
- d. Violence Against Women:- women face domestic violence, sexual harassment, and discrimination in every sphere of their life which contributes to a culture of fear.
- e. Economic Disempowerment- Most women lack access to employment opportunities which is also due to lack of quality education and skill training which impacts their ability to be financial independent.
- f. Cultural Norms and Stigma- In a patriarchal society, women are forced to follow certain culture norms and there is stigma attached to issues which should be discussed openly.

This paper will give a detailed description of the challenges and the role of social workers towards creating a change. Social workers play a pivotal role in promoting the welfare of vulnerable section in any community. Their involvement at both advocacy level and direct support services can impact governmental policies and also have meaningful planned initiatives. The practitioner will draw from her experiences in few districts of Haryana to discuss the challenges and the proposed solutions Well being of women in Haryana: what are the challenges?

FROM FERTILITY TO FAMILY PLANNING: A COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS OF WOMEN'S REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH IN KERALA BASED ON NFHS-4 AND NFHS-5

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Women's reproductive health is critical to overall well-being and social progress. It ensures safe pregnancy, reduces maternal mortality, and empowers women to make informed health decisions. Women's reproductive health, the cornerstone of well-being, involves a complex whole that includes menstrual cycles, sexual activity, and an intricate process of hormonal fluctuations. It is through this lens, women make their fertility choices, pregnancy, and the continuum of life stages, ultimately shaping their ability to design their families and life paths. It is necessary to understand that women are not a homogenous group, and differences prevail among women based on their socio-economic status, living and working environment and many other factors. The state needs to work out strategies specific to particular groups of people who are vulnerable in terms of health. Kerala, despite ranking at the top of India's Human Development Index, faces challenges in ensuring equitable access to reproductive healthcare for all women. Bridging the gap in knowledge and social stigmas, particularly in marginalized communities, remains crucial to uphold Kerala's progressive image in women's health. Maintaining their well-being and Kerala's position as a leader in human development is especially important. a. The study aims to assess the Fertility and Family Planning Trends in Women's Reproductive Health by comparing data from NFHS-4 and NFHS-5. b. This research utilized primary data collected during the fifth round of the National Family Health Survey (NFHS-5) and the fourth round of (NFHS-6), specifically focusing on Kerala. c. Kerala's total fertility rate (TFR), with 1.8 children per woman, is much lower than the replacement level of fertility. The number of children born has increased by 0.2 between NFHS-4 and NFHS-5. Among women aged 20-24, 6.3% were married before reaching the minimum age of 18, a decrease from 7.6% in the NFHS-4 survey. The percentage of women who have begun childbearing increases significantly from 3% among those aged 18 and 9% among those aged 19. There is a slight increase in the total unmet need for family planning from 3% in NFHS-4 to 7.08% in NFHS-5. There was a significant increase in the overall use of contraceptive methods from 53.1% in NFHS-4 to 60.7% in NFHS-5.

d. This article sheds light on the critical aspects of women's reproductive health by comparing data from NFHS-4 and NFHS-5. The analysis of total Fertility rates, early marriage, age at first marriage, teenage pregnancy, birth intervals, fertility preferences, and current trends in family planning provides valuable insights into the evolving landscape of reproductive health in India. Understanding these trends is crucial for shaping policies that address the persistent challenges faced by women, especially in terms of health equity, access to reproductive services, and empowerment.

A JOURNEY OF EMPOWERMENT FOR WOMEN FROM LITERACY TO SHG – A CASE STUDY

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Education is the strategy for empowerment. Adult education has become the means for women empowerment in India. National literacy mission (NLM), the official adult education programme of the country, was launched in India in 1988 by the Ministry of human resource development with the

objective of educating the illiterate adults between the age group of 15 to 35. Literacy campaign since its inception has incorporated more than 8 million volunteers who came forward to take up the task of teaching the illiterate persons. Each one, teach one is a popular slogan in NLM. This paper is based on a case study of 56 women who volunteered to be literacy workers under the National literacy mission in 10 villages of Chandpur region, in Ballabgarh block of Faridabad district, Haryana. All these women were the daughters in law of the village and observed ghonghat, the practice of facial veiling observed by married women. Ghonghat means to keep (ones) modesty, shame and honour. Initially, it was really challenging for these women to take up literacy classes, while veiling their face. However, they came out of their shyness and ventured out to be the torchbearers of social change in their villages. After taking up the literacy work for about two years, they undertook the programme of continuing education and went on organising the newly literate women in to various programmes like organisation of village libraries and vocational programmes like tailoring and beautician, and finally formation of self-help group. These literacy workers have become instrumental in the formation of 65 SHGs in 10 villages empowering 713 women SHG members over a period of three years. Some of them fought the panchayat elections and became the panchayat members. The entire journey of women empowerment from literacy campaign to SHG took about five years from 2001 to 2005. The cooperation of governmental and non-governmental organisations in the implementation of various programmes that facilitated the process of women empowerment was significant. The entire study was qualitative. Observation and case study methods were used continuously for a period of five years. The researcher has studied the process of women empowerment undergone by these literacy workers and derived significant findings and suggestions. Literacy work has facilitated the literacy workers to interfere meaningfully in the lives of the women of the neighbourhood. It has enhanced social status and respect of the literacy workers. It has opened up more opportunities for the literacy workers to move out of home. The literacy work has positive impact in the lives of the literacy workers. The continuous participation in conducting the literacy programmes nurtures the leadership qualities among literacy workers. The active involvement in the yearlong literacy work has enhanced to the self-esteem, self-concept, self-confidence and social competence of the literacy workers. Their mobility in the village has also improved. Literacy work has contributed to the social empowerment of the literacy workers which facilitated self-help formation of the women learners of the neighbourhood under their leadership.

BREAKING BARRIERS: THE EVOLUTION AND FUTURE OF GENDER EQUALITY.

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Central Thrust: Gender equality and women empowerment are pivotal components of social, economic, and political development contributing towards a more sustainable landscape globally. The historical account of malicious practices like sati pratha, female feticide, dowry, domestic violence gave momentum to women empowerment and called for an equal status of women in the society. If we compare the status of women in the previous era, at present we deal with an empowered workforce of women without realizing that the atrocities against women have also evolved. Even though the prohibition of malpractices against women through stringent policies have led women to be educated, and free to choose their professions etc. an evolved array of problems like pay-disparity, sexual harassment at workplace and rape continue to hinder the overall goal of women empowerment and equality. Such practices adversely affect the overall growth of the nation. Future prospects expect gender-sensitive education, strengthening of legal frameworks, and access to resources for creating

social, and professional security. This paper focuses on the past, present and future trends of women empowerment and gender equality. This paper aims to explore the advent of feminism and its vileness towards gender equality.

Methodology: The methodology adopted for this research involves qualitative approaches of content analysis. The data sources for this paper were books, articles, case studies and other relevant academic documents. A comprehensive understanding of subject developed by analyzing academic writings.

Findings: The historical analysis reveals that gender inequality has deep roots, often perpetuated by cultural norms and institutional practices. Early movements for gender equality focused on fundamental rights such as suffrage, education, and property ownership. Significant milestones include the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in 1948 and the establishment of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) in 1979. These frameworks laid the groundwork for subsequent advocacy and policy development. Contemporary findings indicate notable progress in several areas, including increased female participation in education and the workforce, and improved legal protections against gender-based violence and discrimination. However, disparities persist. Women are underrepresented in leadership positions and continue to face wage gaps, unpaid care burdens, and limited access to health services. The COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated these inequalities, highlighting the fragility of gains made. Furthermore, intersectional analysis reveals that women from marginalized communities experience compounded disadvantages.

Future: Projections for the future emphasize the need for sustained and innovative efforts to close gender gaps. Key strategies include promoting gender-sensitive education and training, implementing equitable policies in workplaces, and strengthening legal frameworks to protect women's rights. Technological advancements and digital platforms offer new avenues for empowerment, enabling access to information, resources, and networks. However, there is a need to address digital divides to ensure inclusive benefits. The role of men and boys in championing gender equality is also crucial, necessitating cultural shifts and inclusive dialogues. In conclusion, while significant strides have been made towards gender equality and women empowerment, challenges remain. A multi-faceted approach that includes policy reform, societal change, and individual empowerment is essential to achieving true gender parity. This study underscores the importance of historical context, current realities, and forward-looking strategies in the ongoing quest for gender equality.

A STUDY ON THE MUTUAL COORDINATION BETWEEN VARIOUS SOCIAL ORGANIZATIONS OF ROHTAK DISTRICT, HARYANA.

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Various social organisations carry out a variety of social services in Haryana's Rohtak district. Leading organisations engage in large-scale social activities. This includes ground-level effort on a variety of good societal issues. In this study, I intend to investigate the social impact of chosen organisations in the Rohtak district. This will comprise their work, working style, methodologies, financial assistance, organisational aims, and so on. Only social-level work and people's scales will be included. Despite the fact that society is facing numerous challenges, many social organisations are attempting to address these issues. Different social organisations work on various issues. Their readiness provides an indicator of hope to many others in need. Organisations work alone, but there is also a need for collaboration with other organisations. Knowing the activity of other organisations, cooperating with them, and accepting their cooperation strengthens the organisation. All organisations complement one another and

should collaborate. Even simple activities become tough when living independently. The interaction of members benefits their personal lives. In times of emergency, they prove to be helpful to one another. Collaboration among social organisations sends a positive message to society. The work of service should be without comparison, malice, or hatred. Only then is societal upliftment possible. Primary method: Data was collected through field interview schedule, research design will be both quantitative and qualitative.

Keywords : Organisations, Collaboration, Rohtak, Society, Challenges

STATUS OF WOMEN AS BRIDE-BUYING (MOLKI) IN HARYANA PRACTICE OF BRIDE-BUYING IN HARYANA: A SOCIAL WORK INTERVENTION.

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Bride-buying, a form of marriage transaction where families purchase brides, is a significant social issue in Haryana, a region with alarming gender imbalances and deep-seated patriarchal values. This research paper explores the practice of bride-buying in Haryana and evaluates the efficacy of social work interventions aimed at mitigating this harmful tradition. The study sheds light on the multifaceted nature of bride-buying, its socio-economic drivers, and the potential for social work strategies to effect meaningful change. Bride-buying is characterized by the exchange of substantial dowries or financial payments in return for marriage, reflecting the commodification of women within a patriarchal framework. In Haryana, where skewed sex ratios and entrenched dowry practices are prevalent, bride buying exacerbates the marginalization of women. This practice is not only a violation of women's rights but also perpetuates gender inequality and reinforces discriminatory norms. The research employs a mixed-methods approach, integrating quantitative data from government and NGO reports with qualitative insights from interviews and focus groups. Quantitative analysis involves reviewing statistical data on gender disparities and instances of bride-buying in Haryana. Qualitative data are gathered through interviews with social workers, community leaders, and families affected by bride-buying, providing a comprehensive understanding of the personal and societal impacts of the practice. Findings reveal that bride-buying in Haryana is deeply embedded in socio-economic and cultural contexts. Economic pressures, such as the need for dowries and financial stability, drive families to engage in bride-buying, while entrenched patriarchal norms perpetuate the devaluation of women. The practice severely impacts women, diminishing their autonomy and subjecting them to exploitation and control. Based on these findings, the paper proposes a series of targeted social work interventions. These interventions include community education initiatives aimed at changing cultural attitudes towards women, legal reforms to strengthen the enforcement of anti-bride-buying laws, and economic empowerment programs to reduce families' reliance on dowry transactions. The paper emphasizes the importance of a collaborative approach involving government agencies, NGOs, and local communities to address the root causes of bride-buying effectively. The research highlights that combating bride-buying requires a holistic strategy incorporating legal, educational, and economic measures. Social work interventions must be contextually relevant and culturally sensitive to ensure effectiveness. By addressing the underlying socio-economic factors and challenging patriarchal norms, these interventions can contribute to reducing and eventually eliminating bride-buying practices. In conclusion, this study underscores the crucial role of social work in addressing entrenched social issues and fostering gender equality. The proposed interventions aim to create a supportive environment for women affected by bride-buying and to promote systemic change. Ongoing research and policy development are essential to sustain these efforts and advance gender justice in Haryana, paving the

way for a more equitable and respectful society. This research paper contributes to understanding bride-buying in Haryana and provides a framework for social work interventions that can drive transformative change in the region. Keywords: Bride-buying, Haryana, social work intervention, gender inequality, dowry system, patriarchy, economic empowerment

SOCIAL INCLUSION OF MINORITY WOMEN IN INDIA : ROLE OF SOCIAL WORK INTERVENTION

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Social inclusion is a fundamental aspect of ensuring equitable development in any society. In India , the inclusion of minority women is a crucial and challenging task. Minority women in India , including those from religious, ethnic, and linguistic minorities, often face multiple layers of marginalization. These women are frequently subjected to gender-based discrimination compounded by social, economic and political exclusion. Minority women in India are facing a unique set of challenges that hinder their full participation in society. These women experience intersecting forms of discrimination based on their gender, religion, caste, and ethnicity. This intersectionality, often results in compounded disadvantages, limiting their access to education, employment, healthcare and political participation. A significant proportion of minority women in India live in poverty. Limited access to economic resources, coupled with discrimination in the labor market, restricts their economic opportunities. This economic marginalization further entrenches their social exclusion. Educational attainment among minority women is generally lower compared to the national average. Societal norms, early marriages, and financial constraints often prevent these women from pursuing higher education, which in turn affects their career prospects and social mobility. Minority women often face cultural and social barriers that restrict their freedom and autonomy. The social inclusion of minority women in India is a complex issue that requires multifaceted solutions. Social work plays a vital role in addressing the challenges faced by minority women in India and in promoting their social inclusion. Social work interventions are designed to empower these women, enhance their access to resources, and advocate for systemic changes that promote equality and justice. By empowering minority women, advocating for policy changes, and providing community-based support, social workers contribute to creating a more inclusive and equitable society in India . However, to achieve lasting change, it is essential to continue investing in social work initiatives and to strengthen the collaboration between various stakeholders committed to advancing the rights and well-being of minority women. This article explores the complexities surrounding the social inclusion of minority women in India and examines the role of social work intervention in addressing these challenges.

TO STUDY FAMILY AND MENTAL PROBLEMS OF ELDERLY IN RAMWADI SLUM, AHMEDNAGAR CITY

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In Indian culture, elderly people are traditionally held in high regard and well looked after. In rural areas, they are generally cared for with respect and attention. However, in urban areas, the situation can differ. In cities, there are old age homes and similar institutions, as the dynamics of urban life sometimes lead to challenges for elderly individuals. This situation is particularly pronounced in urban slums, where the elderly face socio-economic, mental, physical, and familial difficulties.

a. Studying family problems faced by the elderly. b. Reviewing the mental problems of the elderly. c. Understanding the expectations and wishes of the elderly regarding family and mental problem solving.

Area Of The Study: This study/research was carried out in the Ramwadi slum community, Ahmednagar city, ramwadi slum population of around 5,000. The community grapples with various issues, including education, sanitation, and elderly-related problems.

Research Methodology: A descriptive study being conducted to identify and document the problem faced by the elderly people. The methodology used in the research is qualitative and quantitative.

Significant Findings: The majority of the respondents are illiterate. The majority of the of the respondents are married. The majority of the respondents live alone. The respondents are self-sufficient and earn their own living. The respondents are have to work just to survive.

Observation: The researcher observed and identified the challenges and issues faced by elderly people. As the respondents from a specific area, the researcher done their fieldwork in this community and observation done by the researcher At ramwadi slum. In this slum researcher observed various types of problem but main problem he observed is elderly people family and mental problem, that's why researcher selected this topic. Elderly people have mental problem is depression, anxiety, Alzheimer's disease, etc. and family problem is Intergenerational conflict, Caregiver burden and stress, Family neglect and abandonment, Financial exploitation, Emotional abuse, Lack of support and resources, changing family structure and roles etc. these are problem observed researcher. Among them, some of the elderly or those who are alone or who have no financial support have to do their own work and support themselves, mainly women. These things observed researcher and very dire conditions exist in elderly people in this slum. the researcher used informal means of communication to build a relationship and collect the data.

Learning: The researcher has learned how to conduct research by communicating in an informal way and has developed communication skills and a relationship with the conservative respondents. Researchers have learned about how to live a simple life with limited resources. The researcher also understands the social, cultural, economic, and social aspects of elderly people lives and how they manage their personal life, while those who are not working make efforts to survive in society and deal with the stress they deal with every day.

Conclusion: From the research conducted on " To study family and mental problems of elderly in ramwadi slum" (Ahmednagar) it is concluded that most elderly face stress, which leads to major family and mental problems. The study of mental and family problems of the elderly is an important area of research, as it helps us understand the challenges of this age group and develop strategies for their well-being. In the joint family system, elders used to receive food, clothing, and care before Currently, joint families have disintegrated Due to this disintegration process, the problems of the elderly have increased Even the influence of consumerist culture exacerbates the issues of aging. In conclusion, the research underscores the To study family and mental problems of elderly in ramwadi slum, Ahmednagar. By practicing mental and familial issues of the elderly, we can develop effective interventions and support systems to improve the quality of their lives and promote healthy aging

THE INTERPLAY OF STIGMA AND SELF-EFFICACY AMONG HALF-WIDOWS IN KASHMIR

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This study explores the interplay of stigma and self-efficacy among half-widows in Kashmir, women whose husbands have disappeared due to conflict. The literature review examines how stigma is associated with widowhood, its manifestations and sources, its impact on self-efficacy, and coping mechanisms identified in previous research. The theoretical framework draws on Goffman's theory of stigma and Bandura's theory of self-efficacy to understand how societal perceptions and individual beliefs interact in the context of half-widowhood. Qualitative research methods, specifically in-depth interviews with Kashmiri half-widows, were used to gather data. The findings reveal the complex nature of stigma surrounding half-widowhood in Kashmiri society, characterized by a mix of empathy and ignorance. Negative attitudes and behaviors, including exclusion and discrimination, significantly impact the self-efficacy of these women, particularly in decision-making and economic independence.

NEW AGE PARENTING OF ADOLESCENTS AND THE WAY IT SHAPES WELLBEING OF MOTHERS IN SOUTH INDIA : A QUALITATIVE STUDY

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Over the past few years, women's roles are evolving significantly across various domains, with increasing participation in leadership positions at the workplace, more equitable shouldering of familial responsibilities, and a diverse range of approaches to parenting that is steadily embracing the modernity of today's world. Literature suggests understanding how parenting practices affect maternal well-being is crucial for developing a healthy family, and eventually a flourishing society. The present study explores how various dimensions of maternal parenting, including caregiving practices, family dynamics, and socio-cultural factors influence the emotional, and psychological well-being of mothers. A qualitative approach was used to understand the parenting practices of 12 mothers of early and middle adolescents in Udupi Taluk, Karnataka across different socio-economic backgrounds. Purposive sampling was adopted. In-depth interviews were conducted, and thematic analysis was done. The findings of the study reveal that parenting practices, both traditional and modern, rooted in cultural norms, have a significant emotional and physical demands on mothers, affecting their overall well-being. However, the interviews provide insights on the role of support systems, including extended family, spirituality, workplace connections and community networks, in dealing with the stress caused

while playing the parenting role. This study addresses the challenges faced by mothers, and how a supportive environment can enhance well-being of mothers in India n context.

Keywords: adolescent parenting, maternal psychological wellbeing, south India , qualitative study

AN OVERVIEW ON VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN IN INDIA : A SYSTEMATIC REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Shallu

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Violence against women the most severe manifestation of gender inequality, is a pervasive global issue that hinders womens equal participation in social political and economic spheres. It is widely recognized as a violation of human rights and a significant obstacle to achieving equality, development, and peace. Emotional/psychological abuse, sexual violence (including rape), financial abuse, domestic and intimate partner violence, marital rape, sexual harassment, and physical abuse are among the most prevalent forms of violence against women worldwide. Unfortunately, this violence remains largely unnoticed, as women have internalized it to such an extent that they perceive it as an inherent aspect of their subordinate position. The COVID-19 pandemic has further exacerbated the plight of women, leaving them vulnerable and powerless as they are confined to close quarters with their abusers during times of crisis. Consequently, incidents of gender-based violence, including domestic violence and sexual violence, have surged. The primary objective of this study was to determine the prevalence of violence against women, with a particular focus on domestic and sexual violence. Additionally, the study aimed to examine the dimensions explored in previous research conducted over a five-year period and identify strategies proposed by previous studies to combat violence against women. The research relied on secondary data spanning five years, encompassing the year of the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as two years preceding and following it. Ultimately, the findings revealed that violence against women is a global, national, and regional phenomenon that manifests in various contexts and assumes diverse forms under different circumstances.

