



Centre for Studies in
Population and Development



CHRIST
(DEEMED TO BE UNIVERSITY)
BANGALORE | DELHI NCR | PUNE

CSPD

CENTRE FOR STUDIES IN POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT

NEWSLETTER

JULY 2026

Research . Evidence . Impact



POPULATION



HEALTH



MIGRATION



TECHNOLOGY



CLIMATE CHANGE

FOR A JUST AND
SUSTAINABLE FUTURE



Centre for Studies in Population and Development (CSPD)
CHRIST (DEEMED TO BE UNIVERSITY)
DELHI NCR CAMPUS

ABOUT CHRIST

CHRIST (Deemed to be University) is one of India's leading multidisciplinary institutions, known for its commitment to academic excellence, innovation, and holistic education. Established in 1969 as Christ College and administered by the Carmelites of Mary Immaculate (CMI), the University draws inspiration from the educational vision of St. Kuriakose Elias Chavara, a renowned 19th-century educationalist and social reformer. His vision of providing quality education with strong ethical values continues to guide the institution.

Over the years, **CHRIST** has achieved several significant milestones. It was granted Autonomous Status by the University Grants Commission (UGC) in 2004, recognized as an Institution with Potential for Excellence in 2006, and was declared a Deemed to be University in 2008 under Section 3 of the UGC Act, 1956. The University has consistently maintained high academic standards and is currently accredited with an A+ Grade by NAAC. It is also ranked among the Top 100 Universities in India in the NIRF 2024 rankings by the Ministry of Education.

CHRIST (Deemed to be University), Delhi NCR Campus is a premier institution located in Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh, committed to the University's philosophy of "Excellence and Service." Established to extend CHRIST's legacy of academic excellence, the campus offers state-of-the-art infrastructure, experienced faculty, multidisciplinary programmes, and a vibrant learning environment that promotes holistic development. With a strong emphasis on research, innovation, industry engagement, and experiential learning, the campus nurtures responsible global citizens through academic rigor, co-curricular activities, and community service. Its serene, green campus, diverse student community, and numerous centres of excellence create an enriching ecosystem that prepares students to excel professionally while making meaningful contributions to society.



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CHRIST
DEEMED TO BE UNIVERSITY
DELHI NCR CAMPUS

CSPD NEWSLETTER JULY 2026

CENTRE FOR STUDIES IN
POPULATION AND
DEVELOPMENT (CSPD)

“
Research that
understands people.
Evidence that drives
progress.”



ABOUT CSPD

The Centre for Studies in Population and Development (CSPD) has been established at Christ (Deemed to be University), Delhi NCR Campus, as a Centre of excellence for research and policy in demography and socio-economic development. The Centre focuses on linking population research with sustainable and inclusive growth, addressing the evolving challenges of demographic transitions in India and beyond. The Centre envisions being a leader in fostering interdisciplinary scholarship, with emphasis on economic, social, and climate justice.



VISION

To become a leader in fostering interdisciplinary scholarship with emphasis on economic, social, and climate justice.



MISSION

To address the questions of rapid demographic shifts and development challenges through evidence-based research, collaboration, and capacity-building initiatives.

OBJECTIVES

Conduct research on population and development issues at micro, meso, and macro levels.

Facilitate collaborations and academic exchange with national and international research centres.

Promote interdisciplinary research and policy dialogue on demographic and development concerns.

Generate new data through field-based studies and maintain data repositories.

Empower individuals and communities through action-oriented research.



*Research, Evidence, Impact.
For a Just and Sustainable Future.*

KEY DOMAINS OF CSPD

Our research spans across critical areas that shape population dynamics and drive inclusive and sustainable development.



POPULATION DYNAMICS AND AGEING

Examination of population trends, fertility patterns, and family structures across diverse communities within the contexts of developing and advanced economies. Research on ageing, pensions, healthcare, and intergenerational equity in ageing populations.



HEALTH, MEDICINE, AND CARE ECONOMY

Explorations into healthcare systems, care work, and the social and economic dimensions of health and well-being.



HUMAN CAPITAL, LABOUR MARKETS AND MIGRATION

Focus on labour markets, including employment trends, skill development, quality of work, and migration.



SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION

Analyses on the development, diffusion, and impact of technology on productivity and societal change in a rapidly evolving world.



FOOD, ECOLOGY, AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Intersections of food systems, ecology, and climate change, focusing on sustainability, livelihoods, and environmental justice.



CSPD TEAM

A diverse and interdisciplinary team of scholars committed to advancing research, policy, and practice in population and development.



INTERNAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE



Fr. Dr. Vinod Michael
Director
CHRIST (Deemed to be University),
Delhi NCR Campus



Dr. Jeanne Poulse M
Dean
CHRIST (Deemed to be University),
Delhi NCR Campus



Dr. Bosco Paul Alapatt
Associate Dean
CHRIST (Deemed to be University),
Delhi NCR Campus



Harilal Madhavan (Director – CSPD)

Email: harilal.madhavan@christuniversity.in

Harilal Madhavan is an Associate Professor of Economics at CHRIST University, Bengaluru. He holds a PhD from the Centre for Development Studies (JNU) and has completed postdoctoral research at the Austrian Academy of Sciences and CNRS. His research focuses on development economics, indigenous medicine, healthcare policy, frugal innovation, and intellectual property. Supported by organizations like WHO, UNICEF, and ICSSR, he has published extensively in leading international journals on health, policy, and pharmaceutical development.



