



Ideosync - UNESCO

Information Fellowship

2021 June Special Cohort on Intersectional
Feminism and Digital Rights

FELLOW'S PROJECTS





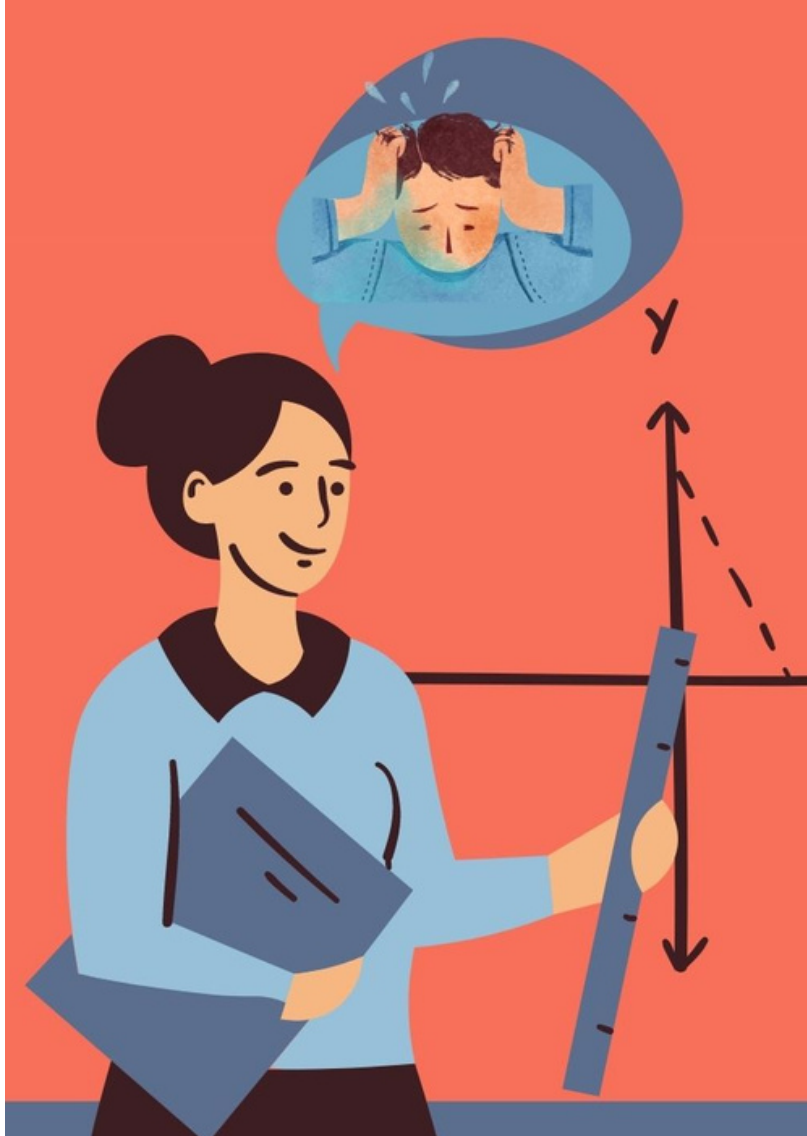
The Lived Realities and Experiences of Women Last Grade Staff in Government Hospitals and ASHA workers of Kerala during COVID-19

Athira N V

The term frontline healthcare workers gained popularity during the unprecedented COVID-19 pandemic than ever. One of the key participants in COVID-19 related jobs in healthcare sector are the frontline healthcare workers (FLHCW) such as Nursing Assistants (N A), Hospital Attendants (H A), Part-time/Full-time sweepers and ASHA workers (Accredited Social Health Activist). Majority of them are women who are of the age group of 35 and above, and placed under Public Health Centres and Community Health Centres.

As essential as it seems they are always unnoticed in the work they do. Often times they are underpaid, undervalued and in need of resources to do their jobs in the time of Covid-19. This project through a series of podcasts explores the socio-economic and emotional issues faced by the FLHCW during COVID-19, with special reference to Wayanad district, Kerala.

[Click here to Listen to Athira's Podcast Series Njangalkkum Parayanund \(What We Want to Say\)](#)



Teachers Tales: Vaarta Shikshako Ni

Prarthi Shah

Teachers get stuck between ensuring education for students and meeting the demands of the system. Pandemic was harsh on them. The struggle of teachers is often untold, especially when it is a woman trying to keep a work-life balance.

Different classes of society face a different set of issues and it greatly impacts their physical and mental wellbeing but all of their stories are hardly part of the conversations. The project tries to dig deeper into the core of socio-economic determinants for inequality and highlight the issues which are faced by women teachers in the government schools of Vadodara city.

This project explores the unheard stories of teachers especially from marginalized communities through a series of podcasts and research article. The overall awareness campaign will be talking about issues faced by teachers in pandemic and acknowledging their efforts.

[Click here to Listen to Prarthi's Podcast Series](#)
Teachers Tales: Vaarta Shikshako Ni



When Traditional Midwives Meet Modern Mother

Anjali Molly Joy

The Government of India has spent a significant amount of resources to achieve the MDG (Millennium Development Goals) 5 of "Improving maternal health" in rural areas. However the approach to institutionalizing deliveries is singular and as a result does not necessarily translate to concrete improvement of maternal health of marginalized communities, the Adivasi community being one among them. Maternal healthcare services, if at all accessed by the beneficiaries, are often for cash incentives. On the other hand, refusal or hesitation to avail of them is seen as 'ignorance' or 'primitivism'.