Keywords: Violence Sexual assault and Domestic Violence.

BREAKING THE SILENCE: EMPOWERING WOMEN AND ADDRESSING DOMESTIC VIOLENCE IN DISASTERS.

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Women across the world face vulnerability that arises from domestic violence, which not only questions their safety and well-being but also adds to their social and economic marginalization. Disasters along with all other destructive impacts, further cause several social, economic, and cultural conditions that lead to increased rates of violence and abuse against women, as reported by various studies. In these situations, women who are already marginalized by societal norms become even more vulnerable, especially when faced with oppressive and destructive life events. One of the most serious concerns in this scenario is the widespread acceptance of domestic violence as a norm and the pervasive submissive attitude towards it. Efforts to empower women and improve their safety will have significant limitations

if women do not recognize and acknowledge the abuse they face. Raising awareness and challenging submissive attitudes towards abuse is crucial for preventing violence and achieving SDG 5, which, according to the NITI Aayog's SDG Index India Report 2023-24, has the lowest performance in the country, with a score of 49. This paper explores the alarming trend identified in the National Family Health Survey, where a significant proportion of women in India exhibit a submissive attitude towards domestic violence. They often fail to recognize it as abuse, instead perceiving it as acceptable or even justified. Through a detailed analysis of NFHS data and a comprehensive review of existing literature, the study examines how intersectionality across various socioeconomic and cultural factors shapes these attitudes. The paper also investigates the implications of this cultural acceptance in the context of disaster situations, where incidents of violence against women are known to escalate. Ensuring that women are protected and empowered during and after disasters can lead to more resilient communities, which require strategic interventions at individual, family, community, and social levels. Men's attitudes must also be transformed to achieve these goals, as their active participation and commitment are essential. Recognizing the importance of the situation, this paper emphasizes the need for relevant social work interventions that empower women to identify domestic violence and understand the importance of reporting it promptly, especially in disaster-prone areas. These initiatives should include women-centered interventions such as awareness and education programs, access to safe spaces and shelters, mental health services, legal assistance, economic empowerment opportunities, and community-level advocacy to resist and challenge harmful cultural norms. The goal of these services is not only to reduce rates of abuse against women but to create environments where women feel safe and supported in reporting abuse. Moreover, integrating these interventions into disaster management strategies is essential. This paper also advocates for a dedicated protocol within disaster management policies specifically addressing women's rights, safety, and well-being, emphasizing the need for a collaborative approach between social work and disaster management to initiate long-term societal changes.

Keywords: Women, Domestic violence, Submission, Attitude, Disaster, Social Work

युवा महिलाओं की सुरक्षा से संबंधित अधिनियम की जानकारी के स्तर का अध्ययन

सौरभ गिरी

हमारे समाज में आज महिलाओं की स्थिति पहले से बेहतर है, किंतु महिलाओं बालिकाओं किशोरियों की चुनौतियों का कोई अंत नहीं दिखाई पड़ रहा। हम प्रत्येक दिन दैनिक समाचार पत्रों में महिलाओं के प्रति दुर्व्यवहार को देख सुन रहे हैं। आज बालिकाओं के समक्ष शिक्षा की समस्या उनके सकुशल घर से विद्यालय तक की दूरी तय कर पाना भी कठिन चुनौती बन चुकी है, हमारा समाज विकसित तो हो रहा किंतु अभी भी वह पुरुषोत्तात्मक विचारधारा से विरक्त नहीं हो पाया है, हम महिलाओं के कल्याण की बात तो करते हैं किंतु हम आज भी महिलाओं को घर गृहस्थी संभालने वाली गृहणी के ही नजरिए से देखते हैं विभिन्न प्रकार के विधेयक तथा नियमों कानून के पश्चात भी आज भी सदस्यों को अपने पर अपने जीवन के विभिन्न पक्षों से संबंधित समस्याओं का सामना करना पड़ता है, जिसका मूल कारण महिलाओं में नियमों एवं विधायकों द्वारा दिए गए प्रावधानों की जानकारी का अभाव है।

इस स्थिति को ध्यान में रखते हुए निम्नलिखित अधिनियम महिला एवं बाल विकास मंत्रालय महिलाओं से संबंधित विभिन्न विशेष कानूनों जैसे घरेलू हिंसा से महिलाओं का संरक्षण अधिनियम, 2005; दहेज निषेध अधिनियम, 1961; महिलाओं का अभद्र चित्रण (निषेध) अधिनियम, 1986; कार्यस्थल पर महिलाओं का यौन उत्पीड़न (रोकथाम, निषेध और निवारण) अधिनियमों की प्रावधानों के प्रति युवा महिलाओं की जागरूकता के स्तर की जानकारी प्राप्त करने हेतु प्रस्तुत अध्ययन किया जाएगा। परिकल्पना-आमुख अध्ययन की परिकल्पना महिलाओं में उनके लिए बनाए गए अधिनियम के प्रावधानों की जानकारी का अभाव।

WOMEN AND SPIRITUALITY: A SOCIAL WORK PERSPECTIVE

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Spirituality is important aspect of overall health which plays a significant role in meaning full life. It is a very comprehensive term having different interpretation in different religion, region, gender and geography. Spiritual health concerns physical, emotional, mental and spiritual aspect of our being. Spiritual health is about the connection with self (personal dimension), others (social dimension), the nature (the environment) and God. Qualitative studies utilized for conventional content analysis various data bases like Scopus and Web of science etc to ensure the reliability and validity of content. Women in the Early Vedic era enjoyed spiritual empowerment through access to education, engagement in intellectual and philosophical discourses. But with time, their participation significantly impacted because of different social customs and traditions. Various studies highlighted that women are more capable to attain spirituality and spiritual health. In this digital era, everyone is compromising with their mental and spiritual health and women are more vulnerable due to limited access, contracted perception about spiritual health and other factors. This review paper focused on the spiritual health of women and related factors, impact of spiritual health on physical and mental health.

Keywords: Spirituality, spiritual health, mental health, spiritual health of women

“CHALLENGES FACED BY MOTHERS OF CHILDREN WITH LEARNING DISABILITY”.

Viraj Ambadas Mohite

In India an estimated 10 to 12 % of school going children have Learning Disability which comes to approximately 2.65 crores . In Maharashtra 2. 25 crores children are enrolled in schools (2021-22) .So it can be concluded that around 22 lakhs children would be living with Learning Disability in the state of Maharashtra. This means in any given classroom around four children have Learning Disability and there are an equal number of mothers too who are facing various challenges due to their child’s Learning Disability. In spite of this alarmingly large number, no effort has been made to understand the challenges faced by these women, discuss about them and help the affected mothers to face their child’s disability head on. Due to their ignorance and lack of counselling, they start judging themselves, blaming themselves, feeling guilty and feeling inadequate. This in turn strains their relation with the children and rest of the family. It also leads to depression and self isolation amongst the mothers. Thus mothers of children with Learning Disability, experience various psychological, emotional and social challenges. When mothers are so affected, it stunts the growth of children with Learning Disability because these children need the active support of their parents especially the mothers who are the primary care givers, to grow to their full potential. Thus an issue which can easily be managed with proper remedial therapy, indirectly usurps the lives of an average 99 lakhs people (the family size on an average being calculated at 4.5)

APPLICATION OF GENDER SENSITIVE APPROACHES TOWARDS PSYCHOSOCIAL REHABILITATION OF PERSONS WITH MENTAL HEALTH ISSUES: CHALLENGES AND GAPS

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There has been a growing recognition of the inclusion of gender-specific treatment and mental health care approaches for Persons With Mental Health Issues (PWMHI) during the last two to three decades. Recovery in psychiatric symptoms may vary gender-wise across various psychiatric disorders. Moreover, personal recovery is an individual-specific and unique process. When it comes to the psychosocial rehabilitation of women with mental illness, several gender-specific factors create hurdles such as physical abuse, violence, abandonment, homelessness, stigma, and discrimination. Further, these factors complicate and delay their rehabilitation process. The available rehabilitation services are mostly inadequate, of poor quality, and seldom reach the neediest women. Involving them right from the beginning is difficult. Many recent studies have shown that gender has a significant influence on how mental illness is experienced and dealt with. Even if, they are to be rehabilitated successfully, it would require tailor-made services rather than a “one-size fit” for all. The rehabilitation needs of women with mental illness need to be mindful. The application of gender-sensitive rehabilitation approaches that include motherhood, parenting, and work may be important to consider in a psycho-social rehabilitative plan for women. There is also a need to integrate gender-sensitive services and practices across the settings of rehabilitative care. The Institutional, long stay, and forensic settings pose unique challenges in the rehabilitation of women with mental illness. Hence, there would be differences in the approach towards psychosocial rehabilitation based on gender perspectives. There are scanty detailed investigations available that specifically focus on gender issues while planning psychosocial rehabilitation for PWMHI and almost negligent literature existing in the Indian context. Keeping the above, the present study aims to attempt to shed light upon the currently available approaches for Psychosocial rehabilitation in general, Gender biases in the Indian context, the influence of biases on approaches towards psychosocial rehabilitation, and also to critically analyze the challenges and Gaps associated with it through the narrative review of articles. Conclusion: An improved understanding of gender issues would support and boost the morale of mental health professionals to plan and execute individualization care for psychosocial rehabilitation of the PWMHI, which leads to better outcomes

Keywords: gender sensitivity, Psychosocial rehabilitation, Persons with mental illness. Presenting

WOMEN EMPOWERMENT AND WELL-BEING THROUGH POLITICAL EMPOWERMENT: INSIGHTS FROM PRI WOMEN MEMBERS IN UTTARAKHAND - A CONTEXTUAL STUDY

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Political empowerment of women, especially in rural contexts, is a transformative force that significantly enhances both individual well-being and community development. This abstract presents

a contextual study focusing on the experiences of women members of Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) in Uttarakhand, a state where the dynamics of gender and governance intersect in unique ways. The study explores how political empowerment within the framework of PRIs has served as a critical pathway for advancing women's empowerment and well-being, shedding light on the broader implications for gender equality and sustainable development. The 73rd Constitutional Amendment Act, which mandated reservations for women in PRIs, has been a pivotal policy initiative that has altered the landscape of rural governance in Uttarakhand. This study investigates how women's increased participation in PRIs has not only empowered them politically but also brought about significant socio-economic changes in their lives and communities. The research is grounded in qualitative data collected from various districts across Uttarakhand, where women PRI members have been active in governance roles. These women have been instrumental in addressing local issues such as education, healthcare, sanitation, and infrastructure, directly impacting the well-being of their communities. A key finding of this study is the relationship between political empowerment and economic independence. Women in PRIs have leveraged their positions to promote self-help groups (SHGs) and other economic initiatives that enhance the financial autonomy of rural women. These efforts have led to a positive feedback loop where economic independence further reinforces women's political agency, enabling them to make more informed decisions that benefit their families and communities. The study highlights examples from regions like Almora and Pauri, where women PRI members have successfully implemented projects that have led to improved educational outcomes and better access to healthcare services. However, the journey towards empowerment is fraught with challenges. The study identifies persistent barriers such as entrenched patriarchal norms, limited access to education, and the often-overwhelming influence of male family members in decision-making processes. Despite these obstacles, women PRI members in Uttarakhand have demonstrated resilience and ingenuity, utilizing their political roles to challenge traditional gender norms and advocate for policies that promote gender equality and social justice. This research underscores the critical need for capacity-building programs that are specifically designed to support women in governance roles. These programs should focus on enhancing women's leadership skills, providing them with the knowledge and tools necessary to navigate the complexities of local governance. Additionally, the study calls for the creation of a more supportive political environment that encourages and sustains women's participation in PRIs, ensuring that their contributions are recognized and valued. In conclusion, this contextual study of women PRI members in Uttarakhand illustrates that political empowerment is not just a means to achieve gender parity in governance but a vital component of broader social and economic development. By empowering women politically, we can ensure their well-being and foster more inclusive and sustainable communities.

Keywords: Women Empowerment, Political Empowerment, Panchayati Raj Institutions, Uttarakhand, Gender Equality, Economic Independence, Capacity Building, Rural Governance

GENDER RESPONSIVE BUDGET LEAD WOMEN EMPOWERMENT: A SITUATIONAL ANALYSIS

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Women are stronger than men and constitute 47% of the total population of the nation. In Spite of many policies and programmes for women development and empowerment still women encounter the issues

of proper accessing services and resources. Gender responsive budget is one of the effective tools to lead women empowerment and promote gender equality among the girls and women in a meaningful way which can help women lead development. Gender budgeting is all about sensitization and execution of women specific programmes and schemes in a transparent manner. Effective planning and execution of gender specific programmes through gender budgeting can lead the comprehensive and inclusive development of the women's. Women specific schemes and Pro-women schemes are the major components of gender budgeting that ensures the empowerment of women especially in the rural area by allocating the 100% and 30% budgetary allocation especially for women development. In Spite of gender budgeting provision still welfare and empowerment of the women especially in rural areas remained a challenge. Present paper address the existing situation of gender specific budget and analyse the overall women specific schemes and programmes associated with gender responsive budget. The paper also provides the mechanisms to strengthen the gender specific budget and its effective implementation at grassroots level in a meaningful way.

BUILDING EVIDENCE IN SOCIAL WORK: UNDERSTANDING AND USING RCTS (WORKSHOP)

Dr Anish K R

This workshop explores the possibilities of intervention research to overcome the paucity of pertinent social work literature that establishes the credibility of professional social work interventions. The intervention research in social work has dual purposes, viz. Betterment of human conditions and creating evidence for the effectiveness of social work interventions. This workshop would focus on the feasibility and challenges of performing randomized control trials in social work as a means of evidence-based practice based on examples from the research project experiences of the facilitator. A participatory methodology would be adopted to discuss the methodology of a randomized control trial from one successful research project and the other unsuccessful one. The process of model development, the designing of the study, and the prospects and concerns of cluster control trials, randomization, and methodological aspects will be discussed in the workshop. Further, the workshop would provide a detailed account of designing different types of intervention research, a six-phase perspective for the development of social and health services interventions (Rothman and Thomas, 1994), the hierarchy of evidence in intervention research, methodological issues in intervention research, steps in evidence-based practice, statistical procedures and methods of reporting intervention research.

EMPOWERED OR MARGINALIZED? WOMEN'S PARTICIPATION IN PANCHAYATI RAJ INSTITUTIONS IN PUNJAB

Ms Jashanjot Kaur Brar

The participation of women in Panchayati Raj institutions (PRIs) in Punjab presents a complex narrative of empowerment and marginalization. This study critically examines the extent to which women in Punjab PRIs have been able to exercise meaningful political power and contribute to local governance.

Using case studies available online the research delves into the dual realities faced by these women on one hand the opportunities for leadership and community development and on the other the persistent challenges that limit their full participation. The study explores themes of political representation decision-making authority and the socio-economic impacts of womens roles in PRIs. The findings reveal a detailed picture of womens involvement in local governance highlighting both the progress made and the obstacles that remain. The study concludes with recommendations to address these challenges aiming to enhance the effectiveness and inclusivity of women in PRIs.

Keywords Women Panchayati Raj Punjab empowerment marginalization local governance political participation case studies.

TO STUDY THE MENTAL HEALTH ISSUES FACED BY WOMEN IN AGRICULTURAL

Mr Rushi Sunil Mankar

Agricultural is feeding various elements. But somehow when we talk about the agricultural working women is still below the mark . That's the main reason researcher has decided to study on this. Research is one of the crucial study of researcher because researcher going to put all of the acquired knowledge into the phenomena. Throughout this Research, Researcher is going to put his efforts towards the problem and that will be his first step towards the women empowerment by finding their mental health issues. India n culture is known to be male dominated. The male classes have confined women to little writing, their domain is only the hearth and the child, they have no intelligence, they are weak to be tamed. Therefore, they are not given the scope to develop in the social, economic, educational, political and cultural fields. Female literacy rate is only 35% even in today's age of information and technology Also today 72% women are economically dependent some women depend on husband or children 28% women are independent but her social freedom is limited either by her husband or society Today, even though 33 percent seats are reserved in Maharashtra Local Self-Government, in many places women are not allowed to govern independently, they are used only as a rubber stamp. Traditionally, as the male power center in politics, husbands, fathers, brothers, sons, and other relatives move the lines behind the scenes. The study concludes that women who are involved in politics at the city state national level have inherited the legacy of someone from their family Agricultural working women face unique mental health challenges due to the demanding nature of their work and socio-economic conditions. The physical labor they perform, often under harsh conditions, can lead to fatigue, stress, and long-term health problems. Additionally, they often bear the dual burden of farm work and household responsibilities, which increases their mental and emotional strain. Social isolation is another factor, as many of these women live in rural areas with limited access to healthcare, support networks, or mental health services. This lack of access can result in untreated mental health issues, such as anxiety, depression, or burnout. Economic instability, particularly in regions with unpredictable agricultural yields, adds to their stress, making it difficult for them to achieve financial security. Gender-based discrimination and limited decision-making power in both the home and workplace can further compound their feelings of helplessness or frustration. Cultural stigmas surrounding mental health often prevent these women from seeking help, making it harder for them to address their struggles. Overall, the combination of physical labor, socio-economic challenges, and limited mental health resources creates a heavy burden on the mental well-being of agricultural working women

TRAJECTORY OF WOMEN EMPOWERMENT IN INDIA – ENVISIONING COLLECTIVE CONTOUR

Mr Sanjay Onkar Ingole

The quest for women empowerment in India is very hot and hard. It is entangled with too many considerations of diversity, adversity, modernity, traditionality and adversaries. Thus a critical perspective is adopted to understand the prepositions of women empowerment and wellbeing as envisaged in egalitarian modernity. Imperatively the objectification of women universality is the first challenge that has been acknowledged addressed here. Socio-historical perspective and rights based approach is the weaving framework of the same. Secondly, the contextual analysis of legal instruments of personal (Family) and political protection of women is another avenue used to gain wit and wisdom of women empowerment in contemporary times with the given contexts. The need and impact assessment of the state and civil efforts is the focus of the highlights of the account. Third, envisioning a collective contour to cultivate and institutionalize women power; irrespective of differential socio-cultural positions, sectionalism and conditionality of their individual statuses and social movements by addressing the covert and overt resistance (arguments) of patriarchy, cultural hegemony and structural inequalities embodied even in modern democratic institutions is the last part of this endeavor.

RETHINKING ABOUT THE WOMENS STATUS AND THEIR SAFETY FROM THE PAST TO PRESENT.

Vrushali Mahendra Garode

While reconsidering the position of women and their protection in modern and present times, we should know about the position of women and their protection in ancient times. Because at various times her position, her safety issues changed In ancient India n culture, women were treated as equal to men. And there was no discrimination on the basis of gender, instead women were honored by the society and the society considered women as mother. While they enjoyed their full fundamental rights where they were free to pursue education, wives of sages were willing to participate in spiritual activities with their husbands, also known as ardhagini. Subsequent to Post Vedic Period - In Early Vedic period there was scope for unity between the sexes but in Later Vedic Period their unity and equality decreased, especially the position of women which was equal in Early Vedic period then declined. There was a time when women had to adopt the burqa parda which affected their freedom. Again in modern times the fight for women empowerment in India was raised. Then as time went by, the society changed and somehow women got the opportunity to enjoy their rights and powers but not every woman in the society was able to do this. There was a woman from in South who cut off her breasts in protest against the caste system that demanded a breast tax from low-caste women. Because of her, the very next day, King Sri Moolam Thirunal issued a proclamation. By allowing women to wear shawls to cover their breasts, the sacrifice of Nangeli thus provided a clear social effect that saved the dignity of the the women. At the very beginning of this modern era of womens empowerment in India , many names come to the fore Begum Hazrat Mahal, Uda Devi and Azizul Bayal, Rani Lakshuibai of Jhansi. Women have become empowered in present times. She made her mark in every field, working alongside men. In all she got her rights but again in this twentieth century we are in a position to rethink her security. And now another question arose that is the safety of women in India . The crime rate against women in the country has increased to a great extent. The woman started thinking before leaving the house. The unfortunate reality is that the body has become the biggest burden for a woman and the burden of protecting her body is very difficult. We say woman is the best creation of God yet but she worst sufferer. It is very sad to say that our country is not a safe place for women. Gang rapes, protests are

happening every day. She has fear while going out late, staying at home, fear while working at work place are now faced by the woman. She cannot move freely anywhere. She has to live in a fearful environment all the time. Every women daughter has a feeling of who will do bad things with her when,where. Times have changed, women are free to come out, but now they dont want to be free, and again we need to rethink about the place of women and their safety.

