

COUNCIL FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT



REPORT RELEASE EVENT OF THE ICSSR STUDY ON EQUITABLE EDUCATION FOR VIKSIT BHARAT: EXPLORING SCHOOL DROPOUT AND EXCLUSION OF VULNERABLE SECTIONS FOR POLICY SUGGESTIONS



THE DURGABAI DESHMUKH MEMORIAL LECTURE 2026 WAS HELD ON 15 JULY 2026 AT THE INDIA INTERNATIONAL CENTRE, NEW DELHI.



Projects

Completed Projects – CSD Delhi

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

India's platform economy has expanded rapidly, creating new income opportunities while raising questions about the quality, security and distribution of work. This study investigates how caste and gender shape employment and earning outcomes among location-based gig workers. Existing literature highlights flexibility and low entry barriers, but also algorithmic control, long hours, income volatility, worker-borne costs and inadequate social protection. Literature suggests digital intermediation may reduce visible discrimination without removing inequalities rooted in assets, mobility, care and social background.

The study surveys 605 workers and uses interviews and field observations across Delhi-NCR, Jaipur, Hyderabad and Bengaluru. Workers were engaged in ride-hailing, bike taxis, auto-rickshaws, food and grocery delivery, beauty services and repair work. Findings show that flexibility attracts workers, especially women, yet most workers face long working days, declining work availability and earnings, irregular rate revision and limited non-wage benefits. Caste is rarely reported as direct customer discrimination but influences access to land, credit, vehicles and economic fallback options. Gender shapes occupational concentration, mobility, unpaid care burdens and access to paid work. The study concludes that platform work provides livelihoods but transfers substantial risks to workers. Fair pay, payment transparency, portable social security, independent grievance redressal and worker representation are essential.

- **Baseline Report: Education and Empowerment of Marginalized Tribal Adolescents in Four Blocks of Southern Rajasthan (Sponsored by Foundation for Education and Development) by Poornima.M, Ramandeep Kaur and Gitesh Sinha**

The Council for Social Development (CSD) completed the baseline evaluation of FED's Doosra Dashak initiative, supported by the Tata Trusts, covering 101 adolescent beneficiaries across Abu Road, Pindwara, Bali and Desuri in South Rajasthan.

This baseline report documents the socio-economic profile, programme exposure, and outcome status of a panel cohort of Year 1 beneficiaries at the point of entry, establishing the benchmark against which change will be measured at the 2028 endline. The baseline report was submitted to the funder and has been accepted, marking an important milestone in the longitudinal evaluation and providing evidence to guide programme implementation and future interventions.



The baseline cohort comprises predominantly female adolescents (82%), with most beneficiaries belonging to Scheduled Tribe (52%) and Scheduled Caste/OBC (42%) households. While 92% are currently students, 21% had dropped out of formal schooling and 28% were pursuing education through RSOS, reflecting disrupted educational trajectories. Participation was highest in residential learning camps, life-skills sessions, continuing education centres and RSOS preparation camps, but varied considerably across blocks, with particularly limited exposure in Desuri. Beneficiaries reported stronger competencies in digital skills and basic literacy, while community participation, financial decision-making, and aspects of adolescent autonomy emerged as areas of greater need. Awareness of the legal age of marriage was relatively high, but awareness of sexual and reproductive health and rights remained limited. The baseline highlights the need to strengthen educational continuity, life skills and adolescent agency, vocational and livelihood opportunities, and participation in community institutions, while addressing financial, accessibility and household-related barriers.

Completed Projects – CSD Hyderabad

- **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 study examined the social, economic, and cultural impacts of coal mining on women in mining-affected villages of Sundargarh district, Odisha. The findings revealed increased socio-economic vulnerability due to the loss of traditional livelihoods, alcoholism, domestic violence, environmental degradation, health risks, and limited access to institutional support. The study highlights the need for gender-responsive mining governance, with greater emphasis on women's livelihoods, healthcare, legal awareness, access to justice, and participation in decision-making. It recommends stronger coordination among government agencies, mining companies, and local communities to promote more equitable and inclusive mining-led development.

