

COUNCIL FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

NEWSLETTER

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SIKSHIT BHARAT TODAY, VIKSIT BHARAT TOMORROW

School education for children aged 6-14 years is a fundamental right in India. It is a key to India's social development goals, and is aligned with the vision of Viksит Bharat. However, a major challenge to achieving India's above goal is the persistence of out-of-school children.

This study thus addresses these gaps by providing a nuanced understanding of dropout patterns across different Indian states, with a focus on marginalized groups, based on fresh field surveys. It aims to inform policy interventions that enhance educational access and retention, ensuring that children, irrespective of socio-economic background, complete atleast secondary education. By focusing on the most vulnerable children, the study contributes to creating a more inclusive and equitable society, supporting the vision of Shikshit Bharat as a foundation for Viksит Bharat. The study concludes that addressing the challenge of out-of-school children requires a systemic, holistic approach that integrates education, livelihoods, and social equity. The persistence of dropout and non-enrolment cannot be resolved through schooling policies in isolation; instead, it requires a convergence of interventions that alleviate poverty, enhance the quality of education, and transform parental perceptions towards schooling. Ensuring children's sustained participation in education depends on creating enabling conditions both within and beyond the school system.

PROJECTS

Completed Project - CSD Delhi

Equitable Education for a Viksит Bharat: Exploring School Dropout and Exclusion of Vulnerable Sections for Policy (sponsored by ICSSR).

The study recommended policy actions for key stakeholders, structured across short-term, medium-term, and long-term horizons for: address out-of-school children through a holistic, equity-driven approach integrating poverty alleviation, flexible learning, migration-sensitive policies, teacher and school strengthening, gender-responsive interventions, community engagement, digital monitoring, and accountable governance to ensure enrolment, retention, and completion aligned with NEP 2020.

EVENTS

CSD Hyderabad

- ICSSR sponsored Workshop on "Decoding Health through Data: Analytical Insights from NFHS & LASI" (December 15-19, 2025) by Prof. Sujit Kumar Mishra and Dr. Rahul Mishra
- C.D. Deshmukh Memorial Lecture:
The 22nd Dr. C.D. Deshmukh Memorial Lecture was delivered on December 17, 2025 by Ms. Meenakshi Natarajan, Former Member of Parliament (Lok Sabha) and Member, Indian National Congress Working Committee on the topic "वक्त आया है – हम भी गोले". Honourable Minister for Labour and Mines, Shri. Gaddam Vivek Venkat Swamy participated in the event which was chaired by Prof Shanta Sinha, Chairperson, Managing Committee, CSD, Hyderabad.
- Public Lecture
A Public Lecture (Online) was organised on "India's Indirect Tax Transformation: Charting the Path from VAT to GST 2.0" by Prof. Sujit K.S., Professor of Economics, School of Business and Management on December 12, 2025. Prof. Deba Prasad Rath, RBI Chair Professor, CSD, Hyderabad, chaired the lecture.

Council for Social Development Newsletter

October-December, 2025

PROJECTS

Completed Project - CSD Delhi

- *Equitable Education for a Viksit Bharat: Exploring School Dropout and Exclusion of Vulnerable Sections for Policy (sponsored by ICSSR) by Ashok Pankaj, Poornima. M, Amrita Sastry (JMC, Delhi), Senthamizh Kanal (IGNOU), Ramandeep Kaur, Jaya Lekshmi Nair and Gitesh Sinha*

This study examines the causes of school dropout among children aged 6–18 years from marginalised communities, focusing on poverty, discrimination, and systemic barriers that hinder educational continuity. It aims to generate evidence-based solutions to promote inclusive and equitable education in alignment with NEP 2020, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and the vision of Viksit Bharat. Using a mixed-methods approach across five states, viz., Madhya Pradesh, Odisha, Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh, and Telangana, the study combines household surveys (1,200 households, 40–60 schools) with interviews, FGDs, and case studies. A draft report was submitted on 30 December 2025.

The study recommended policy actions for key stakeholders, structured across short-term, medium-term, and long-term horizons for: address out-of-school children through a holistic, equity-driven approach integrating poverty alleviation, flexible learning, migration-sensitive policies, teacher and school strengthening, gender-responsive interventions, community engagement, digital

monitoring, and accountable governance to ensure enrolment, retention, and completion aligned with NEP 2020.

Ongoing Projects - CSD Delhi

- *Pilot study – Understanding the Practice of Contract Farming in India: Implications for Farms, Farmers and Policy (sponsored by NABARD) by Sourindra Mohan Ghosh and Nivedita Sharma (OPJGU)*

The global agricultural economy has undergone significant changes due to trade liberalisation, shifting consumer diets, and the rapid growth of quick-service restaurants and modern food retail. These trends have increased reliance on contract farming (CF) to ensure procurement flexibility. CF is now widely practiced across Indian states by public, private, and multinational agencies, covering multiple crops and livestock products. However, there is a lack of multi-state comparative studies analysing state-level marketing structures, CF policies, and diverse CF models across different socio-economic groups of farmers. Evidence is also limited on risks, gains, capacity-building needs, and lessons from successful CF experiences.

