



COMPREHENSIVE PROGRESS REPORT: 2016-2020



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization



AMRITA
VISHVA VIDYAPEETHAM

UNESCO Chair in
Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment
(India)

UNESCO Chair
in Gender Equality and
Women's Empowerment (India)

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VISION

"Like the two wings of a bird, women and men are of equal value.
For without the two in perfect balance,
humanity cannot progress."

Sri Mata Amritanandamayi Devi, (Amma)

Chancellor, Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham (University)



NEW BEGINNINGS FOR AMRITA

The official ceremony to commence the UNESCO Chair in Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment took place before an audience of 8,000 people during a spiritual programme of the institution's Chancellor Sri Mata Amritanandamayi Devi in Paris, France on October 30, 2016. It was a remarkable event that would herald a new era for Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham. Dr. Bhavani Rao was bestowed with the role of the UNESCO Chairholder in Gender Equality & Women's Empowerment at the ceremony.

Ambassador and India's Permanent Representative to UNESCO, Ruchira

Kamboj, and the International Body's Chief of Higher Education Section, Dr. Peter Wells, attended the event.

Dr. Peter Wells said, "There is no greater force for development, resilience and peace in the world than girls' education. Universities such as Amrita have a guiding and strategic role to play in this quest." Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham Vice-Chancellor, Dr. P. Venkat Rangan, said that the Chair will identify vulnerabilities of women and girls in India and ways of addressing them over the next four years. "The Chair will focus on six holistic dimensions of the United Na-





tions Sustainable Development Goals defined as: safety and security, economic vitality, education, political, social and cultural environment, environmental quality and health," he added.

At a different ceremony in India, the Government of India's Minister for Human Resource Development, Prakash Javadekar, announced the establishment of the UNESCO Chair as a groundbreaking approach to addressing areas of women's empowerment.

Prakash Javadekar said: "Nothing is more noble than creating centres of excellence in education, and Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham is among the best in the country. The UNESCO Chair for Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment will play a vital role in the fu-

ture. It takes care of all the millennium development goals, as they are directly or indirectly linked to the health, welfare and upliftment of women, be it maternal health, education, sanitation or infant mortality."

UNESCO Chairholder Dr. Bhavani Rao added, "Empowering women through building strength in numbers in her community is an inclusive approach that can bring about a great change for her and in the whole of society. This is a critical and exciting time for us to create communities of learning and practice in skill development that empower women to participate as a whole. Education is our birthright and should be accessible without barriers of gender, caste, economic status and geographic location."

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Dr. Bhavani Rao
UNESCO Chairholder
Director, AMMACHI Labs
Director, Amrita Center for Women's Empowerment & Gender Equality

FOCUS AREAS OF UNESCO CHAIR

The UNESCO Chair’s mission is built upon the three pillars of education, implementa-
tion, and action research.



Our chair focuses on designing tools and methods for effective interventional strat-
egies towards the empowerment of women and strengthening gender equality with
community’s active and inclusive participation.

Our chair focuses on six holistic dimensions of the United Nations Sustainable Devel-
opment Goals defined as: safety and security, economic vitality, education, political,
social and cultural environment, environmental quality and health.

Our chair focuses on understanding and mapping the vulnerabilities in communities
to finally support India’s progress towards achieving the UN’s 2030 agenda for Sustain-
able Development.

UNESCO CHAIR/UNITWIN NETWORK COMPREHENSIVE PROGRESS REPORT: 2016-2020

Title of the Chair/Network:	UNESCO Chair in Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment
Host Institution:	Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham Amritapuri, Clappana P O Kollam 690525 Kerala, India Phone: +91 476 2801280
Date of establishment of Chair/Network: (mm, yyyy)	October 27, 2016
Period of activity under report: (mm, yyyy - mm, yyyy)	4 years: October 2016 - October 2020
Report established by: (name, position)	Dr. Bhavani Rao R., UNESCO Chair and Director of the Center for Women’s Empowerment and Gender Equality; Director of the Center for Women’s Empowerment and Gender Equality; Director AMMACHI Labs



PROGRESS REPORT 2016-2017

a. Education/Training/Research

(Key education programmes and training delivered and research undertaken by the Chair during the reporting period, target group and geographical coverage)

i) Education (leading to certificate)

Key Education Programs:

Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham's Master in Social Work Program 20 students in the first year. (Launched July 2017)

- Masters program course curriculum:
- Approximately 7-8 courses offered each semester, electives offered in the following subject areas: Community development, Physical and mental health, Child rights and child protection and disaster management.

Center for Women's Empowerment Ph.D Program

The objective of the Ph.D program is to generate action-based research with a focus on women's vulnerabilities and women's empowerment. This will include a holistic understanding of the situation faced by women and girls, as well as practical, applicable solutions to their challenges. 11 students are presently enrolled with specific areas of interest:

- Srividya Sheshadri: ICT for skill development in women¹
- Chris Coley: Role of men in women's empowerment²
- Kala V. Krishnan: Role of NGOs in supporting women entrepreneurship
- Sreeram Kongeseri: Developing a toolkit for vulnerability mapping
- Reshma R: Gender-specific (women's) study on vulnerabilities in health and sanitation
- Yamuna Sandrine Bonin: Vulnerability mapping of women affected by climate change

- Sivaprasad J.V.: Economic stability and sustainable livelihood in rural India
- Aswathi P: Data science for vulnerability mapping toolkit
- Veena Suresh: TBD
- Vivek Subromaniam: TBD
- Radhika Mohan: Psychological capital profiling of women

ii) Training (short term)

For Ph.D researchers

Dr. Sidney Strauss, Professor Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham

Ph.D Level

Aug 19 - 24

Oct 7 - 14

HU805 Cognitive and Interpersonal Underpinnings of Teaching 8 Registered and 12 Auditing Students

This course provided a broad view of the cognition of teaching and its interpersonal, emotional and altruistic underpinnings. The course experimentally studied different components of teaching via various means of data collection with a focus on how to structure research questions and design technology interventions around them in the field of teaching.

Dr. Laura Corradi, Visiting Professor and Research Professor of Gender Studies and Intersectional Methodology, University of Calabria, Italy.

Ph.D Level

Starting Nov 15, 2017

Gender Research Design, Intersectional Methodology and Qualitative Methods

The class aims to explain the importance of gender in social sciences and discovering ways to eliminate inequalities with respect to gender differences. A decolonial gender-based approach to research methodology is explained.

For Ph.D researchers and MSW students:

Bruce Malamud, Ph.D Professor of Natural and Environmental Hazards, Department of Geography; King's College London, UK gave a series of lectures identified in bullets (a-c) below. (Organized by LANDSLIP consortium)

- **a) Distinguished Talk 1: Introduction to Time Series Analysis, Bruce Malamud, Kings College, London, 17-Aug, 9:30-10:30 am @ Shraddha hall.** This one-hour session focused on time series analysis and visualization of data, with examples from the broader environmental sciences (natural hazards, climatology, etc.) The talk was a tutorial aimed at physical (and social) non-experts, interested in learning some of the concepts, ideas and terminology surrounding time series.
- **b) Distinguished Talk 2: Tails of Natural Hazard, Bruce Malamud, Kings College, London, 17-Aug, 10:30-11:30 am @ Shraddha Hall, Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham** The lecture focused on the fact that media reports of natural hazards such as earthquakes, floods and tornadoes, often present single events that have a major impact on human society. However, for every such large event there are often many more medium and smaller ones that occur in the same region over a given period of time—referred to as a “population of sizes”.
- **c) Distinguished Talk 3: Interaction relationships for Natural Hazards, Bruce Malamud, Kings College, London, 18-Aug, 2:30-4:30 @Shraddha Hall, Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham.** See description in b) above.

Dr. Irna van der Molen is the coordinator of the Centre for Risk Management, Safety and Security at the University of Twente. She specializes in risk management, safety and security at regional, national and international levels. She coordinated the following inter-university online lecture as noted below. 25 students and faculty attended the lecture at Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham, Kerala.

- **d.) Distinguished Online Lecture: Mapping Vulnerabilities and Resilience in North Lebanon, Dr. Irna van der Molen, University of Twente, and Dr. Sahar T. Issa, University of Balamand, Lebanon, March 30, 2-3:30 PM at Shraddha Hall, Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham.** This guest lecture focused on conflict, safety and security. This interactive talk also addressed the conflict-dimension as well as the impact of the inflow of Syrian refugees in the area.

Dr. Athi Sivan of the National University of Malaysia gave a series of lectures outlined

below, e) and f). 10 students and faculty attended the lecture at Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham, Kerala.

- **e.) "Relief Activities in Islamic Country: Gender and Family Perspective" Dr. Athi Sivan T. Mariappan Research Fellow, National University of Malaysia. October 4, 2017** This lecture explored the impact on women and families of relief activities in Islamic countries as well as that are encountered as part of the process.
- **f.) "Gender Studies in Social Sciences: Brief History and Development" Dr. Athi Sivan T. Mariappan Research Fellow, National University of Malaysia. October 11, 2017**

The talk focused on perspectives of women studies and gender studies through social and cultural constructs such as patriarchal systems of power where women were ‘domesticated’.

Bhuvan GIS Mapping Workshop

A one-day seminar and workshop was led by top experts from the National Remote Sensing Centre (NRSC)/Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) from Hyderabad. 80 students and faculty attended the lecture at Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham, Kerala as outlined below.

- **g.) "Bhuvan GIS and Mobile Apps Workshop":** Bhuvan provides platform to create visualize, share and analyze geospatial data products and services towards Spatial Mashups. The team from the National Remote Sensing Centre (NRSC)/Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) provided an all day workshop about Bhuvan. October 13, 2017

Expert Talks for MSW Students

All 43 MSW students attended the following online lectures.

- **Guest lecture 1: "Sharing experiences from mental health and psychiatric social work practice in US schools", Vidya Duff, School Social Worker at Aurora Public Schools, Aurora, Colorado, July 15, 2017, 9-11 AM, 2-4 PM**

This lecture focused on significant learning, behavior, and emotional problems faced by students in large urban public schools. Further, discussions around possible interventions and promoting mental health occurred.

- **Guest lecture 2: “Evidence for action in mental health from WHO”, Vidya Duff, School Social Worker at Aurora Public Schools, Aurora, Colorado, July 17, 2017 9-11 AM.**

This lecture focused on the need for public health professionals to enhance collaborative relationships with public schools as well as discussions around promoting well-being.

- **Workshop on “Public speaking,” Sneha Karen Moawad Aug 11, 2017.**

This workshop focused on the importance of public speaking as a tool to form connections, influence decisions, and motivate change. It took the students through a series of activities, which strengthened their public speaking and presentation skills.

iii) Research

Research Area	Status
Extensive literature review along six verticals	In progress
Consolidation of existing toolkits along all verticals	In progress
Compilation of activities from best practices of organizations involved in community-based vulnerability assessment	In progress
Position paper on existing vulnerability mapping toolkits	In progress
In depth, qualitative study of women’s vulnerabilities across all verticals from around 20 countries	Initiated

Field Work by MSW Students:

- The fieldwork component of the MSW Program is, for many students, the most salient experience of their social work education. 41 students undertook a 3-week field trip in September 2017. They visited eleven villages throughout India where they were immersed in field work and research and gained a greater understand-



ing of development work, as well as a better understanding of women’s issues and empowerment.

