







# **CENTRE FOR WOMEN'S DEVELOPMENT STUDIES**

An autonomous research institute supported by the  
Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR)



## **ANNUAL REPORT 2020-21**

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## **Annual Report 2020 - 2021**



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## From the Director's Desk

*The year 2020-21 should have been remembered as the year CWDS celebrated its 40<sup>th</sup> year of existence. But this was overshadowed by the onset of the pandemic and subsequent lockdown. Covid 19 brought with it upheavals and crises over the course of the last year. As this annual report is being put together we are just emerging from the second wave and are now preparing for a possible third. Working from home took on quite new meanings, as we experienced the intermittent closure of our Centre at several points of time. Whenever we have reopened it has been under government guidelines, with partial attendance under a roster system and while maintaining all necessary protocols of sanitisation and physical distancing.*

*It is particularly painful to have to acknowledge our share of losses from among family members and staff. CWDS lost one of its employees to Covid Meghnad Desmukh, from the team of West Bengal staff, on the 1<sup>st</sup> May 2021. Mr V.N. Soumya Narayanan, who was the Centre's Administrative Officer for many years, also passed away, though not due to Covid. Our deepest condolences go out to the families and loved ones. We must be more than grateful therefore, that many more among us who were diagnosed as Covid positive over the course of this period have regained their strength.*

*This has also been a year of several retirements among faculty and staff – we wish all of them the very best as they embark on a new life, though they are all missed. As the following pages will attest, this has been a year of changes and shifts at several levels. We have closed our offices in West Bengal after decades of action research with women's organisations there, and will be looking ahead to other modes of providing support. The main stay of CWDS is the research that we undertake, now by a reduced team of six faculty as we await much needed augmentation through new appointments. Given the fact that many plans for research could not come to fruition under the altered circumstances of the pandemic, we are all the more proud of our achievements – our research has taken on new challenges and diversified. Research associates are also contributing through smaller projects with the guidance of individual faculty members.*

*Along with the rest of the academic world, CWDS has gone online over this last year. While the teaching collaboration with AUD came to an end in August 2020, we managed to shift our mentoring and meetings with ongoing students through online modes, whether it be student presentations, conducting vivas or providing other forms of support.*

*We did make room for some celebrations too. An online lecture series with renowned scholars and activists from far and near (one of the advantages of connecting across distances through virtual means) brought 40 years of CWDS to public notice.*

*In spite of all the hardships, the Centre has nonetheless been taking on new challenges at every step. My heartfelt thanks to Neetha who shouldered most of the responsibilities as Acting Director over the past year. Faculty and staff have shown great strength of purpose, working doubly hard under all the constraints the present time has thrown up. We are supremely conscious of how much more vulnerable the vast majority of people are, and recognise the responsibilities we must shoulder to be able to respond to heightened demands for accountability. We look forward to expanding and redirecting our perspectives, building new partnerships and drawing on the strengths of the CWDS community in the coming years.*

*Mary E John  
Acting Director*

## **IN MEMORIUM**

**Priya Prakash**  
**(18-09-1934 - 04-07-2021)**

Priya Prakash, (18.09.1934–04.07.2021) long-time Member of CWDS, was born in Lucknow, where she pursued her higher studies completing a double Masters in Philosophy and Sanskrit. She obtained a degree in Law from Lucknow niversity with top honours. She briefly taught at the Isabella Thoburn College, Lucknow, before qualifying for the Central Services, joining in the 1957 batch. She was the first woman officer in the Indian Railways' Accounts Service. During her tenure, while on deputation to the Ministry of Agriculture she was also attached to the National wasteland development Board, She retired as Principal Secretary attached to the Planning Commission. In the course of these official assignments, she became familiar with the work of the CWDS and its interventions on behalf of women and began to take a keen interest in the activities of the Centre. The partnership contributed to developing a constructive approach to issues of rural women and sought to advance a more gender sensitive approach in the sphere of policy formulation.

# Introduction

CWDS completed its 40th year on May 1<sup>st</sup> 2020, and in spite of all the difficulties of the last year has managed to hold its own in the field of women's studies. Many of our research activities are ongoing. Some that were planned for did not materialise due to changes in funding or in priorities, some were successfully concluded or had to be brought to a close due to reductions in support, while yet others are a reflection of our efforts to try and engage with a new reality, whose repercussions will unfold in the years to come. The institute is committed to expanding the scope of gender perspectives within the social sciences, thus developing women's studies as an inter-disciplinary, problem-oriented field of rigorous research and policy intervention. The kinds of structural and processual changes we have been addressing in our work are now attempting to incorporate even further challenges in the society and economy.

The broad areas of primary research studies and projects over the last year have become more diverse and interlocking in nature. We therefore offer the following heads only as a heuristic device:

- 1) **Women and Social Change** as a broad theme was addressed in specific sectors such as health and education: New projects have been initiated in the context of Covid 19 and its implications for front line workers, as well as modes of imparting education.
- 2) **Representation, Marginalisation and Identities:** Enduring and new work is being taken forward in the fields of disability, caste and Dalit identity.
- 3) **Demographic Trends and Inter-generational Changes:** these include the Centre's longstanding investigation into the adverse child sex ratio, and the need to evolve better perspectives on early and child marriage.
- 4) **Women, Work, Migration and the Economy:** these include issues of employment, the measurement of women's paid and unpaid work, the crisis in agriculture, among other concerns for which the Centre has become well known.

- 5) **Gender and Governance:** This includes studies with a South Asian scope; and comparative analyses of women's participation in politics.
- 6) **Gender, Violence and Sexuality:** Studies on violence against women, and on perpetrators of violence have been made more intersectional in ongoing research on disability and violence. Related research seeks to explore questions of sexuality through the lens of disability for both men and women.
- 7) **The Multiple Dimensions of Gender Inequality:** A new institutional grant will be exploring the multiple dimensions of gender and inequality, building on our existing repertoire and taking it forward through new plans for collaborative research.

CWDS engagement in **teaching and the supervision of research** continued with many students completing their research degrees:

- ❖ CWDS faculty supervise students enrolled from 2012 to 2019 in the **M.Phil/ Ph.D programme in Women's and Gender Studies** in collaboration with Ambedkar University Delhi.
- ❖ CWDS faculty have been supervising and co-supervising students receiving **ICSSR Doctoral Fellowships**.

The Vina Mazumdar Memorial Library (VMML), though intermittently closed due to the pandemic and lockdown and not open to the public as a consequence, continued to be a Resource hub, and carried out its critical tasks of acquisition, digitisation of materials and online outreach.

**Partnership Building, Networking and Advocacy** could not remain unaffected by the conditions of the pandemic and the consequent challenges posed to face to face activities and travel. One of the networks housed by the Centre since many years, the Forum for Creches and Child Care Services (FORCES), is in the process of replanning its future. Other forms of outreach have continued, including

- ❖ Women's Studies Centres in Universities across India
- ❖ Indian Association for Women's Studies (IAWS)
- ❖ International organizations such as UN Agencies
- ❖ National and State Level Agencies



## Organisational Structure

CWDS life members are drawn from a wide community of professionals and academics, while a smaller body of elected representatives oversees the functioning of the Centre. At the end of March 2021, CWDS had 97 life members, and three Institutional members. The last Annual General Body Meeting of the Centre was held on 7<sup>th</sup> November, 2020 online.

The Centre receives financial support from the Indian Council of Social Science Research, (ICSSR) which functions as a statutory body under the supervision of the Ministry of Education. The financial support and conditions for the same are constantly monitored and reviewed at different levels and are subject to change within the framework of the broad policy environment. The institute continues to face pressures in its efforts to grow on account of financial and infrastructural issues. In recent years' efforts have been made to augment resources through project grants, both short term and with a longer institutional scope. Space has been one of the most important constraints in the growth of CWDS. This took on immense proportions when the Centre had to function under lockdown conditions, with the careful organisation and sharing of space under roster mode to ensure sufficient safety and physical distancing for faculty and staff, including in the functioning of the library. All events were modified in order to be held in an online mode through online lectures, workshops and webinars.

### Planning and Monitoring

The Executive Committee (EC) of the Centre continued to provide guidance on administrative and policy matters. Five meetings of the EC and three meetings of the Finance Committee (FC) were held during 2020-21.

The Executive Committee under the Chairpersonship of Kumud Sharma completed its term in November 2020. At the Annual General Body of the Centre held online, the outgoing EC was thanked and the newly elected Executive Committee welcomed. At present, the composition of the EC and its elected office-bearers is as follows:

Name	Title
Prof. Vasanthi Raman	Chairperson
Prof. Mohan Rao	Vice-Chairperson
Dr. Bijayalaxmi Nanda	Treasurer
Prof. Mary E. John	Member
Prof. Renu Addlakha	- Do -
Prof. Rajni Palriwala	- Do -
Dr. Mala Khullar	- Do -
Prof. Kumkum Roy	- Do -
Prof. Madhu Purnima Kishwar	ICSSR nominee
Dr. Govind Saun	ICSSR Representative
Prof. Mary E. John	Member Secretary & Acting Director

Prof. Neetha N. stepped down as Acting Director when the new EC began its term in December 2020, and Prof Mary E John agreed to take on the duties of the Acting Director, in the absence of a Director, as an interim measure. The EC reconstituted several committees to formulate guidelines and to support its various activities such as the Editorial Advisory Board for the IJGS; Action Research Committee; Internal Grievance Committee and Sexual Harassment and Gender Sensitization Committee; the Standing Committee on Library and Information Services and the Ethics Committee for Research Projects.

In addition to the guidance of the EC and the various committees, faculty meetings are held regularly where periodic reviews of research and other activities are taken up. Twelve Meetings of the Faculty Committee were held during 2020-21.

## Human Resources

There have been further reductions at the faculty and staff level with the retirement of older members. Critical posts have been vacant including those of the Director, and the Administrative and Account Officers. Faculty have retired over the last year, and several staff reached their retirement age or took early retirement for personal reasons. The filling up of posts is absolutely essential for the smooth functioning of

the Centre. Yet at the same time this is a moment that calls for more than just the filling up of posts. There is a need for academic restructuring to increase the number of faculty posts to enable the centre to adequately expand its focus areas. Further, ICSSR support and conditions, because of larger policy transformations, have undergone changes demanding new financial and administrative norms and practices. Restructuring administrative positions, regularising recruitment and promotion provisions to make them relevant for the times with changing administrative and financial policies are vital. Thus, revisiting the profile of sanctioned posts and staff responsibilities is an immediate requirement. One of the important challenges for CWDS at present is to retain newer entrants, with high turn-over of support staff at entry levels due to lack of parity compared to government jobs.

### **Financial Position**

The ICSSR provides core grants for salaries and maintenance that have been a central source of continuous financial support over the years. For specific research and other activities and to meet the deficit in salary and maintenance, the raising of additional resources is a necessity. While some Project grants during the last year came to a close, others received a no cost extension given the constraints and delays caused by the pandemic. Special mention should be made of the new BUILD grant from the Ford Foundation which was sanctioned in March 2021. The Vina Mazumdar Memorial Fund (VMMF) and Lotika Sarkar Endowment Fund (LSEF) are held by the Centre, as part of a pool of Corpus funds. The Employees' Provident Fund and Gratuity Fund are also in place as of 31-03-2021.

# Research Activities

Research continues to be the main activity of the Centre. Our work is multiple and cross-cutting in nature and addresses a range of themes such as violence, labour, migration, early marriage, disability, caste, education, health, governance and representation. Processes of marginalization are key overlapping concerns which are explored from diverse and rigorous perspectives and methodologies, be they qualitative micro studies or the analysis of macro data sets. Project work has been listed below in alphabetical order by first name.

## **Healthcare Providers and the Covid-19 crisis: Mapping Specific Experiences and Ground Realities in India, Supported by Rosa Luxemburg Stiftung – South Asia**

■■■■■ Project Director: Bijoya Roy

As the pandemic accelerated and each region reached its peak in India, healthcare systems and healthcare workers have been under incredible pressure. There is a growing demand for health workers (doctors, nurses, lab technicians, community health workers) in hospitals and at the community level. WHO designated the year 2020 as the International Year of Nurses and Midwives. COVID 19 crisis generated frequent and incessant media reports on the challenges and difficulties faced by FHWs in India. This study has involved analysing media reports between late March and mid-October 2020 and undertaking in-depth interviews with 15 nurses and community health workers. This research explored how the world of work changed for them with the onset of the COVID 19 crisis, how it impacted their lives, their forms of resistance and the state's response. Within the voluminous media coverage of COVID 19, the near invisibility of the health workers, their precarious working conditions with inadequate supply of safety measures stood out all the more. Nurses faced burnout with never-ending shifts. The public health crisis deepened the impact of the prior and prolonged poor investment in hospitals with frequent shortages in the workforce.

*Research Team: Ms Ragini Pant, Research Assistant (Delhi)*

## **Maternity Care Provision, Medical Dominance and Healthcare Market in India, with support from the ICSSR**

■■■■■ Project Director - Bijoya Roy

Increasingly, birth is being constructed as a 'risky event' that requires hospital management. The present maternity care policy in India favours hospitalisation of pregnant women assuming there can be emergencies and complications at any stage of pregnancy and during childbirth. Both in conversations with young mothers and from studies it is observed that medicalised interventions during pregnancy and childbirth are increasing in India with the institutionalisation of birthing, proliferation of new high-end technologies and the practices of the doctors. At the same time, we also find private hospitals promoting safe and painless labour couched within the discourse of risk and its technical capacity to address them. Within the ambit of medicalised maternity care, discourses of childbirth risks

and the commercialisation of healthcare this research study aims to map the growth and nature of the maternity care market emerging in India and its various dimensions. It aims to understand privatisation and changes in the organisational structure in obstetric care and explores women's experiences of pregnancy and institutional childbirth. The study is located in the two metropolitan cities of Delhi and Hyderabad. Around 111 women from lower, middle and upper-middle-income families with children aged two years or below have been interviewed. Given the nature of the study, the nature of private maternity health care services in two cities were mapped along with the experiences of healthcare providers in maternity care provisioning.