This pilot phase of the study prepares the groundwork for the main study by examining agricultural marketing systems, identifying CF-prevalent districts, participating companies, and major crops. At the local level, it identifies CF village clusters, contracting companies, participating farmers, cultivated area under CF, and company-wise crop coverage.

Village-level field surveys were conducted in seven states to identify CF clusters. The study is ongoing.

- ***The Role of Caste and Gender in Defining Employment and Earning Outcomes in Gig Economy in India (sponsored by Indian Council of Social Science Research) by Akhil Alha***

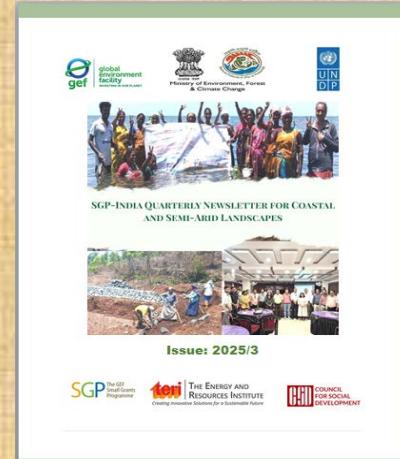
Caste and gender have long shaped labour market outcomes in India, influencing access to work, mobility, and earnings. The rise of the platform or gig economy is often seen as reducing such hierarchies through algorithmic allocation of work. This study examines whether platform capitalism has weakened caste and gender inequalities or reproduced them in new digital forms. It analyses how pre-labour market conditions—such as education, digital access, and social networks—shape participation and returns in gig work, and assesses the extent of autonomy and flexibility, particularly for women. The study also reviews emerging labour codes and policy initiatives aimed at extending social protection to platform workers.

- ***Knowledge Management and Communication Activities in the Central Semi-Arid and Indian Coastal Region Landscapes (sponsored by TERI - UNDP) by Susmita Mitra, Nitya Nanda (Advisor), Dhiman Debsarma, Jayanti Saha, Sourindra Mohan Ghosh, Jaya Lekshmi Nair and Gitesh Sinha***

In a context where evidence from grassroots environmental action is critical for informing policy and practice, this project strengthens knowledge management and impact dissemination across diverse ecological settings in India. The project anchors knowledge management and impact dissemination for 37 grassroots initiatives implemented across semi-arid and coastal landscapes of the country.



It aims to systematically document, synthesize, and communicate the environmental and livelihood outcomes of these initiatives, while fostering cross-learning and the sharing of best practices. This is achieved through the development of case studies, targeted communication materials, and capacity-building efforts for stakeholders.



Adopting a mixed-methods approach, the project integrates field visits, key informant interviews, focus group discussions, and structured surveys with a secondary review of project reports and monitoring documents. Between September and December 2025, the team focused on producing a range of knowledge products—including newsletters, YouTube videos, case studies, policy briefs, and photo stories—to ensure that project learnings are accessible, engaging, and relevant for policy dialogue and practice.

- **Towards Holistic Education and Empowerment of Adolescents: Evaluation of 25 Years of Doosra Dashak Journey and Endline Review of a Four-Year Project in Rajasthan, (sponsored by Foundation for Education and Development) by Poornima M., Ramandeep Kaur and Gitesh Sinha.**



This study evaluates the 25-year journey of the Doosra Dashak initiative, focusing on its impact on marginalised rural communities in Rajasthan. It assesses the programme's effectiveness in promoting education, particularly for out-of-school children, girls, and marginalised groups. The interventions that will be evaluated include, life skills training through residential and non-residential camps, Ikhvelo centres, measures towards social empowerment, and livelihood opportunities, while also examining community engagement, strategies, and implementation processes. Using control groups, the study aims to identify lessons and provide recommendations for scaling and adaptation in diverse contexts. The study intends to offer evidence-based recommendations for scalable and sustainable interventions, enabling communities to nurture leadership, equity, and inclusive development, thereby strengthening society as a whole.

Currently survey tools for beneficiaries, non-beneficiaries, and other key

stakeholders were developed and pilot-tested in Pisangan block, Ajmer on 2–3 January 2026.



Ongoing Projects - CSD Hyderabad

- **Advancing a Gender-Just Future in Odisha: A Longitudinal Study of Inclusive Parity Frameworks within the Vision of Viksit Bharat (Sponsored by ICSSR, New Delhi) by Sujit Kumar Mishra, Prajna Paramita Mishra (Hyderabad Central University), B. Sudhakar Reddy (Osmania University, Hyderabad) and Sujit K.S. (Christ University, Bangalore)**

The Government of India has made substantial investments - both material and intellectual - through a broad range of policy measures and programmes aimed at advancing gender equity and promoting inclusive development. Yet, the persistent marginalization of women across key development indicators raises critical questions regarding the efficacy, implementation, and reach of these initiatives. This study seeks to critically explore why, despite sustained policy attention and considerable investment, SDG 5 has not been able to secure a position within the high-performance cohort in Odisha. It argues for a more

granular, intersectional, and context-sensitive approach to gender mainstreaming. Against this backdrop, the study has initiated preliminary work by analysing secondary data on gender budgeting, child sex ratio, women's labour force participation, average wage rates, gender-based violence, and associated reporting mechanisms.

