

# ANNUAL REPORT 2024-25



## 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 2024 - 2025**



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## FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK

Women's Studies faces considerable challenges given the declining significance of social sciences. While established Women's Studies programs offer scope for social science research, they often struggle with inconsistent funding, institutional cooperation and related issues. At the same time, newer challenges add to older challenges affecting women's daily lives that include unfavourable female sex ratios, digital exclusion, gaps in STEM education, the impact of climate change on health and livelihood, deteriorating working conditions, the burden of unpaid care work, emerging health challenges, marginalization of persons with disabilities and other excluded groups. Resistance to women's agency in social norms and policies underscores the need for further research. CWDS remains committed to research in multiple areas and to pursuing the objectives set by its founders.

2024-2025 has been an eventful for CWDS. A major institutional event organised by the Centre was a three-day international conference in March 2025 to commemorate the report's 50th anniversary of the 1974 Towards Equality Report with support from Indian Council for Social Science Research (ICSSR), India International Centre (IIC), National Council for Applied Economic Research (NCAER), the Nirantar Trust, Institute for What Works to Advance Gender Equality (IWWAGE) and others. Parallel commemorative events included a series of Vina Mazumdar Memorial Fund (VMMF) regional workshops held in different regions in collaboration with five Women's Studies Centres to mark the 50th anniversary of the Towards Equality report. The workshops centred on student insights on the findings of Towards Equality and its continuing significance in the light of contemporary challenges for Women's Studies.

In addition to the international conference and regional workshops, a National Conference on Reproductive Justice was organized with the Lotika Sarkar Memorial Fund in collaboration with Population Foundation of India and ICSSR. Three regional workshops on the theme 'Revisiting Towards Equality and Contemporary Challenges in Women's Studies' were held in Calcutta, Hyderabad, and Udaipur during May-June 2024. A "16 Days of Activism" campaign, commemorating the "International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women and Girls," was organized virtually with 16 Universities across India.

Efforts are underway to fill vacant staff and faculty positions pending ICSSR approval. Individual faculty and research staff have undertaken research projects with support from OH31 grants and Rosa Luxemburg Stiftung (RLS). Faculty and research staff continue working on research papers. Activities for the upcoming year plan include workshops

on interdisciplinary research, position papers on criminal law and abortion judgements with Lotika Sarkar Endowment Fund (LSEF), short-term studies on women's rural employment, and a research methodology course on Rural Studies with VMMF.

Faculty and Research Associates are to conduct short-term studies with the OH 31 grant in 2025-26 and submit proposals to various funding agencies. CSR registration is complete and funding opportunities are being pursued.

**N. Manimekalai**  
Director

## **IN MEMORIUM**

### **Prof. Muchkund Dubey**

Professor Muchkund Dubey, one of India's most renowned diplomats and public intellectuals, passed away on 26th June 2024, at the age of 90. He served as India's Foreign Secretary in 1990-91 and played a vital role in shaping India's foreign policy. He was also Permanent Representative to UN organisations and was instrumental in developing United Nations programmes for developing countries. Prof. Dubey's lifelong endeavour was to work towards creating a 'just world', and he dedicated his life to this cause.

He was the founding member and President of the Council for Social Development.

Prof. Dubey was a life member of CWDS and a significant source of support to our institution. He served on the Executive Committee of CWDS from 1999 to 2002. We are grateful for his valuable contributions.

## **IN MEMORIUM**

### **Ms. Harsha Parekh**

Ms. Harsha Parekh, who had been a long time life member of the CWDS, passed away on 17th March 2025. She was University Librarian and Professor at S.N.D.T. Women's University, Mumbai. She was closely associated with the CWDS' library's various initiatives right from the late 1980's, including organising a major international conference on Women's Information.

Her contribution to the field of Women's Studies has been profoundly valuable. She was involved with the UGC Capacity-building Programme for Women Managers in Higher Education, where her contributions were widely recognised and esteemed.

Her passing away is a great loss to Women's Studies and the larger cause of women's emancipation.

## INTRODUCTION

In 2024-25, CWDS continued its interdisciplinary engagement with diverse thematic areas of women and gender. While the Centre has significantly contributed to policy research since the 1980s, its progress in research, perspective development, and accommodating diversity has been uneven. 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 research team has focused on the overarching theme of marginality, encompassing disability, elderly care, Dalit women, migrant women, women in the informal economy, North East Women, Women in STEM, violence against women including sexual harassment, cybercrime etc. through various research projects.
- 3) **Women, Work, Migration and the Economy:** CWDS's Research on women and work, encompassing paid and unpaid care, domestic work, migration, and gender issues has been the focus theme. A study focusing on indigenous Galo women in Arunachal Pradesh, and their relationship with food and land, examining their agency and autonomy was completed.
- 4) **Gender and Governance:** This theme explores women's political participation, including women voters' perceptions and reflections on parliamentary reservation.
- 5) **Gender, Violence and Sexuality:** To address the ongoing issue of gender-based violence and sexuality, CWDS has developed a manual, incorporating a gender lens, to train health service providers on violence and disability. This manual was disseminated at a workshop for patients and service providers with disabilities. Efforts are on to transact the manual to the service providers.

Organizing workshops, conferences, seminars, panel discussions, and invited lecture have been part of the activities of CWDS, which are given below:



To commemorate 50 years of Towards Equality, a three-day international conference on "Reflections on the Past, looking to the Future: Fifty Years of Towards Equality," a national conference on "Reproductive Justice in India," and five regional workshops with Women's Studies Centre (WSC) and students on "Envisioning Change: Reading Towards Equality in the Global Era."etc., were organized. Additionally, three workshops were conducted with Women's Studies Centres on Towards Equality, focusing on work, labor codes, and the future needs and challenges of Women's Studies. A hybrid 16-Day Activism Series was organized from November 25–December 10, 2024, in collaboration with 16 Universities across India, on the theme: "Every 10 Minutes, a woman is killed #No Excuse, UNITE to End Violence against Women." A workshop on "Gender Barriers in Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths (STEM) fields" was organized at the Central University of Tamil Nadu (CUTN) as part of a research project on the same topic. Dissemination Workshops were held on the OH 31 Research projects to share findings and gather expert feedback. A book discussion on "Why I am not a Hindu Woman: A Personal Story" was conducted, along with a series of invited lectures. An Occasional Paper was published on "Participation, Time Allocation and Variations in Time Use: Insights from Time Use Data – Haryana and India." In addition to these activities, CWDS has been exploring new research areas and has submitted funding proposals to ICSSR and other organizations.

Vina Mazumdar Memorial Library has been actively engaged in providing resources to Women's Studies and Social Science Research Scholars. The Knowledge Gateway Portal, an innovative online data resource, offers access to various reports, articles, and materials on Women's Studies to visitors. CWDS has been facing a crisis due to depleted faculty strength and non-faculty staff. As faculty members and staff retire over the years, the reduced numbers become a significant and debilitating constraint. The shortage of staff in administration and accounts is largely managed by the existing faculty, staff, and the Director. Filling vacant positions is therefore one of the Centre's main priorities. While CWDS continues to seek funding from national and international agencies to undertake research projects within its key areas of expertise, the Centre's capacity to secure research project funding has been severely hampered by limited faculty and staff strength. Nevertheless, the Centre remains optimistic about increasing faculty strength through new appointments, which will surely bring new energy and momentum 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 2025, CWDS has 95 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 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 centre 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 two meetings of the Finance Committee (FC) were held during 2024-25.

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- Secretary, ICSSR
Prof. Bindu Puri	ICSSR Nominee
Prof. N. Manimekalai	Member Secretary & Director
Prof. Neetha N	Deputy Director, Invitee

The EC continues to oversee the functioning of the Centre through its various committees. Various Committees have been reconstituted, and new committees have also been formed this year 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 2024-2025 due to a retirement. As already mentioned, critical posts have continued to remain vacant, like the Administrative and Account Officers, which has overburdened the existing staff, causing delays in delivery, taking up research projects, etc.

The Centre has completed the process of recasting the reservation roster under the recommendations of the Executive Committee. The revised roster has been prepared based on the sanctioned posts as per the 5th CPC and approved by the Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR).

The recast reservation roster has been formally submitted to the ICSSR for approval and is awaiting its approval and sanction to fill the vacant positions.

## **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 issues related to various forms of discrimination. The SC/ST, OBC, and Equal Opportunity Cell were established at the Centre in 2020. The members of the SC/ST, OBC, and Equal Opportunity Cell Committee were reconstituted, and the list is provided below.

1. Dr. Vandana, Liaison Officer, SC/ST Cell
2. Mr. Akhlak Ahmad, Liaison Officer, OBC and Equal Opportunity Cell
3. Ms. Kaushalya, Internal Member
4. Dr. Abha Deb Habib, Associate Professor, Miranda House, University of Delhi, External Member
5. 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 holds seminars, workshops, lectures etc. during the year.

## **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 2024-25, Project Grants were received from Rosa Luxemburg Stiftung (RLS) and Ford Foundation.

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 per cent grant. Raising funds through external sources is necessary. Large grant-based research projects have come to a close and faculty available to apply for fresh large grants has been depleting.

In April 2024, meetings were held for the Vina Mazumdar Memorial Fund and Lotika Sarkar Endowment Fund committees. For 2024-25, activities have been proposed, including five regional workshops commemorating 50 years of the "Towards Equality" report. These workshops, held at Utkal University, Bhubaneswar, Dr. Baba Sahib Ambedkar University (Aurangabad), Aligarh Muslim University, Aligarh, Gauhati University, Gauhati, and Avinashilingam University, Coimbatore, engaged students in reading and reflecting on the Towards Equality report, followed by presentations. Two presenters from each workshop were invited to participate in the three-day International Conference on Towards Equality in March 2025.

CWDS had received the principal amount of Rs. 25 lakhs from Punjab State Industrial Corporation (PSID) in respect of PSIDC Bonds, but had not received the interest due amount. In this regard, CWDS has filed a case in the Consumer Forum before the ITO District Commission on 27 March 2025. The case is under process.

CWDS faces penalties from EPFO for delays in transferring CPF Trust proceeds. Mr. Pandey, a legal consultant, is assisting with the matter by providing necessary documents and clarifications to EPFO. CGIT issued an order to unfreeze the bank account, which is operative now. Further hearing happened, and the case is under process.

## **RESEARCH ACTIVITIES**

Research remains the Centre's primary activity. CWDS research is based on intersectional, interdisciplinary approaches, applying various methodologies to explore questions of inclusivity and diversity from multiple viewpoints. Some of the ongoing large research projects that were delayed during the pandemic are now 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)

### **Consultation on Disability Inclusion in the Health System in India**

The CWDS organised a consultation on the above theme on 5th May 2024. This Consultation sought to foreground the issue of disability in the health system in India, largely from a user perspective. Historically, the legitimate critique of the medical model by disability activists and scholars has drawn attention away from the critical role that the health system occupies in the lives of people with disabilities. As against impairment, the health system has also largely remained insensitive to the issue from a human rights perspective. It was the purpose of this Consultation to address this lacuna through the voices of both users with disabilities and providers in the health system. A panel on doctors with disabilities was organised to highlight the intersections of personal experiences of impairment with a professional status as a healthcare provider. Another highlight of the Consultation was a presentation and discussion on a Training Manual on Disability Inclusion in the Health System in India, prepared for circulation among major healthcare institutions in India. The Consultation was conceptualised as a stimulating space for discussion on the themes of disability, gender, and health, and is open to a variety of stakeholders from the disability, health, and gender domains.

The workshop was organised as a part of the Ford Foundation-supported grant on Intersections and Disability and Sexuality, co-ordinated by Professor Renu Addlakha.

### **Intersections of Ageing and Disability: An Exploratory Study in Delhi. (Funded by ICSSR OH-31 Grant)**

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This is a small ICSSR-supported Project under the OH-31 grant. It is an empirical study exploring the life experiences, particularly the health experiences of a cohort of elderly individuals residing in old age homes and the community in Delhi from a gender and disability perspective. In particular, it focused on the phenomenon of ageing with disability and ageing into disability. 30 in-depth qualitative interviews with a cohort of elderly individuals have been completed. The data is being analysed and the report is being written.

Research Team: Renu Addlakha (Principal Researcher) Ritu Singh (Research Associate)

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

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People seek various ways to obtain health information within the complex digital media landscape. Digital interventions are varied, including websites, mobile apps, social media forums, blogs, SMS text messaging, voice messages, web-based applications, movies and videos, and wearable or sensor-based devices. Social media platforms have become significant in networking, sharing research, clinical practice, knowledge dissemination, advocacy, and education. This research explores how digital social media forums influence the discourse on women's health in recent times. It aims to map digital health forums and analyse their perspectives on women's health within the digital environment. The project report is nearing completion. It will be submitted by 31 July. ijoya Roy (Principal Researcher) Akansha Verma (Research Associate), Anvi Mehta, Prabhu Ponnusamy (Digital Data Collection Team)

## **Women's Relation to Land: A Study of Land Ownership and Agency through Women's Role in Evolving Food Traditions** (Supported by RLS)

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In the last few decades, Arunachal Pradesh has witnessed significant transitions in all aspects of public life. Among the Galos, land has traditionally been under community ownership of male village members. The transitioning of land ownership from a community-based system to a privatized one meant that while men became land owners, women were largely relegated to the position of landless farmers/workers working on the male relatives' land. Additionally, the feminization of agriculture in Arunachal Pradesh, along with privatization and commercialization in the agricultural sector, has led to further marginalization of women. The study is on this transition of land ownership and agriculture, and how these have defined women's relation to food and land. Even as women involved in the rural agricultural sector stare at a future in which they become landless labourers, the way these women engage with food production and distribution has evolved through the intervention of women-run Self Help Groups (SHGs). Such socio-economic changes have caused a significant shift in rural women's engagement with new challenges and opportunities. These changes have led to an increasing engagement of rural women in the economy, particularly in the food sector and beyond. They are slowly taking on the roles of bread earners and keepers of traditional knowledge. However, their position within the family, village, and community is still determined by the traditional social structures. A webinar was organised to present the draft report. Based on the comments received, the report is being revised. The study was supported by RLS.

Research Team: Neetha N (Principal Researcher) & RenuKoyu



## **Community Led Palliative care: A study of Women Volunteers and Health workers**

(Funded by ICSSR OH-31 Grant)

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Kerala is recognised for its distinctive approach to social development, and the Palliative Care movement in the state has gained international recognition. The fieldwork was conducted in Thiruvananthapuram district, covering four palliative care units—two rural and two urban, namely, Perumkadavila, Kalliyoor, Vattiyurkaavu, and Vizhinjam. The study centred on women’s participation in community-led palliative care, which has become a unique model. It analysed women’s roles and contributions in palliative care as well as their personal experiences and perceptions of their roles. A common factor among all these cadres is the contractual employment, low remuneration, and other poor working conditions. The insights and findings suggest that palliative care exemplifies how women from vulnerable backgrounds subsidise the public health system. Female-dominated cadres in the programme are paid less than male-dominated roles that require similar skills, qualifications, and responsibilities. The work involved in palliative care is demanding and entails both physical and emotional care. Providing psycho-social support to patients requires skill and is highly time-consuming. The study also explored the agency of these women in relation to the patient, their family members, colleagues, local governments, state authorities, and other participating organisations. The report was presented at an internal meeting.

Research Team: Neetha N, Principal Investigator

## **Co-working Spaces and Women: An Exploratory Study**

(Funded by ICSSR OH-31 Grant)

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Co-working spaces have created high expectations regarding their positive effects on women’s social and economic lives, alongside promoting changes in the labour market. Scholarly literature on the subject is still limited, and in the context of India, it rarely exists, especially looking at it from the women workers’ point of view. In this context, the study provides a critical understanding of co-working from the perspective of women’s employment. The study captures the factors that make it an accepted workplace and the consequences of such arrangements from the women employees’ view point. Given the preference for flexibility and housework and care demands put on women, it is imperative to understand the boundaries between work and non-work life, conceptualized and navigated by women who work in co-working spaces. Further, the differences if any, between men and women, and also of women of different age groups, sectors of employment, in terms of their engagement with these spaces and

their negotiations are also important dimensions that the study is capturing. Apart from interviews with key stakeholders, the study uses in-depth qualitative interviews with women and men who use such spaces. The study will be completed by July 2025.