*Research Team: Ms. Sneha Makkad (Delhi), Ms. Diksha Shreyan and Ms. Vennela Mocheria (Hyderabad)*

### **Historical Overview on Early and Child Marriage – Initially commissioned by UNFPA**

■■■■■ Project Coordinator – Mary E. John

An unusual development took place during 2020-21 in relation to age at marriage in India. In February 2020 the government of India announced the creation of a Task Force (TF), which would look into raising the minimum age of marriage of girls beyond 18 years to 21 in the interests of their education, health, nutrition and other positive outcomes. The government further announced in June that the TF would be holding consultations with civil society organisations on the matter. As a consequence of being invited to present research findings based on macro data on this issue, further analysis of existing data sets from NFHS 4 was undertaken and inputs were provided towards the preparation of a CSO Memorandum that was signed by over 50 organisations. These statistical analyses showed that merely raising the age of marriage to 21 years alone would have only minor positive effects on the health of women and their newly born children. On the other hand, over 60% by NFHS 4 data marry before reaching the age of 21 years and would now be without legal protections under the proposed change. Among the poorer classes these figures were even higher. The Memorandum argued that rather than resort to a legal route, positive change would be furthered through a range of other policy initiatives – changing conditional cash transfer schemes with their focus on marriage at the age of 18 years, improvements in secondary and higher education, better access to sexual and reproductive health services, a special focus on women's employment, among others. Authors of the memorandum and young people themselves were invited

by the TF hosted within Niti Aayog to make their presentations. These concerns and arguments took on even greater urgency in the context of the pandemic and lockdown. Two newspaper articles were written to engage the public on the subject, and to point out certain flaws in existing understandings on the causal links between age at marriage and other social indicators, including in influential research on the topic. The book manuscript *Child Marriage in an International Frame: A Feminist Review from India* incorporated these developments and arguments in the form of an Afterword. The book is due for publication by Routledge in its International Edition in April 2021 and the South Asian edition will be available later in the year.

**Engendering Change: Exploring the interlinkages between Marriage, Disability, Sexuality and Knowledge Building in India from a Women's Studies perspective (with support from the Ford Foundation)**

This project was initiated in the latter part of 2017 with support from the Ford Foundation, and is set to conclude in March 2022, under a no cost extension. It is a multi-level project with four segments as given below:

**(a) Analysing Early and Child Marriage in India: The Interlocking Markets of Education, Marriage and Work**

This project began in March 2018. The study examines the prevalence of early and child marriage in India from several perspectives. It offers the framework of compulsory marriage and the highly unequal intersections of work, education and marriage to analyse the changing nature of early marriage in India. It focusses in particular on three states located in the East (West Bengal), West (Rajasthan) and South (Telangana) which have had relatively high rates of prevalence compared to the all India average. Due to the pandemic and lockdown it was not possible to undertake a final round of field visits to the three sites of the study in West Bengal, Rajasthan and Telangana.

Report writing is underway. Chapter one offers an overview of the issue of child marriage in India, focussing especially on developments in the twenty-first century. A review of existing studies is therefore being provided to situate the kinds of concerns that are animating this study. Chapter two contextualises the sites of the study – the rural districts of Mushirabad, Sawai Madhopur and Mahboobnagar, and the urban locations of Kolkata, Jaipur and Hyderabad. Existing Census Handbook data as well as other studies have been drawn upon. Chapter three offers unit level analysis using macro data from the corrected National Family Health Survey (IV)

at the national, state and district levels. This chapter focusses on rates of decline in the prevalence of marriage below the age of 18 from the period of 2005-06 to 2015-16, and shows that it is primarily girls in the 15-17 years age group (at 20% at the all India level) where under age marriage is still prevalent. These shifts and declines therefore call for a redescription of the phenomenon as being one of early marriage or adolescent marriage rather than child marriage, with its connotations of pre-pubertal or pubertal marriage. Chapter four is currently in a preparatory stage. It draws on detailed survey data in all the six sites along with select interviews with respondents and their families.

This project has been aided by Nidhi Mehta for data analysis and the overall research assistance of Nidhi Varma.

*Mary E. John is leading this segment of the Project.*

## **(b) Intersectional Analysis on Disability and Sexuality**

■ ■ ■ ■ ■ Project Coordinator: Renu Addlakha

This is part of the larger Ford Foundation Supported Project titled ‘Engendering Change: Exploring the interlinkages between Marriage, Disability, Sexuality and Knowledge Building in India from a Women’s Studies perspective’. This component focuses on examining the perceptions, perspectives and experiences of a cohort of women and men with physical disabilities in Delhi and Maharashtra with regard to their sexual and reproductive health and rights, particularly in connection with the health care system. During the preceding two years of the project, 120 interviews with women with disabilities and 60 interviews with men with disabilities were completed in the two research sites. The planned interviews with a similar number of health care providers could not be undertaken due to the onset of the covid-19 pandemic. Data entry has been completed and currently the data is being analysed. One of the deliverables of this project is a manual for healthcare providers in understanding and treating patients with disabilities in the areas of sexual and reproductive health. The manual is being jointly written with Neha Narayanan who is the Research Associate for this project. Two modules have been completed and after a draft of the manual is completed, an online consultation with key stakeholders in the healthcare and disability sector is planned.

*Research Team: Tejaswi Chhatwal, Shantanue Vidhur Nevrekar, K. Radhika and Neha Narayanan (Research Associates).*



**(c) Knowledge Gateway on Women's Studies in South Asia and Creating a Digital Archive of Grey Literature on Women's Studies**

This is a part of Ford Foundation project for CWDS Library (VMML) with three sub divisions viz.

- i. Digital Archive Development on Women's Studies,
- ii. Knowledge Gateway: Women's Studies Portal,
- iii. Specialised library services for Visually Impaired.

The basic objectives are: i) to share resources, opportunities and a global integrated technology platform for all Women's Studies' organisations in the South Asian Region (SAR); ii) to facilitate networking, learning and sharing of experiences among Women's Studies communities in the SAR; iii) to develop a nodal access point for information on and in Women's Studies in the SAR; iv) to build an advanced digital archive, including of grey literature; v) to make library resources accessible to scholars who are visually challenged.

*The Library team led by Sanghamitra Jana Chatterjee is undertaking this segment of the project.*

**(d) Building Capacities of Women's Studies Centres in Regional Contexts**

This grant component is aimed at collaborative support for Women's Studies Centres in different locations with provision for five workshops and ten research grants. The identification of themes for the workshops and the research studies was done in consultation with the respective Centres. These reflect a range of research interests and concerns emerging from regional locations. A detailed report on these was presented in the Annual Report last year. As reported last year, four workshops have been held—in Tezpur, Kolkata, Trichy and Delhi-- while one, which was to be organised jointly with the Women's Studies Centre, Aurangabad could not be held in view of the severity of the pandemic in Maharashtra. Of the ten research grants, three studies have been completed, by centres located in the Universities of Tezpur, Utkal and Patiala, for which reports have been received. Six studies are in various stages of research, data collection and analysis. Interim reports on work undertaken have been received from RBU, Kolkata; Bharathidasan University, Trichy; Bangalore University; Sanskrit University, Kalady, Miranda House, and

Delhi University. One study, for which the MoU was signed in March 2020 has not taken off. Due to the unusual situation prevailing across India given the spread of Covid 19, completion of the research studies under this component has been severely jeopardized as Centres have found it difficult to proceed with field-based research. A revised schedule of activities was drawn up along with the no-cost extension. It is proposed that the presentation and discussion on draft reports be done in online workshops to be organised on a one-on-one basis, while exploring the possibility of a central level workshop for presentations by the teams from all the Women's Studies Centres. This may be held in March 2022 in a mixed mode, if circumstances permit. No sub-grants took place following the changed FCRA guidelines of September 29<sup>th</sup> 2020.

*Indrani Mazumdar and Indu Agnihotri are coordinating this segment of the project activity.*

### **Laws of Social Reproduction, Collaboration with Kings College, London**

■■■■■ Project Director – Neetha N.

The project in collaboration with Kings College London on social reproduction, includes unpaid domestic work and labour performed by women outside of the institutional domain of marriage and for the market - sex work, erotic dancing, commercial surrogacy and paid domestic work. The project located at CWDS had three specific components 1. Hosting 4 post-doctoral fellowships (one each on domestic workers, bar dancers, commercial surrogacy, unpaid domestic work). 2. Organising one national seminar on social reproduction and 4 sector based workshops. 3. Building library resources on social reproduction and legal interventions. The project began in August 2019 and was planned for a period of 3 years. However, the collaboration was terminated in December 2020, after one year and 4 months, based on the request from Prof. Prabha Kotiswaran, the Principal Investigator of the project located at Kings College, London. Contracts of three post-doctoral research associates with CWDS working on identified themes from October 2019 were also ended. Two joint events were organised under this collaboration during 2020-21: Paid Domestic Work as “Decent Work”: Inter-disciplinary Conversations in the Indian Context, August 19-20th, 2020 and a Webinar on India's First National Time-Use Survey 2019, November 27th, 2020.

## **Socio-economic Status of Suicide Affected Families of Farmer's and Agricultural Workers in Punjab: An Enquiry into the Impact on Women and Children**

■■■■■ Project Director – Neetha N.

The study has been sponsored by the Punjab Farmers' Commission and examines the social and economic impact of suicides on women and children in the context of Punjab. The objectives are to a) examine the economic impact of suicides on women and children and coping strategies across diverse social and economic groups; b) analyse the changed family dynamics and power relations within the families, social, psychological/emotional implication of suicides on women and children c) examine the social and community response to the issue of suicides and affected women and children in terms of providing economic, social and community support; d) document the various government policies and programmes, non-governmental interventions in terms of its coverage and specificities, implementation structure and mechanisms and its impact. The study districts are Bathinda and Sangrur and Mansa in the Malwa region of Punjab which are the hotspots of farmers' suicides. Apart from collecting information from selected households through an interview schedule, in-depth interviews with selected women are planned to get detailed narratives of their everyday experiences. Alongside this, discussions with officials at various levels, members of various unions/organisations are planned to understand specific programmes, its implementation and challenges. The duration of the project is one year, from October 2020 – September 2021. However, the end date of the project is likely to be extended in the context of challenges in carrying out field work during the pandemic.

## **Multi-dimensional Gender Equality and Freedom from Violence: Innovating Research and Catalyzing Partnerships – supported by Ford Foundation**

■■■■■ Project Directors – Neetha N. and Renu Addlakha

A proposal was submitted to the Ford Foundation under its BUILD Programme during the last year for an institutional grant. The proposal aims to develop CWDS as a national hub for knowledge production, a nodal point for South Asian research dialogue, and an international research resource on multiple dimensions of gender inequality and violence. The grant provides for development and upgradation, with regard to technological and staff capabilities through augmented resources/modes

of staffing, institutional faculty exchanges and fellowships. It also aims to collect meso-level panel data for research, build collaborations with other researchers, augment and strengthen the library to become a resource hub for South Asia. The 5 year grant proposal has two phases. The first year is a review and planning phase towards the end of which a detailed report outlining future plan of activities, areas, timelines and a core team of staff, faculty and consultants is to be drawn up. Five background/position papers on different dimensions of inequality and its relationship to violence would be part of the first year of activity. The CWDS was informed in March 2021 that the grant application for the first year has been successful. The first year of the project is set to start from May 2021.

**Mentoring Programme on Rights and Evidence based Knowledge Creation in Sexual and reproductive Health Sponsored by the Journal Sexual and Reproductive Health Matters (South Asia Hub)**

■■■■■ Project Coordinator – Renu Addlakha

Renu Addlakha has been invited to be a mentor for a South Asia Hub initiated by the journal *Sexual and Reproductive Health Matters*. A group of health activists and scholars from India, Nepal, Pakistan and Bangladesh comprise the mentorship team which is guiding a group of research scholars to produce an article based on original research to be published in a special issue of the journal. This is a yearlong initiative. The mentee is Seema Sharma, who has completed her doctorate from TISS on sexuality and reproductive issues in the lives of women with spinal cord injury. The mentorship programme involved regular online meetings, webinars in addition to individual interactions with mentees. Seema Sharma has completed her article under this mentorship scheme and it has been submitted for peer review.

**National Crèche Scheme for the Children of Working Mothers and Impact on Women in the labour market in India (Sponsoring Agency- ILO)**

■■■■■ Principal investigator - Savitri Ray/ Vasanthi Raman (Consultant)

The report was submitted in the previous year, and in the current period suggestions were incorporated towards revising the final report. This study makes it abundantly clear how interconnected and entangled the nature of the working lives of families in the informal sector in India is today. For purposes of productive labour as well as

full employment, families need some institutional support towards child care. By taking care of the basic nutrition and health needs of the child, the National Creche Scheme (NCS) also acts as an indirect supplement to family incomes and even encourages savings and more diversified consumption patterns.

The study has concluded that the closure of NCS centres has put additional pressure on women for providing nutritious meals for their children, an expensive burden for services they could earlier access for free. The study has also shown that women, especially those belonging to historically marginalized groups, have been the single biggest beneficiaries of the scheme. NCS allows these vulnerable groups, exacerbated by their precarious place in the unorganized sector, to participate in the workforce in both agrarian and urban economies. Moreover, the informalization of the economy and the move away from the agrarian economy has compelled increasing numbers to migrate to urban centres. This has had an impact on traditional family structures with a visible move towards the nuclearization of the family. Familiar care givers in a joint family setup have been dislocated increasing the reliance on the NCS for women who participate in employment to supplement their family income. In this context, it is worth mentioning the lack of satisfaction among workers about their working conditions, the lack of decent work opportunities and the internalization of the undervaluation of care work.

### **The Gender of Democracy: A South Asian Comparison (Funded by ICSSR-IMPRESS)**

■■■■■ Principal Investigator – Seema Kazi

The study focuses on women and politics in four South Asian states, viz., India, Bangladesh, Nepal and Pakistan. This study examines women's political participation in India, Bangladesh, Pakistan and Nepal. For reasons of scope, focus and time, the analysis is limited to women's representation in national parliaments. The gender of national parliaments of the four states under consideration is examined, as is the way in which gender power relations play out with reference to women's membership and role within political parties in the region. Women's mobilizations for political equality with reference to national constitutional provisions are examined. The gender of democracy in South Asia is discussed; the successes and constraints for women within the four competitive electoral democracies is assessed. The project is concluded and the revised project report has been submitted to ICSSR.

## **Schedule Caste Girls and Access to Higher Education: Exploring their Experiences in the Natural Sciences - (Funded by ICSSR-IMPRESS)**

■■■■■ Project Director - Vandana

This field based study aimed to analyse factors, processes, and spaces that result in SC girls' entry into higher education. Qualitative data was collected by interviewing 10 SC young women and 10 SC young men who were pursuing the BSc (honours) degree from various colleges of the University of Delhi. The revised project report has been submitted to ICSSR. The following are some broad findings from the study.

Family mobility has been operationalised in terms of access to education, the desire to be in caste neutral occupations, which may be affected by religious beliefs, geographical location, relationship to political space, birth order, and gender. It was found that the Scheduled caste girls interviewed were born and brought up in families having achieved varied forms of upward mobility. It was interesting to note that among Scheduled caste girls who were pursuing under-graduate degrees in the science stream both parents had achieved some educational mobility in their own generation. This ranged from primary schooling to post-graduation. Most of the mothers were well educated, some being in non-traditional employment. Based on SC girls' socialisation in their families and their orientation towards life, their families could be classified into two categories 1) progressive and 2) somewhat conservative. The issue of support, moreover, included extended family members, including grandparents, all of which played a part in determining their own access. Kinship networks mentored the young students by influencing/shaping the choice of subject selection and schooling, nurturing aspirations for higher education and career, facilitating migration to study in cities, providing moral and emotional support, guarding against experiencing caste and gender based discrimination and violence and building self-respect, dignity and confidence.