- ***Political Geography and Structural Change: Status of Women in India Extractive Industry (sponsored by Institute of Eminence, University of Hyderabad) by Prajna Paramita Mishra and Sujit Kumar Mishra***

The ongoing study seeks to assess the multifaceted impacts of natural resource extraction on local women by examining how mining activities reshape their social, economic, and cultural realities. It aims to understand the social construction of mining spaces and the rapid societal transformations that accompany the establishment of mines, particularly in relation to gender relations, community dynamics, and shifts in livelihoods. The study further explores how women experience, negotiate, and adapt to these transitions within changing social and environmental contexts. The study is currently nearing completion, and the preliminary findings have already been disseminated across various academic and policy platforms.

- ***Gender Inclusive Infrastructures in Schools and Educational Outcomes among Girls in Telangana (sponsored by ICSSR, New Delhi under OH-31 grant and Department of Planning, Government of Telangana) by Sujit Kumar Mishra, Soumya Vinayan, Sunder Raj, D. Sammaiah and B. Srinivasa Reddy***

The ongoing study aims to examine the status of infrastructural facilities—particularly water, sanitation, and hygiene—in girls' and co-educational schools across Telangana. It assesses the functionality of toilets, with specific emphasis on girls' sanitation facilities, and analyses the implications of non-functional infrastructure for girls' enrolment, attendance, dropout rates, and health outcomes. Furthermore, the study seeks to map and evaluate existing interventions designed to strengthen infrastructural and learning environments, with a focus on improving water, sanitation, hygiene, enrolment, and the overall educational experience of girl students. Data collection for the study has been completed, and the work is currently in the analysis stage.

- ***Impact and Effectiveness of One Stop Sakhi Centres in Telangana: A Study in Telangana (sponsored by Department of Planning, Government of Telangana) by Sujit Kumar Mishra, D. Sunder Raj, B. Srinivasa Reddy and D. Sammaiah***

The ongoing study seeks to assess the utilization and accessibility of One Stop Service Centres (OSSCs) in Telangana, examining the extent to which these centres effectively serve women across urban, semi-urban, and rural contexts. It aims to identify the barriers women face in accessing these services, including social stigma, limited awareness, and infrastructural constraints. The study further analyses the impact of OSSCs on survivors' recovery and reintegration, with a focus on mental health, economic empowerment, and social inclusion. Drawing on these insights, the research intends to offer evidence-based recommendations to strengthen policy frameworks and enhance the operational

effectiveness of OSSCs in addressing women's needs and supporting holistic rehabilitation. Data collection for the study has been completed, and the work is currently in the analysis stage.

- ***Social Development Report 2026: Status of Health in Telangana (sponsored by Department of Planning, Government of Telangana) by Sujit Kumar Mishra, Rahul Mishra, Pullanna Vidyapogu and Langa Dolma Samuel***

The ongoing study aims to analyse the overall health status of Telangana, with a particular focus on the availability, quality, and accessibility of healthcare facilities. It examines the per capita availability of healthcare professionals—including doctors, nurses, and technicians—and highlights disparities between urban and rural areas. The study also evaluates the effectiveness of health information dissemination and its implications for public health outcomes, addressing key themes such as health infrastructure, workforce distribution, service accessibility, public health programmes, and quality of care. In addition, the study proposes to undertake primary-level investigations on critical issues such as age at marriage, teenage pregnancy, and related health and social outcomes.

- ***Saving Potentials of Agricultural Households – A Study (Based on Survey Data from Telangana) (RBI Corpus Fund) – by Deba Prasad Rath and D. Sunder Raj.***

This study aims to examine the *potential to save* among rural agricultural households in Telangana, based on primary survey data collected across diverse zones. Despite steady improvements in financial inclusion, rural saving behaviour remains

poorly understood—particularly the gap between income levels and actual saving capacity. The study will identify key factors influencing saving potential, including landholding size, cropping patterns, income diversification, access to formal credit, and financial literacy. Using both descriptive statistics and regression analysis, the findings are expected to reveal significant heterogeneity in saving potential, often shaped by institutional access and household decision-making patterns. While many households may report low or no savings, the data may suggest considerable *latent capacity to save* when appropriate financial instruments, risk mitigation tools, and advisory services are available, particularly for households with non-farm income sources and better integration into value chains. The study seeks to throw light on developing region-specific savings mobilization strategies, integrating digital tools, and strengthening cooperative and self-help structures to convert saving potential into actual financial resilience.

