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COUNCIL FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT NEWSLETTER

Ongoing Projects - CSD Delhi

- **Towards Holistic Education and Empowerment of Adolescents: Evaluation of 25 Years of the Doosra Dashak Journey in Rajasthan (Sponsored by Foundation for Education and Development) by Poornima, Ramandeep Kaur, Gitesh Sinha and Jaya Lekshmi Nair**

This study documents the 25-year transformative journey of the Doosra Dashak initiative across nine blocks of Rajasthan, assessing its impact on adolescents from marginalized rural communities. It examines key interventions, including life skills education, residential and non-residential camps, Ikhvelo centres, social empowerment, and livelihood support, with a focus on out-of-school children, girls, and Garasia, Bhil, and Saharia communities. Fieldwork has been completed across all blocks, capturing diverse socio-cultural contexts. Extensive engagement in remote areas, complemented by interviews, FGDs, case studies, and control groups, has generated robust evidence. Data cleaning and report preparation are currently underway.



Village-Acharpura, Kishanganj, Baran

Upcoming Events

15 JULY, 2026

Durgabai Deshmukh
Memorial Lecture on “A
New Consciousness for a
Fractured Time: Rethinking
India’s Development Path”
by Shri Mihir Shah

6 AUGUST, 2026

Stakeholder Consultation
on Out of School Children
(OoSC): Mapping the
Landscape & Developing a
Strategic Roadmap

7-8 SEPTEMBER, 2026

Seminar on Rural Women
Entrepreneurs

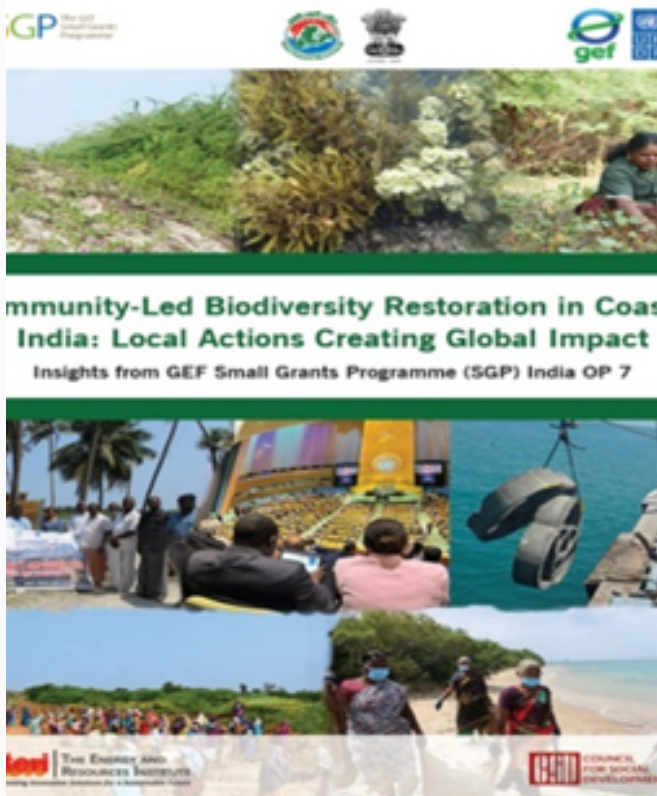
- **Baseline Survey of a Four-Year Project in Rajasthan (Sponsored by Foundation for Education and Development) by Poornima, Ramandeep Kaur and Gitesh Sinha**

The study, based on primary data from 100 respondents across Abu Road, Pindwara, Bali Desuri, and Bali blocks, establishes a baseline on education, social empowerment, livelihoods, and digital skills, with a focus on out-of-school children, girls, and marginalized Bhil and Garasia communities. Extensive fieldwork in remote areas ensured representation of underserved populations. Although not part of the original design, the Council for Social Development (CSD) proposed the baseline survey to enable robust impact assessment during the planned endline study in 2028 for 800 beneficiaries. Fieldwork and data cleaning have been completed, and the draft report is under preparation.