FELLOWS



Dr. Aneesh K A

Public Economics, Macroeconomic Policy,
Development Economics, Economic of Aging
Email: aneesh.ka@christuniversity.in

Dr. Aneesh K A holds an MPhil. and Ph.D. from the Centre for Economic Studies and Planning (CESP), Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU), New Delhi. His research spans public finance, fiscal governance, gender and climate finance, and sustainability. He was a visiting scholar at the University of Leipzig, Germany, under the Erasmus Plus scholarship.



Dr. Isha Sharma

Health & Gender Economics,
Development Economics
Email: isha.sharma@christuniversity.in

Dr. Isha Sharma is a researcher with a deep focus on Health and Gender Economics and has pursued a Ph.D. from Jamia Millia Islamia. Her research interests include Development Economics, Health, Education & Gender. She has worked with J-PAL South Asia, MoHPW, and Ashoka University.



Dr. Deepa Palathtingal

Agricultural Economics, Climate
Change, Environmental Sustainability
Email: deepa.palathtingal@christuniversity.in

Dr. Deepa Palathtingal earned her Ph.D. in economics from the Central University of Tamil Nadu. Her research focuses on agricultural efficiency, sustainability, and climate challenges. She is a life member of the Agricultural Economics Research Association (India) and an expert reviewer for the AKCC Journal.

AFFILIATE FELLOWS

Our affiliate fellows bring diverse expertise and rich experience to strengthen our research and policy engagements.



Md Zakaria Siddiqui

Associate Professor

Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi

Associate Professor with a strong academic background and research expertise in the fields of health sciences and public health.



Sreerupa

Research Fellow & Program Lead

Institute of Social Studies Trust (ISST), New Delhi

Senior Research Fellow, IIMAD, Trivandrum, Keralam

Researcher and program lead with extensive experience in migration, development and social policy research.



Dhanya M B

Fellow (Faculty)

VV Giri National Labour Institute, Noida

Researcher focusing on labour studies, employment, and social protection policies with a strong commitment to labour welfare.



Vasu Saha

Senior Associate

Public Finance Management at Janaagraha

Vasu has previously worked with the Office of Dilip Kumar Pandey, Government of Delhi, and the Office of the Divisional Forest Officer at Katarniaghat Wildlife Sanctuary as a policy intern.



A M Jose

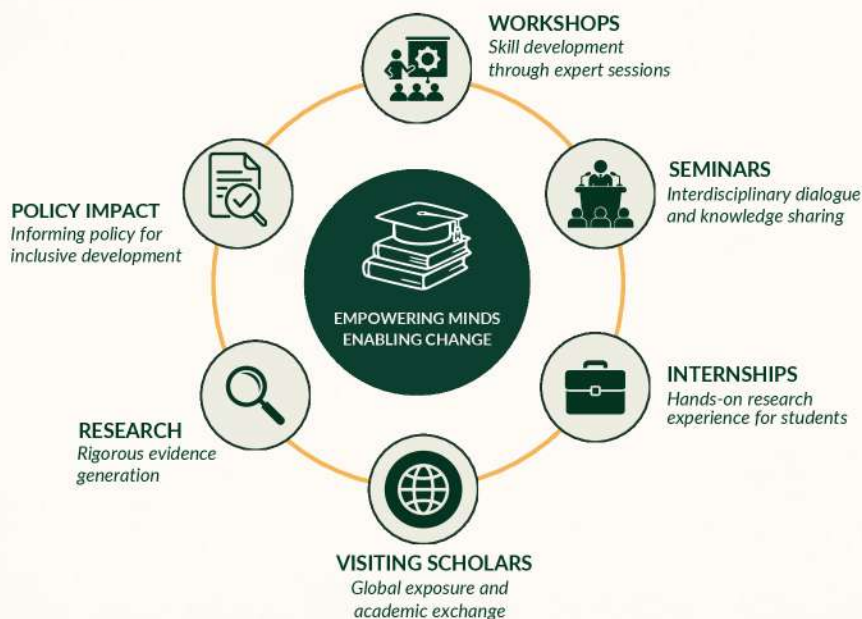
Professor & Head

Amity Business School, Gurgaon

Development Economics, Managerial Economics, Research Methodology, Agricultural Economics, Money and Financial Markets

CAPACITY BUILDING

*Building skills. Creating opportunities.
Strengthening impact.*



“

Capacity building is at the heart of meaningful research and lasting development.



COMMUNITY CONNECT



NGO PARTNERSHIPS

Collaborating with NGOs to drive social impact and inclusive growth.



FIELD RESEARCH

On-ground data collection for real-world insights and evidence-based interventions.



COMMUNITY PROJECTS

Working with communities to promote livelihoods, well-being, and sustainable change.

KNOWLEDGE CREATION

Creating, curating and sharing knowledge that informs policy, practice and future research.



RESEARCH PAPERS

Peer-reviewed publications that advance scholarship and knowledge.



NEWSLETTERS

Disseminating insights, updates and research regularly.



DATA REPOSITORY

Curated data for research and policy use.



COLLABORATIONS

National & international partnerships for greater impact.



POLICY BRIEFS

Evidence for informed and decision-making.

“ Knowledge shared is progress multiplied. ”

OUR RESEARCH WORKS

This section showcases ongoing research initiatives and emerging studies at CSPD.