- **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 study on Impact and Effectiveness of One Stop Sakhi Centres in Telangana examines the accessibility, utilisation and effectiveness of One Stop Sakhi Centres (OSSCs) in providing integrated support services to women affected by violence and distress. The study was conducted in 12 centres across Komurambheem Asifabad, Adilabad, Bhadradi Kothagudem, Mulugu, Warangal, Hanamkonda, Jangaon, Yadadri Bhuvanagiri, Medchal-Malkajgiri (two centres), and Ranga Reddy (two centres), covering diverse urban, semi-urban, and rural settings.

The study aimed to understand the extent to which women can access services such as counselling, legal assistance, medical support, police facilitation, and temporary shelter. It also examines barriers to access, including lack of awareness, social stigma, family and community constraints, and infrastructural limitations. Particular attention is given to the role of OSSCs in survivors' recovery, rehabilitation, economic empowerment and social reintegration.

The study's findings indicate that legal assistance and counselling constitute important components of support provided through OSSCs, while temporary shelter is comparatively less utilised. The study also highlights the importance of strengthening awareness, inter-agency coordination and follow-up support to ensure comprehensive rehabilitation. The study further highlights the need to improve the accessibility, effectiveness, and institutional capacity of OSSCs in Telangana.

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**

The Muchkund Dubey Centre for Right to Education, CSD, evaluated Doosra Dashak (DD), a 25-year community-based initiative of the Foundation for Education and Development (FED) working with marginalised rural adolescents, youth and women across seven districts and nine blocks of Rajasthan. The study assessed DD's long-term impact on education, livelihoods, social empowerment and quality of life, along with the role of youth and women's collectives and the programme's sustainability and replicability. The evaluation surveyed 971 Sehbhagis and 122 non-Sehbhagis. The draft report was submitted on 24 September 2026, and preliminary findings were presented to the FED Chairman, Trustees, funder, external experts and all Block Directors. Based on the feedback received, the revised final report will be submitted on 25 October 2026.

- **Study on Landscape Mapping and Strategic Roadmap on Out-of-School Children in India (by Poornima M and Ramandeep Kaur)**

The Muchkund Dubey Centre for Right to Education, CSD, is undertaking a study for Humana People to People India (HPPI) to map the landscape of out-of-school children (OoSC) in India, review government schemes and interventions, and document civil society initiatives. The study includes a literature review, preparation of a dossier of civil society organisations, and a National Stakeholder Consultation to identify key gaps and priorities for future action and research. The project is currently in the report-writing phase, alongside the literature review and preparation of dossiers for 30–40 civil society organisations, culminating in a comprehensive landscape report/White paper.

- **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), Jayanti Saha, Gitesh Sinha and Jaya Lekshmi Nair**

This project strengthens knowledge management, documentation and communication of grassroots environmental initiatives supported under the GEF Small Grants Programme (GEF-SGP) across India's Central Semi-Arid and Indian Coastal Region landscapes. It focuses on 47 community-led initiatives, systematically documenting their environmental, social and livelihood outcomes and facilitating cross-learning among communities, practitioners and stakeholders.

Using a mixed-methods approach, the project combines field visits, key informant interviews, focus group discussions, structured surveys, project reports and monitoring data. During July–September 2026, the team developed a diverse portfolio of knowledge products, including case studies, newsletters, policy briefs, YouTube videos, photo stories and social media content, to communicate grassroots experiences and lessons in accessible formats.





The GEF-SGP India also organised a Knowledge Sharing Workshop for SGP-OP7 projects in Sindhudurg District on 7 September 2026, where Dr Susmita Mitra presented “The Knowledge Management Journey of GEF-SGP India OP7: Relevance, Experiences and Lessons Learned,” highlighting key experiences, innovations and lessons from the programme.

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.

- **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. Draft report writing is in progress.

- **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 Chair Corpus Fund) - by Deba Prasad Rath and 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. Draft report writing is in progress.

- **Financial Inclusion and Women Entrepreneurs: An Impact Study of Mudra Yojana in Telangana (Based on Comprehensive Primary Data) (RBI Chair Corpus Fund) - by Deba Prasad Rath and 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 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 (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 Uday Kumar Gupta (CSD, Hyderabad)

The study focuses on the cultivation of rice varieties that are GI tagged and examines the impact of registration on livelihoods, income and the challenges in achieving the potential thereof. Based on the preliminary study visits, the house listing of farmer households spread across 8 varieties in 6 states have been completed or nearing completion. The instrument for data collection of baseline survey is finalised. The baseline survey will be conducted before or during the harvest of crops. This would also enable to capture the supply chain of these rice varieties, marketing challenges and resilience of farmers.