A STUDY OF SOCIAL STATUS OF KORKU WOMEN IN SEMADOHA VILLAGE OF CHIKHALDARA BLOCK

Mr Ayush Ganeshrao Shete

आदिवासी समाज में महिलाओं का अनुपात सामान्यतः 50% नारी निभाती है। हर व्यक्ति के जीवन में मां ही प्रथम गुरु होती है। मां द्वारा दिए गए संस्कारों की प्रभावशीलता भावी पीढ़ी के निर्माण से जुड़ी होती है। इसके लिए नारी का शिक्षित एवं सुसंस्कृत होना आवश्यक है। आदिवासी महिलाओं की गहन सूचना साक्षरता अन्य महिलाओं की तुलना में कम है। महिलाओं की भागीदारी के बिना परिवार अधूरा है। आदिवासी महिलाओं की साक्षरता एवं जानकारी आदि कम है। विकास प्रक्रिया में महिलाओं की भागीदारी महत्वपूर्ण है। यदि किसी समाज की समग्र प्रगति या विकास करना है तो यह बहुत जरूरी है कि उस समाज के सदस्य मजबूत, स्वस्थ और शिक्षित हों। इस दृष्टि से विचार करें तो आदिवासी समाज आज अज्ञानता, गरीबी के अंधकार में संघर्ष कर रहा है, उन्हें इस अंधकार से निकालकर प्रशासन की ओर ले जाने के लिए, सामाजिक स्तर को ऊपर उठाने के लिए शिक्षा एक उपयोगी कारक होगी, महिलाओं में निरक्षरता की दर बहुत अधिक है, विशेषकर आदिवासियों में।

पुरुष और महिला समाज के दो पंख हैं, कोई भी पंख केवल एक पंख से नहीं उड़ सकता दोनों पंख मजबूत होने चाहिए, यही बात समाज की भी है। जन्म से लेकर मृत्यु तक एक महिला को बेटी, बहन, पत्नी, बहू, माँ के रूप में अलग-अलग भूमिकाएँ निभानी पड़ती हैं, वह पुरुषों का अलग-अलग तरीकों से सम्मान करती है और इन भूमिकाओं को निभाने हुए उसे कई जिम्मेदारियाँ भी निभानी पड़ती हैं। उसके अधिकारों, कर्तव्यों और जिम्मेदारियों की भावना उसे समाज में एक दर्जा दिलाती है।

प्रसिद्ध अमेरिकी सामाजिक मनोवैज्ञानिक रॉबर्ट लावी ने आदिम समाज में महिलाओं की स्थिति का निर्धारण करते समय चार बातों पर विचार किया है। 1) प्रत्यक्ष व्यवहार, 2) कानूनी व्यवहार, 3) सार्वजनिक कार्य का अवसर, 4) कार्य की प्रकृति और सीमा आनुवंशिकता, विवाहोपरांत निवास, शक्ति व्यवस्था, वित्तीय सहायता जैसे कारक महिलाओं की स्थिति को प्रभावित करते हैं। आदिवासी महिलाओं की सामाजिक स्थिति कैसी है इसका अध्ययन करना जरूरी है, इसमें आदिवासी महिलाओं की शिक्षा का स्तर, उनके स्वास्थ्य की स्थिति, राजनीति में भागीदारी आदि जानना जरूरी है।

Dr Ravindra Singh

Women Empowerment Through Social Entrepreneurship: Social Work Perspective
Dr. Ravindra Singh*

The article explains the linkage between women's empowerment and social enterprise as an important instrument for constructive change at societal level, the paper also talks comprehensively about role of social intervention. The article focuses on understanding the relevance and role of Social Entrepreneurship for Women Empowerment. The paper is based on literature reviews and the case studies about experiences of the organizations working in the field of Women empowerment. The findings have been analyzed in relation to pertinent critical issues about its success challenges related to it. The paper establishes that social enterprise is playing critical role in women's empowerment. The paper suggests that Social Work intervention can play crucial role in sensitizing society on various related issues that removing hindrances and obstacles related to empowerment of Women. This paper

also suggests various mechanisms for enhancing the competencies and skill of women for empowering them.

The paper has talked about various long-and short-term measures for comprehensive and effective result on the above issue.

Key words: Women Empowerment, Social Entrepreneurship, Social Work Perspective.

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Mr Jitesh Sanjay Kambale

A Study of Jurists' Opinion on the Role of Article 14 of the Constitution of India in Women's Development.

There are different beliefs about the status of women in India . In India n Puranas, women are given the status of goddesses, but it is a general society that women are physically weaker than men, and this is the law of nature. But after this men started using women as per their convenience Earlier women were married at the age of seven and were ordered to stay at home what property did they have right to live, right education decision making but after this There were many practices against women like sati, child marriage, no right to education and all these things happened during independence. Before independence, Jyotiba Phule and Savitribai Phule started the first school for girls. After independence, constitution was needed to run the India n system. The India n thinker completed and gave the India n Constitution to India which enacted various laws for the development of women in that Article 14 states equality before the law and implements this in Article 15 which states that no person shall be discriminated against on the grounds of religion, caste, race, language, sex and place of birth and It is because of this India n constitution that women are holding important posts in India . The fact that the President of India is a tribal woman today is a matter of happiness for us, but we should really think whether today's women have freedom? whether the money earned after working is spent according to her will?, whether a woman sits on the chair of the Sarpanch post of Gram Panchayat? Many questions come to us today women are underestimated and their rights are taken away then how can we say that there is equality before laws but they are equal before law but the reality is different and research is the need of time to think about this fact .

AWARENESS ABOUT SOCIAL SECURITY SCHEMES AMONG RURAL WOMEN WORKERS IN UNORGANIZED SECTOR

Mrs. Lucy

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Ms. Kiran,

The unorganized sector contributes nearly 50% to the GDP and only 6 percent of unorganized workers are covered by the social security measure. In the unorganized sectors, a shocking percentage of female employment exists, 94 %. In India , there are 4.2 million domestic workers and women constituting about 70 %. In India , about 7.7 million performances for women are up around 32 %. In the non-agriculture 37 percent of workers are performing home-based with 83 % of them being women. Women play dual role responsibility in or outside the home.E –Shram a national database shows that women make up a large share of the unorganized sector more than men as of March 2022, 52.7 % of the 28.7

crores registered unorganized workers are women. On the other hand, all informal workers are not registered on the E-shramportal. The unorganized sector includes dairy farming, Agriculture, Tailoring, handicraft products, pickle or papad making, and selling vegetables, clothes, fruits, bangles, and utensils, after this thing women are struggling to face low wages, unsafe working conditions, and a lack of access to social and welfare program. There are so many programs and policies Unorganized Workers Social Security Act 2008. The objective of the study is to know about the awareness of social security schemes among rural women workers in the unorganized sector. Authors have acquired descriptive research design to the present qualitative-cum- quantitative research work. The secondary data is taken for the study, which is taken from various books, research papers, journals and online sources. The main findings of the study are that women faced so many problems after the breadwinner they had no right to make the decision of self, their children, and their houses and the reason is a patriarchal society and illiteracy. Authors have suggested some strategies to protect women from the negative impact of job insecurity and unsafe environment on them. It is suggested that it is imperative to adopt gender-responsive strategies to address the specific needs of women in the unorganized sector. This includes ensuring access to resources such as credit, training, and technology, enhancing the women's participation in decision-making processes. It is also suggested to develop such policies, schemes and programmes that promote job security and persistence. It is focused on problems faced by the rural women workers in the unorganized sector so there is a need to address this issue through awareness of effective policies and programmes to promote job security and protect them from susceptibility.

Keywords: Social Security, Unorganized Sector, Women Worker, Gender Role, Job Security, Women Participation

UNDERSTANDING OF YOUTH ABOUT PROFESSIONAL SOCIAL WORK SERVICES : A STUDY BASED ON TWO DEGREE COLLEGE AT PRAYAGRAJ DISTRICT

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In today's rapidly evolving societal landscape, social work plays a crucial role in addressing a wide range of issues, from child welfare and mental health counselling to community development and social justice advocacy. However, the awareness and comprehension of the scope and importance of social work among the general public, particularly among the youth, can vary significantly. Youth, as a significant demographic segment, both benefit from and contribute to the demand for social work services. However, their understanding of professional social work remains inconsistent and often skewed by misconceptions and limited exposure.

Methodology

This research paper aims to provide an in-depth analysis of how young people understand and perceive professional social work services, we aim to identify knowledge gaps, misconceptions, and attitudes toward social work. The research highlights the need to bridge the gap between youth understanding and the realities of professional social work. The objective of the study was to explore the level of awareness of social work services and the misconceptions about the profession. This study is based on primary data, where an exploratory research approach had been used. The population of the study is composed of two degree colleges of Prayagraj, Uttar Pradesh from which sample of 100 students had been selected for the study using simple random sampling. The data had been collected through a well structured interview schedule the questions ranged from basic awareness (e.g., What do you understand

by the term social work?) to more detailed inquiries about specific social work services (e.g., Which of the following services do you associate with social work?).

Findings

Findings from the study revealed that there is a general awareness among youth about the existence of social work services, majority of respondent like to opt 'Social Work Profession' as a career, although there is a significant gap in understanding the full scope and depth of the profession. According to the participants major challenges faced by social workers in our country were Low pay, Lack of resources, Lack of professional recognition, and Societal undervaluation. To overcome these challenges maximum respondent agrees that government should take initiative to promote more of 'Professional Social Work'.

Conclusion

The paper concludes by discussing the implications of these findings for social work education, practice, and outreach. It suggests that enhancing youth education about the full range of social work services and the professional expertise involved could help bridge the understanding gap. Furthermore, increasing youth engagement with social work initiatives, perhaps through volunteer opportunities or educational programs, could foster a deeper appreciation of the profession and encourage future participation in social work. Ultimately, improving youth understanding of social work services is essential for cultivating a generation that values and supports the critical role of social workers in building a more equitable and just society.

Key words: professional social work services, youth understanding.

EDUCATION: CLOSING THE DOOR OF INEQUALITY FOR WOMEN

Mr Abhishek Mehra

The paper endeavours to examine the correlation between education and women's empowerment, especially how education is the most vital vehicle in improving the status and ability of women. To this end, the paper shows how education supplies women with information, abilities, and self-confidence, which are helpful in decision-making, engaging in better employment opportunities, and taking up societal leadership positions. It empowers women in a manner that makes them question and overturn expectations imposed by gender. Education provides women with such transformative potential that it acquires attributes otherwise attributed only to men. It leads to the enhancement of women's status, and better educational settings and bestows women with better opportunities in many areas of the workforce. However, the changes do not stop at individual development but promote changes in society that address women's empowerment approaches from an educational context. Educating women serves as a means of enabling them to understand their social rights enabling them to fight for their rightful place and those of their society. The advancement of technology has made this empowerment more effective due to the provision of education resources mostly for ladies located in outlying or less privileged regions. This development has changed the way the society views girls. In the past, girls were seen to be a liability. This conception has now changed into the realization of the girls' worth. Societies that pursue giving women the opportunity for education, the society is promoting self-development, professional achievement and equity. Education is key in ensuring women are empowered and that all the outlined goals are achieved and expanding prospects towards a better and fairer world. Increasing access to education helps to raise the status of women in society but also guarantees people that women will occupy an active role that will change society for the better. To sum up, education is a basic human right and one of the most effective ways to empower women. It assists not in the fighting but in the

winning of the goals, and if women's equality and educational policies are effectively implemented, then each woman will make the most of herself.

Key Words: Women's Empowerment, Education, Knowledge, Equality, Stereotypes

ROLE OF WOMEN IN THE IDEAL VILLAGE PROCESS

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Women play a vital role in the model village process, which aims to create ideal villages through community-led development. The role of women in the model village process is crucial and multifaceted. Women are the backbone of rural communities, and their participation is essential for creating thriving model villages. Women are often the primary caregivers, managers of household resources, and guardians of traditional knowledge. Their roles include: a. **_Leadership_:** Women can take on leadership positions in village committees, guiding decision-making and implementation. b. **_Participation_:** Women's participation in village meetings and activities ensures their voices are heard and concerns addressed. c. **_Resource management_:** Women often manage household resources, extending this skill to manage community resources. d. **_Health and education_:** Women are often responsible for healthcare and education, driving improvements in these areas. e. **_Empowerment_:** Women's empowerment is crucial, enabling them to make informed decisions and participate fully. f. **_Inclusivity_:** Women ensure inclusivity, representing marginalized groups and promoting social cohesion. g. **_Skill development_:** Women can develop skills in areas like entrepreneurship, agriculture, and craftsmanship. 8. **_Networking_:** Women build networks, fostering partnerships and collaborations. h. **_Advocacy_:** Women advocate for village needs and rights, influencing policy and decision-making. i. **_Sustainability_:** Women contribute to sustainable development, balancing economic, social, and environmental needs. **Key Areas of Focus*** Women's contributions are particularly valuable in: 1. ***Health and sanitation*** 2. ***Education and literacy*** 3. ***Economic development and entrepreneurship*** 4. ***Environmental conservation*** 5. ***Social justice and human rights*** By acknowledging and supporting the role of women in the model village process, villages can 1. ***Amplify their voices*** 2. ***Tap into their expertise*** 3. ***Foster more inclusive communities*** 4. ***Drive sustainable development*** 5. ***Create positive change*** 1. **_Foster gender equality_** 2. **_Enhance community engagement_** 3. **_Improve resource management_** 4. **_Drive inclusive development_** 5. **_Promote sustainable growth_** Empowerment of women and role of women is important to create ideal villages

ELEVATING LYMPHATIC FILARIASIS CONTROL IN KANPUR

Mr Aditya Sharma

Lymphatic Filariasis a neglected tropical disease transmitted by mosquitoes, significantly impacts global health and economies, with 1.2 billion people at risk and over 2 billion USD lost annually. In Kanpur Urban, the prevalence of LF marks the urgent need for effective intervention. This paper explores the role of ward counselors in implementing the Mass Drug Administration program aimed at eradicating LF. Through interview schedule with ten ward counselors, The trainee assessed their awareness, engagement, and challenges regarding LF. Findings reveal a gap in knowledge, empathy and Integrated support among counselors, with varied levels of awareness and commitment to the program. Key issues include cultural myths, lack of official authorization, and inadequate awareness. Recommendations include organizing comprehensive awareness camps for counselors, enhancing

official communication channel mechanism for providing hands on support system.. Also addressing specific concerns such as lack of cleanliness drives, lack of integrated development with linkages towards the social schemes . Augmenting the role of ward counselors through targeted training and support is essential for improving MDA program effectiveness and ensuring broader community engagement in LF eradication efforts.

COMPREHENSIVE STUDY OF BORA COMMUNITY IN SUKHNA VILLAGE

Ms Akshita Verma

Sukhna, a remote village nestled in the Kumaon region of the Himalayas in Uttarakhand, is characterized by its challenging geographical terrain and a dwindling male population. The village is home to the Bora community, who have a rich tradition in hemp craftsmanship. Historically, the community thrived economically by creating various products from hemp, which served as a significant source of income. However, in 1985, when hemp cultivation was banned, the Bora community was left without its primary livelihood. The villagers held on to their weaving techniques, a skill passed down through generations. Today, in this isolated village, the women have become the torchbearers of this ancient craft, sustaining the community by continuing to practice and preserve their weaving traditions as the main source of income.

EMPOWERMENT OF HOMELESS WOMEN WITH MENTAL ILLNESS:EVIDENCE BASED MODELS OF PSYCHOSOCIAL REHABILITATION FROM NIMHANS

Dr Aarti Jagannathan

Additional Professor of Psychiatric Social Work, NIMHANS, Bengaluru

In India, homelessness and mental illness (MI) are deeply intertwined, with approximately 20% of the homeless population diagnosed with mental illness, 41% of whom are women. Current models offer some assistance but do not fully promote independent living or sustainability. Thus, there is a need help empower Homeless Women with Severe Mental Illness (HWSMI) staying in tertiary care hospitals to rehabilitate into the community. This plenary will discuss two evidence-based models: (1) Within the Institution, (2) In the community; which have helped empower homeless women with mental illness to recover, rehabilitate and reintegrate into the community.

Model 1: (Within the Institution): The Psychiatric Social Worker as part of the mandate of the Institute Rehabilitation Sub-committee, conducted a social audit of the infrastructure as well as the needs of homeless women with mental illness staying in the tertiary care centre. The needs expressed by the women were personal, economical, vocational, social, emotional, educational, relationship and recreation, reintegration and health needs. They also expressed needs related to their rights such as privacy, making personal choices, access to mobile phones, holding bank account etc. Based on the themes elicited, a rehabilitation plan was developed and implemented within the institution through formal communications, networking and liaising with various Governmental, Non-governmental organizations, volunteers and corporates and group activities in the ward. The rehabilitation plan was found to be feasible and achieve its objectives up to 70%, with systemic changes being brought about at the institution level.

Model 2: (in the community): 20 HWSMI were provided case managements services for rehabilitation and reintegration into the community over a period of 6 months where they were helped to transit from the tertiary care institution to a transit centre to the community/family. Over 6 months, 5 were reintegrated with families, 6 HWSMI lived by themselves in PGs and rented houses, and (n=9)

did not get reintegrated due to systemic & individual barriers. The results indicated significant improvement across indicators such as well-being ($\chi^2 = 34.00$, $p < 0.001$), self-esteem ($\chi^2 = 35.52$, $p < 0.001$), and independent living skills ($\chi^2 = 28.42$, $p < 0.001$).

Conclusion: The plenary aims to gather insights that will help develop sustainable psychosocial rehabilitation practices, which are institutionalized in tertiary care settings and also are recovery-oriented and rooted in the community. Such dialogues also allow clinicians and mental health advocates to re-visit rehabilitation, reintegration and recovery through a renewed perspective on power, autonomy and social inclusion.

ADOLESCENT GIRLS IN ROMANTIC RELATIONSHIP UNDER THE CARE AND PROTECTION OF CHILD WELFARE COMMITTEE

N. Janardhana,

Increased interest in romantic relationships is central in adolescents' lives and have been considered as normal development defining features of adolescence. Romantic relationships have significant influence on emotional wellbeing of adolescents. In western context, romantic relationship has gained developmental significance and majority of adolescents involved in romantic relationship. In Indian context, scientific literature on Adolescent girls in romantic relationship is limited and studies focused upon sexuality related issues and pre-marital sexual relationship. Due to social and cultural aspects, few adolescent girls who are involved in romantic relationship uses run away from home as a solution to address their issues related to romantic relationship. These girls would come under care and protection under many circumstances such as child marriage, teenage pregnancy, sexual abuse etc. it is important to understand their issues to provide psychosocial intervention and facilitate healthy transition to adulthood. In this background, the study attempts to study their psychosocial profile. The study adopts retrospective exploratory research design and analysed case reports, where they received psychosocial care as part of project at Govt. Home for girls, Bangalore. The study followed ethical guidelines and abide by the rules of JJ Act. The study has implication for designing intervention based on mental health and development perspective. Results of the study will be presented during the conference.