Forecast-Driven Dynamic MSP Framework for Perishable Crops: A Machine Learning Approach Using Tomato Prices in India

- Madhav Menon & Deepa Palathingal

Tomato is one of the most important horticultural crops in India, characterised by high price volatility arising from seasonality, production fluctuations, weather variability, and market dynamics. Accurate price forecasting is therefore essential for improving production planning, marketing decisions, and price risk management for farmers, traders, and policymakers. This study analyses and forecasts monthly wholesale tomato prices in four major wholesale markets of India, namely Kolar (Karnataka), Azadpur (Delhi), Indore (Madhya Pradesh), and Madanapalle (Andhra Pradesh), using a univariate Auto-Regressive Integrated Moving Average (ARIMA) modelling framework. Monthly price data from January 2005 to December 2025 were used for model development following the Box-Jenkins methodology, comprising data transformation, stationarity testing, model identification, parameter estimation, diagnostic evaluation, and model selection. Candidate models were compared using in-sample forecast accuracy measures, including Root Mean Square Error (RMSE), Mean Absolute Error (MAE), and Mean Absolute Percentage Error (MAPE), to identify the most appropriate forecasting model. The selected model was subsequently employed to forecast monthly tomato prices for the period January to December 2026. Forecast performance was further evaluated through out-of-sample validation by comparing the forecasted prices for January to June 2026 with the corresponding observed market prices using standard forecast accuracy measures. The study demonstrates the applicability of univariate ARIMA models for short-term tomato price forecasting. Future research may focus on extending the present analysis to multivariate forecasting frameworks, including SARIMAX, VAR, VECM, and dynamic regression models, by incorporating exogenous variables such as market arrivals, weather parameters, transportation costs, and policy interventions. Such models are expected to capture additional sources of price variation and improve forecasting performance compared with univariate approaches.

A Study on the psycho-social impacts of migration on women workers at construction sites in Delhi NCR

- Aleena Elza Mathew & Lakshita Garg & Aneesh K A

This qualitative study explores the psychosocial experiences of female migrant construction workers in the Delhi-NCR region, an important yet predominantly invisible part of India's informal labour force. Using in-depth semi-structured interviews with 15 women, this study analyses how migration, precarious labour and gender interact and impact their mental health, social networks, and daily lives.

The study reveals that for these women, migration is not just an economic strategy for survival but results in a persistent state of insecurity marked by insecure livelihoods, poor living conditions, invisibility in workplaces, and limited institutional support, which contributes to the increase in psychological distress (anxiety, loneliness, emotional exhaustion, and social isolation). The study also reveals that migrant women exhibit resilience and agency in dealing with these vulnerabilities, relying on family ties, peer support among co-workers, financial autonomy, and aspirations for a safer, more secure future. Moreover, the study brings forth the limited knowledge and access to labour rights, social security schemes, and mental health facilities that highlight the institutional discrimination experienced by women in the informal construction sector. The study centres on the experiences of migrant women to better understand the gendered psychosocial implications of migration and recommends policy measures to bridge gaps in access to legal protection and psychosocial support, with a focus on an integrated, gender-sensitive approach. The results are relevant for researchers, policymakers, and practitioners working in migration, gender, labour, and public mental health research and advocacy.

Discovering evidence, shaping tomorrow's possibilities.

OUR RESEARCH WORKS

This section showcases ongoing research initiatives and emerging studies at CSPD.

Functional Dependence and Care Demand Among the Indian Older Adults: A Multidimensional Analysis of Prevalence, Determinants, and Severity

- Madhyama Singh, Ananya Arora, Megha G Pillai & Aneesh K A

The rapidly ageing population in India is driving the demand for long-term care, but the level and determinants of functional dependency among older people remain inadequately studied. Based on data for individuals aged 60 years and above from Wave 1 of the Longitudinal Ageing Study in India (LASI, 2017–18), this study examines Activities of Daily Living (ADL) disability using the Andersen Behavioural Model. The study traces the prevalence and severity of ADL disability, estimates its determinants using a probit model with average marginal effects, and examines severity transitions using a generalised ordered logit model. Results reveal that 21.3% of older persons report at least one ADL difficulty, and 7.96% experience severe disability. Poor self-rated health (+11.6 pp) and multimorbidity (+7.8 pp) are the strongest predictors of ADL disability. Severe dependence is strongly linked to stroke (OR = 4.23), neurological/psychiatric disorders (OR = 2.23), and bone and joint diseases. Education is the most protective factor, while economic inactivity, widowhood, and female sex increase the risk. These findings highlight a gap between disability burden and long-term care in India, calling for home-based care, rehabilitation, and inclusive social protection.

Continuum of Maternal, Newborn and Child Healthcare amongst Scheduled Tribe women in India: Evidence from the NFHS-5

- Madhyama Singh, Ananya Arora, Megha G Pillai & Aneesh K A

Scheduled Tribe (ST) women in India face persistent disadvantages in maternal and child healthcare, yet their experience across the full Continuum of Care (CoC) remains understudied. Using nationally representative data from NFHS-5 (2019–21) and survey-weighted analysis of 26,293 ST women, this study examines coverage, dropout patterns, and social group disparities across four sequential CoC stages: antenatal care, institutional delivery, postnatal care, and full child immunization. Despite an institutional delivery rate of 83.8%, only 4.02% of ST women completed all four stages. Dropout was concentrated at Stage 1 (no ANC, 41.6%) and Stage 3 (no postnatal care after facility delivery, 44.0%). Social group comparisons revealed that ST women have the highest Stage 2 dropout of all groups (6.6%), while adjusted logistic regression showed the ST deficit is driven by socioeconomic deprivation rather than tribal identity. Findings call for restructured demand-side financing, mandatory postnatal discharge protocols, and decentralized antenatal outreach in tribal areas.

