

ANNUAL REPORT - 2023-2024

INSTITUTE FOR DEVELOPMENT AND COMMUNICATION (IDC)

Working together for equitable socio-economic transformation
and building a humane and just society



IDC ANNUAL REPORT 2023-2024

CONTENTS

Statement by the Chairperson	i-ii
RESEARCH STUDIES / PROJECTS COMPLETED	1-18
CENTRE FOR PUBLIC POLICY AND GOVERNANCE STUDIES (CPPGS)	1
CENTRE FOR REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT STUDIES (CRDS)	10
GENDER STUDIES UNIT	13
EDUCATION AND EVALUATION STUDIES UNIT	15
RESEARCH STUDIES / PROJECTS ONGOING	19
CENTRE FOR ADVANCED STUDIES IN SOCIAL SCIENCE AND MANAGEMENT (CASSM)	19
ACADEMIC / OTHER ACTIVITIES	20-23
PH.D. PROGRAMME	23
IDC INTERNSHIP PROGRAMME	24
IDC-ETI TRAINING PROGRAMMES	25
ARTICLES/ PUBLICATIONS BY THE FACULTY (APR-23 – MAR-24)	25
PROF. RANDHIR SINGH RESEARCH AND REFERENCE LIBRARY	26
CONTACT DETAILS	27
MEMBERS OF THE GOVERNING BODY	27

Statement by the Chairperson

IDC was set up by a group of persons to produce and disseminate pro-people knowledge. It started with an abundance of ideas and an almost non-existent material resource base. These were difficult times, but abound with ample opportunities to realise one's dreams. These opportunities were shaped by globalisation of ideas, technological revolution, and pressing need for holistic knowledge. IDC's struggle has been characterised by a critical appraisal of the existing social processes for the transformation of the society.

Societies have their own dynamism and are always in struggle to find answers to certain pertinent questions to make living more humane. There is an increasing trend to reinforce the assumption that the efforts to realise 'other utopias' are counterproductive. And, any departure from the status quo is considered as rank deviation with monism being presented as the only source of growth. It is this challenge which many of the research institutions, including IDC, are facing.

The first challenge IDC faced was to retain the best human talent in research without much material compensation, and to generate resources to survive. The first few years were largely devoted to survival research. Not that we wanted the things to happen that way – but we had no choice. Nevertheless, this gave us an opportunity to save financial resources from research and to reinvest the same in building research infrastructure and research capacities including library. This, in a way, proved to be a unique experiment to survive with autonomy and dignity, and make research contributions without any maintenance grant from the government or any other sources. However, recently, IDC Governing Body has taken a decision to build a corpus fund to provide continuity to research. We have received encouraging responses from the Planning Commission, and Government of Punjab.

Another challenge was more ideological and positional in nature. This emanates from the type of research that is undertaken. For instance, policy-oriented research is constrained by what Churchill said - we will do the right things, having exhausted all other possibilities. Policy research sometimes becomes deadly, given that our polity continues to be feudal in its outlook, capitalist in practice and socialist in pretensions. We had a taste of this. And, the problem-solving research is restricted by the civil society's felt needs and the donors' activism.

Not to talk of the glamour attached to the new vocation of popcorn research – what one watches every day on television, which has challenged the tedious methods of collation of historical facts for social struggle.

All these challenges have swept away some of the research talent and resources. However, IDC could overcome some of these challenges by building its identity, autonomy and networks with independent minds. And, it is a matter of satisfaction that the foundation for intellectual adventurism to explore and build ‘other alternatives’ has been laid.

Our endeavour to generate pro-people knowledge, to promote the rights of the vulnerable sections is integrated with the wide support base of our well-wishers and in the achievement of creating independent research facilities. Our efforts have borne out that research-based knowledge can be placed at the other end of the spectrum to make a difference at the margins, and we will continue with our strivings.

Dr. Pramod Kumar
Chairperson, IDC

RESEARCH STUDIES / PROJECTS COMPLETED

CENTRE FOR PUBLIC POLICY AND GOVERNANCE STUDIES (CPPGS)

The Centre for Public Policy and Governance Studies (CPPGS) at the Institute for Development and Communication (IDC) takes up studies on the verticals of Public Policy, Governance, and Sustainable Development. The idea is to raise issues which are of relevance to different stakeholders like common citizens, especially the poor and underprivileged, academia, government and industry. The studies are taken up on assessment of the state of the public policy and governance where the attempt is to establish certain benchmarks and standards for further research and follow ups. These studies are undertaken in states/UTs of North Western India – Chandigarh, Punjab, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, and Ladakh.

The Centre for Public Policy and Governance Studies (CPPGS) seeks to improve the welfare of the disadvantaged and deprived sections. Its work has highlighted that the existing system of governance faces challenges in the provision of equal access to social programmes and economic packages on the basis of caste, gender and class. Future programmes would like to strengthen processes, procedures and the design of public services to provide dignified and equal access of state services to the disadvantaged and marginalised sections of society.

The focus of this Centre is cutting edge transactions, which act as an enabling condition for synergistic view of the demand and supply side of governance study. Focus on cutting edge transactions includes cost of transactions as well as the cultural aspect of service-delivery issues. Considering the uniformly structured roles and institutions governing the conduct of public officials, such micro studies would have relevance for good governance across the board and hopefully facilitate identification of convergence or otherwise in respect of such transactions across different sectors and areas of public governance and this expand the scope of application of best practices beyond sector perspectives.

The CPPGS also functions within a broad context of the changed character of nation-states, the consolidation of democracy, questions of migration throughout the region, security sector reforms with special reference to policing, post-conflict management and reintegration. It also focuses on creation of research partnerships

for evidence-based research as an input to context specific informed decision-making.

The Centre has special focus on sustainable development, including issues concerning environment and climate change. The collective activities of human beings have altered the earth's ecosystems, which have been well studied since the post-industrialization era. In the Indian context, the development model with productive sectors, as drivers succeeded in achieving double-digit growth rate. This accomplishment had a heavy social and environment cost in the form of reckless exploitation of environmental resources and their pollution without caring for the requirements of future generations. In order to mitigate the impacts and manage the risk from these environmental degradations, policy makers must begin addressing environmental, social, governance (ESG) and economic issues in a holistic way. The Centre proposes to closely examine the recent challenges faced by economies across the globe, especially the Indian economy relating to sustainable development. The Centre will also translate these emerging challenges and trends into guidance markers for the Indian policy makers.

