

CHAPTER 52

SOCIAL WORK

Doctoral Theses

01. IRTIFA MUKHTER
Socio-economic and Environmental Implications of Solid and Liquid Waste Management in Rural Kashmir.
Supervisors: Prof. Richa Chowdhary
Th 28507

Abstract

A comprehensive strategy incorporating infrastructure development, community engagement, education, and sustainable waste management practices is required to address the complex issues at hand. Inadequate waste management threatens tourism, intensifies the consequences of climate change, and has an adverse effect on agriculture, the economy, and water quality. Improved living conditions, environmental protection, and sustainable development all depend on effective waste management. Success requires both national and local initiatives, like the Swachh Bharat Mission. Methods and Materials The study adopted a Mixed Methods research design to understand the phenomena. The first phase of the study constituted qualitative, in-depth interviews with twenty Respondents and twenty Key-informants. The qualitative interviews were analyzed manually. The 2nd phase of the study included the development of a checklist to assess the Knowledge, Attitude and Practices of solid and liquid waste management in rural area. The tool was created using literature and qualitative data gathering and analysis. The main phase adopted a cross-sectional research design to investigate 500 respondents. All participants were assessed by a Socio-demographic profile, and Checklist to Access Knowledge, Attitude and Practices of solid and liquid waste management in rural areas. Descriptive statistics such as mean, standard deviation, median, interquartile range, and percentages were used to summarize the continuous and categorical variables. This study performed parametric and non-parametric statistical tests such as independent samples t-test, One-way ANOVA, Mann-Whitney U test & Kruskal Wallis tests to understand the mean differences. Results The participants predominantly constituted males with a median age of 38 years. Most of the participants were from lower-socio-economic families, most people have pakka house but in waste management there is no up gradation. There are more male household heads than females. This shows the extent to which men traditionally dominate the household in rural areas of Kashmir.

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1. Introduction 2. Review of literature 3. Methodology 4. Result 5. Discussion 6. Summary and conclusion. Reference.

02. JAN (Aksa)
Delineating the Lived Experiences of Half-Widows in Kashmir: A Phenomenological Inquiry.
Supervisors: Prof. Sanjoy Roy
Th 28508

Abstract

The purpose of this study was to delineate the lived experiences of half-widows in Kashmir. The researcher examined the issues and challenges associated with the phenomenon. Using a triangulating framework of critical feminist, stigma and scarcity theories, this study explored the underlying factors that shapes their liminality, ambiguity and resilience; how factors such as stereotyping, social isolation, scarcity of resources and womanhood affect their mental health; the coping strategies adopted to deal with their marginalization. In this phenomenological research, a total of twenty five half-widows, who self identified as widows of disappeared individuals, from Kashmir were interviewed using a semi-structured interview schedule. The data was collected in person over a period of six months. The researcher carried out the field work during data collection on her own. The interviews were conducted in their local language which was later transcribed into English and analyzed using interpretative phenomenological analysis. The findings were categorized under five main categories namely, lived experiences of half-widows, scarcity and survival, social stigma and marginalization, mental health and interpersonal relationships, and coping and resilience. It was found that half-widows live under socially, economically and politically scarce spaces. Their experiences of stigma are exacerbated and marked by continuous scrutiny from the state, social isolation and stereotyping. The inherent patriarchal values of the society confound these factors to affect their mobility, mental health and interpersonal relationships and is not restricted to themselves but perpetuated inter-generationally to their children. Therefore, the researcher has proposed a holistic intervention framework where safe spaces should be created where aspects of community building, mental health resources, agency and legal resources should be integrated to help them navigate the challenges in a more efficient way.

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1. Introducing half-widows in Kashmir: tracing silence and survival 2. A review of literature: contextualizing half-widowhood in Kashmir 3. Framing half-widowhood: a theoretical lens on critical feminist, stigma and scarcity 4. Phenomenological inquiry into half-widowhood: research design and methodological approach 5. Background of participants: stories 6. Between hope and despair: the lived realities of half widowhood 7. Interpreting lived experiences: discussion and intervention 8. Conclusion, implications and recommendations. References.

03. JHA (Preeti)

Women-led Social Enterprises: Outcomes, Challenges, and Opportunities.

