



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization



UNESCO Chair in Community Based
Research and Social Responsibility
in Higher Education



University
of Victoria



जगत की महिला है
प्रिया

K4C GLOBAL CONSORTIUM WEBINAR SERIES

PREPARING THE NEXT GENERATION OF RESEARCHERS



K4C HUB-RAIPUR
23RD JUNE, 2020

INTRODUCTION

The unprecedented COVID-19 pandemic has impacted lives across the world. Slowly, what began as a health issue, evolved into something much larger- a crisis which touched each aspect of our lives. While the pandemic has certainly affected one and all, some have been affected more than the others. These include the vulnerable sections of our community - the informal labour force, the women and the children. The brunt of the unplanned nationwide lockdown and the impact of the same here after is borne heavily by these individuals.

As practitioners of community-based research, it is critical for us to remain connected with our community and to engage with them as they face this current challenge.

Through this webinar, the Sangwari hub draws our attention to the relevance of the work of a CBPR practitioner in the present time. The hub expresses the need for collaboration with stakeholders such that one can influence and inform policy making through community driven evidence-based research.

With its aim of preparing the next generation of community-based researchers, the Sangwari hub shared their experience as a K4C hub and showcased some of the work undertaken by their students.

OPENING COMMENTS

DR. RAJESH TANDON

Dr. Rajesh Tandon (Co-Chair, UNESCO Chair in Community-Based Research & Social Responsibility in Higher Education) shared the story of the evolution of the Knowledge for Change (K4C) Consortium. Noticing the lack of actual participation by community members to set the research agenda, he shared how along with his co-chair, Dr. Budd Hall, established the Knowledge for Change Global Consortium in 2017 with the main purpose of training the next generation of researchers.

Presently, the consortium consists of 12 local hubs in countries of Malaysia, South Africa, Canada, Ireland, Colombia, Cuba, Tanzania, Uganda, Indonesia and India. These hubs are not only training the next generation of researchers but also doing research on a selected Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Dr. Tandon shared how this was necessary as the achievement of the SDGs requires local knowledge and local practice.

He further shared how with the COVID-19 pandemic has led to challenges for all, but particularly for the educational institutions. These institutions are facing an immense pressure to respond to the needs of the community. He shared how he hoped that each hub encouraged their students to engage with the community during this time of duress.

DR. KESHARI LAL VERMA

Dr. Keshari Lal Verma (Vice-Chancellor, PRSU) shared how Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) can play a critical role in achieving the objective of social economic development through engaging in Community-University Engagement (CUE). He shared how he believed that CUE could not be seen as a stand alone activity, rather there was a need to integrate the same in the core functions of the university. Pandit Ravishankar Shukla University (PRSU) had undertaken a functional approach to community engagement by initiating a certificate course on community-based research which is open to all students from various disciplines.

Dr. Verma further emphasized how the current scenario highlighted the need for HEIs to demonstrate their social responsibility.

THE SANGWARI HUB

The K4C Raipur hub hosted the third webinar of the [K4C Global Consortium Webinar Series](#). Called ‘Sangwari’ (*going hand in hand*), the Raipur hub was established in 2017 through a unique collaboration between [Pandit Ravishankar Shukla University \(PRSU\)](#) in Raipur, the State Planning Commission of Chhattisgarh and [Participatory Research In Asia \(PRIA\)](#). The session was moderated by Ms. Nandita Bhatt (Director-Operations, Martha Farrell Foundation & mentor of the Sangwari hub) and Dr. Priyamvada Shrivastava (Hub coordinator of Sangwari hub).

With the hub’s focus on SDG 5 (Gender Equality) and violence against women, Dr. Reeta Venugopal (Hub Coordinator and mentor from the 2nd Cohort of the Mentor Training Programme) began the webinar by elaborating on the various activities undertaken by the hub since its inception. These include Participatory Safety Audits, Trainings on Community-Based Participatory Research (CBPR) techniques, workshop on Women Safety in the light of Kathua & Unnao Rape Cases, etc.

Sharing her experience as hub coordinator, Dr. Venugopal discussed the various challenges faced by the hub in promoting CBPR in the university. These ranged from logistical challenges such as the shortage of funds or creating by-in from the administration to more practical ones witnessed on ground such developing a rapport with the community.

She further elaborated on the future endeavours of the hub such as the initiatives to include CBPR as an elective subject in the choice-based credit system as well as the M.Phil. & Ph.D. courses have been made.

ASSESSMENT & AWARENESS OF ANTENATAL HEALTH CARE SERVICES AMONG RURAL WOMAN OF CHHATTISGARH

- Dr. Anuradha Chakraborty

Focus Group Discussions & Interviews



Dr. Chakraborty explained that the research team began its study by first approaching the Sarpanch (village head) as an entry point to engage with the community.