- 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, majority of the working population engaged in the unorganised sector, which comprises diverse roles from construction to domestic and farm work. 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. Due to inconsistent employment, perilous work environments, and absence of comprehensive social security provisions such as health insurance, pensions, or accident compensation creates instabilities and insecurities among construction workers.

The central government and Telangana state government have introduced various schemes to assist unorganised workers. However, most of the implementation and outreach have not been delivered 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.

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

Agriculture is the backbone of Telangana's economy, supporting the livelihoods of nearly 55 per cent of the state's population. In recent years a number of economists have focused on agriculture's "contributions" to economic development, an approach that is useful in countering the tendency of many development economists to neglect the agricultural sector. Within the agriculture sector three different dimensions namely field crops, vegetables and fruits and livestock are predominately dominating farmers' economic development. Cultivators who solely depend on field crops appear to have experienced with low and less or loss of income and majority of them appeared to be fall in the same trap as well. Contrary to this, less number of farmers paid attention in the multiple crop cultivation along with livestock rearing which enable them to enhance their annual income consistently. In fact, Telangana state, the value of livestock also increased to 35 per cent followed by milk and meat i.e. 20 per cent. Remarkably, the value of paddy and pulses has sharply declined from 40 per cent to 20 per cent. Changing dynamics of field crops, livestock and fruits and vegetables play a significant role at grassroots level in order to assessing the farmers' income improvement levels.

Such dynamism will slowly lead to change of farmers' psychology of choosing the multiple agricultural occupations simultaneously. This emerging phenomenon giving rise to change the existing agriculture sector's income structure which ultimately led to the enhancing farmers' income on the one hand and few farmers' income has also been stagnant on the other. The housing listing survey is completed, and a structured questionnaire has been finalized. A household-level survey that is expected to finish in April.

Events

Events – CSD Delhi

• **The Durgabai Deshmukh Memorial Lecture 2026**

Date: 15 July 2026

Venue: C.D. Deshmukh Auditorium, India International Centre, New Delhi

The Durgabai Deshmukh Memorial Lecture 2026 was held on 15 July 2026 at the India International Centre, New Delhi. Prof. Mihir Shah, Distinguished Professor at Shiv Nadar University, delivered the lecture titled "A New Consciousness for a Fractured Time: Charting a Path of Genuine Transformation." He discussed key development challenges, including access to water, nutrition, health, education and employment. Emphasising water management, he called for collaborative, participatory and community-based approaches that respect diverse knowledge and the environment.



- **Report Release Event of the ICSSR Study on Equitable Education for Viksit Bharat: Exploring School Dropout and Exclusion of Vulnerable Sections for Policy Suggestions**

Date: 14 September 2026

Venue: India International Centre, New Delhi



The report of the recently completed study was released by Shri T. K. Anil Kumar, Secretary, Department of School Education & Literacy, Ministry of Education, on 14 September 2026 at the India International Centre, New Delhi. The report examines school dropout and educational exclusion, with a focus on SCs, STs, girls and Muslims, drawing on fresh field evidence across states to explore socio-economic, gender, caste and regional factors shaping educational discontinuation. It offers policy recommendations to strengthen retention, inclusion and equitable access, contributing to the vision of Shikshit Bharat and Viksit Bharat. The report was well received by the Chief Guest, Chair and distinguished panellists. The launch was attended by nearly 50 participants, followed by a panel discussion chaired by Shri Amarjeet Sinha, with Prof. R. Govinda, Dr. Sekhar Bonu, Shri Sanjay Kumar, Prof. Shantha Sinha and Ms. Marguerite Clarke serving as panellists and providing valuable feedback and suggestions.

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

Date: 15 September 2026

Venue: India International Centre, New Delhi

The Muchkund Dubey Centre for Right to Education, CSD, in collaboration with Humana People to People India and Tata Trusts, organised a National Stakeholder Consultation on Out-of-School Children (OoSC) in India on 15 September 2026 at IIC, New Delhi. The consultation brought together nearly 70 experts from the education sector, including representatives of NGOs, civil society organisations and domain experts working on the concerns of OoSC.



