

ANNUAL REPORT 2023-24



Centre for Women's Development Studies

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

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CENTRE FOR WOMEN'S DEVELOPMENT STUDIES

Annual Report 2023 - 2024



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FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK

The 2023-2024 Annual Report of Centre for Women's Developments Studies (CWDS) coincides with 50 years since publication of the Towards Equality: A Report on the Status of Women in India. Towards Equality was published in 1974 and was instrumental in setting the stage for Women Studies in India.

CWDS has been engaging in critical intersectional research studies from a gender perspective since 1980. Research projects funded by the Ford Foundation transitioned towards formal closure after report publications and dissemination workshops by June 2024. Research project themes included Disability and Sexuality; Early Child Marriage in India; Capacity-Building of Regional Women's Research Centres; and a South Asian Knowledge Gateway on Women's Studies.

In addition to individual faculty research outputs, CWDS organised workshops and seminars. A ten-day Research Methodology Course in quantitative and mixed methods in Women's Studies with scholars drawn from different Universities was organized in collaboration with Centre for Women's Studies, University of Hyderabad in March 2024.

Seven short term research projects under the ICSSR OH 31 grant were completed during 2023-24. Project themes included Migrant Women, Women Students in Engineering, Women from the North-East, Women Entrepreneurs and Micro credit, Women's Voting Patterns and a National Seminar on Gendered Marginalities.

CWDS collaborated with Women's Studies Centres across the country to commemorate the 'International Day for Elimination of Violence Against Women and Girls' in Nov 2023, and a '16 Days Activism' programme. A total of eighteen universities were part of a joint collaborative campaign to draw attention to and campaign against continuing gender-based violence against women in India.

Among the ongoing activities of the Centre, is a series of events and activities to mark 50 years since publication of the landmark Towards Equality Report. One such event will be the annual CWDS J.P. Naik lecture. It will be delivered by Justice Muralidhar (Retd.) that will certainly reflect the significance of the Report.

CWDS plans to organise and hold six Regional Workshops with VMMF and LSEF and a three-day International conference in New Delhi in the forthcoming year to reflect upon Towards Equality.

Through research, advocacy, collaborations and engagements with women's movements, scholars, academics, students and civil society members, CWDS seeks to enhance its profile as a premier institution of Women's Studies in India.

The appointment of a full time CWDS Director has helped stabilise and facilitate functioning of the Centre. The reservation roster for recruitment was revised in 2024. ICSSR approval for the same is awaited.

We hope to fill vacant positions during the forthcoming year that we hope shall strengthen the Centre, expand its core research areas, and contribute to its research output and related activities.

We gratefully acknowledge ICSSR and other agencies for their support in our endeavours.

N. Manimekalai
Director

IN MEMORIUM

Ms. Nirmala Buch (1925 – 2023)



Ms. Nirmala Buch, Vice Chairperson and Chairperson of CWDS for many years, passed away on 9th July, 2023. She was a member the Executive Committee of CWDS for nearly three decades. Ms. Buch was one of the pioneering bureaucrats who championed the cause of women's empowerment and social justice with rare commitment. She served as an effective bridge between government, academia and the women's movement. CWDS shall miss her confidence, presence and sage advice in its onward journey.

IN MEMORIAM

Prof. Nirmala Banerjee (1936 - 2023)



Professor Nirmala Banerjee, a renowned economist, passed away in Kolkata in November 2023. She was 87. Prof. Banerjee studied at the London School of Economics and worked as a Professor at the Centre for Studies in Social Sciences in Kolkata. She was a Life member of CWDS.

Nirmala Banerjee authored several books based on her years of research. These include Gender Impacts of Revenue Collection in India and Women Workers in the Unorganized Sector: Calcutta Experience. Her demise is a loss in public life and the Women's Studies and Economics fraternity.

INTRODUCTION

CWDS engagement with various thematic and specialized areas of women and gender from an interdisciplinary perspective has continued. While the Centre has significant contributions in the area of policy research, since its inception in the 1980s the journey has been mixed in terms of undertaking research, building perspectives, and accommodating diversity. CWDS activities were disrupted during the pandemic resulting in delays in the completion of research projects. As of March 2024, all the ongoing projects funded by Ford Foundation moved to the final stage and dissemination workshops on these studies have been scheduled before the formal closing of the project in June, 2024.

Under the Ford Foundation grant, the CWDS library team completed digitisation of rare resources on women and is in the process of launching a Knowledge Gate Way- Portal for Women's Studies. This portal would give access to resources by scholars across the globe including Women's Studies researchers from the South Asian region. Further, the oral history project undertaken by the Library based on interviews with senior women's studies scholars and activists across regions is in the verge of completion.

The broad research areas of faculty members are as follows:

- 1) **Women and Social Change** as a broad theme was addressed in specific sectors such as health and education, work, violence, political participation, etc.
- 2) **Representation, Marginalization and Identities:** CWDS has been working on the overarching theme of marginality where the questions on disability, Dalit women, migrant women, women in platform economy, elderly care, etc. were the themes in different research projects carried out by the research team.
- 3) **Women, Work, Migration and the Economy:** Women and work, paid and unpaid care and domestic work, issues of migration and gender concerns are one of the main research areas of CWDS. A study supported by ILO, to test two light dairy tools and the possibility of integrating labour force survey with Time Use Survey has been completed this year. A new research project on indigenous women and their relationship with food and land, their agency and autonomy issues in the context of Galo women in Arunachal Pradesh with RLS funding is to begin in from April, 2024.

- 4) **Gender and Governance:** Studies on political participation of women particularly, the perceptions among women voters, reflections on reservation for women in parliament are some of the issues taken up under this theme.
- 5) **Gender, Violence and Sexuality:** Given that the gender-based violence and sexuality questions have been a persistent issue, CWDS has been working on violence and disability with a gender lens. There has been an innovative initiative to prepare a manual to be used in training service providers in the health sector. The manual will be disseminated in a workshop to which patients and service providers with a disability will be invited.

Organizing workshops, conferences, seminars, panel discussions, and invited lecture have been part of the activities of CWDS. There was a national workshop on "Mapping unpaid domestic and care work" and a Seminar on 'Marginalities: Gendered Intersections'. A chapter of the study on "Mapping unpaid domestic and care work" is published as an Occasional paper. The papers presented in the seminar on 'Marginalities: Gendered Intersections' are being edited for publication. Similarly, there were collaborative National Seminar on the "Girl Child", with Holycross College, Trichy and series of invited lectures organized at different intervals. International Women's Day was organized in collaboration with High Commission of Canada holding a panel discussion on "Advancing Women's Political Empowerment" drawing speakers from India, Nepal and Bhutan where academicians, activists and students had participated.

CWDS has been trying to choose new areas of research apart from the above-mentioned themes and has submitted proposals for funding to ICSSR and others funding organizations. It is planning to organize a three-day International conference in connection with celebrating 50 years of Towards Equality Report.

Vina Mazumdar Memorial Library has been actively engaged in providing resources to the Women's Studies and Social Science Research Scholars. As mentioned already, the Knowledge Gateway Portal, an innovative online data resource to be launched, shall provide access to various reports, articles and resources on Women's Studies to visitors who access the site.

CWDS has been facing crisis in terms of a depleted faculty strength and non-faculty staff. As many faculty members and staff retire over the years, depleted numbers is a challenging and debilitating constraint. The shortage of staff in administration and accounts is largely shouldered by the existing faculty, staff and the Director. Filling vacant positions is therefore one of the Centre's main priorities.

While CWDS continues to look for funding from National and International agencies to undertake research projects on CWDS faculty areas of specialization, the Centre's capacity to look for research project funding was severely impeded on account of limited faculty and staff strength.

The Centre is however optimistic about increasing faculty strength through new appointments that shall certainly provide new energy and impetus to CWDS activities.

ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE

The administrative structure is composed of the Chairperson, Executive Members, Director, Deputy Director, Faculty and Staff. The life members have been drawn from diverse settings, consisting of professionals, activists and academics, while a smaller body of elected representatives oversees the functioning of the Centre. At the end of March 2024, CWDS has 88 life members, three Institutional members and two ICSSR Representatives. The last Annual General Body Meeting of the Centre was held on 7th November 2023.

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. CWDS continues to face pressures in its efforts to grow on account of financial and infrastructural issues. Efforts to augment resources through project grants, both short-term and long term and institutional support are ongoing. Limited faculty and staff strength is a major constraint to expanding the research scope. The paucity of space has been one of the most important constraints in the growth of CWDS. The library is one of the best Resource Centres for Women's/Gender Studies research but the infrastructure facility to house the library within CWDS premises is not available.

Planning and Monitoring

The Executive Committee (EC) of the Centre continued to guide on administrative and policy matters. Three meetings of the Executive Committee and one meeting of the Finance Committee (FC) were held during 2023-24.

At present, the composition of the EC and its elected office-bearers is as follows:

Name	Title
Prof. Vasanthi Raman	Chairperson
Prof. Anita Rampal	Vice-Chairperson
Prof. Rajni Palriwala	Treasurer
Prof. Shyam B. Menon	Member
Ms. T.K. Rajalakshmi	Member
Dr. Omita Goyal	Member
Dr. Mala Khullar	Member
Prof. Mohan Rao	Member
Prof. Dhananjay Singh	Member
Member- Secretary, ICSSR	Member
Prof. Bindu Puri	ICSSR Nominee
Prof. N. Manimekalai	Member Secretary & Director
Prof. Neetha N	Deputy Director, Invitee

The EC continue to oversee the functioning of the Centre through its various Committees. Various Committees have been reconstituted and new committees have also been formed during 2023-24 to look into the various operations of CWDS. In addition to the guidance of the EC and the various committees, faculty meetings are periodically held to examine all aspects of the Centre’s functioning including periodic review of research work, monitoring of ongoing projects, taking up new work, and also general management issues about Administration and Accounts.

Human Resources

There have been further reductions of CWDS staff during 2023-2024 due to a variety of reasons like retirement, lien, etc. As already mentioned, critical posts have continued to remain vacant like the Administrative and Account Officers, Faculty etc. which has overburdened the existing staff causing delays in delivery, taking up research projects etc.

There is a need for academic restructuring to increase the number of faculty positions to enable the Centre to adequately expand its research focus areas. Further, ICSSR support and conditions have undergone major changes demanding new financial and administrative norms and practices. Restructuring administrative and accounts positions, and regularising recruitment and promotion are vital for strengthening institutional capacity. A consultant to frame the Recruitment and Roster rules was hired and several round of consultations were held. The draft documents were placed before the EC for approval and later submitted to ICSSR for approval.

SC/ST and OBC and Equal Opportunity Cell

The CWDS follows the Government of India Rules. There is a need for ongoing sensitisation of employees on matters relating to multiple forms of discrimination. The SC/ST, OBC and Equal Opportunity Cell were instituted at the Centre in 2020. The members of the SC/ST, OBC and Equal Opportunity Cell Committee were reconstituted and the list is given below:

1. Dr. Vandana, Liaison Officer, SC/ST Cell
2. Dr. Khundongbam Gyanabati Devi, Liaison Officer, OBC and Equal Opportunity Cell
3. Mr. Akhlak Ahmad, Internal Member
4. Ms. Kaushalya, Internal Member
5. Dr. Abha Deb Habib, Associate Professor, Miranda House, University of Delhi, External Member
6. Prof. N. Sukumar, Professor, Department of Political Science, University of Delhi, External member.

In addition to looking into the implementation of the reservation rules for SC/ST, OBC, Disabled, etc. the Cell, plans to hold seminars, workshops, lectures etc. during the year 2024-25.

Financial Position and Challenges

The ICSSR provides core grants for salaries and maintenance. This is the predominant source of continuous financial support over the years. During the year 2023-24, Project Grants were received from the Ford Foundation and ILO, Geneva Office.

Appointments against SC/ST positions are to be made, and thus the grant allocated to that purpose from the ICSSR could not be utilized fully. There are also challenges in meeting the 10 percent grant to be mobilised. Raising funds through external sources is necessary. All the large grant-based research projects have come to a close and faculty available to apply for fresh large grants has been depleting.

Meetings of the Committees of Vina Mazumdar Memorial Fund and Lotika Sarkar Endowment Fund have been scheduled for April 2024 and a series of activities for the year 2024-25 with the fund has been proposed.

The process of the transfer of the cash and securities of the CWDS Employees Contributory Provident Fund (CPF) Trust to the Employees Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) has been completed last year. The CPF Trust has been formally dissolved and the employees are able to access their accounts and avail their CPF.

However, Punjab State Industrial Corporation (PSID) had not paid the interest to the Principal amount of Rs. 25 lakhs. The centre is attempting to recover the interest due through legal process.

Another major issue is the penalties being imposed on CWDS for delay in transferring the Trust proceeds to EPFO. A legal Consultant, Mr. Agarwal, has been engaged to attend this issue and providing necessary documents and other clarifications to EPFO.

RESEARCH ACTIVITIES

Research continues to be the Centre's core activity. CWDS research is grounded in intersectional, interdisciplinary research, the application of a range of methodologies to address questions of inclusivity and diversity from multiple perspectives. Some of the ongoing large research projects that were stalled during the pandemic are nearing completion.

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 a support from the Ford Foundation. No-cost extension request was accepted till July 2024. The project comprises the following segments:

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

The research study on early and child marriage with the no cost extension from Ford Foundation, could be resumed in August 2023. During the period August 2023-March 2024 further analysis of both macro data (Census 2001,2011; National Family Health Survey IV and V) and micro data (survey data and interviews from the field sites in West Bengal, Rajasthan and Telangana) was undertaken in order to produce draft chapters for the Report. Draft chapter three contained analysis of Census and NFHS data at the national, state and district levels in order to provide the necessary background for the micro data. The significant variables were poverty/wealth quintiles, urban/rural location, religion, caste, and education. The analysis revealed that the greatest significance in relation to age at marriage was poverty, followed by education. Chapter three also introduced the sites, the respondents and the methodology of the study. Chapter four dealt with the subject of education, beginning with existing secondary literature, as well as secondary data, followed by analysis of the survey questions and voices from the interviews. The overall chapter demonstrated the failure of education for respondents outside the middle class, where the modal level of education was middle school compared to the national average of secondary education. Chapter four dealt with the subject of work, labour and employment. Respondents who had married before the age of 18 years had greater responsibilities in unpaid housework compared to those who had married later. On the other hand, women who had married later were more likely to have given up paid work (when they had such work) than those who had married earlier. Chapter six dealt with a complex set of issues around women's experiences and views on marriage, again drawing from both the survey and the interviews. These chapters were to be finalised along with earlier ones for the dissemination workshop planned for April 24 2024.

Principal investigator Mary E. John was assisted by the consultants Arpita Anand, Nidhi Verma and Risha Singh.

(b) Intersectional Analysis of Disability and Sexuality

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' was suspended for over a year during which it underwent an audit. Work on it was resumed in July 2023. A draft handbook on creating a disability-inclusive health system in India for healthcare providers like clinicians and hospital administrators has been completed. 100 copies of the document will be printed and sent to major health institutions in the public and private sectors in India. The document aims at awareness building and sensitisation of health care professionals, particularly in the areas of sexual and reproductive health of persons with disabilities.

Renu Addlakha is the Principal Investigator. She was assisted at different stages of the project by Tejaswi Chhatwal, Shantanu, Vidhur Nevrekar, K. Radhika and Neha Narayanana.

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

The Knowledge Gateway is a project of CWDS Library. It has 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 globally 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 grey literature; v) to make the library resources accessible to scholars who are visually challenged.

The CWDS 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

Ten research studies were conducted by Women's Studies Centers in different regions. Some Centers conducted workshops on regional issues in addition to the research studies. The studies include the following:

- ❖ Sarojini Naidu Centre for Women’s Studies Jamia Millie Islamia: “Mapping the intersectionality and Discrimination: Young Women in Educational Processes (A case study of First Generation Learners)”;
- ❖ KSP Women’s Studies Centre, Pune University: Unpaid work or paid Employment: A Situational Analysis of Accredited Social Health Activists (ASHA Workers) in Urban Pune during the Pandemic;
- ❖ Centre for Women’s Studies, Bangalore University: Impact Assessment of One-Stop Crisis centres in Karnataka;
- ❖ Women’s Studies Centre, Punjabi University, Patiala: Phulkari: Reviving and sustaining the traditional handicraft of Punjab;
- ❖ Chandraprabha Saikiani Centre for Women Studies, Assam: Women in Economic Sector in Assam;
- ❖ Dakshayani Velayudhan Centre for Women’s Studies, Kerala: Relocating and Regrouping under the State: Experiences of Government Affirmative Programmes in Ambedkar Colonies of Ernakulum;
- ❖ School of Women’s Studies, Utkal University, Bhubaneswar: The Social Consequences of Natural Disaster on Women: “A study of the victims of Fani”;
- ❖ Women’s Studies Centre, Rabindra Bharati University, Kolkata: Women’s work: Structural Inequality and Transformation in Neoliberal times;
- ❖ Miranda House, Delhi University: First Generation Learners: Navigating University Education and Culture;
- ❖ Department of Women’s Studies, Bharathidasan University, Tiruchirappalli: Employment needs and status of students and scholars of Women’s studies in India.