Public policy, governance and sustainable development and their interface are interdisciplinary in nature; therefore, CPPGS aims to provide a vibrant academic environment for experts from various disciplines, professionals, civil society, and different stakeholders to work together. Keeping in view the thrust area of the Centre, blending of quantitative and qualitative research approaches will be the defining feature of research methodology and its tools.

□ Punjab Vision 2047 (2023-24)

Punjab represents peculiar development paradoxes. On one hand, its performance on the well-being indicators is competitive with other States, while on the other hand, its trajectory of development is riddled with stagnation. It has been unable to carve out its path in a globalized neoliberal economy. Undoubtedly, the State's economy, in the initial years since the 1960s, has been growing (with few exceptions) at an annual rate in the vicinity of 5 percent. To illustrate, Punjab has low per capita income, but consumption in equalities and incidence of poverty are below the national average. Compared with States with higher growth trajectories and high per capita income (like Gujarat, Kerala, Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu), Punjab has performed relatively better on the citizens' well-being indicators.

The approach followed in the Vision 2047 document aims to take precedence over the future issues of a technology-driven, rapidly transforming society, such as prioritising goals concerning department-specific limitations, overcoming the constraints of segmented and compartmentalised administrative set-up or contemporary citizen-centric issue-based targets and strategies by focusing on the non-rigid and holistic policy prescriptions.

Punjab Vision 2047 Document consists of nine departmentalised sections and sixteen socioeconomic indicator-based sub-sections focusing on the major challenges that the State is struggling with and envisages short-term and long-term strategies to overcome these challenges. The main challenges identified for the citizens' well-being are dignified living which includes Poverty (removal of poverty, especially among the socially and economically disadvantaged groups like women, scheduled castes and the migrant labour); Hunger (it is the poor who go hungry despite being at the lowest place at Hunger Index, the State's large number of women are suffering from anaemia); Livelihood (citizens' shorter engagement with livelihood opportunities, the lowest participation rate among women in the context of livelihood); and Shelter (poor housing amenities and facilities like, no facility of drinking water in the house, Katcha roof type house, and no drainage arrangement in the house etc.). The institutional factors for improving access to quality Education (inadequacy of separate Anganwari and Pre-School system, non-availability of digital infrastructure, e-learning platform, digital content; teachers not fully equipped with digital training and an alarming supply-side constraint concerning the number of teachers in primary and upper primary schools); Health (infrastructure, workforce, access, and financing issues); Sanitation (inadequacies of sewerage network, sewerage treatment plants, storm water drainage solid waste management and safe drinking water); and, Electricity (maintaining an uninterrupted power supply and taking care of the increasing power demand). The issues arising out of Caste (deprived in terms of access to land, education and health as compared to the non-scheduled castes); Gender (socially burdened biased expectations, roles and norms restrictions while accessing resources, facilities and responsibilities based on gender identity and social exclusion); and, Geographical Divides (regional disparities in terms of access to gains of development, social security and safety nets).

Vision 2047 Document suggests a composite strategy by focusing on building income redistribution into the growth strategy itself. For instance, it has been visualised that by 2030, the income of the small farmers is to be doubled through

technology upgradation, improvement in the soil quality, integrated water uses and provision of quality seeds, etc. It has been proposed to improve the land quality by restoring bio-diversity through deploying crop varieties in the fields, enrichment of a natural ecosystem and gene banks. A long-term strategy for diversification of the economy has been proposed by giving impetus to the modern small-scale industries and transforming the structure of employment from farm to non-farm through skill development and by building robust infrastructure. A dedicated rail freight traffic corridor, the creation of dry ports, a sustainable energy system linking rural areas with urban centres, and accessible and modern agricultural markets have been factored in to achieve double-digit growth. A special focus has been given to developing competitive human resources by improving the quality of education and skill development. The underlying thrust of the Vision Document is to create conditions for the vulnerable sections to avail of these opportunities in an equitable manner. There is also a sufficient emphasis on building institutional and citizen capacities and formulating a strategy to converge engaged governance with e-governance for trust-building, efficient and accountable delivery of services.

□ Comparative Evaluation of Implementation of the Haryana Right to Service Act, 2014 (2023-24)

The evaluation of the Implementation of the Haryana Right to Service Act 2014 was aimed at gauging its effectiveness within the state of Haryana and offering recommendations for improvement. Assessing the HRTS Act implementation in Haryana reveals a mixed picture. A transparent and accountable governance system is undoubtedly imperative for establishing an effective and efficient public service delivery mechanism. Moreover, the survey findings also support the successful implementation of these initiatives and their potential to ease citizens' access to these services. However, there remains a major loophole on the applicant's side, i.e., the lack of awareness about the service delivery measures adopted by the government. The assessments suggested that the citizens' awareness regarding the specific provisions of the Act, such as designated timelines for service delivery and the right to appeal, remain relatively low. However, the findings from the 2017 and 2023 studies highlight a notable increase in awareness of the HRTS Act among service seekers.

Likewise, the grievance redressal mechanisms established through the 1st and 2nd Appellate authorities remain an underutilized resource due to the applicants' lack of knowledge. The study suggested that more efforts are needed to ensure that the

citizens are well-informed about their rights and the mechanism. It also recommended continued education and outreach efforts to enhance the efficiency of measures like the auto-appeal system. The Act has undoubtedly improved service delivery. Still, a focused awareness campaign and targeted training (for both applicants and government officials) are required to face notable challenges like high rejection rates, incomplete data, and inconsistencies in service delivery timelines, particularly in areas such as appeal timelines, procedural steps, and the role of the Haryana Right to Service Commission. This heightened awareness can lead to more effective implementation and, ultimately, better service delivery for the citizens of Haryana.

The objectives of the study are as follows:

- Assessing the Effectiveness of the Public Service Delivery Process, Grievance Redressal Mechanism, and Auto Appeal System implemented under the Right to Service Act;
- Identifying and Analyzing Key Concerns and Deficiencies within the Service Delivery Portal.
- To measure the extent of awareness and provisions of the Right to Service Act among service providers and citizens (service seekers, non-service seekers, beneficiaries, nonbeneficiaries);
- To assess the citizen's satisfaction level and identify challenges encountered by service providers and issues faced by service seekers in accessing the services;
- To perform an Inter-state comparative analysis of the implementation of the Right to Service Legislation and the time-series analysis of the services.