- **Activities included:**
 - Vulnerability Mapping, Ideal Village exercise and risk assessments
 - Open Defecation Free Pledges & Awareness Rallies
 - Assisting in Toilet Building
 - Liaising with Government and external agencies and key stakeholders
 - Village survey with community organizers, facilitators, Self-Help-Group members, change agents, field coordinators, health workers
 - Community Clean Up Drives outlined by the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan (Clean India Initiative)
 - Vocational skill development and life skills development education through mobile learning platforms

Villages Visited	Number of People Impacted
Vellaramkunnu, Kerala	80
Sadivayal, Tamil Nadu	35
Muruganpathy, Tamil Nadu	90
Ayyanpathy, Tamil Nadu	15
Pudupathy, Tamil Nadu	30
Chinnampathy, Tamil Nadu	15
Kodur, Andhra Pradesh	500
Nani Borwai, Gujarat	250
Guptapada, Odisha	114
Pathankot, Punjab	45
Nala, Uttarakhand	30
Dunda, Uttarakhand	50
Udalka, Uttarakhand	60



- 2 students interned with Quilon Social Service Society, Kollam

Weekly Social Science Research Hour:

- Attended by 57 students and faculty members on a weekly basis (Initiated July 2017).
- The Social Science Research Hour is an opportunity to foster an interdisciplinary intellectual culture in the center through learned presentations followed by discussions. Faculty members, Ph.D students, and MSW students are encouraged to attend the biweekly research sessions wherein the students are mentored by the Ph. D researchers and faculty to develop their scholarly understandings of the six verticals within the UNESCO Chair. The researchers are assigned research papers along the verticals as readings and conduct discussion sessions, which revolve around research questions, methodology and findings. Students are also encouraged to write research drafts and are provided personalized feedback. The objective of this program is to develop critical thinking skills in students and cultivate independent work, help students experience the excitement of scientific discovery, publish scholarly articles in high impact factor journals and make academic presentations.

b. Conferences/Meetings

(key conferences and meetings organized by the Chair or to which its Chairholder contributed)

Key meetings between Chairholder and Institutions

- The Chairholder and Center team participated in detailed discussions with the members from the University at Buffalo School of Social Work.
- **March 10, 2017** - At Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham, Coimbatore with University at Buffalo School of Social Work and Institute for Sustainable Global Engagement. The meetings with Catherine Dulmus and Laura Lewis sought to further the goals of achieving gender equality and empowering women through participating in projects around community resource mapping, development of a web-based resource library, and globally networked courses.

- The Chairholder and Center team visited the National Remote Sensing Centre in Hyderabad to discuss collaborations with Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham.
- **August 10, 2017** - Bhuvan is the Indian geoplatform of ISRO an online geoportal which allows users to explore a 2D/3D representation of the surface of the Earth. The team met with Dr. Y. V. N. Krishnamurthy, Director, National Remote Sensing Centre, Department of Space, Government of India, and S. S. Rajashekar, Head, Application Development, D. Giri Babu, Head, Bhuvan Systems, Ms. Sonal, Scientist, Bhuvan Systems in Hyderabad. Web-GIS Bhuvan systems, data visualization, Bhuvan web services, and development of mobile applications were discussed in detail as possible areas of collaboration for the Vulnerability Mapping Project. This collaboration has significance as the NRSC will allow access to government data repositories which are critical for the research in this field.

Chairholder Prof. Bhavani and Ph.D Scholar Srividya Sheshadri organized and participated in a series of meetings in Delhi with senior-level stakeholders in skill development to explore the role of technology in enabling greater access and opportunity for skill development among underserved groups, particularly women in the informal economy in India. The following provides a brief summary of the meetings held in Delhi.

- **August 29, 2017** - International Labor Organization (ILO), the Delhi Office. The delegation's meeting with the Deputy Director Dr. Sher Singh Verick, provided insight into the ILO's understanding and knowledge of the skill development challenge that India currently faces, particularly as it affects women seeking decent employment within the formal and informal economies.
- **August 29, 2017** - Ministry of Labour and Employment & NITI Aayog. The delegation met with Dr. Onkar Sharma, Labour Commissioner and Sunita Sanghi, Adviser, Skill Development, NITI Aayog, to understand India's labour laws and rights that protect individuals in the informal economy in hiring and employment practices. Dr. Sharma presented emerging information on policies that promote gender equality and women's safety in the workplace. Sunita Sanghi spoke about the vulnerabilities due to migration and suggested we research urban migration patterns.

- **August 29, 2017** - The delegation met with COO Jayanth Krishna and senior members Deepti Saxena and Preeti Arora of the National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC), a major implementation body of skill development in India. Mr. Krishna and his team shared knowledge on their national level agenda to incorporate technology into skill development delivery, and also discussed initiatives in place that focus on skill development opportunities for women.
- **August 30, 2017** - Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE). The delegation met with Joint Secretary of the MSDE, the governmental body responsible for coordinating skill development efforts across the nation. Given the dearth of reported information on the effectiveness of technology supported education, Mr. Aggarwal was particularly interested in learning from the delegation on what they had found so far in their study of skill development training providers that use ICT. Mr. Aggarwal and the delegation, in turn discussed the challenges in creating genderinclusive training opportunities and the role ICT could potentially play in addressing this challenge.

Other conferences/organizational activities undertaken by the Chairholder

Strategic planning and proposal submitted to Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham around developing and designing interdisciplinary programs under Humanities and Social Sciences.

A selection of conference presentations by the Chairholder and other colleagues

- 104th Indian Science Conference, January 7, 2017, Sri Venkateswara University, Tirupati, India. The Chairholder was a plenary speaker and representative of Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham at the prestigious 104th Indian Science Congress. Her talk focused on robotics, the future of skills and the innovations for societal benefits and their role in women's empowerment.
- LANDSLIP Project Inauguration (Inception Meeting), January 20, 2017, Vivekananda International Foundation in New Delhi, India LANDSLIP is a 4-year project that will further strengthen research collaboration in the field of earth sciences, mineral prospecting and disaster management between the British Geological Survey and the Geological Survey of India and Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham, including the activities of the UNESCO Chair. The current activities include institutional vulnerability mapping in the event of a landslide.



- ICEGOV 2017: International Conference on Theory and Practice of Electronic Governance, March 7-9, 2017, New Delhi, India. The Chairholder was a speaker on a panel with a focus on eEducation and eHealth - in rural villages and women's empowerment "Building Knowledge Societies: From Digital Government to Digital Empowerment." The event was coordinated by Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology and UNU-EGOV along with UNESCO as a collaborator. Other Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham team members participated in the panel discussion.
- International Conference on Nurturing Global Mental Health-A Paradigm Shift, March 8-10, 2017, Coimbatore, India Chairholder, Ph. D researchers and MSW Faculty attended the International Conference on Nurturing Global Mental Health-A Paradigm Shift jointly organized by Department of Social Work program, Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham, Coimbatore Campus and School of Social Work, University at Buffalo, USA. The conference highlighted the importance of mental health care and the need for evidence based intervention across all spheres. The Chairholder had detailed discussions with the members from the University at Buffalo School of Social Work.
- CSW61, March 13-24, 2017, UN Headquarters, New York, USA The Chairholder attended the sixty-first session of the Commission on the Status of Women at the United Nations Headquarters in New York. The priority theme was women's economic empowerment in the changing world of work. The Chairholder was a featured panelist on the plenary talk "Young Women as an Economic Force" at the CSW61 Youth Forum, attended by more than 750 youth delegates from over 80 countries.

- Symposium of "Science and Society: Adapting Territories to Climate Change," Bordeaux, France June 21-24, 2017. The French National Committee for Global Change (CNFCG), the Scientific Council of the Climate Change Management and Impacts Program (GICC) of the Ministry of the Environment and AcclimaTerra (regional scientific committee on climate change in the region of New Aquitaine) jointly organized a national symposium on adaptation of territories to climate change. Researcher Yamuna Sandrine Bonin attended this conference that was aimed to bridge the gap of knowledge and communication between scientists and decision makers around climate variability.
- Ethics in Action meeting on education, on 16-17 October, at Casina Pio IV, Vatican, Italy The Chairholder presented on "The new role of science and technology in education" in the rural context of women in Indian villages. Ethics in Action is a series of eight separate meetings over two years taking place at Casina Pio IV, in the Vatican Gardens. The selected group of panelists included Jeffrey Sachs from the UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network, and UNESCO Director-General Irina Bokova. Other organizations included Religions for Peace, and the University of Notre Dame, the Blue Chip Foundation, and the Fetzer Institute.



c. Interuniversity Exchanges/Partnerships

(principal exchanges/partnerships between the Chair and other institution,s including UNESCO Chairs/UNITWIN Networks)

Official Partners

9 universities are in partnership with Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham’s UNESCO Chair.

Dr. Carlost Alberto Torres Distinguished Professor of Education and UNESCO Chair in Global Learning and Global Citizenship Education, Director, Paulo Freire Institute, President, World Council of Comparative Education Societies (WCCES), University of California, Los Angeles
Dr. Daniel A. Wagner UNESCO Chair in Learning and Literacy, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA
Dr. Anita Raj, Dr. Suresh Subramani Center on Gender Equity and Health University of California, San Diego, CA
Dr. Nancy J. Smyth, Dr. Catherine Dulmus, Dr. Laura Lewis School of Social Work and Institute for Sustainable Global Engagement, University at Buffalo, Buffalo, NY
Dr. Santosh K. Mahapatra Operations and Information Systems, Clarkson University, Potsdam, NY
Dr. Prasant Mohapatra University of California, Davis, CA
Dr. Silvia Hostettler Ecole Polytechnique Federale de Lausanna (EPFL), Lausanne, Switzerland
Dr. Diane Perpich Clemson University, Clemson, South Carolina
Dr. Joost Monks NORRAG (Network for International Policies and Cooperation), Geneva, Switzerland
Dr. Rafi Nachmias UNESCO Chair, Tel Aviv University, Israel

LANDSLIP (LANDSLide multi-hazard assessment, Preparedness and early warning in south Asia) - a consortium, January 2017

Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham is part of the LANDSLIP Project. In collaboration with King’s College London, studies on social vulnerability mapping in landslide prone areas especially in Darjeeling, Nilgiris, and Sikkim are being conducted. The institutional mapping of organizations involved in landslide management has been initiated at national, state, district and local levels. This includes a brief description of the main institutional stakeholders and their relational interdependence.

Our research in this project aims to create and validate a communication tree to be used for early warning for landslides. Beside this, the study will involve collection of socio-demographic data to create a social vulnerability index following Cutter’s methodology, 2003.

Collaborative Visit to Egypt in partnership with UN Women, April 30 - May 8, 2017



The Chairholder’s visit to Egypt was to explore future collaborations between the Center for Women’s Empowerment and Gender Equality and key partners focused on women’s empowerment. The meetings presented possibilities to set up training centers for refugees and underserved women in the regions of Cairo and Alexandria. Partnership meetings included:

- Dr. Alaa Khamis, Associate Professor of Robotics and Mechatronics at Suez University, Egypt
- Academy of Scientific Research and Technology (ASRT) in Cairo with Dr. Mahmoud Sakr, President
- Library of Alexandria and partnering institutions with key women leaders from the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development.

Collaborative Visit to Israel, May 9 - 14, 2017



In Israel, the Chairholder was invited to the Technion (the Israeli Institute of Technology) and Tel Aviv University to meet with professors from the Department of Mathematics and the School of Education. At the Technion, she met with Dr. Miriam Reiner and Dr. Uri Leron at the Vr.NeuroCog Labs under the Department of Education in Science & Technol-

ogy. She also met with Dr. Sidney Strauss: Professor (Emeritus), Branco Weiss Chair for Research in Child Development and Education, Tel Aviv University and Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham. Fellow UNESCO Chairholder, Rafi Nachmias met with Prof. Bhavani to initiate collaborative work as defined by the UNESCO Chair. Professor Bhavani also met Dr. David Mioduser, from the Knowledge Lab regarding Technology & Cognition and Learning research projects. She also gave talks to graduate students.

A Joint Project with the United Nations Democracy Fund – WE: CSDP (Community Sanitation Through Democratic Participation) February 2017 - February 2019

This project, jointly funded by Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham and UNDEF, aims to empower at least 5,000 women in rural communities across India to champion sanitation and community development through participation in the democratic process. These women become leaders who transform their villages into healthier,

more resilient communities that are able to meet the increasing challenges facing rural India. This project, in collaboration with AMMACHI Labs, will empower women in marginalized communities to take up leadership roles and promote development in rural India.



- A key initiative in this transformation is to address the vulnerabilities along the Health and Sanitation Vertical while being resilience along the Social, Cultural, Education and Economic verticals.
- Women driven community initiatives towards “Open Defecation Free” villages—through awareness campaigns, clean-up drives and collaboration with the Indian government’s Swachh Bharat Abhiyan initiative to construct toilets. Leaders from each village will receive training to become Community Organizers, help to form Advocacy Self-help Groups, and promote community development through this new platform for women’s empowerment.

d. Publications

Sreeram Kongeseri, Srividya Sheshadri, Christopher Coley, Alexander Muir, Rao R. Bhavani. "Games for community engagement and problem solving: A multi-site case study". 2017

2nd Recent Research in Social Sciences International Conference . SOCSIC 2017 (Accepted)

iii) Research Reports

Community Sanitation Through Democratic Participation: First Quarter Highlights, 2017. This report outlines the activities of the first quarter of the WE:CSDP Project around women's empowerment and improved sanitation through advancing women's political participation, leadership, economic & social development.