Village-Nichlagarh, Aburoad, Sirohi

- **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**



The project strengthens knowledge management, documentation, and impact communication for 47 community-led initiatives supported under the Global Environmental Facility Small Grants Programme (GEF-SGP) across India's semi-arid and coastal regions. Using field visits, interviews, focus group discussions, surveys, and project reviews, it documents environmental, social, and livelihood outcomes while promoting cross-learning through case studies and knowledge products. Between April and June 2026, the team developed newsletters, YouTube videos, policy briefs, photo stories, and social media content. As the designated knowledge partner, the Council for Social Development collaborated with the SGP-India team at TERI to publish the flagship booklet, *Community-led Biodiversity Restoration in Coastal India*, marking the International Day for Biological Diversity on 22 May 2026.

- **The Role of Caste and Gender in Defining Employment and Earning Outcomes in Gig Economy in India (Sponsored by ICSSR) 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.

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)**

This study examines why, despite sustained policy interventions and significant public investment, progress towards SDG 5 (Gender Equality) remains limited in Odisha. It explores gaps in the effectiveness, implementation, and reach of gender-focused policies and programmes, while advocating a more intersectional and context-sensitive approach to gender mainstreaming. As part of the preliminary phase, the study has analysed secondary data on gender budgeting, child sex ratio, women's labour force participation, average wage rates, gender-based violence, and related reporting mechanisms to identify key trends and policy challenges.

- **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 examines the multifaceted impacts of natural resource extraction on women by analysing how mining activities reshape their social, economic, and cultural realities. It explores the social construction of mining spaces, changing gender relations, community dynamics, and livelihood transitions, while examining how women negotiate and adapt to these transformations within evolving social and environmental contexts. The study is nearing completion, and its preliminary findings have already been presented at various academic and policy platforms, contributing to ongoing discourse on gender, mining, and sustainable development.

- **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 assesses the accessibility and utilization of One Stop Service Centres (OSSCs) across urban, semi-urban, and rural areas of Telangana. It examines barriers to accessing services, including limited awareness, social stigma, and infrastructural constraints, and evaluates the centres' role in supporting survivors' recovery, mental health, economic empowerment, and social inclusion. The study also aims to provide evidence-based recommendations to strengthen policy frameworks and improve the effectiveness of OSSCs in delivering comprehensive support and rehabilitation services. Data collection has been completed, and the study 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 analyses the overall health status of Telangana, focusing on the availability, quality, and accessibility of healthcare services. It examines the distribution of healthcare professionals, including doctors, nurses, and technicians, and highlights urban-rural disparities in health infrastructure and service delivery. The study also assesses the effectiveness of health information dissemination, public health programmes, and quality of care. In addition, it includes primary-level investigations on key issues such as age at marriage, teenage pregnancy, and their associated health and social outcomes to inform evidence-based policy and planning.

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

The study examines the saving potential of rural agricultural households in Telangana using primary survey data from diverse regions. It analyses how factors such as landholding size, cropping patterns, income diversification, access to formal credit, and financial literacy influence saving behaviour. Using descriptive and regression analyses, the study seeks to identify variations in saving potential and the role of institutional access and household decision-making. The findings are expected to inform region-specific savings mobilization strategies, promote the use of digital financial tools, and strengthen cooperative and self-help institutions to enhance financial resilience among rural households.

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

The study evaluates the impact of PM Mudra Yojana on financial inclusion and women's entrepreneurship in Telangana. Using primary data from districts across the state, it examines how access to collateral-free microcredit has influenced income generation, business sustainability, access to formal financial institutions, and the overall socio-economic empowerment of women entrepreneurs. The study also identifies persistent challenges, including limited financial literacy, inadequate follow-up support, and institutional barriers. The findings are expected to provide evidence-based recommendations for strengthening financial inclusion initiatives and enhancing the effectiveness of women-centric entrepreneurship programmes.

- **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 examines the business-level impact of Goods and Services Tax (GST) reforms in Telangana, focusing on cost structures, profitability, compliance costs, investment decisions, and ease of doing business. Covering Hyderabad and major business clusters, it analyses sectoral differences across manufacturing, services, and MSMEs during the 2016–2025 period. Using a mixed-methods approach, the study combines primary survey data, firm-level financial analysis, and interviews with business owners, managers, and tax practitioners to assess implementation challenges and long-term outcomes. The findings will provide evidence-based recommendations to strengthen GST implementation and support regional business growth.