Participants shared experiences, promising models, implementation challenges and evidence, and deliberated on priorities for future interventions, research, partnerships and funding to strengthen educational access and inclusion for vulnerable children and adolescents across India. The report writing for the study is underway.

- **Training on Solstice Portal** by Dr. Vihsal Nayak, Mr. Gitesh Sinha, Ms. Ramandeep Kaur and Dr. Poornima M

Date: 29-30 September 2026

Venue: Rajasthan Adult Education Association, Jaipur

CSD conducted one and a half day training on Solstice for FED field staff from nine blocks in Jaipur on 29-30 September 2026. The training had about 28 participants and it focused on developing survey tools, using the Solstice app for digital data collection, geo-tagging, and other field-level applications. The sessions aimed to strengthen staff capacity for efficient and accurate survey design and data collection.



Institutional Collaboration

• CSD and NIESBUD Sign MoU to Promote Research and Entrepreneurship Development on 10 August, 2026

Council for Social Development (CSD), New Delhi and National Institute for Entrepreneurship and Small Business Development (NIESBUD), have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to foster collaboration in entrepreneurship development, training, capacity building, and social development initiatives. The partnership will explore key areas of cooperation by leveraging the strengths and expertise of both institutions to promote inclusive entrepreneurship, capacity enhancement, and sustainable socio-economic development.



MoU Exchanged Between

Council for Social Development (CSD), New Delhi
and
National Institute for Entrepreneurship and Small Business
Development (NIESBUD)

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Events – CSD Hyderabad

- **Capacity Building Programme for Internal Faculty and Research Team on Large Datasets – NSSO and PLFS – Extraction, Analysis and Interpretation, sponsored by ICSSR, New Delhi under OH-31 grant from July 29 to July 31, 2026.**

The main objectives of the programmes are: (1) To provide an overview of different themes and topics covered under NSSO & PLFS datasets; (2) To equip the participants in the navigation of these large datasets through the use of STATA software; and (3) To enable them to extract, analyse and interpret data from large datasets through hands-on-sessions. The resource person of the programme was Prof. Jajati Keshari Parida, School of Economics, University of Hyderabad. Twelve internal faculty and research staff participated in the programme.

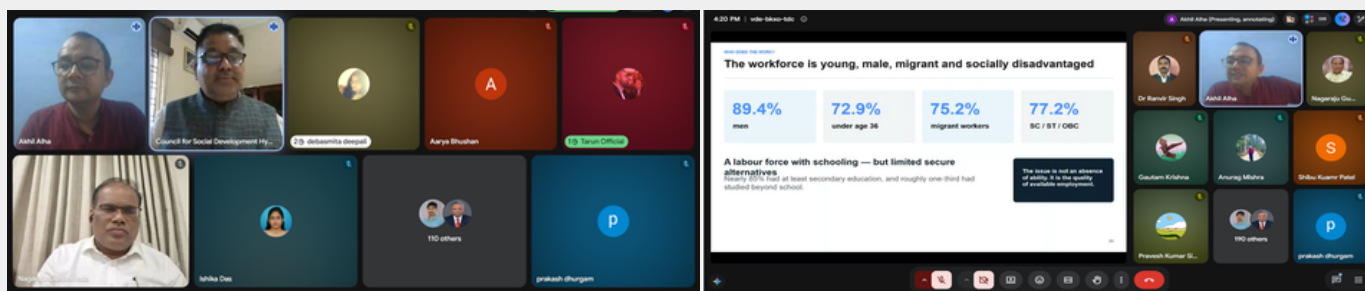
- **Two-Day Training Programme on "Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS)" at A.V. College of Arts, Science and Commerce, Domalguda, Hyderabad.**

The Council for Social Development, Hyderabad, organised a Two-Day Training Programme on SPSS for undergraduate students of A.V. College of Arts, Science and Commerce, Domalguda, Hyderabad, from September 12–13, 2026. Around 80 undergraduate students from various disciplines, including B.Sc., B.B.A., B.Com., and B.A., participated in the training programme. The Heads of various Departments of the College also attended the programme. The training programme provided participants with an introduction to data management, statistical analysis, and interpretation using SPSS. Emphasis was placed on a practical and hands-on approach, enabling the participants to develop basic skills in data entry, coding, validation, data management, and statistical analysis using SPSS. The programme concluded with active participation from the students and faculty members.