Childbirth is an inherently cultural event. Research shows that maternal and neonatal care practices are deeply related to socio-cultural beliefs. This documentary seeks to study the relationship between the Kondh adivasi community and current health systems. It attempts to understand space as a community's identity, and illustrates the rituals and practices associated with childbirth. The documentary also talks about the barriers faced by the community in accessing healthcare.

This communication project is based on the Kondhs, an adivasi community that inhabits the Raygada district of Odisha. The aim is to initiate a dialogue towards tailoring maternity health care programs to better integrate with the needs of a community and cultivate an environment of medical pluralism.

**[Click here to Watch Anjali's
Documentary
When Traditional Midwives Meet
Modern Mother](#)**



Digital Space as an Equalizer: Muslim Women Entrepreneurs and Social Media

Madiha Noman

The project deals with women and their right to work. It is informed by the lack of participation of women in the workforce and seeks to address the issue by introducing conversation about the need for women to be financially independent, if they wish to. At a deeper level, the project tries to highlight the lack of Muslim women entrepreneurs in India, its possible causes and the role digital space can play in bridging this divide. It looks at current Muslim women entrepreneurs who extensively depend on digital space to run their businesses.

The project consists of a series of podcast highlighting the journeys of Muslim Women Entrepreneurs along with a Roundtable Conference with them in order to visibilise and give them a platform to share their stories. The project also has a written article and photos for wider access.

**[Click here to Listen to Madiha's
Podcast Series](#)**

[Haq Hai \(We Have the Right\)](#)



From Beds to Under Bridges: Pediatric Cancer Cure in India and Role of Mental Health Professionals

Ishita Dinger

India has the necessary resources for pediatric cancer treatment, but the available resources are limited and not accessible to a majority of population. Although medical literature is available, there is a lack of knowledge on the subject from an intersectional feminist lens. Moreover, there is not much awareness about the role that mental health professionals can play in ensuring healthy coping with pediatric cancer treatment in cities.

Therefore, the goal of this communication project is to raise awareness about the experiences of women from rural and/or marginalized communities who travelled to Mumbai for treatment of their child, and to raise awareness about the role of mental health professionals for pediatric cancer treatment in India through a series of podcasts.

**[Click here to Listen to Ishita's
Podcast Series](#)**

[Choti Si Asha \(Little bit of Hope\)](#)



Women's Emancipation* ***terms and conditions apply**

Shivani Das and Shivani Sankhla

The communication project aims to address societal norms revolving around the patriarchal mindset of curbing women's agency and freedom by dictating what they should do and how they should behave under the pretense of love and care. This is a pertinent issue faced by young urban women (22-30 years) that fails to be addressed by most reports on gender disparity and discrimination.

During the COVID-19 lockdown, many women found themselves within the confines of their home and consequently had to face the direct or subtle dictates of their family which as a result affected their mental health. The project aims to document these experiences through a series of podcasts.

[Click here to Listen to Shivani Das and Shivani Sankhla's Podcast Series](#)

Women's Emancipation T&C



Domestic Workers- Vulnerabilities and Resistance

Ria Goyal

The project pertains to female domestic workers in individual households as isolated and atomistic individuals with no job security and hardly any labour protection or social security provisions. Their gender, class and caste identity plays a major role in pushing these women into this work (which is one of the most ill-paid informal sector jobs in the country), and blocking their access to alternate opportunities due to lack of education, limited social networks, and job segregation arising from prevalent notions of gendered division of labour.

The aim of this project would be to visiblise the work and shared struggles of the female domestic workers, highlighting the possibilities of collective action to negotiate better wages, working conditions and policy regulations from the employers and the state. A series of three videos, of ten minutes each, will be produced under this project.

**[Click here to Watch Ria's 2 part
Documentary](#)**

**Domestic Workers- Vulnerabilities
and Resistance**



Talking About Abortion: Stigma, Access and Rights

Debomita Mukherjee and Vineet Prakash

The project discusses safe abortion rights among youth based in Sasaram of the Rohtas district in Bihar. The aim of this project is to understand the stigma around abortion, how does it also form a barrier against access and knowledge about safe abortion laws and practices, particularly for the youth. As part of the project, an online survey was conducted, a focus group discussion with 7-8 participants along with a workshop with 15+ participants on Abortion Laws and practices. These conversations led to the development of the street play “Garbhat Aur Uske Kanoon” (Abortion and its Laws). The play was performed in collaboration with a youth based organisation in various parts of Sasaram, over the span two days.

The experience with street play and talking to young persons in the area will be reflected in three essays. The first essay explores what constitutes stigma around abortion in India, its socio-cultural roots and its present forms in Sasaram, particularly. Second essay discusses the barriers to accessibility of abortion facilities, knowledge and awareness around the legality of abortion. The final essay, presents the ground experience of organising the play, with visual documentation (Video and photographs) and a written reflection of what has been learnt from talking to young people.

[Click here to Watch Documentation of Vineet and Debomita's Street Play](#)

[Talking About Abortion: Stigma, Access and Rights](#)