- ***An Empirical Analysis of Fiscal and Monetary Policy Coordination in India (RBI Corpus Fund) by Deba Prasad Rath and Rewanth Raichooti***

The coordination between fiscal and monetary policies is essential for macroeconomic stability in developing economies like India. While both aim to promote sustainable growth, price stability, and financial stability, their tools and short-term goals can sometimes conflict. In India's context—where fiscal deficits are structurally high and monetary policy targets inflation—understanding how these two policy areas interact is vital. Episodes of fiscal dominance, inconsistent

signalling, or uncoordinated crisis responses (such as during COVID-19) can weaken policy effectiveness. By using vector auto regression (VAR) models and policy reaction functions, the study seeks to investigate how fiscal and monetary authorities in India have acted, whether in harmony or tension, in response to macroeconomic shocks. The findings are expected to show periods of both coordination and divergence, often influenced by external factors (e.g., global commodity prices) and domestic concerns (e.g., balancing growth and inflation). Additionally, changes in institutions—such as the FRBM Act and the Monetary Policy Committee framework—call for a reassessment of policy coordination's scope and nature. This research aims to fill a gap in empirical literature by examining past interactions, identifying patterns, and providing insights to develop more effective coordination strategies.

- ***Financial Inclusion and Women Entrepreneurs: An Impact Study of Mudra Yojana in Telangana (A Comprehensive Primary Data) (RBI Corpus Fund) by Deba Prasad Rath and D. Sunder Raj***

Despite various initiatives, women in India continue to face significant barriers in accessing formal credit and entrepreneurial opportunities. Mudra Yojana was launched to address this gap by providing collateral-free loans to micro and small entrepreneurs, with a special focus on women. Telangana, with its active self-help group (SHG) movement, offers a unique context to assess the grassroots impact of the scheme. This research is motivated by the need to empirically evaluate whether financial inclusion initiatives like Mudra truly translate into

economic empowerment for women. This study seeks to examine the impact of the Yojana on financial inclusion and the entrepreneurial growth of women in Telangana. By leveraging data collected from diverse districts across the state, the research seeks to investigate how access to microcredit under Mudra Yojana has influenced the socio-economic empowerment of women entrepreneurs. The study will assess key indicators such as income generation, business sustainability, access to formal financial institutions, and overall improvement in quality of life. Findings may suggest that while the scheme has enabled many women to initiate and expand micro-enterprises, challenges such as limited financial literacy, collateral constraints, and inadequate follow-up support remain, highlighting the role of institutional mechanisms and financial education in enhancing the effectiveness of such schemes, offering recommendations for more inclusive and impactful policy interventions.

- ***Assessing the Business-Level Effects of the Goods and Services Tax Reforms: A Telangana Perspective (RBI Corpus Fund) by Deba Prasad Rath and D. Sunder Raj***

The study aims to comprehensively examine the business-level effects of Goods and Services Tax (GST) reforms in Telangana. Specifically, it seeks to analyze the impact of GST on key business performance indicators such as cost structures, profitability, compliance costs, and investment decisions among firms. It also assesses changes in the ease of doing business from the perspective of local enterprises and examines sectoral differences in the response to GST

reforms, particularly across manufacturing, services, and small businesses. In addition, the study identifies major implementation and compliance challenges faced by firms and proposes policy-oriented recommendations to strengthen GST implementation and better support regional business growth. The scope of the study is focused on Hyderabad and selected major business clusters across Telangana, covering a diverse range of enterprises including micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs), large firms, and service providers. The analysis spans the pre and post-GST period, broadly covering the years from 2016 to 2025, to capture both transitional and longer-term effects of the reforms. A mixed-methods approach is adopted, combining quantitative analysis based on primary survey data and firm-level financial indicators with qualitative insights drawn from interviews with business owners, managers, and tax practitioners, enabling a nuanced and context-specific understanding of GST's business-level impacts.

- ***Establishing Inclusive and Integrated Systems for Promoting Geographical Indications (GI) Tagged Rice Varieties in India: A Longitudinal Study of Innovations and Technological Advancements in Building Resilience and Sustainability of Farming Communities (sponsored by ICSSR, New Delhi) by Soumya Vinayan, N. Laitha (Retd, GIDR), P. K. Viswanathan (ASB-Amritapuri), M. Padmavati (IIT-KGP), Chandrasekhar Bahinipati, Vishnu C. R. (IIT-T)***

The study focuses on the cultivation of rice varieties that are GI tagged and examine the impact of registration on livelihoods, income and the challenges in achieving the potential thereof. Field visits as part of the

exploratory study to the sites of Kalajeera (Koraput, Odisha), Nagri Dubraj (Dhamtari, Chhattisgarh), Navara and Palakkadan matta (Palakkad, Kerala), Marcha (West Champaran, Bihar), Katarni (Bhagalpur, Bihar), Joha and Chokuwa (Dhemaji, Dibrugarh, Jorhat, North Lakhimpur, Tinsukia, Sivasagar districts of Assam), Tulaipanji (Uttar Dinajpur) Gobindobhog (Bankura), Kalonunia (Darjeeling Saras Mela, Darjeeling, West Bengal), Kalanamak (Buyer-Seller Meet, Siddharthnagar, Uttar Pradesh) has been undertaken during (October–December 2025). It was seen that while GI as a legal framework has been accomplished, post-GI activities were scanty in most of the low yielding aromatic/specialty varieties with exception of Kalanamak and Gobindobhog. The policy and institutional support networks were most prominent in the case of Kalanamak with public (government), private (individual traders, firms) and community (individual farmers, Farmer Producer Organizations [FPOs], SHGs, cooperatives) working in synchrony. In Odisha, Bihar and Kerala, there are specific programmes by state governments to encourage the cultivation of aromatic/specialty rice through direct cash transfers to the cultivating farmers. Branding and marketing remain a concern except in the case of Kalanamak and Gobindobhog rice varieties wherein price differentiation due to branding and marketing strategies are evident.