Child Labor in Urban Slums: A Qualitative Research on the Factors influencing Child Labor in Uttar Pradesh

- Sritirupa Dey & Deepa Palathingal

Despite a series of legal frameworks adopted for the protection of children's rights and their access to education, child labour continues to be a socio-economic problem in India. In this regard, this research paper will address the issue of child labour among urban slums of Uttar Pradesh, especially with a focus on governance systems and the socio-economic aspects that affect the involvement of children in labour activities. This study will explore how certain socio-economic factors, including poverty, lack of education, migration, informal labour systems, and lack of awareness about government programs influence the persistence of child labour. The paper will also analyse the effectiveness of current interventions involving legislation on labour, education, and other social welfare programs in dealing with the real-life problems faced by working children in poor urban communities. Based on a qualitative approach, the study will gain insight into the problem by taking into account the current literature and field perspectives. It will emerge that although the country has developed a fairly detailed legal framework in relation to child labour, issues relating to its enforcement and socio-economic exclusion limit its effectiveness.

Every question explored brings society one step forward.

OUR RESEARCH WORKS

This section showcases ongoing research initiatives and emerging studies at CSPD.

Impact of Smart elderly care services on Productive and Active Ageing in India

- Aleena Elza Mathew & Lakshita Garg & Aneesh K A

With India experiencing a demographic transition characterised by a rapidly ageing population, it is imperative to better understand how older adults can remain active, purposeful, and connected in a rapidly digitalising world. This research investigates the link between productive and active ageing in India and the mediating role of smart elderly care services in fostering both constructs, paying special attention to rural-urban differences. This study adopts a mixed-methods design, integrating quantitative data from the Longitudinal Ageing Study in India (LASI) Wave 1 with qualitative, in-depth, semi-structured interviews conducted with 25 elderly persons who use smart elderly care technologies in New Delhi.

Results demonstrate a close link between productive and active ageing, as voluntary engagement in paid employment, informal work, care, and community participation is associated with higher life satisfaction, autonomy, and psychological well-being. Nonetheless, this correlation is significantly influenced by socio-structural inequalities, including gender, economic security, pension coverage, and rural-urban disparities, which affect older persons' ability to participate meaningfully in later life.

Qualitative findings illustrate that smart elderly services, ranging from telehealth to wearables and digital communication, empower independence, improve health status, foster social connectedness, and support participation in economic and social life. Conversely, the use of smart elderly services is conditioned by socio-digital divides, such as literacy, affordability, availability of appropriate infrastructure, and access among rural and socioeconomically deprived older adults. The study posits that the successful aged in contemporary India rely on the convergence of digital inclusion, a robust social protection system, age-friendly environments, and accessible healthcare to ensure a productive, active, and dignified ageing.

Migration, Marginality, and Menstruation: Menstrual Hygiene Challenges Among Homeless Migrant Women in Delhi

- Mishthi Chanana & Aneesh K A

Internal migration in India has expanded significantly due to urbanisation, labour mobility, and socio-economic transitions, with migrants constituting 28.9% of the population and women accounting for nearly half of all migrants (Census of India, 2011). Among the most vulnerable yet underrepresented groups within this process are homeless migrant women, who experience severe challenges in managing menstrual hygiene under conditions of housing insecurity, inadequate sanitation, poor healthcare access, and economic precarity. The absence of private spaces, clean water, safe menstrual products, and sanitation infrastructure exposes women to heightened risks of reproductive tract infections (RTIs), urinary tract infections (UTIs), bacterial vaginosis, anaemia, and broader reproductive morbidities.

This study adopts a mixed-method approach combining in-depth interviews with 25 homeless migrant women in Delhi and secondary data analysis from NFHS-5, Census data, and public health literature to examine how migration and homelessness shape menstrual experiences. The study further analyses menstruation as a public, political, and rights-based issue linked to dignity, bodily autonomy, healthcare, and urban citizenship.

The findings reveal significant gaps in welfare outreach, menstrual healthcare, sanitation infrastructure, and state support systems. The paper argues for a gender-responsive and intersectional policy framework centred on menstrual dignity, healthcare inclusion, sanitation justice, and housing security through targeted urban interventions for homeless migrant women.

Research begins with curiosity and ends with impact.

OUR RESEARCH WORKS

This section showcases ongoing research initiatives and emerging studies at CSPD.

Rising Age, Rising Needs: Understanding Unmet Healthcare Among India's Elderly through Affordability and Availability Constraints

- Megha G Pillai, Ananya Arora, Madhyama Singh & Aneesh K A

India is experiencing a rapid demographic transition, with the proportion of older adults growing sharply as fertility declines and life expectancy rises. This shift is accompanied by an increasing burden of chronic diseases and multimorbidity, creating sustained demand for continuous and complex healthcare in later life. Despite several national policies aimed at improving healthcare access for older adults, a significant gap persists between rising health needs and actual utilisation. Using nationally representative data from LASI Wave 1 (2017–18), the study quantifies the prevalence of unmet healthcare needs and models how economic status and place of residence mediate the relationship between chronic illness and forgone care. Interaction effects from multivariate logistic regression show that affordability substantially weakens the negative impact of worsening health among wealthier groups, while poorer older adults face increasing odds of unmet need as chronic conditions accumulate. Availability further compounds these disparities, with rural older adults experiencing a steep rise in unmet need under multimorbidity due to gaps in diagnostic access, specialist care, and transport. The findings highlight that improving healthcare access for India's ageing population requires strengthening both financial protection and rural healthcare capacity, ensuring that longer lives translate into healthier ones.