All the partnering institutions were invited to submit the final draft report and present the same in a symposium organized in April 2024 where a presentation of the findings were made. The studies were reviewed by experts. Based on review comments, the partnering institutions are to revise the report and submit their final reports by May 2024.

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

**Multi-dimensional Gender Equality and Freedom from Violence:
Innovating Research and Catalysing Partnerships (Supported by Ford
Foundation)**

(Project Directors – Neetha N. and Renu Addlakha)

The extension of the BUILD grant is pending since June 2022. Many ongoing activities had to be discontinued and no new activities were undertaken after May 2022. In the event of the grant receiving extension for a period of 4 years, all the pending activities will be initiated. A review meeting of BUILD Grant with the advisory group members is planned to be held immediately after the extension for planning future activities.

**Gender and Health Discourse in Emerging Digital Landscape
(Funded by ICSSR OH-31 Grant)**

Despite the number of studies concerning how healthcare organizations like private hospitals, specific disease groups like diabetes, HIV care providers, and IVF specialists use digital social media, little is known about the nature of the digital women's health forums, forms of their content, and kind of discourse around women's health issues. The aim is to explore the innovative digital environment which has expanded over the last decade. These spaces emerge as sites of new power, authority, and trust for internet users. This pilot study aims to understand the digital discourse on issues related to midwifery, menopause, endometriosis, and menstrual health and endeavours to provide deeper insights into the actual use and operation of this e-landscape.

Research Team: Bijoya Roy (Principal Researcher) Akansha Verma (Research Associate), Anvi Mehta, Prabhu Ponnusamy (Digital Data Collection Team).

**Measuring Unpaid Domestic and Care Work
(Funded by ILO)**

The project, supported by the International Labour Organisation (ILO), Geneva Office was to assess the performance, and evaluate the relative strengths and weaknesses, of two time-use measurement methods, configured for attachment to national LFS. The survey, using the CAPI (computer aided personal interviewing) tool developed by ILO, was conducted in Haryana, covering 3 sites - rural, remote rural, and urban area - Rohtak, Jhajjar, and Nuh districts. In Jhajjar and Nuh two villages and in Rothak two urban wards were selected. From each village, 140 households and 280 individuals were selected, thus a total of 1120 time use schedules were collected from the 4 villages. In Rothak, 175 households each from the selected two wards were selected and about 700 time-use schedules were collected. The draft report of the study was

presented in a workshop, Bridging Data Divides: Mapping Unpaid Domestic and Care Work, held on 3rd October 2023, in Delhi. Based on the comments and suggestions from the discussants of the report, the study report was finalized and copy editing of the report is in progress.

Research Team: Neetha N (Principal Researcher) & Indrani Mazumdar (Senior Research Consultant), Aanchal Dhull (Research Consultant); Data Analyst- Dinabhandu Mondal.

Community Led Palliative Care: A study of Women Volunteers and Health workers (Funded by ICSSR OH-31 Grant)

Palliative care is an important issue with the increase in the number of elderly population, and with increased life expectancy, the number of patients requiring long-term care is also increasing. The state of Kerala is known for its unique intervention in social development, and the Palliative Care movement in the State has gained global significance. The study explores women's role in the initiative both as volunteers/ community-level workers and as part of the health machinery at various levels. Apart from the profile of the women involved in palliative care, the study will also capture their contribution in different phases of the program right from identifying the need, planning, and decision-making in providing care services to beneficiaries – medical, emotional, and social support. The study through capturing the nature of volunteer work and other care work that women take up would also look at the question of the agency of these women about the patient, family members of the patient, co-volunteers/ workers, local governments, state machinery, and other participating individuals/ organizations. The study based in the Thiruvanthapuram district covers four palliative care units – two rural and 2 urban namely, Perumkadavila, Kalliyoor, Vattiyurkaavu, and Vizhinjam. The fieldwork of the project is ongoing. The draft report will be ready by July 2024. The study is done jointly with Dr. C.U. Thresia, an Independent Researcher who has many years of experience working on health systems.

Principal Investigator – Neetha N.

Shattered Ceilings and Unravelling Gender and Livelihood Questions among Women Sanitation Workers: in Tiruchirappalli, Tamil Nadu (Funded by OH-31 Grant ICSSR)

Women sanitation workers in India have been engaging in various categories who are serving as government permanent, contract, and private sector employees. Rag pickers have also been taken into this category but are self-employed. Contractual

employment in the neoliberal context provides no social security and pushes women vulnerable, which was revealed in the literature. The present study tried to examine the gender and category-wise pay gaps if any, in terms of wage, nature and hours of work, job and social security, leave facilities, additional duties and responsibilities, mode for payment, treatment at workplaces, harassment, their socio-economic profile, etc. among government permanent and contract women workers, and private women sanitation workers in Tiruchirappalli district of Tamil Nadu in a gender perspective. A mixed method approach using Survey, focus group discussion, in-depth interviews, key informant interviews, case studies, discussion with youth, etc. was used. The study commenced in Jan 2024 as a short-term project and the draft report will be completed in July 2024. There were some gaps in collecting data from male workers, which was done in June 2024 and will be incorporated and finalized.

Principal Investigator-Manimekalai.N; Co-Principal Investigator-Neetha N. Mr. Raja Ram, Research Associate, Ms. Caroline, Ms. Jacqueline, Ms. Jaibaby and Mr.Kannan are the field investigators

Indigenous Women’s Evolving Role in Food Traditions: A Study of Land, Ownership and Agency (Funded by RLS)

In Arunachal Pradesh, women were at the center of the production and distribution of food and they had control over the entire system from cultivation and gathering though the land was owned by the community. There have been many changes in agriculture, with the introduction of policies on land ownership and the penetration of the market. Men are now the owners of the land. Further, monocultures have taken over the landscape, posing risks both to the local biodiversity and the land’s capacity to produce traditional foods. Transitioning of land ownership from community-based ownership to a gendered privatization of land has meant that while men become land owners, women are largely relegated to the position of landless agricultural workers on their male relatives’ land leading to the feminization of agricultural labor. The study is on this transition of land ownership and agriculture and how these have defined women’s relation to food and land. The role of customary traditions and state-sponsored schemes will be analyzed to see how these have undermined the contribution of women leading to their marginalization in agriculture which has implications for the food security and food sovereignty of their tribe.

The study is supported by Rosa Luxemburg Stiftung (RLS) and the duration of the project is 10 months from April. The study is jointly done with Dr. Renu Koyu, a researcher from Arunachal Pradesh.

Principal Investigator – Neetha N.

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

The study broadly focused on exploring and analysing mothering in the Balmiki community (a Scheduled Castes) that has played a role in their daughters' journey to higher education. A semi-structured interview tool was developed. This study is based on 30 interviews with mothers from the Balmiki community living in Delhi's diverse, underprivileged, and stigmatized neighborhoods. Balmiki community suffers from the stigma and graded inequality within marginalized groups and is more likely to be in manual scavenging. They are the second largest castes among Scheduled castes in the city after the Chamar. According to the Census of India, 2011, Delhi's population is approximately five lakhs. Despite being numerically the second largest group among Scheduled Castes, they lag in education. The literacy rate of Balmikis is 67.4 percent (Census of India, 2011), the lowest among the Scheduled castes in Delhi. Fieldwork was conducted in two phases, i.e., from May 2022 to August 2022 and from April 2023 to August 2023 in Delhi. The research participants were mothers from the Balmiki communities whose daughters studied in class 12 or enrolled to pursue higher education degrees at the time of data collection. It was felt that interviewing mothers from one locality whose daughters were pursuing studies may not be possible. Looking at the community's struggle with stigma, untouchability, safety, and access to education, it was felt that the researcher might not get sufficient qualitative interviews from one dwelling. Therefore, it was decided to identify and interview mothers living in different locations in Delhi. Since it is an exploratory study, the Primary Investigator and the research staff had to visit various places in Delhi. The research participants lived predominantly in the slum (Jhuggi and Bastis) and slum rehabilitated areas (J. J. Colony) such as Karol Bagh, Mandoli, Nandnagari, Loni, Seelampur, Pratapvihar, Shadipur, Palam, Jahangir Puri, Mandir Marg, Gole Market, Dwarka Mor, Kashmere Gate, Pushta No-2 New Usmanpur Shahdara and Buradi. Most of these spaces are stigmatized as spaces of poverty and ghettos of historically marginalized communities. Some spaces were also explicitly identified as 'Harijan Basti' densely populated by Balmikis. The bastes were also identified as 'informal' and 'illegal settlements' in the city and grappled with constant fear of State-sponsored demolition. The draft report of the research project is completed.

Principal Investigator – Vandana; Research Associate - Ms Shilpa Bhagat;
Transcription - Ms Sunita Kumari

From Memory to History (Funded by Ford Foundation)

CWDS initiated an oral history series “From memory to History” starting in 2018 to generate resources related to women status, education and social change. Under this initiative academicians, educationalists, and experts on women’s issues are invited to share their long engagements and experiences in an interview which will then be documented and preserved in the library. These interviews will be made available to the users of CWDS Library for research and scholarly purposes. This conversation traces a history that delineates the contours of the development of the women’s studies agenda in the context of changes within India and the South Asian Region. Under this initiative, till 31st March 2024, 21 interviews had been conducted with experts from different parts of India including Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Delhi, Jharkhand, Kerala, Maharashtra, Orissa, Punjab, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal and also from Bangladesh and Afghanistan.

Project Team -Indu Agnihotri, Sanghamitra Jana Chatterjee (PI), Madhu Shri Pandeya, Akhlaq Ahmed.

Building Capacities of the Women’s Studies in the Regional Context

This segment of the project aimed at building the capacities of Women’s Studies Centres to generate new knowledge from different locations. This was planned with a perspective to focus on issues emerging from local / specific contexts and also regional trends with regard to common issues. Eight different studies were undertaken to understand the local / regional histories and dynamics of change in socio-cultural formation and women’s lives and the experiences of marginality accompanied by increased vulnerabilities in specific situations such as disasters caused by natural calamities. A symposium has been planned in April 2024 inviting all the regional WSCs to disseminate the findings by placing the studies to experts for review and inviting them to the workshop. However, it was felt that a deeper focus on certain issues emerging from the studies and also fuller participation could not be ensured despite a rich discussion due to various exogenous factors. Hence, three more workshops have been planned to be held in different regions to allow for bringing to the table discussion on aspects which needed wider participation from the Women’s Studies Centres, choosing Calcutta, Mohanlal Sukhadia and Hyderabad Universities and conduct the workshops during May-June 2024. The Workshop Mohanlal Sukadia University focused on the new Labour Codes, with reference to the world of women’s work, a relatively under-researched theme in Women’s Studies. The workshop in the University of Hyderabad planned on hy-

brid mode, to focus on teaching women's studies – current issues and concerns, inviting the centres located in public-funded and private Universities, including the IAWS supported Centre in Ranchi University, and at Calcutta University on Women and Work in the context of 50 years of Towards Equality to invite young scholars to present their work reflecting on the report, where a session will be devoted to discuss on the contributions of Prof. Nirmala Banerjee" to Women's Studies.

Prof. N. Manimekalai, coordinated the above three workshops.

SHORT-TERM PROJECTS FUNDED BY CWDS AND BEING UNDERTAKEN BY RESEARCH ASSOCIATES

The life of Migrant Women in Yamuna Flood Plain (Funded by ICSSR OH-31 Grant)

The Yamuna downstream flood plain popularly known as Khadar, is a place owned by literally no one, but the state captured the place to construct highways, flyovers and metro stations. The word 'Khadar' evolves from the Urdu word 'Khaadar' known as low fertile land soil. The Yamuna flood plains are not inert places, but rather the communities embedded in the Khadar historically, socially, and economically. The area where this study explored is a profoundly contested agrarian space in Delhi and the study tried to understand the positionality of women in it to explore the uncertainty of floodplain dwellers' lives from a gender lens to capture women's role in the uncertain time which is the main foundation of this study. The total floodplain area of Yamuna in Delhi is 97 sqm. As per the farmers sharing, it was understood that the entire floodplain of Yamuna in Delhi was originally a riverine forest back in the Mughal era and British rule. It was leased out in 1948 for 99 years. In 1957, DDA was formed as a land development agency in Delhi. Till 1972, they kept paying their lease rent to DDA but could not renew it afterward. This became the root cause of a legal dispute between farmers and DDA after 2000. The floodplain dwellers are mainly migrant population from Uttar Pradesh. Apart from involvement in urban agriculture (mainly vegetables, and flowers), the men in the flood plain are engaged in vegetable vending during non-seasons to meet their livelihood. The dwellers face frequent urban flooding which has been encountered by the residents for a long time. The National Green Tribunal banned agriculture in the flood plain on the claim that the produce contained toxic elements. It is evident that whenever the government needs to use the land, the inhabitants' life is at stake. They have often been uprooted mercilessly with the produce in the land. Apart from this, urban flooding is another reason for their drudgery. In this whole picture of the social ecology of the flood plain, women have a serious role to play. The draft report will be completed by July 2024.

Principal Investigator- Prof. N. Manimekalai; Co-Principal Investigator- Ms. Bhaswati Thakurta; Field Investigators - Ms. Jahnvi Sanjay & Ms. Sonal.

Women in Engineering Education: Exploring Students' Experiences in a Technological Institute (Funded by CWDS- OH 31 Grant ICSSR)

This study puts forward to explore the sociological context of women students who enter into Engineering Education which is mainly perceived to be a difficult terrain where lesser women's presence has marked the discipline. Higher education in India records the lowest presence of women's enrolment in engineering education concerning men since earlier times. Although post-independent India has envisaged the developmental path through science and technology, women's participation in it has been visibly low. The present study aims to explore how female students approach this professional discipline of higher education. It will dwell on the social, economic, and institutional factors that might have influenced women students to enter engineering education and to choose specializations in this field. It will attempt to unravel their perception and experience while pursuing education and training in an engineering college / institute of high repute.

The short-term research is an exploratory sociological study where the field research was planned to be conducted in IIT Delhi. The official process for getting access to undertake field study in this premiere institute started at the beginning of February 2024. The Ethics Committee of CWDS cleared the research proposal on 15th March 2024. It took three months of continuous writing to the authorities of IIT Delhi, meeting and, pursuing several officials regarding the planned research. Finally got the permission in the last week of April. The empirical research has been conducted among the female engineering students who are registered for the B.Tech degree in IIT Delhi in May 2024. Observation and in-depth interviews were conducted to derive the empirical, qualitative nuances. Analysis of the primary findings along with the relevant literature is under progress. A report will be submitted in August 2024.

Research Team: Principal Investigator – N.Manimekalai Co-Principal Investigator - Gayatri Panda, Field Investigator - Ruchi Sharma

Quality of Life of Migrant Women from North-East Region in Delhi and NCR (Funded by ICSSR OH-31 Grant)

The study broadly focuses on understanding the well-being, stress level, sense of satisfaction, and happiness among North-East women who migrated to metropolitan cities that shape their health and quality of life. Literature articulated due to the course of migration, in addition to the hardship and lack of job security, discrimination experiences, difficult cultural adaptation process, social inequality, and weak social support system caused mental health problems such as depression among migrant

populations, their affected health conditions and their quality of life. Besides these general challenges, migrant women from the Northeast frontier of India being from different ethnic backgrounds further encountered other specific problematic dimensions. The study adopted the World Health Organization's concept of quality of life (QoL) and attempted to assess self-reported aspects of life; physical health, psychological, social, and environmental aspects. The project was started on 19th January 2024. Since then, after a comprehensive review of the available literature, the project carried out a field study. 70 migrated women were interviewed through a semi-structured questionnaire which consisted of basic socio-demographic profiles and standard questionnaire format of WHOQOL-BREF. The study also considered in-depth interviews of 15 women with a developed interview guide to enhance the quantitative data. Collected field data were analysed using statistical packages and data collected through in-depth interviews were transcribed and translated to English and analysed thematically. The study will be completed by July 2024. Some papers based on the study will be published and planned to present the research findings in national and international seminars or other relative academic platforms.

Principal Investigator – Dr. Bijoya Roy; Co-Principal Investigator - Khundongbam Gyanabati Devi; Research Assistant- Ms. Dhanapriya Devi Chungkham.

Micro Credit and Women Entrepreneurship: A Case Study of Mangolpuri Area, Delhi (Funded by ICSSR OH-31 Grant)

The research project on micro-credit aims to identify the challenges faced by Indian Urban Women Micro-Entrepreneurs in their entrepreneurial journey. Especially those women who have migrated from rural areas and settled in cities in search of a better life with their spouses. The challenges presented by the external environment as well as the inherent deficiencies in their entrepreneurial skills will be analysed to ascertain the most significant barriers that continue to hinder their growth and the role of microfinance agencies in accelerating and sustaining women's entrepreneurship will also be focused. It will examine whether microfinance institutions are utilizing the potential of the women associated with enterprise development and the role of formal institutions in encouraging women entrepreneurs etc. Data analysis has been completed and report writing is currently underway.