Dissemination:

Press coverage of Dr Soumya Vinayan's visit to Siddharthnagar University to address MBA students



<https://www.amarujala.com/uttar-pradesh/siddharthnagar/siddharthnagar-news-gi-tag-to-be-given-to-identify-rural-products-siddharthnagar-news-c-227-1-sdn1003-147989-2025-11-11>



- *A Study on Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Special Development Fund in Telangana (sponsored by Department of Planning, Government of Telangana) by Sunkari Satyam*

The study focuses on the Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Scheduled Tribes (STs)—the most vulnerable and marginalized groups in Telangana. While Adivasis (STs) remain geographically isolated, the SCs, though part of the mainstream social system, continue to face segregation, discrimination, and exclusion, limiting their access to resources, education, healthcare, and governance. The research critically examines the development

paradigms and implementation of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Special Development Fund in Telangana, assessing whether the programmes align with the real needs and aspirations of these communities. The study's main objectives are to evaluate the relevance of the programmes, identify institutional and implementation challenges, understand community expectations, and analyze the gaps between people's needs and government interventions. Adopting a process evaluation approach, it employs standard social science methods, including case studies, semi-structured interviews, and focus group discussions with both community members and officials from sectoral departments. Progress so far includes the collection and analysis of secondary data on fund allocations and expenditures, along with revisions to the questionnaire and research framework based on pilot findings. The current stage involves detailed analysis of the latest datasets to gain deeper insights into the socio-economic impact and policy effectiveness of the development funds.

- *Navigating Precarity: Social Security and the Lives of Construction Workers at Tolichowki Labour Adda, Hyderabad by Pullanna Vidyapogu and Langa Dolma Samuel (Working Paper)*

In India, the unorganised sector employs a significant majority of the working population, exceeding 90%, encompassing diverse roles from construction to domestic and farm work (Naveenkumar, 2022). This vast workforce, despite its critical contribution to the nation's economic and physical infrastructure, frequently operates under conditions marked by vulnerability and limited protection. Construction workers, in

particular, face insecurities, including inconsistent employment, hazardous work environments, and a marked absence of comprehensive social security provisions such as health insurance, pensions, or accident compensation (Srivastava & Sutradhar, 2016). The central government and Telangana state government have introduced various schemes to assist unorganised workers, however, most of the implementation and outreach have only been delivered to actual workers, and the benefits do not flow through to workers in places such as Tolichowki. This research will consider how workers at Tolichowki Labour Adda grapple with the everyday realities of insecure working and job precarity and their access to social security or social protection. Our research will examine their conditions of work, safety and health measures, registration with welfare boards, and barriers to accessing benefits.

- ***Status of Employment and Unemployment in Telangana 2024 (sponsored by ICSSR, New Delhi under OH-31 grant and Department of Planning, Government of Telangana) by Sivakumar Danyasi***

The report discusses employment and unemployment trends in Telangana from 2004 to 2024, with a focus on young people aged 15–29. While economic growth has dominated regional policy, employment and inequality have become critical developmental priorities, and employment played a major role in the statehood movement. Using national sample survey and PLFS data, the analysis examines labour force and work participation, sectoral distribution, and educational status by gender, social group, and region. One key finding is that youth

labour force participation has declined, especially among rural female youth, and unemployment is rising due to a mismatch between skills and job opportunities. Marginalized groups, including Scheduled Tribes and Castes, face severe exclusion, and although educational achievements have improved, many rural women remain in insecure, unpaid self-employment. Urban youth have better access to stable, formal jobs, highlighting deep inequalities along gender, social, and regional lines. With the demographic dividend expected to shrink by 2036, the report urges gender and caste-sensitive policies, targeted skilling, rural job creation, urban job formalization, and improved education alignment with market needs to ensure sustainable and inclusive economic growth in Telangana.

- ***Sustainable Livelihood and Resource Extraction: The Impact of Mining Activity in Odisha (sponsored by ICSSR, New Delhi under Post-Doctoral Fellowship) by Amiya Kumar Sahoo***

The mineral-rich districts of Odisha have emerged as focal points for intensive extraction activities, significantly altering landscapes and impacting indigenous livelihoods. This project builds on global scholarship regarding dispossession, environmental harm, cultural disruption, and public health risks associated with mining. It investigates the local manifestations of these pressures and explores emerging pathways to justice and sustainability. This study examines the effects on livelihoods, land tenure, social relations, cultural heritage, health, public services, and economies from an anthropological perspective. A mixed-methods design directs the research: household surveys to track socio-economic

change; in-depth interviews and focus-group discussions to capture lived experiences and priorities; participant observation to comprehend negotiations regarding resource access; and environmental assessments to record exposure and risk. This research examines counter-discourses and resilience movements, emphasizing community-led initiatives that challenge extractive governance and shape forest policy.