Research Team: Neetha N, Principal Investigator, Ms. Kanika Tyagi, Research Assistant

### **Exploring Cyber Crime against Women: Trends and Contributing Factors**

(Funded by ICSSR OH-31 Grant)

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The rapid expansion of internet access and digital technologies in India has transformed communication and information access. However, this digital shift has also created significant challenges, particularly concerning the safety and security of women online. Cybercrime against women, including online harassment, cyber stalking, revenge porn, and unauthorized use of personal data, is an increasingly pressing issue.

Despite the seriousness of these concerns, there is a clear lack of comprehensive research into the nature, extent, and impact of cybercrimes against women in India. Existing studies often focus on specific types of cybercrime or are confined to urban areas, leaving significant gaps in understanding the full scope of the issue. This research project aims to carry out a detailed study of users from the VMML (Vina Mazumdar Memorial Library), BOL (An Electronic Discussion List on Gender Issues in South Asia), and the KGWS (Knowledge Gateway on Women Studies) to better understand the patterns and factors that contribute to cybercrime against women. By analysing the vulnerabilities women experience online and the socio-cultural factors that influence these vulnerabilities, the study intends to offer valuable insights that will help improve digital safety for women in India. Ultimately, the aim is to assist in developing effective prevention strategies and support mechanisms to better protect women from cybercrime.

Principal Investigator – Neetha N.; Co-principal Investigators - Sanghamitra Jana Chatterjee, and Akhlak Ahmad

### **Shattered Ceilings and Unravelling Gender and Livelihood Questions among Women Sanitation Workers in Tiruchirappalli, Tamil Nadu**

(Funded by ICSSR OH-31 Grant)

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A study in Tiruchirappalli district of Tamil Nadu with women sanitation workers examined the working conditions of women sanitation workers in India, encompassing

government, contract, and private employees, as well as rag pickers. The research explored gender and category-wise pay gaps, work hours, job and social security, debt, housing, leave, additional duties, payment methods, contractor treatment, and harassment. Data was gathered through surveys, focus groups, in-depth interviews, and key informant interviews.

The findings reveal a shift towards contract work, disproportionately affecting women, and limited access to social security benefits beyond PF and ESI. Sanitation workers face poor working conditions, public abuse, and a lack of recognition, hindering intergenerational mobility despite parents' wishes for their children to avoid this sector. Some graduates are employed as sanitation workers. Continuous waste handling leads to ill health, and caste rigidity reinforces the expectation that scheduled castes will perform sanitation work. SHG's involvement in compost yards is slowly challenging this stereotype. Lack of comfortable protective gear, poor nutrition, and limited union representation exacerbate challenges. Rag pickers face particularly harsh conditions, and the impact of corporate micro-processing on their livelihoods is largely ignored. Many households struggle with debt, compounded by the unsupportive behaviour of male family members. Informal outsourcing occurs among permanent workers who are ill, with others accepting extremely low wages to cover their shifts. Paradoxically, while parents discourage their children from sanitation work, they also register them for it due to limited alternative opportunities. Stigma against sanitation workers and their communities further restricts employment prospects. Drug abuse among young men contributes to social problems within these communities. The study recommends regularizing sanitation workers, recruiting from diverse communities, and providing targeted assistance such as PDS, educational and employment preferences for their children, housing, free healthcare, transportation, and allowances. Recognizing the dignity of their labour is crucial. Data analysis is complete, and the report was submitted in April 2024.

(Project Team– N. Manimekalai and Neetha N. & Research Associate: Raja Ram)

### **Gender Barriers in STEM field- An exploration of the Experiences of the STEM Female Professionals** (Funded by ICSSR OH 31 Grant)

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This study examined the socioeconomic backgrounds of women STEM faculty and scientists at 30 GATI pilot institutions and several other Indian universities and research institutes. It explored how these backgrounds affect their workplace experiences, the institutional barriers they encounter, and their coping mechanisms. Early findings indicated that social constructs of gender and other social identities significantly influence workplace challenges, with women from privileged backgrounds facing fewer employment issues. Marginalised women encountered more difficulties due to

a lack of support, negative attitudes from colleagues, and insufficient infrastructure. Despite government policies, retaining women, especially those from underprivileged backgrounds, remains challenging because of subtle discrimination based on gender, age, ethnicity, class, and geography. Addressing policy implementation issues, particularly a lack of awareness, is vital. Due to the study's limited scope and timeframe, an in-depth review of government policies affecting STEM women could not be undertaken and is recommended for future research.

Research Team: PI - N. Manimekalai; Co-PI - V. Madhurima; and Research Associate: Dr.Dwijiri Ramchiary

### **Forgotten Subjectivities and Subaltern Selves: Excavating Histories of Disability in South Asia**

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This is a writing project involving the creation of an edited volume on locating disability in South Asia from a historical perspective, with a particular focus on pre-modern times. An extensive search has been conducted to identify potential contributors. Currently, 70 papers are in progress. The titles of these papers and their authors are listed below.

1. Kurukhetra Dip: Socio-religiosity of Psychiatry: A Comparative study of Hinduism and Buddhism
2. Chitra Seshadri: A Cultural Reading of Disability in Tamil Literature/Society through the Ages.
3. Md. Ahsan Habib: Revisiting the Past: The Dialectics of Disability, Religion, and Culture in Bangladesh.
4. Hemchandrah Karah: Panchatantra, Normative Pragmatism concerning Vulnerability, and Distributive Justice
5. Suchandra Bhaduri: Beyond the Norm: Devi Manasa, a Subaltern Challenge in Medieval Bengal.
6. Vina Y Suhalkar: No Bigger than Deaf: Disability in Princely Colonial India through the Life of Maharnana Bhupal Singh of Udaipur.
7. Tirtha Pratim Deb: Disability Discourse and Pedagogical Practice in Precolonial and Colonial India,
8. Shilpa Anand: Bibliography as History: Curating the Past of Disability in South Asia through the Work of M. Miles
9. Tulika Singh: "Dwarf: The Significant 'Other' in Early Indic Cultures
10. Renu Addlakha: Beyond Dhritarashtra, Shakuni and Manthra: Multiple Manifestations and Semantics of the Non-Normative Human in the Hindu Scriptures

The main objective of this project is to produce a collection of papers on indigenous histories of disability in South Asia with a particular focus on India.

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

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The final report of the project has been submitted to the ICSSR, following a satisfactory evaluation from the external reviewer. The project is now completed after the publication of a paper entitled 'Mothering in the Balmiki Community: Navigating Daughters' Education in the Disadvantaged Urban Neighbourhood in Delhi' in the Contemporary Voice of Dalits.

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

**Higher Education Institutions and Redressal Mechanisms: An Exploratory Study on the Roles and Functions of Internal Complaints Committees/ Internal Committees** (Funded by ICSSR OH 31 Grant)

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The ICSSR funds the project under the OH-31 grant, which aims to explore the intricacies and complexities involved in the functioning of the Internal Complaints Committee or Internal Committee in the sexual harassment redressal process within higher education institutions in Delhi/NCR. Considering the research questions, an exploratory research design is essential to understand how the ICCs or ICs operate. Through 27 in-depth interviews with current or former members of ICC/IC in higher education institutions, the study examines the nature of power dynamics and resistance during the redressal process. The data analysis and report writing are underway. The final report will be submitted by 31st July 2025.

Principal Investigator – Vandana; Research Associate – Dr Alankrita Anand;  
Consultant– Dr Tanvi Adarsh

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

### **The Life of Migrant Women in the Yamuna Floodplain**

(Funded by ICSSR OH-31 Grant)

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The project titled “The life of Migrant Women in Yamuna Floodplain” was completed in December 2024, and the final report has been submitted.

The dissemination workshop of this project took place in the first week of December 2024. Prof. Bashabi Gupta, Dept. of Geography, Miranda House, was invited as a discussant for this project.

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

### **The Role of Women in Riparian Vegetation-Based Livelihood in the Border of Delhi and Uttar Pradesh**

(Funded by ICSSR OH-31 Grant)

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This study examines the seasonal livelihoods of Bihar migrants along the Yamuna River, where they utilise riparian vegetation. Specifically, they harvest tall grass from the river’s shallows, process it into sturdy 12cm strands after a lengthy drying period, and use these strands to bundle leafy greens, a practice likely originating from their Koshi villages. Beyond this primary use, the grass fibre is also employed for crafting everyday products, and other seasonal grasses contribute to local economies as decorative materials. This practice provides a biodegradable and sustainable alternative to plastic for both utility and decoration. Fieldwork is complete, data processing is in progress, and the full report will be available by July 2025.

(Principal Investigator – Prof. N. Manimekalai; Co-PI – Ms. BhaswatiThakurta; assisted by Jahanvi Sanjay (Field Investigator)

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

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This exploratory sociological study investigates the social, economic, and institutional factors influencing female students' entry into engineering, a field historically underrepresented by women. The research explores the perceptions and experiences of female B.Tech students at IIT Delhi, gathered through in-depth interviews. Preliminary findings were presented at a dissemination workshop in December 2024, and finalization, incorporating expert feedback, is expected by July 2025.

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

## **Pathways to Higher Education: A Gendered Analysis** (Funded by ICSSR OH-31 Grant)

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The project aims to examine the differentiated socio-economic conditions, varied contextual resources, and practices that are brought together at the family level, shaping the sons' distinct higher education career choices. It is an exploratory study, where empirical research has been conducted among engineering students at IIT Delhi. The sociological study utilises a purposive sample of male B.Tech. students who are selected through snowball sampling to participate in the field research via an interview schedule. Seeking formal—official approval from the authorities of IITD, the study involves reaching out to the last participant in the empirical research process, capturing a range of experiences on a higher education campus of notable reputation. Experiencing the campus hustle, along with extended conversations with the student participants, adds nuanced insights to the collected field findings. Currently, the empirical data are being processed for analysis.

Research Team - Prof. N. Manimekalai (Principal Investigator), Dr. Gayatri Panda (Co-Principal Investigator), Riya Pramanik (Field Investigator).

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

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The study broadly focused on understanding the well-being, sense of satisfaction, and happiness among north-east women who migrated to metropolitan cities, which shapes their quality of life. Besides common challenges of migrants, being from different ethnic

backgrounds, migrant women from the Northeast frontier of India further encountered other problematic dimensions owing to racial and cultural differences, which have become the subject of nationwide debate. 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. 71 migrated women were interviewed through a structured interview schedule, and 15 in-depth interviews were conducted. Through WHO QoL scored domain analysis, it is observed physical domain of QoL of the North-east migrant women was found to be more affected, as more than half of the population had a poor quality of life. While other domains of the QoL environment, social and psychological aspects of the women, also need to be taken into consideration. Close to half of the migrant women had poor QoL in the psychological domain, and one-third of the sample had poor QoL in social relationships and Environmental domains. While descriptive analysis indicates different consequences post-migration, such as they faced unhealthy working environments, social dimensions like racist attitudes of people towards the minority migrant communities from the north east region have influenced on quality of their living in Delhi. A sense of estrangement, alienation, and insecurity has been reported by the women migrants from north-east states. Based on the comments and suggestions from expert members, the study report was finalized, and editing of the report is in progress. Meanwhile, a research paper titled "North-east Women Migrant: A quest for Quality of living" was presented in the National Seminar on Women "Revisiting the Role of the 21st Century Indian Woman" 27th–28th March 2025, organized by Centre of Women's Studies and Development, Himachal University, Shimla. The paper will be finalised for publication.

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

### **Life of North-east Women Workers and their Health Challenges: A study in a Metropolitan City, India**

(Funded by ICSSR OH-31 Grant)

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Many women, in search of jobs or better livelihood, have been migrating from the North-east frontier of the country. Studies have shown that many young women from the region are working for service opportunities in organized and unorganized service sectors like retail stores and showrooms, hotels, beauty parlours, hospitals, call centres etc., in metro-cities, particularly in Delhi, Mumbai, and Bangalore etc. Unfortunately, they faced loads of issues and challenges, and also became vulnerable to harassment and other various kinds of discrimination in these metropolitan cities. Though with all these hardships and difficulties, migration of young women from this far-off region is steeply increasing in recent years, as available literature and reports have suggested.



The study attempts to analyse the health issues, their risk determinants, and examine the implications of intersecting structural vulnerabilities on the health and well-being of these migrant, and to explore what are their coping strategies of help-seeking and health-seeking behaviours in times of need/ crisis. The project was started in January 2025. The study had received an ethical clearance certificate from the Ethical Committee. Through an intensive field study from February 2025 to March 2025, a sample size of 21 in-depth interviews was conducted through a pre-tested interview guide. The interviews were recorded, and later these were transcribed and translated into English. The translated data were entered and coded, and analyzed thematically. The report will be tentatively completed by July 2025.

Principal Investigator – Dr.Bijoya Roy; Co-Principal Investigator: Khundongbam Gyanabati Devi; Field Investigator- Ms. Ngankham Rupali.

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

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This research project investigates the challenges faced by urban Indian women micro-entrepreneurs, particularly those who migrated from rural areas. It analyzes external environmental challenges and skill deficiencies to identify critical constraints hindering their growth, examining the role of microfinance agencies in promoting sustainable women's entrepreneurship. The study also assesses whether microfinance institutions are effectively leveraging women's potential in enterprise development and the role of formal institutions in supporting women entrepreneurs. Data was collected through questionnaire-based interviews with 60 women micro-entrepreneurs in the Mangolpuri area of Delhi, identified with the assistance of NGOs like Dr. A V Baliga Memorial Trust, Itasha, Plan India, and Mahila Panchayat. The report analyzes data collected via these questionnaires.

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

### **Svanidhi Yojana and the Question of Women's Self-Employment: A Study of North Delhi** (Funded by ICSSR OH-31 Grant)

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This study investigates the impact of the Svanidhi scheme on women in North Delhi and their communities. It examines the scheme's influence on the family, social, and economic well-being of female beneficiaries. The research also identifies challenges women face in accessing the scheme's benefits and proposes solutions. Data was collected through questionnaires and interviews with 60 women in North Delhi, with

fieldwork completed by April. The draft report will be finalized by July 2025.

