

RENU VINOD

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## **EDUCATION**

**Centre for the Study of Social Systems, School of Social Sciences,  
Jawaharlal Nehru University, Delhi, India**

**(2000 – 2008)**

- **PhD in Sociology (2009)** thesis titled ‘**Mobilization for Participatory Democracy and Good Governance in India: A Sociological Study**’. Focus areas: *citizenship, civil society, new social movements, participatory democracy, good governance, Panchayati Raj, capacity building of rural women.*
- **MPhil in Sociology (2004)** dissertation titled **Saraswat Konkkanis of Kerala: An Ethnographic Study**. Focus areas: *forced migration, ethnic minorities, Saraswat Brahmins of Kerala.*
- **MA in Sociology (2002).**

**Department of Sociology, Stella Maris College, Madras University  
1997-2000**

- **Graduate in Sociology (2000).**

## **ACADEMIC RESEARCH FELLOWSHIPS**

**Co-Principal Investigator, Minor Research Project (2021-2022) in  
Humanities and Social Sciences, Symbiosis School for Liberal Arts,  
Symbiosis International University (March 2021- June 2022)**

- Received Symbiosis International University’s grant for undertaking a Minor Research Project titled, ‘*Documenting Perceptions, Strategies, and Practices of Teachers in Non-Formal Education (NFE): A Pilot Study of Khelghar, Pune*’. This work has been sent to Sage Publishing’s academic journal *Contemporary Education Dialogue* where it is under review for publication.

**Post-Doctoral Fellow, Erasmus Mundus EXPERTS4Asia Consortium  
Grant, Uppsala University, Sweden (Dec 2015-June 2016)**

- Worked on paper titled ‘*The Effect of Economic Capital and Swedish Cultural Capital on Bonding and Bridging Ties: A Study of First-Generation Malayalees in Sweden*’ on intra-ethnic (bonding social capital) and inter-ethnic (bridging social capital) amongst first-generation Malayalees in Sweden. This paper was incorporated as a chapter in the edited book *India Migration Report 2019: Diaspora in Europe*, published by Routledge.

**Faculty Exchange, Erasmus Mundus Scholar Grant, University of  
Groningen, The Netherlands and University of Uppsala, Sweden  
(October 2013)**

- Spent two weeks each at University of Groningen, The Netherlands and the University of Uppsala, Sweden to interact with students, present at two public lectures and pursue my own research.

**Postdoctoral Fellow, Erasmus Mundus Grant, Albert-Ludwigs-Universität Freiburg, Germany (Sep 2009– June 2010)**

- Researched on issues relating to higher education in India and studied prospects for India's evolution as a knowledge society. Supervised and evaluated the theses of Masters students studying in the Global Studies Programme.
- Research Advisor for Masters Students, Global Studies Programme

**PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE**

**Symbiosis School for Liberal Arts, Symbiosis International University, Pune**

**Assistant Professor, Adjunct (part-time)**

**Feb 2020 – present**

**Visiting Faculty**

**Jan 2018 – Jan 2020**

- Papers taught: Sociology of India; Contemporary Sociological Theories; Popular Culture, Media and Everyday Life; Research Methodology: Theory and Applications; Environment, Ecology and Society; Sociology of Globalization: Global Culture, Economy, Emerging Issues; Sociology of Science and Technology
- Research Mentor: Undergraduate Dissertation
- Chairperson, SubCommittees for Sociology and Women and Gender Studies, Board of Studies, SIU
- Designed new courses: Sociology of Health; Sociology of Science and Technology
- Revised courses: Classical Sociological Theory; Contemporary Sociological Theory; Environment, Ecology and Society; State, Civil Society and Market

**Department of Sociology, Savitribai Phule Pune University Jan 2011-August 2017**

- **Assistant Professor** - August 2016 to August 2017 (**1 year**)
- **Teaching Associate** - July 2012 to July 2014 (**2 years**)
- **Contributory Lecturer** - January 2011 to July 2012 and June 2014 to July 2016 (**3 years**)
- **Papers taught:** Sociology of Education, Modern India: Issues and Perspectives, Sociology of Development, Application of Research Skills.
- **Research Supervisor** for MA dissertations, **2013** and **2017**.

**Assistant Programme Manager, CSR, Times Foundation, Bennett, Coleman & Co. Ltd, New Delhi**

**Oct 2007 – Jul 2009**

Created awareness amongst the general public on challenges facing India's environment and education sectors, with focus on interface between NGOs, corporates and government. *Prepared the groundwork for an edited book on environment change titled "Climate Change, Society & Sustainable Development: Agenda for Action" printed by the Times Knowledge Series*

**Consultant/Research Associate United Nations Development Programme, New Delhi**

**May 2007-Oct 2007**

Conducted field research and gathered data on capacity building of elected women representatives and functionaries of Panchayati Raj Institutions implemented by NGOs in selected districts of Haryana, Jharkhand and Bihar. As Research Associate of the *Knowledge Management Programme*, conducted e-research and collated members' responses to queries on rural decentralization

**Senior Research Associate, Centre for Civil Society (CCS), New Delhi**  
**Apr 2005 – May 2007**

Coordinator of the 'Duty to Publish' section of the Governance Centre and the Livelihood Centre. Supervised the governance team & prepared the first Annual Report of the Central Information Commission of India tabled in Parliament in 2007.