The analysis was undertaken at two levels. On the one hand, the researcher tried to find out the diverse range among the small sample of Scheduled Caste girls. On the other hand, comparisons were drawn with Scheduled Caste boys. When it came to the girls, the social capital of the family and their own conceptions of merit and competition translated into a certain class advantage compared to the boys in the sample. With some variation, Scheduled Caste girls were from socio-economically better off families and gave the researcher to understand that they were protected, cared for, and well equipped to deal with the structural forces of

caste, class and gender in their everyday social interactions in school and other significant spaces. Class status was identified in terms of family mobility in education, occupation, residing in a heterogeneous locality, and working in socially recognized white collar occupations. In comparison, Scheduled Caste boys did not possess many of these markers of class and social capital. However, they were still able to gain entry into prominent colleges of Delhi University. This being a small sample due to the difficulty in finding young people willing to be part of the project, no generalisations are possible. Nonetheless this study offers a glimpse into how gender differences may in turn pivot on differences of class when it comes to access to higher education among Scheduled Caste youth where the university is highly regarded and the subject of choice is the sciences.

**Mothers' Negotiating for Daughters' (Higher) Education:  
Studying the Intersection of Caste, Class and Gender in the  
Balmiki Community' (supported by CWDS-ICSSR)**

■■■■■ Project Director – Vandana

This study has broadly focused upon exploring and analyzing the critical role mothers from the Balmiki community have played in their daughters' journey into higher education. The study has also aimed at critically engaging with the discourse around motherhood in India with respect to Dalit women in terms of analyzing their roles, perceptions, subjective experiences and agency. Work on this project that was initiated in 2018 was interrupted and also had its share of challenges in finding respondents. This was made more difficult due to the pandemic when any access to possible respondents was no longer possible. The study has been resumed and is expected to be completed in the coming year.

**Researching into Aspects of SC/ST/Equal Opportunity Cells  
(supported by CWDS-ICSSR)**

■■■■■ Coordinators: Vandana and Mary E John

In response to ongoing discussions in the Centre over the value of having an anti-discrimination Cell at the Centre, a small project was initiated in early 2021 to examine existing rules and collect relevant materials on the subject. The assistance of Advocate Disha Wadekar was sought, who has extensive experience on the legal aspects. Through a series of online meetings, relevant materials were collected

and discussed under the following broad heads: Rules and regulations of a Cell; Grievance redressal mechanisms; Sensitisation and other activities of the Cell. In the absence of any detailed guidelines for SC/ST cells, best practices were taken from anti Sexual Harassment guidelines, anti-ragging rules and so on. It was further proposed that the scope of such a Cell be broadened to include all the categories that currently are reserved categories at the Centre – SC, ST and OBC, and furthermore that in order to make it as inclusive as possible the concept of an Equal Opportunity Cell be included. A range of materials have been collected and the final report is under preparation.

### **From Memory to History (Funded by CWDS)**

■ ■ ■ ■ ■ Project Team - Indu Agnihotri, Sanghamitra Jana Chatterjee, Madhu Shri Pandeya, Akhlak Ahmed

An oral history series with the name “From Memory to History”, has been initiated to generate resources related to women’s status, education and social change. Under this initiative, activists, educationalists, and experts on women’s issues have been invited to share their long engagement and experiences in an interview which are then getting documented and preserved in the library. These interviews will be made available to the users of CWDS Library for research and scholarly purposes.



## **SHORT PROJECTS FUNDED BY CWDS**

### **School Management Committees: Making of Educational Policy in Delhi**

■■■■■ Principal Investigator – Anshu Singh

This study looks into certain aspects of educational policy at the school level in the contemporary context. The traditional spaces of policy making are now also populated by consultants at national and international levels. Hired on contract by the government, these policy practitioners are deemed essential at every step of policy making including its review, assessment, and analysis. The Delhi Government hires policy professionals through its Chief Minister's Urban Leader Fellowship every year. These fellows have worked closely with the government and the bureaucracy to develop various aspects of the Delhi government's education policy for the national Capital. In this project seven policy professionals have been interviewed in relation to their role in developing the 'School Management Committee' policy of the Delhi government. These policy fellows do not have any formal profile within the government nor well defined work related duties. Nevertheless, they have worked closely with the ministers, bureaucrats and private organisations in shaping the current state of the SMC policy in Delhi. The study contributes to understanding the domain of policy consultancy in policy making in India. A draft of the study has been finalized.

### **An Analysis of the Online Experience of Graduate Students in their Respective Classrooms: A comparative Study of Kashmir and Mumbai**

■■■■■ Principal Investigator – Anshu Singh

The project proposal is in its incipient phase. It intends to understand the online classroom experiences of students in undergraduate programmes in the central universities of Kashmir and Mumbai. The two cities have been chosen due to their varied socio-political conditions during the lockdown over the last year into the present. In the preparatory phase a literature review is being undertaken in order to understand the scope of online education in undergraduate classrooms.

## **Minor Forest Produce & Livelihood in Bankura: A Gender Analysis**

■■■■■ Principal Investigator – Bhaswati Thakurta

This study explores the role of Minor Forest Produce (MFP) dependent livelihood generation through a gender lens. The study selected four MFPs (Mahua, Myrobalan, Kendu leaves and Bel) for this study in three villages in the southern forest division of Bankura, West Bengal. The value chain of these products has been observed from the lower strata to the city level market. In the case of Mahua, the study extends to Jharkhand to follow the value chain since West Bengal has no market for Mahua. The Pilot study took place in June 2019 and the subsequent field study was conducted in November 2019. The tribal women are mostly involved in the gathering of MFPs, but with minimum gain. This study concentrated on exposing this situation in order to expand knowledge about women's effort in collecting these forest products, their level of earnings and so on. Including the seasonal dimension. The socio-cultural significance of MFP must also be emphasized given the social significance these products enjoy in the lives of women from tribal backgrounds, apart from earning money from it. Further field work on the project was hampered by the pandemic and analysis of existing data is underway.

## **Women Negotiating Space & Work: A Study on Quasi-Live-In Domestic Workers in Lutyens Delhi**

■■■■■ Principal Investigator: Dimple Tresa Abraham

The study looked into the everyday lives and negotiations of domestic workers who barter work for obtaining family housing within government quarters. The women are referred to as the 'quasi-live-ins' as they are heterogeneous with respect to both live-in and live-out domestic workers, but also share some commonalities. The research is important for two reasons. One, while domestic work has grown since the last few decades and numerous studies on various dimensions of this work with respect to both live-in and live-out workers have been undertaken, certain categories remain hidden, whether due to their location or their relatively small numbers. Second, these workers occupy a region that may be placed within the paid-unpaid continuum, but share common features of all domestic workers - long hours of work and their vulnerability to exploitation. Another element that marks them is their inability to demand wages for work, leave, justiciable working conditions and even the freedom to negotiate or decline any new work other than what has been initially agreed upon, as they live in constant fear of eviction.

The research followed mixed methods for data collection through interviews and focus group discussions. Detailed interviews were conducted with 19 women domestic workers who reside in the family servant quarters (SQ) of a Lutyen Delhi zone government-housing colony. The quasi-live-ins were found to be either first or second generation migrants, who had opted for such work-in-lieu of housing. Their access to area were primarily through social networks, and negotiations, earnings, challenges, work and exit conditions were also uniquely different. Gendered responsibilities were evident with the women managing ‘homes’, both of employers and their own, and intermingling of household care responsibilities also seemed to partly explain acceptance of work conditions, particularly low wages. The study has brought out complexities of a relatively unexplored area in domestic work and worker housing arrangements in the capital city. The singular focus on obtaining housing in the city of Delhi obliterated the question of cash wages and the need for leave and leisure. The limited availability of such housing led to the unequal valuation of women’s labour, leading to the acceptance of zero to very low wage payments for long hours of work, which otherwise would have received substantially higher wages in the city. Limitations with respect to bargaining because of the inherent fear of losing their homes as well as the non-availability of affordable housing for low income families also led to such bartering arrangements as a mode of survival. A draft of the study has been finalised.

### **Women’s Collectives in Agriculture – A Review across Select Countries in South Asia**

■■■■■ Principal Investigator: Dimple Tresa Abraham

This study is in the initial proposal stage. It aims to look at women’s collectives in agriculture across select countries of South Asia through a comprehensive review of published works. It is well accepted that as South Asian economies develop, men are increasingly moving out of agriculture and rural areas, leaving behind women responsible for farming and agriculture work. Across many South Asian countries, whether Bangladesh, India, Nepal or Sri Lanka, the share of women working in agriculture has progressively increased during recent decades. The study will examine published research reports, working papers and data available across institutions to understand how women’s participation has changed over the years. The study will carry out a meta-analysis of published work, and available data with respect to collectives across the select countries. The study will also examine gender specific policies initiated by government and support provided by both government and nongovernmental entities.

## **Education is the Recipe for all Ailments**

■■■■■ Principal Investigator – Gayatri Panda

The study is concerned with a number of questions on the role and importance of schooling, the trajectories of the state's role in relation to one of the oldest though unfulfilled promises to provide free and inclusive elementary education in India. This is the context for examining the upsurge of schools with their differentiated target populations. Citizens' fundamental right to education is an issue which requires continuous, critical engagement in the context of the schooling experience of children who come from diverse societal backgrounds. This study is in the nature of a review exercise of the existing literature since the earlier proposal to an empirical field based study could not materialise under the COVID health emergency and lockdown. Hence it was decided to undertake research drawing on secondary resources. Studies, both conceptual and empirical are being collected, with a special focus on what are called "first generation learners". In order for an inclusive and universal elementary education to be realisable in practice, the question of such learners is critical. In this study it will be examined as to how far the existing literature is cognisant of the nature of the challenge and what responsibility is to be carried by schooling in realising this pledge.

## **North East Migrant Women in Service Sectors: Evidence from Manipuri women in Delhi and NCR regions**

■■■■■ Principal Investigator - Khundongbam Gyanabati Devi

Discussions and debates on female migration from North East India and their problems have been going on for quite some time and have reached national wide attention, without however being matched by research. It is particularly unfortunate that studies on young female migrants are very limited. Many of these young women are unmarried, educated to the level of higher education, which is a rare phenomenon in north India. The present study is an exploration of some of the unique aspects of out-migration of North-east women with special reference to Manipuri women migrants working in private hospitals and clinics, retail stores and call centres in Delhi and the NCR. The study aims to collect information about the social demographic characteristics of the women, their working conditions along with exploring their experiences and vulnerabilities in their place of work. Based on a review of the relevant background literature, a working paper titled 'Understanding Northeast Women Working in Service Sectors in Metropolitan

Cities: Reviewing the Story so far' has been developed, and a field-based study is ongoing with a pre-tested set of questions. The latter has been interrupted by the pandemic and lockdown.

### **Study on the Impact of COVID 19 on Maternal Health in small towns of Manipur**

■■■■■ Principal Investigator - Khundongbam Gyanabati Devi

This study is in the proposal stage. It seeks to explore the impact of COVID 19 on women's maternal health in small towns of Manipur, where health services are lacking and social stigma and community norms are strong. Due to the pandemic, women worldwide are facing more barriers in accessing maternal health care, due to various factors including transport challenges, and restrictions and limitation on the provision of health services. Many women did not to seek healthcare or were reluctant to visit health centres due to the fear of being infected with the virus. Additionally, movement restrictions have made it difficult for many pregnant women to reach health care facilities on time. As a result, a considerable rise in maternal mortality globally has been reported during this pandemic. This study would be examining the comparable situation in the select urban locations in Manipur, once the conditions for conducting such a study permit this.

### **Gender Resource Centre Closure and Effects on Women: An Exploratory Study in Delhi**

■■■■■ Principal Investigator – Nayantara Singh

This study explores the present situation of Women after the closure of the Gender Resource Centres (GRC) that were being run under the Delhi government prior to 2014. This a study of the after effects of a programme on the women who were its beneficiaries. It would explore how they have been affected after the closure, in relation to a range of aspects – livelihood and job status, present sources of financial assistance, the management of household expenditures, and so on. This study will include interactions with select staff of GRCs and erstwhile beneficiaries, NGOs that were active in the implementation of the GRC programmes and trainings, and possible contacts within the Department of Women and Child Development (Govt. of NCT of Delhi).

## **Compilation of Chand Volumes**

■ ■ ■ ■ ■ Editorial Team Member and Researcher – Vijay Kumar Jha

Vijay Kumar Jha has been an editorial member of a CWDS project on collecting essays published in the Hindi magazine Chand (1922-1931). The focus of the first volume was on child marriage and widowhood and the second on women's education. This work has been completed and the two volumes have been published by Nayi Kitab Publications. These volumes are now the basis of a new project that is in its preparatory phase – a monograph on these women's writings.

# Action Research

The Action Research Programme in West Bengal has completed four decades. As has already been shared in last year's Annual General Body Meeting of the Centre, the Executive Committee in its 156<sup>th</sup> Meeting in October 2020 took the decision to close all the action research project offices in West Bengal. This decision comes as a consequence of discussions over the last few years in relation to the lack of any systematic research programme in West Bengal. The partnership/collaboration with the women's organisations would continue through a sensitive and careful reworking of the relationship. The staff members working in the field were informed of the decision and that they would be given time to join the head office. The field staff joined the head office in April 2021.

The year 2020-21 has therefore been one of transition. It is most unfortunate that this has also been the year of the pandemic, the end of which is not in sight. Field visits from Delhi were not possible under covid restrictions and the processes of communication were carried out online and telephonically. Reporting below has been undertaken in two parts. The first part is indicative of the ongoing work that was undertaken under severe covid restrictions during the last year. The second part relates to processes of closure of the field offices.

## **Partnership with Peasant Women (and Men) in parts of Bankura and Purulia Districts, West Bengal**

■ ■ ■ ■ ■ Team : Meghnad Desmukh, Swapan Chowdhury, Representative of Nari  
Bikash Sangha (NBS) Mahila Samitis (MS) & SGSY Groups

This year CWDS' engagement and partnership with peasant women (and men) completed 40 years in Bankura and Purulia District of west Bengal. The present network of CWDS/ NBS consists of 34 Gramin Mahila Sramik Unnayan Samitis, 14 Producer groups, One Producer Collective viz Khatra Tasar Bikash Sangha (KTBS) and 49 women SHGs.