[Read the report](#)

e. Cooperation with UNESCO Headquarters, Field Offices



The Chairholder met with UNESCO Director-General Irina Bokova, at the Ethics in Action Conference at the Vatican, October 16, 2017. She discussed her presentation on women's empowerment activities under the UNESCO Chair and focused on the importance of understanding women's vulnerabilities in the context of designing socially impactful interventions.

PROGRESS REPORT

2017-2018



a. Education/Training/Research

(key education programmes and training delivered and research undertaken by the Chair during the reporting period, target group and geographical coverage)

i) Education (leading to certificate)

Key Education Programs:

Graduate Level

12 new students enrolled in Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham's Master in Social Work Program in August of 2018. (Established July 2017) Curriculum includes approximately 7-8 courses offered each semester. Electives are offered in the following specialization areas: Community development, Physical and mental health.

Post Graduate Level

The Center for Women's Empowerment Ph.D Program generates action-based research with a focus on women's vulnerabilities and women's empowerment. The following 2 new students have enrolled in 2018:

- Veena Suresh: Education Vertical (Topic TBD)
- Vivek Subromaniam: Education Vertical (Topic TBD)

ii) Training (short term)

Summer School 2018

A week-long summer school "Research Methodology with R for the Social Scientist" took place August 20-27, 2018. This unique summer intensive was offered by Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham, the University of Groningen and the University of Maryland at the Center for Women's Empowerment and Gender Equality. The following visiting professors conducted the summer school: This course provided a broad view

of the cognition of teaching and its interpersonal, emotional and altruistic underpinnings. The course experimentally studied different components of teaching via various means of data collection with a focus on how to structure research questions and design technology interventions around them in the field of teaching.

- Dr. Padma Rao Sahib, University of Groningen, Netherlands
- Prof. Ruud Koning, University of Groningen, Netherlands
- Mr. Sandeep Pillai, University of Maryland, U.S.A

Course Offerings for Ph.D researchers

Nov 15, 2017 – December 15, 2017

Gender Research Design, Intersectional Methodology and Qualitative Methods taught by **Dr. Laura Corradi**, Visiting Professor and Research Professor of Gender Studies and Intersectional Methodology, University of Calabria, Italy.

September 3 – December 31, 2018

Environmental Decision Making: Vulnerability and Community Disaster Resilience from an Information Perspective taught by **Dr. Tarek Rashed**, former professor Indiana University-Purdue University, current CTO of Civilizology. This graduate seminar focuses on vulnerability as a manifestation of the relationship between society and hazards, especially of how people and societies cope with and respond to natural and technological hazardous events.



From **October 12-15th 2018**, a team of 23 PhD scholars and faculty members at Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham, under the guidance of **Dr Tarek Rashed** visited a tribal community in Wayanad to test the conceptual framework of the vulnerability mapping toolkit. This pilot study was in many ways, a feasibility study, conducted to review if the framework captured the scope of the research deliverables well and the depth of the subject matter with all its essential nuances.

Course Offerings for Ph.D researchers and MSW students

Qualitative Data Analysis by Dr. L.M. Frey

May 5 - 9, 2018

Participants were introduced to use qualitative data and qualitative analysis in their research projects through this workshop.

Qualitative Research Methods: Content Analysis by Dr. Sidney Strauss, Professor Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham

Aug 13 - Sep 8, 2018

Students conducted mini-studies on qualitative research by interviewing participants about topics relevant for their field work. In so doing, the students learned interviewing techniques and categorizing methods to organize and conceptualize what people do and say in their daily lives. There were two levels: the participants' observable behaviors and the implicit, non-observable psychological and cultural entities that organize those behaviors.

Participatory Research Methods: Toolkits for the Field by Dr. Sophie von Lieres

September 6th, 11th, and 13th

The goal of Participatory Research Methods is to gather information and gain understanding about the current conditions of the village, including resources, assets, challenges, and potential solutions. This ongoing course designed toolkits for students to implement these activities in the field.

Course Offerings For MSW Students

2nd Foundation's Computational Thinking Workshop

August 4, 2018

Students learned Scratch (a visual programming tool) and developed social science project ideas such as waste and water management awareness, importance of hygiene, nutrition deficiency for their research and field work.

Online Courses in Research Ethics for Ph.D & MSW Students

- CITI Program - Collaborative Institutional Training Initiative
- Office of Behavioral and Social Sciences Research
- Good Clinical Practice for Social and Behavioral Research eLearning Course

Expert Talks Hosted by the UNESCO Chair

Experts from Government of India

"Security and Safety in Civil Society"

April 10, 2018

Dr. Vilma Sielawa, Economics Department

Saint Mary's College of California

"Causal Inference: Economic Impact Evaluations"

May 3, 2018

Dr. Irna van der Molen, Scientific Director at Reliefbase

Foundation and policy advisor at the University of Twente

"Crossing Boundaries, Where to Go?"

July 30, 2018

Dr. Jules Kneepkens, Director of Total European Aviation System

Advisory Services

"Transport Modes and Regulatory Framework"

July 31, 2018

Faculty Development Programs

Prof. Allison Gilchrist, University of Liverpool;

San Francisco State University; Samuel Merritt University

"Ethical Considerations in conducting Human Research"

August 7, 2018

iii) Research

Outcomes of the Research Agenda

The Center's research agenda continues to address the same six fields of study: (i) community, personal safety and security, (ii) economics and livelihood, (iii) education and skill development, (iv) political, social and cultural environment, (v) environment, climate change and disaster management, and (vi) health and sanitation) as related to women's empowerment and vulnerability, but we have adjusted our approach. Following a more in-depth literature review of both empowerment and vulnerability studies we understand that to be effective we need a system that is both locally contextualized and universal in order to be effective and scalable. To address these apparently disparate requirements, we have been engaging with Dr. Tarek Rashed in developing a framework that will allow for an understanding of the elements that influence a woman on the spectrum of vulnerability--empowerment at the individual, household and community levels.

By using an approach that blends systems thinking and social sciences, we have developed a conceptual framework that identifies factors that impact a woman's vulnerability at each of these three levels. Rather than using a fixed, linear categorization of factors, we are conceptualizing factors as individual but related spheres. This concept of spheres facilitates identifying the presence or absence of factors in a location. Furthermore, it enables us to include unforeseen factors that arise from future study. This approach will allow us to scope our planned fieldwork more effectively and gain a more complete picture of the realities at each location we pilot rather than attempt to understand the various dimensions of each subject field all at once.

The advantage that a systems thinking approach is anticipated to lend to our research on women's empowerment is its capacity to capture causal mechanisms and feedback within and between each micro-system and the system at large. Such an approach would facilitate study and analysis of a system before and after a social intervention, which will help design, expand and prioritize interventions to achieve the desired impact, as well as minimize negative fallout. A systems thinking approach could also potentially provide a way to more systematically engage key stakeholders of the targeted community in the decision making process in order to develop a shared understanding and a common vision of outcomes.

(See Appendix C for supplemental info)

Field Work by MSW Students 2017- 2018

The fieldwork component of the MSW Program is, for many students, the most salient experience of their social work education. 41 students undertook a 3-week field trip in March 2018 & September 2018 with a focus on Participatory Action Research. They visited eleven villages throughout India where they were immersed in field work and research and gained a greater understanding of development work, as well as a better understanding of women's issues and empowerment. They gathered information and learned about the current conditions of the village, including resources, assets, challenges, and potential solutions.

Activities included:

- Participatory Learning and Action activities
- Vulnerability Mapping, Ideal Village exercise and risk assessments
- Open Defecation Free Pledges & Awareness Rallies
- Assisting in Toilet Building
- Liaising with Government and external agencies and key stakeholders
- Village survey with community organizers, facilitators, Self-Help-Group members, change agents, field coordinators, health workers
- Community Clean Up Drives outlined by the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan (Clean India Initiative)

Vocational skill development and life skills development education through mobile learning platforms

Other Activities

- August 2018: MSW students actively participated in flood relief humanitarian efforts across Kerala. They were amongst the 400 Amrita students and staff who attended to a 24-hour helpline for Kerala flood victims. Within the first five days, the team fielded more than 25,000 calls, connecting more than 100,000 flood victims across the state with appropriate relief services.



- September 2018: 12 first year MSW Students and faculty and staff participated in an immersive, field-work project: Amritodhayam 2018, a rural camp in the flooded area of Aranmula, Kerala. They received an in-depth training in "5S", a Japanese methodology of improving and maintaining housekeeping, led by Omnex Inc., an international consulting company.
- October 2018: MSW students participated at in internship at Amrita Hospital's Community Health Center. They actively participated flood relief related outreach and community cleanups at AIMS and surrounding areas in Cochin.

Consolidated reports of MSW Activities available at: <https://issuu.com/centerwege>



b) Conferences/Meetings

(key conferences and meetings organized by the Chair or to which its Chairholder contributed)

i) A selection of conference presentations by the Chairholder and other colleagues

December 6, 2017: Conference on Solutions for SDG 8, Dubai, UAE

Researcher Sreeram Kongeseri participated in a youth panel consisting of youth leaders from all over the world about challenges young leaders face for designing solutions for SDG 8. The panel discussion focused on challenges and opportunities of youth leaders to achieve the mission of SDG 8 by 2030.

January 18 – 20, 2018: Vietnam Sustainability Forum

UNESCO Chairholder Prof Bhavani was an invited speaker and featured panelist at the "The Vietnam Sustainability Forum" (VSF 2018) in Hanoi, Vietnam on Jan 18-19th. Her presentation was titled "Diversity and Inclusive Development: from Policy to Successful Practice." She also participated in a site visit to Van Don Special Administrative and Economic Zone in Quang Ninh Province where discussions took place around the future of international sustainable development. Additionally, Prof. Bhavani participated in a roundtable discussion at Ha Long university about sustainable tourism where she gave a talk on the topic of sustainable development and shared Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham's milestones in this area.

March 12 – 22, 2018: Commission on Status of Women CSW 62

Professor Bhavani was an invited speaker at the sixty-second session of the Commission on the Status of Women at the United Nations Headquarters in New York. The priority theme is Challenges and opportunities in achieving gender equality and the empowerment of rural women and girls. The Chairholder's presentation was called: "Empowering Women Through Democratic Processes and Innovative Solutions" at a Side Event to the Session of the Commission on Status of Women, sponsored by the UN Democracy Fund. The meeting took place at Conference Room A, UNHQ, New York on March 22, 2018 at 4.45 PM. Ph.D Researcher & colleague Christopher Coley also attended the session from the Center for Women's Empowerment and Gender Equality.

March 26 – 30, 2018: UNESCO's Mobile Learning Week in Paris France

Srividya Sheshadri, Senior Researcher at the Center for Women's Empowerment & Gender Equality presented at UNESCO's Mobile Learning Week in Paris, France. Her presentation "Transformative Pathways: Women's Empowerment, Skill Development, and Digital Skills" was delivered at the Symposium themed "Closing Inequalities and Gender Divides." Mobile Learning Week is UNESCO's flagship ICT in education conference. Mobile Learning Week 2018 was organized in partnership with the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), the United Nations specialized agency for ICT.

March 28 – 29, 2018: International Conference on Transformation of Economy Through Digitalization Management Perspectives

Harith J, final year Master of Social Work student from Center for Women's Empowerment & Gender Equality, Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham presented his research paper on "Exploring Digital Tools for Participatory Rural Appraisal Activities" at the "International Conference on Transformation of Economy Through Digitalization Management Perspectives". The event was organized by Department of Commerce and Management of Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham, ASAS Kochi, Kerala.

May 6 – 7, 2018: Odisha Skill Conclave

Prof. Bhavani was an invited speaker and delivered a talk "Experience from field - reaching out to communities." The Odisha Skill Conclave highlights critical role of skill development in growth of the State and was organized by the National Skill Development Council of India. The Chairholder shared Amrita's vast experience in this area.