Housing the Workforce: The Role of DUSIB Shelter Homes in the Welfare of Internal Migrants in Delhi

- S Jayanth & Aneesh K A

According to the 2011 Census, nearly 40% of New Delhi's population consists of migrants. This number has probably increased given the rapid urbanisation, digitalisation and newer employment opportunities. Delhi's economy is heavily dependent on internal migrant labour; however, migrants remain excluded from the city's formal housing structures. Consequently, there is widespread housing insecurity, evidenced in homelessness and the expansion of jhuggi jopris. The Coronavirus pandemic clearly revealed the vulnerability of internal migrants, also highlighting the importance of state-run shelters, like those of the Delhi Urban Shelter Improvement Board (DUSIB). However, there is a sharp lack of literature that studies the dynamics of DUSIB shelter homes in Delhi's migrant workers. Within this larger context, we argue that DUSIB accommodations are not mere temporary shelters but are essential to the urban economic infrastructure. This paper examines the role DUSIB shelters play in supporting internal migrant's welfare and participation in Delhi's economy, as well as factors that restrict access to shelters.

Using a mixed method, this study analyses publicly available DUSIB information regarding shelter types and occupancy trends to understand the distribution and utilisation of shelters. Also, through in-depth interviews with shelter users, we explore lived realities of access and exclusion among internal migrants. By studying these, we arrive at how the DUSIB shelters are accommodating migrants and what barriers are undermining the effectiveness of these shelter homes. The research finds that DUSIB shelters function as critical urban infrastructure that stabilises migrant livelihoods, and reveals design and access failures that limit their welfare impact. The study argues that expanding shelters in a manner which accommodates migrants is essential not only for migrant welfare but also for the sustainability of Delhi's economy.

Transforming ideas into evidence for informed decisions.

OUR RESEARCH WORKS

This section showcases ongoing research initiatives and emerging studies at CSPD.

Clean Cooking Energy and Child Health Evidence from PMUY Rollout in Rural India Using a Difference-in-Differences Approach

- John Tharayil Mathew & Deepa Palathingal

Air pollution is one of the most pressing global crises, with around 6.7 million premature deaths, and long-term exposure to this has damaging aftereffects, such as Acute Respiratory Infections (ARI), which is an infection that interferes with normal breathing and starts to affect the upper and lower respiratory system. Thus, to reduce exposure to household air pollution, a major transition from biomass fuels to clean fuels is required, and to promote the adoption of clean cooking fuel, the government of India launched the Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY) in 2016. This present study addresses these gaps by not going much into the fuel usage pattern of rural India, but rather how the change in fuel usage has brought a significant impact on the respiratory health of children under five years old. It helps in contributing to the literature by providing a DID regression analysis to estimate the causal impact of the state-level PMUY intensity on acute respiratory infections (ARI) among children under five in rural India, and also discussing the true efficiency of the policy, whether the fuel transition has improved respiratory health outcomes in children as a vulnerable group.

Caste, Education, and Informal Employment in India: Examining Stratification within the Informal Economy

- Siddharth Sunil Jogdand & Aneesh K A

This study shifts the analytical focus from the traditional formal-informal divide to hierarchies functioning inside the informal sector itself to investigate caste-based stratification within informal employment in India. The study divides informal employment into lower-return and higher-return segments using pooled unit-level microdata from seven rounds of the Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS), which covered 769,137 informal workers between 2017–18 and 2023–24. It then looks into whether Scheduled Caste (SC) and Scheduled Tribe (ST) workers are disproportionately concentrated in lower-return informal employment, whether education creates equitable access to better informal work across caste identity, and whether wage returns to education vary systematically by caste identity. In addition to subgroup disaggregation by gender and sector, binary logistic regression and Mincer-type earnings functions with caste-education interaction variables are estimated. Compared to 69.2% of General category workers, SC and ST workers are concentrated in lower-return informal employment at 80.2% and 81.0%, respectively. This disparity remains after full controls and worsens over the course of the study. Each extra year of education results in wage returns that are 1.70% less for SC workers and 0.72% less for ST workers compared to workers in the General category who have the same level of education. The results challenge the neutrality assumption of Human Capital Theory, validate Labour Market Segmentation Theory within the informal economy, and extend the Social Exclusion framework into previously unexplored empirical territory.

Socio-Economic Inequalities, Healthcare Access, and Community Care in India

- Gunika Dubal & Isha Sharma

Healthcare extends beyond hospitals and medical treatment; it reflects the social and economic realities that shape people's lives. Despite improvements in healthcare infrastructure, disparities in income, education, place of residence, and access to resources continue to influence how individuals seek and receive care. As India strives towards equitable healthcare, understanding these structural barriers remains essential for designing inclusive and effective public policy.

The research paper examines the relationship between socio-economic factors and healthcare utilization in India using data from the National Family Health Survey (NFHS-5, 2019–2021). Employing descriptive statistics and regression analysis, it explores how education, income, caste, gender, and domicile influence healthcare-seeking behaviour and preventive health practices. The study advocates policy interventions that address socio-economic inequalities and strengthen equitable access to healthcare. The paper has been accepted for presentation at an International Conference.

Complementing this work, the book chapter explores the evolving role of neighbourhood pharmacies as informal providers of primary healthcare for low-income communities. Drawing on focus group discussions with pharmacists in Delhi and secondary evidence, it highlights how poverty shapes healthcare choices and access. The abstract of the book chapter has been accepted, contributing to broader discussions on poverty, community healthcare, and inclusive public health policy in India.

Where knowledge meets purpose and drives change.