- **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 (funded by ICSSR, New Delhi) Project Team: Soumya Vinayan, N Laitha (Retd, GIDR), P K Viswanathan (ASB-Amritapuri), M Padmavati (IIT-KGP), Vishnu C R (IIT-T) Associated Staff: Parnika Saha, Sithara Sinin and and Uday Kumar Gupta (CSD, Hyderabad)**

The study examines the livelihood and income impacts of cultivating Geographical Indication (GI)-tagged rice varieties and the challenges in realizing their full potential. Based on preliminary field visits, eight GI-tagged rice varieties across six states have been identified for the baseline survey following house listing. These include Pokkali and Kaipad (Kerala), Bhandara Chinoor (Maharashtra), Balaghat Chinnor (Madhya Pradesh), Kalanamak (Uttar Pradesh), Gobindobhog (West Bengal), and Katarni and Marcha (Bihar). Identification of study locations and finalization of baseline survey tools are currently in progress.

- **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 evaluates the implementation and effectiveness of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Special Development Fund in Telangana, focusing on the needs and aspirations of SC and ST communities. It examines programme relevance, institutional and implementation challenges, community expectations, and gaps between policy interventions and ground realities. Adopting a process evaluation approach, the study uses case studies, semi-structured interviews, and focus group discussions with community members and government officials. Secondary data on fund allocations and expenditures have been analysed, and the research framework refined through pilot findings. Detailed analysis is currently underway to assess 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)**

The study examines the working conditions, job insecurity, and access to social security among unorganised workers at the Tolichowki Labour Adda in Telangana. Despite their vital contribution to the economy, many workers continue to face precarious employment, unsafe working conditions, and limited access to welfare benefits. The research assesses awareness and utilization of central and state government welfare schemes, registration with welfare boards, workplace safety and health measures, and barriers to accessing social protection. The findings are expected to inform policy measures for strengthening labour welfare and improving social security coverage for unorganised workers.

- **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 analyses employment and unemployment trends in Telangana (2004–2024), with a focus on youth aged 15–29. Using National Sample Survey and Periodic Labour Force Survey data, it examines labour force participation, employment patterns, sectoral distribution, and educational attainment across gender, social groups, and regions. The findings highlight declining youth labour force participation, rising unemployment driven by skill mismatches, and persistent inequalities affecting women, Scheduled Castes, and Scheduled Tribes. The report recommends gender- and caste-sensitive policies, targeted skilling, rural employment generation, urban job formalization, and stronger alignment between education and labour market needs to promote inclusive and sustainable growth.

- **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 study examines the socio-economic, cultural, environmental, and health impacts of mining in the mineral-rich districts of Odisha, with a focus on indigenous communities. Using household surveys, interviews, focus group discussions, participant observation, and environmental assessments, it analyses changes in livelihoods, land tenure, social relations, public services, and local economies. The research also explores community resilience, counter-discourses, and initiatives promoting sustainable and equitable resource governance. The findings are expected to provide evidence-based recommendations for protecting indigenous rights, strengthening local institutions, and advancing environmentally sustainable and inclusive development in mining-affected regions.

- **Rural Transformation: Structural Changes in Agriculture (Department of Planning, Government of Telangana) by P. Raghupathi**

The study examines changing livelihood patterns and income dynamics among farming households in Telangana, focusing on field crops, horticulture, and livestock. It explores how diversified farming systems contribute to higher and more stable incomes compared to dependence on field crops alone. The research also analyses the growing contribution of livestock, milk, and meat to agricultural income alongside changing crop patterns. By assessing these transitions, the study seeks to generate evidence on pathways for enhancing farmers' incomes and promoting sustainable agricultural livelihoods. House listing has been completed, the survey instrument is finalised, and the household survey is going on.

EVENTS - CSD DELHI

- Bandung Day Symposium 2026
Date: 24 April 2026

The Council for Social Development (CSD), in collaboration with the India International Centre, organised the Bandung Day Symposium 2026 on 24 April 2026 at the India International Centre, New Delhi. Titled "Bandung to BRICS: Women, War and Peace", the symposium was chaired by Professor K. Srinath Reddy, President, CSD. The event featured the inauguration of the Bandung @ 70 exhibition by Shri Atul Kumar Tiwari, IAS (Retd.), Honorary Special Advisor to the President, CSD, at the Durgabai Deshmukh Memorial Hall. The exhibition showcased the legacy of the 1955 Bandung Conference and its contemporary relevance. Bringing together eminent scholars, former diplomats, and experts, the symposium explored the Bandung Principles, the role of women in peacebuilding, and their significance in the lead-up to India's hosting of the 18th BRICS Summit.