Key words: Adolescent girls, Romantic Relationship, Social Profile

LIVELIHOOD STRUGGLES AND EMPLOYMENT GAPS AMONG WOMEN IN WEST SINGHBHUM IRON ORE MINING REGIONS, JHARKHAND

Mr Ashish Tiru
Ushvinder Kaur Popli

Women in West Singhbhum iron ore mining regions in Jharkhand, India , face significant livelihood challenges due to socioeconomic inequities, environmental degradation, and limited job opportunities. Predominantly from Scheduled Tribes, they struggle with poverty and gender disparities. The decline in agriculture and mining jobs worsens their economic vulnerability. This study examines these challenges and the effectiveness of government interventions. The study aims to analyse the demographic and socioeconomic characteristics of women in West Singhbhum mining regions, evaluate their employment patterns and income levels with a particular focus on their participation in the mining

sector and other forms of livelihood activities, and assess the impact of government schemes like MGNREGA and NRLM on their socioeconomic status. The study used a descriptive research design with a quantitative approach, collecting primary data through a structured survey of 110 women selected via random sampling from two mining-affected blocks, Manoharpur and Noamundi, in West Singhbhum. Villages were chosen using purposive sampling. Secondary data came from government reports. The survey examined demographic and socioeconomic characteristics, employment patterns, and the impact of government schemes. The data analysis employed Microsoft Excel to generate frequency distributions and percentage calculations. The demographic profile revealed that over half the respondents were in the 31-40 age range, with low educational attainment - 30.91% were illiterate, and 36.36% had only primary schooling. All participants belonged to Scheduled Tribe communities. Most women were engaged in marginal employment, with 47.27 % reported working as daily wage labourers and 71.82% collecting and selling minor forest products. Economically, a significant proportion is earned between Rs 10,000 and 20,000 annually, suggesting financial precariousness. The findings demonstrate substantial employment disparities and economic hardships women face in the mining regions, as evidenced by the decline in their participation in the mining workforce from 11.98% in 1997 to 5.48% in 2014. Despite widespread ownership of MGNREGA job cards, only 20.27% secured employment through the scheme, revealing implementation shortcomings. While many women participate in SHGs under the NRLM, only a fraction utilise the available loans for income-generating activities, suggesting the limited impact of these initiatives on their economic well-being. The study's conclusion underscores the persistent livelihood challenges and employment disparities faced by women in the iron ore mining regions of West Singhbhum, driven by socioeconomic disadvantages and gender inequities. Despite government interventions, these efforts have largely failed to enhance their economic conditions. The study highlights the critical need for more effective interventions to address these issues. The recommendations from a social work perspective emphasise the importance of targeted educational and vocational training programs for women, improved implementation of the MGNREGA and NRLM initiatives through enhanced monitoring and transparency, and the promotion of gender-inclusive policies in the mining sector. Additionally, Fostering alternative livelihoods, such as sustainable agriculture and small-scale enterprises, is crucial for reducing mining dependency and enhancing these women's long-term economic resilience.

Keywords: Women, Mining, Livelihood, Employment gaps, Gender Disparities, Empowerment

LIVELIHOOD STRUGGLES AND EMPLOYMENT GAPS AMONG WOMEN IN WEST SINGHBHUM IRON ORE MINING REGIONS, JHARKHAND

Prof Ushvinder Kaur Popli

Women in West Singhbhum iron ore mining regions in Jharkhand, India, face significant livelihood challenges due to socioeconomic inequities, environmental degradation, and limited job opportunities. Predominantly from Scheduled Tribes, they struggle with poverty and gender disparities. The decline in agriculture and mining jobs worsens their economic vulnerability. This study examines these challenges and the effectiveness of government interventions. The study aims to analyse the demographic and socioeconomic characteristics of women in West Singhbhum mining regions, evaluate their employment patterns and income levels with a particular focus on their participation in the mining sector and other forms of livelihood activities, and assess the impact of government schemes like MGNREGA and NRLM on their socioeconomic status. The study used a descriptive research design with a quantitative approach, collecting primary data through a structured survey of 110 women selected via random sampling from two mining-affected blocks, Manoharpur and Noamundi, in West

Singhbhum. Villages were chosen using purposive sampling. Secondary data came from government reports. The survey examined demographic and socioeconomic characteristics, employment patterns, and the impact of government schemes. The data analysis employed Microsoft Excel to generate frequency distributions and percentage calculations. The demographic profile revealed that over half the respondents were in the 31-40 age range, with low educational attainment - 30.91% were illiterate, and 36.36% had only primary schooling. All participants belonged to Scheduled Tribe communities. Most women were engaged in marginal employment, with 47.27 % reported working as daily wage labourers and 71.82% collecting and selling minor forest products. Economically, a significant proportion is earned between Rs 10,000 and 20,000 annually, suggesting financial precariousness. The findings demonstrate substantial employment disparities and economic hardships women face in the mining regions, as evidenced by the decline in their participation in the mining workforce from 11.98% in 1997 to 5.48% in 2014. Despite widespread ownership of MGNREGA job cards, only 20.27% secured employment through the scheme, revealing implementation shortcomings. While many women participate in SHGs under the NRLM, only a fraction utilise the available loans for income-generating activities, suggesting the limited impact of these initiatives on their economic well-being. The study's conclusion underscores the persistent livelihood challenges and employment disparities faced by women in the iron ore mining regions of West Singhbhum, driven by socioeconomic disadvantages and gender inequities. Despite government interventions, these efforts have largely failed to enhance their economic conditions. The study highlights the critical need for more effective interventions to address these issues. The recommendations from a social work perspective emphasise the importance of targeted educational and vocational training programs for women, improved implementation of the MGNREGA and NRLM initiatives through enhanced monitoring and transparency, and the promotion of gender-inclusive policies in the mining sector. Additionally, Fostering alternative livelihoods, such as sustainable agriculture and small-scale enterprises, is crucial for reducing mining dependency and enhancing these women's long-term economic resilience.

Keywords: Women, Mining, Livelihood, Employment gaps, Gender Disparities, Empowerment

CULTIVATING CHANGE THE ROLE OF DIGITAL SERVICES IN TRIBAL WOMEN AGRICULTURAL EMPOWERMENT

Ms Shrestha Gautam

Dr. Sanjay Onkar Ingole

This research paper analyses the impact of digitalization services in tribal farmers especially women. Digital agriculture services have changed farming methods in the past few years. Especially the tribal farmers who have been deprived of many resources and opportunities. The study explores the potential benefits and challenges correlated with Digitalization and Women Empowerment. Today even farmers have access to mobile applications, SMS services, and other digital platforms which were missing in the traditional farming methods. With the advancement of Digital technology, new opportunities have come up in every field. Its effect can be seen in the Tribal women farmers, who are the central players of the farming activities. The paper focuses on four key areas, access to information, market linkages, financial inclusion, and capacity building. It examines how digital platforms can provide women tribal farmers with timely information on agricultural practices, weather forecasts, market prices, and government schemes. Additionally, the study explores the role of digital tools in facilitating market linkages, expanding access to buyers, and improving price realization. Women are mostly in charge of the households agricultural activities i.e. from sowing and weeding through harvesting and even to marketing. With digital agriculture services, women could decide on better crop selection, resource

management, and marketing strategies. The role enhancement in this value chain would also enhance women status in these communities which leads to our women being empowered. Usually access to traditional banking services among women in such communities is low due to geographic isolation, lower literacy rates, and social norms that bind their financial independence. Digital agriculture services are mostly paired with mobile banking and microcredit facilities that allow women to save, acquire credit, and investment opportunities. Mobile banking provides a safe way of saving money among women, to acquire credit for purchasing seeds and fertilizers, and to invest in some agricultural activities that could improve the income of their households. Thus providing financial independence. Also, it enhances economic status and empowers them as decision makers for the benefit of their families and communities. Digitalization services along with women empowerment has the capability to change the fate of tribal farmers. Furthermore, the research analyses the impact of mobile banking, digital payments, and targeted financial products on their financial wellbeing. The study also investigates the challenges faced by women tribal farmers in adopting digital technologies and the strategies that can be implemented to overcome these barriers. This research paper provides valuable insights into the potential of digitalization in women empowerment, especially the tribal women farmers and promote sustainable livelihoods. The findings contribute to a growing body of literature on the intersection of digital technologies, agriculture, and gender equity.

GOVERNANCE, PERSONALITY TYPES, ABUSE AND TRAUMA: REASSESSING RELATIONSHIP IN SOCIAL WORK PRACTICE

Mrs Madhu Choudhary Bhatt

Researcher and Blogger

Dr Rita Agarwal

Practicing Medical Professional and Trauma Specialist

The Dark-Triad-Tetrad personality - the personification of a 'Ruling, 'Hierarchic' 'Conquering' state of mind that indoctrinates its subjects, to be *subservient to the mercy of the systems*. This is normally reflected in their regressive understanding of *subjugation*, subordination, surrender and slave-like existence for the victims with the absence of the understanding, of their respect, rights, and reciprocal concerns. Their malicious mindset is to maintain their dominance in the power structure of 'Rule', by withholding the victim's democratic rights and promoting divide, division, discrimination, chaos amongst the people. Their battleground comprehension, of *victory vs. defeat* - victory in terms of the benefit of the *narcissistic supply*, which they get, by annihilating the accomplishments of the other. At the macro level, it is evident of the mass genocide of Indian people during the period of imperialism and the invaders rule. It is further percolated to the micro levels, by the creation of structures like *feudalism, patriarchy, narcissistic parenting, narcissistic families* and likewise. The Oppressor's, *exploitative and destructive* act denotes the behavior, of a *Narcissist-Psychopath-Machiavelli-Sadist, collectively called as Dark-Triad-Tetrad!* Their surreptitious, covert reasoning is that, the scope of their intervention is possible in an unstable environment and where the victims would be easier to manipulate and control, as compared to empowering them. Hence, there is prominent use of *Reverse Psychology* or being a *Reverse Alchemist* for the victims i.e. absence of the intentions to promote, uplift, or honor them. This is in stark contrast to the Social Work ethos of *rights, cohesiveness, coexisting, co-building, and empowerment* to ensure the well-being of the victims, as reflected in selfless, altruistic acts of a Blue Triad and White Triad Personality. Malignant Narcissism, as one of the various forms of *Narcissistic Personality Disorder* denotes the psychopathic understanding of *jealousy and hatred*, especially towards the higher empowered status of the victims. Hence, the oppressor in their competitive

mode, derives a sadistic pleasure, in taming or tearing the victims down, in covert or overt ways, so as to *diminish, destroy and sabotage* their *sense, sensibility and sanity*, which is well exhibited in their act and behavior of *triangulated mindsets, invalidation, bullying, baiting, smear campaign, social isolation of the victims, their devaluation, silent treatment, gaslight to make them doubt their recall & perception, reactive abuse, provoking etc.* *Hoovering another tactic* involves *Bread crumbing* - To hook the famished bird by intermittently throwing some grains for its satiety, concept of 'Rule', as portrayed by the Russian Dictator-Stalin

Patriarchy, overtly or covertly implies the presence of misogynist, entitlement understanding of male supremacy, promoting gender inequality i.e. keeping the woman under *co-dependent, servitude mode*. The purpose being to sustain the male condescending, fear-generated attitude towards the victims. This situation is against the social engineering inputs of *respect, rights, compassion, empathy, education, inclusion, integration, and mainstreaming of women and children* as envisaged by the ethos of social work. They, who look forward to their inclusive development, get trauma bonded to the oppressor's rejections! They becoming the victim of their abuse faced, at various levels i.e. physical, emotional, psychological, sexual etc. *Generational Trauma* becomes the norm of such, autocratic, dictatorial families, who are *impervious to the needs, wants and well-being* of their own women and children? Because of the presence of dysfunctional *act and behavior* related to the *dark triad-tetrad personality's* psychological abuse and trauma is present in everyday life. We live in an era of trauma! The target victims are the 'vulnerable' section of our society i.e. women and children, There are many forms of trauma, like *interpersonal trauma, relational trauma, betrayal trauma, attachment trauma, developmental trauma, childhood trauma, complex trauma, cumulative trauma, intergenerational trauma, collective trauma and others.* *Post-traumatic stress disorders (PTSD)* are now understood as psychological trauma following abuse in any form within the ambit of the 'micro' level or in the community 'macro' level. Trauma brings the feeling of powerlessness. The oppressor thrives upon the instability and insecurity of the victims without remorse or guilt, which is a trait of a psychopath. *Dysfunctional family with stressful, harsh or insensitive parenting can contribute* to the development of the Dark Triad traits of *Narcissism, Psychopath Machiavellianism, and sadism*, who share *aversive, manipulative, emotionally deficit approach* toward interpersonal relationships. Social Workers and counselors need to *reverse victim-focused approaches to offender-focused approaches* in therapy. The present syllabi of social work are not sufficient to handle abuse and trauma, especially in the absence of knowledge and practice taught in light of personality disorders and narcissism vis-à-vis abuse and trauma. It has been seen that the psychological, neurological, and biochemical impacts of trauma can be entirely reversed, with awareness. In other words, we need to build a trauma-informed society, where the social work profession needs to assess its response, in terms of its understanding, diagnosis, and treatment of trauma-related behavioral health problems. The first step of any intervention, to fight against this situation is awareness, education *or* personal skill enhancement of the victims.

THE INTERPLAY OF STIGMA AND SELF EFFICACY AMONG HALF-WIDOWS IN KASHMIR

Dr. Sandeep Chopra

This Study explores the interplay of Stigma and Self Efficacy among the half widows in Kashmir, women whose husbands have disappeared due to the conflict. The Literature review examines how stigma is associated with widowhood, its manifestation and sources, its impact on self efficacy, and coping mechanism identified in previous research. The theoretical framework draws on Goffmans theory of Stigma and Banduras theory of Self Efficacy to understand how societal perception and individual beliefs interact in the context of half widowhood. Qualitative research methods like Indepth

interviews were conducted with the kashmiri widows to collect the data. the findings reveals the complex nature of stigma around the half widows and their lives

LIFE AS A “DHUKANI”: A CASE STUDY OF ADOLESCENT GIRLS IN THE ORAON COMMUNITY OF RANCHI, JHARKHAND

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Ms Aishwarya Kumari

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This research investigates the factors that attracted or compelled adolescent girls in the Oraon community of Ranchi district, Jharkhand to become “Dhukani”, their experiences, and the ramifications of becoming “Dhukani”. The term "Dhukani" refers to girls or women who enter into informal relationships, cohabiting with their partners, but without the societal recognition or respect accorded to wives. Through a qualitative case study approach, this research employs in-depth interviews to gather personal narratives from three adolescent girls who have become Dhukani. Data collection took place in July 2023 in the Namkum and Kanke blocks of Ranchi district, Jharkhand. Parental neglect and the presence of alcoholic parents were common in the backgrounds of these girls. One of these girls, became a Dhukani even before she started menstruating, highlighting the extreme vulnerability and lack of guidance that these girls faced. The absence of a stable family environment drove these girls to enter into informal relationships, viewing them as an escape or a way to secure some semblance of stability and acceptance. The lived experiences of the Dhukanis were marked by significant hardships and challenges. Despite their efforts to fit in and gain acceptance within their partner's families, none of the girls are content with their current situations. Experiences of violence marred the vision of a supportive partnership. The sense of isolation faced by these girls is compounded by the lack of family support and societal acceptance. The consequences of these decisions have been profound and uniformly negative for the girls involved. Two of the three girls had to abandon their primary education to conform to the expectations of their partner's family, thereby limiting their future opportunities and perpetuating a cycle of poverty and dependence. These decisions reflect a bleak attempt to secure a sense of belonging within their partner's home. This research challenges the romanticized notions often surrounding cohabitation and emphasizes the need for targeted interventions that address the vulnerabilities of adolescent girls in similar socio-cultural settings. It contributes to a deeper understanding of the intersection between gender, age, and socio-economic factors in shaping the lives of young girls in tribal communities. Not only are these girls vulnerable, but their children are also at significant risk. One of the three girls has already given birth to three children. This intergenerational vulnerability highlights the critical need for comprehensive interventions that not only support these girls but also provide for their children, helping to break the cycle and create opportunities for a better future. Keywords: Adolescent Girls, Dhukani, Oraon, and Primary Education.

GENDER DISPARITIES IN INDIA : A REVIEW FROM FEMINIST PERSPECTIVE

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Women empowerment goes beyond just economic growth and access to educational resources and opportunities. Inequality between men and women, especially in India's patriarchal society, places various demands on women. This requires special attention and the issue should be analyzed from a feminist perspective and social work interventions should be proposed. As social work holistic approach believes in building capacities, promoting wellbeing, achieving equality, bring social change, safeguarding human rights and social justice. Power and oppression are fundamental to inequalities. Although gender inequality is a global phenomenon, but in India, since most societies are based on patriarchy, gender bias is an inherent characteristic of the patriarchal society. According to the Global Gender Gap Report (2015), the country ranks 127th in terms of gender inequality, 114th in terms of gender gap in the world. The report says the most alarming problem is the declining sex ratio. Haryana, the Vedic land of Harayan has been a structure of India n culture and civilization. It contains 15 % of food grains. Haryana, despite accounting for 2% of the total population and having won a series of meddles in common wealth games to share the wealth, has the lowest sex ratio - 834 girls per 1,000 boys (2011 Census). Women are discriminated against even from birth. Girls are considered unwanted creatures and a burden that parents do not hesitate to get rid of. Gender economists call this phenomenon the disempowerment of women. It is called gender discrimination when any denial of equality, gender, and opportunity based on gender is demonstrated. Women in the family's chief and male dominant society are used to this discrimination. In history, during 1970s the India n Women's Movement's 'Organizing Against Violence: Strategies' focused on various issues such as rape, dowry deaths, domestic violence, sati, neglect of women leading to differential mortality rates and the recent case of female feticide after amniocentesis, highlightes the feminist perspective of gender discrimination. This paper, based on secondary data, observations and FGDs with women presents the perceptions, attitude, beliefs of Haryana state on gender equality and women empowerment. This article is an attempt to highlight the other worrying issue such as female feticide, malpractice of superstitions due to illiteracy among women, crime and disputes. Women empowerment is beyond just economic growth and access to educational resource opportunities. Gender inequality especially in India n patriarchal societies place various demands on women. It needs attention and the matter should be analyzed from feminist perspective and suggest social work intervention. As social work encompasses a holistic approach of strengthening capacities, sustaining wellbeing, bring equality and social change, preserving human rights and social justice. The power and oppression are base inequality. A holistic approach is required to address these issues. Though gender inequality is a global phenomenon but in India, because most of the societies are based on patriarchy, gender bias is an inherent characteristic of a patriarchal society. Global gender gap report (2015) shows, the country is ranked 127 th in gender inequality indicators, 114 th in the gap between men and women in the world. Report finds the declining sex ratio as the most worrying issue.

“BEING AN INDIAN SUPERWOMEN” – AN EXPLORATORY STUDY ON WHAT GOES BEHIND THEIR ACT OF BALANCING BOTH MOTHERHOOD AND CAREER.

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“For women, The biological clock and the career clock are always in total conflict with each other”
Indra Nooyi's comments on women workforce seems to be more relevant than ever. Indian women are

traditionally confined to their homes if not for more restricted jobs spaces such as banking and teaching. Due to increase of labour markets in India and awareness on gender differences, Such closed community is now exploring varied professional fields. This indeed has leveraged both social and economic status of women, thereby positively impacting the society at large. On the hind side, unaddressed traditional responsibilities, absence of societal, family and workplace support demands her to show up for multiple roles all at once. Labelling this juggle a “Super heroic act” de signifies the pressing need to address the stress and challenges of women workforce going through the vicious cycle of managing both their family and profession. The roles and responsibilities piles up for a working middle aged mother who needs to navigate between their childcare activities and career. A detailed study is made on probing such challenges and the existing support systems thereby proving some valuable insights on work life balance of employed mothers.

