

MAY 2025 ISSUE

Centre for Development Policy and Practice

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

Contents

Blogs
Online Articles
Events
Working Paper



GLIMPSES OF MAY



GLIMPSES OF MAY



POLICY TO PRACTICE PODCAST

CDPP's "Policy to Practice" podcast aims to enlighten a diverse audience on global issues, fostering conversations with experts to simplify complex concepts related to social, cultural, economic, and technological development.

Podcast 12: Featuring Dr. Rajesh Chakrabarti



The Centre for Development Policy and Practice featured Dr. Rajesh Chakrabarti in the latest episode of the Policy to Practice podcast series.

A leading expert on AI policy and governance, Dr. Rajesh Chakrabarti, Dean of the School of Management at Bennett University, delves into the complexities of regulating artificial intelligence. From algorithmic bias to job displacement and sustainability, he explores the challenges policymakers face in balancing innovation with responsibility. He discusses the ethical implications of AI, the need for robust regulatory frameworks, and strategies to ensure AI benefits society as a whole.

Hosted by Ablaz Mohammed Schemnad, this episode provides critical insights into the future of AI regulation and its impact on policy and society.

Click on the title to listen to the podcast!

CDPP BLOGS

CDPP disseminated thought-provoking articles through the CDPP website. This month's blogs covered diverse perspectives under the theme, "Women in Agriculture and Rural Livelihoods: Challenges, Contributions, and Policy Pathways."

Pathway Beyond "Participation": Institutionalisation of Indigenous Agricultural Knowledge in MENA's Climate Policy



The article critiques the technocratic climate policies in the MENA region that marginalise Indigenous Agricultural Knowledge (IAK) held by rural women. Donor-driven approaches focus on mechanisation, overlooking feminist, ecological practices like seed conservation and water harvesting. This exclusion reflects epistemic injustice, where women's knowledge is dismissed as folklore. Drawing on case studies from Egypt, Tunisia, and Morocco, it shows how rural women resist dominant models using locally rooted, low-cost methods. The article calls for institutionalising IAK through participatory mapping, inclusive extension systems, and community-managed seed banks, advocating systemic recognition of rural women's expertise for equitable climate resilience.

Click on the title to read the article!

Invisible Hands-Unveiling the Socio-Economic Contributions of Rural Women in Agriculture



Women in rural areas make up almost 43% of the agricultural workforce in developing countries, but a lot of their work remains unpaid, unreported, and not recognised. The article analyses the socioeconomic aspects of women's contributions to agriculture, particularly in terms of wage systems, the collection of data, and the coverage of the law. From a gender perspective, it calls attention to systemic inequalities based on patriarchal norms and unequal land ownership, advocating for policy reform and structural acknowledgement. By making their "invisible" labour visible, we stress the imperative of inclusive development frameworks that place women's agency at the forefront of agricultural economies.

Click on the title to read the article!

Gendered Impacts of Climate Change on Women Who Are Working in the Agricultural Sector



Climate change significantly impacts women in India's agriculture sector, where women farmers constitute almost 80% of the rural workforce and contribute a significant amount to food production. Despite the important role they play, women face massive systemic challenges worsened by climate change. Challenges include lack of land ownership, restricted access to financial resources, and lack of agricultural training. These barriers, compounded by gender assigned norms like the collection of water, natural resources, and other household activities, add more burden and reduce their resilience to climate change disasters such as droughts, floods. Solutions include reducing women's care burden, strengthening social protection schemes, and supporting gender-sensitive research initiatives.

Click on the title to read the article!

Gendered Justice in Disaster Relief: Legal Gaps in Protecting Women Farmers from Climate-Induced Displacement



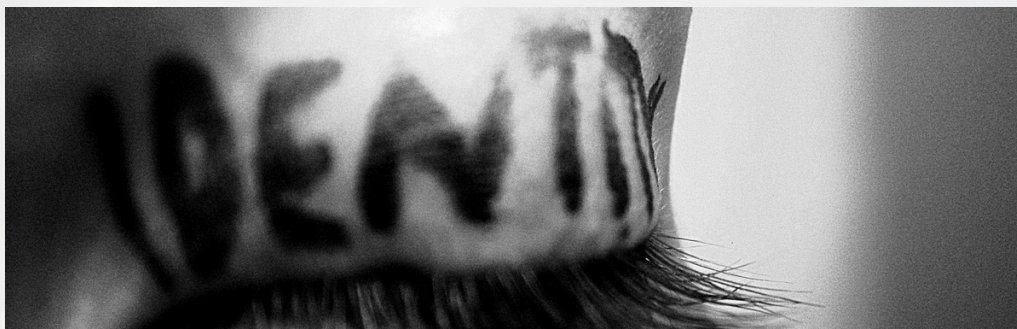
This article examines how climate disasters disproportionately affect rural women in India, who face legal invisibility and systemic exclusion from land rights, disaster relief, and climate governance. Despite comprising over 70% of agricultural labour, women remain unrecognised as farmers, especially in patriarchal and caste-based structures. Drawing on case studies from Bihar, Assam, and Maharashtra, it highlights how gender-blind disaster laws and missing documentation marginalise women, especially Dalit, Adivasi, and Muslim farmers. The paper calls for urgent legal reforms, intersectional data, inclusive governance, and community-based resilience to ensure climate justice for India's most vulnerable agricultural actors.