Public Lecture

- “Livelihoods in Platform Economy: Work, Earnings and Inequality among Gig Workers in India” by Dr. Akhil Alha, Assistant Professor, Council for Social Development, New Delhi on 28th August 2026 in virtual mode. Prof. Nagaraju Gundemeda, Department of Sociology, School of Social Sciences, University of Hyderabad, Hyderabad chaired the lecture.



- **National Workshop on Research Methodologies for Sustainable Livelihoods in India, sponsored by ICSSR, New Delhi.**

The RBI Chair organised the National Workshop on Research Methodologies for Sustainable Livelihoods in India at the Council for Social Development (CSD), Hyderabad, with sponsorship from the Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR), New Delhi, during 8-18 September 2026.



The workshop is aimed at strengthening the research capabilities of scholars and practitioners working on sustainable livelihoods and related socio-economic issues. It brought together researchers and experts to discuss methodological approaches, empirical research, field-based studies, data analysis and report writing. The workshop was attended by 32 participants from Indian universities across diverse disciplines.

- **Lectures organised**

1. Income, Savings, Credit, and Household Livelihood Security



As part of the National Workshop on Research Methodologies for Sustainable Livelihoods in India, Prof. Deba Prasad Rath delivered an insightful lecture on “Income, Savings, Credit, and Household Livelihood Security (HLS)”. The lecture explored the close interrelationship between household income, savings behaviour, access to credit, financial vulnerability, and livelihood security.

Prof. Rath highlighted that a household's economic security depends not only on income level and stability but also on its ability to save, access appropriate credit, manage financial shocks, and protect consumption and productive assets during periods of economic uncertainty.

The discussion emphasised savings as an important mechanism for building household resilience, while access to affordable, timely credit can enable households to meet emergencies, invest in productive activities, support education and health expenditures, and strengthen livelihood opportunities.

The session also, based on a field study, connected household-level financial behaviour to the broader concept of Household Livelihood Security (HLS), highlighting how income diversification, savings, access to institutional credit, and effective financial management can strengthen a household's capacity to withstand economic shocks. The lecture was particularly relevant to researchers undertaking field-based studies on livelihoods, poverty, financial inclusion and household economic resilience.

2. A Deep Dive into Report Writing - A Case Study on MUDRA as a Sustainable Finance Scheme

As part of the National Workshop on Research Methodologies for Sustainable Livelihoods in India, Prof. Deba Prasad Rath delivered a second lecture titled “A Deep Dive into Report Writing - A Case Study on MUDRA as a Sustainable Finance Scheme.” The session focused on the importance of transforming research findings and empirical evidence into a well-structured, analytical and policy-relevant research report.

Using the Pradhan Mantri MUDRA Yojana (PMMY) as a case study, Prof. Rath explained how a research report should move systematically from the research problem and objectives to methodology, data collection, analysis, findings, interpretation, conclusions and policy recommendations. He emphasised that effective report writing requires not merely presenting data but also explaining what the evidence means, identifying emerging patterns and connecting the findings with broader development and policy concerns.



Prof. Rath also stressed the importance of clarity, coherence, evidence-based argumentation and logical presentation in research writing. Participants were encouraged to distinguish between facts, findings, interpretation and recommendations, while ensuring that conclusions are firmly supported by empirical evidence.

Book Launching Ceremony

A significant academic activity during the quarter was the Book Launching Ceremony organised by the RBI Chair, Council for Social Development, Hyderabad, on 9 September 2026 at 5:30 PM at CSD, Hyderabad.

The book launched was: ***Fiscal Imbalances and Challenges in Indian Fiscal Federalism: The Paradox of Devolution***

Authors:

- Dr Sushanta Kumar Mahapatra, Associate Professor, Department of Economics, ICFAI School of Social Sciences, Hyderabad
- Dr Motilal Mahamalik, Director (I/C), Institute of Development Studies, Jaipur
- Dr Pareswar Sahu, Lecturer in Economics, Barpali College, Bargarh, Odisha

The book carries a Foreword by **Dr C. Rangarajan**.

The programme was organised under the academic leadership of the RBI Chair and provided a platform to discuss fiscal federalism, fiscal imbalances, and the challenges of devolution in India.



Prof. Sujit Kumar Mishra, Regional Director, CSD, Hyderabad, introduced the book and highlighted its relevance to the current economic context. He emphasised the importance of the book's themes for understanding contemporary economic challenges and policy responses. He also noted that the book provides valuable insights for researchers, policymakers, and students interested in India's evolving economic landscape.