June 13 – 17, 2018: Origins Game Fair at the Greater Columbus Convention Center in Ohio

Ph.D Researcher Sreeram Kongeseri participated in one of the biggest board-game conventions, the Origins Game Fair. He met with designers, demoed their games and shared our research findings.

July 22-August 5, 2018: SEALNet Project Vietnam 2018 (PV18)

Ph.D Researcher Sreeram Kongeseri participated in "SEALNet's Project Vietnam 2018" (PV18). PV18 was a 2-week service project working on the main theme of Social Emotional

Learning and Alternative Education. His role was as a Facilitator & Content supervisor.

September 23, 2018: National Seminar on Śakti Worship in India, Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham, Amritapuri

Prof. Bhavani was an invited speaker at the conference and delivered the felicitation address. The Seminar was designed to accomplish, properly perpetrate, rightfully protect and eloquently publish the useful outcome of the presentations and discussions among experts on the Śakti worship in India. The seminar was organized by Amrita Darshanam, International Centre for Spiritual Studies and the Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts, (IGNCA) a premier research institute in India.

October 6, 2018: Annual Global Empowerment Summit "Time to Rise!" at UC San Diego Qualcomm Institute

Prof. Bhavani was an invited speaker and panelist at the 2018 Annual Global Empowerment Summit. She presented the latest research findings and social impact projects of the Center for Women's Empowerment & Gender Equality and AMMACHI Labs.

October 15- 21: 13th International Summer School on Mind, Brain and Education, "Migrants and Refugees in the 21st Century: Children in and out of schools" in Erice, Italy

Dr. Sidney Strauss was an invited speaker at the 13th International Summer School on Mind, Brain and Education hosted by the Ettore Majorana Foundation and Centre for Scientific Culture.

ii) Key meetings between Chairholder and Institutions

November 28, 2017

The Chairholder attended meetings at University of Twente around several key project along with other members from Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham.

December 20, 2017 – December 27, 2017

UNESCO Chairholder on Technology, Internationalization and Education, Dr. Rafi Nachmias and Dean of the School of Education, Dr. David Mioduser from Tel-Aviv University, visited Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham to initiate research projects and collabo-



ration opportunities with Prof. Bhavani Rao & the Center for Women's Empowerment and Gender Equality.

February 17, 2018

The Chairholder and team met with Jeffrey D. Sachs and the UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN) in Kanti Village in Harayana. He interacted with women community organizers and leaders and participated in several key meetings.

July 23 – August 1, 2018

Chairholder Prof. Bhavani hosted visitors Dr. Irna van der Molen, University of Twente & Reliefbase Foundation and Dr. Jules Kneepkens, Director of Total European Aviation System Advisory Services, at Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham in Kerala. Several meetings took place around to collaborations with the CWEGE around the use of Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs) for humanitarian response.

July 25 – 26, 2018

Chairholder Prof. Bhavani along with Dr. Irna van der Molen, University of Twente & Reliefbase Foundation and Dr. Jules Kneepkens, Director of Total European Aviation

System Advisory Services, attended several meetings in Delhi with key members from India's Ministry.

- Mr. Shashank Shekhar, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Human Resources Development
- Mrs. Usha Padhee, Joint Secretary, Civil Aviation Authority
- Mr. Rajesh Agrawal, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Skills Development and Entrepreneurship
- Mr. Tirupugazh, National Disaster Management Agency
- Mr. B.S. Bhullar, Director-General Civil Aviation
- Mr. Anil Kumar Sanghi, Joint Secretary National Disaster Management Agency
- Mrs. Sunita Sanghi, Director-General, Ministry of Skills Development and Entrepreneurship
- Mr. Sanjay Kumar, Head of the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF)

August 1, 2018

Dr. Peliwe Lolwana, Professor of Witswatersrand University (South Africa) visited Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham for meetings with the Chairholder and Center for Women's Empowerment & Gender Equality about the scoping study with NORRAG, which explores the role of technology in enabling greater access and opportunity for skill development among underserved groups, particularly women in the informal economy in India.

September 29, 2018

The Center for Women's Empowerment and Gender Equality hosted its third meeting of the Steering Committee. Members from around the globe joined via videoconference.

October 17, 2018

The Chairholder attended meetings at University of Twente around finalizing a joint-certificate course for MSW students on the use of drones in disaster scenarios.

c) Interuniversity Exchanges/Partnerships

(principal exchanges/partnerships between the Chair and other institutions including UNESCO Chairs/UNITWIN Networks)

Institutional Partners

Participatory Research in Asia (PRIA), UNESCO Chair in Community Based Research and Social Responsibility in Higher Education	India
Tel Aviv University (TAU), UNESCO Chair on Technology, Internationalization and Education	Israel
Bar-Ilan (BI)	Israel
Thales Nederland BV (TNL)	Netherlands
University of Groningen (UG)	Netherlands
Ludwig Maximilian University of Munich (LMU)	Germany

Associated Partners

Name and Affiliation	Country	Capacity
Francois Gauthier, Freiburg University	Switzerland	Expert in Cultural and Spiritual understanding on WEGE
Hugo Liu, Art.sy, Inc. d/b/a Artsy	USA	Expert in Data Sciences
Irna Vandermolen, University of Twente	Netherlands	Expert on vulnerability & resilience
Miriam Reiner, Technion - Israel Institute of Technology	Israel	Expert in Neuro and Cognitive Sciences
Sunil Santha, The Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS)	India	Expert in Social Science

A Joint Project with the United Nations Democracy Fund – WE: CSDP (Community Sanitation Through Democratic Participation) February 2017 - February 2019

This project, jointly funded by Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham and UNDEF, aims to empower at least 5,000 women in rural communities across India to champion sanitation and community development through participation in the democratic process. These women become leaders who transform their villages into healthier, more resilient communities that are able to meet the increasing challenges facing rural India. This project, in collaboration with AMMACHI Labs, will empower women in marginalized communities to take up leadership roles and promote development in rural India.

A key initiative in this transformation is to address the vulnerabilities along the Health and Sanitation Vertical while being resilience along the Social, Cultural, Education and Economic verticals.

Women driven community initiatives towards “Open Defecation Free” villages through awareness campaigns, clean-up drives and collaboration with the Indian government’s Swachh Bharat Abhiyan initiative to construct toilets. Leaders from each village will receive training to become Community Organizers, help to form Advocacy Self-help Groups, and promote community development through this new platform for women’s empowerment.

d) Publications/Multimedia Materials

(major publications and teaching/learning materials)

Please tick relevant fields of output and indicate volume of output:

- Research Reports - 2
- Journal Articles (refereed) - 9
- Conference Proceedings -
- Occasional Papers -

ii) Publications

Pending Research Papers

Sreeram Kongeseri, Srividya Sheshadri, Christopher Coley, Alexander Muir, Rao R. Bhavani. "Games for community engagement and problem solving: A multi-site case study". 2017 2nd Recent Research in Social Sciences International Conference. SOC-SIC 2017 (Accepted)

Reshma Ramesh & Swati Dinesh. "Psychosocial effects of PCOS on reproductive age women; A preliminary exploratory study based in Kerala"

J. Sophie von Lieres, Anish K Abraham, & Renu Raveendran. "How effectively do community health workers spread health awareness via women's self-help groups in rural India? "

J. Sophie von Lieres, Renu Raveendran, & Anish K Abraham. "Evaluation of a micro-finance program in rural Uttarkashi, India: Do self-help groups empower women and increase quality of life?"

Meenu P. Prakash, Radhika Mohan, Lisa M. Frey, & Sandrine Bonin. "The impact of legal awareness on enhancing positive coping strategies among SHG women subjected to domestic violence in Nala village, Uttarakhand, India"

Kishore Mohan & Sandrine Bonin . "Vulnerabilities of Kedarnath disaster widows: an explorative case study"

L. M. Frey & Garghi Shivarajan. "Depression rates, contributing psychosocial factors, and mediating coping strategies among impoverished rural women of Tamil Nadu, India"

L. M. Frey & Vishumol, M. "The contribution of village customs on psychosocial and educational experiences of menstruating girls and women of rural India"

Ayswarya Pradeep, Mamatha Chandran, & Srividya Sheshadri. "Towards gender inclusive skill development in rural India: Factors that enable and inhibit women's enrolment in vocational training"

iii) Research Reports

Community Sanitation Through Democratic Participation: First Quarter Highlights, 2017. This report outlines the activities of the first quarter of the WE:CSDP Project around women's empowerment and improved sanitation through advancing women's political participation, leadership, economic & social development.

Swachhata Hi Seva: Cleanup drives in Indian Villages September 15 – October 2, 2018. This report summarizes all the women led cleanup drives and sanitation outreach in villages for India's nationwide Clean India drive.



[Read the report](#)



[Read the report](#)



PROGRESS REPORT

2018-2019

AmritaSREE Conclaves Series For Women's Empowerment

Amrita SREE (Amrita Self-Reliance, Education & Employment) is a community-based self-help project has empowered almost 250,000 women to become self-reliant and active members of society. This year, more than 100,000 of those women around Kerala participated in the AmritaSREE events in Trissur, Kottayam and Cochin among other places. The women leaders from the different clusters presented to the audience their successes as well as their contributions to society. Most clusters registered profits of over 600,000 INR. Their contributions included sponsoring free homes for women in need, sponsored surgeries and medical care, education stipends among others.



- Trissur Conclave March 21, 2019



- Kozhikode Conclave, March 24, 2019



- Cochin Conclave, March 25, 2019

More than 15,000 women participated in the biggest Self-Help Group conclave yet. Working capital of Rs. 30,000/- and clothes were distributed among thousands of SHGs.



- Kottayam Conclave, March 27, 2019



- Kannur & Kasargod Conclave, May 4, 2019

~10,000 women in 458 AmritaSREE self-help groups in these districts were presented with new clothes and working capital at the event.

International Colloquium on Women's Empowerment:



Amrita's UNESCO Chair in Gender Equality hosted its first International Colloquium for Women's Empowerment, December 17-19, 2018 at the Amritapuri Campus. Keynote speakers included Dr. Deepa Narayan, international poverty, gender and development advisor and renowned author and speaker; the Honourable Judge Swati Chauhan founder of Swayam Siddha an initiative for women; Smt. Shalini Prasad, UNICEF; Andy Carmone CNM MPH, global health expert and Director of Clinical Science at Clinton Health Access Initiative; and many other top delegates from UN agencies, and other NGOs.



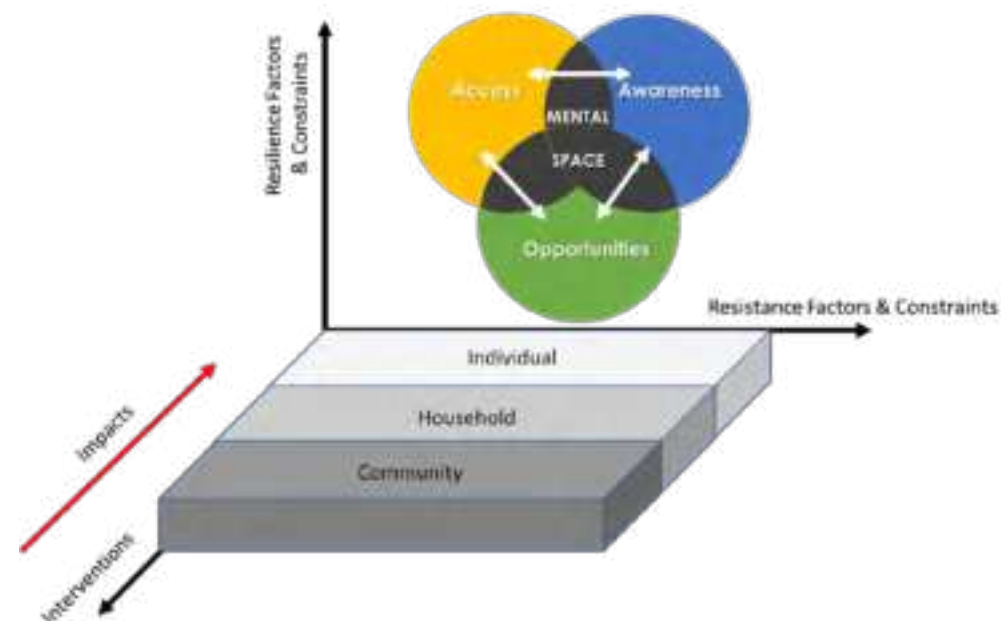
More than 90 Women from 21 villages across 18 states of India joined the discussions and celebrated the successful completion of a joint project by Amrita and the UN Democracy Fund (UNDEF) called "Women's Empowerment: Community Sanitation Through Democratic Participation."



