

CESS *Prime Time*

(Planning Dept., Govt. of Telangana & ICSSR-Ministry of Education, Govt. of India)



From the Director's Desk...



Prof. E. Revathi

The third quarter of the academic year, spanning **July to September**, was marked by several significant academic and research activities at CESS.

During this period, the **Baseline SDG Report for the State of Telangana** was published. The report reviewed the state's progress and achievements across all **16 Sustainable Development Goals** from the formation of Telangana up to 2020. It identified key challenges and outlined a roadmap for achieving the SDGs by 2030.

A major collaborative project supported by the **Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR)** was launched with the organisation of a **National Seminar** titled *“Breaking Barriers and Building Futures: Empowering Women Entrepreneurs in MSMEs for Vision Viksit Bharat @2047.”* The seminar examined the opportunities

and challenges faced by women-owned and women-led MSMEs, while also assessing the effectiveness of existing state policies.

As part of *The Doing Research Assessment – Assessing Social Science Research (SSR)* project, a **regional language seminar** was conducted to examine the status and relevance of social science research in regional languages, particularly in relation to their contribution to local-level policymaking. Social science research in regional languages plays a crucial role in foregrounding indigenous knowledge systems. Under this project, the India team also presented its ongoing work at a **mid-term workshop organised by the Global Development Network (GDN)** in New Delhi from **30 July to 2 August**. A panel discussion titled *“The Many Sides of Social Science Research Capacity in India, and How to Study Them”* deliberated on the long-term trajectory of SSR in India, focusing on issues of quality, funding, governance, and reform. Planned activities for the next quarter include an **International Seminar on SSR: Issues and Challenges**, culminating in an end-term workshop in December.

The **lectures organised by the Division for Graduate Studies (DGS) unit** on contemporary issues of India's development—such as employment and unemployment, and India–China development paradigms—offered fresh perspectives on ongoing development challenges. These lectures also generated stimulating discussions among scholars at CESS.

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Publications

Books / Edited Books

Amir Ullah Khan, Abdul Shaban & Venkatanarayana Motkuri (2025). *Muslims of Uttar Pradesh – Demographic Features and Socio-Economic Inequalities*, Routledge, Taylor & Francis Group, London and New York, ISBN: 978-1-032-76159-6. <https://doi.org/10.4324/9781003661597>

Book Chapters

Balakrushna Padhi & Venkatanarayana Motkuri, “Employment and Unemployment among Socioreligious Groups in Uttar Pradesh”, (2025) in *Muslims of Uttar Pradesh – Demographic Features and Socio-Economic Inequalities*, (Eds). Amir Ullah Khan, Abdul Shaban & Venkatanarayana Motkuri, Routledge India, ISBN: 978-1-032-76159-6.

P. Aparna, “School Education among Muslims in Uttar Pradesh: Access, Equity and Quality” (2025), in *Muslims of Uttar Pradesh – Demographic Features and Socio-Economic Inequalities*, (Eds). Amir Ullah Khan, Abdul Shaban & Venkatanarayana Motkuri, Routledge India, ISBN: 978-1-032-76159-6.

Reports

I. Publication of a Baseline Report on *Sustainable Development Goals in Telangana – Achievements, Challenges and Way Forward*. (Eds.) E. Revathi & Kasturi Alivelu (2025), Centre for Economic and Social Studies, Hyderabad.

1. K. Alivelu & Pradeep Kamble (2025). Sustainable Development Goal 1: No Poverty
2. E. Revathi (2025). Sustainable Development Goal 2: Zero Hunger
3. M. Venkatanarayana (2025). Sustainable Development Goal 3: Good Health & Well-Being.
4. M. Venkatanarayana (2025). Sustainable Development Goal 4: Quality Education.
5. P. Aparna (2025). Sustainable Development Goal 5: Gender Equality
6. M. Srinivasa Reddy (2025). Sustainable Development Goal 6: Clean Water and Sanitation

7. Pradeep Kamble (2025). Sustainable Development Goal 7: Affordable and Clean Energy
 8. C. Ravi (2025). Sustainable Development Goal 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth
 9. K. Alivelu & C.T. Vidya (2025). Sustainable Development Goal 9: Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure
 10. S. Laxman Rao & Y. Sreenivasulu (2025). Sustainable Development Goal 10: Reduced Inequalities
 11. C. Ramachandraiah (2025). Sustainable Development Goal 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities
 12. E. Revathi & G.Thilothu Rao (2025). Sustainable Development Goal 12: Responsible Consumption and Production
 13. P. Dayakar (2025). Sustainable Development Goal 13: Climate Action
 14. T.S. Jeena (2025). Sustainable Development Goal 14: Life Below Water
 15. B. Suresh Reddy (2025). Sustainable Development Goal 15: Life on Land
 16. S. Laxman Rao (2025). Sustainable Development Goal 16: Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions
- II. The draft report prepared by V Vijay Kumar under the supervision of Dr GR Reddy titled “*Telangana State: A Study of Public Finances*” examines the decadal changes in the public finances in Telangana State. The report utilises data from various sources such as CAG reports, Telangana State Budget documents, RBI’s database on the Indian economy, etc. The report is organised into 8 chapters, which cover an introductory chapter, trends analysis of sub-national macroeconomy, revenue receipts, expenditure, fiscal transfers, debt and deficits, subsidies, and a final chapter with concluding remarks.

Journals

Kasturi Alivelu (co-author) (2025). Financial Inclusion Among Indian States: An Analysis Through Financial Inclusion Index, *Global Business Review*,0(0); <https://doi.org/10.1177/09721509251356954>, July, Sage Publication

Padmaja, P., Revathi, E., & Chakradhar, J. (2025). Determinants and Export Potential of India's Turmeric Exports: Evidence from an Augmented Panel Gravity Model. *IASSI Quarterly: Contributions to Indian Social Science*, 44(3), 673–697.

Sreenivasulu Y (2025). Reframing the Rythu Bandhu Scheme in Telangana, *Economic and Political Weekly*, 60(37).