Prof. Deba Prasad Rath in his Book Release Address mentioned that the challenges in public finance are very dynamic, with many moving parts, and at the heart of these challenges lie two familiar imbalances that this book takes up in detail - the vertical imbalance between the Centre and the states, and the horizontal imbalance among the states themselves. Also beyond this, there are concerns around the poor quality of expenditure, with rising revenue deficits leading to fiscal indiscipline and financial dependence on the Centre and rising debt – issues on which more deliberation is required. Our research at CSD, Hyderabad shows that improved policy coordination and expenditure quality, among other's, lead to higher economic growth in turn, powering the state finances. It is in this context that this book becomes important to students, researchers and policymakers.

The programme brought together academic and policy perspectives on India's fiscal federal structure and helped disseminate research on contemporary issues in public finance and intergovernmental fiscal relations.

Publications- CSD Delhi

Durgabai Deshmukh Memorial Lecture 2026: A New Consciousness for a Fractured Time: Rethinking India's Development Path, delivered by Shri Mihir Shah on 15 July 2026.



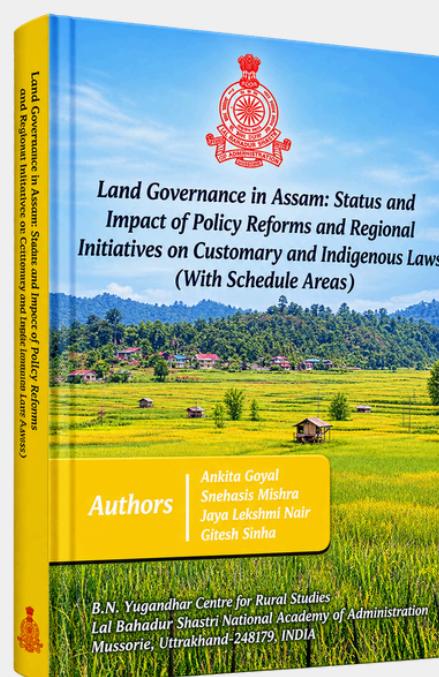
Journal

Social Change – Volume 56, Issue 3, September 2026

Faculty Activities - CSD Delhi

Book

Ankita Goyal, Snehasis Mishra, Jaya Lekshmi Nair and Gitesh Sinha (2026): *Land Governance in Assam: Status and Impacts of Policy Reforms and Regional Initiatives on Customary and Indigenous Laws (Vllth Schedule Areas)*. B.N. Yugandhar Centre for Rural Studies, Lal Bahadur Shastri National Academy of Administration, Mussoorie, Uttarakhand.



Media Article

- Nanda, Nitya (2026): “7.8% Quarterly GDP Growth is Quite Realistic.” *The Sunday Guardian*, 6 September 2026.
- Pandey, M. K. and Mitra, S. (2026): “The Invisible Builders of Viksit Bharat: The Communities Restoring India’s Coasts—and Its Future.” *DigiTIMES*, 23 July 2026.



- Mitra, S. and Tiwari, A. K. (2026): “Why Micro-Irrigation Needs More Than Subsidies.” *The Economic Times*, 9 July 2026.

Not a Tech, But Adoption, Leak



**Susmita Mitra &
Atul K Tiwari**

India's water challenge is also an economic challenge. Severe El Niño conditions can weaken the monsoon, reduce agricultural output, fuel food inflation and impose cumulative economic losses approaching \$1 tn (₹5.6 lakh cr) over time. In a country where agriculture consumes nearly 80% of available freshwater, climate adaptation is no longer just an environmental priority but an economic necessity.

Recognising this, GoI has approved a plan to bring another 100 lakh ha under micro-irrigation through the revamped PM Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY). The target is timely. But achieving it will require more than expanding subsidies. It'll require solving India's biggest irrigation challenge, which is farmer adoption.

A recent Council for Social Development (CSD) study provides fresh evidence. Based on a survey of 500 farming households in the semi-arid

districts of Nuh in Haryana and Alwar in Rajasthan, the study found that micro-irrigation reduced wheat cultivation costs by 15%, increased net returns by nearly 20%, improved yields by about 11%, and saved up to 18 labour hours per acre during every irrigation cycle.