### **PART – I**

#### **CWDS and Integrated Tribal Development Project through Tasar culture under Tribal Sub – Plan (TSP):**

The Project was set for completion under a no cost extension by 31<sup>st</sup> March 2020. But due to the Covid-19 situation normal activities were hampered at the end of the completion year. Therefore, CWDS undertook the following activities in the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of 2020-21.

- (a) One refresher training for 39 Reelers with Buniyaad Reeling machine was completed. The Central Silk Board provided an expert for training. Trained Reelers received machines under the Central sector scheme with 10% (ST/ SC) and 25% (Gen) Beneficiary Share.
- (b) Two meetings with the Khatra Tasar Bikash Sangha (a producer collective formed under the project) was organised in the presence of district officials of Sericulture. The sangha was informed about its role in post project activities.
- (c) Printing of literature on Tasar Culture in three languages (Bengali, English and Santali) was completed. This has been sent to the concerned offices.
- (d) One Audio – Visual documentation of the project work completed. This has been handed over to the Project Mission Director.
- (e) Expenditure wise beneficiary list sent to the Mission Director for onward transmission to the commissioner, Directorate of Sericulture.



**Tasar Culture:**

**Maintenance Support received from DOS** - This year 9 Samitis received fertilizer inputs (Vermicompost – 7180 kg, NKP 2900 Kg and Urea – 1750 kg) and 4 Samitis received Rearing equipments (viz each Samitis received Plastic tray – 2Nos, Lime – 25kg, Basket – 1No, Turpolin – 1No, Bleaching Powder – 500 gm, Rogor – 250 ml, Ladder – 1 No and Jeebane Sudha – 10pkts) from Department of Sericulture.

**Tasar Cocoon Production:**

- a) **First crop rearing (TV):** During TV 1<sup>st</sup> crop rearing one samiti brushed 500 DFLs received from BSM and TC patel nagar and produced 2500 seed cocoons. Rearing was hampered due to bad weather and an acute attack of wasp predators.
- b) **Second Crop Rearing (TV):** During TV 2<sup>nd</sup> crop rearing 3 samiti brushed 4000 DFLs received from Department of Sericulture and produced 5080 Seed cocoons. The second crop rearing was hampered due to acute virosis at the 5<sup>th</sup> stage of larvae and wasp attacks.
- c) **Third Crop Rearing(TV):** During TV-3<sup>rd</sup> crop rearing Eight Samiti brushed 9850 DFLs received from BSM and TC patelnagar, Central silk Board, and Research Extension Unit (REU) , Taldangra, DOS – grainage and produced 343122 commercial cocoons. The entire produce was sold to the khadi society and private traders. During 3<sup>rd</sup> crop rearing 7686 person days of employment were generated.
- d) **Second Crop Rearing (BV):** During BV 2<sup>nd</sup> Crop rearing two Samiti brushed 900 DFLs received from BSM and TC Patelnagar and produced 5040 cocoons. Rearing hampered due to acute virosis in the 5<sup>th</sup> stage of Larvae. Entire produced was sold to the private traders.
- e) **Preservation of Cocoons:** One Samiti have preserved 12800 cocoons in Basic Seed production unit for production of Basic Seed for the next year crop Season.

**Post Cocoon Activities:**

Thirty three Reelers have started Tasar reeling activities with Buniyaad Reeling machines in the newly constructed Reeling spanning shed constructed under the TSP project. Reelers have procured reelable tasar cocoons with the help of corpus fund received under the TSP Project.

### **Income Generating and other Activities:**

- (a) Three producer groups have started Tasar Reeling and Spinning activities.
- (b) **Broiler Farming-** Without prior intimation Arambagh's. Hatcheries Ltd. stopped the supply of chicks. One Samiti and two SHGs were able to make a new tie-up with Shalimar company and have started rearing local variety chicks. One group has started rearing with ETERNAL AGRO, Bankura.

**Child Care Centre (Crèches) and village Libraries** - All Crèches and libraries have remained closed due to the pandemic. Crèche mothers are providing supplementary nutrition to the children through their mothers in a schedule date each month. Librarians are providing daily newspaper to the readers through the libraries.

### **Meeting /Visits:**

- a) Three NBS EC Meetings, Seventeen Samiti Meetings, One meeting with the crèche mothers and Seven Virtual Meetings with the Head office were held during this year.
- b) The Block Development officer (BDO) Raniband, CSB and DOS officials visited selected Tasar fields, Reeling/spinning sheds in khatra block.

### **CWDS' engagement with Barsole Mahila Sarbik Bikash Sangha (BMSBS) in Parts of Jhargram, Paschim Medinipur district, West Bengal**

■ ■ ■ ■ ■ Team: Meghnad Desmukh, Shanti Pal and Dipali Mahato

**Tasar culture:** Maintenance of Tasar host plants such as pruning application of fertilizer input and plant protection was completed in 4 Samitis. The state department of sericulture provided rupees 67925.00 as maintenance grant to the four Samitis.

**Tasar rearing: Second crop rearing (TV)-** During TV second crop rearing one Samiti brushed 500 DFLs received from DOS and have produced 6300 seed cocoons and sold to the DOS for rupees 17640/- .

**Third crop rearing (TV)-** During TV third crop rearing two Samiti brushed 1200 DFLs received from DOS and produced 21920 cocoon and earned rupees 22170.00.

Entire cocoon sold to the private traders. During 3<sup>rd</sup> crop rearing 920 person days of employment were generated.

**Second crop rearing (BV):** During BV second crop rearing 6 Samiti brushed 2700 DFLs received from DOS and produce 5680 cocoons and have earned rupees 10280.00. Entire produced was sold to the Private Traders. Rearing hampered due to acute virosis in 5th stage of larvae.

**Vermicompost Production** - Seven samiti produced 41 quintal vermicompost in their own production sheds. Total stock including last year was 55.6 quintals. 280 kg were sold to local farmers @ rupees 12 per kg., 24 quintal sold to the Nari Bikash Sangha @ rupees 8 per kg. Through vermicomposting seven samiti earned rupees 22800.00. 23 quintal compost were used by samiti members themselves for their own vegetable cultivation. There was 5.8 quintal stock in seven samiti.

**Loan Programme** - This year an amount of rupees 38810.00 was received from eight samiti as loan refund. Rupees 2400.00 were disbursed to one samiti member. With this financial support samiti members were engaged in various type of income generating activities.

**Vegetable and Babui cultivation** - This year 13 kg oil seeds were supplied to 21 members of seven samitis. Kalindipara samiti harvested 70 kg babui grass from their existing plantation. Samiti has extended its plantation on an area of 10 kathas.

- a) Present fund position of Samitis and BMSBS Balance in 12 samiti bank account Rs. 74814.00
- b) Fixed deposit of 9 samiti Rs. 169008.00
- c) Balance of BMSBS Savings Account Rs.4533.00

### **Meeting visit**

One AGM and two BMSBS meetings were held, one Reen Tahabil committee meeting, twenty eight samiti meetings were held in this year. CSB and DOS officials visited selected tasar rearing fields.

### **Other activities**

- a) Liaison has been established with the BCKV Forest Department & DOS regarding sale of vermicompost.
- b) Liaison has made with the Department of Agriculture regarding supply of vegetable seed.
- c) Two samiti have submitted application to the DOS for cutting of cattle trench all around its Tasar plantation.

## **PART – II**

### **Closure of CWDS Field offices in West Bengal**

The closing of the CWDS offices in Bankura and Medinipur was undertaken through an ongoing process of interaction with all the field staff and with women representatives from both organisations.

The Acting Director of CWDS informed the field staff about the closure decision of the Executive committee while planning to continue the partnership with women's organisations in future. This was shared in meetings with the parichalan Mandali of NBS and with BMSBS by the CWDS field staff. NBS executive committee members sent request letters to the CWDS for the continuation of the programme. A series of meetings were held with the Chairperson and Acting Director of CWDS and the field staff, as well as with executive committee members of the women's organisations through virtual meetings, discussing the nature of the decision taken and this was accepted. Meetings were also held by the CWDS field staff with the creche mothers in the presence of NBS representatives looking for alternative modes of support from NBS and the local community.

CWDS field staff carried out detailed inventories of the assets being held in all the offices in both districts, and all relevant follow up action was undertaken regarding office rental and maintenance agreements. Rental and related agreements were concluded by March 2021 in all the offices. All files and some equipment were brought to the head office on April 1<sup>st</sup> 2021. Other items including the jeep and motorcycle, furniture, office equipment, kitchen and related items have been donated to the women's organisations in Bankura, Jhargram and Jhilimili. These have been listed in full detail and handed over officially.

Further to the process of transition, letters from the Acting Director to various major officials were handed over intimating them of the decision to close the CWDS offices and looking to them for further support in the work of the women's organisations. These included the following:

- a) Block Development Officer (BDO) Ranibandh Community Development Block, Ranibandh, Bankura.
- b) Scientist – D, Basic Seed Multiplication and Training Centre (BSM & TC) Central Silk Board (CSB), Patelnagar, Birbhum district, West Bengal.
- c) Deputy director of Sericulture. (Tasar) Bankura District, West Bengal.



Refresher training of Reeling



Sorting of harvested cocoons



Transfer of Larvae



Meeting with the Producer Collective



Officials receiving CWDS Field office (Bankura & Medinipur) closure letters and request for ongoing support to women's groups



## Teaching Women's Studies

CWDS has been engaged in the teaching of Women's Studies since the 1990s. The Centre's engagement with Women's Studies was advanced through a collaborative teaching programme initiated in 2013 with Ambedkar University (AUD), Delhi and an MPhil/PhD programme in women's and gender studies was launched on a collaborative basis through the signing of an MoU between the two institutions. After several fruitful years of mutual learning and engagement, the collaboration was ended with effect from the academic year 2020-21. The collaboration continues for all the research students that had joined on or prior to 2019-2020. As with all our other activities, teaching, student presentations and mentoring of students were severely hampered by the onset of the pandemic and lockdown. All interactions are now undertaken online. Students suffered the increased vicissitudes of the imposition of isolation in a context where research work is often a lonely enterprise. Field based research had to be brought to an abrupt halt and reconceptualised. The library which had been a constant centre of work for many of our students could no longer be availed of. In spite of so much hardship, it was nonetheless possible to mentor our students, who found ways to adapt their research work, with several bringing their theses to a successful conclusion.

## **AUD-CWDS Women's and Gender Studies M.Phil-PhD Programme**

### **List of Completed M.Phil Dissertations during 2020-21**

1. **Abhishek**, Disability and Masculinity: Glimpses into disabled men across disabilities.
2. **Chitra Anand**: Gender and Caste through the Prism of Working Lives: A Case Study of Dalit Women in Rewari, Haryana.
3. **Mansa**: Mapping Gender and Space in Nihal Vihar – Plotting Women's Lives in a Delhi Neighbourhood.
4. **Megha Rani**, Young Women, Caste and Higher Education: Exploring the Experiences of Young OBC Women in Higher Education.
5. **Priyanka Nirwan**: Gender (in) Equality and the Environmental Classrooms.
6. **Rohini Tyagi**: Drawn and Withdrawn: An Inquiry into the Work of Women 'Waste-Pickers' in Delhi.
7. **Soumya Johri**: Courting Arrests: A Fragmented History of 'Self-fashioning' by Women Politicals During the Indian Nationalist Movement.
8. **Suparna Majumdar**: Marriages are not made in heaven: Conceptualising the aftermath of marital breakdown.

*Coordinators: Dr. Seema Kazi, Dr. Bijoya Roy.*

### **ICSSR Institutional Doctoral Fellowships in Women's Studies (2020-21)**

Since 2013, CWDS has been inviting applications and administering the ICSSR Institutional Doctoral Fellowships in Women's Studies. Since its inception a total of 30 fellowships have been disbursed. Fourteen fellows out of the 30 were from the CWDS-AUD Collaborative Research Programme in Women and Gender Studies while sixteen scholars were from other universities.

In the year 2020-21 the ICSSR suspended the fellowship programme citing financial constraints. Two batches of students from 2018-2020 and 2019-2021 are currently fellowship holders.

*The Fellowship programme is coordinated by Dr. Seema Kazi.*



## **Interns and Scholars affiliated to CWDS**

Ms. Ria Goyal, Masters in Development Studies, from Ambedkar University, New Delhi, worked on the project titled “Review of Select Literature on Social Reproduction and Domestic Workers in the context of the Pandemic” under the guidance of Dr. Neetha N. from 1 June 2020 to 15 July 2020.

Ms. Nitika Sharma, MA in Development Studies, from Ambedkar University, New Delhi worked on the topic “Impact of Covid-19 on Women accessing ICDS and National Creches Scheme (NCS)” under the guidance of Ms. Savitri Ray from 1 June, 2020 to 22 July, 2020.

Ms. Ruth L.R. Pachau, Masters in Development Studies, from AUD, New Delhi worked on the project “Experience of Frontline Health Workers during Covid 19” under the guidance of Dr. Bijoya Roy from 26<sup>th</sup> May 2020 to 11 July, 2020.

Ms. Trishna Saikia, MA in Development Studies, from AUD, New Delhi worked on a theme “Conflict and Development Issues from a Gender Perspective” under the guidance of Dr. Seema Kazi from 1 June 2020 to 1 July 2020.

Ms. Navya Jain, Masters in Development Studies, from Ambedkar University, New Delhi, worked under the guidance of Ms. Indrani Mazumdar from 1 June 2020 to 15 July 2020.

## Policy Perspectives' / Advocacy and Networking

Engagement with policy makers and networking with like-minded institutions, both academic and women's/ social organisations have been an important part of CWDS activities over the last four decades. The work of FORCES was taken forward during the last year and is now under replanning. The CWDS continues to house the financial office of the LAWS.

## **CWDS- FORCES Network**

■■■■■ Coordinator - Savitri Ray

Summary report prepared in Hindi & English for FORCES State members on the “Implementation of the NCS and its Impact on Women”. The report will be used for evidence based advocacy.

### **National Campaign on Quality Child care**

The ongoing pandemic has also affected campaigns at the state level. Regional workshops in Uttar Pradesh and the state level meeting in Delhi were postponed. These workshops/meetings were planned in collaboration with the Save the children.

Steering committee meetings were organised to discuss strategies and the committee members also prepared a document guide for Quality Day care centres.

Virtual meetings held:

- 12<sup>th</sup> March 2021
- 11<sup>th</sup> January 2021
- 27<sup>th</sup> October 2020
- 18<sup>th</sup> September 2020
- 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2020

## **Indian Association for Women’s Studies (IAWS)**

The financial office of IAWS continued to be housed in CWDS in 2020-21, for which CWDS has been providing institutional support. Indrani Mazumdar was the out going General Secretary and concluded her term as ex-officio member of the Executive Committee Member of IAWS. Under a newly elected IAWS EC, CWDS and the current IAWS are in communication over a nominee from the side of CWDS to be an ex-officio member of the Finance Committee of the IAWS.