Working Papers/ Monographs

S. Laxman Rao (2025). *Skill Development and Employability among Scheduled Castes in Telangana: Policy Implications Emerging from An Empirical Assessment*, Working Paper No. 150, August 2025, CESS, Hyderabad.

S. Harinath (2025). *Social Inclusion through Institutional Membership: A Study of Scheduled Caste Women Self-Help Groups in Telangana*, Working Paper No. 151, September 2025.

V. Ratna Reddy, Dil B. Rahut & M Srinivasa Reddy (2025). *Cooperative Spirit with Corporate Strategy: Can Farmer Producer Organizations Improve the Viability of Indian Agriculture?* ADBI Working Paper Series, No. 1519, September, Asian Development Bank Institute, Japan.

Articles in Newspapers

Chakradhar, J., & Choudhury, R. N. (7 July 2025). How policy uncertainty is rewriting Asia's economic future. *Madras Courier*. <https://madrascourier.com/opinion/how-policy-uncertainty-is-rewriting-asias-economic-future/>

Amar Yumnam (28 July 2025). Destruction Happening, Reconstruction Needed: Political Leadership Missing, *Imphal Times*, <https://www.imphaltimes.com/guest-column/destruction-happening-reconstruction-needed-political-leadership-missing/>

Chakradhar, J. (5 August 2025). Trump, tariffs & trade wars. *Madras Courier*. <https://madrascourier.com/opinion/trump-tariffs-trade-wars/>

Venkatanarayana Motkuri (9 August 2025). 50% Quota Ceiling Fair to BCs?, Opinion, *Telangana Today*, <https://telanganatoday.com/opinion-is-the-50-quota-ceiling-fair-to-telanganas-bcs>

Amar Yumnam (11 August 2025). Government, Governmentality and Social Crisis: Manipur Tragedy, *Imphal Times*, <https://www.imphaltimes.com/guest-column/government-governmentality-and-social-crisis-manipur-tragedy/>

Chakradhar, J., & Bairwa, A. K. (12 August 2025). Who pays the cost of Trump's India tariff? *Telangana Today*. <https://telanganatoday.com/opinion-who-pays-the-cost-of-trumps-india-tariff>

Chakradhar, J., & Bairwa, A. K. (14 August 2025). Tariff turmoil: how a hike on Indian imports could shift U.S. consumer habits. *Madras Courier*. <https://madrascourier.com/opinion/tariff-turmoil-how-a-hike-on-indian-imp-orts-could-shift-u-s-consumer-habits/>

Jadhav, P., & Chakradhar, J. (17 August 2025). Trump tariffs mark revival of 18th century mercantilism. *Policy Circle*. <https://www.policycircle.org/opinion/trump-tariffs-india-us-trade-2/>

Amar Yumnam (18 August 2025). Thinking and Study of India: The Northeast is not a part of this country, *Imphal Times* https://www.imphaltimes.com/guest-column/thinking-and-study-of-india-the-northeast-is-not-a-part-of-this-country/#google_vignette

Chakradhar, J., & Gupta, R. (28 August 2025). WTO@30: trade, tariffs & lessons from India's agrarian struggles. *The Secretariat*. <https://thesecretariat.in/article/wto-at-30-trade-tariffs-and-lessons-from-india-s-agrarian-struggles>

Mishra, K & Chakradhar, J., (3 September 2025). The 1/3 problem in India's poverty estimation. *Deccan Herald*. <https://www.deccanherald.com/opinion/the-1-3-problem-in-india-s-poverty-estimation-3709237>

Amar Yumnam (8 September 2025). Social Trust, Social Relationships and Long-Term Transformation: Future Manipur, *Imphal Times*, https://www.imphaltimes.com/guest-column/social-trust-social-relationships-and-long-term-transformation-future-manipur/#google_vignette

Amar Yumnam (15 September 2025) Ignorant Empirics and Casual Social Federalism: Manipur Tragedy, *Imphal Times* <https://www.imphaltimes.com/guest-column/ignorant-empirics-and-casual-social-federalism-manipur-tragedy/>

Chakradhar, J., & Ganguly, A. (18 September 2025). Indian economy: declining investment, household savings drag growth. *Policy Circle*. <https://www.policycircle.org/opinion/indian-economy-declining-investments/>

Amar Yumnam (22 September 2025). Searching For The Negative Differentials: Look At Manipur, *Imphal Times*, <https://www.imphaltimes.com/guest-column/searching-for-the-negative-differentials-look-at-manipur/>

Amar Yumnam (29 September 2025). Drugs, Social Peace and Governance: North East Tragedy, *Imphal Times*, <https://www.imphaltimes.com/guest-column/drugs-social-peace-and-governance-north-east-tragedy/>

Seminars, Conferences, Workshops, Lectures Delivered and Invited Talks

Arifa Sultana, delivered a lecture to the Andhra Pradesh SRLM officers on “Governance and Management of Business Development Plans,” with a focus on preparing financial statements for effective business planning. The session was held at NIRDPR, Hyderabad, on 3 September 2025.

E Revathi, delivered a Special Guest Address in National Conference on *Multidisciplinary Dialogue and Discourse between Arts and Social Sciences*, organised by Osmania University, held on 2–3 July 2025.

E. Revathi, delivered a Lecture on *Economic History of Hyderabad State 1858-1948*: Dept. of Economics, MANU on 19 September 2025.

M.Gopinath Reddy was the Chairperson for Parallel Technical Session 1.2: Self-Help Groups, Rural Institutions, and Gender Inclusion at the CESS Two-Day National Seminar on “Breaking Barriers and Building Futures: Empowering Women Entrepreneurs in MSMEs for Vision Viksit Bharat 2047,” held on 18–19 July 2025.

----- Presented a lecture on “*Article Writing Using Quantitative and Qualitative Research Tools: A Case Of Forest Governance Studies*” at the Three-day Workshop on “Academic Writing in Social Sciences for Young Faculty/ Research Scholars, Economics Dept”, Osmania University, 11-13 July, 2025.