MATERNAL HEALTH AND NEWBORN CARE IN THE CONTEXT OF DISASTER: NEED FOR PROMOTING HEALTHY MOTHERHOOD

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Women and children have been classified by the World Health Organization (WHO) as an important subgroup of the population that is most vulnerable in a pandemic or any disaster. They are extremely vulnerable to injuries which in most cases lead to death. These injuries encompass trauma and its subsequent complications, infectious diseases, communicable diseases, and non-communicable diseases. Pregnant women are at a heightened risk pre, during and post-disasters due to their unique circumstances, leading to health issues. Factors like psychological and physiological stress, limited access to healthcare facilities, and disruptions in prenatal care contribute to the increased incidence of pregnancy-related illnesses in disaster situations. Climate change-related environmental exposures, such as threats of incidences of food and water scarcity, forced displacement, civil unrest, was, and outbreaks of communicable diseases, have a significant impact on overall maternal health and newborn care. Pregnancy and childbirth bring about significant transformations in one's physical, mental, and social well-being. Annually, more than 140 million births occur worldwide, some of which are accompanied by serious complications or risks to the health of the mother or newborn. Studies indicate that approximately one-third of births are perceived as psychologically traumatic experiences. Data holds significant importance when it comes to disasters. In the year 2014, more than three-quarters of the 84 million individuals requiring humanitarian aid worldwide were women and children. Among these vulnerable groups, newborn babies are particularly impacted. Out of the 15 nations with the highest rates of neonatal mortality on a global scale, 14 are marked by persistent political instability and conflict. It is worth noting that excluding India and China, countries facing such unrest contribute to 42% of neonatal deaths worldwide (Schnall et al., 2019). India is considered a theatre of disaster, and no place is immune. Disaster and post-disaster situations are often extremely stressful. Stress has been found to be associated with various issues such as preterm birth, postpartum depression, anxiety, developmental problems in children, and foetal distress. Furthermore, the impact of disaster causes issues such as post-traumatic disorder, anxiety, somatic complaints, and depression, that have been

found to have adverse effects on birth outcomes. It is worth noting that maternal psychological distress is also linked to a higher risk of preterm birth, low birth weight, and restriction in foetal growth. Apart from psychosocial factors, exposure to environmental contaminants resulting from disasters also negatively impacts the outcomes of childbirth. Numerous research studies have highlighted the obstacles faced by women in accessing antenatal services during disasters. Challenges such as limited access to healthcare specialists and insufficient medical facilities have been identified as hindrances to receiving antenatal care. Current research has mostly focused on the impact of disasters on maternal health and healthcare utilization. In India, natural disasters have been found to disrupt medical supplies and pediatric healthcare services, highlighting the challenges in healthcare accessibility and utilization within the healthcare system. Disparities in healthcare services availability and accessibility exist among different population subgroups and geographic locations, especially in regions with geographical obstacles like high-altitude areas or dense forests, remote villages where access to healthcare facilities is limited. The readiness of the healthcare system to cope with emergencies is also a critical issue, necessitating long-term preparedness and a resilient health system to address the vulnerability of certain areas. Particularly, postnatal care (PNC) services in hazard-prone regions are significantly below the national average. The severity of this issue is notably higher in flood-prone and high-altitude earthquake-prone areas. It confirms a strong negative correlation between postnatal care and natural disasters that negatively impact maternal healthcare as well. India has demonstrated its commitment to disaster management by adopting proactive measures that are aligned with global perspectives. Every effort should be made to retain the public health benefits of breastfeeding in the post-recovery phase and protect safe maternal health. A strong collaboration of public health and social work will help to facilitate healthy motherhood in situations of disaster and emergencies. There are different guidelines about disaster management and disaster risk reduction, where the issues of maternal and child health care have been mentioned sporadically, but a comprehensive guideline about maternal and child health from a multi-dimensional perspective is required

AWARENESS ABOUT SOCIAL SECURITY SCHEMES AMONG RURAL WOMEN WORKERS IN UNORGANIZED SECTOR

Ms Kiran

The unorganized sector contributes nearly 50% to the GDP and only 6 percent of unorganized workers are covered by the social security measure. In the unorganized sectors, a shocking percentage of female employment exists, 94 %. In India, there are 4.2 million domestic workers and women constituting about 70 %. In India, about 7.7 million performances for women are up around 32 %. In the non-agriculture 37 percent of workers are performing home-based with 83 % of them being women. Women play dual role responsibility in or outside the home. E-Shram a national database shows that women make up a large share of the unorganized sector more than men as of March 2022, 52.7 % of the 28.7 crores registered unorganized workers are women. On the other hand, all informal workers are not registered on the E-shramportal. The unorganized sector includes dairy farming, Agriculture, Tailoring, handicraft products, pickle or papad making, and selling vegetables, clothes, fruits, bangles, and utensils, after this thing women are struggling to face low wages, unsafe working conditions, and a lack of access to social and welfare program. There are so many programs and policies Unorganized Workers Social Security Act 2008. The objective of the study is to know about the awareness of social security schemes among rural women workers in the unorganized sector. Authors have acquired descriptive research design to the present qualitative-cum- quantitative research work. The secondary data is taken for the study, which is taken from various books, research papers, journals and online sources. The main

findings of the study are that women faced so many problems after the breadwinner they had no right to make the decision of self, their children, and their houses and the reason is a patriarchal society and illiteracy. Authors have suggested some strategies to protect women from the negative impact of job insecurity and unsafe environment on them. It is suggested that it is imperative to adopt gender-responsive strategies to address the specific needs of women in the unorganized sector. This includes ensuring access to resources such as credit, training, and technology, enhancing the women's participation in decision-making processes. It is also suggested to develop such policies, schemes and programmes that promote job security and persistence. It is focused on problems faced by the rural women workers in the unorganized sector so there is a need to address this issue through awareness of effective policies and programmes to promote job security and protect them from susceptibility.

WORKING WOMEN PROTECTION IN WORKING PLACE IN INDIA

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In recent years, there has been a growing awareness of the need to protect women in the workplace. Women have made significant strides in the workforce, but they continue to face unique challenges related to discrimination, harassment, and unequal pay. Employers have a responsibility to create safe and inclusive work environments where women can thrive and achieve their full potential. In India, women have been historically marginalized and discriminated against in various spheres of life, including the workplace. India has made great strides in empowering women and promoting gender equality in recent decades. However, the battle for equal rights and opportunities for women in the workplace is still an ongoing one. Apart from rape, there are many sexual assaults on women in the office. Certain persons and places are included under 'place of work'. Indian Constitution, along with various legal provisions, provides for the protection of women workers' rights. India has made significant strides in protecting the rights of women in the workplace over the years. The country's labor laws have been amended to ensure gender equality, and initiatives have been launched to promote women's economic empowerment. Despite these efforts, challenges remain, and women continue to face discrimination and harassment in the workplace. This blog will explore the current challenges faced by the women in India, the rules and measures for the state of protection for women workers in India and the measures being taken to improve their rights.

Significance of the topic: A study and examine working Women Protection Act the benefits of protecting women in the workplace, both for individual women and for society as a whole. Ultimately, the goal of this blog is to raise awareness about the importance of protecting women in the workplace and to provide practical guidance on how employers and employees can work together to create a safer and more equitable workplace. Gender Discrimination, Develop Women Friendly Culture in working place and educate on Women rights, and protecting women From Violence. However, the effectiveness of these laws has been hindered by inadequate. The lack of awareness among women about their legal rights and the dearth of robust grievance redressal mechanisms further compound the issue implementation and enforcement mechanisms.

Methodology: This article uses secondary data collection method. Reviews such working Women Act and discuss the working Protective Provision for women employee working Conditions.

Conclusion: India has made significant progress in protecting the rights of women in the workplace, but much remains to be done. Gender discrimination and harassment continue to be pervasive, and many women lack access to training and promotion opportunities. The government and employers must take

steps to promote gender equality, provide a safe and conducive work environment for women, and ensure equal pay and benefits.

Keywords: Right to equal remuneration and opportunities, Maternity benefit and protection of employment, Health and safety, Right to harassment free work environment.

IMPACT OF EMPLOYMENT ISSUES FACED BY EXPATRIATE WOMEN ON THEIR ADJUSTMENT IN RUWAIS, ABU DHABI: A CASE STUDY

Ms Sadhavi Sunil Rane

This case study explores the impact of employment issues faced by expatriate women on their adjustment in Ruwais, Abu Dhabi. The research delves into the unique challenges these women encounter in seeking and securing employment, including legal, cultural, and social barriers. Through in-depth interviews and qualitative analysis, the study examines how these employment challenges affect their psychological well-being, social integration, and family dynamics. The findings reveal that the inability to find suitable employment leads to significant stress and frustration, hindering their overall adjustment to life in Ruwais. Additionally, the study highlights the coping mechanisms and support systems these women employ to navigate these challenges. The research concludes with recommendations for improving employment opportunities and support structures for expatriate women, contributing to better integration and well-being within the local community.

UNLOCKING YOUTH POTENTIAL: BRIDGING GUIDANCE GAPS FOR EMPLOYMENT OF YOUTH IN BLOCK DHANAURA, DISTRICT AMROHA, UTTAR PRADESH

Noorjahan

Mohmmad Faraz Siddiqui

Prof. Richa Chowdhary

In Mandi Dhanaura Block, district Amroha, youth are encountering difficulties seeking employment due to the significant gaps in career guidance and support. The current study explores such problems and intends to provide insight into pathways for enhancing the employability of youth by conducting a focused primary investigation with 40 local respondents from the Mandi Dhanura block. Central Thrust: The key goal of the current study is to find out the obstacles that getting effective employment guidance and assistance for the career of youth in Mandi Dhanaura. By the identification of these critical gaps, the study intends to develop and counsel for targeted measures that will more effectively prepare for job opportunities and entrepreneurship opportunities, eventually fostering personal and economic development in the locality. Methodology: In the current study, researchers have used a mixed-method approach combining both quantitative and qualitative methods of research through an unstructured interview guide. In-depth interviews have been employed to get the information for a more deep understanding. Further researchers used statistical techniques for quantitative data analysis and thematic analysis for qualitative data to explore the underlying issues. Findings: The study highlighted various grave concern issues influencing youth employment in the locality. Key findings cover the significant absence of accessible career vocational training and counselling and even limited awareness of job opportunities. Respondents frequently expressed the gap between the education they pursue or are pursuing and the competitive skills required by employers and an overwhelming need for more intensive guidance and mentorship. To address the identified challenges, the paper suggests creating

differentiated career counselling centers, broadening vocational training programs, and expanding collaboration between educational institutions and companies or business organizations. Additionally, the study highlights the necessity of community-driven initiatives to enhance awareness and engagement with the available employment resources. Conclusion: To improve job prospects in the study area, we need to adopt a practical and clear approach. By delivering better career opportunities and offering required skill training that meets the market needs, we can assist youth to find employment and boost the local economy. These measures are going to empower local youth and support the overall development of Block Dhanuara. Keywords: youth employment, employment barriers, career counselling, vocational training Author Details: Noorjahan is a Ph.D. scholar in the Department of Social Work at the University of Delhi. She has completed her Master's in Social Work from Aligarh Muslim University, Aligarh. She has qualified NET and JRF in social work subjects. Her research areas are social entrepreneurship and livelihood (Socio-economic status of handicraft artisans: A study of 50 families in Nagina, Bijnor, U.P.). Mohammad Faraz Siddiqui, who has done a Master's in social work from Aligarh Muslim University is an associate practitioner at Transforming Rural India Foundation. His areas of interest are women's economic empowerment, employability, entrepreneurship for rural youth, gender sensitization, leadership development, and capacity building for community institutions. Prof. Richa Chowdhary is a senior faculty member in the Department of Social Work, at Bhimrao Ambedkar College, University of Delhi. Her research areas are mental health, social psychology, drug and alcohol issues, aging and homeless children, gerontology, and women's welfare and development. She has chaired or presented more than eighty conferences and seminars. She has eight textbooks to her credit in both Hindi and English language in the fields of social psychology, mental health, and methods of social work.

A STUDY ON THE MENTAL HEALTH PROBLEMS OF RUBBER CULTIVATORS WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO KAYYUR CHEEMENI GRMAPANCHAYATH.

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Rubber plantation sector in India is dominated still by the contributions from Kerala based cultivation and which is about 92% total production in the nation. The most suitable places of rubber plantation are hilly areas. Rubber cultivators are having lots of mental health problems related to their field like financial stress and anxiety, work related stress, isolation and loneliness, environmental stressors. The development of natural rubber cultivation in India has given an impetus to the Indian economy through the setting up of infrastructure facilities and ensuring employment opportunities to the unemployed million, particularly in Kerala. Currently, India is the largest producer rubber next only to Indonesia, sharing about nine percent of the global output. Natural rubber production is concentrated in the traditional region of Kerala, Kanyakumari district of Tamil Nadu and Dakshin Kannada district of Karnataka. The major issue in the traditional rubber growing area are the increasing dependence on hired labours. The mental health of rubber cultivators, often overlooked in research, is critical to both individual wellbeing and the overall productivity of the industry. This study aims to explore the determinants of mental health problems among rubber cultivation. Since India is a land of agriculture the health existence of especially in rubber cultivator contributes the economic and social development of the nation as well as the small village through the cultivators are hence the is relevant significant.

Ms Manju Singh

जननी सुरक्षा योजना माताओं और नवजात शिशुओं की मृत्युदर को कम करने के लिए भारत सरकार के राष्ट्रीय ग्रामीण स्वास्थ्य मिशन (NRHM) द्वारा चलाई जा रही एक सुरक्षित मातृत्व हस्ताक्षेप है। यह गर्भावस्था सम्बन्धी जटिलताओं को रोकने के लिए तीन भागों में सेवा प्रदान करती है। इस योजना में गर्भावस्था सम्बन्धी लाभ पाने के लिए प्रसवपूर्व देखभाल, संस्थागत प्रसव और प्रसवोत्तर देखभाल, प्रदान कराती है, साथ ही माँ एवं नवजात शिशुओं की स्वास्थ्य सेवाओं को सुनिश्चित करती है। जननी सुरक्षा योजना का लाभ गरीबी रेखा से नीचे जीवन यापन करने वाली सभी गर्भवती महिलाओं को प्रथम दो बच्चों पर प्राप्त होता है। जननी सुरक्षा योजना की जागरूकता को बढ़ाने का कार्य सरकार द्वारा स्वास्थ्य कार्यकर्ताओं को दिया गया है, जिसमें आशा, आंगनवाडी, ए0एन0एम0 एवं चिकित्सा अधिकारी इत्यादि कार्यकर्ता शामिल हैं। स्वास्थ्य कार्यकर्ता ही जननी सुरक्षा योजना को जमीनी या ग्रामीण स्तर तक पहुँचाने का कार्य करते हैं। यह अपने क्षेत्र की सभी गर्भवती महिलाओं को इस योजना के लाभों के बारे में जागरूक करते हुये संस्थागत प्रसव के लिए प्रेरित करती है। जिससे की माँ एवं नवजात शिशु को सुरक्षित रखा जा सके। इस योजना को सफल बनाने के लिए महिलाओं एवं उनके परिवार वालों को जागरूक होने की आवश्यकता है।

पद्धति- इस शोध पत्र में उत्तर प्रदेश के अमरोहा जनपद की ग्रामीण महिलाओं में जननी सुरक्षा योजना की जागरूकता का अध्ययन किया गया है। जिसमें 30 गर्भवती महिलाओं का चयन उद्देश्यपूर्ण निदर्शन विधि का उपयोग किया गया है।

निष्कर्ष- इस शोध पत्र में ग्रामीण महिलाओं में जननी सुरक्षा योजना की जागरूकता के स्तर को दर्शाया गया है।

मुख्य शब्द - जननी सुरक्षा योजना, जागरूकता, ग्रामीण महिलायें, स्वास्थ्य, स्वास्थ्य कार्यकर्ता इत्यादि।

RURAL WOMEN VENDORS' AWARENESS AND UTILITY OF ENTREPRENEURIAL SCHEMES AND ITS EFFECTS ON SOCIAL CAPITAL

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The paper looks into the insights of baseline of micro entrepreneurs of women in relation to the awareness and utility of specific entrepreneurial programme for the women. Three Schemes namely The Skill Up gradation and Mahila Coir Yojana, Mahila Samridhi Yojana, Women Entrepreneurship Platform (WEP) are referred for the study. The study is focused among roadside women vendors of vegetables, fruits, flowers, fancy items, juice and tiffin in and around Karaikudi. The paper examines the relationship between rural women entrepreneurs and social capital generated out of the awareness and utility of Govt. schemes. Mixed methodology approach of using case study and interview schedule of descriptive is used in the study. The pilot study done among rural women vendors confirm to the low level of awareness and utility of entrepreneurial scheme and more informal social fabric/capital among respondents of outskirts of Karaikudi in Tamil Nadu.

SELF WORTH: ESSENCE OF WOMEN EMPOWERMENT

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Empowerment is a multifaceted concept encompassing the enhancement of political, social, and economic strength of individuals and communities. Specifically, women's empowerment involves challenging gender-based discrimination and promoting women's autonomy, self-worth, and rights. This study aims to explore the social, economic, educational, and political factors influencing women's empowerment in Bhago Majra village in the District Mohali of Punjab, while identifying barriers to progress. Women's empowerment is critical for societal advancement, as highlighted by figures such as Swami Vivekananda and Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, who emphasized its impact on overall societal welfare and national development. The primary objective of this research is to generate comprehensive insights into the conditions affecting women in Bhago Majra village. This includes evaluating educational attainment, political participation, menstrual hygiene, and socio-economic conditions. The

study focuses on a sample of 70 native women, selected through snowball sampling from a total population of 692 women in the village. A qualitative research approach was employed, incorporating interviews and observations conducted by researcher in the village.

Bhago Majra, located in Mohali district, has a population of 1,300, with 692 women. The village's demographic includes migrant laborers, natives, and network marketing employees. Educational institutions in the area have flourished, with several engineering and polytechnic colleges. The economic landscape includes landowners, government and private sector employees, and daily wage laborers, with significant development driven by projects like PUDA and GMADA. Data collection involved a structured interview schedule with both closed and open-ended questions, aimed at capturing nuanced insights into women's lives. Key findings reveal that while literacy rates are high, with most women able to read and write, educational attainment remains limited for some. The proportion of working women is relatively high, influenced by education and available resources. However, traditional patriarchal attitudes persist, evident in practices such as dowry and restricted autonomy for some women. Despite advancements, there are concerns regarding the effectiveness of women leaders, as many are overshadowed by their male counterparts. It is also reflected that the attaining money and luxury can trap you in the comfort zone where one doesn't bother about learning, growth, creativity and progress. Eventually, self-worth remains unrecognised leading to the stagnation of the character as learning and progression is the essential element of vibrant life. Significant findings include improved menstrual hygiene practices and a high rate of women with bank accounts and voting participation. Nonetheless, issues like the limited involvement of women in leadership roles and the persistence of patriarchal norms highlight areas requiring further intervention. The rising of land prices in the village, from ₹3427/sq ft in 2022 to ₹5015/sq ft in early 2024, also influence socio-economic dynamics, impacting women's empowerment. In conclusion, the study provides a balanced view of both positive and negative factors affecting women's empowerment in Bhago Majra. The village's ongoing development presents opportunities for enhancing women's empowerment, provided that existing barriers are addressed and effective measures are implemented in the village.

ISSUES RELATED TO WELL BEING OF WOMEN

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This paper provides an overview of the multifaceted issues affecting the physical, social, and environmental well-being of women. Women's well-being is influenced by a complex interplay of factors including healthcare access, economic inequality, social and cultural norms, and gender-based inequality. Critical concerns include reproductive health, mental health, and the impact of gender-based violence such as domestic and sexual violence. Economic disparities, including the gender pay gap and the undervaluation of unpaid labour, further exacerbate challenges. The well-being of women is also shaped by intersectional factors such as race, disability, and sexual orientation, which can intensify discrimination and health disparities. Before India's independence in 1947, women faced significant social and cultural constraints within a predominantly patriarchal society. Traditional practices such as child marriage and sati, coupled with the purdah system, severely limited women's roles and freedoms. Educational and economic opportunities were sparse, with many women confined to domestic spheres and economic dependency.

After India gained independence, the new government made strides in women's rights. The Indian Constitution guaranteed equal rights and opportunities. Legislation like the Hindu Marriage Act (1955) and the Dowry Prohibition Act (1961) aimed to improve women's status. However, challenges such as gender-based violence, inequality, and societal norms persisted.

Women in India today make significant contributions to various fields including politics, business, sports, science, and arts. Figures like Kalpana Chawla, Indira Gandhi, and Mary Kom highlight the growing role of women. However, issues such as gender violence, discrimination, and economic inequality remain.

For young girls, well-being begins with the basics: access to education, proper nutrition, and a safe environment. Yet, many girls around the world face obstacles such as child marriage, gender discrimination, and lack of access to education. As girls transition into adolescence, the challenges they face become more complex. This period is marked by significant physical, emotional, and psychological changes. Access to accurate information about sexual and reproductive health becomes crucial, as does support for mental health. Adolescents often encounter pressures related to body image, peer relationships, and academic performance. Additionally, the onset of puberty can expose them to increased risks of gender-based violence and exploitation. For adult women, well-being encompasses a broad range of factors, from health and economic stability and social inclusion. Adult women often juggle multiple roles—career, motherhood, caregiving—each with its own set of pressures.

Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao (BBBP), SukanyaSamridhi Yojana (SSY), Rashtriya Kishor Swasthya Karyakram (RKSK), etc are the government initiatives that have been helping in improving the condition of women in society. To enhance the well-being of women in India, a comprehensive approach is essential, addressing various dimensions of their lives. Improving access to quality education and vocational training, strengthening healthcare services along with robust measures to combat gender-based violence is necessary for their safety and health. Economic empowerment also needs advancement. Several important steps are a need of the time. Ensuring that every woman has the opportunity to live a fulfilling life is a duty of all.

THE EFFECTS OF COVID-19 ON DOMESTIC WORKERS LIVELIHOODS IN INDIA A COMPREHENSIVE REVIEW

Arpna Rattu

Monica Munjial Singh

The sudden and unprecedented emergence of the COVID19 pandemic has profoundly disrupted global systems, including the foundational elements of India's economy and infrastructure. Domestic workers have been among the most severely affected groups, with many facing significant economic hardship. The absence of a robust legal and policy framework to safeguard their rights and ensure decent working conditions has resulted in systemic subjugation and exploitation, creating detrimental environments both in the homes of their employers and their own households. Consequently, women domestic workers have experienced substantial economic, social, and psychological distress. This study employs secondary data derived from scholarly articles accessed via online databases. It aims to elucidate the impact of COVID-19 on the livelihoods of domestic workers in India. A systematic literature review of twenty scholarly articles was conducted, utilizing content analysis as the primary methodological approach. The study seeks to assess the repercussions of the pandemic on the work dynamics of domestic workers and their families. Many individuals from rural areas migrate to urban centers for improved employment opportunities, enhanced living standards, and better prospects for future generations. Domestic workers represent a significant segment of this migratory population within an

increasingly globalized context. They operate within the informal sector, lacking welfare provisions and inadequate income. The adverse conditions experienced during the pandemic compelled many domestic workers to return to their hometowns, as the abrupt decline in demand for their services from urban households drastically altered their socio-economic status and livelihoods. Keywords - Pandemic, COVID 19, domestic workers, informal sector, livelihood, migration, and rural population.

WOMEN IN POLICE: A QUALITATIVE STUDY ON THEIR GENDERED EXPERIENCES.

Dr. Pushpa

The Global Gender Gap study conducted by World Economic Forum in 2023 places India at the rank of 129 out of 146 countries while NFHS-4 (International Institute for Population Sciences (IIPS) and ICF, 2017) suggest that about 30 percent of women in the age group of 15-49 yrs have been subjected to intimate partner violence in their life time. Looking at the alarming increase in incidences of Intimate Partner Violence, states established various redress mechanisms and Special Police Units for Women and Children, placing women police officers to address the issues of women and children, presuming that it would be more effective, is one such step initiated by Police. In this backdrop the present study was conducted, as part of the doctorate degree, to study the gendered experiences of the women police officers and their gender expressions/ responses to the women survivors of Intimate Partner Violence. The researcher attempted to understand if there is any connect between the experienced and the expressed gendered definitions of women police officers and the institutional responses to this gender dialogue at special cells. The researcher used qualitative methodology, using Instrumental Case Study design (Stake, 2000). The data collection was done from 2012-2015, wherein the researcher interviewed 48 women police officers, using a Semi Structured Interview Schedule and observed their client handling sessions, using an Observation guide/sheet at the Special Cells. In this paper the researcher is presenting the findings of the study with respect to gendered experiences of women police officers posted at special units. In order to understand the backdrop in which these officers respond, they were asked about their experiences at Natal family, matrimonial family and also about their experiences at work place after joining the Police. Prior to start of the data collection, the researcher had a rapport building with the officers by way of preliminary visits to all the Special Cells. The recorded interviews and observations made so, were later transcribed and analysed using the qualitative data analysis software ATLAS.ti.

The findings of the study have been thematically classified as role distribution and decision making within natal and matrimonial family; perceptions with respect to girl child education and their joining into police; support received in terms of their career options and higher education; decisions making with respect to marriage; organisation of marriage; Dowry; Intimate Partner Violence; decision with respect to child birth/ pregnancy/ children education etc; their experiences of IPV; visits of matrimonial family/ husband to her natal family; Support of natal/ matrimonial family after marriage for marital adjustments, education, job and child rearing etc. The gendered experiences at work place included response of male colleagues at their joining into police, components of initial trainings, instances of sexual harassment at workplace, office arrangements (urinals, changing/rest rooms etc), duties assigned, hurdles in performance at work; family and work life balance; transfer/posting; training and support provided to perform the assigned tasks at work etc. Thus the findings indicate towards the journey of the women in police, to find women empowerment, which extended in terms of their responses to women survivors of IPV, wherein they re construct the gender, sometimes to reestablish the pre-established norms, looking into the possibilities of constructing new possibilities of new gender norms towards a more humane society which values being different but equal.

Key Words: Women Police Officers, IPV, Gender, Gender Experiences, Gendered Expressions.
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“WOMEN’S SKILL DEVELOPMENT AND CAREER OUTCOMES: ANALYZING GENDER GAPS IN PMKVY AND PMKK TRAINING PROGRAMS”

Shahbaz Akram & Dr. Ravindra Singh

Women enrolled in skill development programs are frequently trained in sectors with lower earning potential, such as beauty and tailoring, whereas men predominantly enter higher-paying fields like engineering and automotive repair. This segregation in training contributes to a persistent economic disparity. Women often face systemic barriers, including fewer resources and networking opportunities, which limit their advancement in more lucrative industries. Additionally, societal expectations and gender biases influence their career choices, steering women away from fields with higher income prospects. As a result, despite acquiring skills, women find it challenging to achieve economic parity with their male counterparts. This research article explores the participation of women in the Skill India program, particularly the PMKK/PMKVY, assessing their pattern of sectoral preferences with its impact on career outcomes and focusing on bridging the same.

The research employs a descriptive methodology, utilizing secondary data collected from various sources, including published reports, academic articles, and government documents related to the Short-Term-Training (STT) programs. It examines the sectoral disparity in short-term training courses, assessing their impact on skill development and employability for women.

The research findings reveal that the Skill India initiative, particularly through the PMKK/PMKVY, has significantly contributed to empowering women by enhancing their skills and promoting employability. Contrastingly, the study highlights that despite their growing participation, women face lower employment rates and earn 20-30% less than men in similar fields, highlighting persistent gender disparities in economic outcomes.

EMPOWERING WOMEN AND ENHANCING AGRICULTURE: THE IMPACT OF AVANI SOCIETYS PINE NEEDLE GASIFIER AND BIOCHAR INITIATIVE

Ayushi Tiwari

The Avani Society's Pine Needle Gasifier project is a groundbreaking effort focused on tackling environmental issues, generating renewable energy, and boosting agricultural productivity in Uttarakhand's Kumaon region, India . The project converts the abundant and fire-prone pine needles into biochar through a gasification process. This transformation not only reduces the risk of forest fires and air pollution but also creates a sustainable energy source. The biochar produced has proven to be highly effective in enhancing soil fertility, water retention, and crop yields, as evidenced by successful outcomes in local farming. A key element of the project's success is the significant involvement of local women. Avani Society has empowered these women by engaging them in various project activities, including pine needle collection and biochar application in agriculture. Their contributions have been pivotal in demonstrating the practical benefits of biochar for crop improvement. This involvement has provided women with new skills, economic opportunities, and a more prominent role in promoting sustainable agricultural practices. By providing training and distributing biochar, Avani Society has empowered rural communities, particularly women, fostering environmental sustainability and rural development. The success of this project highlights the impact of community-led initiatives in addressing environmental challenges and driving local economic growth.

तम्बाकू का महिलाओं के स्वास्थ्य पर पड़ने वाला प्रभाव का अध्ययन

अरविन्द कुमार

समाजशास्त्र विभागए डॉ राम मनोहर लोहिया अवध विश्वविद्यालय अयोध्या ३०१००१

तम्बाकू का सेवन मानव शरीर पर घातक प्रभाव डालता है फिर वह चाहे व्यक्ति हो या महिला। महिलाओं का भी तम्बाकू सेवन की तरफ प्रभाव बढ़ता ही जा रहा है तम्बाकू का सेवन महिला खैनीए गुटखा आदि के किसी ना किसी रूप में उपयोग करती हैं। तम्बाकू के सेवन करने से महिलाओं के स्वास्थ्य पर अनेक प्रकार का प्रभाव पड़ता है जैसे मूँह गले या फिर फेफड़ों का कैंसर होने की अधिक संभावना रहती है साथ ही तम्बाकू के सेवन से फेफड़ों सम्बन्धी अन्य रोग जैसे सी०ओ०पी०डी०ए टी०बी०ए निमोनियाए फेफड़ो का कैंसरए दिल का दौराए सास की बीमारीए प्रजनन सम्बन्धी बिकारए महावरी से जुड़ी अनेक समस्याओं का सामना करना पड़ता है। यदि रिपोर्ट की माने तो तम्बाकू का सेवन करने वाली महिलाओं में गर्भपात की दर सामान्य महिलाओं से 15 फीसदी अधिक होती है। तम्बाकू का महिला पर शारीरिक व मानसिक दोनो प्रकार से पड़ता है। तम्बाकू एक निकोटीन युक्त पदार्थ होता है। पद्धतिः. इस शोध पत्र में तम्बाकू का महिलाओं के स्वास्थ्य पर पड़ने वाले प्रभावों का अध्ययन किया गया है जिसमें लखनऊ जनपद की सरकारी आवासों में रहने वाली 35 महिलाओं की उद्देश्यपूर्ण पद्धति के द्वारा किया गया है। निष्कर्षः. वर्तमान समय में तम्बाकू सेवन का एक फैशन के रूप में उपयोग किया जाने लगा है। यह महिलाओं को भी अधिक प्रभावित करते हुये सेवन किया जा रहा है। क्योंकि दो महिलाओं के निम्न स्तर से आती है उनमें तम्बाकू के सेवन की वृद्धि अधिक देखने को मिलती है जोकि उनके शारीरिक व मानसिक दोनों ही स्वरूप पर प्रभाव डालता है। इसीलिए वर्तमान समय में इसको ध्यान में रखते हुये महिलाओं के स्वास्थ्य पर तम्बाकू का प्रभाव अत्यधिक खतरनाक हो रहा है।

मुख्य शब्दः. तम्बाकूए सेवनए महिलाए स्वास्थ्यए बीमारियाँए इत्यादि।

INHERITED EMPOWERMENT: EXPLORING THE ROLE OF MATRILINEAL PRACTICES IN MEGHALAYA'S WOMEN-LED ENTERPRISES AND THE TOURISM SECTOR

Anukansha Mohanty

This paper explores the interplay of matrilineal traditions and economic empowerment among the Khasi, Garo, and Jaintia tribes in Meghalaya, India, with a focus on women's participation in the unorganised sector. In these communities, property and lineage are passed down through women. This social system has helped create a conducive environment for women to take on leadership roles in both private and public spheres. This study explores how these traditional norms have not only been preserved but have also adapted to encourage women's participation in modern economic activities, such as small businesses and tourism.

These dynamics are clearly seen in Meghalaya's tourism industry, where women take the lead in managing and running many parts of the sector. From operating homestays and providing guiding services to organizing cultural tourism experiences, women are at the forefront. Their traditional roles as caretakers of land and culture have allowed them to play a key part in promoting and sustaining tourism, making them vital contributors to the region's economy.

The research combines qualitative methods, including interviews, focus group discussions, and ethnographic observation, with quantitative surveys, to provide a thorough analysis of how matrilineal practices shape women's economic participation. Through case studies of successful women entrepreneurs in tourism and small enterprises, the study illustrates the tangible impact of these traditions in the unorganised sector.

The findings indicate that even though matrilineal traditions provide women with considerable social and economic agency, challenges still exist in gaining access to markets and resources. The paper offers recommendations for how these traditional norms can be further leveraged to enhance women's

economic roles, suggesting policy interventions and support systems that are sensitive to the cultural context of Meghalaya. This research adds to the discourse on gender equality, women's rights, and the significance of traditional social structures in the current economic landscape.

WOMEN ENTREPRENEURS WITH DISABILITIES IN INDIA: CHALLENGES IN THE PROCESS OF EMPOWERMENT

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Self-reliance makes people happy, confident, and empowered and it becomes amazing when women with disabilities begin to make money using their unique talents and are valued as contributing members of society. Empowering women with disabilities enhances their rights to make decisions and helps the family's finances. Despite the fact that women entrepreneurs with disabilities are widely recognized as a component of gender equality, their audacious endeavours allow them to overcome social barriers. The ambition to become financially independent, support their families, and demonstrate to the world that women with disabilities are capable of self-sufficiency, social acceptance, and overcoming discrimination encourages women entrepreneurs with disabilities pursue their enterprises. However, there is a conspicuous deficiency in women entrepreneurs with disabilities empowerment i.e, funding, family support, self-assurance, social acceptance and resource availability in starting and sustaining ventures and in rural areas, this situation exacerbates for female entrepreneurs with disabilities.

Case Study a): Arti Laxman Rastogi, who had an 80% hearing loss, founded Artinci in 2017 to fulfil her dream of creating nutritious food. After five years of struggle, she switched to a daily low-sugar diet and began her entrepreneurial journey. She experimented with ice cream because she was dissatisfied with artificial flavours and preservatives.

Case Study b): Despite having Autism and ADHD, Aditi Gangrade discovered her artistic abilities and founded the "Much Much Media" foundation. She dispels stigmatising ideas and misconceptions about people with disabilities and shares stories of individuals with disabilities through her foundation.

Research Gap:- The dearth of studies in this area draws attention to the gaps that sociocultural ideologies, a lack of family support, a lack of financial resources, and poor resource connectivity in remote places create as barriers to the full potential development of women entrepreneurs with disabilities and growth of empowerment.

Research Methodology: The primary goals of the study are to enable women with disabilities to realize their full potential as entrepreneurs, which will empower not only themselves but also society as a whole. The descriptive nature of this study is derived from case studies of female entrepreneurs who faced socio-cultural and finance obstacles that impact the empowerment process and women entrepreneurs with disabilities.

Findings:- Case studies indicate that women entrepreneurs with disabilities have much difficulty in starting up their ventures. Unwavering family support, self-assurance, and financial resources are all crucial components of entrepreneurship and empowerment. The primary obstacles encountered by female entrepreneurs with disabilities include networking within the market, managing resources,

ensuring safety, and availability of resources. The complicated experiences of female entrepreneurs with disabilities are examined in this study.

Keywords: Entrepreneurs, Women's with disabilities, Challenges, Empowerment, Case Studies

BREAKING THE SILENCE: EXPLORING SUBSTANCE ABUSE AND RECOVERY CHALLENGES AMONG WOMEN IN ASSAM

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Substance abuse research in India has often overlooked gender disparities, with addiction traditionally viewed as a "male problem." This study challenges that perception, focusing on the underrepresentation of female Alcohol and Other Drug (AOD) users. While men are statistically more likely to abuse substances, addiction is a growing public health issue among women, particularly in Assam, where socio-cultural factors, rapid modernization, and entrenched gender inequalities contribute to women's vulnerabilities. Assam falls among the top ten states of India which has a very high number of cannabis abusers. Rampant use of drugs and peddling is high as well. Also, it is to be noted that there is no proper monitoring system of private rehab centres in Assam. There is a lot of stigma and stereotypes associated with addiction and approaching treatment for the same. The state of Assam has also seen a steady rise in female addicts in recent years.

This qualitative research, based on interviews with five female AOD users from a rehabilitation center in Margherita, Assam, examines the factors leading to addiction, the social and familial challenges faced, and the treatment options available. The participants, aged in their twenties, had all been addicted for over a year and had sought rehabilitation services. Key findings reveal that early childhood trauma, domestic violence, and peer pressure were significant contributors to their substance use. Cultural factors, including the normalization of alcohol consumption within certain tribal communities, further complicated the issue. Women are also particularly vulnerable in terms of health and violence in their relationships with criminals and within their own circles. Addiction has a devastating effect on certain women, leading them to take up potentially hazardous work in order to support their addiction. The lack of adequate monitoring systems in rehabilitation centres and the stigma associated with seeking help exacerbates these challenges.

The study highlights the urgent need for a gender-sensitive approach to addiction treatment. Women face unique challenges, such as a lack of social support, self-esteem issues, and vulnerability to violence, which affect their sobriety. The role of family support was identified as a crucial factor in treatment outcomes. Additionally, it is to be understood that the victims of addiction fall behind so much in terms of capacity building and livelihood opportunities that it becomes hard for them to cope with the world. It becomes increasingly difficult for them to find a job or any source of livelihood that helps them sustain themselves. Therefore, it would be helpful if the treatment centres could also focus on capacity-building sessions for inmates so that they can develop themselves to be ready for the next phase of post rehabilitative life. It is essential that addicts engage themselves in activities that they can enjoy and earn from so that they can re-establish their sense of self-esteem and confidence as well.

This research emphasizes the importance of creating holistic and accessible treatment solutions tailored to women's experiences, aiming to reduce addiction rates and improve the effectiveness of rehabilitation in Assam.

Keywords: Substance Abuse, Women, Relapse, Rehabilitation, Assam

INTERVENTION THROUGH SOCIAL WORK PRACTICE ABOUT SCHOOL DROPOUT CHILDREN.

Mr Shubham Ramkrushna Gaykwad

School dropout refers to children who leave school before completing their education. This is a significant issue in many parts of the world, impacting both the individual and society as a whole. Here's some important information about school dropout children. Education is the fundamental right of every child. It is a foundation through which biases and inequalities present in society can be fought. It equips society to correct the inherited imbalances and provides impetus for growth parity and opportunity for all. All Equalising factors, such as employment, health, gender balance, growth and development, rest on the groundwork laid by education. Process and Statistics :-he India n education system is one of the largest in the world, with almost 1.5 million (15 lakh) school for over 265 million (26.5 crore) Children from pre-primary to senior secondary levels across different socio-economic backgrounds. Despite this staggering figure, India has a projected literacy rate of only 77.7% (literacy is defined as literate people aged 7 or older). he UDIDE 2021-22 date shows that the overall school dropout rate of students between primary and secondary levels is only 1.5%, but when we look specifically at the secondary school dropout rate, it is much higher at 12. 6%. Impact :- Intervention through social work practice to address school dropout among children is a multifaceted approach that involves engaging with students, families, schools, and communities to create a supportive environment that encourages children to stay in school. Even though a lot work has been done over the years of boost school enrolments and incentives students to remain in school, the school dropout rate is continues to be significant. This points to the facts that we need to first address the reasons for school dropout in India.

Ms Arthya

Punishment in Rape

Society perceives justice in non-victim terms. That is, it focuses more on the offenders than the victim. Punishment is seen as the foremost method of justice; it focuses on giving justice to the offender. The offender gets the punishment for the crime proved in the gravity, but in most circumstances, it fails to provide justice to the victim. This leads us to the question, how do you provide justice to the victim? That is, how do you heal the society and the victim through punishing the accused; is "normal" possible after a tragedy? The paper covers two wide topics: punishment and catharsis. The paper would answer the broader question as to what should be the punishment for the crime of rape through the lens of giving justice to the victim? The paper focuses on the question as to whether punishment can result in the catharsis of the victim. If yes, can that be the case for rape victims as well. The paper will further evaluate what the proper punishment that could be awarded for the crime of rape, and would that punishment help the victim to heal; and will the punishment has a similar healing impact even in cases where the victim is criminalised for the crime committed against them. The first part of the paper will explain what rape is; the second part will deal with what are the types of punishments for a crime and what would be an appropriate punishment for the crime of rape; the next part of the paper will talk about catharsis and punitive restoration; and would it work in India . One argues that the current punishment system would not work in the India n sphere as it fails to identify the victim and the causes of the crime.

Keywords: punishment; catharsis; rape; victim.