Click on the title to read the article!

ONLINE ARTICLES

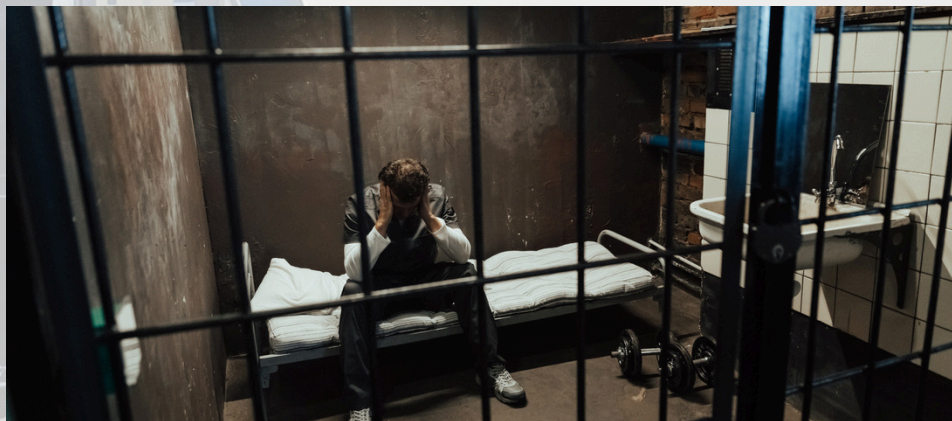
CDPP disseminated thought-provoking articles for the Siasat Daily e-paper. This month's articles covered themes on mental health, menstrual hygiene, caste data, etc.

Caste Data: Gateway to Identity Politics?



The article critically examines the implications of caste-based surveys, particularly in Karnataka. It highlights how such data, while intended to inform affirmative action, can inadvertently reinforce caste identities and fuel divisive politics. The lack of constitutional safeguards in state-conducted surveys raises concerns about data confidentiality and potential misuse. The article also discusses the broader sociopolitical consequences, including the impact on meritocracy and the risk of data manipulation for electoral gains. It suggests that economic disparities, rather than caste, should be the focus of policy interventions to promote social equity.

Behind Bars, Beyond Help: India's Prison Mental Health Crisis



Despite the *Mental Healthcare Act* of 2017 mandating mental health services in prisons, implementation remains inadequate. Overcrowding, understaffing, and poor infrastructure exacerbate psychological distress among inmates, particularly undertrial prisoners who constitute over two-thirds of the prison population. Studies indicate a high prevalence of psychiatric disorders and suicides among inmates, yet systemic attention is lacking. With only 25 mental health professionals serving 1,330 prisons, the gap between policy and practice is stark, necessitating urgent reforms to address this silent emergency.

Click on the titles to read the articles!

ONLINE ARTICLES

Pads, Pride, and Policy: Building Equity “One Period” at a Time



This article delves into the multifaceted issue of period poverty in India. It highlights that beyond the lack of access to menstrual products, challenges such as inadequate hygiene education, insufficient sanitation facilities, and entrenched cultural stigmas exacerbate the problem. Data from the National Family Health Survey (NFHS-5) reveals a significant urban-rural divide in the use of hygienic menstrual methods. The article underscores the efforts of organisations like Goonj, which adopt dignity-driven approaches to address menstrual health. It also emphasises the importance of initiatives like the Menstruation Dialogue 2025 in fostering policy discussions and community-driven solutions to dismantle taboos and promote menstrual equity.


India's Healthcare Scenario—Challenges, Innovations, and Journey Ahead




India's healthcare system reflects both progress and persistent disparities. While life expectancy has improved and maternal mortality declined, access to quality care remains uneven, especially in rural areas. The rise of digital health initiatives and disease eradication efforts mark key milestones, yet challenges like affordability, infrastructure gaps, and intergovernmental coordination persist. Public-private partnerships and technology-driven reforms show promise, but issues of equity, awareness, and implementation remain central. This article reflects on these issues as discussed at CDPP's 2025 healthcare conference in Hyderabad.

Click on the titles to read the articles!