Three categories of respondents were taken as sample units to achieve the above-said objectives; these were:

1. Applicants who applied for the services under study;
2. General Public non-beneficiaries;
3. Department officials who handle the service delivery process and Designated Officers and Appellate Authorities are responsible for service delivery and addressing the applicants' grievances in case of service delivery delay or non-receiving services.

Three distinct interview schedules were prepared for each category of respondents to collect relevant information. Specifically, 2386 applicants were interviewed to gather insights into their first-hand experiences with the service delivery process and their awareness of the RTS Act, its various provisions, and its mechanisms. Further, 1100 citizens were interviewed to gauge their general awareness of the RTS Act. Two hundred sixty-six (266) government officials, including staff members, Nodal Officers, and First and Second Appellate Authorities, were also interviewed to know their level of awareness of the RTS Act and their understanding of its provisions. The following are the major findings based on the field data collected from the survey.

□ Improving Citizen Service Delivery in Punjab (2023-24)

The citizen-centricity of a service delivery model is crucial, and achieving this requires ensuring that the models meet all the needs and expectations of citizens who engage with them as service seekers. Improving service delivery is imperative if citizens encounter challenges while using existing mechanisms. Ensuring citizen-centricity involves identifying the challenges faced by service-seeking citizens. Better community facilitation can be achieved by addressing these issues and proactively responding to community needs and expectations. In the State of Punjab, three service delivery models persist. These facilities are:

- One-stop service centres known as "**Sewa Kendras**";
- The online service delivery portal "**Connect Punjab Portal**" and
- The doorstep service delivery facility is named "**Sarkar Tuhade Dwaar**"

This study evaluated the effectiveness of service delivery mechanisms, namely Sewa Kendras, Connect Punjab Portals, and DSD, in providing various citizen services.

The primary objective of this study was to recommend improvements to the existing citizen service delivery mechanism with a focus on achieving the following key objectives:

- **Enhancing Accessibility:** To make citizen services readily available and easily accessible to every person in the state.
- **Increasing Responsiveness:** Envisaging and implementing measures to enhance the responsiveness of governmental departments and agencies by streamlining communication channels to facilitate quicker and more efficient

responses to citizen inquiries and requests by providing precise and comprehensive information to citizens.

- **Promoting Transparency:** Designing a more transparent service delivery and grievance redressal mechanism to ensure accountability.
- **Achieving Overall Citizen Satisfaction:** Prioritising citizen satisfaction as the ultimate goal by transforming the citizen service delivery mechanism into a more accessible, responsive, transparent, and citizen-centric model.

Sewa Kendras

- 1. Service Clarity and Accessibility:** Despite offering a wide range of services, there is inconsistency and unclarity regarding the exact number and types of services available at Sewa Kendras. To enhance accessibility and usability, addressing the display deficiencies is crucial. Improving the clarity and visual appeal of information displays is essential to ensure that individuals know exactly what services are available and can easily access them. Dynamic digital screens should replace static boards to communicate the list of services effectively.
- 2. Awareness of Key Statutes:** There is a notable gap in promoting citizen rights and ensuring accountability due to the absence of information about key statutes like the Punjab Transparency & Accountability in Delivery of Public Service Act (PTADPS Act), 2018. A campaign to popularize the PTADPS Act and its provisions should be launched. Installing attention-catching displays about the PTADPS Act in Sewa Kendras and including specific details about designated officers, appellate authorities, and the commission in service acknowledgment receipts is recommended. Additionally, the time limit for appeals should be clearly outlined.
- 3. Public Facilities and Amenities:** With the upcoming summer, it is imperative to make public facilities like drinking water and air conditioning functional as soon as possible. Quickly installing new equipment should be prioritized. Toilet facilities that have been restricted due to the non-availability of sweepers and the unhygienic behaviour of visitors should be made available to the public by creating all necessary provisions.
- 4. Maintenance and Accessibility:** Maintenance issues and impractical accessibility ramps at some facilities should be surveyed across the state.

Maintenance and rectification should be prioritized to ensure all facilities are functional and accessible.

- 5. Aesthetic and Professionalism:** Aesthetic issues, such as the clutter of packing materials and old records, detract from the professionalism and functionality of Sewa Kendras. Appropriate efforts should be made to dispose of electronic waste and other redundant materials. A committee, chaired by the Deputy Commissioner and including members such as the District Technical Coordinator, District IT Managers, District Manager, and representatives from approving authorities, should be formed. This committee would determine which records should be retained, which records should be stored, and which are eligible for disposal.
- 6. Payment and Transaction Efficiency:** Service seekers and computer operators face difficulty obtaining change and completing transactions. To address the payment problem, introducing a Point of Sale (POS) machine and the option of UPI payment is recommended. Introducing new payment options would provide service seekers a more convenient and efficient payment option.

Conclusion of Facility Audit: Connect Punjab Portal

- 1. Lack of System-Generated Prompts and Tooltips:** The absence of contextual prompts and tooltips poses a challenge for users, especially first-time users, in navigating the Connect Punjab Portal. Implementing these features could significantly enhance user experience and accessibility.
- 2. Language Selection:** The portal fails to prompt users to choose their preferred language, and the language switch tab is not prominently displayed. This oversight may discourage exclusive Punjabi language users from effectively engaging with the portal. Improving language selection prompts and visibility could encourage broader participation.
- 3. Transliteration Issues:** The transliteration of English terms into Punjabi may not effectively convey their meanings to exclusive Punjabi language users. Clarifying translations or providing contextual tooltips could improve user understanding and navigation.
- 4. Unchanged Content in Translated Sections:** The content remains unchanged despite the translation of section titles like “What’s New” and “Important

Documents” into Punjabi. Ensuring consistency in translation across all aspects of the portal is essential for user comprehension.

5. Interface Design and User Engagement: As indicated by survey findings, the initial user interface lacks encouragement, leading to limited self-use. Improvements in interface design could enhance user engagement and promote independent use of the portal.