CAPACITY BUILDING

*Building skills. Creating opportunities.
Strengthening impact.*

Emerging Demographic Challenges: Relevance of Social Policy for Sustained Economic Growth

Session 1

On 30 January 2026, Professor Zakaria Siddiqui of Jamia Millia Islamia delivered a lecture titled 'Emerging Demographic Challenges: Relevance of Social Policy for Sustained Economic Growth' that demonstrated how changing demographics, such as an ageing population, a young bulge, and migration, affect the country's economic landscape. He highlighted the policy implications of developing a social policy that could tap into demographic dividends while mitigating their challenges, and correlated demographic transitions with processes of long-term growth and equitable distribution. Inclusive structures which promote equity, stability and resilience were identified as crucial in view of India's evolving demography.



Designing Inclusive and Gender-Responsive Care Systems for an Ageing India

Session 2

On 27 February 2026, Dr Sreerupa's lecture on 'Designing Inclusive and Gender-Responsive Care Systems for an Ageing India', from the Institute of Social Studies Trust (ISST), New Delhi, analysed the political economy of care, the gendering of ageing, and the immense toll of caregiving, which disproportionately impacts women. She elaborated upon the rationale for developing an inclusive care systems approach that addresses demographic transitions as well as social and economic inequalities. Through an analysis of ageing within a broad political and gender context, she called for a redefinition of care. The session emphasised the need for equitable structures and systems for an ageing populace.



Price Policy and Other Possible Support Mechanisms for Indian Farmers

Session 3

On 12 March 2026, Professor Sekhar C.S.C., from the Institute of Economic Growth (IEG), held a session on 'Price Policy and Other Possible Support Mechanisms for Indian Farmers'. He elaborated on the nuances and complexities of price policy and market interventions to help farmers in India. Professor Sekhar explored several policy issues and proposed alternative solutions to support the rural sector and help stabilise and make the agrarian economy more productive in the future. This reiterated the call for innovative and just support mechanisms to protect farmers' livelihoods and bolster the sustainability of the Indian agricultural economy.



PAPER PRESENTATIONS & PANEL SESSIONS

Ageing and the Politics of Representation in Popular Indian Beauty Advertisements

Presenter(s): Dr. Aneesh K. A. & Dr. Hoimawati Talukdar

Conference/Seminar: Narratives on the Aged: Literature and Ageing in Medical Critical Humanities Discourse

Organiser(s): Sahitya Akademi in collaboration with YMCA, Trivandrum

Category: National

Date: 21 February 2026



Who Speaks for India? Representation and Democracy in the 21st Century

Presenter(s): Dr Isha Sharma

Conference/Seminar: 1st International Conference on Women Empowerment

Organiser(s): Department of Economics, The University of Lahore

Category: International Conference

Date: 14–16 April 2026



Conversations that inspire ideas and influence action.

PAPER PRESENTATIONS & PANEL SESSIONS

Continuum of Maternal, Newborn and Child Health Care among Scheduled Tribe Women in India: Evidence from the NFHS-5

Presenter(s): Ananya Arora, Madhyama Singh, Megha G. Pillai & Dr. Aneesh K. A.

Conference/Seminar: Reimagining India's Development: Growth, Equity and Sustainability in a Transforming Global Economy

Organiser(s): Lady Shri Ram College for Women, University of Delhi

Category: International Conference

Date: 7 April 2026



Media, Digital Politics, and Public Representation

Presenter(s): Dr Isha Sharma

Conference/Seminar: 1st Annual Global Research Consortium Academic Congress

Organiser(s): 1st Annual Global Research Consortium Academic Congress

Category: Global Research Consortium (GRC)

Date: 28 June 2026



Perspectives shared today, solutions shaped for tomorrow.

OUR PUBLICATIONS

Population Dynamics and Ageing

Media, Ageing and the Politics of Representation

Author(s): Dr. Aneesh K. A. & Dr Hoimawati Talukdar

Publication Type: Op-Ed

Published in: Counter Currents

Date: 27 January 2026



Ageing with Dignity: Public Policy, Intergenerational Equity and the Political Economy of Elder Care in India

Author(s): Dr. Aneesh K. A., Arya Joshi & Misthti Chanana

Publication Type: Article

Published in: Mainstream

Volume: 64(7)



Health, Medicine and Care Economy

Healthcare Real Estate is Driving Costs, Access, Priorities

Author(s): Dr. Isha Sharma & Gunika Dubal

Publication Type: Op-Ed

Published in: Policy Circle

Date: 22 March 2026



Shaping Health in the Digital Age in India

Author(s): Dr. Isha Sharma & Dr. Hoimawati Talukdar

Publication Type: Op-Ed

Published in: The South Asian Times

Date: 18 February 2026



Malnutrition Policy Must Move Beyond Hunger

Author(s): Dr. Isha Sharma & Dr. Parul Oberoi

Publication Type: Op-Ed

Published in: Policy Circle

Date: 27 June 2026



The Invisible Burden of Care in India

Author(s): Dr. Aneesh K A and Arya Joshi

Publication Type: Article

Published in: Mainstream Weekly

Date: Vol 64(19), 30 July 2026



Publishing knowledge that informs, inspires, and endures.

