

Concept Note
Two Day National Symposium

On

**Evolving Facets of Gender, Migration
and Holistic Well-being: Inter-Continental
Dimensions & Discourse**



Organized by

Departments of Anthropology, Geography and Social Work

Rajiv Gandhi University (A Central University)

(Recognized by UGC as a Centre with Potential for Excellence)

Rono Hills, Doimukh, Arunachal Pradesh, India

September, 2020

The University

Rajiv Gandhi University (formerly Arunachal University) is the premier institution for higher education in the state of Arunachal Pradesh located at the picturesque tabloid of Rono Hills approximately 25 km away from the state capital Itanagar. Late Smt. Indira Gandhi, the then Prime Minister of India, laid the foundation stone of the University on 4th February 1984 at Rono Hills. Ever since its inception, the University has been trying to achieve excellence and fulfill the objectives as envisaged in the University Act. The University was recognized as a Central University in the year 2007 established under the Act of Parliament. Being the only Central University of the State at present there are Twenty-Six (26) Departments and Two (02) Institutes functioning under Nine (09) Academic Faculties. The Faculty members have been actively engaged in research activities. The University has been maintaining its academic excellence. The students from the University are contributing at significant positions not only in State and Central Government Services, but also in various Institutions, Industries and Organizations. The University has been recognized as a Centre with Potential for Excellence by University Grants Commission (UGC).

Department of Social Work

The Department of Social Work (DSW) at Rajiv Gandhi University (RGU) was established in 2015 with the vision of disseminating quality Social Work Education in the state of Arunachal Pradesh. DSW at RGU is the first full-fledged Department of Social Work offering face-to-face Master of Arts in Social Work (MASW) Program in the state with a total of four regular faculty members and sixteen students in the first batch. The Doctoral Program in Social Work (PhDSW) was introduced with July 2018 to focus on strengthening the research component in the region with an emphasis on 'evidence-based practice and practice-based evidence'. Class room lectures and social work practicum form the main crux of the Program (both MASW & PhDSW). The students/trainees are also exposed to carefully crafted skill building and personality development programs and are provided with opportunities to participate in workshops, seminars and lectures from external experts on regular basis. The department with a commitment towards 'evidence-based practice and practice-based evidence' is dedicated in grooming and equipping students to reach their full potential and acquire the knowledge, skills, values and techniques essential to become professional social workers who not only acquire personal and professional competency and growth, but also contribute to the betterment of the society and country at large.

Background

The migration of women has always been an important component of international migration. As of 2000, the United Nations Population Division estimates that 49 per cent of all international migrants were women or girls, and that the proportion of women among international migrants had reached 51 per cent in more developed regions. Women often migrate officially as dependent family members of other migrants or to marry someone in another country. Female migrants are, however, increasingly part of flows of migrant workers, moving on their own to become the principal wage earners for their families. Most migrant women move voluntarily, but women and girls are also forced migrants leaving their countries in order to flee conflict, persecution, environmental degradation, natural disasters or other situations that affect their security, livelihood or habitat.

Increased understanding of the situation of migrant women should provide the basis for the formulation of policies and programmes that promote their equality with migrant men and that safeguard their well-being. The World Survey on the Role of Women in Development makes a number of recommendations for improving the situation of women who are migrants or refugees as well as for those who have been the victims of trafficking. They include a call on all countries to ratify and implement all international legal instruments that promote and protect the rights of migrant women and girls; to review their national migration legislation and regulations in order to identify discriminatory provisions and modify them, and to develop legal literacy programmes to promote better understanding of the human rights of women.

It is therefore crucial to understand how gender interacts with migration and to respond accordingly. Taking into account gender-specific migration trends can mean the difference between implementing a project that successfully addresses the specific needs and capacities of all IOM beneficiaries, and one that fails to do so and perpetuates inequality. Given the gender-specific nature of migration, the following are central to IOM's work:

advocating for equal rights under the law in employment and mobility; combatting discriminatory migration practices; understanding how gender affects the types of migration undertaken; responding to how gender influences access to social services, economic growth, capacities, risks and vulnerabilities; ensuring diversity and inclusiveness in consultations and participation in activities; and addressing how migration influences gender roles and relations.

Notions of wellbeing, quality of life and human development have increasingly gained prominence in the social sciences in the recognition that standard economic measures are unable to adequately capture many important dimensions of life. In migration studies, however, the concept of wellbeing has not been fully integrated. Focusing on a more holistic and comprehensive understanding of migrant personhood, this National Symposium emphasizes on Inter-Continental Dimensions and Discourse aiming to explore the potential of the concept of wellbeing from a holistic and gender perspective.

Objectives

The proposed national symposium intends to offer a platform for meaningful dialogue among key stakeholders and emphasize upon least talked about concepts like Gender Migration and Holistic Well Being incorporating an Inter-Continental Approach. It thereby aims to invite constructive strategies and roadmaps to realize the larger vision of Gender Justice and Sustainable Development. The precise objectives are specified as below:

- a. To emphasize and augment upon the concept of Gender, Migration and Holistic Well-being for better understanding of younger generations and other key stakeholders;
- b. To highlight the transformative features and evolving facets of Holistic Well-being with special reference to Gender and Migration;
- c. To outline the implementation strategies of Gender Justice with special reference to Inter-Continental Dimensions and Discourse; and
- d. To engage proactively the academia and the researchers as key stakeholders in realizing the vision of Gender Justice and Sustainable Development.

Expected Learning Outcomes

The expected learning outcomes of the current national dialogue on NEP 2020 are specified below:

1. Inculcating an understanding led appreciation among younger and contemporary generations for larger vision of NEP 2020;
2. Re-emphasizing discourse on finding optimal strategies and roadmaps in pursuit of realizing the vision of NEP 2020 for Higher Education in India;
3. Promoting Personal Introspection and Revisiting Individual and Institutional Priorities towards simple and sustainable ways to ensure Holistic, Flexible and Inclusive Higher Education through NEP 2020; and
4. Encouraging Research and Practice Based Innovations for constructive strategies and roadmaps to realize the larger vision of NEP 2020 in revamping Higher Education of the country.

Intended Beneficiaries

The intended target audience includes every person who is directly or indirectly interested in issues of Gender, Migration and Holistic Well-being. The online inter-continental discourse on these issues aims to directly benefit students, research scholars, academicians, social scientists, social workers, development professionals and other key stakeholders.

There will be **no registration fee** for the participants. **Live web sessions** will be conducted through **Google Meet Platform**. Number of seats will be limited.

Resource Persons

The two day long national symposium is going to have inter-continental discourse on different evolving facets of Gender, Migration and Holistic Well-being by the eminent scholars namely **Dr. Pragya**, Associate Professor, New Delhi, India and **Dr. Kulwinder Kaur**, Associate Professor, Department of Sociology, Jamia Milia Islamia (A Central University), New Delhi, India.

Tentative Programme Date

Two Day National Symposium is proposed on 25th & 26th September, 2020 i.e. Friday and Saturday. The Registration Period is from 12th (Saturday) to 24th (Thursday) September, 2020.

Estimated Budget

The estimated budget of the programme is Rs. 50,000/- which includes includes TA/DA (as per actual), Honorarium to the Resource Persons and Other Miscellaneous Expenses.

Organizing Committee

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Vice-Chancellor, Rajiv Gandhi University (RGU)

Patrons

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Prof. Kiran Kumari, Head, Department of Geography, RGU

Dr. Kaushalendra Pratap Singh, Head i/c, Department of Social Work, RGU

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