Memorandum of Understanding Between UNESCO Chairs

An MoU was signed between The Science and Technology Education Center, Tel Aviv University and AMMACHI Labs, Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham to further collaborations in research and higher education. The MoU was between two UNESCO Chairs, UNESCO Chairholder on Technology, Internationalization and Education: Dr. Rafi Nachmias and UNESCO Chairholder on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment: Dr. Bhavani Rao was signed on May 22, 2019, at Tel Aviv University.

AWESOME 2050 Framework Unveiled



Systems Oriented Model Expansion (AWESOME 2050). In our third year, the UNESCO Chair in Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment at Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham has made significant strides towards the articulation of our approach to women's empowerment and vulnerability studies.

"Vulnerability Mapping: A conceptual framework towards a context-based approach to women's empowerment," submitted to World Development Perspectives Journal. [July 27th 2019]

Link to publication: <https://authors.elsevier.com/c/1bbLc8jbZmPbHl>

New Projects with Tel Aviv University

NUF Project



Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham, the Consulate General of Israel to South India & Tel Aviv University inaugurated portable water purifiers under the Jivamritam: Clean Drinking Water Project, by Her Excellency Ms. Dana Kursh, Consul General of Israel to South India (Bengaluru) on January 21, 2019. Funded by MASHAV.



Women in Sustaining the Environment (WISE)



"Women in Sustaining the Environment" (WISE), a research project between Amrita and Tel Aviv University, funded by the Consulate of Israel to South India (Bengaluru) was inaugurated by Her Excellency Ms. Dana Kursh, Consul General of Israel to South India (Bengaluru) on February 11, 2019. Funded by MASHAV.

Amrita-TAU Sustainable Development Workshop:



A weeklong workshop on sustainable development, hosted by Amrita's UNESCO Chair, took place September 18-26, 2019 at the Amritapuri campus. Several expert faculty from Amrita and Tel Aviv University led seminars and workshops on theories and practical approaches to sustainability, through creative, interactive and participatory learning.

Master of Social Work: 32 new students

Master of Social Work: 32 new students, 4 international (1 from Uganda, 3 from European countries-Spain, France, England). Total: 40 students in the MSW Program.

Awards Received by UNESCO Chairholder, Dr. Bhavani Rao



- Innovation leader at the "World Innovation Congress: Annual Excellence in Innovation Awards," February 12, 2019.
- Certificate of achievement by Bhoomika, for valuable contributions to society and achievements in women's empowerment on International Women's Day, March 8, 2019.

- WEF 19 Award of "Exceptional Women of Excellence" at the 25th edition of the Women Economic Forum – WEF, April 13, 2019.
- Award in "Women in Industry and Academia" at the 3rd European IEOM 2019 conference in Pilsen Czech Republic, July 23-26, 2019.

Proposals Submitted to Funding Agencies:

Funding Agency: UNICEF: WASH

Proposal: CWEGE for Long-term Agreement (LTA) with WASH

Date: 24/04/2019

Funding Agency: UNICEF Child Protection Programme

Proposal: Strengthen Child Protection Systems and Structures to Deliver Preventive and Responsive Child Protection Service in Tamil Nadu and Kerala

Date: August 3, 2019

Funding Agency: USAID: Women’s Global Development & Prosperity WomenConnect Challenge

Proposal: Women’s Empowerment: SHG Education, Employment & Digitization (WE:SEED)

Date: Aug 6, 2019

Funding Agency: 100&Change – MacArthur Foundation

Proposal: Accelerating Women’s Empowerment through Systems Oriented Model Expansion (AWESOME 2050)

Date: Aug 6, 2019

a) Education/Training/Research

(Key education programmes and training delivered and research undertaken by the Chair during the reporting period, target group and geographical coverage)

i) Education (leading to certificate)

Key Education Programs:

Graduate Level



Total of 40 students enrolled in Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham’s upgraded Master in Social Work Program in August of 2019. Four are international students. (Established July 2017) MSW courses include Disaster Management, Child Rights and Protection, legislation for vulnerable groups, Physical and Mental Health, and much more. Additionally, students field work includes traveling to impoverished rural villages in and working in a participatory manner with the people there. This fosters experiential learning of the realities of severe poverty.



After the Kerala floods of 2018, students field work included surveying severely affected areas and assessing the psychological and physical needs of inhabitants, providing resources & support.

Post Graduate Level



The Center for Women's Empowerment Ph.D Program generates action-based research with a focus on women's vulnerabilities and women's empowerment.

2018 Enrolments:

- Christie Gressel

ii) Training(short term)

Winter School 2019

"Learning from Others" Research Methodology Workshop on Literature Review and Replication Studies, in collaboration with the University of Groningen took place from January 19-20, 2019. The following visiting professors conducted the summer school:

- Dr. Padma Rao Sahib, University of Groningen, Netherlands
- Prof. Ruud Koning, University of Groningen, Netherlands

Course Offerings for Ph.D Researchers

September 3 – December 31, 2018

Environmental Decision Making: Vulnerability and Community Disaster Resilience from an Information Perspective taught by **Dr. Tarek Rashed**, former professor Indiana University-Purdue University, current CTO of Civilizology. This graduate seminar focuses on vulnerability as a manifestation of the relationship between society and hazards, specifically of how people and societies cope with and respond to natural and technological hazardous events.

Course Offerings for Both Ph.D Researchers and MSW Students

The Merging Voices Project Overview and MSW Workshops by Dr. Paula Sousa

Co-Hosted by CWEGE

February 12th - February 16th, 2019.

Dr. Paula Sousa, Ph.D, MSW, Professor Auxiliar , University of Trás-os-Montes and Alto Douro spent five days with Amrita MSW students and CWEGE Faculty.

Defining and Refining - Research Methodology Workshop on First Steps in Research

by Dr. Padma Rao Sahib & Dr. Sandeep Pillai Co-Hosted by CWEGE

August 2-4, 2019



This summer workshop with experts from the University of Groningen and Bocconi University introduced researchers to various research tools to help them delineate and define research questions for themselves.

Discussions in Women's Empowerment & Gender Studies

by Dr. Gayatri Devi Co-Hosted by CWEGE

August 6, 2019

Dr. Gayatri Devi, Associate Professor, Department of English, Lock Haven University, gave a talk and held a discussion about her research interest women and gender studies at the Center for Women's Empowerment and Gender Equality.

Workshops For MSW Students

Police Academy Workshop, Kollam

March 21, 2019

30 MSW Students attended a specialized workshop on probation services.

Building Self-esteem & Anger Management skills & Coping strategies for trauma situations

by Prof. Nirmala Devi Co-Hosted by CWEGE

March 28-30, 2019



Dr. Nirmala Devi shared her expertise in women's health and advocacy during sessions with MSW Students.

Speak Your Truth and Lead-Empowering Women to Become Compassionate Leaders & Vocational Goals and Selfawareness

by Dr. Alexia Mary Tzortzaki Co-Hosted by CWEGE

August 13, 14 & 16, 2019



Dr. Alexia Mary Tzortzaki, Assistant Professor in Management at the School of Management and Economics at the Hellenic Mediterranean University, based in Greece conducted a three-day workshop for MSW students.

Rural Focus: How we can contribute to the development of impactful GDPs, working in partnership with local elected bodies

August 20, 2019

Dr. Bala Prasad, Ministry of Panchayati Raj, Government of India (Ret.) addressed students and staff on how our university teams can help bring about rural development in partnership with Government of India schemes and initiatives.

Launch of "Compendium for the Stakeholders of Child in Need of Care and Protection" in collaboration with PRERANA Mumbai and IJM

September 4, 2019

This one-day workshop brought together stakeholders from various agencies through the theme of Child Rights and Protection. (see below)

"Mental Models"

September 14 - 25, 2019



The three main purposes of this course are to learn how to: (1) interview people and (2) interpret the interviewees' utterances. These interpretations will be (3) organized in the form of the interviewees' mental models of the content about which they were interviewed. The content can be decided upon by the course students with an emphasis on villagers' mental models. Taught by Dr. Sidney Strauss.

Online Courses for Ph.D & MSW Students

- CITI Program - Collaborative Institutional Training Initiative
- Coursera - selected courses
- Good Clinical Practice for Social and Behavioral Research eLearning Course
- FEMA IS-922: Applications of GIS for Emergency Management

Expert Talks Co-Hosted by CWEGE

"AI and the question of what do we teach in the future for an AI world?" by Prof. Colin de la Higuera, University of Nantes August 21, 2019

" Why we should be studying science as a social entity, using research on the El Niño Southern Oscillation," by Dr. George Adamson, Lecturer in Geography, King's College. September 2, 2019

"Socio economic impact of climate change," by Dr. K. Narayanan, Professor of Economics Department of Humanities and Social Sciences, Indian Institute of Technology Bombay. September 3, 2019

"Compendium for the Stakeholders of Child in Need of Care and Protection," September 4, 2019

Nationally and internationally renowned experts in child care and protection and child trafficking, Dr. Pravin and Mrs. Priti Patkar, offered a two day two day workshop for functionaries of Kerala's Integrated Child Protection Scheme. Along with colleagues Ms. Kahina K (Prerana), & Mr. Kile D'Souza (IJM), topics included presenting a compendium of best practice standardized forms, templates, and orders, to ease clear and legally appropriate communication across child-care institutions (CCI). They also addressed child trafficking issues, and best care practices working with children in Child Care Institutes of Kerala.

Faculty Development Programs

Research Ethics and Values- Part 1 by Dr. L.M. Frey

June 14, 2019

Master of Social Work Faculty members from the Center for Women's Empowerment & Gender Equality participated in a Faculty Development Program training that was focused on a brief history of the origin of international research ethics.

Funded Projects:

Trainings in Villages

Amrita PMKVY Skill Training in Villages (ongoing)



Amrita Vishwa Vidyappetham was selected by the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE), Government of India in 2019, to be an implementing agency of the PMKVY-Special Projects initiative. Inaugurated in January 2019 by Sri Dharmendra Pradhan, former Minister of Skills Development and Entrepreneurship, Amrita PMKVY currently operates seven training centers in six districts in five states to train 1000 youth by 2020 with a focus on empowerment of women in rural areas.

Amrita PMKVY Reports can be found here:

<https://issuu.com/centerwege>

iii) Research

Outcomes of the Research Agenda

The CWEGE research agenda continues to address the same six fields of study, although slightly modified for clarity: (i) safety and security, (ii) economic vitality, (iii) education, (iv) political, social and cultural environment, (v) environmental quality and (vi) health) as related to women's empowerment and vulnerability. Our second year update indicated an adjusted approach, which has been improved and refined with the assistance of Dr. Tarek Rashed. Drawing upon his expertise in disaster management and vulnerability mapping, we have developed a system's thinking-based framework that outlines the six dimensions (above), and how each intersects with different levels of contexts of women's empowerment (individual, household, community, etc.), as well as four key domains of empowerment (access, awareness, opportunity, and mental space). Contexts and domains of empowerment are considered through the lens of several other components: factors (resistance and resilience: elements or processes that leverage women's empowerment); interventions (elements, events, processes, and/or actions resulting in a change within the empowerment domains and their interrelations); constraints (elements or processes that restrict women from achieving their potential or higher level of empowerment) Impact or Feedback (changes that occur within and between empowerment domains due to an intervention. Impacts and feedback can have negative or positive results, which can be immediate or delayed. This type of impact or feedback can lead to either an increase or decrease of the overall status of women's empowerment within a given context); and Indicators (criteria used to measure factors, constraints, and impacts within or between empowerment domains at a given context). We have named this framework: Accelerating Women's Empowerment through Systems Oriented Model Expansion (AWESOME).

The AWESOME framework was piloted in rural northern Kerala in November 2018, which laid the grounds for developing a strategic and tactical plan, detailed process workflows, and the outline of a proposed framework paper. Other research achievements from this year include submitting the CWEGE position paper for publication at World Development Perspectives Journal, engaging four Ph.D. students whose dissertations are directly aligned with AWESOME objectives, and submitting an application for the MacArthur 100&Change award. Our ongoing research work involves further testing of the AWESOME framework in the field, completing and submitting

the framework paper that fully outlines the scope of AWESOME's abilities, identifying additional funding sources, and engaging more Ph.D. students.