In collaboration with the IAWS the Vina Mazumdar Memorial Fund of CWDS had announced the VMMF-IAWS Young Scholars’ Award for a published essay in the broad field of gender studies at the time of last IAWS National Conference in January 2020. The process of receiving applications, setting up a jury and making the awards was undertaken during the last year. Since there was a gap year in 2018 in terms of activities of the VMMF, two candidates were given the award of Rs 20,000.

- 1) Madhavi Jha for the paper titled “Men diggers and Women Carriers”: Gendered Work on Famine Public Works in Colonial North India” published in *International Review of Social History (IRSH)*, 2019
- 2) Dixita Deka for the paper titled “Between Underground and Over ground: Narratives on the Identity of Women Insurgents in Assam” published in *Asian Ethnicity*, March 2019.

The announcement along with abstracts of the papers were put up on the websites of the IAWS and the CWDS.

# Library and Information Services

Vina Mazumdar Memorial Library (VMML) named after Late Prof. Vina Mazumdar, is an integral part of the Centre. Set up in 1980 when CWDS was established, the library has provided solid research support to faculties, researchers, scholars, activists, students and others from all over India and overseas. It has a rich collection of research materials related to gender and women studies. It has been located at YWCA building on Ashoka Road, New Delhi since 2018. The library provides commendable information services that meet expressed and anticipated needs of the scholars, especially through innovative technological means.

This was an unprecedented year for the library in that it had to be closed to outside users. Under the restricted lockdown and with a strict roster protocol, library staff have intermittently, based on Delhi government guidelines, been attended to their work. The use of online resources has gained heightened importance under these conditions.

## **Ongoing Activities**

### **Digital Archive on Women's Studies**

VMML is in the process of creating a digital archive and has digitized over 3,500 grey literature. These resources are in the form of conference papers/ proceedings, reports, monographs, memorandums, institutional papers, press releases, posters, audio-visuals etc. The digital archive will restore and preserve these valuable resources for a longer period enhancing the access of these resources by a much larger audience. The Archival database has been created in DSpace (Open source Repository Software).

### **Creating a Knowledge Gateway on Women's Studies in South Asia**

VMML is creating a portal on Women's Studies in South Asia region. An important part of work for this activity is to generate resources/contents for the portal. Over 1000+ full text documents from institutional and individual resources have been identified, which are focused on the South Asian region in form of Reports, Monographs, Institutional Papers, Research Articles, Acts/ Bills, News items etc. on women's studies and related issues. Another goal of the portal is to assist women's studies scholars to understand the trend and directions of ongoing research activities in the related field and also to avoid duplication of research. To achieve that purpose the portal is going to host a database of titles of ongoing Master, M.Phil and Ph.D dissertations/theses with names of students and supervisors along with their universities name. Data of PhD theses for all relevant Indian institutes have already been populated in the database. This database will be available through the Knowledge Gateway.

### **Collection Development**

Collection Development has always focused on the collection of literature on women's studies in the form of mimeo papers, articles, books, annotated bibliographies, statistics, theses, dissertations, occasional papers, conference documents, reports, newspaper clippings, policy documents, audio-visuals and other electronic information resources which are purchased or received on complimentary basis. Special attention is given to collect unpublished materials through its institutional channels in India and abroad. The thrust areas for the collection during 2020-21 continued to be Early and Child Marriage, Sexuality,

Disabilities and Violence Against Women, Marginalised Castes, Women's Health, Feminism, Women's Employment, Migration, Women's Status, Women-Literature, Women-Biographies, Women's Law and Violence against Women and Resources in Hindi etc.

## New Additions

Collections which have been added to the Library in 2020-21 are:

- A total of **1,308** articles from journals and newspapers were added during April 2020-March 2021. Full-text newspaper articles were downloaded/ digitized and added to e-collection.
- A total of **211** books, monographs, reports, conference documents were also added to the library collection during the period.
- The Library subscribed **36** Indian journals and received **40** complimentary journals/ newsletter (Indian/International) and also received **6** journals on exchange basis against IJGS.

## Stock Verification

Stock Verification is a physical verification of library books and documents and is considered an essential part of the library process. Stock verification in the library was initiated in the financial year 2020-21, for the fourth time in the history of the CWDS library, having been done last 10 years ago. While doing the physical inspection of library materials, all Accession Numbers are cross tallied with corresponding Master File Numbers (MFN) and Call Numbers.

## Information Services

The Library has been providing a number of information services on a regular basis to facilitate the dissemination of its resources. Highlights of our information services are:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● OPAC – Online Public Access Catalogue</li> <li>● Current Awareness Bulletin (Bi- monthly)</li> <li>● Reference and Referral</li> <li>● Database Search including full-text</li> <li>● Inter-Library Loan</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Web-Bibliographies</li> <li>● BOL – An Electronic Discussion List on Gender Issues in South Asia</li> <li>● Reading Room Services</li> <li>● Photocopying and Printouts</li> </ul>
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### **Current Awareness Bulletin (Bi-Monthly)**

Since 1984, the Library has been regularly bringing out “Current Awareness Bulletin” a bi-monthly publication for users with current information in the field of women’s studies appearing in the form of books, conference documents and reports, periodical articles and newspapers items that have been added to the library collection. During this financial year a total 5 issues of CAB have been brought out and is available for download in PDF format at: <https://www.cwds.ac.in/information-services/current-awareness-bulletin>.

### **Bol: An Electronic Discussion List on Gender Issues in South Asia**

VMML is moderating BOL since 2000. Currently it has 1180 members from 40 different countries.

### **Preparation of Materials relating to Women’s Studies in Hindi**

The brief details of the progress made in this year under Hindi work, along with ongoing compilation are as follows:

- a) Over 226 articles from Journals/Periodicals and Newspapers have been added in the Koha Database in the Library (CWDS) during 2020-21.
- b) The subject-wise classification of documents related to Dalit women given by Rajni Tilak has been completed.
- c) About 30 books in Hindi were purchased in the library during 2020-21.
- d) Material published in Hindi is also being included in the current awareness bulletin compiled by the library.



## Seminars/Workshops/ Conferences/Dialogues

Organising seminars, workshops and conferences is an important way to interact with a larger pool of researchers, students, activists and policy makers providing newer directions to our work. Over the last year all such events were carried out online.

Our desire to celebrate 40 years of CWDS took the form of a distinguished lecture series that began in September 2020 and concluded in May 2021. (The lectures of Prof Jennifer C. Nash and Barbara Harris-White will be reported next year.) One of the advantages of living in an online mode is that we were not restricted in terms of geographical location in the invitations to scholars. Whether from Delhi, other parts of India or from across the globe scholars responded positively to our requests.

## **Distinguished Lecture Series Celebrating 40 Years of CWDS during 2020-21**

### **❖ Bodies that Matter: Towards a Feminist Approach to Data Governance by Anja Kovacs , 24 February 2021**

This lecture described how dominant discourses tend to construct data as a resource of some sort, as a thing that is somehow out there and therefore up for grabs. However, in practice the line between physical bodies and virtual bodies is increasingly becoming irrelevant. Data, then, is not so much a resource that is simply out there, but an extension of our bodies, even a part of it. And so the question arises: from data colonialism to seeking consent, how does bringing our now reconstituted bodies back into the picture reframe our approach to data governance?

Anja Kovacs is the Director of the Internet Democracy Project in Delhi, which works towards realising feminist visions of the digital in society by exploring and addressing power imbalances in the areas of norms, governance and infrastructure in India and beyond. She has also conducted extensive research on the architecture of Internet governance. She is currently a CyberBRICS Non-Resident Fellow at the Fundação Getulio Vargas (FGV), Rio de Janeiro.

### **❖ Disability Matters? Nationalist Imaginaries, Economic Crises, and the Impact of a Pandemic by Janet Price, 12 January, 2021.**

This presentation drew upon feminist and disability theories of embodiment, affect and nationalism to offer a preliminary reading of the COVID 19 pandemic. Within India and UK recent albeit contrasting experiences of populism have seen individual and national appeals to the ideal of home reinvigorating the turn to securing domestic boundaries, often against misread threats. As the COVID pandemic weaves through populations, cultural imaginaries call upon able and crip nationalisms as a route to conquering ever-rising danger levels – biological, economic, and environmental. With the future marked by anxiety amid moves to control populations, the multiplier effect of COVID19 upon pre-existing inequalities draws concepts of debility, disability and slow death into new configurations. Policies for ‘prevention’ impact with often eugenic effect upon the most vulnerable groups. Resistance and hope have emerged in the face of fear as disability organisations have used the power of art to educate, expose and act-back against the death and violence their community experience.

Janet Price is an Honorary Research Fellow at Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine UK and a Disability Activist and Scholar. She co-edited *Disability and Sexuality: Claiming Sexual and Reproductive Rights* (2017) SRHM with Renu Addlakha and Shirin Heidari, and has co-edited, with Margrit Shildrick, *Feminist Theory and the Body: A Reader* and *Vital Signs: Feminist Reconfigurations of the Bio/logical Body*.

❖ **Can there be a progressive feminist Bharathanatyam? Class, Caste, and Representation by Nrithya Pillai, 26 November 2020.**

Nrithya Pillai's lecture demonstration, interspersed with video clips of some her performances, described how Bharathanatyam is mired in a problematic past. Beginning in the 1930s, it was reinvented as a nationalist project at the hands of upper-caste elites, and the contours of that reinvention still have implications and resonances today. The key pillars of the "new" Bharathanatyam included the engineered exclusion of hereditary women practitioners, as well as reimagined, highly Sanskritized, and deeply gendered aesthetics and technique. Moreover, these were couched in the idea of dance as a "spiritual pursuit" for upper-caste (or aspirationally upper-caste) amateur practitioners, unlike the professional practice it was for its original performers. Reimagined Bharathanatyam continues to embody all of these problems. Can there be a progressive feminist Bharathanatyam that can be practiced across the barriers of caste, class, and gender?

Nrithya Pillai is a dancer, dance composer, singer, writer, speaker, and dance instructor who proudly claims her nattuvanar-devadasi lineage, and is based in Chennai. Following the legacy of her maternal grandfather Swamimalai Rajarathnam Pillai, she consciously preserves and reanimates the rich repertoire and the teaching and choreographic practices of her celebrated ancestors, who include V. Meenakshisundaram Pillai, T.K Swaminatha Pillai and Padmashri Vazhuvoor B. Ramiah Pillai.

❖ **Health Public Private Partnerships through Global Finance: A Feminist Analysis by Crystal Simeoni, 28 October 2020.**

Crystal Simeoni spoke in relation to the World Bank's Maximising Finance for Development approach, which has been implemented by the WBG since 2017. It builds on previous strategies and represents a systematic and comprehensive effort to promote private sector development. The approach seeks to place the private sector at the heart of development, including in public service provision. In this

session, Crystal gave an introduction to what that has meant for Africa, using the case of Kenya and Healthcare.

Crystal Simeoni is the Director, NAWI, the Afrifem Macroeconomics Collective based in Nairobi, Kenya. She has many years' experience working on macro level inequalities. She currently works on women's rights and macroeconomic policy at regional and global policy spaces. This means advocacy work within policy spaces and processes to ensure there is a Pan African feminist analysis influencing policy at continental and global levels.

❖ **Performing Modernity: Women and Music in the Twentieth Century**  
by Tejaswini Niranjana, 11 September 2020.

The idea of women performers in the twentieth century public domain in India, whether they were singing or dancing or acting, gave rise to new discursive formations involving the law, morality, and aesthetics. The censorious gaze of colonial authorities denouncing the 'nautch', for example, becomes distilled into nationalist austerities. As more and more women perform in public, the conditions under which they can be seen and heard, and are allowed to live, come to be constrained in new ways. It is a complicated and multi-sited story, and in this presentation Tejaswini drew out some of its nuances by looking at the careers of a few women vocalists, such as Anjanibai Malpekar, Gangubai Hangal, and Gangabai Thakur who either lived in Mumbai or came there to perform.

Tejaswini Niranjana is the author of *Siting Translation: History, Post-structuralism and the Colonial Context*; *Mobilizing India: Women, Music and Migration between India and Trinidad*; and *Musicophilia in Mumbai*. She is co-founder of the Centre for the Study of Culture and Society, Bangalore, which offered an innovative inter-disciplinary PhD programme, and currently Professor of Cultural Studies at Lingnan University, Hong Kong.

**Regular Webinars and Workshops**

❖ **First Annual Lecture in the Laws of Social Reproduction** organised as part of the collaboration between CWDS and Kings College, London, delivered by Professor Kerry Rittich, 18 August, 2020.

Feminists have long troubled the status of reproductive work, arguing for the recognition of its value and the shar-ing of its burdens. International initiatives like the new ILO Domestic Workers Convention seek to de-exceptionalize domestic

work by giving presence, voice and power to millions of ‘invisible workers’, while support for unpaid work is now identified as a target of the Sustainable Development Goals. Yet the simultaneous endorsement of policies and practices of market entrepreneurialism, favoured to advance development and gender empowerment, risks intensifying distinctions between paid and unpaid workers, along with the economic and political inequality that travels with it. In this context, we need to shift our gaze to how differences between productive and reproductive work are made and maintained. This lecture discussed four ways to think about legal rules: as behavioural incentives; as devices to allocate resources, risks and powers; as tools to (re) shape the domains of home and work; and as norms that legitimate hierarchical social and economic arrangements. Making a wide range of economic as well as social laws and policies visible as part of the law of social reproduction, this legal analysis provides a bridge to the work of activists and scholars in other disciplines and helps identify perils and chart future possibilities for those engaged simultaneously in unpaid and market work.

❖ **Panel Discussion: As the Pandemic Continues: Reimagining Healthcare on Moderator: Seema Kazi and Bijoya Roy, 24 July 2020.**

The COVID 19 pandemic and the subsequent crisis posed a myriad of healthcare challenges followed by humanitarian crises with the imposition of the strictest lockdown in the world. The invisibility of the public health approach to the crises, delays and fear among people exposed the lost opportunity in preparing for the crises. Beside the immediate medical care response, the panel explicated the state’s delayed response, and discussed the various contemporary public health approaches evident within the discipline: global health, community medicine and critical public health. The speakers emphasized the need for a multi-sectoral approach with an opportunity to realise healthcare as a public good and universalise social security.

The panel had four speakers: Ravi Duggal (International Budget Partnership); Dr. Ritu Priya (Centre of Social and Community Health, Jawaharlal Nehru University.); Dr. B. Subha Sri (Obstetrician, Associated with Rural Women’s Social Education Centre & CommonHealth); Dr. Dipa Sinha (School of Liberal Studies, Ambedkar University Delhi).