M.Srinivasa Reddy participated in the discussions on Scalable Solutions for Crop Improvement and Production Technologies for the Global South, Celebrating UN Day for South-South Cooperation, ICRISAT, Hyderabad, 12 September 2025.

----- Organised and coordinated (**Local Organising Secretary**), Two-Day National Seminar on “*Breaking Barriers and Building Futures: Empowering Women Entrepreneurs in MSMEs for Vision Viksit Bharat @2047*” at CESS on 18–19 July 2025, in collaboration with the Department of Economics, Central University of Andhra Pradesh, Anantapuramu, ICFAI School of Social Sciences, Hyderabad, and funded by ICSSR, New Delhi, SERP, StreeNidhi, and WASSAN, Hyderabad. He also served as **Co-chair** for the technical sessions on *Sectoral Innovations and Regional Insights in the MSME Sector* and *Stakeholder Voice: Handloom Sector*.

Paper Presentations

Ch. Krishna Rao, presented a paper on *Higher Education and the Marginalization of Scheduled Tribes in Neoliberal India* at International Seminar on Indigenous/Tribal Communities-Reframing Research Methodologies during 7-9 August 2025 organized by Department of Indian and World Literature, The English & Foreign Languages University (EFLU), Hyderabad.

----- Presented a paper on *National Education Policy 2020 of India: A Roadmap for Skill-Education System at National Seminar on Language, Identity, and Power: Sociological Reflections on NEP 2020 and the Mother Tongue* during 24-25 September 2025 organized by Department of Sociology, Faculty of Social Sciences, Banaras Hindu University (BHU), Varanasi in collaboration with RC-05 Sociology of Education Indian Sociological Society, New Delhi. (Online).

Jadhav Chakradhar presented a paper titled “*Do Democracy and Rule of Law Matter for Manufacturing Exports? Evidence from Emerging Economies*” at the International Conference on Law, Economics and Contemporary Challenges, School of Law, Bennett University, New Delhi, held on 28-29 August, 2025. The paper received the Best Paper Award

P. Aparna presented the paper titled *Access to Credit and Productivity Among Informal Enterprises: Evidence from Food and Apparel Sectors in India*, at National Seminar on Breaking Barriers and Building Futures: Empowering Women Entrepreneurs in MSMEs for Vision Viksit Bharat @2047” at CESS on 18–19 July 2025.

Ongoing Studies

1. **Breaking Glass Ceilings at Workplace: Empowering Women Entrepreneurs in the MSMEs Sector of South India (Sponsor: Special call for Collaborative Research Projects on Vision Viksit Bharat@2047, ICSSR, New Delhi; Project Team: Y. Kesava Reddy, Brajaraja Mishra, M. Srinivasa Reddy, Sushanta Kumar Mahapatra, and Neeraj Kumar)**

The project aims at breaking the invisible barriers hindering the success of women entrepreneurs in the Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSME) sector in South India. This study will focus on all five South Indian states—Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, and Telangana—due to their vibrant MSME sector and the growing presence of women entrepreneurs. By employing innovative research methods, including a mixed-methods approach, thematic analysis, and statistical and econometric analysis, the study aims to generate new knowledge and insights into the experiences of women entrepreneurs. By identifying strategies to overcome invisible barriers, the research will create a more inclusive and supportive environment for women entrepreneurs, driving economic development and social progress in South India.

2. **Verification of Andhra Pradesh Community Natural Farming Practices: Challenges and Way forward (Sponsor: Government of Andhra Pradesh; Project Team: Y. Sreenivasulu and A. Rajani; Advisory Team: E. Revathi, P. Prudhvikar Reddy and C. Ravi)**

The final research report title “Verification of Andhra Pradesh Community Natural Farming Practices: Challenges and Way forward” has been submitted to the RySS, Government of Andhra Pradesh. The Andhra Pradesh Community-Managed Natural Farming (APCNF) initiative aspires to transition nearly one million farmers to agro-ecological practices, positioning itself as one of the world’s largest experiments in sustainable agriculture (Vijay & Patel,

2025). Central to this transition is the Pre-Monsoon Dry Sowing (PMDS) strategy, which leverages residual soil moisture for early sowing, enhancing seed germination, soil health, and climate resilience while reducing chemical input dependency and improving biodiversity. Field verification of 10,895 sample records cross-cutting 26 districts of Andhra Pradesh has revealed 92.1% traceability against the URVI database. 13% of the sample was identified as non-PMDS cultivators, which was further reiterated in the chapter descriptions as attributable to the farmers’ transition from lease status to migration and other causes. At an overview, the 92.1% traceability of sample individuals speaks of the relative robustness of the URVI portal. However, the 13% non-traceability of the sample from the URVI records brings to light the need for some mechanism to be in place, which tracks the population and records reasons for their transition into the Non PMDS status. Similarly, the untraceability of 0.4% (42 farmers), though minuscule, prompts the need for the upgradation of the URVI portal to link with other Government portals that record vital statistics (Births and deaths), etc. The study demonstrates that APCNF, particularly through PMDS, has achieved substantial progress in promoting inclusive, climate-resilient agriculture. However, sustaining and deepening this transition requires strengthening digital governance systems, improving district-level monitoring, expanding irrigation and extension infrastructure, enhancing institutional coordination, and ensuring continuous capacity building. Addressing regional disparities and structural vulnerabilities will be essential for consolidating Andhra Pradesh’s agro-ecological transformation and advancing its long-term sustainability agenda.

3. **Estimation of the Consumption of Chemical Fertilizers in Andhra Pradesh during the years 2023-24 and 2024-25. (Sponsor: Rythu Sadhikara Samithi, Government of Andhra Pradesh; Project Team: B Suresh Reddy, Jhadav Chakradhar, Advisory Team: E. Revathi, P. Prudhvikar Reddy and C. Ravi)**

The primary objective of this study is to estimate the consumption and value of chemical fertilizers (Urea, Ammonia, Super Phosphate, Potash, DAP, and Complex fertilizers) among Pre-Monsoon Dry Sowing (PMDS) farmers and to compare these with the consumption and value of fertilizers used by control farmers i.e farmers using

chemical fertilisers or the non-CNF farmers) across major crops under both irrigated and rainfed conditions. Findings of the study indicate

Empirical evidence indicates that farmers are using less chemical fertilizer in PMDS plots as compared to control plots. Similarly, the usage was much lower in rainfed plots than in irrigated plots. There are inter-zonal differences in fertilizer consumption, both among program and control farmers, with the lowest usage in the HAT Zone and the highest in the Krishna Zone. Findings indicate that marginal farmers are using more fertilizer per hectare than small and other farmers. It is worth noting that the pure S2S farmers were not using fertilizers at all and were entirely dependent on CNF inputs without sacrificing yields.