6. Punjabi Interface Functionality: While the Punjabi version of the interface translates most content, certain functionalities, like the ‘Filter Service’ input box, do not produce results when typing in English or Punjabi alphabets. Rectifying these technical issues is crucial for ensuring the functionality of the Punjabi interface.

Appraisal of the 100 % Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) ‘Pradhan Mantri Adarsh Gram Yojana’ (PMAGY) in Punjab (2023-24)

The scheme Pradhan Mantri Adarsh Gram Yojana (PMAGY) was launched in 2009-10 on the pilot basis. With a view to enable an area-based development approach, the scheme aims at integrated development of Scheduled Castes (SCs) majority villages i.e. villages having more than 50 per cent SC population. The objective idea was to carry out developmental activities in the identified schemes which are not covered under any of the existing Central/State/UT Government Schemes through convergent implementation. This is done through providing ‘gap-filling’ funds as Central Assistance under the PMAGY. The scheme was further expanded in 2014-15 and since 2018-19; it is being implemented as a continuous scheme. Since 2021-22 onwards, PMAGY has been a component of Pradhan Mantri Anusuchit Jaati Abhyuday Yojna (PM-AJAY).

Objectives of the Study:

- Examine the status of coverage and implementation of PMAGY in Punjab since inception;
- Evaluate the integrated development of identified villages with more than 50 per cent SC population in terms of: Availability of Adequate Infrastructure necessary for socio-economic development needs provided under the Scheme; and, Improvement in Socio-Economic Monitorable Indicators to eliminate or reduce disparity between SC and non-SC population or raise it to at least that of the National Average under identified domains.

CENTRE FOR REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT STUDIES (CRDS)

The Centre for Regional Development Studies (CRDS) at the Institute for Development and Communication (IDC) has been engaged in conducting research in a context of challenges and opportunities of economic reforms process and globalisation. Its major focus is to explore policy alternatives through structural transformation of the economy particularly of the predominantly agrarian societies, and also cover development issues concerning finance, industry, and migration. In the domain of agriculture, the Centre is involved in developing a policy framework for rationalisation of diversion of agriculture land to industrial and urban use. The focus has been to capture the impact of the shift from command to market economy through reorientation of existing institutional framework, research in agriculture, technological inputs, non-farm activities, culture of governance, impact on vulnerable groups like small and marginal peasants, landless labourers, women and migrant labourers. Also, the Centre aims to capture the nuances inter-linked to the crucial aspects of finance, industry, migration associated with regional development. Besides taking up research studies, the faculty of the Centre also provides regular inputs to various government departments for formulating economic and social policies, besides interaction with media.

The focus of this Centre is mainly North Western region of India – Chandigarh, Punjab, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, and Ladakh.

Evaluation of NGOs Performance under PM-06 Scheme (2023-24)

Societies have been traditionally consisting of self-supporting communities. With the development, the autonomy of the communities has been curtailed but without any adequate substitute to take care of their social needs and problems. The grassroot organizations formed in the initial years of independence have been marginalized by the processes of development. With the greater thrust on decentralization of planning and greater participation of people in various programmes, it has become necessary to activate and equip grassroot organizations or NGOs.

Many NGOs have been engaged in undertaking the socio-economic upliftment of the marginalized sections of society. Their intervention can be broadly classified as

follows: Number of NGOs have been involved in providing immediate relief to groups, communities and individuals. These efforts include one-point interaction with the community like in the case of natural disasters like floods and community kitchens etc.

These organizations also engaged to provide greater access to the community to health, education, maternal care, access to government schemes, sanitation, and environmental protection. Further, along with welfare work, these organizations also involved in curative interventions for instance, campaigns against dowry or income augmentation or providing legal literacy or campaign against HIV/AIDS. There are also targeted interventions like to increase the access to and participation in various developmental spheres of the migrant workers, women and street children by combating the vary conditions which are restrictive in nature.

Keeping this perspective in view, an in-depth analysis of various activities of various NGOs has been undertaken. The study shall help to develop a collective training program of the Government Officials, NGOs and the Community Representatives including Strategies to Mobilize the Community, Coordination and Networking, Communication Skills, Accountancy, and IT application. The study shall also help to engage civil society organizations as per their focused areas, skill set and regional reach.

Reasons for Non-Adoption of DSR in Punjab (2023-24)

In Punjab rice is the dominant crop along with wheat. Out of total net sown area of the State, 70 percent of the area is under rice cultivation. The sowing of rice is completely manual and existing TPR method of rice sowing consumes more water and has resulted in continuous fall in water table. To check the fall in ground water level PAU Scientists have developed and recommended DSR (Direct Seeded Rice) technique to farmers. To promote DSR Punjab government is giving a subsidy of Rs.1500 per acre. Despite the subsidy and efforts of government this technique has not become popular among farmers and only about 3 percent of total area under rice cultivation has been converted to DSR.

The study has focused mainly on the following objectives:

- i. The evaluation of DSR and TPR techniques in Punjab.
- ii. The agro-climatic regionwise adoption of DSR.

- iii. The impact of DSR on the use of agriculture inputs and yield level of paddy.
- iv. The constraints in the adoption of DSR.

Findings

- Only 2.15 percent Rice Area under DSR.
- The highest percentage of area under DSR is in Western Malwa i.e. 49.57 percent.
- Overall highest percentage of area under DSR is in Southern and Western Malwa.
- The lowest is in Northern and Foothills regions.
- The percentage of total irrigated area by tubewells is negative and significant.
- The percentage of NSA under rice in 1991-92 is negative and is significant at 10 percent level.
- The coefficient of yield of rice per acre is negative and significant where farmers are getting higher yield per acre from rice sown don't want to deviate from TPR.
- The coefficient of percentage of NSA under cotton is positive and significant. It suggests DSR method getting positive response in cotton grown areas.
- The larger average size of holding also impact the adoption of DSR.

GENDER STUDIES UNIT

The Gender Studies Unit locates gender identity and its representation as central categories in its engagement with historical processes of development placed in a cultural context. It aims to evolve approaches and methodologies to overcome the constraints emanating from structural invisibilities, demarcation of domestic and public domains and hierarchy of site-specific identities.