*Awarded the organisation's first special bonus for research and advocacy conducted in the area of governance*

**Intern, Access to Information Programme, Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative (CHRI), New Delhi**  
**July 2004 – Jan 2005**

Collated and synopsized case studies on the use of right to information legislation in various states in India for articles and user guides and presentations at awareness workshops

**PUBLICATIONS**

**Book**

- Modernity in India: Issues, Challenges and Perspectives, Routledge, **2024**

**Chapter in Edited Book**

- 'The Effect of Economic Capital and Swedish Cultural Capital on Bonding and Bridging Ties: A Study of First-Generation Malayalees in Sweden' in Rajan, Irudaya (ed) *India Migration Report 2019: Diaspora in Europe*. Routledge, **2019**
- 'The Pedagogy of Poverty and the digitisation of education' in Lakshminarayan, Devaki (ed) *Technology in Education: The Gap Between Policy and Praxis*. Centre for Communication and Development Studies, **2019**
- 'Participatory Democracy: Key to Effectuating Good Governance' in Kumar, Anand and Tiwari, Manish (eds) *Quest for Participatory Democracy: Towards Understanding the Approach of Gandhi and Jayaprakash Narayan*. Rawat Publications, New Delhi and Jaipur, **2010**.

**Peer Reviewed Journal**

- Resilient Solidarities: A Phenomenological Study of Female School Leaders in Five Private Schools. *Peace Prints, South Asian Journal of Peacebuilding*, December **2023**
- 'Negotiating Values in India: A Theoretical Exploration', *Journal of Human Values*. Sage Publications, New Delhi, January **2016**.

**Articles in Journals, Reports and Newspapers**

- 'Right to Information: People's Right and Government's Denial' and 'Education: Is Jharkhand on the Right Track?' in *State of Governance: Jharkhand Citizen Handbook 2007*, Report prepared by Centre for Civil Society, New Delhi, **2007**
- 'Department of Home' and 'Labour, Planning and Training Department' in *State of Governance: Jharkhand Citizen Handbook 2006*, Report prepared by Centre for Civil Society, New Delhi (co-authored with Sanjay Kumar Sah), **2006**
- 'Too Much on One Shoulder: The Atlas Shall Shrug!', 4 *Labour File* 1, Jan-Feb **2006** (co-authored with Parth J Shah)
- 'Open access to information', *Business Standard*, December 27, **2005**
- 'Self-employed sidelined in Unorganized Workers Bill', *The Hindu*, September 18, **2005**
- 'No space for street hawkers', *Business Standard*, August 23, **2005**.

- 'National Convention Celebrates A Decade of RTI in India', 11 *Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative Newsletter 4, Winter, 2004*

### **Government Report**

- **Annual Report of Central Information Commission (2005-06)**, Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances & Pensions, November **2006** (*Report tabled in Parliament of India in the year 2007*)

### **RESEARCH, CONSULTANCIES AND OTHER SERVICES**

#### **Symbiosis School for Liberal Arts, Symbiosis International University**

- Faculty-in-Charge, Sociology, **2018 - present**
- Chair, Board of Studies Sub-Committee, **Sociology, 2020 - present**
- Chair, Board of Studies Sub-Committee, **Women and Gender Studies, 2020 - present**
- Faculty Head, **Alumni Cell, 2020 - present**
- Faculty Head, **Academic and Non-Academic Awards Committee, 2021-present**
- Peer Reviewer, **Confluence: Journal of Interdisciplinary Studies, 2020**

#### **Other**

- Manuscript reviewer, **The Sociological Review (2025)**, Manuscript Central (**2025**), **Routledge, Taylor & Francis Group (2017)**
- Secondary research report for the **Swedish Research Council's** project titled 'The Paradoxes of empowerment: employment guarantee, women and Dalits in India', from **August 2016 – January 2017**
- Content writer for Contemporary Social Theory and Sociology of Development, Globalisation and Society under the **UGC E Pathshala programme, 2012-2014**

### **SEMINARS/WORKSHOPS ORGANISED**

#### **Symbiosis School for Liberal Arts**

- Lecture on **Gail Omvedt and the Woman's Question in the Indian Women's Movement**, on **25<sup>th</sup> September 2021**, Symbiosis School for Liberal Arts, Symbiosis International University
- **Feminist Research Methodology Workshop** under the SSLA's Annual Workshop Series, on **16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> July 2021**, Symbiosis School for Liberal Arts, Symbiosis International University