Women also reported lower drudgery and more time for income-generating activities. These findings reinforce evidence from across India that micro-irrigation improves productivity, profitability and resilience. While economic and environmental benefits of micro-irrigation are well established across India, the study explains why we cannot reap the full benefits.

India doesn't have a technology gap. It has an adoption gap. The study found: ▶ Although 60% of surveyed farmers had adopted water-saving technologies, adoption reached 87% among large farmers but only 59% among small-holders.

▶ Regression analysis showed that education, extension services, farmer organisations, digital information, PM-KISAN support and reliable electricity significantly increased adoption. Participation in training improved adoption by nearly 65%. Yet, knowledge-attitude-practice (KAP) analysis revealed a striking disconnect. While 72% of farmers knew that micro-irrigation conserves water,



Sprinkle more usage

fewer than 46% translated that knowledge into good farming practices.

▶ The agent-based model helped identify practical ways to encourage more farmers to adopt micro-irrigation. The simulations suggest that awareness campaigns, peer learning from fellow farmers and field demonstrations can substantially increase interest in the technology.

When these efforts are combined with modest improvements in farmers' incomes and financial support through subsidies, adoption could increase even further. The model estimates that, among 40% of farmers who had not adopted micro-irrigation during the study, around 23% could become interested in adopting it if they perceive sufficient benefits (if mean utility is reduced). Among these potential adopters, about 13% could adopt the technology if they can afford the required investment.

Three low-cost policy shifts can rapidly accelerate adoption:

● Make field demonstrations, peer learning and exposure visits integral to every micro-irrigation programme rather than treating them as optional extension activities.

● To sustain adoption by farmers, it's necessary to deploy krishi didis/sakhis, trained SHG members, krishi vigyan kendras (KVKs) and farmer producer organisations (FPOs) as village-level 'water ambassadors' to build farmers' confidence, provide hands-on guidance and encourage sustained adoption.

● Complement financial incentives with continuous capacity-building through digital advisory platforms, refresher training and local technical support. KAP analysis suggests that knowledge or tech are not enough. Policies must help farmers translate positive knowledge and attitudes into sustained on-field practice. This requires a grassroots support system for farmers, as it was done in the primary health delivery system.

India's Green Revolution solved the challenge of food security. The next revolution must secure water security. Because in an era of climate uncertainty, every drop saved is not merely water conserved but prosperity created.

Mitra is assistant professor, and Tiwari is director, Council for Social Development (CSD), New Delhi



- Mitra, Susmita: Delivered a lecture on “Understanding Systematic Literature Review” at the Writing Workshop organised by IIT Roorkee and Sage, 28 September 2026.
- Nanda, Nitya: Delivered a lecture titled “*Global Value Chain and India*” at the Online Refresher Course on Economics, Commerce and Management, Centre for Professional Development in Higher Education (CPDHE), University of Delhi, 10 September 2026.
- Nanda, Nitya: Delivered a lecture titled “*India’s Industrial Policy: Past and Present*” at the Online Refresher Course on Economics, Commerce and Management, Centre for Professional Development in Higher Education (CPDHE), University of Delhi, 9 September 2026.
- Mitra, Susmita: Presented “*The Knowledge Management Journey of GEF-SGP India OP7: Relevance, Experiences and Lessons Learned*” at the Knowledge Sharing Workshop held at DPC Hall, Oros, Sindhudurg District, 7 September 2026.
- Alha, Akhil: Delivered a lecture titled “*Livelihoods in Platform Economy: Work, Earnings and Inequality among Gig Workers in India*” at the Council for Social Development, Hyderabad, 28 August 2026.
- Alha, Akhil: Delivered two lectures on “*State-Led Legislation for Gig and Platform Workers*” as part of the Capacity Building Programme at V. V. Giri National Labour Institute, 25 August 2026.
- Nanda, Nitya: Delivered a lecture titled “*Poverty, Development and Global Justice*” at Rethinking Global Justice: A Symposium in Honour of Professor Thomas Pogge, Nalanda University, Rajgir, 13 August 2026.

Faculty Activities - CSD Hyderabad

Publications

Book

Sujit Kumar Mishra, Subhransu Tripathy and Amiya Kumar Sahoo (2026): Common Property Resources (CPRs): Practices, Laws and Challenges in Odisha. B.N. Yugandhar Centre for Rural Studies, Lal Bahadur Shastri National Academy of Administration, Mussoorie, Uttarakhand.