Expected results comprise evidence-based recommendations aimed at protecting indigenous rights, enhancing local institutions, and ensuring that extraction practices align with sustainable development objectives. The project prioritizes community voices and field data to guide policy, corporate practices, and civil-society initiatives, ensuring that development in Odisha promotes dignity, equity, and ecological stewardship, while facilitating sustainable livelihoods for current and future generations.

Events - CSD Hyderabad

- **ICSSR sponsored Workshop on "Decoding Health through Data: Analytical Insights from NFHS & LASI" (December 15–19, 2025) by Prof. Sujit Kumar Mishra and Dr. Rahul Mishra**



The Council for Social Development, Hyderabad, successfully conducted a Five-Day National Workshop on "Decoding

Health Through Data: Analytical Insights from the National Family Health Survey (NFHS) and the Longitudinal Ageing Study in India (LASI)" from December 15–19, 2025. The objective of the workshop was to build practical competencies among early-career researchers and professionals in accessing, managing, and analysing NFHS and LASI datasets to generate evidence-based knowledge for public health research and policy advocacy. The workshop was attended by more than 20 research scholars from different parts of the country. Resource persons shared their valuable insights and expertise, enabling participants to engage meaningfully with large-scale health datasets and strengthen their capacities in the domain of public health research.



- **C.D. Deshmukh Memorial Lecture**
The 22nd Dr. C.D. Deshmukh Memorial Lecture was delivered on December 17, 2025 by **Ms. Meenakshi Natarajan**, Former Member of Parliament (Lok Sabha) and Member, Indian National Congress Working Committee on the topic "वक्त आया है — हम भी बोलेंगे". Honourable Minister for Labour and Mines, **Shri. Gaddam Vivek Venkat Swamy** participated in the event which was chaired by Prof Shanta Sinha, Chairperson, Managing Committee, CSD, Hyderabad.



Women's Liberation Central to India's Democratic Evolution Meenakshi Natarajan



My dear friends, Allow me to thank the Council for Social Development and Member of the Planning Commission of the Indian Government, Ms. Meenakshi Natarajan, for the 22nd C.D. Deshmukh Memorial Lecture on 'Women's Liberation Central to India's Democratic Evolution'. The lecture was organized on 17 December 2025 at the CSD, Hyderabad. The lecture was organized by the Indian National Congress Working Committee, India's National Congress Working Committee, and was moderated by Prof. Radhika Venkatesh, Prof. Meenakshi Natarajan, and Prof. P.

Meenakshi Natarajan, former Member of Parliament and Member of the Planning Commission of the Indian Government, Ms. Meenakshi Natarajan, for the 22nd C.D. Deshmukh Memorial Lecture on 'Women's Liberation Central to India's Democratic Evolution'.

Ms. Meenakshi Natarajan highlighted the historical development of gender and women's rights in India. She mentioned that greater rights are being granted in India. However, there are still many challenges, such as gender inequality, lack of access to education, and lack of opportunities, which need to be addressed.

Ms. Meenakshi Natarajan also mentioned that women's rights have been granted across India.

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THE SOUTH INDIA TIMES – 19 DECEMBER 2025

22ND C. D. DESHMUKH MEMORIAL LECTURE



TELANGANA - HYDERABAD HEADLINES – 19 DECEMBER 2025

• Public Lecture

A Public Lecture (Online) was organised on "India's Indirect Tax Transformation: Charting the Path from VAT to GST 2.0" by Prof. Sujit K.S., Professor of Economics, School of Business and Management on December 12, 2025. Prof. Deba Prasad Rath, RBI Chair Professor, CSD, Hyderabad, chaired the lecture.



Publications - CSD Delhi Book

Rights of the Oppressed: An Indian Inventory. K. B. Saxena, Manoranjan Mohanty, Anushka Singh, Lawrence Liang (Editors). Aakar Books. 2025.

Seminar Proceeding

Proceedings of the ICSSR Sponsored National Seminar on: 'School Education in India: Towards Equitable Access to Quality Education for All', October 2025 by Ramandeep Kaur and Nikhil Madhusudanan.

Social Change Journal

Volume 55, Issue 4, December 2025 (Online published. The hard copy version has not yet been received).

Publications CSD – Hyderabad

- Deba Prasad Rath, Dyuti George Jacob and Rewant Raichooti, 'Performance of Mudra Yojana: Convergence Dynamics and Policy Drivers in India's Southern States', CSD Working Paper No. 006/2025, October 2025.
- 22nd Dr. C.D. Deshmukh Memorial Lecture by Ms. Meenakshi Natarajan, Former Member of Parliament (Lok Sabha), Member, Indian National Congress Working Committee on "वक्त आया है — हम भी बोलेंगे", 17 December 2025.

Faculty Activities - CSD Delhi

Publications

- Alha, Akhil and Saxena, K.B (2025). 'Dalit Entrepreneurship in Public Policy: What Does the Evidence Suggest?', *Economic & Political Weekly*, December 20, Vol 60 (51).