PUBLICATIONS - CSD DELHI

Social Change Journal

Volume 56 Issue 2, June 2026 (Online).

Book

Saxena, K. B., Manoranjan Mohanty, Anushka Singh, and Lawrence Liang (eds.). (2026). *Rights of the Oppressed: An Indian Inventory*. New Delhi: Aakar Books.

Project Report

Equitable Education for a Viksit Bharat: Exploring School Dropout and Exclusion of Vulnerable Sections for Policy Suggestions

PUBLICATIONS - CSD HYDERABAD

Working Paper

Amiya Kumar Sahoo and Sujit Kumar Mishra (2026). Navigating Livelihood Strategies, Social Resilience, and Policy Invisibility among the Informal Workforce along the Sea Beach of Odisha. **Working Paper No. 007/2026**, May 2026.

FACULTY ACTIVITIES - CSD DELHI

Publications

Saxena, K. B., & Alha, A. (corresponding author) (2026). Caste, Credit, and Social Capital: Constraints on Dalit Entrepreneurship in India's Leather Industry. *Journal of Government and Economics*. Published online, 11 April 2026.

Nanda, N. (2026). Consider the Human Factor: Decoupling GDP and Well-being. *The Telegraph*, 30 April 2026.

Mitra, S., Pandey, M. K., Giriyan, A. L., & Goyal, A. (2026). *Community-Led Biodiversity Restoration in Coastal India*. TERI, New Delhi.
<https://teriin.org/files/Community-Led-Biodiversity-Booklet.pdf>

Paper Presented

Nanda, N. (2026). Sustainable Development and Trade Relations: Cooperation in Blue Economy, Circular Economy and Climate Justice. Paper presented at the **India-Portugal Dialogue: Diplomacy, Culture, Language, and Sustainable Futures**, Nalanda University, Rajgir, Bihar, 11-12 April 2026 (Online).

Nanda, N. (2026). SDG 12: Sustainable Consumption and Production. Presentation delivered in **Sustainable Development Goals: The Indian Context**, The Maharaja Sayajirao University of Baroda, 23 April 2026 (Online).

Nanda, N. (2026). Climate Change and Development. Lecture delivered during the **Two-Week Capacity Building Programme on "Industrial Transformation: Prospects and Challenges"**, Institute for Studies in Industrial Development (ISID), 4-16 May 2026.

Alha, A. (2026). Regulating Platform Work Beyond Employment: Welfare, Rights, and the Indian Experience, in **International Conference on "Mapping the Transformation: Intersectional Analysis of Platform Work and the Shifting Labor Landscape"**, organised by University of New York in Prague. Prague 2, Czech Rep and P-WILL: Platform Work Inclusion Living Lab (online), 30 June 2026.

Lectures

- **Mitra, S.** (2026). Publishing through Systematic Literature Review: A Memory Mapping Approach. Lecture delivered at the **Capacity Building Workshop** organized by MANIT Bhopal and Sage, 20 May 2026 (Online).
- **Mitra, S.** (2026). Decision Making under Climate Uncertainty: Lessons from Nature-Based and Community-Led Interventions. Lecture delivered at the **Training Programme on Managing Livelihood and Social Protection in the Light of Climate Change**, organized by the V.V. Giri National Labour Institute, 24 June 2026.



Participation in Panel Discussions

Alha, A. (2026). Riding the Edge: Labour, Livelihoods and the Everyday Politics of Gig Work, **Hindu College, University of Delhi**, 29th April, 2026.

In Media / Opinion Article

Why 4 in 10 Indian Children Are Leaving School. The Indian Express. Available at: <https://indianexpress.com/article/opinion/columns/when-the-learning-crisis-is-bigger-than-the-enrolment-crisis-10697668/>



ASHOK PANKAJ, POORNIMA M
AND RAMANDEEP KAUR

INA recent report on school education, NITI Aayog has flagged two problems. One, the persistently high number of out-of-school children, and two, weak learning outcomes that frustrate much of the hard-earned achievement of universal enrolment at the primary and upper primary levels. With four out of 10 children aged 6-17 years not in school, a deepening crisis in learning levels, and average years of schooling lower than developed countries, the pursuit of the goal of 'Viksit Bharat' would be challenging.