Research Team: Principal Investigator - Seema Kazi and Co-Principal Investigator - Nayantara Singh; Field Investigator – Zuberiya Nauman Khan

## राष्ट्रीय चुनाव और महिला मतदान व्यवहार: दिल्ली के संदर्भ में (Funded by ICSSR OH-31 Grant)

पिछले साल ओएच 31 ग्रांट के अंतर्गत 'राष्ट्रीय चुनाव और महिला मतदान व्यवहार: दिल्ली के संदर्भ में' शीर्षक से शोध का काम सम्पन्न कर रिपोर्ट लिखा गया। उसके बाद उक्त रिपोर्ट को सीडब्ल्यूडीएस द्वारा आमंत्रित विद्वान के समक्ष प्रस्तुत किया गया। उनसे मिले सुझावों के आधार पर रिपोर्ट का पुनर्लेखन किया गया। उसके बाद परियोजना के नतीजों को 'प्रसार कार्यशाला' के जरिए आमंत्रित विषय विशेषज्ञ और अन्य शोध विद्वानों के समक्ष पेश किया गया। कार्यशाला में कई महत्वपूर्ण और उपयोगी सुझाव मिले। उन्हें समाहित कर अंतिम रिपोर्ट को अंतिम रूप देकर जमा कर दिया गया। इस शोध से इस बात की पुष्टि हुई कि बड़ी संख्या में महिलाएं मतदान में भागीदारी कर रही हैं। उनके बीच मताधिकार को लेकर सजगता बढ़ी है। ज्यादातर महिलाओं ने बताया कि वे अपने मन मुताबिक मतदान करती हैं। पुरुषों की सुनती हैं लेकिन निर्णय खुद लेती हैं। इस शोध से यह स्पष्ट हुआ कि महिलाओं की मतदान में भागीदारी बढ़ाने के लिए सरकार की तरफ से किए गए निरंतर प्रयास और उपाय सफल हुए हैं। महिला सशक्त हुई हैं।

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

‘राष्ट्रवाद और स्त्री-प्रश्न: चाँद पत्रिका के संदर्भ में

**(Funded by ICSSR OH-31 Grant)**

ओएच 31 ग्रांट के अंतर्गत इस साल के लिए ‘राष्ट्रवाद और स्त्री-प्रश्न: चाँद पत्रिका के संदर्भ में’ विषय पर शोध प्रस्ताव स्वीकृत किया गया। 20वीं शताब्दी का दूसरा दशक औपनिवेशिक भारत में बड़े बदलाव का दौर माना जाता है। 1919 का भारत सरकार अधिनियम, भारतीयों को शासन में प्रतिनिधित्व प्रदान करने वाला एक महत्वपूर्ण कदम था। उसी समय राष्ट्रवादी आंदोलन, विशेष रूप से महात्मा गांधी के नेतृत्व में, में भी तेजी आई। इन बदलावों ने बाल विवाह, विधवा पुनर्विवाह और महिलाओं की संपत्ति पर अधिकार जैसे विभिन्न सामाजिक मुद्दों को प्रभावित किया। राष्ट्रीय आंदोलनों में महिलाओं की बढ़ती भागीदारी ने समाज और राजनीति में उनकी जगह को लेकर व्यापक बहस को जन्म दिया। इस बहस का प्रमुख मंच पत्रिकाएँ बनीं, विशेषकर महिला पत्रिकाएँ। चाँद ऐसी ही एक महत्वपूर्ण पत्रिका थी, जिसे राम रख सिंह सहगल ने 1922 में निकालना शुरू किया था और जो 1947-48 तक प्रकाशित होती रही। यह पत्रिका न केवल महिलाओं से जुड़े मुद्दों और राष्ट्रवाद पर चल रही बहसों को जगह देती थी, बल्कि उन्हें आकार भी देती थी। प्रस्तुत शोध में चाँद पत्रिका की उन बहसों को गढ़ने में भूमिका का विश्लेषण करने का प्रयास किया गया है। इसका उद्देश्य चाँद में प्रकाशित महिलाओं और राष्ट्रवाद से संबंधित विषयवस्तु का विश्लेषण करना, महिलाओं के मुद्दों पर विमर्श को आकार देने में राम रख सिंह सहगल की संपादकीय रणनीति को समझना और राष्ट्रीय आंदोलन में महिलाओं की भागीदारी को परिभाषित करने में चाँद की भूमिका को उजागर करना है।

प्रिंसिपलइंवेस्टिगेटर- सीमाकाजी; को-प्रिंसिपलइंवेस्टिगेटर- विजयकुमारझा; फील्डइंवेस्टिगेटर- एकतावर्मा

# 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 respective thesis and await their viva and award of Degrees. It may be noted that after September 2023, CWDS Faculty 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 supervision 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, (Registration Number: S185CWG08)

### Prof. Neetha N.

Completed, Degree awarded:

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

Ongoing:

- ❖ 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. Thesis title 'A Critical Study of Women's Status as Depicted in the Theravada Literature (600 BCE to 500 CE)'.

### **Dr. Seema Kazi**

Ongoing:

- ❖ Ph.D supervision: WGS, Ambedkar University, Delhi; Kunzang Angmo, WGS, Ambedkar University. 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'.

### **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 awarded. 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 and 2024-25, no fellowships were disbursed by the ICSSR to CWDS.

Fellowship Programme Coordinator: Seema Kazi.

### **Post-Doctoral Fellowship:**

Dr. Sonia George, Post-Doctoral Fellow, worked with Prof. Mary E. John, has been transferred to Prof. N. Manimekalai, as Supervisor during March 2025 and approved by ICSSR. Prof. Mary John will be the Co-Supervisor.

## **LIBRARY AND INFORMATION SERVICES**

The Vina Mazumdar Memorial Library (VMML), named in honour of the late Professor Vina Mazumdar, is an integral part of the Centre. Established in 1980, the library has consistently supported the research needs of faculty, scholars, activists, and students from across India and abroad. It houses a rich and diverse collection of research materials focused on gender and women's studies. As a vital resource hub, VMML offers extensive materials on a wide range of topics, including women's roles in the economy and development policy, social issues, disability, violence, women's movements, and more. Located in the YWCA building on Ashoka Road, New Delhi, the library is known for its high-quality information services, designed to meet both the current and evolving needs of researchers, leveraging innovative technological tools to enhance access and engagement.

## **Activities Accomplished during 2024-25**

Knowledge Gateway: By June 2024, VMML successfully developed a dedicated portal focused on Women's Studies in the South Asia region. The initiative was designed to:

- i) Share resources, opportunities, and a unified technology platform for Women's Studies organizations across the South Asian Region (SAR);
- ii) Facilitate networking, collaboration, and exchange of experiences among Women's Studies communities in the SAR; and
- iii) Serve as a central access point for information related to Women's Studies in South Asia.

Digital Archive Development: As part of its archival enhancement initiative, VMML undertook the digital restoration and preservation of significant collections, including Institutional Archives, Personal Collections, Conference Documents, Miscellaneous Materials, and Periodical Articles. By June 2024, approximately 5,000 electronic documents had been digitized and integrated into the DSpace digital repository.

Specialized Library Services for the Visually Challenged: To promote inclusive access, VMML converted 100 essential documents into DAISY (Digital Accessible Information System) format by June 2024. These audio-based resources provide a complete alternative to print materials for individuals with print disabilities, advancing accessibility and equity in learning.

Oral History Project – From Memory to History: VMML launched a new oral history initiative titled "From Memory to History" to capture and preserve personal narratives related to women's status, education, and social change. These interviews aim to document the development of Women's Studies in India and across South Asia. By June 2024, 25 interviews have been successfully conducted. All related workshops and activities were also completed within this timeframe.

## **Collection Development during 2024–25**

At VMML, collection development has consistently focused on acquiring literature related to Women's Studies in various formats—such as mimeographed papers, articles, books, annotated bibliographies, statistical data, theses, dissertations, occasional papers, conference documents, reports, newspaper clippings, policy documents, audio-visual materials, and other electronic information resources. These materials are either purchased or received as complimentary copies.

Special emphasis is placed on sourcing unpublished materials through institutional networks, both within India and internationally.

During 2024–25, the library continued to focus on key thematic areas, including Sexuality, Disabilities and Violence against Women, Marginalised Castes, Women’s Health, Feminism, Women’s Employment, Migration, Women’s Status, Women in Literature, Women’s Biographies, Women and Law, Violence against Women, and resources in Hindi, among others.

### **New Additions during 2024–25**

A total of 1936 records of books, monographs, reports, conference documents, articles from journals and newspapers had been added to the Koha (catalogue) database during April 2023 – March 2024. As of now, the library holds approximately 17,654 books and mimeographed papers. The Koha catalogue database currently includes over 1, 38,578 records. Full text articles from journals and newspapers which are accessible exclusively through the library’s intranet.

The library subscribes to 14 Indian journals and receives 3 additional journals regularly through an exchange arrangement for the Indian Journal of Gender Studies (IJGS). The total number of bound volumes of journals and periodicals available in the library stands at 1,197.

### **Information Services:**

The library regularly provides a range of information services to facilitate the dissemination and use of its resources. The highlights of these services are as follows:

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

Since 1984, the library has been regularly publishing the Current Awareness Bulletin — a bi-monthly publication that provides users with up-to-date information in the field of Women’s Studies. It features newly added resources such as books, conference documents and reports, periodical articles, and newspaper items from the library’s collection.

During the financial year 2024-25, a total of six issues of the CAB have been published and are available for download in PDF format at:  
<https://www.cwds.ac.in/information-services/current-awareness-bulletin/>



- ❖ No. 5-6, May-June 2024
- ❖ No.7-8, July-August 2024
- ❖ No.9-10, September-October 2024
- ❖ No.11-12, November-December 2024
- ❖ No.1-2, January – February 2025
- ❖ No.3-4 March – April 2025

### **BOL: An Electronic Discussion list on Gender Issues in South Asia**

VMML has been moderating BOL since 2000. Currently, it has 1,180 members from 40 different countries.

### **Users and Documents consulted during 2024-25:**

Between April 2024 and March 2025, a total of 138 users accessed the library, including 45 new users. Of these new users, 45 were from various Indian states— Delhi, Assam, Haryana, Rajasthan, Bihar, Maharashtra, Meghalaya, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, West Bengal, and Kerala - while 3 were from Canada, Italy, and UK.

During this period, the following materials were consulted within the library: 443 books, 40 conference documents, 34 reference books, and 49 journals. Additionally, approximately 3,102 pages from various documents were photocopied at the request of 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 2024-25, the following events were carried out in online/offline mode.

### **CWDS Seminars, Webinars, Lectures, and Workshops:**

- ❖ Panel Discussion on 'Women and Information', held at IIC, New Delhi, 2 April 2024

A panel discussion on the theme 'Women and Information' was organised on 2nd April 2024 to mark the official launch of the Knowledge Gateway on Women's Studies Portal for the South Asian Region. Held in hybrid mode, the event brought together scholars, academicians, students, and experts from the fields of Women/Gender Studies and other Social Sciences and Humanities across South Asia, with a total of 50 participants attending. The programme commenced with a welcome address by Ratna Sharma of CWDS, followed by opening remarks from Prof. N. Manimekalai, Director of CWDS. Dr. Sanghamitra Jana Chatterjee, Library In-Charge of CWDS, introduced the project, after which the portal was officially inaugurated by Prof. Vasanthi Raman, Chairperson of CWDS. A demonstration of the portal's features and navigation was presented by Dr. Akhlak Ahmad (CWDS). The portal was well-received by attendees, who acknowledged its relevance and utility in advancing research and knowledge-sharing in Women's Studies.

The event continued with a thought-provoking panel discussion on 'Women and Information', moderated by Prof. Kumud Sharma, Former Chairperson of CWDS. The panel featured distinguished speakers: Prof. Uma Kanjilal, Vice Chancellor of IGNOU; Dr. Vibodh Parthasarathi, Associate Professor at Jamia Millia Islamia; and Dr. Paromita Sen, Research Director at SEWA Bharat. Each speaker shared unique insights into the critical role of access to information in empowering women, exploring intersections with digital inclusion, media, and grassroots activism. The session addressed challenges such as the digital divide and systemic barriers, while emphasizing the need for inclusive and accessible information systems. The panel discussion was concluded with an engaging interaction between the panelists and participants.

The panel discussion was coordinated by Dr. Sanghamitra Jana Chatterjee, Dr. Akhlak Ahmad, and Ms. Ratna Sharma

❖ **Dissemination Workshop with Partner Institutions of WSCs on “Building Capacities of Women’s Studies Centres”, held at YWCA, New Delhi, 18 April 2024.**

The One Day symposium on Building Capacities of Women’s Studies Centres in Regional Contexts was organised on 18th April 2024. Invitees and participants included the PI and Co-PIs of ten research studies that CWDS conducted with WSCs from various universities across India, along with consultants, researchers, and experts who reviewed the project reports. The entire programme covered the following three themes:

1. Women, Work and Employment/Economy;
2. Governance and policy/ Institutional responses;
3. Discrimination, Equal Opportunity, and Challenges to Inclusivity.

Each presentation had reflections from the experts who reviewed it. The comments were incorporated into the final report and submitted to CWDS.

❖ **Dissemination workshop for the study on “Early and Child Marriage” held at IIC, New Delhi, 24 April 2024.**

A half-day dissemination workshop was held on 24th April 2024 to present the concluded study report on Early and Child Marriage: Exploring Education, Work, Marriage, in Conference Room II, IIC Main Building, New Delhi. The workshop began with a welcome address by Prof N Manimekalai, Director of CWDS. Principal Investigator Mary E John presented the main findings of the draft report, which comprised six chapters – an Introduction, a chapter providing historical context, a chapter on the broader contemporary setting for the study on early and child marriage, a chapter providing context for the current study, a chapter on education, a chapter on work, a chapter on marriage, and a conclusion. The study involved a review of literature, quantitative analyses of field-based surveys, and qualitative analyses of interviews conducted in the field. The presentation was followed by additional comments from the study coordinators: Prof. Sheela Prasad (retired Professor, Centre for Regional Studies, University of Hyderabad), Indira Pancholi from Mahila Jan Adhikar, Rajasthan, Dr. Anindita Ghosh from Rabindra Bharati University, Kolkata, and Prof. Shobhita Rajagopal (retired Professor, Institute of Development Studies, Jaipur).

After the tea break, in a panel chaired by the chairperson of CWDS Prof Vasanthi Raman, three speakers commented on the report in the light of their involvements – Prof Kalpana Kannabiran, formerly Director of the Centre for Social Development,

Hyderabad, Madhu Mehra, Head of research at Partners for Law in Development and Prof Meena Gopal, Department of Women's Studies, University of Pondicherry. The meeting concluded with a discussion and a vote of thanks.

❖ **Consultation on "Disability Inclusion in the Health System in India" held at IIC, New Delhi, 3 May 2024.**

In 2011, the World Health Organisation (WHO) highlighted the health gap faced by persons with disabilities in the World Report on Disability, providing policy recommendations. The WHO Global Disability Action Plan 2014–2021 was a pioneering initiative to address the significant health disparities experienced by people with disabilities. The plan presented a comprehensive strategy to improve access to health services, rehabilitation, assistive technologies, and support services for disabled individuals. By removing obstacles and fostering inclusivity, the plan aimed to enhance the overall health and well-being of people with disabilities worldwide. It underscored the importance of collecting relevant data and conducting research to better understand and address this population's specific health needs.

A one-day Consultation-Cum-Dissemination Workshop on Disability Inclusion in the Health System was organised by CWDS on 5th May 2024 at the India International Centre, New Delhi. This event marked the conclusion of the Ford Foundation-supported Project Intersectional Analysis of Disability and Sexuality (Principal Investigator Renu Addlakha). The consultation aimed to highlight the issue of disability in India's health system from both provider and user perspectives. Historically, the valid critique of the medical model by disability activists and scholars has shifted attention away from the vital role that the health system plays in the lives of people with disabilities. In contrast to impairment, the health system has also largely remained insensitive to the issue from a human rights standpoint. The consultation addressed this gap by featuring voices of both users and providers with disabilities within the health system. One of the highlights was a presentation and discussion on a Training Manual on Disability Inclusion in the Health System in India, prepared for distribution among major healthcare institutions across the country. The event was designed as an engaging space for discussion on disability, gender, and health among various stakeholders such as healthcare professionals, persons with disabilities, civil society organisations, and researchers. Over 60 participants attended the event, which was held in a hybrid mode.

### ❖ **Resource Sharing and Networking Workshop, 13 May 2024**

On 13th May 2024, a Resource Sharing and Networking Workshop on the Knowledge Gateway on Women's Studies in South Asia was held at the Department of Women and Gender Studies, Tribhuvan University. The workshop brought together 30 participants, including faculty members, research scholars, and students. The primary objective was to create a platform for discussion and collaboration among Women's Studies academicians and scholars. It aimed to explore opportunities for networking, resource sharing, and collective learning, while also establishing a nodal access point to the Knowledge Gateway. The session was highly interactive, with students actively engaging and raising questions about various aspects of the portal. Participants appreciated the portal's relevance, noting its usefulness for academic research and study. The event successfully fostered a spirit of academic exchange and strengthened connections within the Women's Studies community, highlighting the value of shared digital resources in advancing regional scholarship.

Workshop Coordinators and Resource Persons: Sanghamitra Jana Chatterjee and Akhlak Ahmad

### ❖ **Resource Sharing and Networking Workshop, 14 May, 2024**

A Resource Sharing and Networking Workshop on the Knowledge Gateway on Women's Studies in South Asia was held on 14th May 2024 for faculty members and students of the Department of Women's Studies at Padma Kanya Multiple Campus. The workshop aimed to create a platform for group discussions among Women's Studies academics and scholars to explore opportunities for networking, collaborative learning, and resource sharing within the Women's Studies community. The event saw active participation from 40 attendees, primarily students from various social science disciplines. Participants showed great enthusiasm and asked thoughtful questions about the features and content of the portal. They appreciated the gateway's relevance and expressed excitement about using it as a valuable academic resource for their research and learning in Women's Studies.

Workshop Coordinators and Resource Persons: Sanghamitra Jana Chatterjee and Akhlak Ahmad

### ❖ **Online Resource Sharing and Networking Workshop, 3 June 2024**

On 3rd June 2024, an Online Resource Sharing and Networking Workshop on the Knowledge Gateway on Women's Studies in South Asia was held with faculty, research scholars, and students of the Department of Women's Studies, Gauhati University. The workshop aimed to foster dialogue and collaboration among Women's Studies

scholars, encouraging networking, resource sharing, and the development of a central access point for the Knowledge Gateway. The session provided an interactive platform for exploring opportunities for academic exchange and collective learning. Over 50 participants attended, with a majority representing the North East states. Attendees engaged enthusiastically, expressing appreciation for the portal's features and functionality. Numerous questions were raised across various sections of the portal, reflecting strong interest and active participation. The initiative successfully brought together a vibrant academic community, laying the groundwork for sustained regional and inter-institutional collaboration in Women's Studies across South Asia.