These rapport building meetings led to identification of antenatal healthcare services as a prime area of concern within the community. The team then approached the healthcare workers, the self-help groups, organisational heads and the women to engage them in focus-group discussions and interviews.. This enabled them to gain a deeper insight into the problem.

As the research team, including both the students and the community members, undertook an assessment of government antenatal health care services such as Janani Suraksha Yojna, Prime Ministers Matri Vandan Yojna, etc. it was witnessed that while the community was aware about these government services, the challenge lay in availing these services.

There were issues in receiving money transfers as per MatriVandan Yojana. The local health care centers neither had proper equipment nor a health-care specialist as well as the difficulty in acceptance of the supplementary food provided to the pregnant and lactating women as per various Government schemes, etc. Sharing these findings with the community, recommendations were provided by the research team on the front of the improvisation in supplementary food as per local needs, taste and availability and advocating for better health care facilities at the local center.

Dissemination of Findings



SEXUAL HARASSMENT & ITS AWARENESS WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO SPORTS

- Reena Dhruv & Kanchan Yadav

Reena and Kanchan worked with girls residing in a training academy between the age of 14-21 years. Using the means of focus group discussions, role plays and art, they addressed the theme of gender discrimination and sexual harassment, with a special reference to the field of Sports.

Through these activities, Reena & Kanchan found that gender discrimination and harassment were prevalent at both the community level and familial level. This played a huge role in explaining the low number of adolescent girls pursuing sports professionally. During their study, they also discovered that the awareness of the girls regarding good touch and bad touch had increased after taking up sports. Despite these small feats, it was witnessed that many remained unaware about the policies, rules and regulations as well as the redressal mechanism for the sexual harassment.

After their analysis, Reena and Kanchan pushed forward the involvement of community in tackling issues such as sexual harassment. They further instigated the need need to generate more awareness about the policies addressing this and recommended education of boys on the topic of gender.



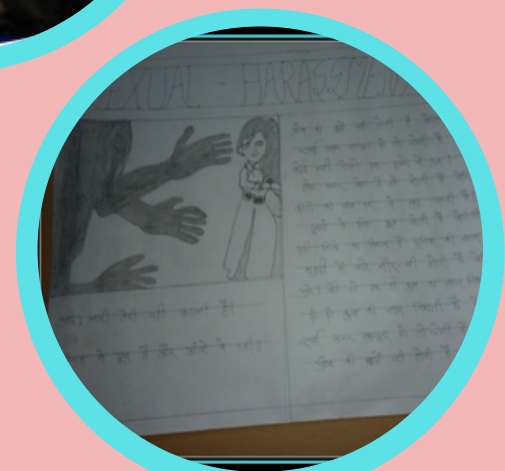
Focus Group Discussions



Role Plays



Art



IMPACT OF COVID-19 AMONG INFORMAL WOMEN WORKERS OF CHHATTISGARH

- Aniksha Vardoda & Pragati Krishnan



As the lockdown imposed due to the pandemic led to a large impact on the informal sector, Aniksha & Pragati shared a project to study the impact of COVID-19 on the informal women workers. This study, currently in its planning phase, is being conducted in collaboration with the domestic workers network present in Chhattisgarh, Martha Farrell Foundation and the local NGOs of Chhattisgarh. With this future project, Aniksha shared how they want to highlight the importance of proactive and on-the-ground strategy with the local institutions and individuals.

With a prime focus on the SDG 8 (Decent work with economic growth) and SDG 17 (Partnership for goals), the key objective of the study lies in providing the women with a platform to voice their problems and empower them with the skills for evidence informed advocacy. Elaborating on their methodology, Pragati stated that their aim lay in identifying a group of domestic workers in Chhattisgarh and allowing them to articulate their challenges through in-person & virtual meetings. Through these conversations, they aim to co-construct the design of the study and analyse the same. The findings of this analysis would then be shared with the domestic workers and the labour offices.



CLOSING COMMENTS

DR. BUDD HALL

Dr. Budd Hall (Co-chair, UNESCO Chair in Community-Based Research & Social Responsibility in Higher Education) shared how the webinar and the presentations portrayed the belief held by both him & Dr. Tandon that research needed to be conducted on local issues by the local community. Each presentation tackled an issue faced by the people and engaged them in the process of finding a solution.

He further showed his appreciation towards the Vice-Chancellor of PRSU, Dr. Verma, expressing his gratitude for Dr. Verma's unwaivering support towards the activities of the hub. Congratulating the team at the Sangwari hub, Dr. Hall shared how the session can serve as an encouragement to the other hubs, be it on the front of the effective use of arts-based method or the use of mother tongue to reach out to a wider set of people.

Dr. Hall shared his belief that the global network can prove to be a critical resource for each local hub as they face continue on the path to pursue their future endeavours.