

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

**An autonomous research institute supported by the  
Indian Council of Social Science Research**

**Concept note/Call for papers**

## **Gender and Chronic Health Conditions– Intersectional Experiences**

Towards Equality, in 1975, highlighted the then health scenario through the lens of maternal and infant mortality rates and the declining sex ratio. Meanwhile, the last two decades have shown significant gains in women's life expectancy and an increasing share of elderly women in India. The increase in life expectancy has also contributed to an increased load of non-communicable diseases and chronic illnesses with increased cases of multi-morbidity and disability among elderly women. Traditionally, healthcare systems in India -public and private- have been designed around maternal and child healthcare and acute healthcare needs, rather than chronic diseases. Till now, women's chronic illness, pain, healthcare and support services and social, economic and political determinants have received limited focus and there are very few policies and programs focused on chronic disease management among women. Existing knowledge focuses more on the prevalence of chronic diseases but there is not sufficient scholarship focusing on the need to understand how the experiences of chronic conditions differ between women and men, from an Indian context. At this juncture, it is critical to understand the inequalities, stigmas, barriers and exclusion women and girls experience, across different vulnerable groups and life course, with regard to chronic diseases like diabetes, pelvic health, gynecological health problems, cardiovascular diseases and others.

Beyond essential gender-disaggregated data, the panel proposes to examine the intersection of gender and experiences of chronic illness and pain, its spatiality and temporality, and differences in treatment across different social and religious groups. It will bring together researchers from a wide range of disciplines, policymakers and practitioners and locations, to engage with experiences of chronic illness and pain, questions of management by patients, patients' families; how chronic illness is approached by biomedical healthcare systems, costs of care and negotiations, and the pharmaceutical industry. The effort is to develop critical reflection and discussion on gender and chronic illness and engage with different approaches to understand and reflect upon the everyday experiences of chronic illness.

We invite abstracts of up to 300 words from a wide range of disciplines, researchers, policymakers, practitioners and locations on topics including but not limited to:

### **Sub-themes**

1. Gender, Prevalence of Chronic diseases and Intersecting differences
2. Experiences of chronic illness, self-management and everyday life
3. Chronic illness, stigma, discrimination, exclusion
4. Experiences of Chronic Pain, Gender and Work
5. Chronic illness, Gendered encounter and Treatment
6. Chronic illness, diagnosis, treatment and Cost
7. Chronic health, Gender and Medication
8. Gender, chronic diseases and access to long-term care
9. Gender, chronic diseases and social care for older women
10. Chronic health conditions, Gender and Public Policy

### **Submission Details:**

Abstracts can be emailed to: [teconfsubtheme-health@cwds.ac.in](mailto:teconfsubtheme-health@cwds.ac.in)

### **Important Dates**

- **Abstract Submission Deadline: 10.12.2024**
- **Notification of Acceptance: 20.12.2024**
- **Full Paper Submission Deadline: 31.01.2025**