#### **Other**

- UGC (CAS) sponsored International Seminar titled '**Diversity, Margins and Dialogue: Local, National and Transnational**' on **2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> January 2014**, **Savitribai Phule Pune University** (Seminar Coordinators Prof. Swati Shirwadkar and Ms. Elizabeth Esongate)
- UGC (CAS) sponsored National Seminar '**Contested Cities: Voices from the Margins**' on **17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> of January 2012**, **Savitribai Phule Pune University** (Seminar Coordinator Dr. Shruti Tambe, Department of Sociology, SPPU)
- International seminar titled '**Global Quest for Participatory Democracy**', in January **2004**, **Jawaharlal Nehru University, Delhi** (Seminar Coordinator Prof. Anand Kumar, Centre for the Study of Social Systems, JNU)

## SEMINARS/CONFERENCES INVITED

### **Symbiosis School for Liberal Arts**

- **Moderator**, for the panel on Migration, Gender and Livelihoods at the **Sixth Annual International Gender Conference**, titled, *Bridging the Gap: Advancing Sustainability through Gender-Inclusive Solutions*, **March 2024**
- **Moderator**, at the **Symbiosis Literary Festival 2023**, for a Book Reading and Discussion on Mountain Tales: Love And Loss in the Municipality of Castaway Belongings, **December 2023**
- **Chair**, at the **AIU-SIU Uni20 Conference for University Leaders of G20 countries**, for the session titled, *Transformative role of universities in promoting gender equity*, **June 2023**.
- **Moderator** at the **Fourth Annual (Virtual) International Gender Conference**, Men, Masculinities and Gender Equality, for the Track, *Masculinities through an Intersectional Lens*, **March 2022**.
- **Speaker**, *Countering from Below the Relationship between Power and the Collective Interpretation of Reality: A Sociological Interpretation of Lessons from History*, International Conference on Changing the World: Community, Science and Engagement with Big History. Conference organized jointly by **The International Big History Association** in collaboration with Symbiosis School for Liberal Arts, Symbiosis International University, Pune India, **August 2021**.

### **Other**

- *Inclusive Development through People's Empowerment: Genuine Policy or Façade?*, National Seminar on Trends and Issues in Social Development, Department of Sociology, Panjab University, Chandigarh, India, **March 2017**
- *The Saraswat Konkans of Kerala: Outsiders in their Adopted Home?*, International Conference on Diversity, Margins & Dialogue: Local, National and Transnational Culture, Department of Sociology, Centre for Advanced Studies, University of Pune, Maharashtra, India, **January 2014**
- *Participatory Democracy: Experiences from India, Lessons for Europe?* Euroculture Department, Uppsala University, **October 2013**
- *Forced Migration in India: An Overview of the History of the Saraswat Brahmin Community of Kerala*, Euroculture Department, University of Groningen, **October 2013**
- *Using Social Capital for Local Economic Development: Case Study of a Social Enterprise Model in Rural India*, International Conference on Democratic Decentralization and People's Participation, organized jointly by Kerala Institute of Local Administration & RC10, International Sociological Association 'Participation, Organizational Democracy and Self-Management', Thrissur, Kerala, India, **December 2012**

### NATIONAL

- *Rethinking Development from Below*, Indian Sociological Society Diamond Jubilee Conference, Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU), New Delhi, **December 2011**
- *Encouraging Participatory Democracy through Capacity Building of Rural Women in Local Governance Processes: Case Study of IDF, Jharkhand, India*, National Seminar on State, Society and Citizenship, Savitribai Phule Pune University, **March 2011**
- *Effectuating Participatory Democracy and Good Governance at the Grassroots – The Role of Community-based Organizations*, International Conference

“Eradicating Chronic Poverty in India: Policy Issues and Challenges”, Jawaharlal Nehru University, **October 2008**

- *Role of NGOs in Empowering Women at the Grassroots: Case Study of an NGO in Palamau District, Jharkhand*, Research Scholars’ Workshop, Jawaharlal Nehru University, **March 2008**
- *Movements for Participatory Democracy in India: A Case Study of the Right to Information Movement*, Research Scholars’ Dialogue, Jawaharlal Nehru University, April 2007

### **PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIP**

- Life Member, Indian Sociological Society (ISS)
- Member, International Sociological Association (ISA)

### **OTHER ACHIEVEMENTS**

- Cleared the **University Grants Commission - National Eligibility Test (NET)**, the qualifying exam for teaching in Indian universities, Oct. 2003
- Nominated by the Centre for the Study of Social Systems, JNU for the **Presidential Gold Medal** for the year 2002-'03
- Ranked 7th in the **All-India Entrance Examination** for the MA programme at Jawaharlal Nehru University, May 2000