- Sharma, Nivedita and Kaur, Ramandeep. (2025). 'Savings and Investment in Rural India: An Impact Assessment of Investor Awareness Program', *Social Change*, 55 (4): 629–647.
- Ghosh, S.M. (2025). 'Assessing the impact of COVID-19 on women's dietary diversity in India using a difference-in-differences approach', *Discover Food* 5, 356. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s44187-025-00524-1>.
- Ghosh, S.M., & Sharma, N. (2025). 'Caste and Agricultural Income Disparity in India', *Economic & Political Weekly*, 60 (47): 14–17. <https://www.epw.in/journal/2025/47/commentary/caste-and-agricultural-income-disparity-india.html>

Book Review

- Mitra, S. (2025). Acharya Sarthi and Mehta S. Balwant, 'Mapping the Path Progress and Promise on the SDGs: Analysis for India', *Indian Journal of Human Development*. <https://doi.org/10.1177/09737030251392683>
- Goyal, Ankita (2025). Shamsher Singh and Sabah Siddiqui (Eds), *A People's History of the Farmers' Movement, 2020–2021*, Routledge India, Social Change, Sage Publications, Online Publication, December 2025.

Monograph

- Sarthi, Acharya & Goyal, Ankita (2025). 'Labour Deployment, Redundancy and Earnings in Rajasthan's Agriculture – Mining the Cost of Cultivation Data', for the Shiv

Charan Mathur Social Policy Research Institute, Jaipur, Rajasthan.

Paper Presented

- 'Pathways to Equitable Education: Case Studies of Madhya Pradesh and Odisha', in the Workshop on 'Research and Policy Planning for Improving Schools Functioning and Quality of Education: Special Focus on Aspirational Districts in India' from 27–31 October 2025, by NIEPA, New Delhi on 30 October 2025 by Poornima M.
- 'Pathways to a Second Chance: Insights from School Dropout Research and an Open Schooling Initiative in Rajasthan' in Session 'Best Practices of Open Schooling in India and Challenges of Vocationalisation', in the National Stakeholder Consultation on the Business Plan 2030 for Vocationalisation of Open Schooling in India, organised by Commonwealth Educational Media Centre for Asia (CEMCA), held on 20 November 2025 at the Dr. Ambedkar International Centre, New Delhi by Poornima M.



- Presented a paper titled, 'Transforming Land Governance: A Study on Digitisation of Land Records in ADC of Assam' on November 19, 2025 in the session 'Reimagining Land Governance in the Digital Age' at the conference '9th India Land and Development Conference' (ILDC), 18–20 November, 2025, organised by Land and



Development Conference (ILDC) at the Ahmedabad Management Association, Ahmedabad by Ankita Goyal.

Lectures

'Introduction to Gender Disaggregated Data Sets: PLFS', in Research Methods Programme on Gender and Labour Issues, 1 December, 2025 (2 lectures) by Dr. Akhil Alha.

Participation in Panel Discussions

'Challenges and Pathways for Successful Implementation of Deendayal Jan Aajivika Yojana-Shehari', VV Giri National Labour Institute, NOIDA, 27 November, 2025, by Dr. Akhil Alha.

Participation in Conferences

- Discussant in the session 'Rural Livelihoods and Agrarian Question' in Sukhamoy Chakravarty Chair Conference, 15–16 December, 2025, organised by Jawaharlal Nehru University, Delhi., by Dr. Akhil Alha
- Presented 'Caste and Agricultural Income Disparity in India' in the session 'Rural Transitions in India: Agriculture, Work, and Well-being', in Sukhamoy Chakravarty Chair Conference, 15–16 December, 2025, organised by Centre for Economic Studies and Planning, School of Social Sciences, Jawaharlal Nehru University, and the Centre for Agrarian Research

and Education for South, by Dr. Sourindra Ghosh

- Discussant in the session 'on Health Economics' in Young Scholars Conference 'Indian Economy: Challenges and Opportunities' 2025, 9–10 October, 2025, Centre for Economic Studies and Planning, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, by Dr. Ankita Goyal.

Faculty Activities - CSD Hyderabad

Publications

Mishra, Prajna Paramita, Ch Sravan and Sujit Kumar Mishra (2025): 'Doubling: How it is impoverishing a mining community in India', *World Development Perspectives*, Vol. 39, pp. 1–3.