A comparative analysis of farmers' practices vis-à-vis the agricultural university's recommendations of NPK fertilisers revealed that, during kharif 2024-25, for the paddy crop in the HAT zone, the usage of NPK nutrients is significantly less than the recommended dosage in both PMDS and control plots. Krishna and Southern agroclimatic zones are using substantially higher quantities of N and P nutrients in control plots than the recommendations. In crops like Red Gram, Bengal Gram, and Black Gram, the nutrient nitrogen is used in quantities higher than recommended.

Based on the empirical evidence, it can be concluded that farmers adopting the PMDS practices are saving the government's exchequer and thereby protecting the health of the soil. Hence, they should be incentivized by extending financial and technical support to use natural soil fertility-enhancing inputs, which contribute to long-term soil health.

4. Doing Social Science Research Assessment (DRA) in India. A Global Development Network (GDN) Project (Sponsor: ICSSR, New Delhi; Mentor: Prof. Balveer Arora, Chairman, Centre for Multilevel Federalism, Former Professor of Political Science & Rector, Jawaharlal Nehru University; Project Team: E. Revathi (Principal Investigator), Sujit Kumar Mishra, C.H. Yaganti, P. Aparna, Arifa Sultana, S. Harinath) December 2024 to February 2026.

The project aims to assess the state of social science research in India by evaluating its production, diffusion, and uptake

through a globally standardised methodology. The team has completed two chapters on context analysis and stakeholder mapping. At the end of July, the team attended the Mid-Term Workshop held in Delhi, where they presented the context, stakeholder mapping and sampling design. After finalising the sample size and questionnaires, the field survey began in August.



Visit to the Central University of Jharkhand, during the field survey of GDN

New Projects Launched

1. Internal Police Reform in India: Evidence from Telangana (Sponsor: Indian Police Foundation (IPF), New Delhi; Project Team: Jadhav Chakradhar, Bhaskar, Malla Reddy, Bhaskar Reddy, Narsaiah)

This study examines the nature, effectiveness, and challenges of internal police reforms in Telangana through a comprehensive stakeholder-based assessment. Using a mixed-methods approach, the project combines Focused Group Discussions (FGDs) and in-depth interviews across primary and secondary stakeholders within the policing and justice ecosystem. Primary stakeholders include complainants and victims; NCR/CSR cases; Dial 100/112 users; 174 CrPC cases; preventive arrest cases; accused and suspects; missing persons; lost property cases; protesters; citizen service seekers; police constables and head constables; and senior police officers. Secondary stakeholders comprise civil society NGOs, RWAs, CLG members, academicians, and judicial officers. The study aims to generate empirical evidence on procedural fairness, service delivery, accountability mechanisms, internal functioning, and public trust in policing. The findings will inform policy-relevant recommendations to strengthen internal police reforms, improve service orientation, and enhance institutional accountability.

Division for Graduate Studies

CESS-DGS Ph.D Induction Programme – for the 2025-26 Batch

The Centre for Economic and Social Studies (CESS), in collaboration with Telangana University, Nizamabad, hosted the Ph.D. Induction Programme for the 2025–26 Batch of the Regular Ph.D. Programme with a focus on Development Studies.

The gathering was welcomed by Dr. Aivelu Kasturi, Dean, Division for Graduate Studies, who noted that this marks the 10th batch of the regular Ph.D. Programme. She warmly welcomed the new scholars to their research journey. As part of the introduction, faculty members, researchers, and newly admitted scholars introduced themselves along with their respective disciplines.

Prof. D M Nachane, Chairman, CESS and distinguished guest for the induction programme, shared his rich experience of guiding nearly 35–40 Ph.D. students during his career and highlighted the challenges that scholars face in the course of research. He stressed the importance of carefully choosing a research topic, distinguishing between theoretical and applied economics, and understanding the methodology thoroughly before finalizing.

He observed that in India, only about 2–3% of research is theoretical, while 95% is applied economics. For applied work, access to reliable data sources is the first hurdle. He emphasized the need to be familiar with Indian data sources such as those published by the RBI, National Sample Survey (NSS), etc., and to clearly understand where the data is found, its time span, and its limitations.

Prof. Nachane also pointed out on selecting topics based on the transitory prominence of social media or current events. For example, issues like Trump tariffs may not have lasting significance, whereas events such as demonetization in India can serve as strong research topics due to their potential recurrence and policy relevance.

He advised that when working on popular topics such as the demographic dividend, students should strive to bring in new perspectives. He underlined the importance of innovation, exploratory data analysis, statistical techniques, and tools like principal component analysis, which are

useful even for Sociology and Political Science scholars.

Further, he cautioned that relying solely on correlations is insufficient. Like in medicine, where causality must be demonstrated, in economics too, scholars must clearly establish cause–effect relationships—for instance, showing not just that money supply correlates with inflation, but also why this causality exists.

He emphasized that good research should contribute constructive guidelines for policy-making, and in this regard, he cited the study carried out on farmers' suicides in Maharashtra. He also focused on the limitations of econometric analysis in influencing policies. He urged students not to rush their theses, but to maintain patience and quality, reminding them that the world is constantly changing and research must address new challenges.



Prof. Dilip M. Nachane, Chairman, CESS, delivered the keynote address at the Ph.D. Induction Programme for the 2025–26 batch.

Prof. Nachane concluded by warmly welcoming the students and wishing them success in their Ph.D. journey.