Research Team: Principal Investigator - Seema Kazi and Co-Principal Investigator - Nayantara Singh; Field Investigator – Ramakrishna Dubey

राष्ट्रीय चुनाव और महिलाओं का मतदान व्यवहार (दिल्ली-एनसीआर क्षेत्र)
(Funded by ICSSR OH-31 Grant)

यह शोध दिल्ली में लोकसभा चुनाव में महिलाओं के मतदान-व्यवहार को समझने के उद्देश्य से किया गया। सामने ये प्रमुख सवाल थे - महिलाएँ क्यों वोट देती हैं; वे अपने मन से वोट देती हैं या किसी के कहने पर; महिला केंद्रित मुद्दों के मामले में महिलाएँ एकजुटता दिखलाती हैं या नहीं; कौन-से मुद्दे उनके लिए ज्यादा मायने रखते हैं आदि। फील्ड वर्क के लिए दिल्ली के इन तीन संसदीय क्षेत्रों का चयन किया गया – दक्षिणी दिल्ली, नई दिल्ली और पूर्वी दिल्ली। फील्ड वर्क का काम दो फील्ड इंवेस्टिगेटरों की मदद से सम्पन्न किया गया। एक महीने तक किए गए इस फील्ड वर्क में कुल 275 महिलाओं से बातचीत की गई। बातचीत के लिए प्रश्नावली का सहारा लिया गया। प्रश्नावली में ओपेन-एंडेड और क्लोज-एंडेड दोनों ही तरह के प्रश्न रखे गए। कोशिश यही रही कि महिलाओं से अधिक-से-अधिक जानकारी प्राप्त की जाए। फील्ड वर्क के सम्पन्न होने के बाद आँकड़ों का गुणात्मक और मात्रात्मक दोनों तरीके से विश्लेषण किया गया। इस विश्लेषण के आधार पर रिपोर्ट लिखने का काम पूरा किया गया।

प्रिंसिपल इंवेस्टिगेटर - सीमा काजी; को-प्रिंसिपल इंवेस्टिगेटर - विजय कुमार झा ; फील्ड इंवेस्टिगेटर - दीक्षांत गहलोत और कीर्ति कौशिका.

TEACHING WOMEN'S STUDIES

AUD-CWDS Women's and Gender Studies Ph.D Programme

CWDS faculty continue to discharge supervisory duties for AUD WGS Ph.D scholars, some of whom completed and submitted their theses and await their viva and award of Degrees. It may be noted that after September 2023 CWDS Faculty members were re-designated as co-supervisors to the students for whom they were primary supervisors. This was necessitated by the AUD adopting UGC Regulations stipulating that there could be no external supervisors for students enrolled in AUD.

List and Status of completed and ongoing AUD Women and Gender Studies Ph.D. Dissertation supervised by CWDS Faculty 2023-2024:

Dr. Bijoya Roy

Ongoing:

- ❖ Shefali Kishore: WGS, Ambedkar University, Delhi; (In)Visible Women's Body, Assisted Reproductive Technology and Growth of Fertility Market: An Exploratory Study of Jharkhand

Prof. Neetha N

Completed, Degree awarded:

- ❖ Sudeshna Sen Gupta, WGS, Ambedkar University, Delhi; Title: The Social and Political Economy of Paid and Unpaid Work: Lives of Informal Sector Workers in Urban India.
- ❖ Mamtha Devi: WGS, Ambedkar University, Delhi; Title: Women as Trade Unionists in India: A Case Study of Centre of Indian Trade Unions.

Ongoing:

- ❖ Chaitanya, Khandelwal, WGS, Ambedkar University, Delhi; Title: Production Organisations, Technological Changes and Women Workers: A Case Study of Handblock Printing Industry of Rajasthan.

- ❖ Samiksha Kapoor: Jawaharlal Nehru University, ICSSR Doctoral Fellow. Title: Trade Union challenges in organizing the unorganized: A study of NCR region, India.

Prof. Renu Addlakha

Ongoing:

- ❖ Dhamma Ratan - Ph.D scholar, Nava Nalanda Mahavihara (Deemed to be University), Nalanda, Bihar. Theses title 'A Critical Study of Women's Status as Depicted in the Theravada Literature (600 BCE to 500 CE)'.

Dr. Seema Kazi

Ongoing:

- ❖ Kunzang Angmo - Ph.D scholar, WGS, Ambedkar University, Delhi, Theses title: 'Women and Interfaith Marriage in Ladakh'.

Dr. Vandana

Ongoing:

- ❖ Charanjeet- Ph.D scholar, from Mahatma Gandhi Antarrashtriya Hindi Vishwavidyalaya, Wardha, Maharashtra, India from 2023. Title: 'Bride Trafficking in Haryana: Generalization of Social Crime'.
- ❖ Shilpa Bhagat, a Ph.D. scholar from Mahatma Gandhi Antarrashtriya Hindi Vishwavidyalaya, Wardha, Maharashtra, India. Title: 'Dalit Mahilayein Banam Samuhik Balatkaar: Vacharsav Aur Pratirodh'. Submitted the PhD thesis.

ICSSR Institutional Doctoral Fellowships in Women's Studies (2023-24)

Since 2013, CWDS has been inviting applications and administering the ICSSR Institutional Doctoral Fellowships in Women's Studies. Since its inception, a total of 31 fellowships have been disbursed. Fourteen fellows out of the 30 were from the CWDS-AUD Collaborative Research Programme in Women's and Gender Studies while sixteen scholars were from other Universities.

In the year 2021-22, the ICSSR suspended the fellowship program citing financial constraints. Three batches of students from 2018-2020, 2019-2021, and 2021-2023 are currently fellowship holders.

In 2023-24 no fellowships were disbursed by the ICSSR to CWDS.

Fellowship Programme Coordinator: Seema Kazi.

Post-Doctoral Supervision of Dr. K. Annapuranam Affiliated to Dr. Ambedkar International Centre, Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Government of India

Dr. K. Annapuranam has received a two-year post-doctoral fellowship from the Dr. Ambedkar International Centre, Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Government of India to undertake survey research on the Impact of Covid 19 on the Education of SC/ST Students. She has submitted the report to DAIC. She was affiliated with CWDS and Prof. Renu Addlakha was her Post-Doctoral supervisor.

LIBRARY AND INFORMATION SERVICES

The Vina Mazumdar Memorial Library (VMML) named after Late Prof. Vina Mazumdar, is an integral part of the Centre. Set up in 1980, the library has always provided research support to faculties, researchers, scholars, activists, and students from all over India and abroad. It has a rich collection of research materials related to gender and women studies. It is a resource hub on diverse issues of women – economy and development policies, social issues, disability, violence, women's movements, and many more. It is located at the YWCA building on Ashoka Road, New Delhi. The library provides commendable information services that meet the expressed and anticipated needs of the scholars, especially through innovative technological means.

Ongoing Activities

Knowledge Gateway: VMML has created a portal on Women's Studies in the South Asia region. The basic objectives are: i) to share resources, opportunities, and a globally integrated technology platform for all Women's Studies organizations in the 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.

Digital Archive Development: The digital restoration work is going on for the following types of collections viz. Institutional Collections, Individual Collections, Conference Document Collections, Miscellaneous Collections and Periodical Articles. So far a total of almost 5000 e-documents have been digitised and integrated in DSpace.

Instituting Specialized Library services for the Visually Challenged: The CWDS library has so far converted 93 documents into DAISY format. DAISY Books are made to be a complete audio substitute for print material for use by people with "print disabilities".

Oral History: 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. These conversations will trace a history which delineate the contours of the development of the women's studies agenda in the context of changes within India and the South Asian region. A total of 21 interviews were conducted till March 2024.

Collection Development

In VMML, 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 a complimentary basis. Special attention is given to collecting unpublished materials through its institutional channels in India and abroad. The thrust areas for the collection during 2023-24 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

Currently, the library has almost 17,507 books and Memo papers. Presently the Koha (catalogue) database has over 1,36,642 records including 1000+ full-text articles from journals and newspapers between April 2023 – March 2024 added to the database and are available only through the intranet.

The Library subscribes to 25 Indian journals and also receives 4 journals on a regular exchange basis for IJGS. The number of bound volumes of Journals/ Periodicals available in the library is 1197.

Collections which have been added to the Library Database in 2023-24 are:

- ❖ Between April 2023 – March 2024, 1000+ full-text articles from journals and newspapers were added to the database. Full-text newspaper articles were downloaded/ digitized and added to e-collection. These full texts are available only through the intranet.
- ❖ A total of 2,131 records were added to the Koha (catalogue) database between April 2023 – March 2024. Till March 2024 the library had almost 17,507 books and other documents and the Koha (catalogue) database had over 1,36,642 + records.
- ❖ A total of 218 books, monographs, reports, and conference documents have been added to the library collection database during the period. Out of 218 documents, there are 34 Hindi books, 7 Theses, 41 Mimeo Papers, and one conference document.

Books purchased and Journal Subscribed in 2023-24 are:

- ❖ Total number of books purchased in 2023-24 is 169.

The Library subscribes 25 Indian journals and receives 4 journals on regular exchange basis for IJGS. The number of bound volumes of Journals/ Periodicals available in the library is 1197.

Information Services

The Library has been providing a few 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">● OPAC – Online Public Access Catalogue● Current Awareness Bulletin (Bi- monthly)● Reference and Referral● Database Search including full-text● Inter-Library Loan	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Web-Bibliographies● BOL – An Electronic Discussion List on Gender Issues in South Asia● Reading Room Services● Photocopying and Printouts
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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 newspaper items that have been added to the library collection. During this financial year, a total 6 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/>

- ❖ No. 5-6, May-June 2023
- ❖ No.7-8, July-August 2023
- ❖ No.9-10, September-October 2023
- ❖ No.11-12, November-December 2023
- ❖ No.1-2, January – February 2024
- ❖ No.3-4 March – April 2024

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.

Users & Documents Consulted

Between April 2023 to March 2024 there 187 users accessed the library out of which 33 are new users. 31 New users are from different states viz. Delhi, Assam, Rajasthan, Bihar, Maharashtra, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal and 2 new users are from USA.

Documents including 353 books, 57 Conference Documents, 37 Reference Books, 14 Mimeo Papers, 54 Journals were consulted in the library between April 2023 to March 2024. Approximately 2411 pages of different documents were photocopied on request from scholars.

SEMINARS/WORKSHOPS/CONFERENCES/ TRAINING PROGRAMMES

Organizing seminars, workshops, conferences and training programmes is an important way to interact with a larger pool of researchers, students, activists, and policymakers providing newer directions to our work. Over the years 2023-24, the following events were carried out in online/offline mode.

CWDS Seminars, Webinars, Lectures and Workshops:

- ❖ **Bridging Data Divides: Mapping Unpaid Domestic and Care Work, Workshop on experiences and findings of a Pilot Survey, India International Centre, New Delhi, 3 October 2023**

The workshop which was to disseminate the findings of the pilot LFS-TUS study, supported by the ILO was attended by labor statisticians, economists, policymakers, academics from various other disciplines, and students. Prof. N. Manimekalai, Director, CWDS welcomed the participants and highlighted the need to analyze the trend of declining women's participation in the labor force using field-level data. The workshop was divided into three different sessions. In the first half, Dr. Samantha Watson, a labor statistician at the ILO gave an overview of the ILO initiative, its design, and the necessity of integrating time-use surveys into labor force surveys. Dr. Pronab Sen, chaired the first session. This was followed by presentations from the project team. Prof. Neetha N focused on methodology, Ms. Indrani presented findings from LFS, and Dr. Aanchal Dhull focused on the time-use data collected through fieldwork. A roundtable discussion followed the presentations chaired by Dr. TCA Anant which allowed for feedback and a discussion on the feasibility of combining TU and LFS. Dr. Pronab Sen, Prof. Padmini Swaminathan, Prof. Hirway and Prof. Chirashree Das, Prof. Ritu Dewan, Mr. P.C Mohanan, Prof. Srinivas Goli and Prof. Kripa Ananthpur contributed to the discussion apart from other invited participants.

The workshop provided valuable insights into the complexities and opportunities of integrating TUS and LFS. Most participants acknowledged the need for the LFS- TUS survey but also expressed concerns about how these two will be integrated. The

discussion highlighted that since we already have data from the LFS, we could consider adding components of TUS to the same survey for a sub-sample. This approach would significantly reduce the time required for the interview compared to conducting both surveys separately. Some of the key themes that emerged during the workshop were to explore care work by incorporating family dynamics and to investigate alternative activity classifications.

❖ **16 Day Activism Series – 25 November – 10 December 2023 Virtual Seminar - Commemoration of the ‘International Day for Elimination of Violence against Women’ Theme: “UNITE! Invest to Prevent Violence Against Women & Girls! #No Excuse”**

The International Day for Elimination of all forms of Violence against Women was observed on 25th November 2023 with a 16-day campaign from November -to 10th December 2023. The UN theme for 16 Days Campaign 2023 is “UNITE! Invest to Prevent Violence Against Women & Girls! #No Excuse”. The campaign theme asserts that funding and prevention of GBV is not an expense but rather an investment. The campaign involves direct costs but at the same time is a step towards eliminating Violence Against Women and advancing gender-inclusive development goals. Despite intense efforts by the State and civil society involvement, GBV persists even as new forms of violence are being reported globally. Women and girls face various forms of violence throughout the life cycle. At a global level, violence against women and girls is widespread across online and technology-facilitated platforms. Further, among others, violence against girls and women is shaped by climate change, natural disasters, war and conflict, feticide, human trafficking, forced marriage and sexual exploitation, female genital mutilation, domestic violence, sexual harassment at workplaces, honor crimes, caste and communal violence, cybercrimes, economic violence, and violence against sexually non-conforming persons. It is therefore essential for academic and research institutions to join practitioners, NGOs, and civil society in the campaign to prevent violence against women.

CWDS conducted a live-streaming program of 16 Days Activism from 25 November 2023-10 Dec 2023 in collaboration with 18 Universities and Women’s Studies Student Forums, the Association for Women’s Studies, and NGOs with online invited talks, dialogues, interactions, exhibitions, and panel discussions. The collaborative institutions include Bharathidasan University, Tiruchirappalli Tripura University (Tripura), Kashmir University Srinagar, University of Jammu, Mizoram University (Aizwal), University of Jammu (Jammu), Aligarh Muslim University (Aligarh), All India Women’s Studies Students’ Forum (AIWSSF), University of Madras Chennai, Gauhati University (Assam), Utkal University, Bhubaneswar, University of Hyderabad, Hyderabad, Bangalore University, Savitribai Phule Pune University, Manonmaniam

Sundaranar University, Tirunelveli, Tamil Nadu, Jadavpur University, Kolkata, University of Calicut (Calicut) Kerala.

As the host organization CWDS created and coordinated a registration form and link that was in turn shared with all the partnering institutions. Each institution in turn shared the invitation and the link with their contacts inviting them to join the discussion. Participants were invited to make individual and panel presentations, share experiences from the field, engage in debate, and round table discussions, and analyze social perceptions regarding Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG). More than 1000 participants across the country including academicians, activists, students, researchers, bureaucrats, etc. participated both as invitees, speakers, and participants. Participants shared experiences from the field. They were joined by survivors of various forms of gender-based violence who narrated their experiences, researchers, academics, students, and civil society members working to combat VAWG in different regions.

❖ **National Conference on “The Evolving Landscape: Exploring Possibilities and Challenges for The Girl Child in a Dynamic World” in collaboration with Holy Cross College, Tiruchirappalli on 24 January 2024, the National Girl Child Day**

A National Seminar (Hybrid Mode) on “The Evolving Landscape: Exploring Possibilities and Challenges for the Girl child in a Dynamic World to celebrate National Girl Child Day was organised by Women’s Studies Centre (Funded by UGC) in collaboration with Holy Cross College (Autonomous), Tiruchirappalli was organized on 24th January 2024. The invitees: Dr. Vidyasagar, formerly UNICEF Chennai, Ms. Indrani Mazumdar, formerly CWDS, Ms. Jothmani, Member of Parliament, Government of India touched on key aspects and challenges of women and girl children. Ms. Jothimani shared her personal journey of overcoming struggles to become a political leader, highlighting the societal deprivation of women’s dreams, emphasizing its role in limiting their independence. She expressed concern about the double oppression faced by women, encompassing both the denial of social rights and discrimination based on their gender and the potential threat of exploiting women through modern technologies such as AI. Dr. Vidyasagar, touched various development aspects and vulnerabilities of the girl child, neglect of issues of denying women, their basic right to livelihood, alarming consequences of minimal girl child population due to female feticide, the need for improved access to secondary education for young adolescent etc. Ms Indrani Mazumdar, focused on fast paced change and tthe need for adolescent girls to face new challenges, and emphasized the issues of Migrant girls in textiles and garment works, based on the issue of female unemployment, highlighting its prevalence in the textile industry. She drew attention to the labelling of young women migrants as trafficking victims and

ways to alter this perception. Dr. Mangai directed and staged a performance, titled My Body, My Rights, which commenced with a poignant Tamil song setting the tone for the theme, Stand Up for Your Rights. The impactful drama delved into crucial topics such as body shaming, the real-life incident of a school child abused by a teacher, and the psychological trauma endured by the victim, thus creating a deep impact on the audience.