SURVEY AND REVIEW ON ROLE OF SOCIETY AND WORK CULTURE ON POSTPARTUM DEPRESSION IN INDIA

Ms Nisha Singh

Postpartum depression is a major health problem among new mothers that concedes hazardous effects women, child, and family. Numerous studies carried out in developed countries provide compelling evidence that postnatal depression is associated with long term emotional, cognitive, and intellectual problems in children. As per ICD-10 postpartum depression is a mild mental and behavioral disorder commencing within 6 weeks of delivery. This work represents literature review and survey to explore risk factors for postpartum depression among women in north India , which is less studied earlier. The data sources includes various electronic research databases and survey done among north India n women. Risk factors for postpartum depression were divided into five main groups i.e. physical, psychological, obstetric, socio-demographic, and cultural factors were studied. As conventional postpartum rituals were not sufficient to offer significant psychological benefits for the new mothers so this review impacts clinical practice and advances our understanding of the risk factors for postpartum depression. After this work it was concluded that healthcare providers need to understand that ground level cultures in north India and should educate new mothers and family regarding this. During pregnancy and the postpartum period, women should be assessed for potential risk factors and depression symptoms so that prompt and suitable interventions can be implemented, if necessary.

POLITICAL PARTICIPATION AND VOTING BEHAVIOUR OF WOMEN IN INDIA :A CRITICAL ANALYSIS

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University of Lucknow

The study aim to explore the political participation and voting behaviour of women in India , which show the huge Inequality even in the democratic society ,participation of women in electoral context in India is less then the world average of 20% ,by the help of secondary data the key determents of women participation in electoral context is linked by their attitude towards politics ,social networking media exposure and use of digital platform ,demographic variable and employability ,research also analysis the barriers women phase on the basis of data, the finding reveals that the issue of overlapping quotas for women in general and for the lower background, with this the Ideological mobilisation as new social movement or feminisation of politics in India n political setting to shape political discourage ,attitude and outcome as policy is necessary ,women as vote bank not only unite them but also in some extant solve almost all the problem of low representation, Elitism, Policy shaping , safety and security , according to data this mobilisation is done successful by political participation in Digital Platform or on social media as we see it after 2014 to do online campaigning and agenda building to connect people become more easy and to increase participation of women in electoral context including some more factor , this paper also find some problem as future research question for women in 21st century

Keywords: Political Participation ; Voting Behaviour ; Ideological Mobilization ; feminisation of Politics ; Digital Platform ; Research question.

THE JOURNEY TO WELL-BEING: EXPLORING THE HEALTH AND SOCIAL NEEDS OF WOMEN AND GIRLS (SPECIAL REFERENCE TO CENTRAL INDIA)

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India is one of the developing countries in the world marching towards being the ‘Emerging Super Power’ with increasing global influence and potential. Yet the bitter truth of ‘Patriarchy’ still continues to prevail in many aspects of the Indian Society. Despite of significant reformations towards gender equality and women's empowerment in recent years, traditional patriarchal norms and practices still impact various dimensions in life of women in India. The mental and social well-being for women and girls in the country still remains a critical challenge within the socio-cultural fabric of a predominantly patriarchal society. Gender equality has been/is a central concern across various international frameworks and organizations and is recognized as a fundamental human right with a key component for achieving sustainable development. Despite legal frameworks and policies aimed at promoting gender equality, women continue to face disparities in social justice, rights and opportunities.

Thus addressing a significant gap in existing literature, the research aims to understand how these women perceive their well-being and the factors that influence their mental health and social needs. The primary objective of this study is to explore the perceptions of well-being, mental health, and social needs among women and girls in region of Central India. The research hypothesizes that women’s well-being is shaped by a complex interplay between societal expectations, cultural norms, and personal aspirations, with mental health and social support systems acting as critical factors influencing their overall well-being.

The researcher has used a mixed-methods approach, combining quantitative surveys with qualitative in-depth interviews and focus group discussions to provide a comprehensive understanding of women’s well-being. This has allowed the researcher to capture both the statistical trends and in-depth personal experiences that shape women’s well-being, offering a comprehensive understanding of the research problem. A stratified sampling technique was used to select a representative sample of 150 women from various socio-economic backgrounds, age groups and professions across urban and semi-urban regions in Central India. Quantitative data was collected using the Demographic and Health Survey (DHS) India for socio-demographic information, the WHO-5 Well-Being Index for subjective well-being, the General Health Questionnaire (GHQ-12) for perceived mental health status and the Multidimensional Scale of Perceived Social Support (MSPSS) to assess social needs. Also, qualitative data - deeper insights into individual experiences and the contextual factors affecting their well-being were provided by the interviews and focus group discussions.

The preliminary findings reveal that 68% of women experience moderate to high levels of stress due to societal pressures, while 74% cite family relationships as focus to their well-being. Additionally, 82% of participants express concerns about their mental health, with anxiety being the most prevalent. The MSPSS scores indicate that women with strong social support networks report significantly higher levels of well-being and resilience. The findings support Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 5 which highlights the need for gender equality and women’s empowerment. Access to mental health resources, peer support and community-based programs to enhance women’s coping mechanisms and resilience has been suggested in the research.

This study contributes valuable insights into the intersection of gender, mental health, and social needs, offering a nuanced understanding that can inform social work interventions, healthcare policy, and

community programs aimed at empowering women and improving their quality of life. The study recognizes that the deeply rooted patriarchal norms have a strong influence on the lives of women in India. The research explores how socio-economic status intersects with traditional gender roles and societal expectations by focusing on urban and semi-urban women.

Keywords: Women's well-being, mental health, Social needs, Gender roles, Indian society, Women's empowerment, Social determinants, Patriarchy, Gender equality.

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Problem faced by Adolescent girls in observation Home

THE STUDY OF THE COMMUNITY-BASED APPROACHES TO FOSTERING WOMEN'S ENTREPRENEURIAL DEVELOPMENT

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This study examines community-based techniques' function, effects, difficulties, and policy implications in supporting women's entrepreneurial growth. It reviews literature and empirical studies on the effectiveness of programs like mentorship, women's networks, access to finance, and capacity-building initiatives in supporting women entrepreneurs. The paper highlights the economic, social, and personal empowerment impacts of these approaches on women entrepreneurs and their communities. However, it also discusses the challenges faced by these programs, such as limited resources, sustainability issues, and cultural barriers. The paper provides policy recommendations and future directions for research and practice to enhance the effectiveness and scalability of community-based approaches in fostering women's entrepreneurial development. The study advances knowledge on the function of community-based strategies in fostering gender-inclusive economic growth and enabling female entrepreneurs to realise their greatest potential. By synthesizing existing research and identifying gaps in the literature, the paper provides insights for policymakers, practitioners, and researchers to design and implement effective community-based interventions that promote women's entrepreneurship and contribute to sustainable development. **Keywords:** Women's Entrepreneurship, Community-Based Approaches, Fostering, Development, Empowerment, Gender Equality, Economic Growth, Social Impact

‘UNDERSTANDING THE IMPACT OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE IN INDIA : FACTORS, CONSEQUENCES, INTERVENTIONS & PREVENTIONS’

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Domestic violence is a pervasive problem that affects individuals and families worldwide. It is a pattern of behavior that is used by one person to gain power and control over another person in an intimate relationship. The effects of domestic violence have wide ranging implications, not only for the victim, but also for the family, friends, or other loved ones who may be exposed or aware of the abuse. Domestic violence can have a profound impact on our mental health and sometimes lead to serious and chronic mental health conditions like, Post –traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), depression, anxiety, somatic complaints, substance abuse and suicidal thoughts. There is sufficient evidence in the literature which has established the bidirectional nature of mental health issues and domestic violence. Children who grow up in the presence of domestic violence are more likely to experience it themselves once they reach adulthood. Several research studies indicated that the exposure of the children to the domestic violence can produce a multitude of psychiatric difficulties in subsequent life. The Report of WHO (2013) highlighted that ‘Violence related to mental health problems are poorly identified. Women are mostly reluctant to disclose a history of violent victimization unless physicians ask about it directly.’ Psychological & legal factors that affect reporting of abuse are: fear of retaliation or harm to themselves or their loved ones, embarrassment or shame about the abuse, financial dependence on the abuser, lack of trust in law enforcement or the justice system & lack of evidences or witnesses. National Crime Records Bureau Report (NCRB, 2016) exclaimed that the ‘majority of cases under crime against women were reported under ‘Cruelty by Husband or his relatives’ (32.6%) followed by ‘Assault on Women with intent to Outrage her Modesty’ (25.0%), ‘Kidnapping & Abduction of Women’ (19.0%) and ‘Rape’ (11.5%).’ In India National Family and Health Survey (NFHS)-4 reported that one in three women (15-49 years) have faced domestic violence of various forms. Cases of domestic violence where women reported physical abuse were 29 and 23% in rural & urban areas respectively. NFHS -5 data reports that 29% of women aged 18-49 years have experienced physical violence since the age of 15 years. According to the data of National Commission Women in 2020, the first year of Pandemic, there was 5,304 complaints of domestic violence out of a total 23, 722 cases. Addressing this complex issue, a comprehensive & collaborative approach is required. Approach includes increasing funding and resources for domestic violence programmes & services, providing comprehensive training for law enforcement, providing trauma – informed care & support and increasing public awareness. All the stakeholders such as various governmental departments, law enforcement, judiciary, women and children organizations, non-governmental organizations, press, and professional bodies need to work in a coordinated and planned manner to make any visible impact and for advocacy of the rights of the women and children. The present symposium has been planned to discuss about the understanding and impact of domestic violence in India , factors associated with it, consequences and effects of domestic violence faced by the victims, probable interventions and how to prevent the serious issue in India n context. Discussion will be based on theoretical framework, available recorded data and on the findings of several research studies.

VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS

Mr Ashvini Shankar Bhosale

Violence against women and girls (VAWG) is a critical public health, societal, and economic problem affecting 35% of women globally [1]. Women from all countries, socio-economic status, culture and religion can be affected by violence perpetrated by spouses, other family members, authority figures, work colleagues, acquaintances and strangers. The impacts of such violence are widespread and long lasting, ranging from physical injuries, to functional disorders, to reduced capabilities [1]. Countries in the continent of Africa are not exempt from such experiences. In this chapter we focus on evidence of

the impacts of VAWG in Ghana. STATISTICS : According to the World Health Organization, about 30% of women worldwide have experienced physical or sexual violence from an intimate partner or non-partner in their lifetime. India In 2022, there were 4,45,256 cases of crime against women in India , which is about 51 cases per hour. This is an increase from 2021, when there were 4,28,278 cases, and 2020, when there were 3,71,503 cases. Intimate partner violence According to UN Women, more than 640 million women aged 15 and older have been subjected to intimate partner violence. Domestic violence According to Our Watch, on average, one woman is killed every nine days by a current or former partner. IMPACT : Physical health: Violence against women can cause injuries, gynecological problems, and chronic pain. Mental health: Violence against women can cause depression, self-harm, and suicidal attempts. Social and economic impacts: Violence against women can lead to lower economic activity, as women may have a harder time finding and keeping jobs. Health care costs: Violence against women can strain health care systems.

WOMEN EMPOWERMENT VIS A VIS MALE ALLYSHIP

Madhu Krishna Bhuyan

Tezpur University

This study investigates the interconnection between women empowerment and male allyship, stressing the importance of men's active involvement in promoting gender equality. While substantial progress has been made in empowering women across various sectors, the role of male allyship is increasingly recognized as vital in addressing the systemic barriers imposed by patriarchal structures. Male allyship is defined as the proactive involvement of men in advocating for women's rights, challenging gender-based stereotypes, and fostering inclusive environments in both professional and societal domains. Through an analysis of case studies and empirical research, this paper will illustrate how male allyship not only complements but also amplifies the efforts toward women empowerment. It posits that when men actively participate as allies, it helps to break down traditional gender roles and promotes a culture of mutual respect and equality. This involvement is crucial in workplaces, where male allies can advocate for policies and practices that support gender equity, such as fair hiring practices, equal pay, and supportive work environments for women. Moreover, the paper addresses the challenges and resistance that male allies might encounter, including societal expectations and potential backlash from both men and women. It proposes strategies for overcoming these obstacles, such as education and awareness programs, which encourage men to recognize their own privilege and understand the importance of their role in the movement toward gender equality. The paper emphasizes on the fact that to achieve true gender equality requires -collective action from both men and women. Women empowerment and male allyship should not be viewed as separate initiatives but rather as interconnected efforts that, when combined, lead to more effective and sustainable progress. By working together, both genders can help to create a society that values and respects all individuals equally, ultimately leading to a more just and equitable world.

Keywords: Women Empowerment, Male Allyship, Gender Equality, Patriarchal Structures, Gender Bias, Inclusive Practices, Gender Parity, Workplace Equality, Gender Roles, Social Justice

UNDERSTANDING THE IMPACT OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE IN INDIA: FACTORS, CONSEQUENCES, INTERVENTIONS & PREVENTIONS”

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Domestic violence is a pervasive problem that affects individuals and families worldwide. It is a pattern of behavior that is used by one person to gain power and control over another person in an intimate relationship. The effects of domestic violence have wide ranging implications, not only for the victim, but also for the family, friends, or other loved ones who may be exposed or aware of the abuse. Domestic violence can have a profound impact on our mental health and sometimes lead to serious and chronic mental health conditions like, Post –traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), depression, anxiety, substance abuse and suicidal thoughts. Children who grow up in the presence of domestic violence are more likely to experience it themselves once they reach adulthood.

Psychological & legal factors that affect reporting of abuse are: fear of retaliation or harm to themselves or their loved ones, embarrassment or shame about the abuse, financial dependence on the abuser, lack of trust in law enforcement or the justice system, lack of evidences or witnesses. Addressing this complex issue, requires a comprehensive & collaborative approach that include increasing funding and resources for domestic violence programmes & services, providing comprehensive training for law enforcement, providing trauma – informed care & support and increasing public awareness.

The present symposium has been planned to discuss about the understanding and impact of domestic violence in India, factors associated with it, consequences and effects of domestic violence faced by the victims, probable interventions and how to prevent the serious issue in Indian context.

EMPOWERING WOMEN THROUGH ELIMINATION OF DROP-OUT AMONG GIRLS STUDENTS IN ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS OF HARYANA: AN EXPERIMENTAL STUDY

By Mrs. Babita

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The UNICEF study titled ‘The State of the World’s Children 2015’: Executive Summary revealed that approximately 9 out of 10 children from the richest 20 per cent of households in the world’s least developed countries attend primary school—compared to only approximately 6 out of 10 from the poorest households. This gap can be emphatic even in lower middle-income countries. The report pointed out that millions of girls at present are being deprived from education around the world as 31 million girls are out of primary schools. Out of these 31 million girls, 17 million girls never entered school. At the same time, there are 27 million boys are out of school. There are also 34 million female adolescents out of school who miss out the chance to learn key skills for work. It is alarming that only half of girls enter in school in 10 countries around the world and in another 10 countries, 9 out of 10 of the poorest young women have not completed school. The denial of right to a healthy education to these girls results in denial of their other human rights and curtails the chances of successive generations—especially the chances of their daughters—to develop to their fullest potential.

A survey in some cities of India by Save the Children in 2012 revealed that not more than 35% children had studies beyond upper primary and these children had been irregular in school schools. The Survey revealed that poverty is principal reason for school dropout and non-enrollment of children and early dropout were key areas to be addressed in cities for successful implementation of RTE Act.

The Ministry of Human Resource Development, Government of India sponsored national level study conducted in 2005 estimated that 13.35 million children were out of school during 2005-06 which constituted 6.94 per cent (4.34 per cent in urban and 7.8 per cent in rural areas) of the total number of children in the age group 6–14 years in 2005–06. According to Indian Market Research Bureau survey conducted in 2009 revealed that 8.15 in 2009-10 means the percentage of Out of School Children to total population in the age group 6–14 years has decreased from 6.94 per cent in 2005–06 to 4.28 per cent in the year 2009–10.

According to Deb and Majumdar et. al. (2020), school dropouts remain one of the biggest problems in the primary education system of India. It is estimated that nearly 50% children dropout of schools before completing their Class V. Generally it is argued that a majority of the children leave school for economic reasons, as they have to support their families. However, there is no conclusive evidence to determine the degree to which gainful employment resulted in school dropouts. Nonetheless, it remains a fact that education is yet to reach most of the children living in critical circumstances. According to Project Approval Board (PAB), SamagraShiksha of Department of School Education Haryana (2023), there is dropout rate of 16.2 at secondary level schools in Haryana, followed by Panchkula (14%), Faridabad (8.6%), Panipat (8.2%) and Karnal (6.8%).

Nearly one-third of the number of girls who manage to enter formal education in Class I drop out by Class II. Lack of awareness of educational opportunities was present among guardians and children, especially among girl children. A large portion of them began to show interest in educating themselves and towards ‘dreaming big’ once they got exposed to it. A follow-up study done in Delhi found that this trend was more among older girl children who reside in shelter homes and are at constant engagements with similar social interventions.

According to the Indian Government’s Unified District Information System for Education Plus report (2019-20), the drop-out rate at the secondary school level in India is 16.1 per cent, whereas the drop-out rate at primary and upper primary levels is 1.5 per cent and 2.6 per cent respectively. The report also pointed out that approximately 30 per cent of students in India do not make the transition from secondary to higher secondary education. The drop-out rate for boys in primary classes was 1.7 per cent as against girls’ 1.2 per cent. Similarly, the drop-out rate for boys was higher in secondary classes (18.3 per cent) than for girls (16.3 per cent).

The Annual Status of Education Report of 2022 (hereinafter referred as ASER) put together by a Non-Government Organisation named Pratham Foundation. The report is derived from a household survey of 616 rural districts across India covering approximately 7 lakh children in the age group of 3-16 years. The report reveals that approximately 98.4 percent of students in the age group of 6-14 years are now enrolled in schools in rural India which means steady improvement in enrollment from 96.6 percent in the year 2010 and 96.7 percent in the year 2014 and 97.2 percent in 2018. The survey revealed that in district Nuh of Haryana, 5% children in the age group of 6-14 are not enrolled in any school which is highest in the State and children enrolled in the district have poorest learning levels across Haryana.

The paper intends to know trends of drop-out among girl students in elementary schools of Haryana through a survey of thirty elementary schools in six districts of Haryana and reasons for such drop outs despite implementation of the Right to Education Act, 2009. The ways and means to eliminate the drop-out among girl students have been suggested to really empower women.

HEALTH AND REPRODUCTIVE CHALLENGES FACED BY FEMALE SUGARCANE CUTTERS: A CASE STUDY OF HYSTERECTOMIES IN MAHARASHTRA

Shamuel Waghmare & Pradeep Jare

This paper highlights the health and reproductive challenges faced by women sugarcane cutters in Maharashtra. Women sugarcane cutters face numerous health challenges due to the physical demands of their work. These include musculoskeletal problems, back pain, dehydration, heat-related illnesses, and exposure to harmful chemicals such as pesticides and fertilizers, lack of access to clean water, sanitation facilities, and healthcare further exacerbates these issues. Besides this, another severe issue these women are victims of is hysterectomies which is against the fundamental rights of these women. Inadequate rest and poor menstrual hygiene lead to severe reproductive health problems that resulted into acts like hysterectomies.

Maharashtra is one of India's leading sugar-producing states, accounting for about 36% of the country's sugar mills, as per the 2018-19 Economic Survey of Maharashtra. The state's sugar industry relies heavily on sugarcane farmers and labourers, including a significant workforce of migrant sugarcane cutters. Each year, millions of workers, primarily from drought-affected regions of Maharashtra, migrate to sugarcane-producing areas to take up this labor-intensive work. Notably, women make up about half of the sugarcane workforce, contributing equally alongside men. However, they face several health challenges, one of which has drawn widespread attention: the high incidence of hysterectomies among female sugarcane cutters. In addition to physical ailments, women laborers experience significant mental health stress, with anxiety and depression being common due to the harsh working conditions, low pay, and long working hours. They often lack access to healthcare, either due to the remoteness of their locations, financial constraints, or limited healthcare services in rural areas. Despite the existence of employment guarantee laws, women sugarcane cutters have little choice but to continue working under these conditions, as there are few alternative employment opportunities available in their home villages.

CHALLENGES TO HUMAN RIGHTS: AN INSIGHT AND PERSPECTIVES ON VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN.