Prof. Revathi, who chaired the Induction Programme, explained the curriculum of the Ph.D. Programme, including recent changes in coursework, doctoral committees,

and proposal requirements. She stressed the importance of creating new knowledge, careful topic selection, and the role of statistical analysis during the initial phase of research. She also encouraged students to pursue analytical rather than merely descriptive research.

Ph.D Awarded

1. Jyothsna Varsha, *Mergers and Acquisitions, Patenting in the Indian Pharmaceutical Industry*. Ph.D Dissertation Supervised by Dr. Aivelu Kasturi, Centre for Economic and Social Studies, September 2025, awarded by *Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Open University*, Hyderabad.
2. Nalini Mohan Denduluri, *An Assessment of Forest Governance and Climate Change in India: A Case Study of United Andhra Pradesh*, Ph.D Dissertation Supervised by Prof. M. Gopinath Reddy, Centre for Economic and Social Studies, July 2025, awarded by *Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Open University*, Hyderabad.

Ph.D Submitted

1. Santhosh Gugulothu, *Socio-economic inequalities among Scheduled Caste Tribes in Telangana: A Sociological Study of Adivasi, PVTG and Dispersed Tribes*, Ph.D dissertation supervised by Dr. Vijay Korra, Centre for Economic and Social Studies, July 2025, submitted to *Telangana University*, Nizamabad.

Events

1. Two-Day National Seminar on “Breaking Barriers and Building Futures: Empowering Women Entrepreneurs in MSMEs for Vision Viksit Bharat 2047”

The Centre, in collaboration with the Central University of Andhra Pradesh and the ICAFI School of Social Sciences (ISoSS), organized a two-day national seminar on “*Breaking Barriers and Building Futures: Empowering Women Entrepreneurs in MSMEs for Vision Viksit Bharat @2047*” on 18–19 July 2025. The event was supported by ICSSR, SERP-Telangana, Stree Nidhi (Government of Telangana), SIDBI-Telangana, and WASSAN. The seminar brought together distinguished speakers, researchers, policy makers, and practitioners to deliberate on the critical role of women entrepreneurs in MSMEs in driving India’s development agenda towards Viksit Bharat @2047. Stakeholders from

government institutions, academia, financial sectors, and civil society participated in wide-ranging discussions aimed at fostering inclusive growth.

The inaugural session, held at the B.P.R. Vithal Auditorium, began with a traditional lamp-lighting ceremony. Prof. E. Revathi, Director, CESS, welcomed the gathering and introduced the seminar’s theme, while Dr. Y. Kesava Reddy, Central University of Andhra Pradesh, outlined the objectives, emphasizing inclusive, women-led economic development. Prof. C. Sheela Reddy (CUAP) spoke on amplifying women’s voices through MSMEs, and Prof. L. S. Ganesh (IFHE) highlighted capacity-building and workforce development. Dr. Eranti Vijaya, Director, NIMSME, discussed challenges faced by women entrepreneurs, including limited awareness of schemes, inadequate bank-friendly evaluation systems, and digital illiteracy in rural areas, advocating for targeted interventions.

Dr. G. Chinna Reddy, Vice Chairman, Telangana State Planning Board, delivered the inaugural keynote address, highlighting the State Government’s commitment to women-centric development, especially through SHGs and MSME policies. He stressed the integration of housing,



Dr. G. Chinna Reddy, Vice Chairman, Telangana State Planning Board, attended as the Chief Guest at the Two-Day National Seminar

textiles, and food processing sectors under a holistic development approach and called for enhanced institutional credit access and policy support for women entrepreneurs. The session concluded with a Vote of Thanks by Dr. M. Srinivasa Reddy, CESS.

The valedictory session concluded the two-day seminar on a reflective and forward-looking note, appreciating the collaborative efforts of the organizing institutions. It underscored the need for sustained academic engagement to promote inclusive entrepreneurship.

2. National Seminar on “Empowering India 2047: Strategies for Sustainable Development” Organized by Telangana University Sponsored by ICSSR-SRC and TGCHE on 17-18 July 2025

In her keynote address, Prof. Revathi emphasized the multidimensional approach to achieve sustainable development in India by 2047. She reiterated that sustainable development cannot be understood in isolation but must be examined in connection with inclusive growth, social equity, and participatory governance. Empowerment of India should not be limited to urban-centric narratives or high economic growth alone, but must include rural transformation, upliftment of marginalised groups, and the building of equitable access to resources, education, and health. A comprehensive and collaborative effort among policymakers, academia, civil society, and the youth is needed. She called for strategic focus on gender equality, employment generation, rural infrastructure, access to clean energy, and inclusive digital governance. There is a need to study the Sustainable goals at the local level and urged students and scholars of the University to involve in such studies.



Prof. E. Revathi, Director, CESS, delivered the keynote address at the National Seminar on “Empowering India 2047: Strategies for Sustainable Development” at TU.

3. State-level Workshop on “Social Science Research in Regional Languages and Policy Making in Telugu States: Issues and Challenges”

The Centre for Economic and Social Studies (CESS), in collaboration with the Global Development Network (GDN), organised a one-day State-Level Workshop on “Social Science Research in Regional Languages and Policy Making in Telugu States: Issues and Challenges” on 25 July 2025 at the CESS campus, Hyderabad. The workshop was conducted as part of CESS’s ongoing research engagement under the ‘Doing Research Assessment’ Project supported by GDN with Dr S Harinath as the lead organiser.

Prof. E. Revathi, PI of the project, in her opening remarks, explained about the Global Development Network (GDN) project and its objectives. The workshop included 16 eminent speakers, including journalists and academicians from various universities of Telangana and Andhra Pradesh, and was organised into two thematic sessions—Session I on *Multilingual Research Ecosystems and Institutional Landscape* moderated by Dr. S. Laxman Rao, and Session II on *Knowledge Translation and Public Policy Interfaces* moderated by Prof. M. Gopinath Reddy.