There were two-panel discussions inviting speakers from across the country. Prof. Polly Vauqueline, Professor, Department of Women's Studies, Gauhati University, Assam, virtually enlightened the participants on Girls in North East Region: Prospects about vulnerabilities. She highlighted the vulnerabilities faced by girls in the Northeast region of India, the critical issues such as the gender gap in education in Arunachal Pradesh. Ms. Shoba Koshy, Former chairperson, State Commission for Protection of Child Rights, Kerala, Dr. Nandhini, DSK, Kolkatta, Dr. S. Suba, Associate Professor, Department and of Women Studies, Bharathidasan University, Tiruchirappalli, Ms. T. Jayanthi Rani, Advocate, Tiruchirappalli, Former Member, TamilNadu State Commission For Protection of Child Rights, Dr, J.O. Jeryda Gnanajane Elijo, Associate Professor, Department of Social Work, Bharathidasan University, Tiruchirappalli and Ms. U. Nirmala Rani, Advocate & Social Activist Tiruchirappalli were the other Resource persons, who spoke on various topics such as Revisiting of the Culture Stereotypes on Girl Child, Prevention of Child Marriage, Mental and Emotional Health Needs for Girls and Secondary Victimization of Girl Child – Rape Victims etc.

- ❖ **National Workshop on “Social Science Research in India: Potential, Prospects and Priorities, invited panel discussion on Gender in Social Science Research: Emerging Methodologies, organised by CRRID, Chandigarh, 29th February – 1st March, 2024 and organized the panel on behalf of CWDS.**

Centre for Research in Rural and Industrial Development (CRRID) organised a National Workshop on “Social Science Research in India: Potential, Prospects and Priorities “at CRRID, Chandigarh on 29 February - 01 March 2024 and invited CWDS to hold a panel. The panel discussion was on “Social Science Research: Emerging Methodologies in Gender Studies “Prof. Indu Agnihotri was the moderator and four panellists including Indu Agnihotri, Manimekalai Indrani Mazumdar and Renu Addlakha participated. Prof. Indu highlighted the contributions of ICSSR and its support in instituting Women's Studies and emergence of Women's Studies in India and focused on the debate on the conceptualization of Women's Studies and Methodologies and the historical research/ historical methods, its needs etc. in Women's Studies. Manimekalai interacted on “Entering the field”, the challenges in capturing and understanding women's questions and issues with the traditional survey method, the limited scope of scientific and

objective methods in women's/gender studies in capturing the ground realities, the power relations and dynamics etc. , and need for using multiple approaches to capture the intersectional issues, application of different methodologies to gather the facts and data and to connect how micro level evidences are required to work with Macro level. She also highlighted the need for using mixed methods. Indrani Mazumdar, spoke on Migration and Labour Studies, the Limitations of Census Data and the Criticality of Micro Level Studies. Using different methodologies, as an attempt or an intervention to capture the typology using the secondary data, she emphasised on the reading of the migration data and analysis from a gender perspective and brought out critical insights. Renu Addlakha spoke on epistemology of the Women's Studies which is spanning across other disciplines across the globe, where the interdisciplinary perspectives are being dealt with. Similarly, the disability studies attempt to bring out the experience and lived realities of the people with disabilities, employing multi methodological approach, will be covered. The panel basically starting with historical methods, spanning to micro and macro data analytical methods application of multiple methodologies to gather the facts at the micro level, end with the counting on the marginalized, the multiple methodological approaches

❖ **International Women's Day Event - Advancing Political Empowerment of Women, Partnership with High Commission of Canada, March 5, 2024.**

Centre for Women's Development Studies collaborated with the High Commission of Canada in an interactive event including conversations and panel discussions on the theme of 'Advancing Political Empowerment of Women.' In commemoration with International Women's Day, which was organized on 5th March 2024 in New Delhi. The objective of the event was to address the issue of gender-based inclusive governance and strategies to enhance women's political empowerment by inviting legislators, ex-legislators, leaders, gender advancement advocates, and stakeholders from India, Nepal, and Bhutan. While India passed the Women's Reservation Bill in 2023 allocating 33% of seats for women in parliament and state assemblies, women's struggles ensured a clause of 33% reservation for women in Nepal's Constitution. In Bhutan on the other hand, there is opposition to a quota for women. Opening remarks by Cameron McKay, Canada High Commissioner, very much underlined the equity and equality issues on gender in various areas and he emphatically underlined the need for gender equality to achieve SDGs, in which political participation of women was also highlighted. CWDS Prof. Manimekalai, CWDS Director illustrated women's struggles for justice and equality in politics. Providing empirical examples from her own field experiences, she highlighted women's success in entering representative institutions as well as social, cultural and economic impediments to the same. It was followed by a panel discussion chaired by Prof. Sanjay Kumar, Centre for Developing Societies (CSDS), New Delhi. Speakers for the panel were Ms. Sarah Ferguson, Country

Representative, UN Women, Dr Ranjana Kumari: Founder-Director of Centre for Social Research and Chairperson, Women Power Connect, and Dr Rashmi Singh: Assistant Professor, Jindal School of Liberal Arts and Humanities, O P Jindal Global University. A pertinent question was raised as to why women's candidature is hardly supported by women and the panelists presented their remarks.

The above panel was followed by a second panel chaired by Mr Colin Wetmore: First Secretary in the Foreign Policy and Diplomatic Service Program, High Commission of Canada, New Delhi with speakers from Nepal and Bhutan. Speaker for the panel were Ms Dorji Choden: Former Minister for Works and Human Settlement, Bhutan, Dr Binda Pandey: Ex-Member of Pratinidhi Sabha (House of Representatives), Nepal and Dr Toshima Karki: Member of Pratinidhi Sabha (House of Representatives), Nepal. It was quite encouraging to note that young political leadership has been emerging in Nepal where the professionals associated with movements were able to influence the political leadership. After concluding remarks by Dr. Seema Kazi, CWDS, the discussion concluded with a vote of thanks by Stewart Wheeler, Deputy High Commissioner of Canada.

❖ **Seminar on “Marginalities: Gendered Intersections”, supported by ICSSR, 14-15 March 2024**

The concept of marginality emerged in a globalized post-colonial context where research on migration, borders, bio-politics, hybridity and digital technologies among others, offered new ways of making sense of an increasingly complex and changing world. In the field of Women's and Gender Studies the concept of marginality works to foreground the intersections between different axes of social, cultural, economic and historical lives of women as well as the inherent limits, indeed impossibility, of considering one axis independently of the other.

A CWDS seminar titled 'Marginalities: Gendered Intersections' supported by the Indian Council of Social Science Research, was held on 14-15th March 2024. The seminar brought together 17 young academics and scholars from different regions and disciplines across India. Structured as a roundtable conference, the event prioritized discussion over formal presentations, allowing participants to actively engage as both speakers and discussants across multiple sessions.

The objective of the seminar was to transcend disciplinary compartmentalization, renew engagements of Women and Gender studies scholars with interdisciplinary research and analysis, and facilitate integrated knowledge production cognisant of power relations underpinning meanings of gender across disciplines. A total of 18 paper presentations were organized into eight seminar panels under the following broad themes:

- ❖ Women's Studies and the Question of Intersectionality
- ❖ On the Margins: Gender, History Literature
- ❖ Sex workers: Stigmatized Exclusions
- ❖ Gender, Identity, Morality
- ❖ Gender, Culture, Marginality
- ❖ Gender and Systemic Intersections
- ❖ Caste and Gender

Participants in each session participants presented individual papers highlighted the complex intersections of gender with other dimensions of identity and social structures; women's experiences of marginalisation in diverse regions of India were foregrounded. The seminar concluded on 15 March 2024 with a summary of the seminar discussions by the seminar coordinator and a vote of thanks. The seminar coordinator is in the process of editing select seminar papers towards a publication based on Seminar paper presentations.

(Seminar Coordinator – Dr. Seema Kazi)

- ❖ **Panel Discussion on Integrating Time Use Module with Labour Force Surveys: Possibilities and Challenges, 64th Labour Economics Conference, The Indian Society of Labour Economics, School of Economics, University of Hyderabad, 29-31st March 2024**

The panel discussion, Integrating Time Use Module with Labour Force Surveys: Possibilities and Challenges, deliberated on the possibility and the methodology of an integrated survey in the Indian context, drawing from the experiences of international and national surveys and micro level studies. Dr. TCA Anant chaired the panel discussion and the Panel members were Prof. Padmini Swaminathan; Dr. G.C Manna, Mr. PC Mohan, Prof. Kripa Anantpur, Dr. Sona Mitra and Prof. Neetha N. Prof Manimekalai, Director of the Centre for Women's Development Studies, New Delhi welcomed the chair and the speakers. In the opening remarks, Prof. Anant highlighted the importance of unit-level data and requested young scholars to explore and popularise it more.

Prof. Swaminathan made her presentation on the topic "Where Entrenchment of Gender Inequality is Complex: How will the Integration of TUS and LFS help: Care Work as Example". She highlighted that before embarking on integrating TUS and LFS, a thorough understanding of regional disparities, household livelihood patterns, and access to welfare services is imperative. The presentation by Prof. Manna focused on the challenges encountered in integrating the Time Use Survey (TUS) module with the Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS). He outlined international experiences with TUS, pilot studies conducted in India, the complexities of integrating the TUS module with

PLFS and proposed potential strategies to address the challenges. The presentation by Mr. P.C. Mohanan on “Combining EUS and TUS: Some Reflections” provided insights into the practical issues of combining the Employment and Unemployment Survey (EUS) with the Time Use Survey (TUS). The presentation provided valuable reflections on the practical challenges and implications of combining EUS and TUS. It underscored the need for further research and methodological refinement to address the operational issues and discrepancies between the two surveys.

Sona Mitra presented insights from her field experience on “Measuring Women’s Work - Innovating Probing Techniques for Better Enumeration in the LFS”. She talked about innovating probing techniques for better enumeration of women’s work in Labour Force Surveys (LFS). Her presentation emphasised the need for a gendered framework in data collection processes and highlighted the challenges of missing data on women’s work. Prof. Neetha presented findings and field experience based on a project integration of LFS-TUS done by CDWS with the collaboration of ILO. Prof. Neetha highlighted that the pilot study demonstrated the feasibility of integrating the time use module with LFS, with the potential for national-level implementation as a subset of LFS households, while emphasizing that this integration should not replace regular time-use surveys but complement them in generating data on domestic and care work. Prof Anant, in conclusion, suggested a rotational panel in PLFS for collecting data on time use.

(Panel Discussion Organised by Neetha N).

- ❖ **30th J.P.Naik Memorial Lecture has been scheduled on 13th April, 2024 on “Time to Introspect, Revisit: 50 Years of the Committee on the Status of Women in India”, Justice S. Muralidhar, Former Chief Justice, High Court of Orissa, at IIC, New Delhi**

CWDS holds an annual J.P. Naik Memorial Lecture in honor of one of the Founders of the Centre. The lecture is given by /distinguished speakers on any theme related to women’s lives. The 30th J.P. Naik Memorial Lecture will be delivered by Justice S. Muralidhar, Former Chief Justice, High Court of Orissa on 13 April, 2024 at India International Centre, New Delhi.

Training Programme

- ❖ **Ten days Research Methodology Workshop on Quantitative Methods and Women’s Studies supported by the Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR) in collaboration with the University of Hyderabad – 18-28 March, 2024**

The Ten Days Research Methodology Course on Quantitative Methods and Women’s Studies was held during 18th March – 28th March 2024. The course was held in collaboration with the Centre for Women’s Studies, University of Hyderabad, Gachibowli, Hyderabad. Prof. Suneeta Rani, Head, Centre for Women’s Studies, University of Hyderabad was the local Co-ordinator of the course.

The course was designed to orient scholars to the importance of quantitative research methods and mixed methods in women’s studies, various secondary data sources, analyzing data and writing research papers from the perspective of women studies. Thirty research scholars from various universities across India were selected. The ten-day workshop commenced on March 18th, 2024, with an inaugural session. Prof. Jyotirmaya Sharma, Dean of School of Social Sciences at University of Hyderabad inaugurated the workshop. The session was chaired by Prof. Manimekalai, Director of Centre for Women’s Development Studies (CWDS), and began with welcome remarks by Prof Suneetha Rani, Head of Centre for Women’s Studies (CWS), UOH. This was followed by an introduction to the program by the course director Prof Neetha N. The Inaugural Lecture was delivered by Prof. Sujit Kumar Mishra, Regional Director(In-Charge) Council for Social Development Southern Regional Centre, Hyderabad at 11.45 am. in the Conference Hall. The inaugural session set the tone for the workshop by emphasizing on the significance of integrating quantitative research methods in gender studies and critically looking at various data.

In addition to sessions by various invited speakers on different themes, a field visit was arranged to Shaheen Women’s Resource and Welfare Association at Old City, Hyderabad. As part of their training in survey method, the course participants conducted a time-use survey with the women at the organization. The participants were also given an introduction and extensive hands-on training in Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS) through analysis of NFHS data. The training covered topics like data input and manipulation, descriptive statistics, cross-tabulation, etc. This practical approach allowed participants to apply their new-found knowledge and gain confidence in using the software. By the end of the two days, participants were equipped with the foundational skills to use SPSS for their research projects. Towards the end of the program, participants made presentations on their individual analysis of NFHS data.

The workshop concluded with the valedictory function. Prof B.J Rao, Vice Chancellor of the University of Hyderabad graced the occasion as the chief guest for the valedictory. During his address, Prof B.J. Rao emphasized the significance of such intensive workshops in equipping researchers with quantitative skills in women's studies. He also distributed the certificates to the participants. The valedictory session was attended by Prof. Jyotirmaya Sharma, Dean, of the School of Social Sciences. Prof. Suneetha Rani, Head, the Centre for Women's Studies (CWS) gave the closing remarks and a brief report of the program.

(Course Director- Neetha N; Co-course Director- Prof. Manimekalai)

Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav Lecture Series (AKAM)

- ❖ **Fashioning the 'Cosmopolitan Diva': Grooming and Etiquette Training in Contemporary Delhi**
Speaker: Dr. Suchismita Chattopadhyay, Consultant, Oxford Policy Management, and Visiting Faculty, Krea University
Date: 16 May, 2023

The new economic reforms of 1991 led to the emergence of a consumption-driven economy and a booming service industry, producing new aspirations and sensibilities. Delhi's new 'world-class' spaces of employment, pleasure and consumption demand new modes of belonging. At the level of the workforce in the service industry, belonging is mediated by proficiency in English and soft skills. Similarly, clients also must demonstrate a knowledge of taste and distinction that goes beyond possessing the monetary means to consume. However, neither of these dispositions and skills are naturally given. Grooming institutions have emerged as sites that teach clients new lifestyle practices and how to be 'professional'. They range from spoken English and personality development classes to finishing schools and image management. In her talk, Dr. Chattopadhyay highlighted how grooming schools in Delhi are breaking down the seemingly global-urban lifestyle into teachable components of language, attitude, deportment, etiquette, and appearance. She further described how such schools have emerged as sites that not only fashion the urban subject but also propose the discourse of that urbanity. Dr. Chattopadhyay's presentation was based on ethnographic work in a finishing school in Delhi that trains upper-class women in body language, etiquette, and lifestyle practices. It highlighted the fashioning of the "cosmopolitan diva" the salience of pleasure and conspicuous spending, where etiquette by itself, through the lessons, becomes an aspirational and desirable phenomenon.

Inhouse Lectures/Talks

❖ **Talk on “Women’s Reservation Act 2023: Pros and Cons”, 27 October, 2023**

Talk on “Women’s Reservation Act 2023: Pros and Cons” was held on 27 October, 2023 (Friday) at CWDS Office. The session was chaired by CWDS Former Director, Prof. Indu Agnihotri. Panel members: Prof. Nivedita Menon, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, Ms. Rajalakshmi, Chief of Bureau, Frontline, Delhi, Dr. Rashmi Singh, O.P. Jindal Global University, Sonapat, Haryana.

In the wake of the passage of the Women’s Reservations Bill in parliament, a panel discussion on the Women’s Reservation Bill was organized by CWDS in October 2023. The discussion began with panelists outlining the history of the women’s movement’s demand for reservations, the underlying gender politics of reservations, the role of political parties, the pros and cons of women’s quotas, and concerns about how the proposed legislation plays out in the future. There was general agreement regarding the widespread disappointment with the way the legislation has been held up for many years. Panelists discussed the mechanism of implementation of the Bill and the demand for sub-quotas within the general women’s quota. The issue of quotas within quotas was viewed as a difficult one. Panelists also felt it was not clear when the implantation of the Bill would take place. There was a discussion on strategies women’s movements could adopt towards its early implementation.

❖ **DeafBlindness: Advocacy and Empowerment** **Speaker: Mr. Zamir Dhale, Founder and President, Society for the Empowerment of the DeafBlind (SEDB) Pune, 14 December 2023**

Mr Zamir Dhale is a Founder and Consultant at the Society for the Empowerment of Deafblind (SEDB) in Pune, Maharashtra, India. He is the President of the National Network of Adult Deafblind, Udaan. He has also been engaged as an Advocacy Coordinator at the Deaf Enabled Foundation, Telangana. He works as a freelancer and consultant for other organizations and companies. Despite fundamental barriers, he has numerous achievements to quote.