EVENTS



CENTRE FOR
DEVELOPMENT
POLICY AND
PRACTICE



IMRC
INDIAN MUSLIM RESOURCES & CENTRE

Muslim Women and Children in India

Discussion on the latest data and insights on the human development indicators of Muslim women and children in India



Dr. Ali Mehdi, Speaker

Dr. Ali Mehdi leads UHC360, an initiative focussed on analysing and accelerating universal health coverage in low- and middle-income countries. With two decades of global health experience across Asia, Africa, Europe, and North America, his research—backed by governments, international agencies, civil society, and industry—has earned him honours such as the UK's Global Talent award (2021) and South Korea's Next Generation Leader award (2008).



Muslim Women and Children in India

The Centre for Development Policy and Practice (CDPP) hosted a special talk on “Muslim Women and Children in India,” featuring renowned global health expert Dr. Ali Mehdi.

Dr. Mehdi, who leads UHC360—an initiative dedicated to analysing and accelerating universal health coverage in low- and middle-income countries—shared insights drawn from over two decades of global health experience across Asia, Africa, Europe, and North America. His research, supported by governments, international agencies, civil society, and industry, has earned him prestigious recognitions including the UK's Global Talent award (2021) and South Korea's Next Generation Leader award (2008).

UPCOMING EVENTS

BAZM - E - SUKHAN


ایک شام مزاح کے نام
EK SHAAM MIZAH KE NAAM

11 June, 2025 (Wednesday) | 6:00 pm
at **Lamakaan**, Near GVK One, Banjara Hills, Hyderabad

1 Quli Qutub Sha ka Safarnama *Mujtaba Hussain*
Presentation by Javed Mohiuddin

2 Talk on Mizahiya Shayari *By Dr. Jaweed kamal*

3 Mizahiya Mushaira Poets: *Waheed Pasha Quadri
Dr. Moin Amar Bamboo
Lateef Uddin Lateef*

Compering: Dr. Atiya Mujeeb Arifi

— TEA & SNACKS —

Presided over by **Smt. Lakshmi Devi Raj & Prof. Ashraf Rafi**

 PLEASE CARRY YOUR UMBRELLA

Supported by  

Ek Shaam Mizah Ke Naam

The Centre for Development Policy and Practice (CDPP), in collaboration with the Digital Empowerment Foundation (DEF) and A-CODE, is delighted to invite you to another vibrant edition of Bazm-e-Sukhan. Join us for a delightful Urdu literary evening—*Ek Shaam Mizah ke Naam*.

Event Details: Wednesday, June 11, 2025, 6:00 p. m.

Location: Lamakaan, near GVK One, Banjara Hills, Hyderabad

The programme includes:

- Quli Qutub Sha ka Safarnama—Mujtaba Hussain—Presentation by Javed Mohiuddin.
- Talk on Mizahiya Shayari—By Dr. Jaweed Kamal.
- Mizahiya Mushaira, featuring poets: Waheed Pasha Quadri, Dr. Moin Amar Bamboo and Lateef Uddin Lateef.

UPCOMING EVENTS



CDPP CENTRE FOR DEVELOPMENT POLICY AND PRACTICE

Scope of Higher Education in India: What Ails the Higher Education Sector in India

Date & Time: 9:15am to 3:45pm | July 12, 2025

JIT, Jahangirabad Fort, Jahangirabad, Barabanki District, Uttar Pradesh 225203, India.

Chair:

Mr. Manzoor Ghori
Founding member and Executive Director
IMRC

Speakers:

Dr. Amitabh Kundu
Professor Emeritus, L. J. University, Ahmedabad
Visiting Professor, MANUU, Hyderabad

Dr. Abdul Shaban
Professor, Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai

Mr. Sanjay Kaul, IAS
Independent Director of SEWA GRIH RIN Ltd. (SGRL) and DigiGrain Solutions

Dr. Sayed A. Huda, IPS
Former Director General of Police, Andhra Pradesh

Mr. Ashish Gupta
Former Editor, Fortune India

Partners:

IMRC, JAHANGIRABAD, JAHANGIRABAD DISTRICT, UTTAR PRADESH

Scope of Higher Education in India: What Ails the Higher Education Sector in India

The Centre for Development Policy and Practice (CDPP) invites you to a full-day seminar on a critical theme in contemporary policy discourse: Scope of Higher Education in India: What Ails the Higher Education Sector in India

Date: Saturday, July 12, 2025

Time: 9: 15 a. m. to 3:45 p. m.