The workshop highlighted the need for a national or regional policy to include regional language research in government decision-making, establish regional research cells, recognise Telugu publications equally with English, include regional language journals in UGC-CARE lists, and fund the creation of technical glossaries. It also recommended developing policy briefs in Telugu, promoting community-based participatory research, building open-access digital



Dignitaries at the State-Level Workshop on “Social Science Research in Regional Languages and Policy Making in Telugu States”

libraries, and integrating traditional knowledge with academic research for effective policymaking. S Harinath summarised the deliberations.

4. Mid-Term Evaluation of the GDN Project with Teams from India, Cambodia, Laos, and Fiji

The Global Development Network (GDN) Project teams from India, Cambodia, Laos, and Fiji participated in the mid-term evaluation held in New Delhi from 31 July to 2 August 2025. Team India comprised six members, Prof. E Revathi (Principal Investigator), Dr. P Aparna, Dr. Arifa Sultana and Dr. S Harinath from Centre of Economic and Social Studies. Prof. Sujit Kumar Mishra, from Council for Social Development and Dr. C Hussain Yaganti from BITS Pilani, Hyderabad. The evaluation meeting facilitated collaborative discussions, progress reviews, and cross-country learning among the participating teams.

GDN India Team Participated in the Panel Discussion on “*The Many Sides of Social Science Research Capacity in India, and How to Study Them*” at **India International Centre (IIC)** on 2nd August 2025. Prof. Balveer Arora delivered the opening remarks, and Prof. E. Revathi concluded the session.



Participants from India, Cambodia, Laos, and Fiji at the GDN Project mid-term evaluation

5. CESS-DGS Special Lecture on “The Socioeconomic underpinnings of India’s North-South divide”

CESS-DGS hosted a Special Lecture on “*The Socioeconomic Underpinnings of India’s North-South Divide*” on 15 July 2025. The lecture was delivered by Dr. Rathin Roy, Distinguished Professor at the Kautilya School of Public Policy. He highlighted the stark disparities between the

Great Indian Plain (GIP) and the Peninsula, noting that the Peninsula has per capita incomes at least double those of the GIP states. While Tamil Nadu and Kerala are comparable to Indonesia, Uttar Pradesh and Bihar are poorer than Nepal. In terms of life expectancy, health, education, and poverty ratios, the GIP was described as being on par with Burkina Faso, whereas the Peninsula aligns with upper-middle-income countries of Europe and South America.

Dr. Rathin Roy further emphasized that while the Peninsula is economically more powerful, the GIP holds greater political power, creating an unusual asymmetry in India’s federal structure. He described this as an “**existential crisis**,” contrasting it with other federal systems where economically prosperous regions also have population strength. He also addressed critical issues such as **inequality, casteism, patriarchy, and the persistence of the informal sector**, highlighting that despite economic advancement, the Peninsula continues to grapple with deep-rooted social challenges. The lecture called for greater attention to **inclusive development** and **social cohesion** as essential elements in bridging the regional divide and achieving sustainable transformation.



DGS Special Lecture delivered by Dr. Rathin Roy

6. CESS-DGS Special Lecture on “Why Are Indians Unemployed?”

CESS-DGS hosted a Special Lecture on “*Why Are Indians Unemployed?*”, delivered by Prof. Dhanmanjiri Sathe, Professor, Department of Economics, Savitribai Phule Pune University, Pune, on 12 August 2025. The session was chaired by Prof. Dilip M. Nachane, Chairman, CESS.

The gathering was welcomed by *Dr. Alivelu Kasturi*, Dean, DGS, who also provided a brief overview of the CESS–DGS Ph.D. Programme. *Prof. E. Revathi*, Director, CESS, contributed additional points to the theme, drawing attention to its institutional and policy dimensions. *Prof. Dilip M. Nachane* enriched the session by offering his analysis on key economic aspects of unemployment in India, adding further depth to the deliberations.

Prof. *Dhanmanjiri Sathe* began by highlighting the employment structure in India, noting that while the formal sector employment constitutes less than 9% and unemployment is around 6%, the vast majority—approximately 85%—fall into the category of underemployment. She emphasized the difficulty of accurately measuring underemployment and unemployment, which itself reveals structural complexities.

The lecture examined the socio-economic and political dimensions of unemployment in India, with a particular focus on its caste-related aspects. She discussed how historical asset ownership—education for Brahmins, land for Kshatriyas, trade for Vaishyas, and cultivation or artisanal work for Shudras—has influenced economic opportunities. She noted that economic policy since the Planning era, reinforced in the liberalization period, has been biased towards capital- and skill-intensive industrialization, inadvertently perpetuating caste-based disparities.

Drawing on historical evidence, including the formulation of the Constitution, the First Five-Year Plan, and the Hindu Code Bill, as well as data from the Hazari Committee Report (1967), she analyzed how entrenched social groups have shaped policy outcomes. Despite economic liberalization in 1991, the anticipated shift towards labour-intensive industrialization did not occur, leaving a labour-abundant economy with persistently low employment absorption.



The lecture was delivered by Prof. Dhanmanjiri Sathe

7. Second Prof. R. Radhakrishna Memorial Lecture

The Centre organised the Second Prof. R. Radhakrishna Memorial Lecture on 13 August 2025 at BPR Vithal Auditorium. The session was chaired by Prof. Dilip M. Nachane, Chairman, CESS, and the lecture was delivered by Prof. Sudipto Mundle, Chairman, Centre for Development Studies, Trivandrum, on “*Some Observations on an Employment-Centred Perspective of Development*”

In his opening remarks, Prof. Dilip M Nachane mentioned that Prof. R. Radhakrishna was an eminent economist, former Director of CESS from 1985-1995, Chairman of CESS from 2013-2022, and Vice Chancellor of Andhra University. He played key roles in national poverty estimation committees (Lakdawala and Tendulkar) and led several international development initiatives. He served as Member Secretary of ICSSR and Director/ Vice Chancellor of IGIDR, and advised institutions like the World Bank, ADB, and UNDP. He had published over 100 research papers on poverty, food security, and economic welfare. Honoured with the VKRV Rao Prize and Telugu Atma Gaurava Puraskaram, his legacy inspires generations of scholars and policymakers.