The talk was based on sharing his journey of struggling with Deaf blindness to become a vocal advocate for the rights of Deafblind people in India. Dr. Dhale completed his schooling and is currently pursuing an undergraduate degree from SOL. His talk showcased his courage and resilience in taking a basic computer diploma course and learning woodwork, tailoring, electronic repair, and metal fitting work. Dr. Dhale participated in the workshop at Helen Keller Institute for the Deaf and Deafblind Where he learned to operate a Braille press to produce Braille books and experiment cards. He has assisted in various tasks, including reading, hand-loom, preparing

tea, cooking lunch, gardening, and teaching computer theory, gym, and yoga to deafblind students. He has also coached deaf and deafblind students in the swimming pool at the YMCA in Mumbai. He was an assistant in the film production *Black* in 2003, providing training and guidance for actors to understand and portray characters with deaf blindness. The talk was attended by 40 participants (both online and offline), and Mr Zamir was asked questions about advocacy, government policies, and challenges for people having this condition. He also reflected on his experience as a spouse and father. The talk was facilitated by two interpreters.

- ❖ **Talk based on the book “Depletion: The Human Costs of Caring”
Speaker: Shirin M. Rai, Distinguished Research Professor, Department of
Politics and International Studies, SOAS, University of London, 13 February
2024**

Shirin M. Rai is a Distinguished Research Professor, at the Department of Politics and International Studies, SOAS, University of London. She is a Fellow of the British Academy. Rai’s research interests lie in performance and politics, gender and politics, and feminist international political economy. She has published extensively in these areas; her latest published work includes the co-edited *Oxford Handbook of Politics and Performance, In Depletion*.

The talk is based on the book “Depletion: The Human Costs of Caring”, in which Shirin M. Rai examined the costs of the systematic appropriation of social reproductive labour to show how this depletes human beings if not supported in both the spheres of paid and unpaid work and what strategies are and can be used to reverse this depletion across the boundaries of class, race, gender, and generation. Dr. Rai argued that depletion must be recognized for it to be reversed—the struggles to reverse depletion are struggles for a good life, generative of new imaginings of how caring and care work, both draining and joyful, can be reorganized for a better future for all.

- ❖ **Talk on “Women’s Access to Health Matters: Dealing with Diversity,
Inclusion and Equity” by Prof. Sanghmitra S. Acharya, Chairperson and
Professor, Centre for Social Medicine and Community Health, Jawaharlal
Nehru University, New Delhi, 27 March 2024**

Prof. Sanghmitra S. Acharya is currently Chairperson and Professor at the Centre of Social Medicine and Community Health, School of Social Sciences, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi. She taught at the International Institute for Population Sciences during 1990-99 and Director, of the Indian Institute of Dalit Studies from 2015-18. Her research on sanitation workers is published by Academic Publishers (2023).

Dr. Acharya delivered a talk on "Women's Access to Health Matters: Dealing with Diversity, Inclusion and Equity." There is evidence from the literature that differences in status based on income, education, occupation, place of residence, gender, ethnicity, religion, race, and, caste, show an association with access to resources. Endemic poverty, unemployment, lack of sanitation and safe drinking water, and effective healthcare determine as much as produce inequalities. Dr Acharya's talk outlined the labyrinth of social relations and institutions that often results in exclusion and discrimination leading to the deprivation of certain social groups based on gender, caste, ethnicity, race, region, and religion-related identities. This in turn influences access to wealth and health. Women of these groups particularly experience exclusion and deprivation. They lack material benefits considered to be necessities in a society; and are kept away from possessing assets, enjoying or using services, resources, and opportunities. Dr. Acharya described how women are marginalized and discriminated against on grounds of caste, age, gender, and disability and pushed to the periphery of human development. The talk underlined the intersections between social inequalities in health and its association with women in India.

Samvad (Hindi Lecture Series)

संवाद व्याख्यान श्रृंखला के संयोजक- नयनतारा सिंह

- ❖ **पिछड़ी महिलाएँ या पिछड़ों की महिलाएँ?: सन्दर्भ ओबीसी कैटेगरी/श्रेणी डॉ. आशा सिंह, असिस्टेंट प्रोफेसर, सेंटर फॉर स्टडीज इन सोशल साइंसेज, कलकत्ता (CSSSC), 28 April 2023**

संवाद श्रृंखला के तहत 28 अप्रैल 2023 को सेंटर फॉर वीमेन डेवलपमेंट स्टडीज़, नयी दिल्ली में डॉ आशा सिंह का व्याख्यान आयोजित किया गया. सेंटर फॉर स्टडीज इन सोशल साइंसेज कलकत्ता में बतौर असिस्टेंट प्रोफेसर कार्यरत डॉ आशा सिंह के व्याख्यान का शीर्षक था - पिछड़ी महिलाएँ या पिछड़ों की महिलाएँ: सन्दर्भ ओबीसी श्रेणी। डॉ सिंह ने अपने व्याख्यान में सरकारी श्रेणी के रूप में अन्य पिछड़ा वर्ग (ओबीसी) की यात्रा का ऐतिहासिक विवरण प्रस्तुत किया और इसकी सीमाओं व संभावनाओं को रेखांकित किया। ओबीसी श्रेणी को पिछड़ी जाति की महिलाओं के नज़रिए से समझने की समुचित कोशिश नहीं हुई है। पिछड़े वर्गों की पहचान और सूचीबद्ध करने की प्रक्रिया का विश्लेषण करते हुए यह व्याख्यान अंतर्निहित समाजशास्त्रीय मान्यता और विरोधाभासों की तरफ़ इशारा करेगा। 'पिछड़ा' शब्द का महिलाओं से क्या लेना-देना है अथवा महिलाओंको 'पिछड़े' की श्रेणी में समझने की क्या क़वायद हुई है (या नहीं हुई है), पर प्रकाश डालना इस व्याख्यान का केंद्रीय लक्ष्य है।

❖ **रुदन की संस्कृति- लोक स्त्री का अदृश्य विलाप स्वर**
वक्ता □ डॉ. धनंजय सिंह, असिस्टेंट प्रोफ़ेसर, डॉ. एसआरके गवर्नमेंट आर्ट्स कॉलेज, यानम, पॉन्डिचेरी, चर्चा कर्ता: प्रो. प्रीति सागर, साहित्य विद्यापीठ, महात्मा गांधी अंतरराष्ट्रीय हिंदी विश्वविद्यालय, वर्धा, 26 December, 2023

संवाद शृंखला के तहत 26 दिसंबर, 2023 को सेंटर फॉर वीमेन डेवलपमेंट स्टडीज़, नयी दिल्ली में डॉ. धनंजय सिंह का व्याख्यान आयोजित किया गया। डॉ. एसआरके गवर्नमेंट आर्ट्स कॉलेज, यानम, पॉन्डिचेरी में बतौर असिस्टेंट प्रोफ़ेसर कार्यरत डॉ. धनंजय सिंह के व्याख्यान का शीर्षक था - रुदन की संस्कृति- लोक स्त्री का अदृश्य विलाप स्वर। डॉ. सिंह ने अपने व्याख्यान में रुदन की संस्कृति को समझना दरअसल लोक स्त्री के आँसुओं के इतिहास को भी समझना है। डॉ. सिंह ने स्त्री-पुरुष के बीच सामाजिक-सांस्कृतिक फाँक को बताते हुए मुख्यतः तीन पहलुओं पर विचार किया- एक, विवाह/गवना समारोह में भेंट के वक्त आँसू बहाती स्त्रियों के रुदन संवाद को प्रतिरोध (या शिकायत) के रूप में देखा जाना चाहिए या परंपरा के अनुपालन रूप में? दूसरे, मौके-बेमौके मुलाकात के वक्त भेंट करती या एकांत में रोती स्त्रियों को असहाय रूप में देखना चाहिए या कलात्मकता के संदर्भ में? और तीसरे, मृत्यु पर शोक मनाती स्त्रियों के विलाप स्वर को चीख के रूप में देखना चाहिए या करुण भाव की अभिव्यक्ति के रूप में? इन सवालों को रखते उन्होंने कहा कि भारत में लोक स्त्रियों के रुदन को अकादमिक तौर पर समझने की कोशिश बिल्कुल नहीं हुई है। डॉ. सिंह ने रुदन संस्कृति को परिभाषित करते हुए जीवन के तीन मुख्य पड़ावों पर लोक स्त्रियों के विलाप को मर्मस्पर्शी रूप में प्रस्तुत किया और बताया कि तेज़ी से बदल रहे दौर में लोक एवं लोकसाहित्य में मौजूद विलाप के शोक गीतों को एकत्रित करना चाहिए। डॉ. सिंह ने इन शोक गीतों की ऐतिहासिक व्याख्या में होने वाली कठिनाइयों व संभावनाओं को भी रेखांकित किया। डॉ. सिंह ने अपना तर्क रखते हुए कहा कि विलाप को लोक स्त्रियों की दृष्टि से समझने की कोशिश नहीं हुई है। विलाप में भेंट की परंपरा को विश्लेषित करते हुए डॉ. सिंह ने आत्मीयता की ऐसी पराकाष्ठा अब खत्म हो गई है। डॉ. सिंह ने ताज्जुब व्यक्त करते हुए महत्वपूर्ण सवाल रखा कि पूरे हिंदी प्रदेश के साथ अन्य भाषायी इलाकों की आधी आबादी न जाने कितनी सदियों से सामाजिक रूप से रुदन करती रही, लेकिन इस पर आज तक किसी ने प्रकाश नहीं डाला। समाज-विज्ञान ने भी विवाह में स्त्री को दो परिवारों, वंशों या गांवों को जोड़ने वाली घटक के रूप में तो देखा, लेकिन उसी सामाजिक समारोह में बिलख रही उसकी रुदन परंपरा पर नज़र नहीं डाली, जिसमें माँ-बेटियों के वियोग की कहानियाँ न जाने कब से गूँजती रही है। इसके साथ मृत्यु पर शोक मनाती स्त्रियों के विलाप स्वर को भी नहीं देखा। आखिर विलाप करती स्त्रियाँ अभी तक अदृश्य क्यों रही? इस सवाल

का जबाब भी डॉ सिंह ने दिया और कहा कि दरअसल औपनिवेशिक एवं राष्ट्रवादी विद्वानों ने इन स्त्रियों को इस लायक समझा हो नहीं कि इन स्त्रियों का भी अपना अस्तित्व है, देश है। इस वेबिनार में भारी संख्या में छात्र-छात्राओं ने अपनी उपस्थिति दर्ज करवाई और कई सवाल भी पूछे। इस व्याख्यान की चर्चा कर्ता प्रो. प्रीति सागर ने रुदन की संस्कृति जैसे नए विषय के वक्ता धनंजय सिंह की सराहना करते हुए कहा कि ऐसे अनछुए पहलू अकादमिक जगत के लिए बेहद महत्वपूर्ण हैं। प्रो. प्रीति ने अपना तर्क रखा कि स्त्रियों के रुदन पर पुरुषों की प्रतिक्रिया को शामिल किया जाना चाहिए। इस वेबिनार में दिल्ली विश्विद्यालय के एक कॉलेज शिक्षक डॉ योगेश योगेश्वर ने अपनी टिप्पणी दिया कि आज रुदन की संस्कृति इसलिए खत्म हो रही है कि क्योंकि स्त्रियां अब पढ़ लिखकर मानसिक तौर समृद्ध हो रही हैं। सेंटर फॉर वीमेन डेवलपमेंट स्टडीज़ की पूर्व निदेशक डॉ इंदु अग्निहोत्री ने अपनी लिखित टिप्पणी में इस व्याख्यान की प्रशंसा करते हुए कहा कि इसमें समाज विज्ञान के लिए बेहतरीन संदर्भ हैं। इस काम को और आगे बढ़ाए जाने की जरूरत है। इस व्याख्यान में सेंटर फॉर वीमेन डेवलपमेंट स्टडीज़ की प्रोफेसर रेणु अदलखा, प्रोफेसर नीता, प्रोफेसर सीमा क्राज़ी समेत अन्य शिक्षक एवं रिसर्चर मौजूद रहे। कार्यक्रम का संचालन नयनतारा सिंह ने किया।

It may be noted that all the above events were live-streamed on YouTube and may still be accessed.

PUBLICATIONS AND FACULTY PARTICIPATION

Indian Journal of Gender Studies (IJGS):

Editors: Malavika Karlekar and Leela Kasturi

Editorial Associates: Bhaswati Thakurta and Gayatri Panda

Indian Journal of Gender Studies, Vol. 30 No. 2, June 2023

The four articles in this issue focussed on housewifery, identity, and the long shadow of the Covid years. In 'The 'Housewife' on an Education Mission: An Ethnographic Portrait,' Hem Borker looked at the founder and co-owner of a chain of girls' madrasas in a Muslim-dominated mofussil town in Uttar Pradesh. She aimed to illuminate the current moment at which girls' madrasas stand in a rapidly changing India. The article successfully shows how girls' madrasas are both a source and result of the changing imagery of the kamilmomina or ideal Islamic woman in India.

It is a well-known fact that COVID-19 affected women's lives sometimes more radically than it did those of men. In 'COVID-19 and Its Impact on Diverse Aspects of Women's Lives,' Alfred J. Lawrence, Umama Fatima, Faiza Ali, Ancey Abraham, Saima Arif and Tahmeena Khan looked at 510 women who had participated in an online survey, exploring different aspects like their daily work patterns, hygiene practices, psychological effects, and nutritional status during the pandemic. Many of the respondents took up physical activities to maintain their fitness.

Looking at Othering in Indian society in 'Disempowering Women and Constructing Muslims as 'Other': A Study of India's Anti-Conversion Legislations,' Mohammad Jamshed, Mohammad Rezaul Karim, and Sameena Banu went so far as to say that, in many ways, the recently enacted legislations dressed up as anti-conversion laws to criminalize love choices are a clear reflection of Nazi Germany's Nuremberg Laws. Against the background of the state making intrusions into private spaces, denying the right to choose a partner, and acting as an oppressive surveillance agency, the study argued that these laws defy various judicial orders and subvert the vision of our constitutional democracy.

In 'Women and Resistance in the Conflict-Affected Bodoland Territorial Council Region of Assam' Amrita Saikia looked at women of the conflicting communities - Bodo, Bengali-speaking Muslims, and Adivasis, and how they have largely borne the brunt of these conflicts. The article argues that the Bodo women displayed overt resistance, such as participating in the Bodoland movement, holding protests, contesting elections, and carrying out peace marches against insurgencies and ethnic conflicts. The Bengali-speaking Muslim women went in for everyday forms of resistance, such as pursuing education, holding jobs, maintaining silence, and refraining from contacting members of the dominant community. The Adivasi women put up physical resistance, such as engaging in confrontation with forest officials, and overt resistance, like participating in protests and social movements to demand their rights.

In a well-argued comment, lawyer Amartya Kanjilal in 'An Unjust Mercy: Locating the Illegalities in the Release of the Convicts in the Bilkis Bano Case' critically analysed The Gujarat government's decision on 15 August 2022, to release all 11 prisoners sentenced to life imprisonment in the Bilkis Bano case. He located the release within a larger national context wherein carceral notions of justice, typified by longer and harsher prison sentences, are gaining currency both within the government and judiciary. In the Research Note on 'Hindu-Right Activism in Pandemic: Exploring the Role of DurgaVahini in Covid-19', Manisha Chachra argued how the hierarchy and coordination within the Durga Vahini - the women's wing of the Vishwa Hindu Parishad, facilitated the propagation of two primary goals of seva, and sanskar in Delhi and Uttar Pradesh. Jyoti Thakur analyzed changes introduced in the Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) and their impact on the visibility of women's work in India. In 2017-2018, the National Sample Survey Organisation's five-yearly employment-unemployment surveys (EUS) were replaced by the annual PLFS, and in transition figures. Her Research Note 'Falling Between the Cracks: Women's Work and the Periodic Labour Force Survey' highlights the negative impact of some of these changes.

Vol. 30, No.3, October 2023

Articles in this issue looked at contemporary issues such as women's work in urban and rural India, tribal inheritance rights today, and the historical genesis of the family planning program. The ongoing dilemma of women's rights in Iran was the subject of a Comment while a Research Note looked at workplace bullying.

In 'Women and Waste: The Question of Shit-work', Barbara Harriss-White commented that 'literally and metaphorically, waste work [that] is shit-work' is women's work. One of the fastest-growing sectors of the Indian economy is waste, and between 2015 and 2019, Harriss-White studied the production and disposal of waste in a small South Indian town, mapping the material substances of waste, their physical organization and gendered labour processes through circuits of industrial

production (agro-processing), distribution (of people and food), consumption, the production of labour (human wastes) and the reproduction of society (health care activity). Not unexpectedly, the privatization of waste work has caused a deterioration in work conditions throughout the waste economy.

Returning to the age-old question of issues relating to the status of rural women, in 'Women and Their Interests in Rural India', Narendar Pani pointed to the problems involved in treating the interests of women as being homogenous. The challenges they face are accentuated at times of wider social transformation. Responses of women to these challenges were looked at through an empirical examination of the linkages between these interests of women across four different patterns of transformation in 21st-century rural India.

Saumya Uma's 'Between the Devil and the Deep Sea: Tribal Women's Inheritance Rights in India' examined the fact that tribal communities in India enjoy constitutionally guaranteed autonomy and self-governance, which extend to customary laws for marriage, matrimonial rights and inheritance. Where tribal customary law has denied women inheritance rights, some women have approached the courts. The article examined Indian judicial responses to this issue and the ramifications for the inheritance rights of tribal women.