Workshop Coordinators and Resource Persons: Sanghamitra Jana Chatterjee and Akhlak Ahmad

#### ❖ **Resource Sharing and Networking Workshop in University of Kashmir, India, 24 June 2024**

A Resource Sharing and Networking Workshop on the Knowledge Gateway for Women's Studies in South Asia and Research Management Systems (RMS) was convened in hybrid format on 24th June 2024, involving faculty, research scholars, and students from the Centre for Women's Studies and Research, University of Kashmir. The workshop aimed to create a platform for in-depth group discussions among Women's Studies scholars, emphasising opportunities for academic networking, collaborative learning, and resource sharing through the Knowledge Gateway. It also provided comprehensive guidance on using reference management software to support research. Thirty-five participants attended the session, actively engaging with the portal and showing keen interest in its various features. Students participated in practical training with their laptops, exploring the functionalities of RMS under expert supervision. The session was well-received, with participants appreciating the initiative and its potential to enhance research collaboration and efficiency within the Women's Studies academic community.

Workshop Coordinators and Resource Persons: Sanghamitra Jana Chatterjee and Akhlak Ahmad

#### ❖ **Workshop on OPAC and Reference Management Systems, 13 September 2024**

A one-day workshop on Online Public Access Catalogue (OPAC) and Reference Management Systems was held on 13th September 2024 in collaboration with the Centre for Women's Studies, Mohanlal Sukhadia University, Udaipur. The workshop aimed to equip participants with a thorough understanding of using reference management software to support academic research. A total of 40 participants,

including faculty members, research scholars, and students, attended the event. The workshop was highly interactive, with attendees actively participating in discussions and practical demonstrations. The session highlighted the real-world applications of OPAC and reference tools for organising and managing academic resources efficiently. Participants expressed their appreciation for the session, noting that the portal and tools introduced would greatly benefit their research activities. The workshop successfully enhanced digital literacy in research practices and encouraged the use of technology for efficient resource management within the academic community.

Workshop Coordinators and Resource Persons: Sanghamitra Jana Chatterjee and Akhlak Ahmad

### ❖ **Workshop on Negotiations at The Table, 25 September 2024**

The one-day workshop was held at the conference hall of Arunachal Institute of Tribal Studies (AITS), Rajiv Gandhi University, on 25 September 2024. It was part of the research project Women's Relation to Land: A Study of Land Ownership and Agency through Women's Role in Evolving Food Traditions. The workshop was attended by invited experts as well as research scholars. Prof. Jummy Basar of AITS and Prof. Manimekalai, Director of CWDS, welcomed the participants. The workshop discussions were organised into three panels. The first panel focused on the need to provide women farmers with a platform to share their experiences working in a Jhum field and how those experiences have changed with the introduction of new crops into the region. The second panel brought together individuals working with rural women farmers to learn about their personal experiences and diverse perspectives. The last panel involved early-career researchers exploring different aspects of indigenous food practices and traditions. The interactive discussions offered valuable insights for analysing the field data collected as part of the project. The workshop concluded with a vote of thanks from the Project Director.

### ❖ **Five Regional Workshops with students of WSCs on Envisioning Change: Reading Towards Equality in the Global Era with Students to commemorate 50years of Towards Equality Jointly Organized by Vina Mazumdar Memorial Fund (VMMF), CWDS, New Delhi are follows:**

#### **1. Department of Women's Studies, Gauhati University, 27 September 2024**

The one-day Regional Workshop on 27th September 2024 for North East India began with the inaugural session. Prof Alpana Borgohain, Head of the Department of Women's Studies at Gauhati University, welcomed the participants, other invitees, and the team

from CWDS. Prof. N Manimekalai, Director, and Prof. Neetha N., Deputy Director, also took part. Prof. Manimekalai from CWDS gave a brief overview of the workshop, which forms part of activities under the Vina Mazumdar Memorial Fund. The Keynote Address was delivered by Dr Monisha Behal, Chairperson of the North East Network (NEN). She introduced her connection with Prof. Vina Mazumdar and highlighted the significance of reading the Towards Equality Report, a well-researched document that laid the foundation for the women's movement, even today. She emphasised some current issues pertinent to the region, such as malnutrition, communalism, teenage pregnancy, child sexual abuse, and the lack of property and decision-making rights for women in many communities. She stressed the need for change, which requires impactful and influential research. This was followed by the first technical session, during which eight papers were presented by young scholars. Prof. (Retd.) Archana Sharma, Former Director of WSRC at Gauhati University and Founder Head of the Department of Women's Studies at Gauhati University, chaired this session, with Dr Poonam Kakoti Borah, Assistant Professor in the Department of Women's Studies at Gauhati University, acting as the resource person. The first technical session was succeeded by an Interactive Session with Grassroots Women Activists. Prof. Polly Vauqueline from the Department of Women's Studies at Gauhati University introduced the renowned feminist writer and activist Junu Bora, Founder Member of the Assam Progressive Women's Association, along with Mira Tanti and Sulekha Tanti, dedicated members of the Assam Sangramik Chah Shramik Sangha. The speakers shared their extensive and valuable experiences. The second technical session was chaired by Prof. Neetha N., Deputy Director at the Centre for Women's Development Studies, New Delhi, with Dr Saswati Choudhury, Director of the Omeo Kumar Das Institute of Social Change and Development in Guwahati, serving as discussant. Five scholars presented their papers. The workshop concluded with the experts congratulating the young scholars for their participation, while emphasising the importance of critically examining concepts of change and progress in analysing the themes undertaken.

## **2. Tarabai Shinde Women's Studies Centre, Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Marathwada University, Chhatrapati Sambhajnagar, 9 October 2024**

The one-day Regional Workshop on 9th October 2024 for Western India commenced with the inaugural session. Dr. Nirmala Jadhav, Director of the Tarabai Shinde Women's Studies Centre at Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Marathwada University, Chhatrapati Sambhajnagar, welcomed the participants, other invitees, and the team from CWDS. Prof. N. Manimekalai, Director of CWDS, provided a brief overview of the workshop, which is one of the activities under the Vina Mazumdar Memorial Fund. The Keynote Address was delivered by Prof. Chaya Datar, former Director of the Advanced Centre for Women's Studies at Tata Institute of Social Sciences. After briefly introducing her association with Prof. Vina Mazumdar, she highlighted the ongoing relevance of the



Towards Equality Report. Prof. John Chelladurai, Dean of the Faculty of Interdisciplinary Studies at MGM University, Chhatrapati Sambhajnagar, served as the Chief Guest. Prof. Wandana Sonalkar, former Director of the Advanced Centre for Women's Studies at Tata Institute of Social Sciences, delivered the keynote speech, emphasising the importance of examining women's issues such as education, health, and labour within a changing context. She also connected the findings of the Towards Equality report to contemporary research. This was followed by seven paper presentations by emerging scholars. Prof. Madhuri Dixit from the Department of English at Premraj Sarda College, Ahmednagar, chaired the first session, with Dr. Vandana, Assistant Professor at the Centre for Women's Development Studies, New Delhi, and Dr. Sneha Gole from the Department of Women and Gender Studies at Savitribai Phule Pune University, as resource persons. After lunch, the second session featured an interactive discussion with grassroots women activists. Dr. Pushpa Gaikwad, Head of the Department of History at Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Marathwada University, Chhatrapati Sambhajnagar, chaired this session and introduced the renowned feminist writer and activist Mangal Khivansara from Chhatrapati Sambhajnagar. Sushila Morale from Beed shared her grassroots activism. The second technical session was chaired by Swati Dey from the Department of Women and Gender Studies at Savitribai Phule Pune University. Dr. Dhammasangini Rama Gorakh of the Women's Studies Centre at Rashtrasant Tukdoji Maharaj Nagpur University was the discussant. Eight scholars presented their papers. The workshop concluded with remarks from Prof. Vasanthi Raman, Chairperson of the Centre for Women's Development Studies. She congratulated all participants, especially the young scholars and the Women's Studies Centre, for organising the event. Emphasis was placed on critically examining concepts of change and progress in analysing the themes undertaken.

### **3. Avinashilingam Institute for Home Science and Higher Education for Women (AIHSHEW), Coimbatore, 29 October 2024**

The Centre for Women's Development Studies (CWDS), New Delhi, and Avinashilingam Institute for Home Science and Higher Education for Women (AIHSHEW), Coimbatore, jointly organised the VMMF Southern Regional Workshop celebrating 50 years of "Towards Equality" on 29 October 2024 in Coimbatore. In her inaugural address, Prof. Bharathi Hari Shankar, the Vice-Chancellor of the University and former Head of Women's Studies at the University of Madras, highlighted the significant contribution of the Towards Equality Report and encouraged Women's Studies scholars to utilise it in their research. Prof. U. Vindhya, former Professor of Psychology and Deputy Director at the Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Hyderabad Campus, referenced the Report to discuss interdisciplinary women's issues, resistance to change over the past 50 years, and the importance of including these discussions in Women's Studies teaching and research. She emphasised the need for pedagogical and epistemological

reforms in Women's Studies to address emerging issues often absent from classroom discussions. The workshop featured three technical sessions: "Situating the Report: Questions of Education, Media and Mobility," "Women's Work: Then and Now," and "Different Women, Similar Concerns: Intersecting Concerns of Reproductive Health and Rights." Each session included four presentations by research scholars on topics such as women and work, health, and political participation. Participants, chairs, and discussants represented various Southern States of India, fostering a lively exchange of ideas. Prof. Manimekalai coordinated the Southern Regional Workshop. Prof. Premala, Director of the Women's Studies Centre at Avinashilingam University, served as the local organiser.

#### **4. School of Women's Studies (SWS), Utkal University, Bhubaneswar, Odisha (Eastern Region), 6 November 2024**

To commemorate 50 years of the Towards Equality Report, this was one of the five regional student workshops organised by the CWDS in partnership with the Women's Studies Centre at Utkal University. The workshop aimed to examine the themes raised by the Towards Equality Report in the light of contemporary developments in women's studies, with the focus on student-led research. The organizing committee of the Workshop includes N. Manimekalai and Renu Addlakha from CWDS and Jayanti Dora, Nityananda Barik, and Snigdharani Behera from the School of Women's Studies. The call for abstracts generated over 100 entries from the states of Orissa, West Bengal, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, and Bihar out of which 15 were selected to be developed into full-length papers for presentation at the Workshop. The event featured three technical sessions, one experiential session on rural women, as well as inaugural and valedictory sessions. In each technical session, five presentations by research scholars covered a wide array of themes, including women and development, women and work, women and violence, and women and political participation. The Workshop was a stimulating space that sought to link contemporary research ideas and concerns with the issues and themes discussed in the Towards Equality Report. The local print media covered the Workshop.

#### **5. ACWA, Aligarh Muslim University (AMU), Aligarh, 16 November 2024.**

The Centre for Women's Development Studies (CWDS), New Delhi, in collaboration with the Advanced Centre for Women's Studies (ACWA) at Aligarh Muslim University (AMU), organised a workshop on 16 November 2024 titled '50 Years of Advocacy, Action and Ambition: Reading 'Towards Equality' for Emerging Issues and Future Pathways' to mark 50 years since the publication of the landmark 1975 report 'Towards Equality' on women in India. The workshop aimed to reflect on advocacy and research related to women, women's struggles for gender equality, and potential ways forward to tackle

contemporary challenges faced by women in India. Prof. N. Manimekalai, Director of CWDS, presided over the event. Prof. Azra Musavi from ACWA coordinated the programme and emphasised the importance of reflecting on five decades of gender equality advocacy. Prof. Manimekalai outlined the workshop's key objectives, focusing on issues like declining sex ratios, emerging forms of violence, and the resilience of rural women. Dr. Kumud Sharma, former Chairperson of CWDS, delivered the keynote address, discussing major legislative milestones including the Pre-Conception and Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques (PCPNDT) Act 1994 and the 2023 Women's Reservation Bill. She stressed the significance of Women's Studies and the contributions of pioneers such as Vina Mazumdar to its development. The second part of the workshop comprised four academic sessions featuring paper presentations by young scholars and researchers from northern India. Themes included Gender Disparities in Education: Challenges and Reforms; Gender, Labour and Economic Reforms; Legal and Social Constructs in Achieving Gender Equality; and Grassroots Voices. Dr. Seema Kazi highlighted the relevance of the 'Towards Equality' report and the insights shared during the technical sessions. The workshop concluded with a vote of thanks from Dr. Tarushikha Sarvesh of ACWA, AMU, recognising the collaboration between CWDS and ACWA and appreciating the paper presenters for fostering meaningful dialogue on women and gender equality.

#### ❖ **Webinar On Traditions in Transition: Indigenous Women in a Changing Economy**

A webinar was organised to present the draft report of the research study on Women's Relation to Land: A Study of Land Ownership and Agency through Women's Role in Evolving Food Traditions titled Traditions in Transition: Indigenous Women in a Changing Economy. The broad areas covered in the discussion were: 1. Indigeneity in a changing socio-economic order and its implications on women's status; 2. Changing systems of land ownership and gender relations; 3. Market-based production and feminisation of agriculture. Prof. Jumyir Basar, (Arunachal Institute of Tribal Studies, RGU) and Dr. Jombi Bagra, Assistant Professor, Government College, Daparijo, were the discussants. The Project Director, Prof. Neetha N welcomed the participants and gave an overview of the study. Ms. Renu Koyu shared the findings of the study. Researchers, academics, journalists, and activists participated in the discussion on the impact of socio-economic changes on Galo women and, through it, changes happening elsewhere in Arunachal Pradesh and the North East. The project director thanked the discussants and all the participants for providing insightful suggestions.

❖ **16 Day Activism Series – 25 November – 10 December 2024 Virtual Seminar - Commemoration of the 'International Day for Elimination of Violence against Women' Theme: "Every 10 Minutes, a woman is killed #NoExcuse,UNiTE to End Violence against Women"**

From 25 November to 10 December 2024, a 16-day activism campaign addressed violence against women. Sixteen institutions, including 16 universities and the Women's Studies Students Association, collaborated with CWDS to organise discussions on various forms of violence, state initiatives, victim rehabilitation, legislation, civil society intervention, and relevant court judgments. Sessions explored the roots of gender-based violence (GBV) within patriarchal structures reinforced by caste, class, race, and religion, emphasising the impact of intersecting systems of domination. Speakers analysed the history of feminist and women's rights movements in India since the 1970s, linking them to current struggles. Despite legal reforms, pervasive violence against women persists due to systemic inequalities and entrenched masculine norms. Participants concluded that addressing GBV requires cultural, emotional, and structural transformation beyond legal reform. Speakers advocated for proactive policies, reclaiming institutions with feminist values, fostering everyday resistance through education and solidarity, and recognising the interconnectedness of violence across intimate, institutional, and public spheres. The programme facilitated networking among Women's Studies participants and promoted discussions on regional initiatives. Over the past two years, CWDS has partnered with academic institutions in joint campaigns, demonstrating its commitment to eliminating violence against women and girls.

❖ **Dissemination Workshop of Three Research Projects Funded by OH-31 Grants (2023-2024)" held at Bhai Vir Singh Sahitya Sadan, 12th December 2024**

A half-day dissemination workshop was held on 12th December 2024 at Bhai Vir Singh Sahitya Sadan. The programme commenced with a welcome address by the Director, followed by Prof. Vasanthi Raman's opening remarks, which set the tone for the discussions ahead. Three Research Associates of the Centre presented their ongoing research, with distinguished discussants invited to respond to each presentation. Ms. Bhaswati Thakurta presented her study titled "The Life of Migrant Women in Yamuna Flood Plain." The work was discussed by Prof. Basabi Gupta, Department of Geography, Miranda House, University of Delhi. After the tea break, Dr. Gayatri Panda shared her research on "Women in Engineering Education: Exploring Students' Experience in a Technological Institute." Her presentation was commented on by Dr. Ravi Kumar, Department of Sociology, South Asian University. The final presentation was delivered by Dr. Vijay Jha, who spoke on "National Elections and Women's Voting

Behaviour (with Reference to Delhi–NCR).” His research was discussed by Prof. Sanjay Kumar, Centre for the Study of Developing Societies (CSDS). The workshop provided a valuable platform for dialogue and exchange of ideas, enabling constructive feedback and wider engagement with the Centre’s research.