Field Work by MSW Students 2018- 2019

The fieldwork component is a crucial part of Amrita's social work programs. MSW students participated in the "Women in Sustaining the Environment" (WISE), empowering women sustainability development officers and the NUF Filtration system installations for the Jivamritam Clean Drinking Water project. They also took field trips in local areas to gain grassroots experience in working with rural and tribal communities. Activities included:

- Participatory Capabilities Vulnerability Assessment (PCVA) for the Women in Sustaining the Environment (WISE) Project
- Installing NUF filtration systems in rural Kerala
- Participatory Learning and Action activities
- Vulnerability Mapping, Ideal Village exercise and risk assessments
- Open Defecation Free Pledges & Awareness Rallies
- Assisting in Toilet Building
- Liaising with Government and external agencies and key stakeholders
- Village survey with community organizers, facilitators, Self-Help-Group members, change agents, field coordinators, health workers
- Community Clean Up Drives outlined by the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan (Clean India Initiative)

Vocational skill development and life skills development education through mobile learning platforms Other Activities

- August 2019: MSW students actively participated in 2019 flood relief humanitarian efforts across Kerala. They were amongst the 400 Amrita students and staff who attended to a 24-hour helpline for 2019 Kerala flood victims.

Consolidated reports of MSW Activities available at:

<https://issuu.com/centerwege>

b) Conferences and Meetings

i) A selection of conference presentations by the Chairholder and other colleagues

December 10-11, 2018: First ever Consultation of UNESCO Chairs in India

Dr. Bhavani Rao was invited to participate at the first ever Consultation of UNESCO Chairs, in New Delhi. The primary objective of the consultation was to build a more informed and active network of UNESCO Chairs in India and to brainstorm and share ideas on the role of UNESCO Chairs in strengthening the work of UNESCO. The two-day consultation saw the participation by all 11 UNESCO Chairs in India and was in collaboration with Participatory Research in Asia (PRIA).

December 12 – 13, 2018: The First Portuguese International Conference on Mind, Brain and Education



Dr. Sidney Strauss was a keynote speaker at this two-day event. His talk titled "Teaching, Naturally" centered around peer teaching. Citing examples from the work of AMMACHI Labs, Dr. Strauss demonstrated how both forms of peer teaching positively enhance skill development in the context of teaching and learning in village communities. The conference took place at the Instituto de Ciencias da Saude which is part of the Universidade Catolica Portuguesa in Lisbon.

January 25, 2019: National Conference for Jan Shikshan Sansthan (JSSs)



UNESCO Chairholder Dr. Bhavani was invited to Delhi by the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE), to present the findings of pilot project of Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham's "Blended Training System" at the AICTE Auditorium in New Delhi. In the days following, Dr. Bhavani participated in leading a post-conference workshop called "Roadmap for JSS."

Feb 12, 2019: World Innovation Congress

UNESCO Chairholder Dr. Bhavani was recognized as an innovation leader at the "World Innovation Congress: Annual Excellence in Innovation Awards" at the Taj Lands End in Mumbai on The award category was "50 Education Innovative Leaders" and the theme of the event was "Innovation for a Sustainable Future."

April 13, 2019: 5th edition of the Women Economic Forum – WEF



UNESCO Chairholder Dr. Bhavani received the award of "Exceptional Women of Excellence," and was also a panelist on the Special Plenary: The Dimensions of Innovation in The Dynamism of Today's Landscape. WEF 19 took place at the Vivanta by Taj, New Delhi.

July 23 – 26, 2019: Third European International Conference on Industrial Engineering and Operations Management

UNESCO Chairholder Dr. Bhavani was an invited speaker and her talk and panel discussions focused on Amrita's work in the areas of women's empowerment and sustainability under the special track of "Women in Industry and Academia." She was also recognized with a special award. The conference took place in Pilsen, Czech Republic at the Park Hotel Congress Center.

ii) Key meetings between Chairholder and Institutions

October 17, 2018

The Chairholder attended meetings at the University of Twente around finalizing a joint certificate course for MSW students on the use of drones in disaster scenarios.

October 28, 2018

Dr. Bhavani Rao, and Dr. Maneesha Ramesh, Dean, International programs, visited the UNESCO Headquarters in Paris. They had high-level meetings with Mr. Peter Wells, Chief of Section of Higher Education and Ms Liliana Simionescu, Programme Specialist. UNITWIN.



January 25-28, 2019:

The UNESCO Chairholder attended high level meetings with government officials in Delhi for roadmap of Amrita's Proposal for Skilling Underserved -Communities through Jan Shikshan Sansthan. During the meetings, Shri Dharmendra Pradhan, Minister of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship in the First Modi Ministry, announced that AMMACHI Labs is the knowledge partner for the country.

February 9, 2019:

UNESCO Chairholder Bhavani Rao visited Bangladesh for the completion of a humanitarian project, providing Diphtheria vaccinations the refugee population in Cox's Bazar. She met with officials there.

February 15, 2019:



The UNESCO Chair hosted Dr. Ram Fishman, Principal Investigator, Gershon H. Gordon, Faculty of Social Sciences from Tel Aviv University, Israel. He visited Amrita and participated in team meetings with researchers from the Center for Women's Empowerment and Gender Equality and MSW students.

May 16 – 26, 2019:

Dr. Bhavani was invited for Tel Aviv University to establish collaborations between Science and Technology Education Center, Tel Aviv University and AMMACHI Labs, Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham. Dr. Rafi Nachmias, UNESCO Chair in Technology, Internationalization and Education, and Head of the Science and Technology Education Center, Tel Aviv University hosted two joint seminars on May 19 & May 22, 2019. During these meetings, Dr. Bhavani delivered a talk on the Social and Science Commitment at AMMACHI Labs and CWEGE and another talk during the seminar "Science and Technology Education for a sustainable world: Bi-National opportunities."

Meetings in Israel:

- **Tal Oz-Ari**

Director of Engineering TAHAL Group: a leading global provider of sustainable infrastructure development projects in developing countries worldwide.

- **Shlomit Aharoni Lir**

Post-doc, Gender and Technology Researcher at Ben Gurion University

- **Sharon Mishaal**

Maidam Herzliya Science Center

- **Eli Cohen**

Ayala Water & Ecology Ltd.

- **Dana Mattas-Applerot**

Tel Aviv University, International Office

- **Tamar Ziv**

Director of Organizational Strategy, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Israel

- **Rafi Nevo**

Head Of Innovation & Entrepreneurship At Kibbutz Industries Association

- **Hilly Hirt**

Senior Manager, India - Israel Industrial R&D Foundation, Israel Innovation Authority

On May 19, 2019, Dr. Bhavani also attended the Dan David Prize Award Ceremony, an international award endowed by the Dan David Foundation and headquartered at Tel Aviv University.

June 24-26, 2019: UNESCO Chairholder Bhavani Rao attended a UNICEF Alternate Care Learning event and met with G. Kumaresan, Child Protection Specialist, UNICEF India at the Kochi Marriott.

July 8, 2019: The Chairholder and colleagues from Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham attended collaborative meetings at Boston University.

July 15- 18, 2019: The Chairholder visited Ryerson University, Toronto, and met with Dr. Kiaras Gharabaghi, Director and Associate Professor, School of Child and Youth Care. The meeting explored potential collaboration with Ryerson on educational tools/interventions for youth and social problem-solving strategies that can be applied to the Indian context.

August 13, 2019: UNESCO Chairholder Bhavani Rao and team met with Ms. Flávia P. Malucelli, Coordinator at Brazilian Permanent Mission to the WTO Geneva.

August 14, 2019: UNESCO Chairholder Bhavani Rao and team met with Mr. Agarwal from the Samvardhana Motherhood Group (SMG)

August 17, 2019: Dr. Sarthak Das, Senior Advisor, Research Translation & Global Health Policy at Harvard Global Health Institute, visited the CWEGE and participated in team meetings. He is also a Steering Committee member of the Center for Women's Empowerment and Gender Equality.

September 7 - 21, 2019: Dr. Sidney Strauss, Professor (Emeritus), Branco Weiss Chair for Research in Child Development and Education, Tel Aviv University held paper writing reviews and meetings with team members from the CWEGE and MSW students during a two-week long visit to Amrita.

October 17, 2019: UNESCO Chairholder met with Dr. Irna van der Molen and other colleagues from the University of Twente.

c) Interuniversity Exchanges/Partnerships

(Principal exchanges/partnerships between the Chair and other institutions including UNESCO Chairs/UNITWIN Networks)

New Partners 2019

Mary Koutselini, UNESCO Chair in Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment	Cyprus
Phil E. Okeke-Ihejirika, Department of Women's and Gender Studies: Alberta	Canada
Chad Kymal, Arun Kumar, Omnex Inc.	U.S.A/India
Dr. Tarek Rashed, Civilozology LLC.	U.S.A

Institutional Partners

Participatory Research in Asia (PRIA), UNESCO Chair in Community Based Research and Social Responsibility in Higher Education	India
Tel Aviv University (TAU), UNESCO Chair on Technology, Internationalization and Education	Israel
Bar-Ilan (BI)	Israel
Thales Nederland BV (TNL)	Netherlands
University of Groningen (UG)	Netherlands
Ludwig Maximilian University of Munich (LMU)	Germany

Associated Partners

Name and Affiliation	Country	Capacity
Francois Gauthier, Freiburg University	Switzerland	Expert in Cultural and Spiritual understanding on WEGE
Hugo Liu, Art.sy, Inc. d/b/a Artsy	USA	Expert in Data Sciences
Irna Vandermolen, University of Twente	Netherlands	Expert on vulnerability & resilience
Miriam Reiner, Technion - Israel Institute of Technology	Israel	Expert in Neuro and Cognitive Sciences
Sunil Santha, The Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS)	India	Expert in Social Science

Official Partners of the UNESCO Chair

Dr. Carlost Alberto Torres	Distinguished Professor of Education and UNESCO Chair in Global Learning and Global Citizenship Education, Director, Paulo Freire Institute President, World Council of Comparative Education Societies (WCCES), University of California, Los Angeles
Dr. Daniel A. Wagner	UNESCO Chair in Learning and Literacy, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA
Dr. Anita Raj, Dr. Suresh Subramani	Center on Gender Equity and Health University of California, San Diego, CA
Dr. Nancy J. Smyth, Dr. Catherine Dulmus, Dr. Laura Lewis	School of Social Work and Institute for Sustainable Global Engagement, University at Buffalo, Buffalo, NY

Dr. Santosh K. Mahapatra	Operations and Information Systems, Clarkson University, Potsdam, NY
Dr. Prasant Mohapatra	University of California, Davis, CA
Dr. Silvia Hostettler	Ecole Polytechnique Federale de Lausanna (EPFL), Lausanne, Switzerland
Dr. Diane Perpich	Clemson University, Clemson, South Carolina
Dr. Joost Monks	NORRAG (Network for International Policies and Cooperation), Geneva, Switzerland

d) Publications/Multimedia Materials (major publications and teaching/learning materials)

Please tick relevant fields of output and indicate volume of output:	Research Reports - Journal Articles (refereed) - Conference Proceedings - Occasional Papers -
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Give details of major publications and materials including full citations.

ii) Publications

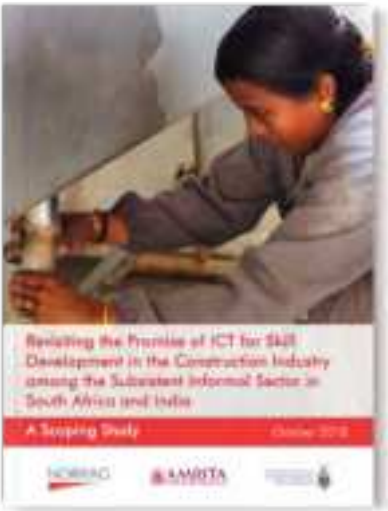
“Vulnerability Mapping: A conceptual framework towards a context-based approach to women’s empowerment” was submitted to the World Development Perspectives journal, June 27th, 2019. Christie M. Gressel, Tarek Rashed, Laura Maciuika, Srividya Sheshadri, Christopher Coley, Sreeram Kongeseri, and Rao R Bhavani. Publication Link: <https://authors.elsevier.com/c/1bbLc8jbZmPbHl>

iii) Research Reports

- Indo-Israel Projects 2019
- Revisiting the Promise of ICT for Skill Development: A Scoping Study
- UNDEF Project Summary
- Amrita PMKVY - Special Project Quarterly Report



Read the report



Read the report



Read the report



Read the report

PROGRESS REPORT

2019-2020



a) Education/Training/Research

(key education programmes and training delivered and research undertaken by the Chair during the reporting period, target group and geographical coverage)

i) Education (leading to certificate)

Key Education Programs:

Graduate Level:

A total of 40 students enrolled in Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham's upgraded Master in Social Work Program in August of 2019. Four are international students. (Established July 2017)

MSW courses include Disaster Management, Child Rights and Protection, legislation for vulnerable groups, Physical and Mental Health, and much more. Additionally, students undertake field work including travelling to impoverished rural villages in remote areas and working in a participatory manner with the people there. This fosters experiential learning of the realities of severe poverty.