The focus has been to undertake a causality analysis within and beyond the gender system. This has involved interface with expertise in borderline disciplines, interactions with public policy and model testing. Specifically, the unit has worked on construction of contextualised masculinities in conflict and post-conflict situations. Evidence-based studies to uncover the dynamics of forms of gender violence have been undertaken on various themes like Atrocities against Women, Female De-selection, Victims of Militancy and Caste-Based Violations. These studies have been undertaken for knowledge exchange and transfer at levels of policy construction, stakeholder intervention and community-based mobilisations.

Establishing Model AB-HWC for Delivering Comprehensive Primary Health Care in the state SHC- HWC, Daria (Phase-II) (2023-24)

Under Phase-II of “Establishing Model AB-HWC for Delivering Comprehensive Primary Health Care in the State SHC-HWC, Daria” the awareness drive at village Daria has been completed and the report for 2023-2024 has been submitted.

Spill Overs of Anemia on Women Health and its Impact on Children in Punjab (2023-24)

The present study has delved into the pressing issue of anaemia among women and girl children, particularly prevalent in the state of Punjab. It sheds light on the often overlooked but significant impact of anaemia, emphasizing its gravity beyond severe cases.

Objective of the study

1. To assess the prevalence of anaemia among women and children in Punjab.
2. To understand the impact of anaemia on the health of women and children in Punjab.

3. To gauge women's knowledge regarding various aspects of anaemia for instance, health seeking behavior, diet, treatment etc.
4. To put forth suggestions to the state government for the improvement of anaemia prevention and management among women and children.

Findings and Suggestions

- A prominent observation emerges regarding the limited awareness among grassroots health workers, underscoring the necessity for comprehensive interventions. Thus, the present study advocates a thorough situation analysis to bridge information gaps and inform targeted strategies. While existing data from NFHS and HMIS offer insights, a deeper understanding of causative factors and awareness levels is imperative.
- The research findings strongly advocate for the continuation of education for antenatal attendees. This is particularly crucial as the data suggests that some women may forget or overlook certain concepts, underscoring the importance of ongoing education and the need for further research in this area. The lack of awareness is a significant barrier to achieving the goal of Anemia Mukh Bharat.
- Moreover, the side effects of iron tablets, such as gastric problems, stomach pain, weight gain, and nausea, were reported as deterrents by women and adolescent girls. This underscores the urgent need for educational campaigns to dispel misconceptions and promote understanding about anaemia and its treatment.
- Furthermore, lack of formal education, discrimination, and cultural practices are also associated with the development of anaemia. The study suggested that nutrition practices need to be promoted. Highlighting global strategies like food fortification, it advocates for an action plan to augment program efficacy. Overall, the study advocates for a comprehensive examination of anaemia, aiming to inform evidence-based interventions for a healthier future.

The Education and Evaluation Studies Unit has been conducting studies within broad framework laid down in planning and policy declarations. To this end, it attempts to redefine goals that are desirable and achievable. Studies undertaken also focus to improve teaching-learning environment, which has social proximity in terms of its idiom and medium. The thrust of the unit has been to reinforce the vital need to launch separate policies and formulate strategies to cater to the specific requirements and aspirations of the underprivileged sections of society.

Another focus of this unit is measuring the extent and reach of social security and safety nets. A number of studies have been undertaken on issues like measurement of evaluation of primary health-care system, primary education system, community health including infant and child mortality, sanitation, AIDS, immunization and family planning. Both macro and micro level evaluations have been conducted by using innovative methodological tools, participatory qualitative methods, neighborhood analysis, walkthroughs, multi-cluster indicatory survey, etc.

Systematic Analysis of Shortage of Staff in Schools in Difficult Areas in Punjab (2023-24)

The educational landscape in the border areas of Punjab is grappling with a severe shortage of teachers, a problem that extends beyond mere numbers to reflect deeper systemic issues. The difficult areas are often remote, making them less accessible and less attractive for teachers who prefer to work in urban or more connected regions. The remoteness of these areas can also lead to a feeling of isolation among teachers. These regions frequently face economic hardships, which can affect the availability of resources for schools, including funding for teacher salaries, teaching materials and infrastructure. The economic constraints have also affected the living standards of teachers, making their jobs less appealing to applicants.

This study investigates the varied nature of scarcity, its impact on educational quality, and the broader implications for community development. The Border and Kandi Areas, which are disadvantageous, often pose difficulties and less availability in terms of educational infrastructure which leads to low learning outcomes. The objective of this study was to conduct a comprehensive analysis of the status of

education in the difficult (Border and Kandi Areas) of Punjab, specifically shortage of teachers in these difficult areas. It has focused on examining the existing educational infrastructure, the level of accessibility to education and the academic achievements of students. The difficult areas considered in this study include border regions that have international boundaries with Pakistan and Kandi areas. Additionally, the Kandi Areas are characterized by mountainous rough terrain which affects the working conditions of teachers. For the purpose of this study, "Difficult areas" are defined as geographical regions that encounter challenges in terms of their infrastructure, geography, and socioeconomic conditions, which have a negative impact on the provision of educational services. These regions are usually located within a 5-kilometer radius of an IndoPak border, which makes them strategically critical and more difficult to reach. The terrain in these areas is rough or remote, which adds to their difficulty to access, and the logistical obstacles involved in accessing them. These areas are educationally backward and disadvantageous, possessing higher teacher shortage due to their location and other associated difficulties. Moreover, these regions often have a scarcity of educational resources, especially regarding trained teachers. This affects the posting of teachers in comparison to other areas, a circumstance worsened by the difficult living and working conditions that discourage school teachers to take teaching assignments. The schools in these locations are frequently inaccessible due to insufficient transportation and infrastructure, resulting in a low pupil teacher ratio, and administration faces difficulties in recruiting and retaining teachers. These areas face substantial challenges due to their isolated geographical locations, insufficient infrastructure, and socio-economic disadvantages which impact overall quality of education.

Objectives of the Study

- Analyze the present status of teachers in difficult and easy areas in respect of their recruitment, deployment, qualifications, emoluments, service conditions, training, etc.
- Examine the process of recruitment of teachers ranging from identification of vacancies, advertisement, conditions of appointments and service conditions.
- Review the policies framed and their implementation to retain teachers in difficult areas including transfer and teacher rationalization.