Venue: JIT, Jahangirabad Fort, Jahangirabad, Barabanki District, Uttar Pradesh 225203, India

Chair: Mr. Manzoor Ghori—Founding Member and Executive Director, IMRC

Distinguished Speakers

- Dr. Amitabh Kundu, Professor Emeritus, L. J. University, Ahmedabad & Visiting Professor, MANUU, Hyderabad
- Dr. Abdul Shaban, Professor, Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai
- Mr. Sanjay Kaul, IAS, Independent Director, SEWA GRIH RIN Ltd. & DigiGrain Solutions
- Dr. Sayed A. Huda, IPS, Former Director General of Police, Andhra Pradesh
- Mr. Ashish Gupta, Former Editor, Fortune India

This timely dialogue will delve into the institutional, economic, and policy challenges facing higher education in India today. It is especially relevant for educators, policymakers, researchers, students, and civil society actors committed to strengthening India's educational landscape.

UPCOMING EVENT

CDPP | CENTER FOR DEVELOPMENT POLICY AND PRACTICE

defindia.org

KAUTILYA | KAUTILYA SCHOOL OF PUBLIC POLICY

THE EDUCATION GROUP LONDON

MAULANA AZAD NATIONAL URDU UNIVERSITY

Exploring the intersection of Gender, Technology, And Socioeconomic Empowerment

GENDER AND INCLUSION
Conference
2025

AUGUST 8 & 9 2025

FRIDAY
Venue: Day 1
Kautilya School of Public Policy

SATURDAY
Venue: Day 2
Maulana Azad National Urdu University

SUB THEMES

- ✓ Digital Access and Gender Equity
- ✓ Technology and Economic Empowerment
- ✓ Gendered Impacts of Emerging Technologies
- ✓ Digital Tools for Social Empowerment
- ✓ Policy, Governance, and Global Perspectives

For Registration

Gender and Inclusion Conference 2025

The Centre for Development Policy and Practice (CDPP), in collaboration with partners including DEF India, Kautilya School of Public Policy, The Education Group London, and Maulana Azad National Urdu University (MANUU), is delighted to announce the Gender and Inclusion Conference 2025.

Dates: August 8 & 9, 2025

Venues:

- Day 1: Kautilya School of Public Policy
- Day 2: Maulana Azad National Urdu University, Hyderabad

Theme: Exploring the Intersection of Gender, Technology, and Socioeconomic Empowerment

Sub-Themes Include:

- Digital Access and Gender Equity
- Technology and Economic Empowerment
- Gendered Impacts of Emerging Technologies
- Digital Tools for Social Empowerment
- Policy, Governance, and Global Perspectives

This two-day conference will bring together researchers, technologists, policymakers, and civil society actors to discuss inclusive digital futures and gender-responsive tech interventions.

Register now by visiting cdpp.co.in or scanning the QR code.

UPCOMING EVENT

CDPP

GOONJ

MENSTRUATION DIALOGUE

CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS

The Centre for Development Policy and Practice (CDPP) in collaboration with Goonj and NFI invites researchers, practitioners, and development professionals to contribute to a Special Issue on Menstrual Health and Hygiene. This issue will spotlight diverse perspectives and field realities around menstruation as a public health, gender justice, and development concern.

INDICATIVE THEMES	TIMELINE
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Caste, class, gender, and disability in menstrual experiences• Policy frameworks, legal rights, and WASH challenges• Menstrual health in education and the workplace• Climate emergencies and menstrual justice• Markets, community action, and innovation• Infrastructure, technology, and health impacts	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Abstract Submission Deadline: 15 July 2025• Notification of Abstract Selection: 18 August 2025• Full Paper Submission Deadline: 15 October 2025• Peer Review and Author Feedback: November–December 2025

Submit your abstracts and papers to Info@cdpp.co.in with the Subject Line: **MH&H Special Issue Submission – [Author/Organization Name]**.

Menstruation Dialogue 2026

The Centre for Development Policy and Practice (CDPP), in collaboration with Goonj and the National Foundation for India (NFI), successfully co-hosted the Menstruation Dialogue 2025 on Saturday, May 31, 2025, at India Habitat Centre (Jacaranda Hall), New Delhi.

Marking Menstrual Hygiene Day, the day-long event brought together participants from academia, CSR verticals, grassroot organisations, and policy think tanks. The Dialogue centred on the theme “Menstrual Wellbeing in a Fast-Changing World: Innovations, Gaps, and New Possibilities,” and featured panel discussions, cultural performances, and regional voices. With a strong focus on intersectionality, climate resilience, and community-led solutions, the Dialogue highlighted urgent needs and promising pathways for menstrual justice in India.

As a continuation of this critical conversation, CDPP and Goonj invite submissions for a Special Issue on Menstrual Health and Hygiene. We welcome contributions from researchers, practitioners, and development professionals that explore diverse perspectives and field realities on menstruation as a public health, gender justice, and development concern.

Submit your abstracts and papers to: info@cdpp.co.in
Subject Line: MH&H Special Issue Submission – [Author/Organization Name]



Click on the social media platform icons to connect!