Post-Graduate Level:

The Center for Women's Empowerment Ph. D Program generates action-based research with a focus on women's vulnerabilities and women's empowerment. Accelerating Women's Empowerment through Systems-Oriented Model Expansion (AWE-SOME 2050). In our fourth year, the UNESCO Chair in Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment at Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham has made significant strides towards the articulation of our approach to women's empowerment and vulnerability studies.

ii) Training (short term)

Workshops & Lectures

Amrita-Tel Aviv University Sustainable Development Workshop on Water: September 19-25, 2019



Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham teamed with Tel Aviv University, Israel, to organize a week-long workshop on water in the context of sustainable development, at the Amritapuri campus. The 80+ workshop participants were trained to deal with complex phenomenon, knowledge on methods for sustainable development, knowledge of natural and social conditions, as well as limits of sustainable development.



Sustainable Leadership Workshop: November 14, 2019



Prof. Thierry Tartarin Med, International faculty and Live-in-Labs, Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham partner from Saxion University of Applied Sciences offered a two-hour workshop on "Sustainable Leadership" for MSW students from Center for Women's Empowerment & Gender Equality on November 14, 2019. The objective of the workshop was to understand the context and dimension of sustainability, relate this to social work and entrepreneurship and find positive ideas to develop business models

UNICEF Workshop - December 3-5, 2019.



In partnership with UNICEF, Chennai, the UNESCO Chair hosted a three-day event that drew upon the expertise of leading authorities in the field of child protection and social justice from December 3-5, 2019 at the Amritapuri campus.

The first two days comprised of a workshop entitled: 'Empowering CCI Staff and Children: Participatory Best Care Practices for Creating a Child-Friendly Environment of Safety & Support,' and the third day, a Thematic Consultation, addressed 'Enhancing Awareness, Prevention, and Solutions to Child Trafficking Through ICT and Social Media.'

Amrita-TAU Workshop Series: Sustainable Development Workshop: SDG 4

December 23-24, 2019



A two-day collaborative inter-university workshop, Amrita-TAU Sustainable Development Workshop on Education (SDG 4), was held at the Amritapuri Campus of Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham. Fourteen noteworthy delegates from Tel Aviv University (TAU), many of who are heads of university departments, came to share their knowledge and research, as well as exchange best practices, challenges and solutions on the topic: ‘Science and Technology Education for a Sustainable World’, and ‘Robotics and Artificial Intelligence Education’. More than 45 participants took part in the workshop.

Research collaboration between Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham and Tel Aviv university was discussed, action plans were made. Participants from the government have also agreed to work with the universities to tackle future challenges

Suicide Prevention Awareness Seminar: January 3, 2020



Gabriella Wright, a renowned English-French actress, activist, writer, and Director of Never Alone Movement conducted an expert talk and interactive session at the “NEVER ALONE-Suicide Prevention and Self-Awareness” seminar organized by the UNESCO Chair.



Sustainability Seminar on Water: January 6, 2020



Professor Hadas Mamane, Tel Aviv University, The Nitsan Lab at Tel Aviv University, Israel delivered a talk at the seminar on "Sustainable Approach-Water, Waste Water and Renewable Energy." Prof. Hadas Mamane's research focuses on developing water treatment processes and technologies by introducing natural and induced photons, radicals, reactive species, and nanoparticles into the water.

Prof. Mamane elaborated upon several different methods of water purification, the challenges involved, and the model experiments conducted in Israel in collaboration with India. Delegates from the Government of Kerala Shri. Sunil VM (Water), Dr. Madhusudan (Education), and Shri. Prasad Balachandran & Maker Village) along with researchers from Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham attended the seminar.

**A Multi-layered approach to Preventive Health and Wellness,
talk by Shri. Ravi Mantha, January 9, 2020**



Shri Ravi Mantha, Nutritional and wellness expert and the author of "The Baby Elephant Diet: A Modern Indian Guide to Eating Right" delivered a talk at the seminar on "A Multi-layered approach to Preventive Health and Wellness" at Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham on January 9, 2020. Shri. Ravi Mantha is multifaceted, a man of many talents. He is a healer, angel investor, farmer, author, public speaker, political advisor, poet, organic farmer, health guru and specializes in treating chronic pain and illnesses. His first book on health is titled "All About Bacteria."

International Law Graduate Seminar: January 10, 2020



Ms. Saudamini Siegrist, Former Senior Advisor Child Protection in Emergencies, UNICEF delivered a talk at the seminar on "Reconcile Conflict and Sustain Peace." Researchers and MSW students participated in this interactive session to gain more insight into international laws and treaties for child rights.

Post-Graduate Research Workshop: January 22-23, 2020



Center for Women's Empowerment & Gender Equality, in collaboration with Amrita Center for Research and Development (ACRD), conducted a research workshop for PhD scholars titled "Defining and Refining - First Steps in Research." Conducted by Dr. Padma Rao Sahib, Associate Professor, University of Groningen, Groningen, The Netherlands and Dr. Sandeep Pillai, Assistant Professor, Department of Management and Technology, Bocconi University, Italy

UNICEF Workshop: January 22-24, 2020



The UNESCO Chair and Master of Social Work Department organized a three day event at the Amritapuri campus; in partnership with UNICEF India and the Department of Women and Child Development, Kerala.

The first two days of the UNICEF Workshop was conducted by Dr. Kiaras Gharabaghi, Director, School of Child & Youth Care; Associate Professor, Immigration & Settlement Studies Graduate Program; Project Leader, Rising High Project, Community Transformation Cafe of the Faculty of Community Services, Ryerson University. The concluding event was a thematic consultation "An Organizational Structure Model for Capacity Building for Child Care and Protection Staff."

Expert Talk by Dr. Laura Corradi: February 6, 2020

Gender Differences and Inequalities in Social Work: how to study multiple discrimination with the intersectional approach by Dr. Laura Corradi, Research Professor of Gender Studies and Intersectional Methodology, University of Calabria, Italy.

Expert Talk by Shri Param Singh: February 20, 2020



Shri. Param Singh, Founder, MoooFarm delivered an expert talk: "My Experience In India's AgTech Sector And Case Of MoooFarm Success" on February 20, 2020

Expert talk by Ela Ionescu: March 6, 2020

Leaving No One Behind: Making Progress Towards Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment: an expert talk by Ela Ionescu, Partnership Advisor with UN Climate and Forest.

iii) Research

The CWEGE research agenda continues with our system's critical thinking approach to mapping women's vulnerabilities throughout rural India. Our approach continues to focus on these six dimensions ((i) safety and security, (ii) economic vitality, (iii) education, (iv) political, social and cultural environment, (v) environmental quality and (vi) health), and how they interact with the different aspects of women's lives. Our primary focus over the last six months has been to improve and refine our data collection strategies, to engage with subject matter experts in the areas outlined above in order to ensure quality of research, and to plan an expansion of our original pilot field venture. Unfortunately, due to COVID-19 related restrictions, many of our plans have been curtailed - particularly where field work was involved. It is our hope to get back on track as soon as feasible. In the meantime our focus has shifted slightly to developing a body of knowledge on women's issues through the lens of the six dimensions outlined above.

Field Work Specific to COVID-19 Pandemic:



Impact Assessment of COVID-19 on Rural Communities:

Graduate students from Amrita's Master's in Social Work program conducted a phone survey and collected data from 400 women in impoverished communities in Kerala to monitor their well-being during India's lock-down.

MSW Students Provide Emotional Support During Global Pandemic Through Helpline:

The Amrita COVID-19 Mental Health Helpline opened on April 11, 2020 and is currently serving people from around India. It was created to mitigate the emotional distress many are experiencing due to the global pandemic and India's national lock-down.

Field Work by MSW Students:



The fieldwork component of the MSW Program is, for many students, a salient and rewarding experience of their social work education. All 40 students undertook several field trips between October - February. They visited various villages throughout India where they were immersed in field work and research. Through this they gained a greater understanding of development work, women’s issues and empowerment.

Major Activities

- 5S Methodology Implementation for community cleanups
- PRA Activities (participatory rural appraisals including SWOT analysis, Resource mapping, Problem and Solution tree, FGD’s, Transect Walk, and Ideal village activity)
- Vulnerability Mapping, Ideal Village exercise and risk assessments



- Open Defecation Free Pledges & Sanitation Awareness Rallies
- Liaising with Government and external agencies and key stakeholders
- Village survey with community organizers, facilitators, Self-Help-Group members, change agents, field coordinators, health workers
- Community Clean Up Drives outlined by the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan (Clean India Initiative)
- Vocational skill development and life skills development education through mobile learning platforms

Villages Visited

- | | |
|---|----------------------|
| • Thiruvarpur Panchayat, Kottayam, Kerala | • Nanivav, Gujarat |
| • Chinnampathy, Tamil Nadu | • Barapitha, Odisha |
| • Raichur, Karnataka | • Guptapada, Odisha |
| • Nani Borwai, Gujarat | • Pathankot, Punjab |
| • Moti Borwai, Gujarat | • Nala, Uttarakhand |
| | • Dunda, Uttarakhand |

Women in Sustaining the Environment - 5S Implementation in Kottayam Kerala:

Master of Social Work, Amritapuri campus Students, researchers and project team members from AMMACHI Labs and Center for Women's Empowerment & Gender Equality conducted a one day clean up drive at Thiruvappu Panchayat, Kottayam District as part of the "Women in Sustaining the Environment" project on Monday, 18th November 2019. Ms. Titty George, Honorable Sub Judge, District Legal Service Authority, Kottayam inaugurated the program. Mrs. Jessy Ninan, Grama Panchayat President, standing committee chairperson, and Legal Service Authority members from Thiruvappu village participated in the event. As part of the Clean-up drive, a training session was given to the Sustainable Development officers (SDOs) in 5S Japanese methodology of Waste management, which comprises: Sort and Separate, Set in order – Label & Store, Shine & Clean, Standardize & make routine, Sustain order and Cleanliness.

COVID-19 Pandemic Awareness Video

MSW students produced a creative video to raise awareness during India's lockdown.
<https://youtu.be/pNSutt3bSts>

b) Conferences/Meetings

A selection of conference presentations by the Chairholder and other colleagues

Ernst Struengmann Forum at Schloss Rettershof

Germany, November 13-15, 2019.



Chairholder, Dr. Bhavani Rao, served on the Program Advisory Committee for the Ernst Struengmann Forum at Schloss Rettershof, Germany, November 13-15, 2019. The forum was to review a special proposal titled "Collaboration Within and Between Biological and Artificial Systems" between Amrita and other institutions. The main collaborators on the proposal include the Ernst Strüngmann Forum, the University of Michigan, the School of Culture and Society - Interacting Minds Centre, Kiel Institute for the World Economy, the Institute of Bioengineering of Catalonia (IBEC), Engineering Sciences, and Imperial College

Gender Equality and Technology: Workshop on Artificial Intelligence and Women Empowerment

November 2, 2019 CRI - Learning center extension,
Interdisciplinary Research Center (CRI), Paris.



Dr. Bhavani Rao was a keynote speaker at a workshop: "Artificial Intelligence and Women Empowerment" on Gender issues in AI projects, database and education. November 2, 2019 CRI - Learning center extension, Interdisciplinary Research Center (CRI), Paris.