In 'Population Control and Eugenics: Dhanvanthi Rama Rau and Margaret Sanger in the Making of India's Family Planning Programme, 1930s–1960s', Daksha Parmar and Mohan Rao have delved into rare archives of letters and documents and established that the contribution of two pioneering women, Dhanvanthi Rama Rau and Margaret Sanger in shaping the official Family Planning Programme (FPP) of India was based on their advocacy of contraception. This was shaped by eugenics and neo-Malthusian ideas. They were successful in institutionalizing a programme of family planning that called for an immediate reduction in the birth rate. This was to be achieved through gendered population control policies and practices. The concern of improving the health of mothers and children was, for them, a scaffolding on which to build the agenda of population control.

While Sujata Ashwarya, in 'Hijab Protests and Beyond: The State of Women's Rights in Iran', sought to expose the situation in that country, Raghunandan Reddy's Research Note 'Workplace Bullying: The Problem That (Still) Has No Name' looked at how workplace bullying of women employees tended to be unacknowledged and ignored because of the gap between statutory provisions and the selective policies and practices of individual organisations.

Vol 31 No 1, February 2024

As the world emerged from Covid 19 and the aftereffects of the devastating pandemic, it was only appropriate that IJGS should have continued to look at its impact on women. The special section titled 'Focus on Disease, Contagion and Isolation' examined the historical genesis of the pandemic as well as its impact on individual lives and communities. In addition, an article looked at the question of surplus women while another article looked at the portrayal of women in changing times.

In 'Dr Hunter's Plague: Gender, Race, and Photography in British India' David Arnold looked at how during the initial years of the plague epidemic (1896-1900) women were largely overlooked. Using select archival photographs to illustrate his arguments, Arnold argued for the centrality of female actors—as doctors, nurses, and 'ward ayahs'—across the social spectrum from Dalits to Europeans. The value of combining visual and textual sources is underscored by focusing on a single institution, the General Plague Hospital in Poona (Pune), and on a woman doctor, Marion Hunter, whose photographic presence and whose views highlighted the tensions and contradictions of a gendered as well as racialized imperial presence.

Moving from history, the next two articles looked at lived experiences during those traumatic months. A. Suneetha argued in 'Gender During the Pandemic: Issues at Stake' that the COVID pandemic exacerbated existing inequalities as well as those between researchers and the researched. This experiential note discussed the ethical dilemmas and practical difficulties that she as a feminist researcher and activist encountered between 2020 and 2022. Formal research investigations involving fieldwork required that she attended to the needs of the 'researched' through humanitarian outreach and advocacy. Such a displacement of the identity of the researcher pointed to pertinent issues at stake in doing feminist research. These are relevant even during 'ordinary times. Living through Covid as a person with disability presented many unexpected problems. Anita Ghai and Suchaita Tenneti looked at these in 'An Autoethnographic Reflection of COVID-19 and/as Biographical Disruption'. They argue that people with disabilities and chronic illnesses have been among some of the most drastically impacted social groups during the pandemic due to their isolation and vulnerabilities.

Through an auto-ethnographic account of a woman with a physical disability in India who has also survived polio, heart disease, cancer, and COVID-19, this article captured some of the complex and conflicting emotions and experiences of a life lived at the intersections of various embodied precarities and demonstrates how a social disaster can itself constitute a biographical disruption.

Johnson Jament and Caroline Osella's 'The Impact of COVID on Kerala Fish-vending Women' looked at women's role in Kerala's small-scale marine fishing industry and changes that took place during COVID-19. Pandemic conditions enabled and accelerated the restructuring of Kerala's fishing industry practices, leaving marginal groups even more marginal. Female vendors who utilised public transport and face-to-face sales methods found themselves locked out from new retail methods introduced during the pandemic, which made use of smartphone apps, online platforms, and private light vehicles. The Gulf states' continuing squeeze on jobs and resultant migration slow-down contributed to these trends. Female fish-vending activity has also been affected by Kerala's acceleration of bourgeois respectability norms. The state government's modernisation and centralization policies also led to the shrinking of women's spaces in fish auction markets.

Anandita Pan's 'Counting the Numbers: Nationalism and the Question of Surplus Women' took us back to social reformation and women's progress in India in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. The narrative of the social progress of women focused only on upper-class and upper-caste women whose lives were ruled by Brahmanical and patriarchal ideals of chastity, purity, and devotion to husbands. Consequently, patriarchy was interpreted as a traditional system oppressing upper-class upper-caste women. Social reformers discussed companionate marriage, sati, and widowhood, issues that had relevance only to upper-caste communities. Through a comparative reading of the discourses on sati and widowhood by Raja Ram Mohan Roy and the idea of endogamy by B.R.Ambedkar, Pan examined the roots of Brahmanical patriarchy to delineate the gendering of caste in imposing a false homogeneity of nationalism.

Sunil Barthwal's article brought us once again to the present through his 'Gender Portrayals and Perceptions in the New Age Society of India'. His study explored whether such changed portrayals in the media are also positively perceived and if there is an impact on the status of women in the social reality of India. The study examined gender perceptions through focus group discussions with participants from Gen X and Gen Z cohorts. Gen Z, conditioned in an age of technology and liberalization, was expected to have different gender perceptions than Gen X. While Gen X participants were bound to old gender structures and equations, the iconoclastic Gen Z participants appeared to be bringing about a change in gender perceptions of India.

Each of the three issues carried detailed and analytical Book Reviews on recent publications while the most useful sections on New Resources provided inputs for researchers.

CWDS' 2024 Calendar 'Radio Retrospective'

Through rare archival photographs, the 2024 calendar commemorated the centenary of broadcasting history in India. It located women's valuable role in the emergence of the radio. Garnering photographs of women involved in this little-known history of India was indeed an onerous task. Some of the photographs used in the calendar were taken from The Indian Listener, while others were gleaned from private collectors and institutions. Though often the waiting period for the 'one-time use' permission was long and tardy, it was worth it. The array of photographs was placed chronologically in three categories: 1. Pre-independence, 2. During the Freedom Struggle, 3. Early All India Radio programs. The calendar has been immensely popular, recalling as it does, an era when the radio was a vital form of entertainment.

Summary of Publications and Seminar Participation by Faculty Members and Research Associates

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
7	11	4	4	78

MONOGRAPHS/ MIMEOGRAPHS/WORKING PAPERS/OCCASIONAL PAPERS/ POLICY PAPERS

Neetha N.

- ❖ Bridging Data Divides: Mapping Unpaid Domestic and Care Work, 2023 (Policy document submitted to ILO)

VMML Library: The following 6 issues of Current Awareness Bulletin (bi-monthly) were brought out from April 2023 to March 2024:

- ❖ No. 5-6, May-June 2023
- ❖ No.7-8, July-August 2023
- ❖ No.9-10, September-October 2023
- ❖ No.11-12, November-December 2023

- ❖ No.1-2, January – February 2024
- ❖ No.3-4, March – April 2024

ARTICLES IN JOURNALS/ NEWSPAPERS/E-PUBLICATIONS

Bijoya Roy

- ❖ “Metro, Mobility and the Risks of Quick Bite”, Kloud9 Magazine, September 2023, (Online).

Khundongbam Gyanabati Devi

- ❖ Gyanabati Kh., “Socio-cultural Factors in Health Care Practices of Women among The Lois of Manipur: An Anthropological Study”. *Man, Environment and Society*, Vol.3. No.2. pp. 303-316, ISSN: 2582-7669, 2023.
- ❖ Deben B., Kenedy M., Gyanabati K., “Effects of Social Conflict and Unrest Among the Students in Manipur”, in *International Journal of Creative Research thoughts (IJCRT)*, ISSN: 2320-2882, Volume.11, Issue 12, Pp.256-261, 2023.

Manimekalai N.

- ❖ “State Initiatives in Eliminating Early Marriage in the Rural Tamil Nadu”, *Third Concept*, ISSN 0970-7247, pp. 95-97 (with Ms. Revathi).
- ❖ “Fostering Inclusive Economic Growth: Empowering MSME and Engaging the Elderly Women in Kerala”, *Third Concept*, ISSN 0970-7247, pp. 118-120 (with Ms. Linshi. P).
- ❖ “Causes and Impacts of Aged Women Workers in Coir Industries in Olavanna Grama Panchayath”, *Third Concept*, ISSN 0970-7247, pp. 68-70 (with Ms. Linshi. P).
- ❖ “Unveiling the Shadows of Cyberspace: Understanding and Combating Cyber Violence Against Women”, *Asha Paras International Journal of Gender Studies*, ISSN: 2583-8687 (with Mahera Imam).
- ❖ “A Study to Navigate the Intersection of Technology and Gender-Based Violence Against Women”, *Indian Journal of Criminology & Criminalistics*, ISSN: 0970-4345 (with Mahera Imam).

Nayantara Singh

- ❖ 'घरेलू महिला कामगारों पर कोरोना महामारी का प्रभाव: दिल्ली का एक अध्ययन,' शोध मंथन, Vol.XIV, No. II, ISSN: (P) 0976-5255, April- June 2023.

Neetha N.

- ❖ "Expanding Women's Land Rights: Can MGNREGA Help?, Journal of Land and Rural Studies, Volume 12, No. 1, Page nos: 1-18, 2024 (with Dimple Tresa Abraham)
- ❖ Why domestic workers' rights remain in limbo, Hindustan Times, Dec 21, 2023 <https://www.hindustantimes.com/opinion/why-domestic-workers-rights-remain-in-limbo-101703081362094.html>

CHAPTERS IN BOOKS/REPORTS

Neetha N.

- ❖ "Interdisciplinary Concerns in Researching Women's Work" in Practising Interdisciplinarity: Convergences and Contestations, Babu P Remesh & Ratheesh Kumar, Routledge, London, UK, 2024, ISSN No. 9781032195759.
- ❖ "Care Economy in India" in Women's Contribution in the Indian Economy, Social Development Report, 2023, Oxford University Press, Delhi.
- ❖ "Women's Labour Migration: Systems, Practices and Agency" in Gender and Migration: Gender Talk National Data Innovation Center, NCAER, <https://ndic.ncaer.org/2-womens-labour-migration-systems-practices-and-agency>
- ❖ "United in Work and Neglect, yet Divided: Scheme workers, and Domestic Workers" in International Labour Conclave, May 24-26, 2023, Government of Kerala.

REVIEWED BOOK/ARTICLES/MANUSCRIPTS

Bijoya Roy

- ❖ Indian Journal of Medical Ethics: ISSN: 0975-5691 (Online); 0974-8466 (Print) 2023-24.

- ❖ International Journal of Public Sector Management (Emerald Publishing) 2023-2024.
- ❖ Indian Journal of Public Health: Online ISSN: 2229-7693. 2023-2024.

N. Manimekalai

- ❖ Peer Reviewed an article for Contemporary Voice of Dalit, carrying a reference published in VOD-2023-0239.RV1 by SAGE, 8.12.2023.

PAPER PRESENTATIONS AND LECTURES

Bijoya Roy

- ❖ Paper Presenter Making Reproductive Health Safe: Stratified Reproduction and Reproductive Justice in India XX World Congress of Sociology, Melbourne, at Session: Global Perspectives on the Struggle for Reproductive Justice, International Sociological Association, Research Committees 32 Women, Gender and Society, 28 June 2023.
- ❖ Resource Person, Gender, Health and Healthcare: Certificate Course on Gender Discourse: The Indian Perspective, Department of Political Science, Ram Lal Anand College, Delhi University, 18-19 November 2023.
- ❖ Resource Person, Gender and Healthcare Workforce in India: Online Six Days Short Term Program in Gender Studies, The Malaviya Mission Teacher Training Centre, Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi, 23 January 2024.

N. Manimekalai

- ❖ Valedictory Lecture online on Gender and Sustainable Development, in UGC HRDC Refresher Course in Gender Studies, organised by University of Calicut, Kerala, 25th September 2023.
- ❖ Inaugural Key-note Speaker, National Seminar on "Women Entrepreneurship Development", organised by Holy Cross College Tiruchirappalli, 29th September 2023.
- ❖ Resource Persons - Gender Studies in transforming Social Sciences, UGC HRDC Refresher Course in Social Sciences, organised by Bharathidasan University, 9th October 2023.

- ❖ Resource Person to deliver a talk on Gender and Development, organised by UGC HRDC, Bharathidasan University, 2nd November 2023.
- ❖ Resource Person for a Lecture Gender and Labour Market: relevance of Nobel Thought 2023 to India, in Award of the Malcom Adiseshiah 2023, organized by Avinashi lingam University, Coimbatore, 3rd November 2023.
- ❖ Inaugural Key-Note speaker, Nobel Thoughts of Claudia Goldin 2023 in Economics, in Short Term Course on Gender Sensitization, organized by the University of Hyderabad, 27th November 2023.
- ❖ Invited keynote speaker for a South Asian Seminar on Socio-Economic Analysis of Health Seeking Behaviour of Women in an Urban Area with Special Reference to their Employment Status, organised by IMPRI, Mumbai, 30th November 2023.
- ❖ Key-Note Speaker, Combating Gender-Based Violence in Gender Sensitization and Life Skills, organized by Central University of Tamil Nadu, 4th December 2023.
- ❖ Resource Person to talk on “Eliminating Violence Against Women and Girls” organised by M.A.M. B – School, Tiruchirappalli, 5th December, 2023.
- ❖ Resource Person - Gender Parity initiatives in HEIs, in Gender Parity for ensuring Quality Work culture in HEIs, organised by The Directorate of Internal Quality Assurance (DIQA) in collaboration with Centre for Women’s Studies and Research, University of Kashmir, 27th December 2023.
- ❖ Resource Person – National Virtual Seminar on Women Empowerment, organised by Manonmanian Sundaranar University, Tirunelveli on “Gender and Employment” on 19th January 2024 online
- ❖ Panelist- International Conference on Knowledge for Sustainable Development: Dialogues across disciplines to implement Sustainable Development Goals, Gender and Sustainable Development Initiatives, 20 January 2024 organized by IQAC, University of Hyderabad, Hyderabad.
- ❖ Invited Panelist to speak on Women Sanitation Workers in Urban Tamil Nadu: Vulnerabilities and Challenges, in 64th Annual Conference of Indian Society of Labour Economics, organised by IAWS and-Indian Society of Labour Economics in the Panel Eleventh IAWS-ISLE Panel, 29-31st March 2024 on “Gender Gap in Wages and conditions of work in urban and rural areas”

- ❖ Plenary Speaker, Strengthening Social Science Research, Social Sciences in the Contemporary World: The Way Forward', organised by, School of Social Sciences, Mizoram University, 9th January, 2024.
- ❖ Panelist- Gender, Social Inclusion and Interim Union Budget 2024-25, organised by IMPRI Mumbai, 2nd February 2024.
- ❖ Resource Person -Gender responsiveness - Understanding the role of gender, Gender bias and Discrimination in three-day State Level Training Programme on Gender Responsive Budgeting, organised by Social Welfare and Women Empowerment Department, Tamil Nadu Government, 5th February 2024
- ❖ Panelist- Union Budget 2024-25 – provisions for the marginalized, in The Budget Dialogue: A Discussion on Union Budget 2024-25, organised by Centre for Budget and Governance Accountability, New Delhi, 5th February 2024.
- ❖ Invited Lecture, Women Entrepreneurship: opportunities and Challenges, Online Short-Term Course in Entrepreneurship and Skill Development, organised by UGC-HRDC, Bharathidasan University, 10th February 2024.
- ❖ Inaugural address in the Refresher Course in Gender Studies, organised by Bharathidasan University, HRDC, 20th February 2024 online
- ❖ Resource Person- Economic Participation of Women: Some concerns, in Refresher Course in Gender Studies, organized by Bharathidasan University HRDC, Tiruchirappalli, 24th February 2024 online.
- ❖ Speaker at the National Seminar on Girl Child, organised by Holy Cross College and co-organized in collaboration with CWDS, 24 February 2024
- ❖ Resource Person - Mixed Methods – in the Ten-Day Research Methodology Course organised by CWDS in collaboration with the University of Hyderabad, 20th March 2024.
- ❖ Panelist, Importance of Gender Assessment Tools to Map Gender Equality in Higher Education' in Assessing Gender Equality in Higher Educational Institutions, organised by Department of Women and Gender Studies, Savitribai Phule Pune University, 15th March 2024.
- ❖ Panelist - Social Science Research in India: Potential, Prospects and Priorities, invited to host a panel discussion on Gender in Social Science Research: Emerging Methodologies, organised by CRRID, Chandigarh, 29th February – 1st March 2024 and organized the panel on behalf of CWDS

- ❖ Invited Key Note Speaker, Women Development in the Context of Liberalisation, Remembering Maria Mies – Keynote, organised by Karnataka State Akkamahadevi Women’s University, Vijayapura, Karnataka, 6th March 2024.
- ❖ Invited Panelist Women’s Work Participation in India, in International Conference on Women as Catalyst for Sustainable Development, organised by Ethiraj College for Women (Autonomous), Chennai, 7th March 2024.
- ❖ Resource Person Panel Discussion on International Women’s Day, organised by TREC-STEP, Tiruchirappalli, 8th March 2024 on Women Leadership in Entrepreneurship Challenges and Prospects
- ❖ Resource Person Endowment Lecture, Dr. Angela and Dr. Kamatchi Endowment Lecture on “Labour market Dynamics and Women’s Work”, organised by Seethalakshmi Ramasamy College, Dept of Economics Tiruchirappalli, 9th March, 2024.
- ❖ Invited to Chair the SOAS-ILO Joint Panel Organised by Dr Alessandra Mezzadri (SOAS) and Dr Neha Wadhawan (ILO) in the 64th Annual Conference of Indian Society of Labour Economics on Exploring workers-centred industrial relations in India’s garment sector on 29th March 2024 at the University of Hyderabad.