Out-of-school children are higher in rural areas, among SCs, STs and Muslims, and are concentrated in a few states. Further, it is higher in boys than in girls, because boys are often expected to support family income at an early stage.

A recent study on out-of-school children shows that high aspirations of parents for education of their children, especially among the poor and the marginalised, co-exists with high levels of disillusionment from school education, leading to withdrawal of children from schools. NFHS-5 shows that a significant proportion of adolescents dis-

Not enrolment, problem is school dropouts

engage from schooling due to a lack of interest, non-fulfilment of aspirations, and discouraging school experiences. There are also other and sometimes correlated factors, like poverty, migration, gender and disability barriers, and spatial factors. General incentives like uniforms, books, mid-day meals etc. are not very effective for such children.

Second, secondary and higher secondary schools are not adequate. The distance and safety concerns of girls are barriers for their continuing school beyond upper primary level. Language problems, inadequate infrastructure, dysfunctional WASH facilities, and the absence of a supportive learning environment are other factors.

Third, rigid administrative norms and limited school autonomy deprive migrants and homeless children. Denial of admission, non-issuing of transfer certificates, and restricted access to welfare-linked entitlements like non-portability, non-recognition of caste certificates of other states, often hinder such enrolment.

Fourth, while policy attention has largely focused on the 6-14 age

group, an obligation under the RTE Act, the problem is more pronounced at the secondary and higher secondary levels. F8th, while technology-enabled initiatives like the PRA-BANDH portal at the national level and the School Har On Aapke SHAKSHI portal at P have strengthened identification, tracking, and monitoring of out-of-school children, implementation challenges persist. Integration of technology-driven tracking mechanisms with community-level interventions can ensure completion of school education.

As India moves towards the fulfilment of the vision of 'Viksit Bharat' by 2047, SDG-4 goals by 2030, and with the rollout of the NEP 2020, it is of utmost importance to recognise the gravity of the problem of out-of-school children, make a holistic assessment of its magnitude, and focus more on 14 years plus children. There is a need to move towards strategies that recognise the interdependence of household conditions, school-side factors, and systemic and governance challenges.

Pankaj is professor, Poornima is assistant professor and Kaur is senior research associate, Council for Social Development

Development in Transition: What NFHS-6 Tells Us About India. The Pioneer. Available at: <https://dailypioneer.com/news/development-in-transition-what-nfhs-6-tells-us-about-india>

Development in transition: What NFHS-6 tells us about India



ANKITA GOYAL | SARTHI ACHARYA

India has committed itself to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which seek to improve the quality of life through progress across economic, social, demographic, environmental, and institutional dimensions. Achieving these goals requires more than economic expansion alone: it demands that growth be translated into improvements in health, education, nutrition, gender equality, and other indicators of human well-being. The National Family Health Survey (NFHS), while not capturing the entire spectrum of development, provides an important window into the extent to which economic growth has been accompanied by social and demographic progress.

The four rounds of the NFHS, spanning the period from 2005-06 to 2023-24, allow an assessment of India's progress in select demographic and social indicators. The latest round,

released this week, suggests that the country has undoubtedly moved forward. However, the pace of improvement has been uneven across sectors and regions, and in several dimensions remains slower than might be expected after nearly three decades of economic growth of over 6% annually. The experience of East and Southeast Asian countries provides a useful benchmark, as many of them combined economic growth with rapid gains in human development within a relatively short period.

The data point to important achievements. Health insurance coverage expanded dramatically from about 5% to nearly 60% of the population. Female educational attainment also improved substantially, with nearly half of women now having completed ten or more years of schooling. Fertility has declined to replacement level on aggregate and before replacement in large parts of the country, marking an important demographic transition. However, there is an underbelly: The southern states, much of the northeast, and parts of northern India report substantially better outcomes than the large states of the Indo-Gangetic plains. Moreover, the survey pro-



vides little information on the quality of health or educational services, limiting conclusions about the effectiveness of these achievements.