❖ **Webinar on “The Neglected Dimension: Gender in India’s Labour Migration Story”, 20 June, 2020.**

A panel discussion on *The Neglected Dimension: Gender in India’s Labour Migration Story* was organised online on 20th June, 2020. The panellists were

Neetha N (CWDS), Indrani Mazumdar (CWDS), Nitya Rao (University of East Anglia, UK) and Praveena Kodoth (CDS, Trivandrum) and the discussion was chaired by Prof. Indu Agnihotri. The presentations laid out the context in which female migration takes place - the larger macro economy and the trends in terms of growth patterns and changes in agriculture and rural economy; nature of women's migration, its embeddedness within the institution of the family, the discriminatory and the exclusionary aspects of unpaid work spilling over into paid productive work. The discussion covered data concerns, typologies, the complex interconnections and intersecting inequalities of female labour migration, issue of livelihoods and crisis in rural India on women, international migration and state policies. Given the occupational clustering of female migrants the impact of the pandemic on livelihoods, employment prospects and conditions of employment was also highlighted by all the panellists. The discussion was well attended by scholars, students and activists from all over the country and abroad.

- ❖ Webinar on **“Workplace Violence in the Health Sector – Experiences, Challenges and Steps Ahead”** in collaboration with Innovative Alliance for Public Health and United Nurses Association, Maharashtra, May 18, 2020.

Healthcare workspace violence against female health workers is a little spoken about issue in India. Long after the sexual assault case of Aruna Shanbaug in 1973 and through the #MeToo movement a few women doctors and nurses shared their experiences of harassment at the workplace. With the Covid 19 pandemic crisis and with the year 2020 being declared the International Year of Nurses and Midwives, physical and psychological violence at the workplace became prominent with incessant media reports. Sexual harassment and violence is complex and considered an important occupational safety and health issue, but it is largely invisible and unreported. This panel raised voices from within the nursing fraternity and engaged with the wider community involved in research, and advocacy.

Speakers: Dr. Sreelekha Nair, Independent Research Scholar; Ms. Sunita Pandit, Nursing Officer, NCT, Delhi; Mr. Jibin TC, United Nurses Association, Mumbai; Ms. Mamta Nayak, ANM from Orissa; Adv. Subhash Chandra, Supreme Court.

### **Samvad (Hindi Lecture Series)**

- ❖ ‘**The Ritikalin Heroine and Indian Feminism**’,  
Speaker: Abhay Kumar Dube, on 11 November 2020
- ❖ ‘**Poetry Readings**’ by Anamika, Savita Singh, Anita Bharti and Sujata on  
25 august 2020.

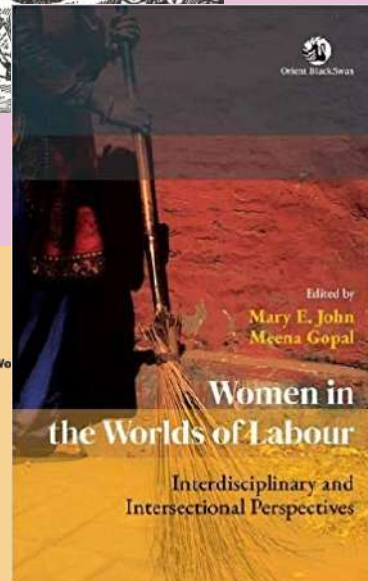
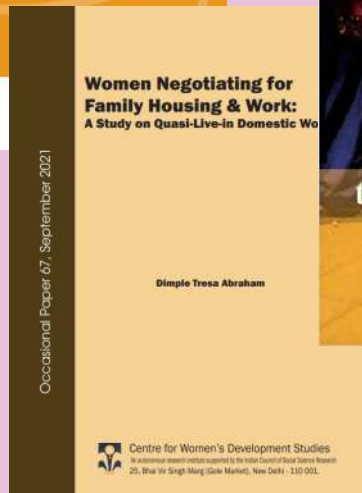
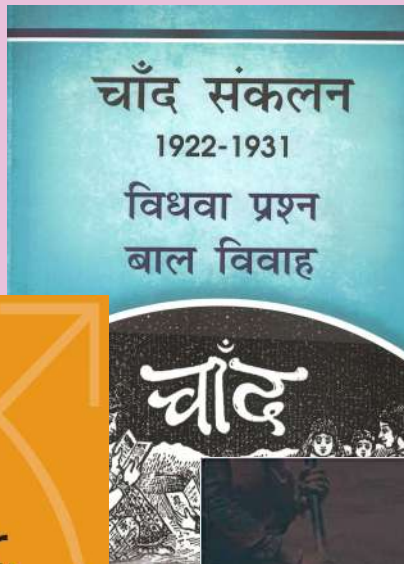
*Vijay Kumar Jha and Nayantara Singh coordinate Samvad.*

### **In-House Webinars**

- ❖ In-house webinar on “**Reference Management Software**”, 8 September, 2020  
A webinar was organised by VMML on reference management software. The usability and practicality of three types of software i.e. EndNote, Mendeley and Zotero was initially discussed. A hands on training on Zotero which is a free and open-source reference management software was given.
- ❖ Talk on “**NEP: Rights, Equity Inclusion**” by Prof. Anita Rampal, University of Delhi, 8 October, 2020.
- ❖ Talk on “**Feminist Everyday Political Economy: Space, Time, and Violence**”, 13 August, 2020 – by Prof. Shirin M. Rai, University of Warwick, UK.

*Seema Kazi coordinates the in house seminar series.*

# PUBLICATIONS





## Publications and Faculty Participation

### **Indian Journal of Gender Studies:**

**Editors:** Malavika Karlekar and Leela Kasturi

**Editorial Associates:** Bhaswati Thakurta and Gayatri Panda

The June issue of the journal (27: 2) deals with a mix of gender issues in a wide variety of settings in India and beyond from environmental changes and policies to migration and the future of the transgender community. The opening article of this issue asks whether women have a voice at all in environmental policies. It looks at movements in two neighbouring regions in India, its main focus being the government project to clean the highly polluted river Ganga where women's voices have not been heard. This movement is compared to the woman-dominated movement from below in Himachal Pradesh protesting against deforestation and river dams. Research has shown that gender sensitive environmental policies would lead to greater sustainability than the modern technocratic approach of the state in environmental conservation. Another paper analyses the vulnerability of agro based livelihoods as a result of climate change in Zimbabwe, showing that strategies to alleviate the consequences for women have not only to be gender but area specific.. The history and ambiguous status of the 'transgender' community in Manipur is traced in an article which documents the efforts made by this section of society in assuring themselves of a livelihood in modern times, while another study looks at educational forms from the point of queer theory. The authors propose the use and understanding of queer that goes beyond the strictly sexual to go into a critique of bodily abnormality as a form of construction and remission, and also examine the role of technology in both building normality and making subversion possible.

Rural female dance performers of a folk art form in West Bengal are studied in another piece showing how they survive with the help of networks on the margins of kinship while, using Freudian psychoanalytic theory, the sixth article investigates the failures of the family as presented in Edward Albee's *A Delicate Balance*.

Our research note in this issue reflects the changes that take place when people migrate to a completely new cultural and geographical environment. Aspects of these are described in the lives of a group of Kuki women from the North East whose move to Delhi liberated them from some patriarchal traditions. Our annual

‘Archive ‘ section lights up historical moments in the history of gender politics. In this issue the spotlight is on Rosa Luxembourg.

Books reviewed in this issue reveal women in a variety of worlds: music, dance, feminist economics, schools, and the city.

In the third issue of 2020(27:3), an article discussed homosexuality and civil society through a reading of the plays of Mahesh Dattani - after the decriminalisation of homosexuality. The paper makes the point that legally given space does not automatically translate into social space and acceptance by civil society and argues that communication through creative work like Dattani’s plays would help create such a space for the accommodation and acceptance of homosexuality. The second paper examines the intersections between memory and artistic vision in the works of Virginia Woolf and Margaret Atwood. The third questions some assumptions regarding elder care: who are the right carers of parents, sons or daughters? Who becomes the carer, is it by tradition, choice or default? The author speculates on the factors determining the gender of the carer among children of old parents needing care and provides a thoughtful theory.

One of two research notes portrays the experience of the dual marginalisation of gender and disability. The other wonders why feminist methodologies are not used more often in feminist applied research in the corporate sector. A Personal Narrative dwells upon the Indian Sexual Harassment Act and its shortcomings and is based on a young Indian woman lawyer’s experiences in a legal firm. Her conclusion is that the term ‘sexual harassment’ ought to be redefined as the Act upholds conservative sexual morality to the detriment of women’s sexuality.

Of the two essays which are commentaries one is about the conflict over the admission of women into a temple in Kerala, a hot gender issue. It examines the discourse of the campaign led by neo-savarna women and right wing Hindutva organisations against litigation to open the shrine to menstruating women, traditionally barred from entry. These groups protested the Supreme Court verdict in 2018 striking down the ban. The second much shorter commentary is on post Covid women’s (un)employment prospects in India and deepening gender inequality.

In addition to a review essay revisiting Shirley Pendlebury there are seven book reviews. Two books focus on Muslim women, one on their schooling and another on their aspirations, two books are memoirs of two Indian women in totally different contexts and periods. Two books examined women of two different classes,

one was a collection of essays on poor women and micro credit across cultures and the other on the performance of Indian women Parliamentarians. Masculinities was the theme of the seventh book by a long-time scholar of Haryanvi culture and gender politics.

The first issue of 2020 (28:1) consisted of four articles and four research notes. Rape is a live issue in all societies. Our lead article discussed punishing sexual violence, mapping the responses of feminist groups to the Verma Committee and underscoring their inconsistencies in defining sexual offences and suggesting punishments. The pervasive use of mobile phones in rural areas by illiterate Indian women points to the potential for women's empowerment and development concludes another article. An area of perennial interest is women's participation in social and political movements and the third article in this issue analyses women's differential role in different forms of mobilization in Darjeeling, accounted for by both violence and state response, The fourth article presents a complete picture .based on census data of female employment in Tamil Nadu and raises many questions needing investigation.

Two shorter pieces in our section ' Research Notes' draw attention to the persistent backwardness of rural women. The position of Gujjar women in Kashmir and the patriarchal practices in panchayat elections in Uttar Pradesh are underscored here. The third Note reveals the lack of factual scientific information among girls, the persistence of menstrual taboos and no access to modern sanitary products in a rural area in Maharashtra. The fourth Note goes back in time and space to the Elizabethan era in Britain and analyses family and gender roles in four Shakespearean plays that call to mind what still prevails even in changing conservative societies such as India.

Books reviewed ranged from studies of Hindi publishing and the periodical press in Odisha to the status of Iranian women and a collection of essays on the interconnections between the expansion of the media and gender discourse and the politics of capitalism and neo liberalism.

All three issues included our regular feature on information of new resources.

## Summary of Publications and Seminar Participation by Faculty Members

Books/ Reports/ Edited Vols./ Occasional Papers/ Monographs	Articles in Journals/e- publications/ Edited Journals	Chapters in Books/ Reports	Book Reviews	Paper Presentations in Conferences/ Seminars/ Invited Lectures
9	19	10	-	88

### Books/Reports/Edited Volumes by CWDS

- ❖ CWDS Journal “Indian Journal of Gender Studies” published tri-annually in February, June and October. Editors: Malavika Karlekar and Leela Kasturi- Volume 27:2 in June 2020, Volume 27:3 in October 2020, and Volume 28:1 in February 2021
- ❖ The Widow Question and Child Marriage: Materials from Chand Magazine (वधवा प्रश्न और बाल विवाह) चाँद पत्रिका की सामग्री के आधार पर, CWDS, 2021.
- ❖ Published Writings on Women’s Education (स्त्री शिक्षा का प्रकाशन चाँद पत्रिका की सामग्री के आधार पर), CWDS, 2021.
- ❖ Mary E. John. Women in the Worlds of Labour: Interdisciplinary and Intersectional Perspectives (New Delhi: Orient Blackswan) Co-edited with Meena Gopal.
- ❖ Mary E. John. A Question of Silence? The Sexual Economies of Modern India. New E-edition by Zubaan and New Text, 2021. Co-edited with Janaki Nair.

### Monographs/ Mimeographs/Working Papers/Occasional Papers

- ❖ Bijoya Roy. ‘Community Health Workers: Gender, Work and Remuneration: A Study of South Asia’, Occasional Paper No. 66, CWDS, New Delhi.

- ❖ Bijoya Roy. ‘Maternity Care Provision, Medical Dominance and Healthcare Market in India’, CWDS, 2021. (Monograph).
- ❖ Bijoya Roy. ‘Healthcare Providers and the Covid-19 Crisis: Mapping Specific Experiences and Ground Realities in India’. CWDS (RLS South Asia) (Mimeo)
- ❖ Library : The following 5 issues of Currently Awareness Bulletin (CAB) were brought out in the period of March 2020 to February 2021:  
 No.3-4, March-April 2020  
 No.5-7, May-July 2020  
 No.8-10 August-October 2020  
 No.11-12 November-December 2020  
 No.1-2, January-February 2021

### **Articles in Journals/ Newspapers/e-publications**

#### **Anshu Singh**

- ❖ “Measuring Human Eye Tolerance Towards the Digital Typography Sharpness on a High-Density Pixel Computer Screen: An Indicative Study,” (co-authored with Y. Yulius and M. M. Bishnoi), International Conference on Computational Intelligence and Knowledge Economy (ICCIKE), 2021, pp.311-316, doi:10.1109/ICCIKE 51210.2021.9410670.

#### **Deepa Singhal**

- ❖ “Resources and Services for Disabled Users: A Study of Libraries of Central Universities”, (co-editor with Babel, Praveen), in University News, 59(13) March 29-April 04, 2021, 22-26.

#### **Dimple Tresa Abraham**

- ❖ “MGNREGA Works to Combat Rural Distress during COVID 19”, in Agriculture World, Vol.6, Issue 6, p.57-61, June 2020 ISSN 2455-8184.

#### **Indrani Mazumdar**

- ❖ ‘Crossroads and Boundaries: Labour Migration, Trafficking, and Gender’ EPW, Review of Women’s Studies, May, 2020.

## **Mary E. John**

### **a) Journal Articles**

- ❖ “Analysing NEP 2020: The Case of Higher Education”, Religion and Society, vol 65 no. 4 October 2020: 31-39.
- ❖ “Rethinking Sexual Violence and Feminism in the Times of #MeToo”, Asian Journal of Women’s Studies, 26: 2, June 2020: 137-158.