Neetha N.

- ❖ Pluralizing Social Reproduction: The Indian Context; Workshop on Decentering Social Reproduction, School of Oriental and Asian Studies (SOAS), University of London, UK, 9 May, 2023.
- ❖ Socio-political dynamics of Domestic work: figuring language of law in its context Decent Work for Domestic Workers: Law and Policy Approach, Centre for Labour Law, Research and Advocacy, (CLLRA) & Work-In-Freedom Programme, ILO, 22 May 2023.
- ❖ United in Work and Neglect, yet Divided: Scheme workers, and Domestic workers, International Labour Conclave, Government of Kerala, 24-26 May 2023.
- ❖ Economic basis of Women’s Status, Plenary Session on 50 years after Towards Equality Report, Indian Association for Women’s Studies National Conference, Trivandrum, 8 September, 2023.
- ❖ The recent increases in Women’s WPR: Issues and Challenges; Tenth ISLE-IAWS Panel on ‘Understanding Women’s Labour Force Participation in India, Indian Association for Women’s Studies National Conference on September 7-10, 2023 at Trivandrum, 9 September 2023.

- ❖ Defining and Measuring Female Migration, Data Talk webinar on Defining and Measuring Internal Migration in India, NCAER, National Data Innovation Centre, New Delhi, 17 September 2023.
- ❖ Declining women participation in the world of work – perspectives from the formal and informal economy, Women at Work: Shaping Working Women’s Charter, FES and NAWO, 28 September 2023.
- ❖ Informalisation of Labour and the Challenges, Technical lead for Reconfigurations in trade union constituencies, Building Trade Union Power: Leading the Future of Work, South Asia Trade Union Symposium 27, 28 & 29, New Delhi India, ILO-ACTRAV, 28 September 2023.
- ❖ Towards decent work for domestic workers – priorities and areas of action, National Consultation: Towards Decent Work for Domestic Workers in India, ILO, 05 – 06 December 2023.
- ❖ Women’s World of Work, World of Work in Contemporary India: Context and Prospects, Indian Economic Association, 28 December 2023.
- ❖ Assessing Increasing Work Participation of Women during Recent Years: Insights from a Survey, Global Conclave 2024 Advancing Human Development in the Global South, Institute of Human Development, 6 January 2024.
- ❖ Women and Unpaid Labour, Dimensions of Female Labour Force Participation in India, Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Hyderabad, TISS and NHRC, 2 February, 2024.
- ❖ Women and Unpaid Work, Gender Club, Annual Lecture, Christ College, Bangalore, 15 March 2024.
- ❖ Integration of a simplified time use (TU) module in Labour Force Surveys (LFS): Insights from a Pilot Study Panel on Integrating Time Use Module with Labour Force Surveys: Possibilities and Challenges, The Indian Society of Labour Economics, 64th Labour Economics Conference, School of Economics, University of Hyderabad, 30 March 2024.

Resource Person/Chair Discussant

- ❖ Resource Person, Gender and labour migration, Workshop on Methods and Approaches to Research on Migration Issues, 8th March 2024, Centre for Development Studies, Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala.

- ❖ Resource Person on How to collect and read quantitative data? Workshop for Research Scholars, May 19, 2023, Centre for Political Studies, JNU
- ❖ Coordinator and Resource Person for the Ten-Day Research Methodology Course on 'Quantitative Methods and Women's Studies' March 18-28, 2024, in collaboration with Centre for Women Studies, University of Hyderabad.
- ❖ Discussant, Care Economy and Labour Market, 29th, March 64th Labour Economics Conference, The Indian Society of Labour Economics, School of Economics, University of Hyderabad
- ❖ Organised the Workshop Bridging Data Divides: Mapping Unpaid Domestic and Care Work -Experiences and findings of a pilot survey, India International Centre, 3rd October 2023
- ❖ Co-ordinated a ten-day Ten-Day Research Methodology Course on 'Quantitative Methods and Women's Studies' March 18-28, 2024, in collaboration with the Centre for Women Studies, University of Hyderabad.
- ❖ Organised a Panel Discussion on Integrating Time Use Module with Labour Force Surveys: Possibilities and Challenges, 64th Labour Economics Conference, The Indian Society of Labour Economics, School of Economics, University of Hyderabad.

Renu Addlakha

- ❖ Keynote: Bioethics and Disability: An Overview. National Conference on Disability and Bioethics: Exploring Convergences and Divergences organized by DAV College Amritsar, Guru Nanak Dev University and Indian Council of Philosophical Research, 28 April 2023.
- ❖ Resource Person, What does Accessibility mean for Persons with Invisible Disabilities? Consultation on Improving Accessibility for People with Psychosocial Disabilities organized by Vidhi Centre for Legal Policy. New Delhi, India International Centre, 17 October 2023.
- ❖ Lecture, Research Methodology in Gender Studies. Certificate Course on Gender Discourse: The Indian Perspective Organized by Department of Political Science, Ram Lal Anand College University of Delhi, 21 October 2023.
- ❖ Lecture, Gender and Sexuality; Concepts and Issues, Certificate Course on Gender Discourse: The Indian Perspective organized by Department of Political Science, Ram Lal Anand College, University of Delhi, 22 October 2023.

- ❖ Lecture, Disability and Gender: An Introduction, Certificate Course on Gender Discourse: The Indian Perspective organized by Department of Political Science, Ram Lal Anand College, University of Delhi, 23 October 2023.
- ❖ Panelist, Intersectionality: What it means for Mobility. Building Feminist Cities: Towards Inclusive and Sustainable Transport Systems. International Conference organized by Safetipin (India) and Women Mobilize Women (Germany). New Delhi: The Park Hotel, 3 November 2023.
- ❖ Keynote, Critical Disability Studies: Relationality in Discourse and Praxis. National Conference on Disability Studies: Nature and Scope. SIES College Sion, Bombay University, 8 February 2024.
- ❖ Presentation, Disability Studies, Women's and Gender studies: Convergences and Divergences. National Conference on Social Science Research in India: Potential, Prospects and Priorities. Centre for Research in Rural and Industrial Development, Chandigarh (India), 1 March 2024.
- ❖ Panelist, Advancing Universal Health Care through Disability Inclusion: An Exploration of Legal and Human Rights Aspects. International Symposium on Health Governance in a Political Landscape: Interplay of Health Law, Society and Political Economy. Centre for Justice, Law and Society, Jindal Global Law School, Jindal Global University (Sonipat) and Centre for Trade Investment, India Institute of Foreign Trade, 21 March 2024.

Seema Kazi

- ❖ Panel Speaker, 'Silences: Patriarchy beyond the Metropolis', Lady Shriram College, New Delhi, 20 April 2023.
- ❖ Paper Presenter, 'Rethinking Gender in Kashmir: History, Ethnicity, Subjectivity,' at a Writer's Retreat, Reflections on Kashmir: A Retreat Showcasing Kashmir Scholarship, Neev Academy, Yemallur, Bengaluru, 15-16 July 2023.
- ❖ 'Women in Kashmir' Podcast Centre for Comparative Constitutional Law and Administrative Law, National Law University, Jodhpur, 27 September 2023.
- ❖ Panel Presenter, 'Women in Politics and Political Reservation in India', Gandhi Ambedkar Study Circle, St. Stephen's College, New Delhi, 3 October 2023.
- ❖ Inaugural Panel, 'Bodies of War: Gendered Discourses of Warfare', The War Studies Club, Centre for Studies in Gender and Sexuality, Ashoka University, 18 October 2023.

- ❖ Lecture, 'Gender, Conflict and Governance;' 'Equality and Difference,' Certificate Course on Gender Discourses: The Indian Perspective, Ram Lal Anand College, 21 October 2023 and 29 October 2023.
- ❖ Paper Presenter, 'Women's Studies and the Question of Intersectionality' Paper presented at ICSSR-supported CWDS Seminar Marginalities: Gendered Intersections YWCA, New Delhi, 14-15 March 2024.

Vandana

Invited lectures/Conferences/Seminar

- ❖ Paper Presenter, '(In)Visible Dalit girls: Collective Resistance for Dignity' at a 3-Day national conference on 'Intergroup inequality in Indian Society: Magnitude, nature sources, policies and the movement by Association for Academics for Social Justice (AASJ) at ISEC Bengaluru., 23-25 August 2023.
- ❖ Lecture, 'Motherhood and Mothering' at Ram Lal Anand College of the University of Delhi, 2nd December 2023.
- ❖ Lecture, 'Mothering and Education' at Ram Lal Anand College of the University of Delhi, 3rd December 2023
- ❖ Paper Presenter "Balmiki Mothers Navigating Daughters' Education in the Disadvantaged Urban Neighbourhood", and Chair as Head of the Session of one of the sessions organised in International Congress of Society and Science (ESAR Congress) Turkey, organised on 15th to 17th December 2023.

Organised Seminar/Talks (Convenor)

- ❖ On the occasion of the International Women's Day Celebration, Prof Sanghmitra S Acharya delivered a talk on 'Women's Access to Health Matters: Dealing with Diversity, Inclusion and Equity on 27th March 2024.
- ❖ Book discussion "Depletion: The Human Costs of Caring", by Dr Shirin M. Rai, Distinguished Research Professor, Department of Politics and International Studies, SOAS, University of London on 13th February 2024
- ❖ DeafBlindness: Advocacy and Empowerment, Speaker: Mr. Zamir Dhale, Founder and President of Society for the Empowerment of the DeafBlind (SEDB), Pune, Maharashtra on 14th December 2023.

Vijay Jha

- ❖ दिल्ली स्थित बी.आर. अम्बेडकर विश्वविद्यालय के देशिक अभिलेख-अनुसंधान केंद्र (सीआरए-आईआईएलकेएस) द्वारा 7-8 फ़रवरी, 2024 को **विकसित भारत का लक्ष्य और भारतीय ज्ञान परम्परा की प्रासंगिकता** पर आयोजित दो-दिवसीय विचार-गोष्ठी में भागीदारी। इसी गोष्ठी में **विकसित भारत की आधी दुनिया** शीर्षक से एक व्याख्यान दिया।
- ❖ दिल्ली विश्वविद्यालय के दयाल सिंह कॉलेज में 20 फरवरी 2024 को **प्रकृति, संस्कृति और साहित्य** विषय पर संगोष्ठी में **ग्राम्शी की संस्कृति संबंधी धारणा पर व्याख्यान दिया।**

MEMBERSHIPS IN COMMITTEES AND OTHER ADVISORY FUNCTIONS

Bijoya Roy

- ❖ Life Member, Indian Public Health Association, Membership No.: L/2015/DEL/7200
- ❖ Member, RC32 Women, Gender and Society (Member No.: 12863), 2023-2026
- ❖ Board Member, i4 Connect Foundation, Hyderabad, 2021.
<https://i4connectfoundation.org/board-members/>
- ❖ Member, Institutional Ethics Committee, Public Health Resource Network, New Delhi
- ❖ Life Member, CWDS.

Awarded Registration and Travel Grant by Research Committees RC32 Women, Gender and Society, XX World Congress of Sociology, Melbourne, 25th June – 1st July 2023.

Gayatri Panda

Member, in-house Seminar Committee, CWDS.

Gyanabati Devi

- ❖ Liaison Officer for SC/ST and OBC Cell, CWDS.
- ❖ Life Member, Indian National Confederation and Academy of Anthropologists (INCAA)

N. Manimekalai

- ❖ External Member, Department Committee, Centre for Women's Studies, University of Hyderabad, Hyderabad 2023-26.
- ❖ Member, Advisory Committee, Centre for Social Justice and Equity, Government of Tamil Nadu, Madras School of Social Work, Chennai.
- ❖ Member, Advisory Committee Centre for Women's Studies, Manonmanian Sundaranar University, 2023-2026.
- ❖ Expert Member, School Board, School of Gender and Development Studies, IGNOU, Delhi.
- ❖ Member of Board of Studies, Aligarh Muslim University, Aligarh 2024-27
- ❖ External Member of Board of Studies, Aligarh Muslim University, Aligarh.
- ❖ Expert Member, Expert Committee Diploma in Women and Entrepreneurship Development Programme, IGNOU New Delhi.
- ❖ Expert Member, Mid-term Evaluation of Research Projects Avinashiligam University Coimbatore for Humanities and Social Sciences 2023-26
- ❖ External Examiner for Ph.D Thesis Evaluation for Centre for Women's Studies, University of Hyderabad
- ❖ External Examiner for Ph.D Thesis Evaluation and Viva Voce Examiner for Centre for Women's Studies, Sikkim University, Sikkim
- ❖ Member Board of Studies Aligarh Muslim University, Aligarh 2024-27
Ethiraj College Chennai in its Centenary Celebrations recognized for its contributions to Women's Studies teaching and research with a citation on 8th March 2024.

Neetha N.

- ❖ Committee Member, Northern Region, Indian Association of Women Studies (IAWS).
- ❖ Member, Editorial Advisory Board, "Urban India", National Institute of Urban Affairs, Delhi.
- ❖ Academic Committee member, Institute for Human Development, Delhi.
- ❖ Selection Committee Member, Preet Rustagi Research Fund, IAWS.
- ❖ Member, Technical Advisory Committee for the study on assessing gender responsiveness of selected girl child cash transfer schemes, set up by IHD and UNICEF.
- ❖ Committee Member, National Award to Teachers (NAT), 2023 from Higher Educational Institutions (HEIs), Ministry of Education, GoI.

Nayantara Singh

- ❖ Member, Research Funding Committee, CWDS

Renu Addlakha

- ❖ Executive and Finance Committee Member, Jagori, New Delhi.
- ❖ Advisory Board member, CREA, New Delhi.

Seema Kazi

- ❖ Member, CWDS Purchase Committee
- ❖ Coordinator, ICSSR Doctoral Fellowship

Vandana

- ❖ Life member, Indian Association for Women's Studies (IAWS)
- ❖ Life member, Association of Academics for Social Justice (AASJ)
- ❖ Life member, Centre for Women's Development Studies

- ❖ Elected as a School Management Committee (SMC) of School of Excellence Dwarka Sector-22, Delhi (2023-25)
- ❖ Liaison Officer, SC/ST Cell, CWDS
- ❖ Member, Roster Committee, CWDS
- ❖ Member, Green Committee, CWDS

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 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.

The Centre, during the year 2023-24, received Rs.376.06 lakhs (Rs.331.06 lakhs OH-36 and 45.00 lakhs OH-31) as Maintenance and Development Grant from the ICSSR. An amount of Rs.119.36 lakhs was received from various sources as grants for projects, conference/seminars, advocacy/networking. The Centre raised an amount of Rs.136.15 lakhs derived from its own resources – such as interest income, membership fee, royalty, institutional overheads, miscellaneous receipts etc. The Centre after meeting current year's expenditure and appropriations of Rs.645.67 lakhs incurred a deficit of Rs.42.12 lakhs which was met from the past accumulated reserves.

The General Body in its 43rd meeting held in 7th November 2023 appointed M/s UCC & Associates LLP, Chartered Accountants, as Auditors for the year 2023-24.

LIST OF LIFE MEMBERS

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Retired on 31st January 2024

##Retired on 31st January 2024

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To
The GOVERNING BODY OF
CENTRE'S FOR WOMEN DEVELOPMENT STUDIES

Opinion

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of **CENTRE'S FOR WOMEN DEVELOPMENT STUDIES ("the Society")**, which comprise the Balance Sheet as at 31st March, 2024, the Income and Expenditure Account for the year then ended, and a summary of the significant accounting policies and other explanatory information.

In our opinion, the accompanying financials statements of the entity are prepared, in all material respects, in accordance with Registrar of Society Act, 1860.

Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with the Standards on Auditing (SAs) issued by ICAI. Our responsibilities under those Standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements section of our report. We are independent of the Society in accordance with the Code of Ethics issued by the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India. We have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements and the Code of Ethics. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Responsibility of Management and Those charged with the Governance for the Financial Statements

The Society's Managing/Governing Body is responsible for the preparation and presentation of these financial statements in accordance with provisions of the Registrar of Society Act, 1860 and for such internal controls as management determined is necessary to enable preparation of the financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, management is responsible for assessing the Society's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless management either intends to liquidate the Society or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

Those Charged with Governance are responsible for overseeing the Society's financial reporting process.

Auditor's Responsibility for Audit of the Financial Statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with SAs will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered

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material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

As part of an audit in accordance with SAs, we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of entity's internal Control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by management.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of management's use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Society's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Society to cease to continue as a going concern.

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

We also provide Those charged with governance with a statement that we have complied with relevant ethical requirements regarding independence, and to communicate with them all relationships and other matters that may reasonably be thought to bear on our independence, and where applicable, related safeguards.