<https://en.unesco.org/news/gender-equality-and-technology-workshop-artificial-intelligence-and-women-empowerment>

Second Annual meeting of UNESCO Chairs in India

Organized by UNESCO New Delhi in partnership with the
MIT World Peace University, December 9-10, 2019, Pune,
India.

UNESCO Chair for Gender Equality and Women Empowerment in India, Dr. Bhavani Rao was invited for the meeting of UNESCO Chairs which was held in Vishwaraj Baug, A. D. T. University Campus

<https://en.unesco.org/news/second-annual-meeting-unesco-chairs-india-held-pune>

Partners' Dialogue on Masculinities and Gender Equality

New Delhi on December 18, 2019



Representatives from Amrita's UNESCO Chair in Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment were invited to participate in the "Partners' Dialogue on Masculinities and Gender Equality" UNESCO New Delhi on December 18, 2019. The one-day conference was a valuable chance for the various UN branches in India and their partners to share knowl-

edge on this important topic. Engaging men and boys is a major focus for UNESCO in 2020, and their new programs will reflect this. Christopher Kripasagar Coley, whose PhD research at Amrita studies the impact men have on women's empowerment programs, participated in several sessions and was impressed and motivated to continue in this area of research and field work. He also looks forward to the upcoming UNESCO Delhi report which will focus on engaging men and boys in the domain of women's empowerment.

National Workshop on 'Investing in the Sanitation Cycle',

January 9-10, New Delhi

Representatives from Amrita's UNESCO Chair in Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment were invited to participate in the national workshop on 'Investing in the Sanitation Cycle', in New Delhi. This event was meant to bring together UNICEF partners to discuss successes and challenges in the Swachh Bharat Mission(SBM) program. Results would be consolidated into a report to the Govt. of India for inclusion into the SBM 2.0 plans (launching later this year). The structure was a series of panel presentations by experts, interspersed with "Group Work" on sub-topics within the panel (e.g., Panel on technologies for fecal waste management, group work on NGO involvement in community adoption of new technology and behavior change). Christopher Kripasagar Coley, whose PhD research at Amrita studies the impact men have on women's empowerment programs and who was project manager for a Community Sanitation project funded by UNDEF participated in the discussions and contributed to the group reports. The participants were able to network with other UNICEF partners working in various sectors of WASH.

3rd International Conference of Future Women 2020- The Next Generation of Women: Equal Rights, Equal Opportunities, and Equal Participation"

February 13-14, 2020

Yamuna Sandrine, Ph.D. student from the Center for Women's Empowerment & Gender Equality, presented her paper "Barefoot Lawyers: A Preliminary Model For Women's Empowerment Towards Gender And Democratic Justice " co-authored by Aparna Mohanan, MSW student from CWEGE 2018.



ii) Other conferences/organizational activities undertaken by the Chairholder

Civilization Resilience Post COVID-19 - A Think Tank



A virtual Think Tank was hosted by Farouk El-Baz Center for Sustainability and Future Studies (FECSFS) at the British University in Egypt (BUE) and Civilizology LLC, USA. UNESCO Chairholder, Dr. Bhavani Rao, was an invited panelist for the lively discussion which took place virtually, on April 29, 2020. Link: <https://youtu.be/Y2RoPig2F-Q>

d) Publications/Multimedia Materials

(major publications and teaching/learning materials)

ii) Publications

Barefoot Lawyers: A Preliminary Model For Women's Empowerment Towards Gender And Democratic Justice, Sandrine Bonin & Aparna Mohan; RA - 1, PG student - 1

The 3rd International Conference of Future Women 2020-The Next Generation of Women: Equal Rights, Equal Opportunities, and Equal Participation", 13th, 14th February 2020

Mental well-being and protective factors in vulnerable groups: Victims of the 2004 tsunami in Kerala, South India, and disadvantaged rural populations in North India Witruk, E. & Utami, D. S. (Eds.). (2019). Traumatic Experiences and Dyslexia. Series: Beiträge zur Pädagogischen und Rehabilitationspsychologie (Studies in Educational and Rehabilitation Psychology), Vol. 8 (pp. 45-58); earlier presented at the International Workshop on Dyslexia and Traumatic Experiences, University of Leipzig, Leipzig, Germany von Lieres, J. S.

Deshmukh, Amol, Sooraj K. Babu, R. Unnikrishnan, Shanker Ramesh, Parameswari Anitha, and Rao R. Bhavani. "Influencing hand-washing behaviour with a social robot: A study with school children in rural India." In 2019 28th IEEE International Conference on Robot and Human Interactive Communication (RO-MAN), pp. 1-6. IEEE, 2019.

Srividya Sheshadri, Christopher Coley, Sriram Devanathan, Bhavani Rao R. (2020). "Towards a Synergistic Women's Empowerment-Transformative Learning Framework for TVET in rural India." Journal of Vocational Education & Training (pending).

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iii) Research Reports

Impact Assessment of COVID-19 on Rural Communities



Graduate students from Amrita's Master's in Social Work program reached out to over 400 women from impoverished communities in Kerala to monitor their well being. The phone survey and data collection investigated the effect of the lockdown on women self-help-group (SHG) members.

Full report: <http://ammachilabs.org/impact-assessment-of-covid19-on-rural-communities/>

e) Cooperation with UNESCO Headquarters, Field Offices

i) Chairholder Dr. Bhavani Rao was an invited guest at the annual UNESCO Chairs meeting in 2019. In an effort to strengthen links with the UNESCO Chairs in India, UNESCO New Delhi in partnership with the MIT World Peace University organized the Second Annual meeting of UNESCO Chairs in India on 9-10 December, 2019 in Pune. One of the outcomes of this event was the agreement for CWEGE to co-author an upcoming report along with the UNESCO New Delhi office (see below).

ii) UNESCO New Delhi and the CWEGE have signed a six-month contract (April to September, 2020) to prepare a scoping report, titled "Transforming 'Men'talities: Gender Equality and Masculinities in India." The primary aim of the scoping report is to develop a comprehensive understanding of the current state of work on Masculinities and Engaging men and boys for Gender Equality in India. The report includes the origin, current discourse, policy position, challenges, opportunities, case studies, and past interventions on this issue. This groundwork lays the foundation to generate evidence, a roadmap for action, as well as key messages and recommendations for the advancement of gender equality in India. Christopher Coley and Kripa Gressel (PhD candidates at the CWEGE) and Prof Bhavani will be the primary authors of the report, along with a small team of external experts.

AWESOME Framework



The Advancing Women's Empowerment through System's Oriented Model Expansion (AWESOME) Framework evolved out of years of field experience and extensive research into the empowerment process.

The inspiration came from our field team's experience and understanding of the fact that the concepts that research indicated should work, don't always work in every location or with each household that we engaged with. In some cases, this had violent consequences for the women we worked with, which was very disheartening. Dr. Bhavani, whose research is in Disaster Management, conceived of the idea of utilizing vulnerability mapping in order to better understand the various impacts that affect women's lives, and how they interplay off of one another. This is the central thrust of the UNESCO Chair in Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment.

Based upon these foundational ideas the team under the UNESCO chair endeavored to understand and improve upon existing frameworks. Having scoured literature and field guides and impact assessments and every variety of resources and progress towards understanding the concepts at play, a great deal of progress had been made towards creating a new framework—but putting it all together cohesively was challenging, which is understandable due to the new nature of the combination.

It was at this stage Dr. Tarek Rashed, whose experience with disaster relief, big data analysis, and systems thinking joined the team. He played a significant role in the development of the framework, and a cohesive and comprehensive combination of women's empowerment definitions, theory & methods and vulnerability mapping was conceptualized. Once we had this conceptualized synthesis of approaching women's empowerment through vulnerability mapping, a glossary of terms and processes, vision, mission, and tactical plans were then created based on this.

Throughout this process feedback from subject matter experts in a range of fields that correspond to our six dimensions was availed and utilised. This culminated in the 2018 Colloquium (detailed elsewhere in this report), where we presented the AWESOME framework for public review. The feedback we have received throughout the entire process and at the Colloquium has been invaluable in guiding our way forward. Of particular interest is the fact that even though the subject matter experts we have sought feedback from all work in vastly different fields using a variety of approaches, each of them all found value in such a comprehensive and integrated framework - indeed, some going so far as inquiring if they could adopt it to use for their purposes.



Our response to COVID-19

COVID-19 Awareness and Prevention Efforts



In March of 2020, the AMMACHI Labs/CWEGE field team members shifted their priorities from their normal work to making efforts to spread awareness and education on taking precautions against the spread of COVID-19. They shared verified informational videos and explained preventative measures like proper hand-washing to the members of the village communities. In many places, cloth masks were made and distributed as well.

Amrita PMKVY training teams across India launch distance learning opportunities during lock-down.

Full report: <http://ammachilabs.org/skilling-in-touch-amrita-pmkvy-in-response-to-covid-19/>

#COVIDWarriors Campaign



The Prime Minister of India recently announced that a “people-driven” approach is what is needed to curb the pandemic and unveiled a new campaign called #COVID-Warriors. In support of this national campaign, AMMACHI Labs designed posters in several Indian languages to raise awareness and support for those on the frontlines who keep us safe. The posters were shared with UNICEF India, Amrita Vidyalayam Schools, Amrita University and also via Whatsapp in our villages to raise awareness in rural communities. The posters are in English, Hindi, Tamil, Kannada and Malayalam.

Mask Distribution by PMKVY Students



Since the lockdown, Amrita PMKVY students have stitched and distributed over 2,000 masks to their local community members, along with gloves to common gathering areas such as public health centres, petrol pumps, shops, banks and also to policemen, social workers and utility workers. While the Tailoring students are certainly putting their learned skills to use, students across the various courses are also pitching in to help with this effort.

APPENDIX

a) List of Steering Committee Members

Streering Committee Members		
Committee Chair		
Name	Title	Organization
Mr. Gopinathan A.	Inspector, Join Inspection Unit	United Nations
Conflict and Security		
Judge Ms. Swati Chauhan	Judge	Mumbai High Court
Ms. Charu Sinha(IPS)	Anti Corruption Bureau Chief	Telangana State
Economics and Livelihood		
Mr. Anand Selvakesari	Consumer Banking Head	Asia Pacific Citibank
Dr. Sunitha Sanghi	Advisor	NITI Aayog
Ms. Meg Jones	Former Chief Economic Empowerment UN Women; Present Independent Consultant	Independent Consultant
Ms. Padma Rao Sahib	Professor	Groningen University, NL
Education and Skill Development		
Dr. Sidney Strauss	Professor Emeritus	Tel Aviv University
Ms. Meg Jones	Former Chief Economic Empowerment UN Women; Present Independent Consultant	Independent Consultant
Dr. Sunitha Sanghi	Advisor	NITI Aayog
Ms. Naila Chowdhury	Director of Social Impact and Innovation	University of California at San Diego
Social and Cultural Environment		
Dr. Sidney Strauss	Professor Emeritus	Tel Aviv University
Dr. Laura Corradi	Visiting Professor and Research Professor of Gender Studies and Intersectional Methodology	University of Calabria, Italy

Climate Change and Disaster Risk		
Dr. Veerabhadran(Ram) Ramanathan	Professor	University of California at San Diego
Dr. Herve Le Treut	Professor	University Pierre et Marie CURIE and EPFL
Dr. Vinod Menon	Professor	Independent Consultant
Health and Sanitation		
Dr. Beena KV	State Program Director for National Health Mission	Amrita Hospita
Dr. Sarthak Das	Public Health Chief of Policy and Public Sector Partnerships	Partners in Health
Dr. Andy Carmone	Technical Advisor, South East Asia Pacific	Clinton Health Access Initiative
Technology		
Dr. Hugo Liu	CEO	ARTADVISOR Tech Startup
Dr. P. Venkat Rangan	Vice Chancellor	Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham

b) Six Fields of Study along the SDGs

Through the lens of women empowerment and gender equality, the UNESCO Chair at Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham will focus on identifying vulnerabilities and potential solutions for women in India along the following fields of study:

- Safety & Security
- Economic Vitality
- Environmental Quality
- Education
- Society, Culture & Politics
- Health

UNESCO Chair
in Gender Equality and
Women's Empowerment

CONTACT

Center for Gender Equality and
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