OUR PUBLICATIONS

Human Capital, Labour Markets and Migration

Contours Of Change: Reimagining India's Development Pathways Towards Viksit Bharat

Author(s): Dr. Reeta Tomar & Dr Aneesh K. A

Publication Type: Edited Book

Published in: Gyan Publishing House

Date: June, 2026



Older Migrant Women Falling Through India's Urban Policy Gaps

Author(s): Dr. Aneesh K. A. & Ansh Sharma

Publication Type: Op-Ed

Published in: Policy Circle

Date: 12 January 2026



Revisiting Circular Migration: Dual Dynamics in the Development Trajectory

Author(s): Dr Aneesh K. A & Nandini Singh

Publication Type: Research Paper

Published in: Social Glance – Journal of Social Sciences and Humanities

Date: 4 (January–December 2025)



Migrant Worker Exodus Exposes Kerala's Economic Fault Lines

Author(s): Dr. Aneesh K. A. & Niranjan R Prabhu

Publication Type: Op-Ed

Published in: Policy Circle

Date: 3 June 2026



Caste Wage Gap Weakens India's Education Push

Author(s): Siddharth Jogdand & Dr. Aneesh K. A.

Publication Type: Op-Ed

Published in: Policy Circle

Date: 3 July 2026



How Did the Pandemic Permanently Push Dalit and Adivasi Workers Deeper into Precarity?

Author(s): Siddharth Jogdand & Dr. Aneesh K. A.

Publication Type: Op-Ed

Published in: Counter Currents

Date: 4 July 2026



Every publication adds a voice to meaningful change.

OUR PUBLICATIONS

Motherhood Penalty Keeps Indian Women Out of Work

Author(s): Deepa Palathingal & Palak Kunwar

Publication Type: Op-Ed

Published in: Policy Circle

Date: 8 July 2026



From MGNREGA to VB-G RAM G: Does Rebranding Welfare Change the Deeper Economic and Financial Implications?

Author(s): Dr. Aneesh K. A., Jiya Chopra, Siddhi Goyal & Anoushka Saxena

Publication Type: Article

Published in: Mainstream

Volume: 64(1)



Women Counted as “Employed” - But Actually Unpaid Family Workers

Author(s): Deepa Palathingal & Palak Kunwar

Publication Type: Article

Published in: Mainstream

Volume: Vol. 64(18), 15 July 2026



Science, Technology and Innovation

Feeding the Future: How AI Can Combat Malnutrition

Author(s): Dr. Isha Sharma & Dr. Indu Verma

Publication Type: Op-Ed

Published in: The South Asian Times

Date: 25 April 2026



Contours of Change: Reimagining India's Development Pathways Towards Viksit Bharat

Author(s): Dr. Aneesh K. A. & Dr Reeta Tomar

Publication Type: Edited Book

Published in: Gyan Publishing House

Date: June 2026



Ideas documented today become tomorrow's reference.

OUR PUBLICATIONS

Reframing Language Acquisition in the Digital Age: Aligning Theory with 21st Century Skills

Author(s): Dr. Aneesh K. A. & Dr. Hoimawati Talukdar

Publication Type: Book Chapter

Published in: Rethinking English Language Education through Digital Technology (Bharti Publications)

Date: July 2026



Food, Ecology and Climate Change

Climate Migration is Already Reshaping India's Cities

Author(s): Dr. Isha Sharma & Aashriya Jain

Publication Type: Op-Ed

Published in: Policy Circle

Date: 29 April 2026



Floods, Diarrhoea and India's Child Malnutrition Crisis

Author(s): Dr. Isha Sharma & Khushi Nigam

Publication Type: Op-Ed

Published in: Policy Circle

Date: 28 February 2026



Climate Change and Rising Healthcare Costs: The Hidden Economic Burden

Author(s): Dr. Isha Sharma & Gunika Dubal

Publication Type: Op-Ed

Published in: The South Asian Times

Date: 22 June 2026



Heatwaves not just an environmental issue, but also a labour rights issue

Author(s): Sritirupa Dey & Deepa Palathingal

Publication Type: Op-Ed

Published in: Policy Circle

Date: 18 July 2026



From research to publication, from insight to impact.

COMMUNITY CONNECT

A Study on the psycho-social impacts of migration on women workers at construction sites in Delhi NCR - Aleena Elza Mathew & Lakshita Garg

Fieldwork locations: East of Kailash C Block , East of Kailash B block, Kailash Hills , Sant Nagar.



Migration, Marginality, and Menstruation: Menstrual Hygiene Challenges Among Homeless Migrant Women in Delhi - Mishthi Chanana

Fieldwork locations: Shahdara, Lajpat Nagar, and East of Kailash B block.



Understanding communities through engagement, empathy, and evidence.

COMMUNITY CONNECT

Housing the Workforce: The Role of DUSIB Shelter Homes in the Welfare of Internal Migrants in Delhi - S Jayanth

Fieldwork locations: Sarai Kale Khan, Munirka, Yamuna Bazar



Socio-Economic Inequalities, Healthcare Access, and Community Care in India - Gunika Dubal

Fieldwork locations: Pharmacies in South and Central Delhi



Child Labor in Urban Slums: A Qualitative Research on the Factors influencing Child Labor in Uttar Pradesh - Sritirupa Dey

Fieldwork locations: Nandgram Slums, Indirapuram Slums, Ghaziabad, UP



Field experiences that connect research with real lives.

LOOKING AHEAD

Building Knowledge. Inspiring Change. Creating Impact

As the Centre for Studies in Population and Development (CSPD) continues to evolve, our commitment remains steadfast—to generate impactful research, nurture future scholars, and contribute evidence-based solutions to contemporary population and development challenges.

In the coming years, CSPD will expand interdisciplinary research initiatives, strengthen collaborations with academic institutions and policy organizations, and create greater opportunities for students to engage in meaningful research. Through seminars, conferences, field studies, publications, and community engagement, the Centre seeks to bridge the gap between academic inquiry and real-world policymaking.