For UCC & Associates LLP
Chartered Accountants
FRN: 010585N/N5000



Umesh Chand Goyal
Partner
M No. 088328

Place: New Delhi

Date: 3 AUG 2024

UDIN: 24088328BKBmIL5854

**CENTRE FOR WOMEN'S DEVELOPMENT STUDIES
BALANCE SHEET AS AT MARCH 31, 2024**

				Amount in ₹	
As at 31-Mar-23	Liabilities	As at 31-Mar-24	As at 31-Mar-23	Assets	As at 31-Mar-24
8,45,49,490	Corpus Fund	8,45,49,490	55,76,197	Property, Plant and Equipment (Note - 4)	45,67,034
5,64,628	JP Naik Memorial Lecture Fund (Note - 2)	5,64,628	14,41,11,140	Investment (Note - 5)	15,17,39,883
86,16,894	Research Development Fund	86,16,893	1,00,000	Current Assets, Loans, Advances, etc. :	
	Less: Amount Transferred to the Income & Expenditure A/c	23,71,265	62,45,629	Security Deposit	1,00,000
4,01,00,612	General Reserve (FCRA)	4,01,00,612	1,06,673	Salary Advance	92,674
	Balance as per last Balance Sheet			Recoverable from ICSSR: Development Grant (OH-31)	20,76,420
	Add: Amount transferred from the Income & Expenditure A/c	43,25,796	4,44,26,408	-	
18,40,513	General Reserve (Non-FCRA)	18,40,513	58,39,137	Other Recoverable (Note - 8)	55,84,800
	Balance as per last Balance Sheet	18,40,513	7,56,839	TDS Recoverable	17,00,314
	Less: Amount Transferred to the Income & Expenditure A/c	18,40,513	-		
45,40,859	Prof. Lotika Sarkar Research & Scholarship Fund	45,40,859	2,39,71,835	Cash and Bank Balances	
	Balance as per last Balance Sheet		20,073	Balances with the Banks (Note - 6)	1,97,38,670
	Add: Amount transferred from the Income & Expenditure A/c	2,97,224	48,38,083	Cash in Hand	33,405
1,26,53,254	Dr. Vina Mazumdar Memorial Corpus Fund	1,26,53,254	1,33,59,587		
	Balance as per last Balance Sheet	1,26,53,254			
	Add: Amount transferred from the Income & Expenditure A/c	7,06,333.0			
	Less: Excess of Interest Accrued on FD	-			
55,76,197	Property, Plant and Equipment Fund	55,76,197			
	Balance as per last Balance Sheet	1,68,334			
	Add: Addition during the year	-			
	Less: Deletion/ sale during the year	57,44,531			
		11,77,497	45,67,034		
	Less: Depreciation	-			

Cont....



CENTRE FOR WOMEN'S DEVELOPMENT STUDIES
BALANCE SHEET AS AT MARCH 31, 2024

As at 31-Mar-23	Liabilities		As at 31-Mar-24	As at 31-Mar-23	Assets		Amount in ₹ As at 31-Mar-24
1,17,89,090	Unutilised Project Grants (Note - 3)		1,35,98,055				
53,71,569	Unutilised ICSSR Salary Grant (OH-36 SC/ST) Add: Addition During the year	53,71,570 12,30,932					
	Less: Transfer to I& E	1,60,284	64,42,218				
15,84,007	Unutilised ICSSR Grant (OH-31) Add: Addition During the year Less: Transfer to I& E	15,84,007 14,54,839 15,22,225	15,16,621				
53,60,457	Current Liabilities and Provisions: Statutory Dues Other Payables	6,12,313 49,13,132	55,25,445				
18,25,47,570	Total		18,56,33,199	18,25,47,570	Total		18,56,33,199

Significant Accounting Policies and Notes to Accounts (Note - 1)

The notes referred to above form an integral part of the accounts

for and on behalf of CWDS

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As per our report of even date attached

for UCC & Associates LLP
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FRN 010585N/N500017

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Date: 13 AUG 2024
Place: New Delhi

CENTRE FOR WOMEN'S DEVELOPMENT STUDIES
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2024

Year Ended 31-Mar-23	Expenditure	Year Ended 31-Mar-24	Year Ended 31-Mar-23	Income	Amount in ₹
					Year Ended 31-Mar-24
	ICSSR: (OH 36) (Note - 7)			ICSSR Salary Grant (OH-36 ST Grant B/F) (Note - 7)	1,60,284
	Salary Grant Expenditure			ICSSR Salary Grant (OH-36) (Note - 7)	3,18,75,368
2,94,29,029	Salaries & Allowances	3,20,91,776	34,15,993	ICSSR Development Grant (OH-31)	30,45,161
26,54,219	EPF Contribution	28,60,507		ICSSR Development Grant (OH-31 B/F)	15,22,225
3,39,615	Family Pension	3,05,000	99,66,276	Sponsored Project Grants (Note - 3)	1,01,37,828
2,87,773	Leave Encashment	18,12,200			
12,13,587	Gratuity	27,52,084		Other Income	
				Salary Component Project	7,02,312
	ICSSR: (OH 31)			Membership Fees	4,500
	Programm Expenditure			Interest on Savings Accounts	7,11,534
-	Community Led Palliative care: A study of Women Volunteers and Health Workers	2,51,125	11,68,858.00	Interest on Fixed Deposits	78,31,860
-	Shattered Ceilings and Unraveling Gender and Livelihood Questions among Women Sanitation Workers: in Tiruchirappalli, Tamil Nadu	4,11,904	6,66,055	Interest on Fixed Deposits - Dr. Vina Mazumdar Memorial Fund	7,26,932
-	Gender, Health Discourse in Emerging Digital Landscape	3,29,448	2,22,672	Interest on Fixed Deposits - Prof. Lotika Sarkar Research & Scholarship Fund	2,87,604
-	The Life of Migrant Women in Yamuna Flood Plain	62,847	51,154	Interest on Income Tax Refund	-
-	Women in Engineering Education: Exploring Students' Experience in a Technological Institute	29,125	36,786	Miscellaneous Receipts	64,120
-	Micro credit and women entrepreneurship: A case study of Mangolpuri area (Delhi)	56,644	5,50,288	Royalty	6,06,630
-	Quality of Life of Migrant Women from North-East Region in Delhi and NCR	63,159	10,26,951	Institutional Overhead Recoveries	26,79,233
-	National Elections and Women's Voting Behaviour	58,370	1,00,000	Donation	-
-	Marginalities: Gendered Intersections-National Seminar	2,59,603			
	Administrative Expenditure			Current Year's Deficit met From:	
2,28,980	Medical Reimbursement	5,88,132		General Reserve and Other Reserve (Non-FCRA)	42,11,778
41,234	Home Travel	31,662	40,82,578		
-	Young Scholar Award	49,450			
-	Seminar (in House)	39,928			
74,196	Publication (Plan)	42,410			
46,995	Library (Plan)	81,052			
13,21,924	Library Hub Programme	22,13,612			
1,41,662	Pf Administrative Charges	1,52,677			
5,34,848	Electricity, Water and Diesel	6,95,297			
1,75,659	Postage and Telephone	1,24,050			
66,452	Printing and Stationery	34,247			
1,84,581	Travelling and Conveyance	1,66,435			
1,01,244	Audit Fee	1,01,244			
62,580	Entertainment	75,876			
16,68,885	Office Maintenance	6,61,267			
13,848	Bank Charges	8,762			
79,651	Miscellaneous Expenses	1,25,710			
20,68,368	Professional Charges	10,38,012			
35,351	Advertisement	-			
10,339	Insurance Charges	14,700			
5,23,043	Honorarium and Extra Duty Allowances	2,76,936			
48,474	Property Tax	59,280			
64,419	Travel FC and EC Meeting	85,426			
1,18,449	Ground Rent	2,650			
78,825	Commission on Selling of Securities	-			
16,759	Penalty Charges EPF	-			
3,12,200	Recoverable Written-off	-			
17,09,654	CWDS Provident Fund Trust Written Off	-			

Cont....



**CENTRE FOR WOMEN'S DEVELOPMENT STUDIES
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2024**

Year Ended 31-Mar-23	Expenditure	Year Ended 31-Mar-24	Year Ended 31-Mar-23	Income	Amount in ₹ Year Ended 31-Mar-24
	Programme Expenditure				
99,66,276	Sponsored Project Expenditures (Note - 3)	1,01,37,828			
9,60,000	Honorarium to Editors/ Consultants/ Visiting Fellows	9,60,000			
	Appropriations:				
1,61,053	Transferred to Property, Plant and Equipment Fund	1,27,580			
26,10,251	Transferred to General Reserve (FCRA)	43,25,796			
2,31,991	Transferred to Prof. Lotika Sarkar Research & Scholarship Fund	2,97,224			
6,12,296	Transferred to Dr. Vina Mazumdar Memorial Fund FCRA	6,17,246			
78,056	Transferred to Dr. Vina Mazumdar Memorial Fund GENERAL	89,087			
5,82,72,766	Total	6,45,67,368	5,82,72,766	Total	6,45,67,368

Significant Accounting Policies and Notes to Accounts (Note - 1)

The notes referred to above form an integral part of the accounts

for and on behalf of CWDS

Vinayak Sharma
(Vinayak Sharma)
Accounts Clerk Gr II

Rajni Patirwala
(Prof. Rajni Patirwala)
Treasurer

N. Manimekalai
(Prof. N. Manimekalai)
Member Secretary

V. Raman
(Prof. Vasanthi Raman)
Chairperson

As per our report of even date attached

for UCC & Associates LLP
Chartered Accountants
FRN 010585N/NS00017

Umesh Chand Goyal
Umesh Chand Goyal, FCA
M. No. 088328
Partner

Date: **13 AUG 2024**
Place: New Delhi



CENTRE FOR WOMEN'S DEVELOPMENT STUDIES
NOTES FORMING PART OF THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2024

Significant Accounting Policies and Notes to Accounts

Note – 1

A. Background

1. Centre For Women's Development Studies (CWDS) is registered in Delhi under Societies Registration Act of 1860 bearing Registration No. S/10935/1980 dated April 19, 1980. CWDS is an autonomous research institute supported by India Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR). Since its inception and institutional recognition by ICSSR, CWDS sought to expand the scope of gender perspectives within social science in general, and to advance the idea of women's studies as an inter-disciplinary field demanding research and policy intervention in particular. CWDS is managed by Executive Committee elected from time to time by members of CWDS.
2. CWDS is registered with the Income-Tax Department under Section 12A of the Income-Tax Act, 1961 vide registration No. CIT-VI/ TE (234)/80/1375 dated March 16, 1981. The registration has been renewed by the Income Tax Department vide Unique Registration Number AAAAC1459QE20168 dated September 23, 2021 which is valid up to the financial year 2025-26.
3. CWDS is approved under section 80G(5)(vi) of the Income Tax Act, 1961 vide approval No DIT(E) 2007-2008/ C-153/ 2698 dated 20/12/2007. The approval has been renewed by the Income Tax Department vide Unique Approval Number AAAAC1459QF20216 dated September 24, 2021 which is valid up to the financial year 2025-26.
4. Permanent Account Number of CWDS is AAAAC1459Q.
5. CWDS is registered under Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act, 2010 vide registration No. 231650186. The registration has been renewed vide approval dated December 18, 2021 which is valid up to December 31, 2026.

B. SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

1. Basis of Accounting

The Financial Statements are prepared under the historical cost convention on accrual basis in accordance with the generally accepted accounting principles followed in India, unless otherwise stated.

2. Use of Estimates

The preparation of the financial statements requires estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amount of assets, liabilities, revenue and expenses during the reporting period. Although such estimates and assumptions are made on a reasonable and prudent basis taking into account all available information, actual results could differ from these estimates and assumptions and such differences are recognised in the period in which the results are crystallised.



3. **Revenue Recognition**

- a) Grants received for specific purposes are initially treated as liabilities and adjusted for revenue and capital expenses as per utilisation during the year. Generally, grants to the extent utilised for revenue expenses are treated as income of the year. After fulfillment of obligations attached with a particular grant, any unutilised amount of the grant is refunded to the donor or transferred to the Income and Expenditure Account. Likewise, in case of overspent/ expenses incurred pending receipt of grant amounts are shown as “Recoverable Project Grant” or transferred to the Income and Expenditure Account.
- b) Overhead expenses are charged to the project grants as per the respective grant agreements/ budgets.
- c) Grants disbursed to Independent Researchers for various projects are accounted for as utilized in the year of payment.
- d) Interest earned on the investment created for specific funds are treated as income and transferred to the respective specific funds.

4. **Property, Plant and Equipment and Corresponding Fund**

Property, Plant and Equipment procured out of grants received for specific purposes are charged off against the said grants as per the terms and conditions set out under the Grant Agreements. However, to reflect a true picture of assets owned by CWDS, these are capitalised in the Balance Sheet against Property, Plant and Equipment Fund.

Property, Plant and Equipment procured out of general funds are capitalised and equivalent amount is appropriated from the Income and Expenditure Account to Property, Plant and Equipment Fund.

Assets once fully depreciated, but not disposed-off are retained in the asset at a token value of Rs. 1 till disposed, for the purposes of internal controls.

5. **Depreciation**

Depreciation has been provided in the books of accounts at pro-rata basis from the month when the Property, Plant and Equipment procured are using Diminishing Method at the rate as per Income Tax Act, 1961. To reflect this reduction in value of Property, Plant and Equipment procured through grants and general funds, the depreciation is adjusted from Property, Plant and Equipment Fund.

6. **Foreign Currency Transactions**

Grants / Donations received in Foreign Currency from “Foreign sources” are directly credited to FCRA Bank Account and recognized at the exchange rate prevalent on the date of receipt.

7. **Income and Expenditure Account**

Project Expenditures under External Funded Programme (other than core support from ICSSR) are shown separately in the Income and Expenditure Account.

8. **Employee Benefits**

The Centre is contributing towards Gratuity, Employee’s Pension scheme and Provident Fund and charging them to Income and Expenditure Account.



9. Investment

Investments mainly comprise fixed deposits with banks and other financial institutions which are valued at cost.

10. Provisions and Contingencies

Provisions are recognised when CWDS has a present obligation as a result of past events for which it is probable that an outflow of resources will be required to settle the obligation and a reliable estimate can be made. Provision required settling the obligation are reviewed regularly and are adjusted where necessary to reflect the current best estimate of the obligation.

A disclosure for a contingent liability is made when there is a possible obligation or a present obligation that may but probably will not require an outflow of resources. Disclosure is also made in respect of a present obligation that probably requires an outflow of resources, where it is not possible to make a reliable estimate of the related outflow.

C. Notes to Accounts

1. Contingent Liability:

- a) The services of an employee, due to certain acts of violence, in the field/ camp office at Jhargram, West Bengal were terminated after a proper Inquiry in the year 2013. All the terminal benefits, such as Provident Fund, Gratuity and Leave Encashment, etc. were settled and released to the terminated employee. The matter was challenged in the Labour Court in West Bengal by the terminated employee. CWDS challenged the Jurisdiction of the complaint / case in the High Court of Calcutta. The matter is still pending for disposal. Outcome of the case including financial liability, if any, is not ascertainable and no provision has been made in the books of account in this regard.
 - b) Aggregate demands for TDS and interest thereon of Rs. 15,740/- are appearing on TRACES web-portal for TAN No. DELC08468F of CWDS for the financial year 2008-09. However, no provision has been made by CWDS for the demands as CWDS is hopeful that most of the demands will be deleted after rectification of errors in the TDS returns and Challans.
 - c) As per letter dt. 01.02.2023 and letter dt. 14.02.2023 received from EPFO Department, there is default in payment of contributions by CWDS under section 14B and 7Q of Rs. 65,95,098/-. However, no provision has been made by the CWDS for the demand as CWDS has made the appeal to PF commissioner.
2. Capital Expenditure Commitment: Nil
 3. CWDS is eligible for exemption from income tax under section 11 of the Act. Hence, no provision for the current income-tax has been made in these financial statements.
 4. In the opinion of the Executive Committee, current assets, loans and advances have a value on realisation in the ordinary course of activities at least equal to the amount at which they are sated in the balance sheet and provision for all known liabilities have been made in the financial statements.
 5. None of the suppliers and service providers have informed as to whether they are Micro or Small Enterprises as defined under the Micro Small and Medium Enterprises Development Act, 2006.

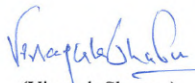
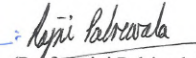




Hence, the disclosure/ provisioning as per the requirements of the Micro Small and Medium Enterprises Development Act, 2006, if any, have not been made.

6. All the Figures are rounded off to the nearest Rupees unless otherwise stated.
7. Previous year figures are the balances outstanding at the end of the previous year, No Movement of the previous year balances has been shown in the previous year column.
8. Previous year figures have been regrouped wherever considered necessary to make them comparable with current year figures.

Signatories to the Notes 1 to 8

for and on behalf of CWDS

 (Vinayak Sharma) Accounts Clerk Gr II	 (Prof. Rajni Palriwala) Treasurer	 (Prof. N. Manimekhalai) Member Secretary	 (Prof. Vasanthi Raman) Chairperson
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As per our certificate of even date attached
for UCC & Associates LLP
Chartered Accountants
FRN 010585N/N500017


Umesh Chand Goyal, FCA
M. No. 088328
Partner



Date : 13 AUG 2024
Place : New Delhi



Centre for Women's Development Studies

**An autonomous research institute supported by the
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