Lectures

- Offered a Foundation Course on 'Economic Analysis of Public Policy' for the Master's in Public Policy and International Relations and Master's in Public Policy and Law in September–October 2025 on invitation of Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS), Hyderabad by Prof. Deba Prasad Rath. Covered topics on macroeconomics viz., (i) National Income: Concepts, Approaches & Measurement Issues, GDP, Growth, International Trade; (ii) The Monetary & Financial System: Central Banks, Financial Institutions, Monetary Policy Transmission, Interest Rates, Inflation, and exchange rates; (iii) The Fiscal System: Tax and Non-Tax Revenue Sources, Major Expenditure Items, Fiscal Deficit, Government Borrowings & Bonds; (iv) Major public policies: An International comparison of some major social sector spending in developing economies; and (v) Efficiency and distributional effects of Public policy: MUDRA Yojana - A case study

- Delivered a lecture, 'Case Study Methods for Bridging Theory and Practice', UGC-Malaviya Mission Teacher Training Centre, Maulana Azad National Urdu University on 8 October, 2025 by Prof. Sujit Kumar Mishra.
- Delivered a lecture, 'How to Conduct Field-Based Research' in the Two-Week Capacity Building Programme for Social Science Faculty Members and Researchers organised by M.P. Institute of Social Science Research, Ujjain on 22 November, 2025 by Prof. Sujit Kumar Mishra.
- Delivered a lecture, 'Writing of Research Paper' in the Two-Week Capacity Building Programme for Social Science Faculty Members and Researchers organised by M.P. Institute of Social Science Research, Ujjain on 22 November, 2025 by Prof. Sujit Kumar Mishra.
- Delivered a lecture as a Plenary Speaker at the Plenary Session, 'Regional Dimension of Development: Employment, Poverty and Migration', at the Two-Day International Conference titled "Structural Change, Youth Employability, and Inequality" organised by School of Economics, University of Hyderabad on December 8–9, 2025 by Prof. Sujit Kumar Mishra.

Paper Presented

- 'Geographical Indications Tagged Rice Varieties in India: A Select Review of Trends, Challenges and Opportunities' (November 10, 2025) by Soumya Vinayan, P.K. Viswanathan, Manchikanti Padmavati and C R, Vishnu.. Available at SSRN: <https://ssrn.com/abstract=5732002> or <http://dx.doi.org/10.2139/ssrn.5732002>
- 'Theoretical Understanding on Public Policy' at National Seminar on 'Viksit Bharat @2047: Public Policy, Governance and Digital

Transformation' (November 24–25, 2025), organized by Department of Political Science and Public Administration, Government Degree College (Autonomous), Hyderabad on 24 November, 2025 by Dr. Sunkari Satyam.

- 'From Ancestral Lands to Open Pits: Indigenous Struggles, Mining Economies and Sustainable Livelihoods in Odisha' at the AASSREC–ICSSR 26th Biennial General Conference on the theme 'Social Science Research in the Indo-Pacific for Sustainable Futures' during 3–5 December 2025 by Dr. Amiya Kumar Sahoo.

Other Activities

- Prof. Sujit Kumar Mishra organised a Two-Day International Seminar (as Seminar Co-organiser) on 'Social Science Research in India: Issues and Challenges', sponsored by the Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR) and supported by the Global Development Network (GDN) at the Centre for Economic and Social Studies (CESS), Hyderabad, on 29–30 October, 2025.
- Prof. Sujit Kumar Mishra co-chaired the Panel Discussion titled 'Women Technology and Finance' during the 39th Annual Conference on Agricultural Marketing, organised by School of Economics, University of Hyderabad in collaboration with Department of Economics, Maulana Azad National Urdu University, Hyderabad on 29 October to 1 November, 2025.
- Dr. Raj Kumar Kattula was invited by Institute of Management Technology, Hyderabad to conduct practitioner sessions on 'Social Impact Assessment'

for PGDM students on 19 and 20 November, 2025.

- Prof. Sujit Kumar Mishra attended Programme Committee meeting of ICSSR-SRC as a Committee Member for scrutiny and consideration of the seminar/ workshop/ conference/ RMC proposals received during the financial year 2025–2026 for granting partial financial assistance on 24 November, 2025.
- Dr. Sunkari Satyam chaired the Technical Session-II at National Seminar on 'Viksit Bharat @2047: Public Policy, Governance and Digital Transformation' (November 24– 25, 2025), organized by Department of Political Science and Public Administration, Government Degree College (Autonomous), Hyderabad, on 24 November, 2025.
- Prof. Sujit Kumar Mishra organised a Five-Day National Workshop (as the Workshop Director) on 'Decoding Health Through Data: Analytical Insights from NFHS and LASI', sponsored by the Indian Council of Social Science Research at the Council for Social Development, Hyderabad, on 15–19 December, 2025.
- Dr. Sunkari Satyam participated in the International Faculty Development Program on Artificial Intelligence in Research and Higher Education organized by Center for Distance and Online Education (English), Guru Kashi University, Talwandi Sabo (Bathinda), Punjab, India in collaboration with Cape Comorin Trust, India and in association with Harvest an International Multidisciplinary and Multilingual Research Journal, on 15–21 December, 2025.



About CSD

Since its inception in 1962, the CSD has functioned as an informal group of social workers and social scientists. An intellectual and social sciences academic hub, this non-partisan study group, worked under the leadership of the legendary freedom fighter, social activist, academician and planner, Dr Durgabhai Deshmukh.

Through its research and publication activities, CSD contributes to the knowledge on social issues, suggests changes and interventions needed to ensure that government policies and programmes result in moving towards a just, equitable and welfare-oriented social order, particularly in the amelioration of the socio-economic conditions of the poorest, deprived and marginalized sections of society.

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