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At the fourth World conference on Women held in Beijing in 1995, the most critical and important area focused in this conference was the lack of awareness and the commitment towards protection of rights of women. This has an application to both the international and Indian situation. Many a times, human rights are perceived in a narrow sense such as unlawful imprisonment, punishment, torture, mental harassment and so on. But it should also be understood in broader sense such as enhancing minimum standard of living, dignified existence, free from all sort exploitation etc. But in India, undoubtedly women's rights are continuously violated through many oppressions and deprivation. Some are noticed, some go unnoticed. In respect to women in India, who represent almost half of the population of the country and traditionally occupy a respected position in the society as a mother, sister, and as a wife, deserves a fair treatment from the society. The judicial system and the law implementing agencies need to protect them from the violence, discriminations and exploitation. At present protecting and safeguarding the rights of women has become a growing concern. It is a paradox in modern so called civilized society that with raising women's assertion, the crimes, violence and discrimination against women taking it's toll. Despite growing awareness, massive legislation and legal provisions, there is an increase in the violation against women. The raising level of education, awareness among people regarding women's issues, laws for the protection of rights of women failed to protect women from all sort of discrimination. Domestic violence has become an important component of total crime whether it is in cities or rural villages. In this paper, the author attempts to discuss on perspectives and challenges

for the protection of rights of women, legal provisions for protection of rights, forms of violence and the role of social worker.

**CAPACITY BUILDING WORKSHOP FOR POST GRADUATE STUDENTS ON
'UNDERSTANDING THE IMPACT OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE IN INDIA: FACTORS,
CONSEQUENCES, INTERVENTIONS & PREVENTIONS'
WORKSHOP FACILITATORS**

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To tackle domestic abuse and domestic violence at its root, it is vital that young people are introduced to the subject at an early age and develop an understanding of what domestic abuse and violence are, how to recognize it in relationships – both their own and in their peers' – and how to use self, assist others and collaborate for assistance.

Social Work students are the future community care providers. Usually they will be involved as a service provider, will be performing the role of advocacy and will protect the interest of user group, victims, and survivors. They are going to play a crucial role in helping public sector to implement government policies and services for the benefits of the care givers and users. So, the capacity building of these future professionals is very essential as a part of comprehensive & preventive approach to handle and reduce domestic abuse & violence in the society.

**DRAWING PARALLELS BETWEEN MEDICAL FAMILY THERAPY (MEDFT)
AND SOCIAL CASE WORK: A GENDERED REFLECTION**

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Medical Family Therapy (MedFT) is a school of family therapy which utilizes concepts from the Biopsychosocial model and the Systems Theory in Families in the context of chronic medical illnesses. As a therapeutic approach, it functions beyond family caregiving interventions and looks at the interplay of relationships and its problems having a bidirectional relationship with the medical illnesses. MedFT looks at the person, carer and the facilitators as major stakeholders in caring and understands the stress responses and coping mechanisms utilized with respect to chronic illnesses.

Objective: The workshop aims to explore the application of MedFT with the client population and outcome response through this therapeutic

approach. **Methodology:** To achieve the purpose of this workshop, we utilized a case-based approach to teach the different skills beneath MedFT and provide a basic introduction to MedFT. For this workshop, we shall be using both lecture and case-based group discussions with the participants thereby helping them to understand MedFT and its basic theoretical principles. **Outcome:** Social Workers have a unique position where they work in clinical settings where they work with families/caregivers/spouses/live-in partners who are entrusted with the care of the person with the chronic illness. The workshop aims to provide them with the unique theoretical approach that shall help with a) learn the art of MedFT b) interplay of gender and socio-economic variables c) enhance social case work approach in clinical settings. **Conclusion:** MedFT is a relatively new approach in family therapy. Adapting it to a social case work lens shall help the social work professionals to use the theoretical approach effectively to enhance and better manage persons with chronic illness and their caregivers.

USE OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE IN SOCIAL WORK: THE ROLE OF TECHNOLOGY IN SOLVING SOCIAL WORK PROBLEM

Professor U.S. Pandey

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In the modern era of technology Artificial Intelligence (AI) have a very important role in solving social work problems. Artificial Intelligence tools are being used in social work to strengthen the efforts. Namely to assist elderly peoples, identify & resolve many social work problems related to human society. Ai helps to provide social work education in user friendly manner. It helps social worker to resolve the issues easily and product the outcomes. Data Analytics which is an import net activity in social work to get the accuracy and efficiency, AI will play an important role. With the help of large amount of data (Big Data) any kind of prediction becomes very relevant, innovative and informative. This analysis will provide meaningful rules which can be used to solve the many social work problems. For example Elderly peoples leaving/health problems can be resolved by using some sensor based devices which can collect all information and provide to the concerned social worker/ medical institution which can take appropriate action if required take the help of Internet of Things(IOT).

At the moment many problems are already being resolved remotely by social workers using Artificial Intelligence (AI) Indian Government have already announced to use drone facility to provide medical facilities (Medicine) to the needy patients. Which is a remarkable thing specially in remote area. This is another big achievement using of Artificial Intelligence based activity providing best facility in the

field of social work. By using AI in the field of Social work many predictive models can be developed with the help of primary/secondary and real data, which is very useful to take any accurate and efficient decision according to requirements.

BUILDING EVIDENCE IN SOCIAL WORK: UNDERSTANDING AND USING RCTS

Dr. Anish K R

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This workshop explores the possibilities of intervention research to overcome the paucity of pertinent social work literature that establishes the credibility of professional social work interventions. The intervention research in social work has dual purposes, viz. Betterment of human conditions and creating evidence for the effectiveness of social work interventions. This workshop would focus on the feasibility and challenges of performing randomized control trials in social work as a means of evidence-based practice based on examples from the research project experiences of the facilitator. A participatory methodology would be adopted to discuss the methodology of a randomized control trial from one successful research project and the other unsuccessful one. The process of model development, the designing of the study, and the prospects and concerns of cluster control trials, randomization, and methodological aspects will be discussed in the workshop. Further, the workshop would provide a detailed account of designing different types of intervention research, a six-phase perspective for the development of social and health services interventions (Rothman and Thomas, 1994), the hierarchy of evidence in intervention research, methodological issues in intervention research, steps in evidence-based practice, statistical procedures and methods of reporting intervention research. At the end of the workshop, the workshop participants will be able to: a) Reflect on the concept, prospects, and challenges of the methodology of randomized control trials in social work practice. b) Demonstrate a basic idea of designing a randomized control trial. c) Enlist the methodological considerations in RCTs

CREATING SAFE SPACES: BARRIERS, SOLUTIONS AND ROLE OF SOCIAL WORKERS

Dr. Divya Vaishnava

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(Bachche- Unki Duniya)*

This session will cover the critical topics of safe spaces and gender based violence (GBV). Social workers need a comprehensive understanding and knowledge about the various factors that contribute to gender based violence. Educating social work students on gender-based violence is crucial to effectively address and mitigate its impact on individuals and society. It empowers them to support survivors, raise their voice and contribute to the creation of safer, more equitable spaces. It's important to have these difficult conversations with young students that pave way for meaningful discussions and brainstorming of ideas. By incorporating such workshops/sessions into college curriculums, institutions create a forum for students which leads to a safer and informed student community.

This session will focus on discussing strategies which can be adopted by colleges and especially social work departments to create effective safe spaces that support students in their academic, and emotional

journeys. Safe spaces also promote a healthier campus and contribute the overall well-being and safety of the student community which is vital for their holistic development.

Safe and non-threatening environment can be built with robust safety policies, awareness generation programmes and a strong mental health support system.

The trainer will use the tool of storytelling to discuss this sensitive topic and connect students. Storytelling is an effective tool to encourage participants to share their own experiences. Group facilitation will be achieved with role play, activity kits. Some possible outcomes of session are a) Increased awareness and knowledge about GBV. b) Being able to recognise warning signs. c) Gaining tools for advocacy in the field d) Understanding of safe spaces. Creating a support system with fellow students. I would like to mention here that one session with students can only initiate the discussion about creating a change in the society which is an on-going process of self-reflection, identifying problem areas, unlearning and implementing certain changes within and around us in community. Such sessions need to be held at regular intervals which also allow students to gain deeper understanding of the complexities and impact of gender-based violence.

TRANSFORMATION OF WOMEN FROM VULNERABILITY TO RESILIENCE DURING FLOOD DISASTERS: A CASE STUDY OF SILCHAR CITY, ASSAM

Dr. Aditi Nath

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In light of the growing effects of climate change, flood disasters are occurring frequently and aggravating vulnerabilities among populations, particularly affecting women. The research focuses on how women are transforming from being vulnerable to resilient in disaster situations in Silchar City of Assam. Thus, the study formulates objectives to explore the factors contributing to women's vulnerability and resilience building in the study area. Because of its location in a flood-prone area, the city Silchar experiences floods every year which damage infrastructure, social cohesion, and livelihoods. Due to ingrained social roles, cultural practices and disparities, women are disproportionately impacted by these calamities. The study employs a qualitative approach including interviews, focus group discussion, and observation to explore data on the stated objectives. The findings reveal that socio-economic factors like limited access to resources, livelihood dependence, gendered division of labor, health risks, etc., cause vulnerability in women. In contrast, social networks and community support, adaptability, preparedness plans, roles in household and community, Indigenous knowledge, etc, contribute to resilience building among women of flood-affected areas of Silchar City. The study also identified several women-led efforts to increase resilience, including skill development programs, community-based early warning systems, and advocacy for inclusive disaster policy. These initiatives improved preparedness and empowered women to engage themselves actively in the decision-making process at household and community levels. The study concluded indicating that the transformation of women from vulnerability to resilience is a dynamic process influenced by social, economic, and cultural factors. By acknowledging and supporting women's contributions, communities may create more resilient frameworks that are inclusive and sustainable to address climate-related challenges in future.

Keywords: Transformation, Women, Vulnerability, Resilience, Flood Disaster, Silchar

FROM OBJECT TO CAPITAL: A ROADMAP FOR SUSTAINABLE EMPOWERMENT AND WELL-BEING OF WOMEN

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Prof. Neena Pandey

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“No country can flourish if it stifles the potential of its women” – Michelle Obama

From recognizing gender as a cause of discrimination and division to voicing for equality and equity, India has come a long way to make women more visible and empowered. Despite the overwhelmingly designed policies and programs supporting women's education and employment, a lot is needed for a mindset shift. Having stringent laws such as the PC-PNDT act still cases of female feticide and infanticide are prevalent resulting in to skewed sex ratio. Female workforce participation rate (FWPR) is much less in comparison to many underdeveloped countries with the fact that women's participation in higher education has been increasing. Inclusive and sustainable development cannot be possible without including half of the population as workforce and decision-makers. Apart from participating in the workforce women can be proven capital/ resource for the economy. A comprehensive road map for sustainable empowerment and well-being for women should be the highest priority. Social work interventions are designed to prepare a roadmap toward sustainable empowerment and layout practice models to bridge the existing gaps in society. The present workshop is designed to address the perspective of considering women as capital.

The workshop aims to provide insights into existing patriarchal ideologies and feminist arguments, critically analyze state and legislative interventions, and develop a collective understanding of women's empowerment and well-being. It seeks to engage participants in identifying gaps and lapses in the current discourse and working towards a viable roadmap for empowerment in their context. The central theme is empowering women, addressing the "why," "what," and "how" of empowerment.

The workshop will begin by exploring the status of women in India through the lenses of patriarchy and feminism, focusing on gender discrimination in various spheres of life. Using published data from government and non-governmental organizations, participants will work in groups to analyze the status of women in private (home and family) and public (job market, politics, policies, and social spaces) domains. They will identify factors perpetuating and reinforcing discrimination, with a critical focus on specific sites like home, school, workplace, market, public places, and community.

A critical discussion will follow on the rights guaranteed by the Constitution of India, particularly legal provisions for women and girls related to education, employment, health, and safety. Participants will also examine women's positioning in various sectors, including schools, higher education institutions, vocational training institutes, and both organized and unorganized markets. They will discuss the decreasing employment ratio despite the increasing higher education participation of women.

The focus will then shift to the concept of women as a valuable human resource, exploring their roles as producers, capitalists, workers, managers, creators, thinkers, financial experts, manufacturers, and entrepreneurs. Participants will question whether a gendered or agender lens is needed to fully appreciate women's potential and contribution, while reflecting on the importance of changing institutional perspectives to acknowledge women as empowered and sustainable capital or resources.

In the final part of the workshop, a roadmap will be developed in response to social work needs, involving the collective interpretation of policy documents and legislation to minimize loopholes. Efforts will focus on orienting both men and women about rights and violations, preparing schools to embrace heterogeneity, and encouraging communities to value girl children. The role of school management committees (SMCs), parent-teacher associations (PTAs), and parent-teacher meetings (PTMs) in spreading legal and policy awareness will be emphasized. Additionally, norms that reinforce gender divisions will be challenged, encouraging youth involvement.

The workshop will also focus on redefining family structures, supporting men and boys to share their experiences of being victimized by patriarchy, and discussing the success and failure stories of women in various roles. Participants will be encouraged to take leadership roles in redesigning the economy and fostering a collective understanding of the NEP 2020 vision and its implementation. The workshop will be open to MA students, research scholars, and newly appointed faculty members.

TITLE: FAMILY CONFLICT RESOLUTION IN INDIA: SOCIAL WORK INTERVENTIONS FOR WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT AND WELL-BEING

Mrs Vaishali Pathare & Dr.Suresh Pathare.

CSR D Ahmednagar

This paper investigates the role of family conflict resolution in enhancing women's empowerment and well-being within the Indian socio-cultural context, emphasizing the significance of social work interventions. In Indian families—both traditional joint and modern nuclear structures—conflicts often arise from marital discord, changing gender roles, financial issues, and intergenerational tensions. With societal transformations such as urbanization, dual-career households, and evolving gender expectations, women face increasing challenges, including emotional stress, domestic violence, and limited decision-making power. These conflicts not only affect individual well-being but also disrupt family cohesion and stability. The paper highlights that while traditional values promote family unity, they often hinder individual autonomy, especially for women. Women's empowerment within families necessitates the renegotiation of roles and responsibilities, challenging patriarchal norms that limit their participation in decision-making. Social work responses become crucial in this context, focusing on empowering women through conflict resolution frameworks, advocacy, legal aid, crisis interventions, and family counselling. Interventions such as self-help groups, community-based family therapy, and mediation programs help women develop agency and foster resilience, enabling them to negotiate conflicts constructively within the family setting.

The research draws on both traditional and modern social work practices. It outlines strategies that promote well-being through marital adjustment, enhanced communication, and conflict resolution, with a special focus on women's mental health. The literature review emphasizes the significance of empowering women by offering emotional support, addressing role conflicts, and providing avenues for financial independence. Furthermore, it identifies the need for policy reforms and professional social work initiatives to support women in family dispute resolution processes. In conclusion, the paper argues that effective conflict resolution, combined with social work interventions, plays a pivotal role in promoting women's empowerment and ensuring holistic well-being. A shift from patriarchal family norms to equitable family practices is essential to foster well-being at both individual and familial levels. The study underscores the importance of integrating gender-sensitive social work frameworks to ensure sustainable empowerment and harmonious family life in contemporary India

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Our Supporting Partner



Shri Uday Shankar Singh is currently serving as the Chief Executive Officer of Vishwa Yuvak Kendra (VYK), a leading youth organization in India. He holds key positions as the National Convener of the India Freshwater Action Network for South Asia (FANSA) and as the Country Focal Point for Civil Society Organizations under Sanitation and Water for All (SWA).

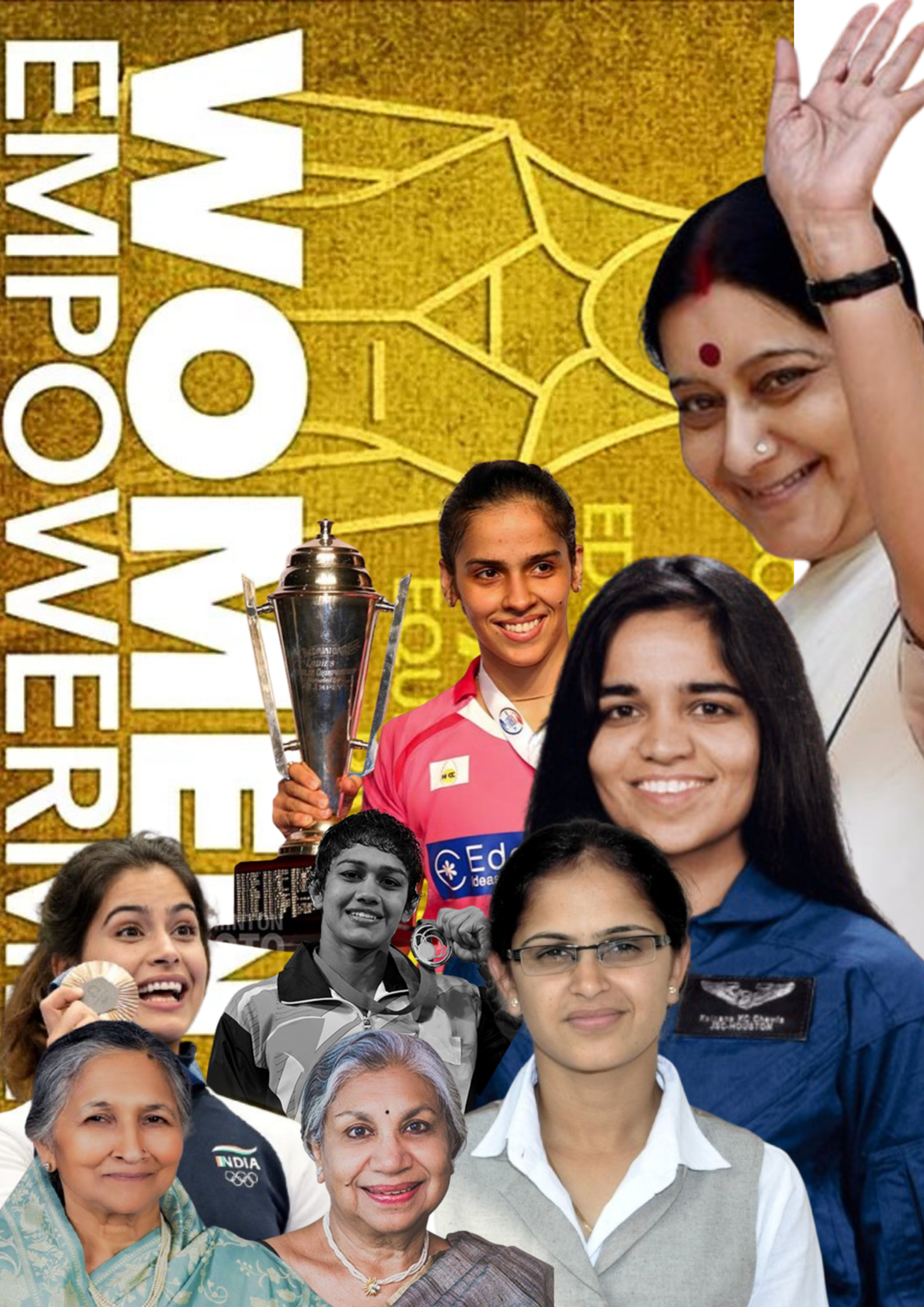
With nearly two decades of experience, he has worked in Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR), skill development, resettlement, rehabilitation, and community development. Shri Singh has held prominent roles, including Head of

Corporate-CSR at Abhijeet Group of Companies, as well as positions in Ambuja Cements Foundation and Jindal Steel & Power Limited.

He holds a postgraduate degree in Rural Management from Xavier Institute of Social Sciences, Ranchi, and is an active member of notable organizations like Rotary International and the Central Policy Committee on Youth Hostel Scheme under the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, Government of India. Shri Singh has contributed significantly to rural communities, particularly focusing on the empowerment of rural youth through various training and skill development initiatives.

Acknowledging his continued dedication to advancing the social work sector, Shri Uday Shankar Singh has also extended his invaluable support to the 12th Indian Social Work Congress (ISWC) 2024, hosted by Bhagat Phool Singh Mahila Vishwavidyalaya. His involvement underscores his commitment to fostering intellectual exchange and the professional growth of social work in India, contributing to the success of this important event.





EMPOWERMENT