❖ **Two-day National Conference on “Reproductive Justice in India”, held at Bhai Vir Singh Sahitya Sadan, New Delhi, 6–7 February 2025**

In collaboration with PFI, Lotika Sarkar Endowment Fund (LSEF), and ICSSR, the event took place on 6th and 7th February 2025. The focus was on reproductive justice in India, an area with limited existing work and scholarship, including empirical studies and theoretical papers that develop RJ theory for application within the Indian context. Instead of a traditional conference, this initiative is organised through a series of activities—such as creative performances and deliberations—that aim to produce lasting outputs. It seeks to bring together researchers, scholars, activists, policymakers, and practitioners from across the country and beyond to explore issues related to reproductive oppression, governance, policy, reproductive violence, and the roles of governments and the private sector in reproduction, covering topics like childbirth, contraceptives, surrogacy, family planning, abortion, and STI/STIs. This project aims to provide a space for interdisciplinary engagement where participants can discuss, share, learn from each other, and contribute to enduring outputs, such as an edited volume.

❖ **Three-day International conference on “Reflections on the Past, Looking to the Future: Fifty Years of Towards Equality”, held at India International Centre, 3-5 March 2025.**

The Centre for Women’s Development Studies (CWDS) organised an international conference to mark the Golden Jubilee of the Report of the Committee on the Status of Women in India (CSWI), Towards Equality, held from 3 to 5 March 2025 at IIC. As is well known, the report was the first comprehensive and critical analysis of the status of women in independent India. Its publication sparked a nationwide debate on gender equality, catalysed the creation of a specialised field called women’s studies, highlighted women’s previously neglected concerns in policy and planning, and provided a sovereign perspective on women’s issues that inspired other decolonising countries of the global south. The CWDS conference aimed to reflect on the lasting impact of the report over the past five decades, on the evolution and diversification of gender-related discussions since its publication, on areas and issues that were overlooked or marginally addressed in Towards Equality but have since gained prominence in women’s studies, and to collectively explore possible future directions. The conference format combined seven plenary sessions each morning with paper presentations by mainly

young scholars and researchers across five ongoing specialised sub-theme sessions in the afternoons. The first-day plenaries, alongside the inaugural, included a session on Women's Studies as Resistance and Resilience and another on Legal Reforms. The second-day plenaries focused on Women and Political Participation, Rural Women and the Agrarian Crisis, and Intersecting Marginalities—social, regional, and identity-based. The third-day plenaries examined challenges and strategies related to Gender and Environment, as well as the Role of Media in shaping Gender Narratives (besides a wrap-up session).

The first sub-theme concentrated on violence as a foundation of gender inequality and unfairness, highlighting how violence against women remains a major obstacle to achieving gender equality in India. The second sub-theme addressed inequality, gender, and education, emphasising significant gender disparities in access to education and how these disparities limit women's long-term social and economic progress. The third sub-theme looked at gender and chronic health conditions, illuminating the intersectional challenges faced by women with chronic illnesses and how gender and socio-economic factors influence their healthcare access and experiences. The fourth sub-theme, women and political participation, examined the barriers women encounter in politics, especially at local and national levels, and how gendered power dynamics continue to restrict women's political agency. The fifth sub-theme focused on women as workers, exploring the connections, exclusions, and subtle challenges women face in the workforce, including discrimination in the labour market and the unequal division of unpaid labour.

What was particularly striking about the conference was the depth and quality of the discussions across a broad range of themes and issues, as well as the enthusiastic participation of scholars and students from different generations. Senior and experienced scholars contributed extensive knowledge and scholarship, while the young offered insights into their contemporary experiences in their fields of work and research. It was the interaction between these groups and the span across five decades of experience and a variety of questions and themes that made this conference a notable moment for women's studies in India.

❖ **31st J.P. Naik Memorial Lecture on "The Challenges of Communication: Can the Past Provide Answers?", Kumkum Roy, Retired Professor, Centre for Historical Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, 4 March, 2025, IIC, New Delhi**

The CWDS annual J.P. Naik Memorial Lecture, honouring a founder of the Centre, features distinguished speakers discussing topics related to women's lives. The 31st lecture was delivered by Prof. Kumkum Roy, Retired Professor at the Centre for Historical Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, on 4 March 2025, at



the India International Centre, New Delhi. The talk was titled "The Challenges of Communication: Can the Past Provide Answers?" and examined the complexities of our current situation within educational institutions, the potential implications of AI, the post-COVID world, ongoing endemic warfare, and climate change. In this context, the significance of J. P. Naik's perspectives and achievements, along with the landmark Towards Equality Report, was emphasised. This was followed by a discussion on modes of communication, focusing on three examples from ancient Indian history. The first is a Jataka story illustrating communication between an oppressive king and his subjects. It demonstrates that this simple story reveals the use of complex and sometimes devious communication strategies in a world with stark socio-political disparities. The second example involves the conversation between a mendicant woman, Sulabha, and the philosopher-king Janaka from the Mahabharata. Sulabha is portrayed as a woman able to converse with the king on equal terms, which the king finds challenging to understand and accept. The principles of communication here are respect, attentive listening, and appropriate responding. The third example is the famous sculpture of the Buddha found at Sarnath, which visually represents depth and complexity resulting from many layers of communication. While these layers are not documented in written records, they were nonetheless meaningful. Ultimately, it is tentatively suggested that these examples indicate that effective communication should be inclusive, bridging diversities. Furthermore, it may be necessary to remain receptive to a wide range of communication modes to ensure effectiveness.

❖ **Workshop on "Gender Barriers in Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths (STEM) fields" supported by OH 31 Grant ICSSR, organized at the collaborative institution Central University of Tamil Nadu (CUTN), 27 March 2025.**

On 27 March 2025, CWDS organised a workshop on "Gender Barriers in STEM Fields" at the Central University of Tamil Nadu (CUTN), Tiruvarur, for STEM faculty. Prof. Madhurima, Co-PI, coordinated the event at CUTN. N. Manimekalai presented trends in women's participation in STEM, drawing from an ongoing study and experiences of women faculty from leading GATI institutions in India. She highlighted personal, institutional, and infrastructural hurdles faced by women in STEM, reflecting broader societal issues. Dr Vasanthi Raman, Chairperson of CWDS, addressed the status of women in STEM, citing various studies, including the IWWAGE study. She emphasised that social structures and backgrounds influence female academics' experiences, with implicit social inequality often hindering their expression, a point endorsed by Madhurima. Later, a discipline-wise focus group discussion with the faculty members was held. It revealed the challenges faculty face and the institutional/non-institutional coping strategies adopted. Participants requested the organisers to submit the highlighted issues to the University and other bodies. Recurring challenges included

promotion neglect, few women in leadership roles, overwhelming workloads without recognition, work-life balance struggles, and societal pressures hindering decision-making. Participants were encouraged to build resilience, utilise institutional resources, and proactively address issues.

## **Inhouse Lectures/Talks**

### **❖ Lecture on “Yoga for Women’s Health” 21 June 2024.**

Dr. Lakshmi Nishitha J., Scientist-B, Department of Integrative Medicine, National Institute of Mental Health and Neurosciences, Bengaluru, on 21 June 2024. The United Nations General Assembly recognized the initiative of India to declare 21st June as the International Yoga Day in 2014. From 2015 onwards, every year celebration of International Yoga Day is thematic in nature. This year’s theme was ‘Yoga for Self and Society’. On the 10th International Day of Yoga, the Centre for Women’s Development Studies organised a webinar titled ‘Yoga for Women’s Health’. The Webinar also included a Yoga demonstration. Her presentation began with an interactive discussion about the idea of Yoga and its differences from regular exercise. She pointed out that Yoga is a perfect connection between body, breath, and mind. She also mentioned in her presentation the link between berthing patterns and emotion. She also explained the theoretical aspect of the yogic Patho-physiology of stress-related disorders. The later part of the presentation included women’s life transitions and the yoga therapy-based solution for health conditions caused by hormonal imbalance. She also cited other conditions, including yoga remedies for depression, osteoporosis, and urinary incontinence. In the last part of her presentation, some breathing techniques, yogasanas, and pranayamas were demonstrated, which included:

1. Hand in & Hand out Breathing and Tiger Breathing
2. BaddhaKonasana, Bhujangasana, ViparitKarani, Setubandhasana
3. Kapalabhati Pranayama, Bhastrika Pranayama, Nadishuddhi Pranayama, Bhramari Pranayama, Nadanusandhana (A-U-M Chanting)

She also shared the NIMHANS initiative of Tele-Yoga services since COVID, which are free of charge on the Zoom platform. The service is available every day and is scheduled from 6:50 a.m. to 7:40 a.m. (except Sundays and public holidays). During the discussion session, issues related to some health conditions (heart-related diseases, acidity, etc.) and suitable yogasanas were discussed. Prof. N. Manimekalai thanked both the presenter and demonstrator.



❖ **Talk on “Populationism: Creating Demographic Anxieties”, 5 August 2024.**

Prof. Mohan Rao, former Professor at the Centre for Social Medicine and Community Health, Jawaharlal Nehru University, delivered a lecture on “Populationism: Creating Demographic Anxieties” on 5 August 2024 at CWDS.

❖ **Talk on “Silences from my Field Notes”, 27 August 2024.**

Prof. Suneetha Rani, Head of the Centre for Women’s Studies at the School of Social Sciences, University of Hyderabad, delivered a lecture on silences from her Field Notes on 27 August 2024. The focus was on the researcher’s field-based experiences. She conceptualises various kinds of silences she encounters in her field. Her study explores the understanding of basic facilities from a gender perspective. It examines the notions of gender difference and the perpetuation of gender stereotypes. It also investigates the worldview of teachers, their attitudes towards identities, and their responses to increasing violence against women. Additionally, it analyses the impact of teacher training and initiatives, and considers teachers’ suggestions and comments on gender-related issues.

❖ **Talk on “Corporate Masculinities, Gendered Inequalities and Women’s Sexual Harassment in Service Work in New India”, 17 December 2024.**

Dr. Shannon Philip, an Assistant Professor in the Sociology of Gender and Sexuality at the University of Cambridge, delivered a lecture on Corporate Masculinities, Gendered Inequalities and Women’s Sexual Harassment in Service Work in New India on 17 December 2024. Corporate workplaces in India are expanding sectors that employ an increasing number of middle-class men and women. However, very little research has examined the gender dynamics of corporate environments from an ethnographic and everyday perspective. Notably, a focus on corporate men and masculinities and their gender relations with women workers remains underexplored. In this talk, he sought to ethnographically investigate some of the everyday gendered and sexual inequalities within corporate workplaces, aiming to reveal how patriarchal corporate masculinities are constructed and operate, as well as their significant consequences for women working in these spaces. I ethnographically illustrate the everyday homo social bonds among men in the workplace and their sexist jokes and comments about women, resulting in the social and cultural exclusion of women workers. He also highlighted the hyper-sexualization of women in the workplace and the various tropes about ‘over-complaining’ women that circulate among men in the office to critically understand the gender inequalities that powerfully shape office spaces. In doing so, he demonstrated how young middle-class corporate Indian men cultivate a sense of superiority compared

to other men through their corporate masculinities and inadvertently create a hostile work environment for women. The data for this article primarily derives from three months of ethnographic fieldwork, observational data, and 34 in-depth interviews with corporate men and women conducted in May 2022 and March–May 2023 in Gurgaon, New Delhi.

❖ **Talk on “Sleep Health: An Emerging Concern”, 10 January 2025**

Dr. Kamalesh K Gulia, Scientist G & In-charge of the Division of Sleep Research at the Biomedical Technology Wing, Sree Chitra Tirunal Institute for Medical Sciences & Technology, Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala, delivered a lecture on 10th January 2025. Sleep is an essential part of our lives. We spend about one-third of our lifetime in this state, yet it remains a neglected public health concern. Following the COVID-19 pandemic in 2021, the importance of sleep was recognised worldwide for maintaining good health and well-being. This talk focused on the emerging concerns related to Sleep Health and will cover several topics: what sleep is, the dynamic changes in sleep throughout the lifespan—including ageing, gender differences in sleep, sleep equity, common sleep disorders, and the significance of sleep health for well-being in the current lifestyle. Towards the end, there will be a brief discussion on wearables as tools for tracking sleep health and orthosomnia. The aim of the talk is to elucidate the multidimensional aspects of sleep equity, beginning with age, as sleep needs vary across different life stages—neonatal, childhood, pregnancy, menopause, and ageing—followed by an exploration of the opportunities for sleep influenced by socioeconomic factors, living conditions, social circumstances, family, employment, social security (such as for hospitalisation expenses), global warming, prolonged wars, conflicts, and epidemics. Recognising the need for sleep in achieving good mental and overall health is crucial in today’s world and warrants increased attention.

❖ **Book discussion on “Why I am not a Hindu Woman: A Personal Story”, by Prof. Wandana Sonalkar, on 14th February 2025**

In a reasoned critique of Hindutva and Hinduism, feminist scholar and activist Wandana Sonalkar explains why, as a woman born into an upper-caste family in Maharashtra, she has repudiated her religious identity. Based on her personal experience and textual and empirical evidence, she offers an intimate account of caste practices and argues that patriarchy and Brahminism are integral to Hinduism. Consequently, it is misogynistic and casteist, with its exclusionary imperatives being essential to both its practice and Hindutva, which extends this imperative to Muslims. She reiterates that discrimination and inequality have been so internalized that their daily observance seamlessly segues into social interactions, thus crystallizing and entrenching them deeply in society.

## Samvad (Hindi Lecture Series):

संवाद व्याख्यानश्रृंखला के संयोजक- नयनतारा सिंह और विजय कुमार झा

- ❖ प्रारम्भिक औपनिवेशिक कानूनी दस्तावेजों में महिलाओं का इतिहास, वक्ता – डा. रुचिका शर्मा, असिस्टेंट प्रोफेसर (इतिहास विभाग), माता सुंदरी कॉलेज फॉर वीमेन, दिल्ली विश्वविद्यालय, 23 जुलाई 2024.