Supervisors: Prof. Seema Sharma

Th 28509

Abstract

Women entrepreneurs in India have increasingly emerged as vital contributors to the nation's economic and social development. Within this broader landscape, women-led social enterprises have emerged as powerful medium for inclusive development. These are organizations that combine business practices with a strong social mission, often aiming to uplift underprivileged communities, improve quality of life, or solve specific local problems such as education gaps, poor health services, or gender inequality. This study, *Women-led Social Enterprises: Outcomes, Challenges, and Opportunities*, is a descriptive research study of ten women-led social enterprises in India. This study aims to understand the business models of the women-led social enterprises. The research further studies the structure and

functions of the women-led social enterprises. It further studies the outcomes of the women-led social enterprises using critical success framework, challenges faced by women entrepreneurs and finally opportunities which are available to them. Lastly the study shows the implication of social work for social enterprises. The research concludes that women-led social enterprises do not follow any single business model. They have shown different traits of multiple models. The findings highlighted a new model, named as Profit-for Purpose, which had unique characteristics which was not found in literature. The study further states women-led organizations follow simple structure, functional structure, network structure and hybrid structure. Their functions are aligned with the structures. The founders of the organizations practice participatory, democratic and collaborative leadership focusing on empowerment and facing real world challenges. The research highlights the outcomes of women-led social enterprises as mission-driven social impact, systemic influence and community driven design amongst other. The study highlights the challenges faced by women entrepreneurs due to socio-cultural barriers. The study further explores the opportunities available for women social entrepreneurs. This research concluded with recommendations and scope for future research.

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1. Introduction 2. Review of literature 3. Research methodology 4. Women-led social enterprises under the study 5. Business models in women-led social enterprises 6. Structure and functions of women-led social enterprises 7. Outcomes, challenges, and opportunities in women-led social enterprises 8. Social work and social enterprises – conclusion and recommendations. Bibliography.

04. MAYA KUMARI

Exploring Proximate and Distal Factors Affecting Utilisation of Obstetric Services among Rural Women – A case Study of Saharsa, Bihar.

Supervisor: Dr. Shashi Rani

Th 28763

Abstract

The present study title, ‘Exploring proximate and distal factors affecting utilisation of obstetric services among rural women – A case study of Saharsa district, Bihar’, attempted to explore the factors that create barriers in the utilisation of obstetric care services. In India, obstetric care becomes important in view of the maternal mortality rate (MMR) and infant mortality rate (IMR), which have been reduced through government initiatives. Despite significant strides in reducing maternal death and improving maternal health, acute regional and social disparities persist. This synthesis examines the multifaceted factors influencing safe motherhood initiatives and associated challenges experienced by women from their homes to health centres in accessing health services during pregnancy. Additionally, their perception, opinion, practices and beliefs towards maternal health care are also captured. The study area for the present study was selected based on literacy rate and distance to PHC, which are crucial factors affecting obstetric services utilisation in rural settings. Through a qualitative approach, the challenges the rural women face in the selected area have been studied in depth. Several factors significantly impact the healthcare utilisation among pregnant women. All the factors have been categorised into proximate and distal, which refer to individual-level and institutional-level factors. However, poverty, illiteracy and geographical backwardness have been identified as significant factors as almost all the respondents were repeatedly reported about these factors. Moreover, women also face several challenges due to the unavailability of health care infrastructure,

inadequate facilities and a shortage of doctors, which is also a major challenge. Addressing these complex challenges requires comprehensive and tailored interventions; hence, recommendations are given accordingly. Keywords: Obstetric Care, maternal health, proximate and distal factors, Bihar.

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1. Introduction 2. Review of literature 3. Methodology and Profile of the Study Area 4. Social and Demographic Profile of the Respondent 5. Proximate and Distal Factors Affecting Obstetric Services 6. Conclusion and recommendations. References. Annexures.