Web Publications/ Online Articles

- Rath, Deba Prasad and Rewanth Raichooti (2026): “Why Public Debt is Important for Monetary Policy Transmission.” Basis Point Insight, 23 July 2026.
- Raj Kumar Kattula (2026): “India’s Tea Industry Has a Skill Crisis, Not Just a Labour Shortage.” Basis Point Insight, 18 July 2026.
- Rewanth Raichooti, Savani Mane and Tuhinshubra Giri (2026): “Gujarat Model Needs a Welfare Correction.” Policy Circle, 14 July 2026.
- K. S. Sujit and Sujit Kumar Mishra (2026): “India’s Growth Story Looks Strong, But Half the Population Is Missing.” Basis Point Insight, 8 July 2026.
- Rath, Deba Prasad and Rewanth Raichooti (2026): “Why Monetary Policy Independence is Vital for Sustainable Growth.” Basis Point Insight, 1 July 2026.

Lectures

- Mishra, Sujit Kumar: Delivered a lecture titled “The Art of Writing an Academic Paper: Select Key Aspects” at the ICSSR-sponsored Ten-Day National Workshop on “Research Methodologies for Sustainable Livelihoods in India,” organised by the Council for Social Development, Hyderabad, 8–18 September 2026.
- Mishra, Sujit Kumar: Delivered a lecture titled “From Ideas to Arguments: The Art of Writing an Academic Piece” at the Six-Day Training Workshop on “Social Science Research Methodology & Writing Skills,” organised by the Chancellor’s Office, Bihar Lok Bhavan, and the Department of Higher Education, Government of Bihar, in collaboration with the ICSSR, Ministry of Education, Government of India, 12–16 September 2026.
- Mishra, Sujit Kumar: Delivered a lecture titled “Beyond the Research Paper: Writing Book Reviews, Newspaper Articles and Photo Essays” at the Six-Day Training Workshop on “Social Science Research Methodology & Writing Skills,” organised by the Chancellor’s Office, Bihar Lok Bhavan, and the Department of Higher Education, Government of Bihar, in collaboration with the ICSSR, Ministry of Education, Government of India, 12–16 September 2026.



- Satyam, Sunkari: Delivered a lecture titled “Localisation of the Sustainable Development Goals: Evidence from Grassroots Observation” at the Ten-Day National Workshop on “Research Methodologies for Sustainable Livelihoods in India,” organised by the Council for Social Development, Hyderabad, 8–18 September 2026. The lecture was delivered on 12 September 2026.
- Raj, D. Sunder: Delivered a lecture titled “Praxeology of the Field: Navigating Challenges and Opportunities in Livelihood Data Collection” at the Ten-Day National Workshop on “Research Methodologies for Sustainable Livelihoods in India,” organised by the Council for Social Development, Hyderabad, 8–18 September 2026. The lecture was delivered on 9 September 2026.



Other Activities

- Prof. Sujit Kumar Mishra attended Programme Committee meeting of ICSSR-SRC as a Committee Member for Scrutiny and evaluation of the seminar/ workshop / conference proposals received under 1st Quarter of the FY 2026-2027 for granting partial financial assistance on July 09, 2026.
- Mr D. Sunder Raj participated in fieldwork undertaken as part of the Geographical Indication (GI) Study in Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh from 17th to 23rd August 2026. The field visit involved direct engagement with producers, farmers, local stakeholders and resource persons associated with GI-tagged and traditional agricultural products (Bhandara Chinnor Rice & Bhalaghat Chinor Rice).
- Prof. Deba Prasad Rath, RBI Chair Professor, CSD Hyderabad, conducted a course of academic lectures on Macroeconomics for students of the Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS) in September-November 2026. The course focused on developing students' understanding of key macroeconomic concepts and their relevance to contemporary economic policy. The sessions covered themes relating to macroeconomic policy, monetary and fiscal policy, economic growth, inflation, external sector issues and the broader policy environment in which emerging economies operate. The engagement provided an opportunity to connect theoretical macroeconomic concepts with practical policy experiences drawn from Prof. Rath's experience at the Reserve Bank of India.



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• **CSD Hyderabad** on Open Economy
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