Prof. Sudipto Mundle, pointed out that, employment as the principal indicator of economic performance is a powerful counterpoint to GDP-centric narratives. India’s projected growth of 6.5% in 2024 and 6.2% in 2025 positions it as the global frontrunner among major economies. Despite this, job creation has not kept pace, suggesting a disconnect between economic expansion and labour market absorption. To overcome unemployment, he proposed three pillars, which are as follows.

1. Maximise employment growth in the short run by incentivising the development of six or seven large, employment-intensive industries and services. These would all be traditional, low-productivity sectors requiring relatively unskilled workers who would be hired at low wages. This matches the skill profile of a significant segment of the Indian workforce, and this profile cannot be changed overnight. These would not be what we might call good jobs. But at least they will provide the large bulk of new entrants to the workforce with a means of livelihood, however modest.

2. The introduction of University Technical Colleges at the secondary stage of education, combined with a complete overhaul of higher education, will transform the Indian workforce into a high-skilled, high-productivity workforce over the medium to long term. Producing a workforce capable of mastering emerging technologies, particularly artificial intelligence, and managing their introduction into modern industries or services is essential. It is a prerequisite for ensuring that India remains globally competitive as it transitions from a low-middle income country to a high-middle income country and eventually to a high-income country, Viksit Bharat.
3. Agriculture Interventions will be required to significantly raise productivity, ecologically sustainably. Cropping patterns must be nudged away from water-intensive crops towards high-value-added crops. At the same time, the overall production structure is shifted from crops to non-crop products such as dairy, poultry, fisheries, and other livestock.



Prof. Sudipto Mundle, Chairman, Centre for Development Studies, Trivandrum, delivered the lecture

8. Invited Lecture on “The Making of China and India in the 21st Century: Long-Run Human Capital Accumulation from 1900 to 2020”

CESS hosted an Invited Lecture by **Dr. Nitin Kumar Bharti**, Assistant Professor at the UWA Business School, University of Western Australia, on “*The Making of China and India in the 21st Century: Long-Run Human Capital*

Accumulation from 1900 to 2020” on 10 September 2025. The lecture was chaired by **Prof. E. Revathi**, Director of CESS, and attended by **Prof. C.H. Hanumantha Rao**, Founder Member, CESS.

Dr. Nitin Kumar Bharti’s presentation focused on how education policies and human capital formation in India and China over the past 120 years have shaped their long-run economic development. He compared the two countries across different phases—colonial and pre-independence (1900–1950), closed economy (1950–1980), and post-liberalization (1980–2020)—highlighting the impact of policy choices in education.

The lecture identified three core dimensions:

1. **Bottom-Up vs. Top-Down Expansion** – China followed a staged approach, expanding primary education first, then secondary, and later tertiary, while India focused on secondary and tertiary education earlier, with delayed emphasis on primary education post-1990.
2. **Diversification of Education** – China developed a robust vocational system and produced a higher share of engineers, whereas India remained skewed towards humanities and general degrees, with limited vocationalization. China looks more like a ‘land of engineers’ (20-30%) over the last 100 years, compared to India in recent years, with 15% of engineering graduates.



Dr. Nitin Kumar Bharti, Assistant Professor at the UWA Business School, University of Western Australia, delivered the Invited lecture

3. **Quantity vs. Quality** – rapid expansion in China pre-1980 came at the expense of declining quality, whereas India maintained quality with slower expansion. The main tool of quality in China has been *hiring more*

teachers, whereas in India, it is *high-quality teachers* with relatively higher average earnings.

9. Faculty Seminar on “Household energy transition to clean fuel in rural India”

CESS organised a Faculty Seminar on “*Household Energy Transition to Clean Fuel in Rural India*” presented by **Dr. N. Brahmanandam**, Assistant Professor, Research Unit for Studies in Inclusive Development on September 12 2025. Dr. Venkatanarayana was the discussant, and Prof. E. Revathi chaired the seminar. The study assessed the household energy use pattern and per-capita real spending on clean energy for the different social groups; and an intersection of these with BPL card holders; and also with different economic statuses, based on data from two rounds of the National Sample Survey of Consumption Expenditure (2011-12 and 2022-23). Cross-tabulations, multivariate binary logistic regression and multiple linear regression were used to analyse the association between clean energy use and real -per-capita spending on clean fuel for all these groups. The pooled multivariate logistic regression and pooled multivariate linear regression were used to see the change in clean fuel and real-per-capita spending on it from 2011 to 2022, keeping 2011 as the reference category. Results show overall increment in real per-capita spending, and the percentage households using clean fuel is more among the lower- and middle-income social groups and social groups with BPL card holders from 2011 to 2022. However, significant social disparities are still prevalent in the usage of clean energy, and most rural households are more likely to use biomass fuel compared to clean fuel. The end-period 2022-23 logistic regression results indicated



Faculty Seminar on “Household energy transition to clean fuel in rural India” by Dr. N. Brahmanandam

that without controlling for other variables, OBC-BPL cardholders are significantly more likely to use clean fuel and SC-BPL cardholders are more likely to use clean fuel, though differences are not significant. Results from pooled multivariate logistic regression showed that compared to 2011-12, there is a more likely use of clean energy for cooking in 2022-23; and results from pooled multivariate linear regression showed that per-capita spending on clean fuel is positively associated in 2022-23 compared to 2011-12.

10. Talk on “Alignment and Misalignment between Research Agendas and Societal Needs: Why Diversity and Inclusion Matter”

CESS hosted a talk by **Dr. Ismael Rafols Garcia** (INGENIO, Universitat Politècnica de València; UNESCO Chair on Diversity and Inclusion in Global Science; CWTS, Leiden University) on “*Alignment and Misalignment between Research Agendas and Societal Needs: Why Diversity and Inclusion Matter*” 15 September 2025. The lecture was chaired by Prof. E. Revathi, Director, CESS, and was organised as part of the ICSSR and Global Development Network (GDN)–supported project.