Progress in reducing child marriage has also been noteworthy. The proportion of women aged 20-24 who were married before the age of 18 declined from 47.4 per cent to 20.1 per cent. Yet, the prevalence remains high by inter-

national standards. Countries such as China and Thailand have reduced child marriage to negligible levels, suggesting that considerable progress remains possible. Once again, regional differences are striking. Bihar and Jharkhand continue to report rates exceeding 30%, whereas Kerala, Tamil Nadu, and Mizoram have reduced the incidence to around 10% or lower.

The most serious concern emerges from nutrition-related indicators. Child stunting declined from about 48 per cent to 29.3 per cent, a substantial improvement but still one of the highest levels among major economies. The proportion of underweight children fell more modestly, from 42.5 per cent to 31.8 per cent. Similarly, the share of women with below-normal body mass index declined until 2019-21 but has since shown a slight reversal. These trends suggest that nutritional deprivation remains deeply entrenched despite sustained economic growth. Here too, regional disparities persist, with states such as Bihar and Jharkhand continuing to perform poorly while much of southern and northeastern India fares considerably better.

A recent article in Indian Express (dt. June 2, 2026) finds that a number of indicators have been dropped in NFHS-6 compared to NFHS-5. This might not be a very serious issue as some of these variables do not change at short intervals. However, India's development record has been otherwise mixed. The country has made some progress in education, health insurance coverage, decline of child marriage, and TFR in some states, etc. Improvements in nutrition and other measures of human well-being, however, have been slower than expected, and large regional inequalities remain. Compared with the experience of East- and Southeast Asian economies during their periods of rapid growth, India's progress appears gradual rather than transformational.

Evidence from NFHS-6 suggests that while economic growth might have contributed to some social advancement, it has not consistently translated into equally rapid improvements in human development.

The challenge for the coming decades is therefore not merely to sustain growth, but to ensure that its benefits are converted more effectively into better health, nutrition, education, and quality of life for all sections of the population.

Dr. Anshu Mitta is an Assistant Professor at the Council for Social Development (CSD), New Delhi and Managing Editor, Social Change, Sage Publishing. Professor Sarthi Acharya is a Visiting Professor at the Council for Social Development (CSD), New Delhi and Managing Editor, Indian Journal of Labour Economics, Springer Publishing.



The Pioneer



LAW JUSTICE 101

Advisory Member

Mitra, S. (April 2026–Present). Appointed as an **Advisory Committee Member, Centre for Complexity Economics, Applied Spirituality and Public Policy (CEASP)**, Jindal School of Government and Public Policy, O.P. Jindal Global University, to provide strategic guidance on complexity-informed public policy, interdisciplinary research on systems thinking and sustainability transitions, and academic-policy collaborations.

FACULTY ACTIVITIES – CSD HYDERABAD

Lectures

Rath, D. P. (2026). Conducted a **specialized course** titled Public Budget, Fiscal Imbalance and Public Debt Management in India for students of the Master's in Public Policy and International Relations and Master's in Public Policy and Law programmes, along with a **Workshop on the Union Budget 2026–27**, at the Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Hyderabad, 7–21 April 2026.

Mishra, S. K. (2026). Delivered a lecture on Measures of Central Tendency at the **Two-day National Workshop on "Basic Statistics in Teaching of Economics"**, organized by KNM Government Degree College, Miryalaguda, Nalgonda, and sponsored by the Telangana Council of Higher Education, 9 April 2026.

Rath, D. P. (2026). Delivered an online expert lecture on Macroeconomics Study: Globalisation, Capital Flows and Monetary Autonomy in India for Executive Master of Business Administration (EMBA) students, 11 May 2026.

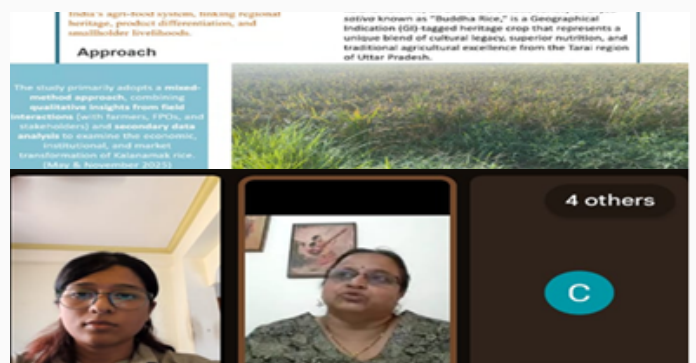
Mishra, S. K. (2026). Delivered a lecture on Art of Academic Writing at the **Refresher Course in Political Science (Interdisciplinary)** on Emerging Dynamics in State, Society and Governance: Interdisciplinary Perspectives, organized by Berhampur University, Odisha, 12 May 2026.