यह व्याख्यान एक पुस्तक चर्चा थी। रुचिका शर्मा की लिखी इस पुस्तक का शीर्षक 'Concubinage, Race and Law in Early Colonial Bengal: Bequeathing Intimacy, Servicing the Empire' है।

इस पुस्तक में शुरुआती औपनिवेशिक बंगाल में ब्रिटिश पुरुषों के भारतीय महिलाओं के साथ संबंधों का विश्लेषण किया गया है। इसमें साम्राज्य विस्तार और औपनिवेशिक संपर्कों के इतिहास को एक नई दृष्टि से देखने की कोशिश की गई है। स्रोत के रूप में उन वसीयतों का इस्तेमाल किया गया है जिन्हें बड़ी संख्या में ब्रिटिश पुरुष अपने पीछे छोड़ गए थे। पुस्तक इन वसीयतों को व्यक्तिगत ऐतिहासिक अभिलेखों के रूप में गंभीरता से लेती है। इन दस्तावेजों में, ब्रिटिश पुरुषों ने अपनी भारतीय प्रेमिकाओं के बारे में लिखा है, जिनसे उनके जीवन, आपसी रिश्तों, घरेलू वस्तुओं और रोजमर्रा के मामलों की तस्वीर बनकर सामने आती है।

व्याख्यान में इन पहलुओं को रेखांकित किया गया और यह भी बताया गया कि वसीयतों का बतौर व्यक्तिगत ऐतिहासिक स्रोत उपयोग करके महिलाओं का इतिहास कैसे लिखा जा सकता है। इसके साथ ही, यह भी उजागर किया गया कि इस प्रकार के विवाहेतर संबंध कितने सामान्य थे और इन संबंधों का सामाजिक इतिहास कैसे लिखा जा सकता है।

- ❖ संवाद व्याख्यान - किताब - मिजाज-ए-बनारस, बनारस के बुनकरपर परिचर्चा, वक्ता - प्रो. वसंती रामन, डॉ. विजय कुमार झा, (सीडब्लूडीएस), 22 नवंबर 2024

यह व्याख्यान एक पुस्तक चर्चा थी। पुस्तक प्रो. वसंती रामन की बनारस के बुनकरों पर लिखे शोध ग्रंथ का हिंदी अनुवाद है। इसका अनुवाद विजय झा ने किया है।

प्रो. वसंती रामन ने अपने फील्डवर्क के अनुभव साझा किए। उन्होंने अनुवाद की महत्ता पर बात की और किताब के हिंदी में आने पर खुशी जाहिर की। उन्होंने कहा कि यह अनुवाद इसलिए जरूरी और महत्वपूर्ण है कि इसे अब वे लोग पढ़ सकेंगे जिनके बारे में यह किताब है। उन्होंने अनुवाद-कर्म को गंभीरता से लेने को जरूरी बताया और ज्ञान के लोकतांत्रिकरण में अनुवाद की भूमिका पर रोशनी डाली। प्रो. वसंती रामन ने बनारस में हुई पुस्तक चर्चा में बुनकरों की बड़ी संख्या में भागीदारी के बारे में बताते हुए कहा कि वे काफी उत्साहित थे और खुश भी। उन सबने किताब खरीदी।

विजय झा ने ज्ञान की विभाजित दुनिया की हकीकत को सामने रखा और कहा कि सारा-का-सारा ज्ञानकांड महज कुछ अंग्रेजीदां लोगों के बीच सीमित होकर रह गया है। ऐसे में अनुवाद-कर्म की भूमिका अहम हो जाती है। उन्होंने खेद जताया कि अंग्रेजी से भारतीय भाषाओं में अनुवाद करने वालों को उतना सम्मान और पारिश्रमिक नहीं मिलता है जितना कि भारतीय भाषाओं से अंग्रेजी में अनुवाद करने वालों को। जबकि श्रम दोनों में ही बराबर ही लगता है। अनुवादक को लेखक की तरफ से आजादी मिले और वह अनुवादक के साथ खड़ा रहे तो अनुवाद सृजनात्मक हो जाता है। उन्होंने प्रो. वसंती रामन के बारे में कहा कि वे हिंदी जगत से नहीं हैं, फिर भी ज्ञान के लोकतांत्रिकरण का पक्षधर होने के कारण उन्होंने इस किताब को हिंदी में लाने के प्रति उत्साह दिखाया और अनुवाद में खुली छूट दी।

## 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 published three issues in the year 2024-2025**

Indian Journal of Gender Studies published three issues in the year 2024-2025.

Issue No 31:2 was published in June 2024 and included four articles covering a range of topics, a photo essay, and a feature in the Comments section. The lead article, 'Interested Gazes and Invisible Audiences: Judicial Narratives on Sex Work' by Stuti Rai, analysed four Supreme Court judgements relating to sex work, offering a cultural critique of postcolonial and neo-liberal sensibilities from 1964 to 2012. In these cases, courts were asked to justify legal reasoning. The author examines how sex work and sex workers are understood and conceptualised by judges, exploring the law, popular morality, and the judges themselves.

In the second article, 'Reading Between the Lines: Maternity Benefit Law in India and Whom It Truly Benefits' by Suma Dadke, a feminist perspective is employed to understand how motherhood and patriarchy interact within the maternity benefit law in India, which was recently amended in 2017. The article assesses the progress of the law and analyses relevant policies to determine whether it requires further revision. The third article, 'Constructing adolescent sexuality through schooling: Analysis on Gender Socialisation in all-Girls Schools at the Secondary Level in Kerala' by Sathya Narendran, examines gender socialisation in two different types of schools in Kerala: a convent school and a government school. The author concludes that social control over girls is maintained by emphasising a rigid femininity in both schools, which undermines the aims of the curriculum. 'Social implications of In-vitro fertilisation (IVF) on women in India' by Papia Raj & Puja Krishna reviews 41 studies on the social determinants influencing women's choices in infertility treatments such as IVF. The authors also focus on the implications of these factors for Indian women.

The photo essay titled 'Photograph Albums as Memory Banks' by Malavika Karlekar

explores an archival photo album of an Indian doctor, Mary Badhwar. In 'Comment', Mohan Rao highlights domestic workers who ease family life at a significant cost to their own health. The book reviews section, as usual, offers insights into various gendered worlds, and the section on New Resources remains as helpful as ever.

**Issue No 31:3 is the last issue of 2024, and provides rich reading material. It contains five articles and one Research Note.**

The first article, "Are you a real woman?" Accounts of the Childfree Woman on Stigma and Social Exclusion by Meera Suresh Babu clarifies the difference between being childless and child-free, the latter being a choice. The experiences of childfree women are set down, throwing light on what follows a renunciation of motherhood. The childfree community is just emerging in India, and this study dwells on the social consequences of this choice. The second article 'Guardianship Law in India: Examining the Principle of the Best Interest of Minors and the Rights of Single Mothers as Sole Guardians' by Shalu Nigam is a much-needed look at custody law: in this piece the focus is on the rights of single mothers to be sole guardians of their minor children, in varied circumstances, if not in all. Case law has altered the application of a male-centric guardianship law, forcing judges to acknowledge social realities such as diverse family forms, changes in norms, the principles of equality, and the needs of the child.

There is further discussion of the law in the third article, 'Limits of Intelligibility: A Critique of Legal Discourse on Intersexuality in Kerala' by Parvathy Das and Reju George Mathew, which examines the inclusion and recognition- both legal and social- of the third gender, specifically individuals registered as 'intersex'. While the discussion is located in Kerala, it considers the broader global context; the authors argue that without structural reforms, mere legal and socio-cultural acknowledgement of this group would lack significance. A comprehensive approach is essential. Menstruation has increasingly become a topic of widespread discussion. Consequently, 'Challenging Stigma, Shame and the Social Control of the Menstruating Body: Women's Resistance in Contemporary India' by Sancharini Mitra and Kalpana Karunakaran compares recent campaigns aimed at destigmatising menstruation with other gender justice initiatives highlighting sexual violence and harassment. The authors note the thematic similarities between these campaigns, but their analysis is viewed through the lens of menstruation. The fifth and final article, 'Work and family: Conversations about Identity with Middle-class Women' by Mala Khullar and Ratna M. Sudarshan, adopts a less polemical tone, focusing on work, family, and issues of identity among middle-class Indian women. The authors questioned why many educated middle-class women were choosing to leave their careers and become homemakers. They discovered that although women remain connected to their families, they continue to seek spaces beyond the family to attain autonomy, agency, new opportunities, economic independence, and alternative sources of identity.



The Research Note 'Migrant South Asian Women in the Basque Country, Spain: Processes of Empowerment' by Simona Sokolovska & María Silvestre Cabrerareports on South Asian women's migration to a province in Spain and their experiences there. This is not a much-publicised migration stream. Research through the life history method showed that the migratory process was transformative in terms of self-development. Work and community activities helped the women to adjust and adapt to their destination.

The section on 'New Resources' continues to give updated information that is useful, and the book reviews section continues to show that the themes of new books are not bound to the same familiar issues, but that perspectives on gender can be limitless.

**Issue No. 32:1, the first issue of 2025, contains four articles and a Research Note.**

The first article, 'Efficacy of menstrual leave in the workplace, law and the changing discourse on Gender in India' by Asha Bhandari, addresses the issue in India. It examines the impact of menstruation on workforce participation alongside arguments supporting the legitimacy of such leave. The opinions and perspectives of employers and employees in both organised and unorganised sectors are documented, and policy discussions are based on these. The second article, 'Feminist Foreign Policy: Testing Times for Women – Peace Hypothesis' by Annasab Shivaling Mirje & Girija K. S., analyses feminist foreign policies adopted by four of the seven countries that have incorporated the Women and Peace hypothesis, using policy documents and secondary literature. It is revealed that women are not sufficiently involved in peace processes, such as might be required by the Russia-Ukraine conflict.

The third article, 'Stealththing: Decoding the notion of 'consent' in light of Indian legal jurisprudence' by Aanchal Kabra and Dipa Dube, examines legal issues relating to the absence of a woman's consent during the male offence of 'stealththing' or stealthy condom removal during intercourse. This offence is increasingly reaching courts worldwide. The authors argue that the Indian courts' understanding of what constitutes 'consent' could positively influence the global debate. Mothers in Urban India: Exploring Identity by Renuka Bhandarkar and Mrinmoyi Kulkarni investigates middle-class urban motherhood in India. The study aims to understand how motherhood integrates into identity amidst competing discourses of patriarchy, modernism, and feminism. The implications of an integrated identity for mothers' well-being are discussed using qualitative data.

The Research Note addresses the dire working conditions of women street vendors in Puducherry, South India. The authors illustrate that these women occupy a liminal space between legality and illegality within a semi-formal market structure. They

struggle to uphold the dignity of their work in a context where they are considered illegitimate workers yet are still regulated by the municipality.

The book reviews once more carry readers into a wide range of topics, revealing women in a wide variety of roles. 'New Resources' gives useful information.

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

<b>Books/ Reports/ Edited Vols./ Occasional Papers/ Monographs</b>	<b>Articles in Journals/ e-publications/ Edited Journals</b>	<b>Chapters in Books/ Reports</b>	<b>Book Reviews</b>	<b>Paper Presentations in Conferences/ Seminars/ Invited Lectures</b>
<b>9</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>94</b>

**Monographs/ Mimeographs/Working Papers/Occasional Papers/ Policy Papers/Manual**

#### **Neetha N.**

- ❖ "Participation, Time Allocation and Variations in Time Use: Insights from Time Use Data – Haryana and India. Occasional Paper No. 68. CWDS, New Delhi.

#### **Renu Addlakha**

- ❖ Manual - "Disability Inclusion in the Health System": A training Manual to Promote Health Equity in the Health System in India, New Delhi: Centre for women's Development Studies (with Ritu Singh and Neha Narayanan), 2024.
- ❖ Report of the Workshop – "Disability Inclusion in the Health System in India" (with Ritu Singh: 2024) One-Day Workshop with healthcare Providers and Users. New Delhi held on 5th May at IIC.



VMML Library: During the financial year 2024-25, a total of six issues of the Current Awareness Bulletin (CAB) have been published.

- ❖ No. 5-6, May-June 2024
- ❖ No.7-8, July-August 2024
- ❖ No.9-10, September-October 2024
- ❖ No.11-12, November-December 2024
- ❖ No.1-2, January – February 2025
- ❖ No.3-4 March – April 2025

### **Articles In Journals/ Newspapers/E-Publications**

#### **Bijoya Roy**

- ❖ Duggal, Ravi, Roy, Bijoya. (2024). Political Economy of Private Healthcare in India: An Anthology through the MFC Lens. Medico Friend Circle, 2024.
- ❖ Lingam, Lakshmi, Sathyamala, C. Prakash, Padma, Khanna, Renu, Roy, Bijoya, (2024). Pushing Boundaries and Rewriting Contours: An Anthology of MFC Women & Health Writings. Medico Friend Circle, 2024.
- ❖ Workplace Gender-Based Violence in Healthcare Settings –Breaking the Silence and Visiblizing Evidence, COFEM Blog, COFEM Secretariat; <https://cofemsocialchange.org/workplace-gender-based-violence-in-healthcare-settings-breaking-the-silence-and-visiblizing-evidence/> 2024

#### **Manimekalai N.**

- ❖ "Causes and Impacts of Aged Women Workers in Coir Industries in Olavanna Grama Panchayat" in Third Concept, Vol. 38, No, 445, Pages:68-70 April 2024 with Linshi.P
- ❖ "Emerging Technologies, Hidden Biases: Gender and the New Frontiers of Security" International Journal of Research and Innovation in Social Science (IJRISS), ISSN No. 2454-6186 | DOI: 10.47772/IJRISS |Volume VIII Issue XII December 2024, DOI: [https:// dx. doi. org/ 10.47772/ IJRISS. 2024.8120342](https://dx.doi.org/10.47772/IJRISS.2024.8120342) Pages with Mahera Imam.
- ❖ "Between Liberation and Threat: Exploring Gender, Power and Violence in Digital Spaces" in Indian Journal of Women's Studies, Vol. 4. No. 2 2024 Pages 133-145

with Mahera Imam.

- ❖ Women Entrepreneurship through Micro Credit: A Case study of Mangolpuri Delhi' (सूक्ष्म ऋण के माध्यम से महिला उद्यमिता: मंगोलपुरी दिल्ली का एक केस अध्ययन), in the 2<sup>nd</sup> CWSD National seminar on women "Revisiting the Role of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Indian Woman", Organized by The Centre for Women's Studies and Development (CWSD), Himachal Pradesh University, Shimla, 27-28 March, 2025.

### **Neetha N.**

- ❖ "Pluralizing Social Reproduction Approaches", International Feminist Journal of Politics, 27(1), pp 6–33 (Mezzadri, A., et.al (2025).
- ❖ "Women's Labour Migration: Systems, Practices and Agency" (Measurement Brief 2024-No.1) NCAER - National Data Innovation Centre. 2024.
- ❖ Opinion piece 'ASHA workers are still not 'workers'. This is the problem, Indian Express, Mar 12, 2025.
- ❖ Opinion piece 'India needs a law to protect domestic workers' rights', Indian Express, February 3, 2025.
- ❖ Opinion piece 'Workplace? Home? Why ensuring domestic workers' rights has proved so challenging, Indian Express, January 31st, 2025

### **Renu Addlakha**

- ❖ "Interrogating Violence against Women from the Other Side: Perspectives of Suspected and Confirmed Perpetrators of Crimes against Women and Girls in Delhi", Indian Journal of Humanities and Social Sciences, ISSN 2347-324X Volume 12, Number 2, pp. 107-126.

### **Seema Kazi**

- ❖ "Muslim Women in India: History, Minority and Difference" 8(2) Comparative Constitutional Law & Administrative Law Journal 38 (2024). National Law University (NLU), Jodhpur.

## **Vandana**

- ❖ "Mothering in the Balmiki Community: Navigating Daughters' Education in the Disadvantaged Urban Neighbourhood in Delhi", Contemporary Voice of Dalit, 0 (0). <https://doi.org/10.1177/2455328X241306256>, 2025.

## **Chapters in Books/Reports**

### **Neetha N.**

- ❖ Social Group Dimensions of Women's Employment. In Ritu Dewan and Saraswati Raju (Eds.), India Gender Report, Feminist Policy Collective, New Delhi.

## **Reviewed Book/Articles/Manuscripts**

### **Neetha N.**

- ❖ Book Review: K.P. Kannan & G. Raveendran, Poverty, Women and Capability: A Study of Kerala's Kudumbashree System, Laurie Baker Centre for Habitat Studies, Thiruvananthapuram, 2023, pp.286, Indian Journal of Labour Economics, 67, 1177–1180 (2024). <https://doi.org/10.1007/s41027-024-00529-x>

## **Bijoya Roy**

- ❖ PLOS Global Public Health.

## **Paper Presentations and Lectures**

### **Bijoya Roy**

- ❖ Chaired a Session on "Race, Justice and Ethics at Re-worlding Reproduction: Emerging Knowledges, Politics, and Practices of Justice, Future Africa", University of Pretoria, South Africa, 19 September 2024.
- ❖ "Demographic Dividend, Family Planning and Markets in India" at Re-worlding Reproduction: Emerging Knowledges, Politics, and Practices of Justice, Future Africa, University of Pretoria, South Africa, 19 September 2024.

- ❖ “(Re)shaping Maternity Care Policy in India: Using Decolonial Lens” at Re-worlding Reproduction: Emerging Knowledges, Politics, and Practices of Justice, Future Africa, University of Pretoria, South Africa, 17 September 2024.
- Moderated a Webinar on “Racial and Structural Disparities in Health: Rights, Treatment and Care for People with Sickle Cell Disease”, organised by Sama Resource Group for Women and Health, New Delhi, 7 January 2025.
- “Exclusion of Women from Entitlements Based on Birthplace Choices: Insights from the Jeeva Study by Gautam S, Roy B, Qadeer I, and Caleb L V at National Conference on Reproductive Justice in India, CWDS, New Delhi, 7 February, 2025.