Dr. Rafols outlined three broad perspectives under the UNESCO Chair (1) studies on the (in)visibility of research from and for the Global South, (2) supporting UNESCO in monitoring for Open Science, and (3) investigation of epistemic and topical diversity, notably in health priorities. He argued for pluralistic, contextual research assessment that privileges qualitative evaluation and responsible use of indicators, and highlighted reform initiatives such as the Coalition for Advancing Research Assessment and regional efforts like FOLEC in Latin America.

Drawing on the UNESCO Recommendation on Open Science (2021), Dr. Rafols stressed that open science must go beyond access to include participation and benefit: open publications, open data, open educational resources, open-source tools and supportive physical and virtual infrastructures. He emphasized meaningful dialogue with local communities, indigenous knowledge systems and marginalized scholars, and the engagement of societal actors through citizen and participatory science, crowdsourcing and participatory research to ensure equity, integrity and shared benefit.

Yet, the benefits of science are often unequally distributed, favouring dominant countries, groups, or genders. To address this imbalance, initiatives like Living Labs are vital. By engaging directly with communities, identifying local problems, and co-developing solutions, they foster equity, inclusion, and more socially relevant research outcomes. The talk concluded with an insightful discussion among the faculty, researchers, and scholars.



Talk on “Alignment and Misalignment between Research Agendas and Societal Needs: Why Diversity and Inclusion Matter,” delivered by Dr. Ismael Rafols Garcia

11. Faculty Seminar on “Gramsci and South Asia: A Dialogue with Subalterns”

CESS organised a Faculty Seminar on “Gramsci and South Asia: A Dialogue with Subalterns” by **Prof. Arun Kumar Patnaik**, Retired Professor of Political Science, Hyderabad Central University, on 17 September 2025. The session was chaired by Prof. Amar Yumnam, Visiting Professor, CESS.

Prof. Arun Kumar Patnaik stated that South Asian scholars can learn five essential lessons from Gramsci. First, it is vital to historicise Gramsci’s theory in South Asia by assimilating his ideals and conceptual tools when they align with the principles of our native intellectuals from the interwar period. Second, a nation’s intellectuals must dialectically engage with the social imaginary of the masses to effect transformation. Gramsci urges intellectuals to heed the protagonist’s advice in the Hindi film Chennai Express: “Don’t underestimate the power of the common man.” However, he also cautions against the opposite extreme of glorifying common sense. A critical respect for understanding the masses and a willingness to learn from and unlearn their feelings and perceptions are crucial for any intellectual project aimed at mass transformation. Third, engaging in dialogue with

the subaltern masses may involve multiple pathways, as the social imaginary comprises a hierarchy of consciousness: common sense, religious common sense, folk religion, popular religion, and official religion. Consequently, the transformative project should be plural rather than singular. Fourth, a modern initiative must be rooted in traditional sectors through dialogue with the masses while pursuing secular and developmental goals. C. R. Das’s engagement with religious minorities when introducing universal adult suffrage in the Bengal Assembly during the 1920s offers a crucial lesson for modern India. Similarly, the dialogues initiated by A. B. Vajpayee with terrorists, Islamic clerics, and Jyoti Basu with community leaders in the Haldia project present compelling cases of dialogue from India’s post-colonial history. Fifth, a philosophical project aimed at achieving hegemony must learn from the strengths of its adversaries while critically assessing their limitations, partly because its subaltern support can be a source of strength, necessitating dialogue with both the subalterns and the adversary.



Faculty Seminar on “Gramsci and South Asia: A Dialogue with Subalterns” by Prof. Arun Kumar Patnaik

12. Telangana State Energy Finance Conference 2025 on “Telangana’s Energy Landscape: Policy and Practical Challenges”

The Telangana State Energy Finance Conference 2025, was conducted on 25 September 2025 at the Centre for Economic and Social Studies. This conference was organized by a coalition of leading civil society organizations, research institutions, and industry bodies. The conference delved into the critical theme of “Telangana’s Energy Landscape: Policy and Practical Challenges.”

The keynote address for this conference was delivered by **Sri Navin Mittal, Principal Secretary, Energy, Government**

of Telangana. In his address, Sri Mittal gave an overview of the power sector and energy transition pathways as per plans of the Government of Telangana. He further emphasized his fundamental belief that both finance and energy should back each other. He strongly urged the participants to develop policy suggestions for the government to consider as an outcome of the discussions in this conference.

This one-day conference brought together policymakers, experts, industry representatives, and community voices to analyse the state’s energy sector, focusing on financing, regulatory challenges, and sustainable pathways for the future. Organized by the People’s Monitoring Group on Electricity Regulations, the Centre for Economic and Social Studies, the Federation of Telangana Chambers of Commerce and Industries, Centre for Financial Accountability and the Rural Reconstruction and Development Society, the sessions aimed to foster meaningful discourse on clean energy, conventional regulations, waste-to-energy, and the critical role of finance in shaping sustainable energy futures for Telangana.



Sri Navin Mittal, Principal Secretary (Energy), Government of Telangana, along with dignitaries at the Telangana State Energy Finance Conference 2025

Key speakers who contributed to the Conference included Prof. E. Revathi (Chair and Director, CESS), Mr. Joe Athialy (Executive Director, Centre for Financial Accountability), Dr. D. Narsimha Reddy (Senior Policy Analyst), and Sri Vinod Agarwal (Chairman, Energy Committee, FTCCI), along with several other distinguished speakers who enriched the discussions.



Bathukamma Celebrations, 2025



Dr. G. Chinna Reddy, Vice Chairman, Telangana State Planning Board; Prof. L. S. Ganesh, Vice-Chancellor, IFHE University; Dr. Eranti Vijaya, Director-SEM, National Institute for MSME, Hyderabad; and Prof. C. Sheela Reddy, Registrar and Dean (I/c), CUAP, at the inaugural ceremony of the two-day National Seminar on “Breaking Barriers and Building Futures: Empowering Women Entrepreneurs in MSMEs for Vision Viksit Bharat 2047”.



Editors: Dr. Y Sreenivasulu and Dr. P Aparna

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