- Assess the gap between sanctioned, deployed and actually working teachers in government schools in difficult areas;
- Critically examine the existing training modules and suggest alternate capacity building modules in relation to the local context.
- Identify socio-cultural and psychological triggers which dissuade the teachers or can motivate them to take up these assignments.
- Identify structural and behavioural challenges which are acting as deterrence for teachers to work in these areas.
- Explore the role of local institutions like panchayats and other groups in providing a conducive environment.
- Undertake an expediential study of the former and in-service teachers who served in these areas, BEO's, DEO's and Coordinators to comprehend the situational context and to find a viable solution.
- Analyse the availability of staff, PTR and infrastructure (physical and instructional) in government schools in 'difficult' and 'easy' areas. iii
- Undertake a comparison of variable school performance amongst the government as well as the private schools in the difficult areas.

This study gives a complete picture of teacher availability in difficult areas in Punjab by combining a review of existing literature, quantitative data analysis and qualitative in-depth interviews. The objective was to study how does shortage of teachers affects student learning outcomes and overall quality of education in difficult areas in selected districts of Punjab and suggest remedial measures.

The present study, titled "Systematic analysis of staff shortage in schools in difficult areas of Punjab," is essentially casual comparative research. That study aims to provide a plausible factor which affects staff shortages in schools located in difficult areas of Punjab. The purpose was to identify those elements that contribute to shortage of teachers in difficult areas which impact students' learning outcomes. This study has specifically examined various parameters such as access to school, the quality of education, educational infrastructure, teacher deployment practices, student-teacher ratio, and dropout rates. In order to study learning outcomes, the scores of previous examinations were collected from various sources, which was then processed statistically.

The sample in this study consisted of school teachers and head teachers from government and private schools in Punjab, as well as Parents, Community members, and BEO/DEO. The overall sample comprised a combination of both government and private schools, encompassing various sizes in terms of student and teachers, as well as different types such as primary, upper primary, secondary, and senior secondary schools. From the Government Schools, a deliberate attempt was made to choose Primary, Middle, High, secondary, and senior secondary schools.

In all, total 63 schools were visited, out of which there were 12 Government Primary Schools, 3 Government High, 9 Middle, 9 Elementary Schools, 13 senior secondary schools and 17 Private Schools. The data were taken from these schools as per availability of respondents at their respective places. There were 13 DEO/BEO, 147 teachers, and 50 Head teachers, 143 parents, and 102 panchayat members that comprised the sample.

□ Enhancing the Effective Implementation of the Persons with Disability Schemes Including Punjab Divyangjan Shashaktikaran Yojana (PDSY) (2023-24)

The primary objective of the study was to evaluate the status of implementation of the Persons with Disability Act/Schemes including Punjab Divyangjan Shashaktikaran Yojana (PDSY).

Objectives of the study:

1. To know the socio-economic profile of the persons with disability.
2. To know the level of awareness about the Persons with Disability Act among officials.
3. To examine the steps and measures taken by different departments to ensure the effective Implementation of the Act as well as the schemes including PDSY.
4. To find out the gaps in effective implementation of the Act as well as the schemes including Punjab Divyangjan Sashktikaran Yojna (PDSY).

RESEARCH STUDIES / PROJECTS ONGOING

☐ IDC-ICSSR Major Research Project

A Major Research Project on Role of Biases and Nudges for Consumption of Millets in India was approved and sanctioned to IDC on 8 Feb 2024. The approval was received vide sanction order F.No. ICSSR/RPD/Mj/2023-23/G/134. Initiated Desk Research and Fieldwork.

CENTRE FOR ADVANCED STUDIES IN SOCIAL SCIENCE AND MANAGEMENT (CASSM)

The Chandigarh University (CU), Mohali and the Institute for Development and Communication (IDC), Chandigarh, have fostered an academic alliance to facilitate innovation, knowledge dissemination and excellence in academic and policy formulation without impinging the autonomy of the participating institutions. To achieve this, Centre for Advanced Studies in Social Sciences and Management (CASSM) has been launched for the generation and dissemination of knowledge in the region and beyond.

Started with induction of 31 students, CASSM has successfully completed Semester-II of its MBA programme. All the students will be joining the mandatory 45-day internships starting June 1 to July 15. The students have got paid internships at the companies like – Toppan, Reliance Jio, Pladis-Mc Vities etc. There are a few students who have been selected for the paid internship at IDC.

The programmes on 5-Year Integrated MBA (BBA+MBA), 2-Year MBA and MA Liberal Arts have been cleared through the Board of Studies (BoS) Chandigarh University and shall be launched in the academic session 2024-25.

ACADEMIC / OTHER ACTIVITIES (LECTURES/ SEMINARS/ WORKSHOPS)

□ Valedictory Lecture at the Conference on “Evolving Trends and Challenges in Multidisciplinary Research”

Prof Pramod Kumar delivered the valedictory lecture at the **4th National Research Scholars Meet** at Sri Guru Granth Sahib World University, Fatehgarh Sahib on “**Evolving Trends and Challenges in Multidisciplinary Research**” in collaboration with Indian Science Congress Association (ISCA) Patiala Chapter, on 17.03.2023.

□ Prof. Randhir Singh Memorial Lecture Series – I & II

Lecture 1: Renowned Sociologist Prof. Dipankar Gupta gave the lecture on **From Things to Relations: Examining Modernisation as a Sociological Concept** at IDC on **26.04.2023**. More than 60 participants attended the lecture. Many also joined through online mode.

Lecture 2: Renowned Historian Prof. Salil Misra gave the lecture on **The Great Indian Experiment: A Model for the World or an Aberration?** at IDC on **12.05.2023**. Around 50 participants attended the lecture. Many also joined through online mode.

□ Workshop on Nodal Officers for Implementation of Gender Budgeting

Training Workshop of Nodal Officers for **Implementation of Gender Budgeting** was held at MGSIPA/Conference Hall Sector 26, Chandigarh, on 22nd Aug 2023. **Dr. Richa Walia** delivered a guest lecture on ‘**Overview of Gender Budgeting**’.

□ Prof. Pradeep Kumar Memorial Lecture 2023

Prof. Pramod Kumar was invited to deliver **Prof. Pradeep Kumar Memorial Lecture 2023** by the Department of Political Science, Panjab University, Chandigarh on **Decoding Democracy in India: Challenges and opportunities** (November 2023).