### **Bhaswati Thakurta**

- ❖ Paper presenter, The Vulnerability of Migrant Women in Yamuna Floodplain, selected under the subtheme: Climate hazard and Livelihoods Vulnerability in ICSSR-sponsored conference titled Building a climate resilient society: Issues and challenges. Organised by the department of economics of Babasaheb Bhimrao Ambedkar University (Central University), Lucknow, from 25-26 November 2024.
- ❖ Paper Presenter, Livelihood of Migrant women in Yamuna flood plain under the subtheme Bridging divides: Livelihoods, Social Cohesion, and Challenges in Interstate Migration in the fourth annual national conference on migration titled “Interstate Migration in India: Challenges and Opportunities” jointly organised by International Institute of Migration and Development and Centre for Migration Policy and Inclusive Governance, Mahatma Gandhi University, Kottayam (Kerala), 6-7 December 2024.
- ❖ Co-coordinator of the subtheme “Violence: The Substratum of Gender Inequality and Inequity” at the international conference “Reflection on the Past, looking to the Future: Fifty Years of Towards Equality”, held at India International Centre (IIC), New Delhi, from 3–5 March 2025.

### **Gayatri Panda**

- ❖ Discussant, First-Generation Learners: Navigating University Education and Culture by the Women’s Development Cell, Miranda House, University of Delhi, Supported by Centre for Women’s Development Studies, New Delhi, at YWCA, New Delhi, 18 April 2024.

- ❖ Paper Presenter, “The Golden Girls in an IIT: Charting the Path through Scholastic Competition and Societal Negotiations” in the CESI International Conference that was held at the Panjab University, Chandigarh, 22-24 November 2024.
- ❖ Sub-theme Coordinator, associated with the Organising team as a Sub-Theme Coordinator of Inequality, Gender, and Education in the International Conference on ‘Reflection on the Past, looking to the Future: Fifty Years of Towards Equality’ was being held at IIC, New Delhi from 3- 5 March, 2025.

### **Khundongbam Gyanabati Devi**

- ❖ “North-east Women Migrant: A quest for Quality of living” on 2nd National Seminar on Women “Revisiting the Role of the 21st Century Indian Woman”, organized by Centre of Women’s Studies and Development, Himachal University, Shimla, 27-28 March 2025.
- ❖ Co-coordinator of the subtheme ‘Gender and Health – Intersectional Experiences’ in the international conference on ‘Reflection on the Past, looking to the Future: Fifty Years of Towards Equality’ was being held at IIC, New Delhi from 3-5th March, 2025.

### **N. Manimekalai**

- ❖ Resource Person at the teaching programme on Public Policy Qualitative Participatory Action Research Fieldwork Fellowship-Cohort 3.0 and delivered a lecture on “Careers for Researchers”, online at IMPRI, Mumbai, 6 April 2024.
- ❖ Panelist at the National Symposium on “Assessing Gender Equality in Higher Educational Institutions’ RUSA CPPDG” Organized by the Women’s Studies Centre, Pune University, Pune, 14 April 2024.
- ❖ Keynote Address, Faculty Development Training Programme on “Gender and Disaster Management” jointly organised by the National Institute of Disaster Management (NIDM), Ministry of Home Affairs, GoI, and Mother Teresa Women’s University, Kodaikanal, Tamil Nadu, 27 May 2024.
- ❖ Panelist to Share Breakthrough Researches with CWDS at the “Full day Convening - Celebrating 50 Years of Towards Equality” by ISST to share the Women’s Studies Research Initiatives over the 50 years and the break through researches at CWDS, at UN House, Delhi, 30 May 2024.

- ❖ Resource person to talk on “Economic Empowerment and Workforce Participation: Bridging the Gender Gap” Participation: Bridging the Gender Gap” in the IMPRI’s LPPYF Law and Public Policy Youth Fellowship- Cohort 5.0 Summer’25 Theme: The Legal and Governance Landscape of Women’s Empowerment in India, 5 July 2024.
- ❖ Lecture, “50 years of Towards Equality Report on the Status of Women in India 1974” organised by A.D.M. College for Women, Velippalayam, Nagapattinam, 26 July, 2024.
- ❖ Lecture at Ambedkar University Delhi, to talk at the Dissertation Workshop on Action Research Methods” 27 July 2024.
- ❖ Panelist in the Panel Discussion on Gender, Social Inclusion and Union Budget 2024-25 IMPRI Gender Impact Studies Centre (GISC), 28 July 2024.
- ❖ Key Note Address at the 18th Annual Conference of Women Entrepreneurs Association of Tamil Nadu, jointly organized by Holy Cross College, Tiruchirapalli, 29 July 2024.
- ❖ Resource Person, Public Policy Qualitative Participatory Action Research Fieldwork Fellowship – Cohort 3.0, IMPRI#Web Policy Learning Event, 4 August, 2024.
- ❖ Chaired a Session on 4th September on the theme “Education and Women Empowerment” at the IHD National Seminar on Women and Employment in India: Issues and Challenges, organized by Rajiv Gandhi University, Itanagar, 3-5 September 2024.
- ❖ Resource Person, Online short-term course on “Gender Studies”, organised by UGC-Malaviya Mission Teacher Training Centre (MMTC) Jamia Mille Islamia University, 7 September 2024.
- ❖ Resource person to talk on “Gender and Sustainable Development” at the MMTC, S.V University, in the Refresher Course in Gender Studies 10th September 2024.
- ❖ Panelist for the Roundtable Discussion on ‘Multidisciplinary Dialogues: Tackling Inequality in the Global South,’ at Vellore Institute of Technology, Andhra Pradesh, 13 September 2024.

- ❖ Participated in the RLS workshop “Negotiation on the Table” at Rajiv Gandhi University, Itanagar, organized jointly by CWDS, Centre for Tribal Studies, RGU, Arunachal Pradesh, 25 September 2024.
- ❖ Resource Person, online short-term course on “Gender Sensitisation”, organised by UGC-Malaviya Mission Teacher Training Centre (MMTC) Patna University, Patna, 28 September, 2024.
- ❖ Participated in the National Consultation on Beijing +30: Revisiting and Re-envisioning Beijing organized by NAWO, at AIWC, 22-23 October 2024.
- ❖ Panelist to talk on Women Entrepreneurship in Climate Change areas- Surmounting the Challenges and Breaking the Bias” at the National Master Class Conference on Gender Innovation and Enterprise Promotion organized by TREC-STEP, 5 November 2024.
- ❖ Participated in the “Sustaining Power (SUPWR) South Asian workshop organized by ISST, 26 November 2024.
- ❖ Distinguished speaker at the Public Policy Qualitative Participatory Action Research Fieldwork Fellowship- Cohort 4.0” Course to speak on “Careers for Researchers”, IMPRI, Delhi, 1 December 2024.
- ❖ Round-table discussion on new Optional Protocol to CEDAW and strategies for India’s support for the protocol at IIC, organised by Guild of Service, 5 December 2024.
- ❖ Invited Speakers to speak on “Combat Gender Based Violence through gender equality” MAM B School, Siruganur, Tiruchirapalli, 9 December 2024.
- ❖ Panelist at the Regional Conference on Interlinking Ecological Justice and Gender Justice on 18th-19th December 2024 in Dhaka, organized by Research Initiatives, Bangladesh (RIB) in collaboration with Rosa Luxemburg Stiftung (RLS), South Asia and spoke on “Mainstreaming Gender Concerns and Gaps in Sustainable Agricultural and WASH Practices - Micro Level Evidences”, 19 December 2024.
- ❖ Speaker at the Young Women Leaders in Public Policy Fellowship- Cohort 2.0 Theme: Getting Foothold in Politics, Governance and Gainful Employment: A Gender Lens at IMPRI to talk on Informal Sector Women Workers”, 16 January 2025.

- ❖ Panelist in the Panel Discussion on “Agriculture Discussion Series: Is a Women Centric Agri Policy the next big Idea in Agriculture?” organized by India International Centre, Delhi, 20 January 2025.
- ❖ Resource Person, at the International Virtual Conference on “Contemporary Human Rights Issues and Challenges, organised by PG & Research Department of History, Seethalakshmi Ramaswami College, Tiruchirappalli, 28 January, 2025.
- ❖ Speaker, Two-day Virtual National conference on “Innovation and Entrepreneurship: A Driving Force \$5 Trillion Economy, organised by PG & Research Department of History, Seethalakshmi Ramaswami College, Tiruchirappalli, 30 January, 2025.
- ❖ Resource Person for a Lecture in “8th Short Term Course in Gender Sensitization and Social Justice”, organized by MMTTC-JNU, 31 January, 2025.
- ❖ Panelist, Gender, Social Inclusion and Union Budget 2025 – 26 | Panel Discussion | IMPRI #Web Policy Talk, 4 Feb 2025.
- ❖ Key Note Speaker at the two-day International conference organized by Indian Institute of Management Tiruchirappalli, Anna University, Chennai and Symbiosis Institute of Business Management, Nagpur on “Enhancing Financial Well-being through Digital Financial Literacy” to talk on Women Construction Workers and their society Security Issues” 14 February 2025
- ❖ Resource Person, for an IMPRI# Web Policy Learning Event -YWLPPF Young Women Leaders in Public Policy Fellowship-Cohort 2.0, organised by IMPRI Impact and Policy Research Institute to talk on “Women in Informal Sector” 16 February 2025.
- ❖ Invited to the UN Women, Feminist Policy Collective, Sahaj and ISST organized “CSO Consultation on SDGs 3, 5 & 8 towards India’s Voluntary National Review at Park Hotel Delhi, 17 February, 2025.
- ❖ Participated in the National Commission for Women (NCW) and UN Women India Country Office (ICO) organized National Consultation on review of the progress made and challenges encountered in the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (BPFA), at NCW, Delhi, 18th Feb 2025.
- ❖ Panelist - at the Tri-Conference 2025: International Symposium on ASEAN Studies (ISAS) – AAWS Panel Session 2 on, “Gender Inclusivity within Sustainability



Discourse in ASEAN” on the theme, “Constancy, Change and Co-existence,” organised by UP Open University, Philippines, 25 February, 2025.

- ❖ Speaker online at the 10th International Conference on Life Skills Education to speak on “Addressing Gender Bias: Role of Life Skills Education” held at D. El. Ed Conference Room, Nirmala Institute of Education, Altinho, Panjim, Goa, 27 February 2025.
- ❖ Speaker for the International Women’s Day and honored with “Woman Achiever Award” on the International Women’s Day 2025 by PSG Institute of Management, 7 March 2025.
- ❖ Speaker at the International Women’s Day programme at Kudumbam NGO to interact with Women Farmers in Rural Kolunji Bio Diversity Farm, Odugampatti, Pudukottai, Tamil Nadu, 8 March 2025.
- ❖ Speaker at the International Women’s Day organized by People’s Development Initiatives on March 8th, 2025, to speak to the Women in Urban Poor Settlements at Tiruchirappalli, Tamil Nadu, 8 March 2025.
- ❖ Delivered a lecture at the two-week National Workshop on Advanced Research methodology on the topic “Crafting Impactful Research Questions: A Step Towards Innovation”, organized by the Centre for Women’s Studies, Mother Teresa University, 10 March 2025
- ❖ Speaker online at the Department of Women’s Studies, University of Calicut, at the two-day National Seminar on “Gender, Development and Movements: Emerging Perspectives” on 14 March 2025.
- ❖ Resource person for the two-week ICSSR-sponsored Research Methodology Course for Social Sciences to talk on “New and Innovative Methodologies in Social Science Research in a Gender Perspective” organized by the Department of Public Administration, Mizoram University, Aizwal, 21 March 2025.
- ❖ Panelist at the ICSSR National seminar on “Institutions for Viksit Bharat@2047 27th & 28th March 2025” to talk on “Efficient, inclusive and sustainable institutions” organised by Central University of Tamil Nadu, Tamil Nadu, 27 March 2025.

- ❖ Presentation at the Workshop on “Gender Barriers in Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths (STEM) fields” at Central University Tamilnadu, Tiruvarur, 27 March 2025.
- ❖ Resource Person “Gender Sensitization and STEM” at K. Ramakrishnan College of Engineering, Tiruchirappalli, 28 March 2025.

### **Workshops organised:**

- ❖ Organized a Symposium on “Building Capacities of Women’s Studies in the Regional Context” CWDS, at YWCA, 18 April 2024.
- ❖ CWDS –Ford -Regional Workshop on “Women and Work: Revisiting ‘Towards Equality’ after 50 Years” in collaboration with Centre for Women’s Studies Research and Department of Economics, University of Calcutta, CWDS at Calcutta University, 19 June 2024.
- ❖ CWDS –Ford Regional Workshop on “New Labour Codes in India: Gender Concerns of Women Workers” in collaboration with Centre for Women’s Studies, Mohanlal Sukhadia University, Udaipur, CWDS at Udaipur, 24 June 2024.
- ❖ CWDS National workshop on “Teaching Women’s/Gender Studies: Reflections, Experiences and Challenges” jointly organized with Centre for Women’s Studies, University of Hyderabad, hybrid mode, CWDS at University of Hyderabad, 26 June 2024.
- ❖ VMMF- CWDS Southern Regional Workshop on “Envisioning Change: Reading Towards Equality in the Global Era with Students” in collaboration with Avinashilingam University, Coimbatore, 29 October 2024.
- ❖ 16-Day Activism 2024 Programme on “Every 10 Minutes, a woman is killed #NoExcuse, UNiTE to End Violence against Women” as part of the International Day for Elimination of Violence Against Women, 25 November -10 December 2024.
- ❖ Three-Day International Conference on “Reflections on the Past: Looking to the Future: Fifty Years of Towards Equality” 3-5 March 2025.

- ❖ Workshop on “Gender Barriers in Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths (STEM) fields” at Central University Tamilnadu, Tiruvarur, 27 March 2025

### **Neetha N.**

- ❖ The Saga of Community Work/Service: Underpaid and Overworked, Women Workers in Palliative Care National Seminar on Women and Employment in India, Rajiv Gandhi University and the Institute for Human Development, September 3-5, 2024, Itanagar, Arunachal Pradesh.
- ❖ Presented the paper on Invest in Care Economy to boost Women’s Employment: Policy Framework in the Consultative Workshop Increasing Women’s Participation in Economy: Policy Consultation on Care Work, organized by FES, New Delhi, Hyatt Centric (MG Road), Bangalore, 30 September-1October, 2024.

### **Workshops organised**

- ❖ Organized the workshop titled ‘Negotiations at the Table’ in collaboration with Arunachal Institute of Tribal Studies (AITS), at Rajiv Gandhi University (RGU), Rono Hills, Doimukh, September 25, 2024
- ❖ Coordinated the 50 Years of Towards Equality - Regional Workshop with Students in WSCs in North East India titled ‘Envisioning Change: Reading Towards Equality in the Global Era with Students’, September 27, 2024.
- ❖ Organized the webinar ‘Traditions in Transition: Indigenous Women in a Changing Economy’ to discuss the draft report of the research study, January 29, 2025.
- ❖ Organized the subtheme on Women as Workers: Interconnections, Exclusions and Nuances as part of the TE Conference, Reflections on the Past: Looking to the Future as part of Fifty Years, March 3-5, 2025.

### **Renu Addlakha**

- ❖ Resource Person, Panel Discussion on Political Activism and Disability Studies. Accessible Horizons Festival organised by the Centre for Disability Research and Training, Kirori Mal College, University of Delhi, 24 April 2024.
- ❖ Resource Person, Healthy Sex Life for Visually Challenged Women. Residential Course for Visually Challenged Women Organised by All India Confederation of the Blind, Rohini, Delhi, 13 July 2024.

- ❖ Panelist, Disability, Violence and Care: A Round-table. Online Discussion organised by CREA and Nirantar (New Delhi), 24 July 2024.
- ❖ Keynote, Setting the Context: Structural Ableism in India to the Right to Sanitation. National Consultation on Disability and Sanitation organised by CREA. Jaipur: The Lalit, 19 September 2024.
- ❖ Valedictory Address, Disability Justice in the Indian Context: Some Observations. International Conference on Disability Justice: Looking beyond Ableist Frames. ICSSR-FRC Sponsored Event organized by the Institute of Development Studies. Kolkata: IDSK: 13 November 2024.
- ❖ Lecture, Leadership and Disability: Is it an Oxymoron? Lady Shri Ram College for Women, University of Delhi, 30 November 2024.
- ❖ Lecture, Innovative Data Collection Methods: Ethical Approaches and Emerging Trends. Advance Research Methodology Course (virtual Mode) Organised by Mother Teresa Women's University Kodaikanal, 19 February 2025.
- ❖ Keynote Address at the National Conference on Making Visible Disability Representations in Popular Culture. Department of English, Gargi College, University of Delhi, 24 February 2025.
- ❖ Panelist, Gender and Disability. National Convention on Women in India: Towards Equality, Emancipation and Empowerment to Mark the International Women's Day. O.P. Jindal Global University, Sonapat, 9 March 2025.
- ❖ Presentation, Miles to Go: Patriarchy and Ableism in the World of Work. Online Consultation organised by Rehabilitation International Social Commission and Shanta Memorial Rehabilitation Centre (SMRC, Bhubaneswar), 19 March 2025.