By fostering innovation, encouraging critical thinking, and promoting inclusive development, CSPD aspires to become a leading platform for research that informs policy, empowers communities, and contributes to sustainable and equitable societies.



Five Year Strategic Plan of CSPD

Year 1 (2025-26) Foundation Building: It includes regular seminars and talks; capacity- building workshops; newsletter launch; creation of student fellowship; development of website and repository framework.

Outcome: Centre visibility and initiation of research culture.

Year 2 (2026-27) Research Strengthening: It includes launch pilot studies; organize national workshop; start policy internship programme; collaboration with Bangalore CSPD.

Outcome: 2–3 ongoing projects and one student policy brief.

Year 3 (2027–28) Expansion and Outreach: Host first national conference; launch graduate colloquium; establish partnerships with ICSSR and NGOs. Outcome: National presence and documented outreach.

Year 4 (2028–29) Policy Engagement: Publish policy briefs; annual research report; expert lecture series; research training for student fellows.

Outcome: 3–4 policy outputs and greater policy visibility.

Year 5 (2029–30) Institutional Maturity: Host international seminar; prepare five-year review report; submit 3 major project proposals; launch working paper series. Outcome: Recognized as an active research hub with a sustainable structure.

CSPD INTERNSHIP DETAILS

Nature of the Internship



The CSPD internship is research- and field-oriented, combining desk-based analytical work with fieldwork, community engagement, and outreach programmes.



Work closely with CSPD faculty and research teams on ongoing and proposed projects aligned with the Centre's thematic areas.



The internship is designed to nurture critical thinking, research ethics, writing skills, and social responsibility.

Key Areas of Engagement

Interns may be involved in one or more of the following:

Literature review and data analysis (quantitative and/or qualitative)

Primary data collection through surveys, interviews, FGDs, and field observations

Assisting in policy briefs, working papers, blogs, newsletters, and reports

Supporting seminars, workshops, conferences, and policy dialogues

Community outreach programmes and collaboration with NGOs and partner organisations

Documentation, data management, and dissemination activities

Eligibility



Open to undergraduate and postgraduate students

Economics

Political Science

Psychology

Sociology

Law

Data Analytics

related disciplines



What We Look For

Applicants should demonstrate a strong interest in population and development issues and a willingness to engage in field-based and team-oriented work.

CSPD INTERNSHIP DETAILS

Research Internship

Gain hands-on experience in interdisciplinary research at the Centre for Studies in Population and Development (CSPD). The Research Internship Programme enables students to work alongside faculty mentors on real-world population and development challenges while building essential research and policy skills. Interns participate in every stage of the research process, contributing to projects that create meaningful academic and societal impact.

What You'll Do

- Conduct literature reviews and evidence synthesis
- Assist in quantitative and qualitative research
- Support field-based social science research
- Contribute to policy analysis and academic writing
- Participate in seminars, workshops, and research discussions

Who Can Apply

Undergraduate and postgraduate students with a strong interest in research, public policy, development studies, economics, political science, sociology, public health, or related disciplines. Applicants should possess **analytical thinking**, **good communication skills**, and a **willingness to learn**.

Social Media & Outreach Internship

Help amplify the impact of research by strengthening CSPD's digital presence and public engagement. The Social Media & Outreach Internship offers students an opportunity to combine creativity with communication by translating research into engaging content and promoting the Centre's activities across digital platforms. Interns work closely with the CSPD team to increase research visibility and connect with wider academic and professional audiences.

What You'll Do

- Manage and maintain CSPD's LinkedIn presence
- Design creative content and communication materials
- Document research activities, events, and seminars
- Support outreach initiatives and public engagement
- Enhance the Centre's visibility through digital communication

Who Can Apply

Undergraduate students with an interest in digital communication, graphic design, media, branding, or public engagement. Applicants should possess strong written communication skills, creativity, and the ability to work collaboratively. **Knowledge of Canva, Adobe Creative Suite, Affinity Suite, Scribus, or equivalent design software** is preferred.

Selection Process

Applications are shortlisted based on the quality, clarity, and relevance of the application. Shortlisted candidates are invited for an interview, with final selection based on overall performance and alignment with the objectives of the CSPD Internship Programme.

LIST OF INTERNS 2025-26 (BATCH I)

Sl. No.	Register Number	Name	Class
1	24213801	Aashriya Jain	BA Psychology-Economics
2	23213141	Aleena Elza Mathew	BA Psychology-Economics
3	23215411	Ananya Arora	BSc Economics- Data Analytics
4	23213140	Arya Joshi	BA Psychology-Economics
5	24213025	Gopish Agarwal	BSc Economics
6	24215419	Gunika Dubal	BSc Economics- Data Analytics
7	24213010	John Tharayil Mathew	BSc Economics
8	23213115	Lakshita Garg	BA Psychology-Economics
9	24213013	Madhav Menon	BSc Economics
10	23215404	Madhyama Singh	BSc Economics- Data Analytics
11	23215409	Megha G Pillai	BSc Economics- Data Analytics
12	23213147	Mishthi Chanana	BA Psychology-Economics
13	25215614	Palak Kunwar	BSc Economics- Mathematics
14	23213225	S Jayanth	BA Economics- Political Science
15	24215611	Siddharth Sunil Jogdand	BSc Economics- Mathematics
16	24215612	Sritirupa Dey	BSc Economics- Mathematics





CSPD

NEWSLETTER 2026

Research. Evidence. Impact.
For a just and Sustainable future



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and Development (CSPD)**

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