□ Special Lectures at the Punjab Police In-Service Training Centre (ISTC) Kapurthala

Dr. Chandan Awasthi delivered two (2) lectures on **Road Traffic Safety** and **Homeland Security** at the Punjab Police In-Service Training Centre (ISTC) at Kapurthala (November 2023).

Dr. Richa Walia delivered a lecture on **Major Causes of Road Accidents** (Online) at the Punjab Police In-Service Training Centre (ISTC) at Kapurthala (November 2023).

□ International Workshop on “Globalizing Life World and Sustainable Development in Indian States”

An international workshop on "Globalizing Life World and Sustainable Development in Indian States" was organised at Sikkim University, Gangtok, Sikkim on 16-17 March 2024. The workshop was jointly organized by the Department of Political Science, Sikkim University and Graduate School of Humanities and Social Sciences, Hiroshima University, Japan. Prof. Pramod Kumar and Prof. Ronki Ram participated in this workshop. Prof Yoshida Osamu, Hiroshima, Japan and his team members also participated.

□ HR Conclave on “Rethinking Value Proposition of Budding Managers”

HR Conclave on “Rethinking Value Proposition of Budding Managers” was organized at IDC-CASSM on 04 April 2024. The Key Note Address was given by Sh. D.P. Singh, Amazon Web Services India Pvt Ltd and former VP & HR Head-IBM; and, the Valedictory Session by Mr. Navjot Singh Miglani, Executive Director (HR) CU.

□ Workshop on “Systematic Analysis of Shortage of Staff in Schools in Difficult Areas in Punjab”

A workshop on “Systematic Analysis of Shortage of Staff in Schools in Difficult Areas in Punjab” was organized by IDC on 15 April 2024. It was attended by Teachers and Scholars from different parts of the State of Punjab.

□ Workshop on “Awareness and Sensitization on Female Foeticides in Punjab”

A workshop on **Awareness and Sensitization on Female Foeticides in Punjab** was organized at IDC on **29 March 2023**. The workshop aimed at spreading awareness on ‘Gender: Issues and Perspectives’ to the youth.

The workshop was sponsored by the Open Access Technology India Private Limited (OATI) Mohali under its CSR initiative. Mr. Amritpal Singh Aulakh, Director OATI was present on the occasion. Other attendees include Dr. Pramod Kumar, Director IDC; Mr Satish Chandra IAS (Retd.); Mr Neelkant Gargya CA; senior faculty members and research staff IDC; and, officials & students from the Jan Sikshan Sansthan (JSS) Chandigarh.

A presentation on ‘Understanding Gender’ was given by Dr. Richa Walia, Director, Gender Studies Unit IDC. More than 50 participants attended the workshop.

Community Policing Programme – Samavesh

Punjab Governor Mr Banwarilal Purohit launched a Community Policing Programme, ‘Samavesh’ on 09 October 2023. Chairperson IDC Prof Pramod Kumar and Mr Harsh Chopra, participated in this function and received an appreciation award.



10/1/2023, 4:22 PM

'Samavesh' aims to improve police-public ties in Chd - Times of India

Printed from
THE TIMES OF INDIA

‘Samavesh’ aims to improve police-public ties in Chd

TNN | Oct 10, 2023, 08:58 AM IST



Chandigarh: To enhance efficient and effective policing, Punjab governor Banwarilal Purohit launched a community policing programme, ‘Samavesh’, and flagged off 52 new motorbikes at Tagore Theatre, Sector-18.

The police officials informed that the samavesh kendras would be established to provide police services at one desk to enhance effective policing. These kendras would play a key role in improving police-public relationship, officials said, adding that the efficient and dignified delivery of services, such as easy to approach, front end of police station and other offices, clean and neat setup, air-conditioned environment, facility of toilet, recreation, well-trained policemen in civil clothes, is the uniqueness of these kendras.

The general public will also help in various dispute resolutions. Services to be made available at these kendras include eFIR registration, complaint registration, character verification, etc.

We also published the following articles recently

□ Capacity Building Programme - Samavesh

A two-week **Capacity Building Programme for the Samavesh Staff of Chandigarh Police** was organized by the Institute for Development and Communication (IDC) Chandigarh from December **4th to 14th, 2023**, at its campus. The programme was organized in association with the Community Policing Division (CPD) of Chandigarh Police.

□ Training of the Master Trainers of Punjab Police

One day training of the **Master Trainers of Punjab Police** was organized at IDC on 7th October 2023. The training was imparted on themes like Concept of Community Policing and SAANJH Programme, Inter-Personal Communication and Relations, and Soft and IT Skills.

□ Orientation Programme on “Career Avenues after MA Liberal Arts”

The final year students of BA (Hons) Liberal Arts from University Institute of Liberal Arts and Humanities (UILAH) Chandigarh University visited IDC on 7 November 2023 for orientation programme on “**Career Avenues after M.A Liberal Arts**”. Around 70 students from the Chandigarh University participated in this programme.

PH.D. PROGRAMME

The Institute for Development and Communication (IDC) is an approved research centre of Panjab University, Chandigarh. The Ph.D. programme is being conducted in various subjects like Public Administration, Economics, Women’s Studies & Development, Sociology, Political Science, Defence Studies et cetera. Since 2015, two 2 scholars have received their PhD degree and 3 scholars have successfully defended their PhD Viva Voce.

INTERNSHIP PROGRAMME

INTERNATIONAL INTERNSHIP PROGRAMME

Shastri Indo-Canadian Institute (SICI) IDC-SICI International Internship Programme

Five interns from Alberta-Canada have chosen to embark on 56 Days internship at IDC. The interns will arrive in India on 27 June and report at IDC on 29 June.

Internship Projects:

- Innovations in Packaging Films: Finding Sustainable Solutions (Toppan Speciality Films – TSF Pvt. Ltd.)
- Exploring Alternate Dispute Resolution (ADR) Mechanism: A Case Study of Community Policing Centres (Saanjh and Samavesh Kendras)
- Action Plan to Combat Challenges of Climate Change and Its Impact
- Application of Artificial Intelligence & Machine Learning, and Data Science

NATIONAL/REGIONAL INTERNSHIP PROGRAMME

The Institute offers internship programme to graduate/post-graduate students to provide them practical experience in conducting research. IDC has been conducting internship programme in collaboration with the Panjab University, Chandigarh and Chandigarh University Mohali for the past 9 years.