### **Seema Kazi**

- ❖ Paper Presenter, "Borders and Belonging in Assam: Gender Perspectives" at international conference on 'Camps, Carceral Imaginaries, and Critical Interventions', University of Graz, Austria, 30 May 2 June 2024.
- ❖ Paper presenter, 'Women's Studies and the Question of Intersectionality' at CWDS National Seminar, 'Marginalities: Gendered Intersections' supported by ICSSR, YWCA New Delhi, 14-15 March 2024.

- ❖ Coordinator, National Seminar Marginalities: Gendered Intersections supported by Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR), at YWCA, Ashoka Road, New Delhi, 14-15 March 2024.
- ❖ Resource Person, 'Kashmir: Gender, History, Nation,' talk delivered at the Gender Studies Cell, St. Stephen's College, University of Delhi, 19 April 2024.
- ❖ Panelist, 'The Media and Constitutional Values,' Panel presentation 3rd National Seminar on Constitutionalism in Contemporary Times, National Law University, Jodhpur, 7 September 2024.
- ❖ North Zone Coordinator for a joint Vina Mazumdar Memorial Fund (VMMF)-Centre for Women's Development Studies (CWDS) New Delhi and Advanced Centre for Women's Studies, Aligarh Muslim University (AMU), '50 years of Advocacy, Action and Ambition: Reading Towards Equality for Emerging Issues and Future Pathways, UGC HRD Centre, AMU, Aligarh, 16 November 2024.
- ❖ Coordinator, Sub-theme 'Women and Political Participation, 'Reflections on the Past: Looking to the Future: Fifty Years of Towards Equality' Report', 3-4 March 2025.
- ❖ Panelist, 'Gender Equality is Everyone's Fight – Redefining Men's Role in Feminism,' Bharati College, University of Delhi, Janakpuri, 8 March 2025.
- ❖ Panelist, 'Complexity of Identity: Gender and Intersectionality' at National Convention on Women in India: Towards Equality, Emancipation, and Empowerment, Jindal Global University, Haryana, 9 March 2025.

## **Vandana**

### **Invited lectures/Conferences/Seminar**

- ❖ Paper presenter, 'Mothering process in the Balmiki Community' at the RIG 7 panel on Education and Marginal Groups, during the discussion entitled 'Stratification, Hierarchies and Inequalities in Education,' organized by the Comparative Education Society of India for its 14th Annual International Conference 2024, held at Panjab University, Chandigarh, 22-24 November 2024.

## **Organised Seminar/Talks (Convenor)**

- ❖ Populationism: Creating Demographic Anxieties by Prof. Mohan Rao, Former Professor, Centre for Social Medicine and Community Health, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, 12 August 2024.
- ❖ Silences from my field notes by Prof. K. Suneetha Rani, Centre for Women's Studies, University of Hyderabad, 27 August 2024.
- ❖ Corporate Masculinities, Gendered Inequalities and Women's Sexual Harassment in Service Work in New India by Dr Shannon Philip, Assistant Professor in the Sociology of Gender and Sexuality at the University of Cambridge, on 17 December 2024.
- ❖ Sleep Health: An Emerging Concern by Dr. Kamalesh K. Gulia, Professor and In-Charge of the Division of Sleep Research at the Biomedical Technology Wing of the Sree Chitra Tirunal Institute for Medical Sciences and Technology, an Institute of National Importance by the Department of Science and Technology, GOI, in Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala, 10 February 2025.
- ❖ Why I Am Not a Hindu Woman: A Personal Story by Dr. Wandana Sonalkar, Retired Professor of Women's Studies, TISS, Mumbai, 14 February 2025.

## **Vijay Kumar Jha**

- ❖ Co-coordinator of the subtheme 'Women and Political Participation' in the international conference on 'Reflection on the Past, looking to the Future: Fifty Years of Towards Equality' was being held at IIC, New Delhi from 3-5th March, 2025.

## **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.
- ❖ Academic Editor, PLOS Global Public Health (2024 onwards)
- ❖ 2024-Award for travel and stay Bursary at Re-worlding Reproduction: Emerging Knowledges, Politics, and Practices of Justice, Future Africa, University of Pretoria, South Africa, September 17-19, 2024.

### **Bhaswati Thakurta**

- ❖ Member, CWDS Green Committee
- ❖ Life Member of Indian Association of Women's Studies

### **Gayatri Panda**

- ❖ Member, in-house Seminar Committee, CWDS.
- ❖ Life member, Indian Association for Women's Studies (IAWS)
- ❖ Life member, Comparative Education Society of India (CESI)

### **Gyanabati Devi**

- ❖ Life Member, Indian National Confederation and Academy of Anthropologists (INCAA)

### **N. Manimekalai**

- ❖ Member, Review Committee of Research Projects, Avinashilingam Institute for Home Science and Higher Education, Coimbatore
- ❖ Member of Centre Research Committee in Women's Studies, Jamia Millia Islamia University, Delhi
- ❖ Member of the Committee of Studies, Women's Studies, Jamia Millia Islamia University, Delhi
- ❖ Member Advisory Committee, Women's Studies, Maulana Azad National Urdu University, Hyderabad
- ❖ Member, Advisory Committee Women's Studies, Holy Cross College
- ❖ Member Advisory Committee, Thiyagaraja College, Madurai
- ❖ Member, Advisory Committee, Centre for Women's Studies, Manonmanium University, Tirunelveli, Tamil Nadu
- ❖ Member, Board of Studies, Aligarh Muslim University, Aligarh
- ❖ Member Board of Studies, University of Hyderabad for Women's Studies

- ❖ Member Department Research Committee, University of Hyderabad
- ❖ Member Board of Studies, Calicut University for Women's Studies
- ❖ Expert cum Review Committee Member of Syllabus, in Gender Studies, IGNOU, Delhi
- ❖ Member Academic Council. Tamil Nadu National Law University, Tiruchirapalli
- ❖ Peer Team Member NAAC to assess and accredit the Academic performance at Government College for Women, Bahu, Harayana
- ❖ Member, Editorial Advisory Board, Indian Journal of Gender Studies
- ❖ External Member of Ph.D Theses, Manonmanium Sundaranar University, University of Hyderabad, SNDT, IGNOU, Sikkim, Calcutta, Sripadmavathi Mahila University, Bharathiar University, Punjab University, etc.
- ❖ Member Selection Committee, Women's Studies, Calcutta University

### **Neetha N.**

- ❖ Member, Editorial Advisory Board, "Urban India", National Institute of Urban Affairs, Delhi
- ❖ Academic Committee member, Institute for Human Development, Delhi
- ❖ Committee Member, National Award to Teachers 2024 in Higher Educational Institutions, Ministry of Education, GoI
- ❖ One of the Guest Editors of the Economic and Political Weekly, June 2025 issue of Review of Gender Studies on Care Labour: Feminist Interpretations and Analyses.
- ❖ External examiner of Ph.D thesis of universities - JNU & TERI
- ❖ Refereed Articles for many reputed Journals such as EPW, IJLE

### **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
- ❖ Life membership in Centre for Women's Development Studies



## **Vandana**

- ❖ Life member Indian Association for Women's Studies (IAWS)
- ❖ Life member Association of Academics for Social Justice (AASJ)
- ❖ Life membership in the Centre for Women's Development Studies
- ❖ Elected as a School Management Committee (SMC) of School of Excellence, Dwarka Sector-22, Delhi (2023-25)
- ❖ Annual membership of the Comparative Education Society of India (2024-25).

## **Other professional responsibility**

- ❖ Liaison Officer- SC/ST Cell
- ❖ Member of the Roster Committee
- ❖ CWDS Seminar Convener
- ❖ Green Committee

## 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 2024-25, received Rs.395.75 lakhs (Rs.345.75 lakhs OH-36 and 50.00 lakhs OH-31) as Maintenance and Development Grant from the ICSSR. An amount of Rs.17.85 lakhs was received from various sources as grants for projects, conference/seminars, advocacy/networking. The Centre raised an amount of Rs.121.92 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.607.20 lakhs incurred a deficit of Rs.84.90 lakhs which was met from the past accumulated reserves.

The General Body in its 44th meeting held in 20 September 2024 appointed Arvind Aggarwal & Associates LLP, Chartered Accountants, as Auditors for the year 2024-25.

## LIST OF LIFE MEMBERS

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|---|---|
| <p>1. Mr. A.R. Nanda (Retd. IAS)<br/>D-290 (2nd Floor),<br/>Sarvodaya Enclave,<br/>New Delhi-110017<br/>Mobile – 9810604990<br/>Arnanda65@gmail.com</p>   | <p>4. Prof. Anita Ghai<br/>Prof. in School of Human Studies<br/>Ambedkar University<br/>Lothian Road, Delhi – 110006<br/>anita.satyapal@gmail.com</p>   |
| <p>2. Ms. Akhila Sivasdas<br/>Executive Director<br/>Centre for Advocacy and<br/>Research<br/>H-16A, Second &amp; Third Floor,<br/>Kalkaji,<br/>New Delhi - 110 019<br/>Tel.: +91 11 26418846,<br/>26410133, 26224301<br/>Mobile: +91 9810415066<br/>Email: akhilasivasdas1@gmail.com<br/>cfarheadoffice@cfar.org.in;</p> <p>Residence<br/>Ms. Akhila Sivasdas<br/>E-1, Press Enclave, Saket<br/>New Delhi 110017</p> | <p>Residence:<br/>Prof. Anita Ghai<sup>1</sup><br/>J12/68B Rajouri Garden<br/>New Delhi – 110027.<br/>Mobile - 9811154957</p> <p>5. Prof. Anita Rampal<br/>E 13/1 Vasant Vihar,<br/>New Delhi 110057<br/>Mobile - 9810098307<br/>anita.rampal@gmail.com</p>       |
| <p>3. Prof Amita Verma<br/>NIRVANA Bungalow<br/>Opp. SRP Group IX Grounds<br/>Makarpura Road, Baroda-390009<br/>Tel.: 0265-26444455;2638585<br/>vermaamita1@gmail.com</p>   | <p>6. Ms. Anju Vyas<br/>B-25, Gyandeeep Apartments<br/>Mayur Vihar – Phase-I<br/>New Delhi – 110091<br/>Mobile-9953687306<br/>vyasanju@gmail.com</p> <p>7. Dr. Bijoya Roy<br/>Assistant Professor<br/>CWDS<br/>New Delhi<br/>9968077337<br/>bijoya@cwds.ac.in</p> |

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<sup>1</sup> Passed away on 11th December, 2024

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**INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT**

To the Governing Body of Centre for Women's Development Studies

**Opinion**

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of Centre for Women's Development Studies ("the Society"), which comprise the balance sheet as at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2025, and the Income and Expenditure Account for the year then ended, and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of the significant accounting policies and other explanatory information.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial statements give a true and fair view of the financial position of the society as at March 31, 2025, and of its financial performance for the year then ended in accordance with the Accounting Standards issued by the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI).

**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 ICAI and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with 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 the Governing Body of the society and Those charged with the Governance for the Financial Statements**

The Governing Body of the society is responsible for the preparation of these financial statements that give a true and fair view of the state of affairs and results of operations of the society in accordance with the accounting principles generally accepted in India. This responsibility includes the design, implementation and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and presentation of the financial statements that give a true and fair view and are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the Governing Body 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 as a whole 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 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



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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 not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the Governing body of the society.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of Governing body'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 entity 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 Arvind Aggarwal & Associates  
Chartered Accountants  
Firm's Registration Number 039062N

  
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Date: 17<sup>th</sup> September 2025



**CENTRE FOR WOMEN'S DEVELOPMENT STUDIES (CWDS)**  
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**Balance Sheet as at 31st March 2025**

(Amount in Rs. )

	Particulars	Note	31-Mar-2025	31-Mar-2024
I	<b>Sources of Funds</b>			
1	NPO Funds	3		
(a)	Unrestricted Funds		13,51,44,780	14,03,53,189
(b)	Restricted Funds		1,91,56,002	1,81,97,670
			15,43,00,782	15,85,50,859
2	Non-current liabilities			
	Long-term provisions	4	21,12,250	17,09,654
			21,12,250	17,09,654
3	Current liabilities			
	Other current liabilities	5	2,23,13,324	2,53,72,685
			2,23,13,324	2,53,72,685
	<b>Total</b>		<b>17,87,26,357</b>	<b>18,56,33,198</b>
II	<b>Application of Funds</b>			
1	Non-current assets			
(a)	Property, Plant and Equipment and Intangible assets	6		
(i)	Property, Plant and Equipment		40,21,612	45,37,904
(ii)	Intangible assets		17,478	29,130
(b)	Non-current investments	7	9,41,90,262	1,65,70,262
(c)	Long Term Loans and Advances	8	40,76,888	46,77,155
(d)	Other non-current assets (specify nature)	9	1,77,567	2,28,662
			10,24,83,807	2,60,43,113
2	Current assets			
(a)	Receivables	10	33,13,833	37,76,733
(b)	Cash and bank balances	11	6,66,42,145	14,36,94,950
(c)	Short Term Loans and Advances	12	7,91,633	8,71,656
(d)	Other current assets	13	54,94,939	1,12,46,746
			7,62,42,550	15,95,90,085
	<b>Total</b>		<b>17,87,26,357</b>	<b>18,56,33,198</b>


Brief about the Entity 1  
Summary of significant accounting policies 2

The accompanying notes are an integral part of the financial statements

  
(Ritu)  
Accounts Officer

  
(Prof. Rajni Palriwala)  
Treasurer

  
(Prof. N. Manimekalai)  
Member Secretary

  
(Prof. Vasanthi Raman)  
Chairperson

For Arvind Aggarwal & Associates  
Chartered Accountants  
FRN - 039062 N  
Arvind Kumar Aggarwal, FCA  
Proprietor  
M. No. 074205



Date: 17 SEP 2025  
Place: New Delhi

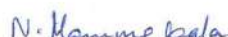
**CENTRE FOR WOMEN'S DEVELOPMENT STUDIES (CWDS)**  
25 BHAI VIR SINGH MARG, NEAR GOLE MARKET, NEW DELHI - 110001


**Income and Expenditure Account for the year ended 31st March 2025**

Particulars	Note	31-Mar-2025	31-Mar-2024
<b>I Income</b>			
(a) Donations and Grants		4,42,18,477	4,67,40,856
II Other Income	14	1,30,18,673	1,47,92,221
III Total Income (I+II)		<b>5,72,37,149</b>	<b>6,15,33,077</b>
<b>IV Expenses</b>			
(b) Employee benefits expense	15	4,28,92,033	4,07,94,173
(c) Depreciation and amortization expense	16	10,11,645	11,77,497
(d) Religion/charitable/Project expenses	17	1,05,30,992	1,41,24,561
(e) Other expenses	18	62,86,054	41,91,690.94
Total expenses		<b>6,07,20,724</b>	<b>6,02,87,922</b>
IX Excess of Income over Expenditure for the year (VII-VIII)		<b>(34,83,574)</b>	<b>12,45,155</b>
Appropriations Transfer to funds			
Transferred to Property, Plant and Equipment Fund		1,07,041	1,27,580
Transferred to General Reserve (FCRA)		39,41,242	43,25,796
Transferred to Dr. Vina Mazumdar Memorial Fund FCRA		5,75,670	6,17,246
Transferred to Prof. Lotika Sarkar Research & Scholarship Fund		2,93,389	2,97,224
Transferred to Dr. Vina Mazumdar Memorial Fund GENERAL		89,273	89,087
Transferred from General Reserve		(84,90,189)	(42,11,778)
		<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
The accompanying notes are an integral part of the financial statements			


  
(Ritu)  
Accounts Officer

  
(Prof. Rajni Palriwala)  
Treasurer

  
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## Centre for Women's Development Studies

An autonomous research institute supported by the  
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