05. NONGMAITHEM (Josephine)
Study of Community Vulnerability and Capacity in the context of Climate Change in Majuli, Assam.
 Supervisor: Prof. Neera Agnimitra
Th 28510

Abstract

Majuli is a river island located amid the Brahmaputra River in Assam. The impacts of climate change have been felt in Majuli, with continuous shifts in rainfall patterns as well as changes in temperature. The river island has a complex composition of different ethnicities, which have, over centuries, developed livelihoods and knowledge systems in response to the environmental risks posed by the river. This study focuses on how climate change is impacting and is likely to further impact, the lives of people inhabiting Majuli. It aims to draw insights into the human dimension of climate change and the plight of the local communities due to such changes. Additionally, the study underscores the vulnerability aspects of climate change-induced disasters in Majuli, highlighting the specific vulnerabilities faced by marginalised groups in flood-prone regions. It explores the nature of resilience and coping strategies that the people have evolved or are evolving to cope with the impact of climate change. Furthermore, it delves into responses to climate-induced disasters, focusing on the strategies implemented by both governmental and non-governmental organisations, as well as public perceptions of these responses. The study also highlights the role of Social Work in mitigating the impact of climate change. This research employs a qualitative methodology, with a descriptive research design that captures the lived experiences of individuals and communities facing various climate-related risks. The qualitative analysis within the study deepens the understanding of the complex issues at play, providing a comprehensive view of the intersection between climate change, vulnerability, and community resilience in Majuli.

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06. PRANSHU
Study of Adolescent Boys in an Urban Slum of Delhi: Socio-Ecological Perspective.
 Supervisor: Prof. MEENU ANAND
Th 28511

Abstract

Adolescent boys living in urban slums in India face multifaceted challenges that impact their growth and development. The urban slums as a densely populated areas are often characterized by poor living conditions, lack of infrastructure, and inadequate basic services such as sanitation, potable water, as well as healthcare. Growing up in such environments, adolescent boys are exposed to vulnerabilities, including violence, substance abuse, and the pressure to earn money at a young age. According to a study by Bhatia et al. (2021), financial hardships and the absence of safe recreational spaces compel many boys to drop out of school and take up informal labour, perpetuating cycles of poverty and limiting their future opportunities. This lack of access to quality education and skill development programs exacerbates the socio-economic inequalities they face. Peer influence plays a significant role in shaping the lives of adolescent boys in Indian urban slums. Due to the absence of structured support systems, boys often turn to their peer groups for social identity and belonging. However, these networks can expose them to risky behaviours such as substance abuse and delinquency. A report by UNICEF (2020) highlights that boys from slum areas are particularly vulnerable to falling into these cycles due to limited parental supervision and societal pressures to conform to traditional notions of masculinity. The social dynamics often lead to adverse mental health outcomes, including stress, anxiety, and depression, which are seldom addressed due to the stigma around mental health in such communities and the lack of accessible mental health services. To support adolescent boys in urban slums, interventions must tackle both their immediate challenges and long-term developmental goals. Intervention programs rooted in the community that emphasize education, vocational training, and mentorship can empower the adolescent boys with essential skills to enhance their economic opportunities while promoting constructive social behaviours. Moreover, establishing safe spaces for recreation and emotional expression is vital for mitigating their susceptibility to risky activities and enhancing their mental well-being. Agarwal and Taneja (2022) suggest, holistic strategies which involves local stakeholders, including parents, teachers and community leaders, are essential to break the cycle of poverty and provide the adolescent boys with opportunities to lead fulfilling lives. Tailored policies and sustained efforts are necessary to address the structural inequalities that shape the lives of adolescent boys in India's urban slums.

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1. Introduction 2. Understanding adolescent boys in an urban slum of Delhi 3. Interaction of adolescent boys with parents and community 4. Risk and protective factors towards adolescent boys 5. Adolescent mental health and social 9. Conclusion. References.

07. RATAWAL (Vasudha)
Intergenerational Mobility Among the Scheduled Castes Employees: A Study on the Northern Indian Railways.
 Supervisor: Prof. Avtar Singh
Th 28512

Abstract

The low number of women in the political systems has received attention by the scholars and researchers worldwide. The number of studies which have been conducted continue to locate the issue from a quantitative perspective. This perspective addresses the issue of low number of women in the political systems from a tangible viewpoint which emerges from statistical and numerical data. Such studies and statistical data on women in politics tell the dismal tale of low representation of women. The issue is

tackled by formulation of mechanisms for the effective recognition and increased representation of women in politics. These mechanisms although have played a major role in putting forward the question of under-representation and forming strategies to reduce the gap. But restricting the debate to institutional strategies and mechanism is a short-sighted approach which does not engage with the complex experiences of women in political arrangements. This study has aimed at raising a critical question and initiating a dialogue on the effective participation of women workers within the three significant parties of the Indian sub-continent. It focuses on the women workers within the party and their roles, responsibilities and growth within the three national parties namely the Indian National Congress, Aam Aadmi Party and Bhartiya Janata Party. It investigates the role of family, marriage, political party and self which determine the low participation from the life-experiences of these women. The role of traditional gendered norms in shaping the lives of these women is explored in this study. It focuses on the complexities and problems of women's situation in politics and the role of institutions which influence those situations particularly from within the premise of being a woman worker in the three respective parties.