Besides these, interns from different universities of India also apply for internship. These candidates are chosen after careful scrutiny and interviews.

IDC-ETI TRAINING PROGRAMME

The Ministry has extended the MoU signed with the IDC upto 31 March 2024. Communication for the next extension has been made and extension for the next period is in Process.

ARTICLES/PUBLICATION BY THE FACULTY (APRIL 2023-MARCH 2024)

- ❑ Kumar, Pramod (2023), “The alarm bell in Punjab – Amritpal (Khalistan - Terrorism)”, The Indian Express, 23 March.
- ❑ Kumar, Pramod (2023), “Blue Star, 39 years later (Operation Blue Star)”, The Indian Express, 8 June.
- ❑ Kumar, Pramod (2023), “Can Chandigarh, an architectural island become a heritage city?”, Hindustan Times, 2 July and on Babushahi on 5 July.
- ❑ Kumar, Pramod (2023), “The Twain Don’t Meet”, The Indian Express, 9 October.
- ❑ Kumar, Pramod (2023), “Khalistan Row”, Babushahi, 16 October.
- ❑ Kumar, Pramod (2023), 2024 Elections: Game for Footloose Voters and Political Theatrics, The Week Magazine, 29 March.
- ❑ Sharma, Varinder (2023), “Milk Production as Supplementary Source of Income for Rural Scheduled Castes House Hold in Punjab”, Journal of Agricultural Development and Policy.
- ❑ Sharma, Varinder (2023), “Factors Affecting Ownership of Milch Animals by Rural Scheduled Castes Households in Punjab”, Indian Development Policy Review, 4(2)161-170.
- ❑ Sharma, S.L. (2023), “Political Economy of Climate Change: Key Measures to Tackle the Challenge”, Special article in Economic & Political Weekly (EPW), 24 June and 1 July.
- ❑ Kumar, Amit (2023), “Uniform Civil Code (UCC): Codifying Hope or Despair?”, Legal Service India. E-Journal, July.
- ❑ Kumar, Amit (2023). “Double Standards of Gender Equality: If Only Sachin Had Breasts And A Vagina!”, August.
- ❑ Walia, Richa (2023), “Gender Beyond Binary: A Qualitative Analysis of Tribulations Faced by the Third Gender”, Panjab University Research Journal of Arts (PURJA). L1 (1).

PROF. RANDHIR SINGH RESEARCH AND REFERENCE LIBRARY

RESEARCH FACILITIES:

To help in research the following facilities are provided by the IDC library.

Total Titles: 11,000+

IDC Reports: In-house published titles are available. 11 recent publications on different themes/subjects have been accessioned in 2023-24.

New Collections: The collection is ever growing as 20 titles have been added recently.

ICSSR Membership: Accessing e-Resources like Political Science Complete, Econlit, Soc-Index, PsycArticles, Library Information Science & Technology Abstracts (LISTA), JSTOR, J-Gate, Prowess IQ, et cetera.

Audio-Video: Research material depicting the culture and language of the region are kept for the reference services.

Documentation: Dissemination and management of the newspaper clippings.

Online resources: Economic and Political Weekly.

knimbus: Access to Digital Library.

MEMBERSHIP:

Improving access to users:

IDC is a member of the knowledge cluster/hub—as Chandigarh Region Innovation and Knowledge Cluster (CRIKC) which provides sharing of library resources, lecture notification amongst different institutions, and joint Ph.D. programs including common courses.

Since IDC is an approved Research Centre of Panjab University, Chandigarh, we can use the library resources of the University.

Temporary Membership: Students, researchers and other concerned civil society members can avail the services of IDC Research library. To make the procedure smooth we have implemented few changes i.e. one can register online on our website: www.idcindia.org. For this the monthly fee will be Rs. 300/-

Life-Time Membership: Rs. 1000/-

CONTACT DETAILS

Institute for Development and Communication (IDC)
Sector 38A,

Opp. Sector 38D SCOs,
Chandigarh - 160014 (India)
Tel. + 91-172-2625941,

Fax. + 91-172-2625942

E-mail: idcindia@idcindia.org

Website: www.idcindia.org

Twitter: @IDCIndia_Chd



The New Campus of Institute for Development and Communication (IDC) in Sector 38-A Chandigarh.

MEMBERS OF THE GOVERNING BODY AND SOCIETY

1	Dr. Pramod Kumar	2	Mr. Gurbachan Jagat, IPS (Retd.)
3	Dr. A. A. Siddiqui, IPS (Retd.)	4	Prof. H. S. Shergill
5	Prof. Harish Puri	6	Prof. S. L. Sharma
7	Prof. Swaranjit Mehta	8	Mr. R. N. Gupta, IAS (Retd.)
9	Mr. J. R. Kundal, IAS (Retd.)	10	Prof. Neelam Man Singh Chaudhary
11	Mr. Ashwani Handa	12	Mr. Ramesh Inder Singh, IAS (Retd.)
13	Dr. S. Y. Quraishi, IAS (Retd.) Former Chief Election Commissioner	14	Prof. K. K. Talwar, Chairman, Max Multi- Speciality Hospitals
15	Prof. B.S. Ghuman	16	Prof. Ronki Ram
17	Mr. S.K. Sharma, IPS (Retd.)	18	Mr. Satish Chandra, IAS (Retd.)
19	Dr. Varinder Sharma	20	Mr. M.L. Dhawan
21	Principal Secretary/ Nominated Representative of the Department of Planning, Government of Punjab (Ex-Officio)	22	Mr. Gopal Vaidyanathan
23	Prof. H.S. Mehta	24	Dr. Bakhshish Singh, IFS (Retd.)
25	Prof. Dipankar Gupta	26	Prof. Atul Sood
27	Mr. Jagpal Singh	28	Mr. Ankur Malhotra
29	Dr. Satnam Singh Sandhu	30	Mr. D.S. Jaspal, IAS (Retd.)
31	Prof Jatinder Singh Bedi	32	Prof. Jaskiran Mathur
33	Prof. Bhupendra Yadav	34	Adv. R.S.Cheema
35	Justice K.S. Garewal (Retd.)		



www.idcindia.org

INSTITUTE FOR DEVELOPMENT AND COMMUNICATION

Sector -38A, Chandigarh.

www.idcindia.org email: idcindia@idcindia.org