### **b) Newspaper Articles**

- ❖ Changing Commemoration, Commemorating Change, The Hindu, March 8 2021
- ❖ “Hathras: A New Phase in the Caste Atrocity Narrative” (with Satish Deshpande), The Hindu, 9 October 2020.
- ❖ “Taking the Easy Way Out” The Indian Express, 14 August 2020.
- ❖ “The Marriage Age Misconception” The Hindu, 21 August 2020.

## **Nayantara Singh**

- ❖ “Micro-Credit and Question of Women Empowerment: Different Paradigms” International Journal of Applied Social Science, Vol. 7&8, July & August (2020), ISSN: 2394-1405.

## **Neetha N.**

### **a) Journal Articles**

- ❖ “Crossroads and Boundaries: Labour Migration, Trafficking, and Gender”, Economic and Political Weekly, Review of Women’s Studies, May, 2020 (co-authored with Indrani Mazumdar).
- ❖ “Empowered or Entangled: Agency and Choice in Women’s Employment in India”, South Asian Survey, 27(2) 98–116, 2020.

### **b) Newspaper Articles**

- ❖ “Government Must Give ASHAs, Anganwadi Volunteers Rights, Benefits due as Workers: OpEd”, Indian Express, January 12, 2021.

## **Renu Addlakha**

- ❖ “Disability and the pursuit of mobility: Risks and Opportunities in the Indian Urbanscape”, Special issue of the International Journal of Urban and Regional Research on ‘the Disabling City’ Rivke Jaffe Ed. Available at: <https://www.ijurr.org/spotlight-on/disabling-city/introduction-the-disabling-city/2020>.
- ❖ “Pan Human Nature of Disability and Art” in the India International Centre Diary, Vol XXXIV, No. 5: 10, 2020.

## **Sanghamitra Jana Chatterjee**

- ❖ “Status of Online School Education and School Libraries at Selected Metro Cities in India during Corona Pandemic Lockdown: A Study” (co-editor with Akhlak Ahmad) International Journal of Library Information Network and Knowledge. IJLINK-SLP-SSARSC. 6.1 (2021): 27-42.

## **Vijay Kumar Jha**

- ❖ Review article – ‘Periodical studies via Sudha’, Pratiman, June 2020 (in Hindi)
- ❖ ‘Knowledge production in Hindi’, Vagarth, March 2021 (in Hindi)

## **Chapters in Books/Reports**

### **Bijoya Roy**

- ❖ Roy B, Qadeer I, Sadgopal M, Chawla J, and Gautam S. (2021) Giving Birth at Home in Resource-Scarce Regions of India: An Argument for Making the Women-Centric Approach of the Traditional Dais Sustainable as in Gutschow K and Davis-Floyd R. (eds.) Sustainable Birth in Disruptive Times, Springer Series: Global Maternal and Child Health

### **Mary E. John**

- ❖ “Women’s Labour through Life Narratives” in Avinash Kumar, Praveen Jha, Yamini Mishra eds. Labouring Women: Issues and Challenges in Contemporary India, Orient Blackswan, 2020: 17-42.

- ❖ “Some Historiographical Challenges in the Study of Child Marriage in Indian History”, in Samita Sen and Anindita Ghosh eds, *Love, Labour and Law: Early and Child Marriage in India*, New Delhi Sage and Kolkata: Stree Publications, 2021: 1-28.
- ❖ “Marxism, Feminism and the Political Fortunes of Theories” in Mary E John and Meena Gopal eds. *Women in the Worlds of Labour: Interdisciplinary and Intersectional Perspectives*. New Delhi: Orient Blackswan, 2021: 3-30.

### **Neetha N.**

- ❖ “Exploring Paid and Unpaid Work Dichotomy in a Labour-Care Perspective” in *Labouring Women: Issues and Challenges in Contemporary India*, Orient Black Swan, 2020
- ❖ “Covid19 and its Economic Impact on Women” for an issue brief on COVID 19 and Women in South Asia: Impact and Policy Solutions, Council of Strategic and Defense Research (CSDR).
- ❖ “The Care Economy in India”, in *Social Development Report, 2020*, edited by Indira Hirway, Council for Social Development, New Delhi.
- ❖ “Crisis in Employment across Social Groups” in Mary E John and Meena Gopal eds. *Women in the Worlds of Labour: Interdisciplinary and Intersectional Perspectives*. New Delhi: Orient Blackswan, 2021: 84-110.

### **Renu Addlakha**

- ❖ *Engendering the Disability-Work Interface*. In Mary E. John and Meena Gopal Eds. *Women in the World of Labour: Interdisciplinary and Intersectional Perspectives*, New Delhi: Orient Black Swan: 233-248.

### **Seema Kazi**

- ❖ “Minority Women and Marginalization: A Historical Perspective” in Azra Musavi and Juhi Gupta (eds.), *Women of Marginalised Communities: Concerns about Exclusion*. New Delhi: Sarup Book Publishers.



## **Paper Presentations and Lectures**

### **Bijoya Roy**

- ❖ Paper, 'Publicly funded Health Insurance Schemes in India: Are we Protecting the Poor or Starving the Public Sector? Panel: Health, Welfare and Social Policy-Part I at The Asia Pacific Policy Network Resilient and Inclusive Governance in the Age of Crisis, The Education University of Hong Kong, 5 March, 2021 (Virtual Presentation).
- ❖ Resource Person, 'Gender and Health Policies in India at Advanced Course: Gender and Development', Women Studies and Development Centre, Delhi University, 23 February, 2021.
- ❖ Resource Person, 'Nurses and Other Healthcare Workers – Violence and Harassment in the Workplace' at a Seminar cum Workshop Gender on Sensitization in Medical and Paramedical Organizations organized by National Commission for Women and STATA, New Delhi, 22 January, 2021.
- ❖ Resource Person, 'Hospital Births: NFHS 5, Maternal Wellbeing and Gendered Modes of Marginalisation', Invited to a Panel Discussion on National Family Health Survey 5 at OKD Dialogue, OKD Institute of Social Change and Development, Guwahati, 18 January, 2021.
- ❖ Paper, 'Reproductive Governance and Contraceptives in Neoliberal India', ICAS:MP TM5 Workshop: "Gender and Reproduction", New Delhi, 20 November 2020 (Virtual Presentation).

### **Dimple Tresa Abraham**

- ❖ Lecture on 'Gender and Policy' as the Women's Day lecture organized by the Public Policy and Analysis Cell & GIRL UP SAKHI at Jesus and Mary College, University of Delhi, 10 March, 2021.
- ❖ Panelist for the Annual National Economics Seminar at Saint Xavier's College, Mumbai, 27 February 2021.
- ❖ Lecture on 'Gender Equality in Economic Development' in the BA course Policy and Application of Economic Development at Saint Xavier's College, Mumbai, 20 February 2021.

## **Gyanabati Devi**

- ❖ Paper, “Food, Culture and Malnutrition among Tribal Children in Manipur” during Indian Anthropology Congress 2021 held on 21-23 February 2021.

## **Mary E. John**

- ❖ Keynote Address: Sex Selection, Family Building Strategies and the Political Economy of Gender, Postgraduate Conference on Interdisciplinary Learning, Lingnan University, Hongkong, 26-27 March 2021.
- ❖ Panelist: The Unintended Harms of Child Marriage Laws, National Coalition for Advancing Adolescent Concerns, Committee on the Status of Women, New York, 24 March 2021.
- ❖ Debating Women’s Labour: What does Marxist-Feminism have to do with it? Public Lecture, Department of Social Sciences and Humanities, IIT Guwahati, 19 March 2021.
- ❖ Gender Justice and the Pandemic, presentation at the Seminar Gender and the Shadow Pandemic, ICSSR-ERC sponsored Seminar, P.C. Mahalanobis Mahavidyalaya, Kolkata. 13 February 2021.
- ❖ Gender and the Challenges of Higher Education, Special Lecture, Department of Education, Loreto College, Kolkata, 10 February 2021.
- ❖ Debating Intersectionality and the Way ahead for Feminist Politics, Stree Mukti Sanghatana, Public lecture, 9 February 2021.
- ❖ Inaugural Address: Research, Qualitative Methods and Persuasion: The Case of Social Science, ICSSR sponsored Qualitative Social Science Research Methodologies Course, Gujarat Institute of Development Research, 1<sup>st</sup> February 2021.
- ❖ Panelist, Consultation on Feminist Responses to Crises in Social Justice Agendas, 28 January 2021.
- ❖ Panelist, Promote Prevention, Question Criminalisation: Reframing Responses to Child Marriage: A South Asia Dialogue by the Feminist Inquiries into Rights and Equality (FIRE) Consortium, 18th December 2020.

- ❖ National Educational Policy 2020 and Higher Education, Webinar Lecture, KGC College of Engineering, Chennai, 9 December 2020.
- ❖ Panel Discussion, Early and Child Marriage: Age or Empowerment? Oxfam India and NDTV South Asia Women's Media Collective, 3 December 2020.
- ❖ Rethinking Child Marriage in Contemporary India: Education, Work and the Reproduction of Compulsory Marriage, Webinar Lecture, Warwick Interdisciplinary Centre for International Development, University of Warwick, UK, 12 November 2020.
- ❖ Chair and Discussant, Faisal Devji, Childhood and the Impossibility of Politics, Special Public Lecture Series, International Centre for Advanced Studies: Metamorphosis of the Political, New Delhi, 20 October 2020.
- ❖ "The New Education Policy and Higher Education", Webinar Lecture, Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Hyderabad, 16 October 2020.
- ❖ "Child Marriage and Age of Marriage in Contemporary India", Webinar Lecture, Haq Centre for Child Rights, New Delhi, 5 October 2020.
- ❖ "Higher Education and the NEP", Panel Discussion, Comparative Education Society of India, 24 September 2020.
- ❖ "Higher Education, Gender and Contemporary Challenges in the Pandemic", Kamla Nehru College, Delhi University, 17 September 2020.
- ❖ "Sex Selection and the Laws on Abortion: Review of Criminal Law in India", Presentation, Jindal Global Law School, Webinar, 16 September 2020.
- ❖ "Gender, the Pandemic and Inclusivity", Inaugural Lecture, Faculty Development Programme, Miranda House Delhi University, 31 August 2020.
- ❖ "Women's Movement and the Conjunctures of the 1990s", Inaugural Lecture, Student Development Programme, Krantijyoti Savitribai Phule Centre for Women's Studies, Savitribai Phule Pune University, 17 August 2020.
- ❖ Lecture, "Gender and the Pandemic", Ravenshaw University, Odisha, 6 August 2020.

- ❖ “Sex Selection and the Law in the US and India, a podcast with Sital Kalantry”, Cornell India Centre, 5 August 2020.
- ❖ “Comparative Feminisms in the Times of #MeToo”, Closing Keynote Lecture, SOAS Conference on #MeToo: Conversations between the UK and India, 31 July 2020.
- ❖ “Child Marriage in Global Perspective”, Panel Discussion on the Occasion of the Launch of the World Population Report 2020, Asia Office of the UNFPA, Bangkok, 30 July 2020.
- ❖ Inaugural Lecture, “Gender Issues in Contemporary India”, Lecture Series, Mahatma Gandhi University, Kottayam, 21 July 2020.
- ❖ “Gender and the Pandemic”, Public Webinar Lecture, Pune College of Engineering, 10 July 2020.
- ❖ Presentation to the Task Force to the Government on India on “Child Marriage and Age at Marriage”, Niti Aayog, 3 July 2020.
- ❖ “Gender and the Pandemic”, Public Webinar Lecture, Institute of Chemical Technologies Mumbai, 22 June 2020.

### **Nayantara Singh**

- ❖ Paper, “महामारी एवं महिलार्ये: एक ऐतहासिक संदर्भ” in the two days International Webinar on ‘Epidemic, Society and Environment in India: A Historical Overview’, Department of History, Faculty of Social Science, Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi, 27-29 May 2020.

### **Neetha N.**

- ❖ Resource Person, Gender Issues in Labour, Online Course on Labour & Globalisation, VVGNI in collaboration with the Faculty of Social Work, The Maharaja Sayajirao University of Baroda, 16 March 2021.
- ❖ Women’s work in the context of the pandemic, invited lecture for International Women’s Day, ICAR-NIAP New Delhi, 8 March 2021.
- ❖ Economic empowerment: The Question of Agency and Rights, Paper presented at the International Webinar on “Women & Girls in Difficult Situations and Gender sensitive social policy Development”, Kerala University, 5 March 2021.

- ❖ Panelist, Reconceptualising and Measuring Unpaid work: The Indian Experience, Symposium on Wages for Housework, Laws of Social Reproduction Project, Dickson Poon School of Law, King's College London Initiative for What Works to Advance Women and Girls in the Economy (IWWAGE) & FESDIG (Feminist Economics Saturday Discussion Group), New Delhi, 4-6 March 2021.
- ❖ Resource Person, Women's Employment as a Right, Online Short Term Internship Programme, National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), New Delhi, February 16, 2021.
- ❖ Resource Person, Gender Issues in Labour, Online Course on Labour & Globalisation, VVGNLI in collaboration with the Centre for Public Policy and Governance, Tezpur University Centre for North East India, 10 February, 2021.
- ❖ Resource Person, Writing Research Proposals, Gender Discourse Webinar series, All India Women's Studies Students Forum, February 3, 2021.
- ❖ Resource Person, Women and the Economy, Advanced Course in Gender and Development at WSDC, University of Delhi, 7 January, 2021.
- ❖ Resource Person, Challenges Faced by Women in the Preservation of Human Rights, Winter Internship Programme, National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), New Delhi, 12 December, 2020.
- ❖ Chair and Moderator for the session "Pandemic dislocations and struggles", Indian Association for Women's Studies, Northern Regional Conference, Pandemic Dislocations and Struggles, Aligarh, 11-12 December, 2020.
- ❖ Resource Person, Feminist Research Methodologies, Research Methods on Gender Poverty and the Informal Economy organised by V V Giri National Labour Institute, NOIDA, 22 October 2020.
- ❖ Resource Person, Women's Employment as a Right, Online Short Term Internship Programme, National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), New Delhi, 21 September, 2020.
- ❖ Keynote speaker, Crisis after Crisis: The Pandemic and Women's work, International webinar series Impact on Covid on Women, Calicut University in collaboration with IAWS, 15 September 2020.