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08. ROY (Debosree)

Study of Women Working in the Tea Gardens of Assam with Special Emphasis on Health.

Supervisor: Prof. Beena Antony Reji

Th 28513

Abstract

The tea industry in Assam is one of the largest employers of women, yet the health conditions of women tea garden workers remain a critical concern. This study examines the health status of women working in Assam's tea plantations, emphasizing their socio-economic conditions, occupational health hazards, and access to healthcare services. Adopting a mixed-method approach, the research incorporates both quantitative and qualitative data to analyze their lifestyle, health-seeking behaviors, and the impact of socio-cultural factors on their well-being. Findings reveal that tea garden women workers face multiple health challenges, including high levels of undernutrition, anemia, and exposure to occupational hazards such as pesticide use and musculoskeletal disorders. Limited access to healthcare, inadequate sanitation, and socio-economic marginalization further exacerbate their vulnerabilities. The study highlights the role of government policies, trade unions, and non-governmental organizations in addressing these challenges. By advocating for comprehensive health interventions and policy reforms, this research aims to improve the quality of life for women tea garden workers in Assam and contribute to broader discussions on gender and health inequities in marginalized communities.

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1. Introduction 2. Review of literature 3. Research methodology 4. Profile of the women tea garden workers 5. Health related behaviours and beliefs 6. Quality of life of the women tea garden workers 7. Role of government and non-government organizations in rendering health services 8. Summary, findings and recommendations for social work intervention. Annexures.

09. SAROJ (Shyam Kanhaiya)
Prevalence of Tobacco use in Urban Slums of Delhi: A Study of Causative Factors and Barriers to Cessation Interventions.
 Supervisor: Prof. Tushti Bhardwaj
Th 28764

Abstract

Tobacco use is the world's leading cause of avertible death, contributing to severe health complications such as cardiovascular diseases, respiratory diseases and cancers. Urban slums are marginalized areas characterized by overcrowding, inadequate infrastructure, poor access to healthcare, and high levels of poverty and unemployment. These factors create a conducive environment for the initiation and continuation of tobacco use. The present study employed a quasi-experimental mixed method design to assess the prevalence of tobacco use among slum dwellers and to evaluate the effectiveness of a community-based tobacco cessation intervention. A cross-sectional survey was conducted to assess the current adult (18+ year) tobacco prevalence in six slums of Delhi. Community based tobacco cessation intervention was provided to the tobacco users at their home with 3 months of follow-up. The study found the prevalence rate among adult tobacco users as 22.9% (n=1060), 85.6% were male and 14.4% were female tobacco users. Out of 335 households (HHs), there were 55.5% of the HHs, who have atleast one current adult tobacco user. Smokeless tobacco users were 44.4%, smokers were 28.4% and dual tobacco users were 27.2%. Majority of the tobacco users were middle aged adults {43.25 (\pm 14.7) years}. A large proportion of tobacco users were from low educational (43.6% were illiterate) and low income (36.2% daily wage labourers, 14% unemployed) background. The quit rate of 15% in intervention group, showed a significant positive effect of the intervention. The odds of not quitting tobacco were 1.429 times higher in the community control group as compared to the community intervention group (95% CI: 1.210-1.686). Task assigned to the tobacco users had positive effect in maintaining quit rate. Higher proportion of the quitters were those who had diagnosed with diseases. The study recommends implementing interventions among tobacco users with comorbid conditions and among women tobacco users.

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1. Introduction 2. Review of literature 3. Research methodology 4. Prevalence of Tobacco Use (Phase I) 5. Baseline Characteristics of the Study Population (Phase II) 6. Tobacco Cessation Intervention in Community (Intervention Group) 7. Tobacco Cessation Intervention in Clinic (Control Group) 8. Comparative Analysis of Intervention and Control Groups 9. Causative Factors and Barriers to Cessation 10. Discussion 11. Conclusion and recommendations. 12. Social Work Intervention and Community Based Model. References. Appendices. Annexure.