Mishra, S. K. (2026). Delivered a lecture on Survey-based Research: Design to Documentation at the **Refresher Course in Political Science (Interdisciplinary)** on Emerging Dynamics in State, Society and Governance: Interdisciplinary Perspectives, organized by Berhampur University, Odisha, 13 May 2026.



Paper Presented

Vinayan, S., & Saha, P. (2026). Presented the paper GI, Innovation and Market Integration: A Case Study of Kalanamak Rice from Uttar Pradesh at the **International Conference on Geographical Indications: Institutions, Technology, Entrepreneurship and Social Impact**, organized by the School of Law, G D Goenka University, Gurugram, 10–11 April 2026 (Virtual).



In Media / Opinion Article

Mishra, S. K. (2026, 19 June). Gender Parity in Odisha: Evidence from NFHS-6. Orissa POST. Available at: <https://www.orissapost.com/gender-parity-in-odisha-evidence-from-nfhs-6/>

Other Activities

Rath, D. P. (2026). Prepared a policy brief titled *Access to Finance and Multidimensional Backwardness in Telangana*, based on the **Socio-Economic, Educational, Employment, Political and Caste Survey (SEEEPC), 2024**, highlighting issues of financial inclusion and multidimensional deprivation in Telangana (24 April 2026).

Rath, D. P. (2026). Moderated the plenary session, *Young. Bold. Building: Chhattisgarh's Start-up Story*, at the **Hyderabad Policy Conclave: The Indian Era**, organized by the Government of Chhattisgarh at the Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS), Hyderabad, 29 April 2026. The session focused on entrepreneurship, innovation ecosystems, and state-led initiatives for start-up development.

Vinayan, S. (2026). Served as the **External Examiner** for the M.A. Capstone Project Evaluation, School of Gender and Livelihoods, Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS), Hyderabad, 15 May 2026.

Vinayan, S. (2026). Served as a **Resource Person** at the **Module Validation Workshop on Climate Resilient and Carbon Neutral Planning for Gram Panchayats**, organized by the School of Excellence in Panchayati Raj (SoEPR), National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj (NIRDPR), 18-19 May 2026.

Vinayan, S. (2026). Served as a **Reviewer** for a book proposal submitted to **Springer Nature** and for manuscripts submitted to *Discover Sustainability* (Springer Nature).

Rath, D. P., & Raj, D. S. (2026). Completed the draft research paper *Access, Use, and Inequality in Household Credit in Telangana*, based on findings from the **SEEEPC Survey 2024**. The paper examines household credit access, utilization, indebtedness, and socio-economic inequalities across Telangana.

Rath, D. P., Mishra, S. K., & Raj, D. S. (2026). Prepared the draft paper *A Comparative Analysis of Health, Nutrition, and Socio-Economic Development Indicators in the Southern States of India: Evidence from NFHS-6 (2023-24)*. The study provides a comparative assessment of demographic, health, nutrition, and socio-economic indicators across the southern states using the latest NFHS-6 data.

Fourth Annual Meeting of RBI Professorial Chairs

Deba Prasad Rath, RBI Chair Professor, at the invitation of the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)**, participated in the **Fourth Annual Meeting of the Review Committee of RBI Professorial Chairs: Corpus Fund Scheme (2026-27)** at the National Institute of Public Finance and Policy (NIPFP), New Delhi, on **19 June 2026**. Presented the **Annual Progress Report (2025-26)** and **Annual Research Plan (2026-27)**, highlighting key research, publications, policy engagement, ongoing studies, and the proposed research agenda for 2026-27.

The presentation highlighted the published paper COVID-19, Investor Diversification, and Sovereign Yields (Economic and Political Weekly, January 2026), reviewed progress on ongoing studies on rural savings and financial inclusion in Telangana, and outlined the research agenda for 2026-27, covering GST reforms, household credit inequality, financial inclusion, policy briefs, and an ICSSR-sponsored national capacity-building programme on research methodology.





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