- ❖ Moderator and discussant, FESDIG Webinar, National Crèche Scheme in India: Understanding the experience of workers and beneficiaries, 29 August 2020.
- ❖ Paper, The Deepening of a Crisis in Women's Employment; Pandemic and Economic Concerns, Faculty Development Programme organised by Miranda House in collaboration with Rama Devi Women's University, 28 August 2020.
- ❖ Resource Person, Mainstreaming Gender Issues in Employment Policies in the context of India, Online programme on Labour Market and Employment Policies, VVGNNLI, NOIDA, 26 August 2020.
- ❖ Paper on The Political Economy of Paid Domestic Work in India, presented at the webinar on Paid Domestic Work as "Decent Work": Inter-disciplinary Conversations in the Indian Context, Organised by the Dickson Poon School of Law, King's College London, 18-20 August 2020.
- ❖ Resource Person, Gender Bias and Gender Stereotyping in Employment in India, Short term webinar programme on Gender Bias and Gender Stereotyping in Society, Department of Women's Studies Bharathidasan University Tiruchirapalli and Bharathiar University, Coimbatore, 24 July 2020.
- ❖ Presentation in the Webinar on Social Reproduction Theory from the Global South, Warwick Interdisciplinary Research Centre for International Development University of Warwick, Britain, 13 July 2020.
- ❖ Panelist for the webinar, Identifying factors Causing Decline in FLFPR: Final Regional Consultation on "Female Labour Force Participation Rate", organised by National Commission for Women in collaboration with National Labour University, New Delhi and VVGNNLI, Noida, 9 July, 2020.
- ❖ Panelist, "The Neglected Dimension: Gender in India's Labour Migration Story"; Online Panel discussion, Centre for Women's Development Studies, 20 June, 2020.
- ❖ Resource Person, "Women's Employment and Post Covid Challenges", Madras School of Social Work & P.G Department of Social Entrepreneurship, Questa Students Forum, Webinar Series- 2, 12 June 2020.

- ❖ Panelist for the webinar on “Post Covid 19 Lockdown: Implications and Management” organised by Unnat Bharat Abhiyan Cell (UBA) Cell, Miranda House, 20 May 2020.
- ❖ Women Workers and COVID 19, Panelist for the 9th Webinar on COVID 19- Labour Issues, Special Centre for Disaster Research (SCDR), Jawaharlal Nehru University, 1 May 2020.
- ❖ Panelist, Workshop on Labouring for Love, Labouring for Money: Paid and Unpaid Care and Domestic Work, Workshop on Conversations on Social Reproduction, hosted by the Dickson Poon School of Law King’s College London, 21 April, 2020.

### **Renu Addlakha**

- ❖ Resource Person, Online Writing Workshop on “Sexual and Reproductive Health Matters” South Asia Hub Mentorship Programmer on Rights and Evidence-based knowledge creation, 15 March 2021.
- ❖ Lecture, “Hidden Violence against Women with Disabilities”. E-course on Isidious Forms of Violence against women with Disabilities in India. Organised by Shantha Memorial Rehabilitation Centre (SMRC) Bhubaneswar, Orissa, 2 March 2021.
- ❖ Lecture, “Engendering Disability: Masculinity, Femininity and Non-Normative Sexualities”, Online Certificate Course in Disability Studies organized by Kirori Mal College, Delhi University and Saksham, New Delhi, 1 March 2021.
- ❖ Resource Person, Fortnightly Online Meeting of Mentors and Mentees, “Sexual and Reproductive Health Matters” South Asia Hub Mentorship programme on Rights and Evidence-based Knowledge Creation, 4 February 2021.
- ❖ Resource Person, Fortnightly Online Meeting of Mentors and Mentees, “Sexual and Reproductive Health Matters” South Asia Hub Mentorship Programme on Rights and Evidence-based Knowledge Creation, 27 January 2021.
- ❖ Interview, “Why Framing Disability as an Individual Problem is the real Problem”. Economic and Political Weekly Podcast, Research radio Episode 13 Available at <https://www.epw.in/engage/article/research-radio-ep-13-why-framing-disability>, 24 January 2021.

- ❖ Presenter, “Relevance of Braille” Webinar on World Braille Day organized by Sphere India, 4 January 2021.
- ❖ Presenter, “Conundrums of Compensation”, Online Winter Workshop on Fostering Research in Disability organized by NALSAR and IIT Hyderabad, 20 December 2020.
- ❖ Mentor/Presenter, Webinar on “Ethics in Sexual and Reproductive Health Research”, Sexual and Reproductive Health Matters South Asia Hub Mentorship programmer on Rights and Evidence-based Knowledge Creation, 8 December 2020.
- ❖ Presenter, Webinar on Rights and Intersectionality. Sexual and Reproductive Health Matters South Asia Hub Mentorship Programmer on Rights and Evidence-based knowledge Creation, 26 November 2020.
- ❖ Resource Person, Fortnightly Online Meeting of Mentors and Mentees, Sexual and Reproductive Health Matters South Asia Hub Mentorship Programmer on Rights and Evidence-based knowledge Creation, 15 October 2020.
- ❖ Resource Person, Introductory Online Meeting of Mentors, Sexual and Reproductive Health Matters South Asia Hub Mentorship Programmer on Rights and Evidence-based knowledge Creation, 22 September 2020.
- ❖ Resource Person, Online Dialogues on Ethics in Sexual & Reproductive Health Research during COVID-19, Sexual and Reproductive Health Matters South Asia Hub Mentorship Programmer on Rights and Evidence-based knowledge Creation, 14 September 2020.
- ❖ Lecture, “Critical Disability Studies”, Summer School on Disability Studies organized by Gujarat National Law University Centre for Disability, 9 August 2020.
- ❖ Resource Person, Introductory Online Meeting of Mentors, Sexual and Reproductive Health Matters South Asia Hub Mentoring Programmer on Rights and Evidence-based Knowledge Creation, 22 August 2020.

### **Savitri Ray**

- ❖ Presented “major findings of the NCS Study” in a webinar on Consultation on Decent work for Childcare workers in India, organised by ILO, 11 December, 2020.



- ❖ Presentation, Webinar on “NCS in India: Understanding the Experience of Workers and Beneficiaries , Organized by FESDIG group on 29 August, 2020.
- ❖ Major Findings and recommendations of NCS study, Steering committee group on Quality Childcare on 27 October 2020.

### **Seema Kazi**

- ❖ Special Web Lecture - MA Gender Studies Program, Gender and Conflict: Kashmir and Manipur. 22 September 2020.
- ❖ Special Web Lecture - Law, Civil Liberty, Human Rights.’ Department of International Relations. Central University of Kashmir, 24 June 2020.

### **Vandana**

- ❖ Discussant – “Confronting Caste: Caste and the City”, King’s India Institute Seminar series, 12 November 2020.
- ❖ Presenter – CWDS Seminar on Schedule Caste Girls and Access to Higher Education: Exploring their Experiences in Natural Sciences, October 19, 2020.

### **Vijay Kumar Jha**

- ❖ Discussant, panel titled ‘Nationalism and endangered languages’ organised by Vagarth, a Hindi Magazine, March 2021. (in Hindi)
- ❖ Discussant in a panel titled ‘Eyewash of vacancies in Bihar: Neglect of women’s studies’, October 2020, Organised by Streekal, a feminist journal and YouTube channel. (in Hindi)
- ❖ Lecture, ‘What is Periodical Studies’, Deshbandhu College, September 2020 (in Hindi)

## **Memberships in Committees and Other Advisory Functions**

### **Bijoya Roy**

- ❖ Life Member, Indian Public Health Association

- ❖ Member, Institutional Ethics Committee, Public Health Resource Network, New Delhi
- ❖ Member, Advisory Committee of SEHER, a Unit of Centre for Health and Social Justice, New Delhi

### **Gyanabati Devi**

- ❖ Member, Indian National Confederation and Academy of Anthropologists (INCAA) since 2017.

### **Mary E. John**

- ❖ Member, Advisory Board of the Advanced Centre of Women's Studies, Tata Institute of Social Sciences Mumbai.
- ❖ Member, Internal Complaints Committee, Cabinet Secretariat, Rashtrapati Bhavan.
- ❖ Member, Module V, the Challenges of Gender, International Centre for Advanced Studies in the Social Sciences and Humanities, "Metamorphosis of the Political: Comparative Perspectives on India's Long Twentieth Century", with support from the German Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF).
- ❖ Member, Editorial Advisory Board, Contributions to Indian Sociology (Sage Journal).
- ❖ Member, Editorial Advisory Board, Indian Journal of Gender Studies, (Sage Journal).
- ❖ Member, Editorial Board, Asian Journal of Women's Studies, (Routledge Journal).
- ❖ Life Member, Anveshi Research Centre for Women's Studies, Hyderabad

### **Neetha N.**

- ❖ Member, Editorial Advisory Board, "Urban India", National Institute of Urban Affairs, Delhi.
- ❖ Member, Governing Council, National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj (NIRDPR), Hyderabad.
- ❖ Member, Committee of Studies, Sarojini Naidu Centre for Women's Studies, Jamia Milia Islamia, Delhi.

- ❖ Member, Board of Studies in Economics, S B College, Changanassery, Kerala.
- ❖ Selection Committee Member, Preet Rustagi Research Fund, IAWS.
- ❖ Member, Technical Resource Group, IWWAGE
- ❖ Committee Member, Northern Region, IAWS
- ❖ Member, National Advisory Committee, Draft national policy paper on internal labour migration in India prepared by Centre for Migration and Inclusive Development (CMID), Aajeevika Bureau and the Kerala State Planning Board for ILO.
- ❖ Member, Advisory group, Landscaping study on domestic worker mobilisations, Global Fund for Women.
- ❖ Empanelled evaluator for the AICTE Lilavati Award -2020 on the theme “Women’s Empowerment”.
- ❖ Academic Committee Member, Institute of Human Development, Delhi.
- ❖ Expert reviewer, Conceptual framework for the care policy scorecard, Oxfam International

### **Renu Addlakha**

- ❖ School Board Member, School of Gender and Development Studies. Indira Gandhi National Open University.
- ❖ Executive Committee Member, Jagori, New Delhi.
- ❖ Advisory Board member, CREA, New Delhi.

### **Savitri Ray**

- ❖ Chairperson, CWDS committee on Sexual Harassment.
- ❖ Member, Steering committee on the National campaign on Quality Childcare
- ❖ National Coordinator, FORCES Network

### **Seema Kazi**

- ❖ Member, CWDS Green Committee 2019.

## Financial Report

The Centre began in 1980, initially with a small grant from the Vikram Sarabhai Foundation and a few project grants. In 1981, the Centre received a Research and Development grant from the Ford Foundation, which continued up to 1992-93. During this period the Centre received financial assistance from the International Labour Organisation to support the Action Research Project of the Centre in West Bengal and Punjab. In 1984-85, the Centre became one of the Research Institutes supported by the Indian Council of Social Science Research and from then on has been receiving an annual maintenance grant. In the period between 1980-2008, the Centre was also able to raise several project grants for Research, Action Research, Library and Information Services, Seminar, Workshops, including special assignments from the UN agencies. In 1993-94, the Centre negotiated an Institutional grant from the HIVOS (The Humanistic Institute for Cooperation with Developing Countries, Netherlands) which was extended up to September 2008. At the instance of the Centre, HIVOS granted a “no-cost” extension upto 31 March 2011 for utilization of ‘unspent balance’ as per terms of the existing grant. In April 2002, the Centre received an Endowment Grant of \$750,000 from the Ford Foundation for the promotion of research and development on women.

During the year 2020-21 the Centre received Rs.361 lakhs (Rs.351 lakhs OH-36 and Rs.10 lakhs OH-31) as Maintenance and Development Grant from the ICSSR. Apart from this an amount of Rs.16.77 lakhs (Rs.12.65 lakhs OH-36 (SC) and Rs.4.12 lakhs OH-36(ST) ) was carried forward from the Financial year 2019-20. An amount of Rs.116.72 lakhs was received from various sources as grants for projects, conference/seminars, advocacy/networking and library services. An amount of Rs.128.46 lakhs was derived from the Centre’s own resources – such as interest income, membership fee, royalty, institutional overheads, miscellaneous receipts etc. The Centre also raised Rs.42.30 lakhs towards salary component from projects.

The General Body in its 40th meeting held in 7<sup>th</sup> November 2020 (online) appointed M/s UCC & Associates LLP as Auditors for 2020-21.

## List of Life Members

1. Mr. A.R. Nanda (Retd. IAS)  
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7. Ms. Anju Vyas  
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Mobile-9953687306  
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|---|---|
| <p>8. Prof. Bina Agarwal<br/>13, Nizamuddin East<br/>1<sup>st</sup> Floor, Right Side<br/>New Delhi 110013<br/>Tel.:0120-24353393<br/>Mobile – 9810744677<br/>bina.india@gmail.com</p>  | <p>12. Mr. D. Bandyopadhyaya<br/>GD-89, Sector - 3, Salt Lake<br/>Kolkata-700106<br/>Mobile – 08902495621<br/>033-23348534 (R)<br/>bandyopadhyay.d@sansad.<br/>nic.in</p>   |
| <p>9. Dr. Bijayalaxmi Nanda<br/>Principal ( Acting)<br/>Miranda House<br/>University of Delhi<br/>Delhi – 110006<br/>Mobile – 9891443469<br/>bijayalaxmi.nanda@mirandahouse.<br/>ac.in</p>  | <p>13. Prof. Debal Singha Roy<br/>Professor of Sociology<br/>School of Social Sciences<br/>IGNOU, Maidan Garhi<br/>New Delhi-110068<br/>Mobile – 9810242314; 9868269606,<br/>R-26493143, O-29572718, 29536874<br/>debal_singharoy@yahoo.com<br/>debals@hotmail.com</p>                                      |
| <p>10. Dr. Charu Gupta,<br/>A-29 E, DDA Flats, Munirka,<br/>New Delhi -- 110067<br/>Mobile - 9810735957<br/>charugup7@gmail.com</p>   | <p>14. Ms. Ela R. Bhatt<br/>SEWA Reception Centre<br/>Opp. Victoria Garden, Bhadra,<br/>Ahmedabad-380001<br/>Tel.:079-25506441; 25506477<br/>bhattela@sewa.org</p>  |
| <p>11. Ms. C.P. Sujaya (Retd. IAS)<br/>A-2, Diwanshree Apartments<br/>30, Ferozeshah Road<br/>New Delhi 110001<br/>Mobile-9717302086<br/>cpsujaya@gmail.com</p> <p><i>Shimla Address:</i><br/>Ms. C.P. Sujaya<br/>Pine Breeze<br/>Strawberry Hills, Chhota Shimla<br/>Shimla – 170002</p> | <p>15. Prof. Geetha Nambissan<br/>C-4, Flat no. 4065,<br/>Vasant Kunj<br/>New Delhi - 110070<br/>Mobile - 9810844575<br/>Tel:262704498<br/>gnambissan@gmail.com</p> <p>16. Dr. Govind Kelkar<br/>122, National Media Centre<br/>Gurgaon 122002, Haryana<br/>Mobile -9811556515<br/>govindklkr@gmail.com</p> |

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|--|---|
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