

## **Dr. Sheela Suryanarayanan (Saravanan)**

Associate Professor, Centre for Women's Studies, University of Hyderabad

Institutor: Geographic Information System Lab.

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Sheela Suryanarayanan is an Associate Professor in the Centre of Women's Studies, University of Hyderabad with a multidisciplinary educational background in Geography, Development Studies and Public Health. She has worked on women's studies since 1998 starting from her experience in ISST, her PhD in maternal health and post-doctoral research in Germany. She has taught and researched in the Department of Anthropology at Heidelberg University, Lichtenberg Kolleg and the Department of Medical Ethics at Goettingen University in Germany.

She is the author of *A Transnational Feminist View of Surrogacy Biomarkets in India* (Springer 2018). She has published several papers on surrogacy and on maternal health, violence against women and women's empowerment. She has contributed to policy making at the international and national level on surrogacy. She was invited to the Rajya Sabha Select Committee on Surrogacy and has contributed to the Surrogacy (Regulation) Bill in India. She was invited to the United Nations, Geneva on surrogacy and was a Special Rapporteur on surrogacy to the United Nations Human Rights Office of the High Commissioner (OHCHR). She has been an invited speaker at the parliamentary events organised by feminists and Public Health institutes in Rome, Paris and Vienna. She has obtained funds for two ongoing projects; 1) occupational hazards among handloom workers and the impact of Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao program in Telangana State. She has set up a GIS Laboratory at the University of Hyderabad sponsored by the GIZ (The German Agency for International Cooperation/ *Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit*).

### **Educational Qualifications**

#### **2004-2008, PhD in Public Health**

The School of Public Health, Queensland University of Technology, Australia.

**PhD Thesis:** Training of Traditional Birth Attendants: An Examination of the Influence of Biomedical Frameworks of Knowledge on Local Birthing Practices in India'

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#### **1993-1995, Master of Arts in Development Planning**

Centre for Development Studies and Activities (CDSA), University of Pune, India.

**Master's Thesis:** Agro-forestry and Wasteland Development: A Case Study of Pudupatty Village of Dharmapuri District, Tamil Nadu, India.

**Village Study:** Impact assessment of Self Help Groups (SHGs) formed by PRADAN Foundation on women's empowerment in Meenakshipattinam, Madurai, Tamil Nadu.

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**1990-1992, Master of Arts in Geography**, Department of Geography, University of Bombay, India.

**Specialization:** Regional Planning, Thematic Cartography

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### **Fellowship/Scholarships Awarded**

2021 January to December 2022, awarded the **German Corporation for International Cooperation 'Returning Expert'** fellowship by CIM/GIZ (The Centre for International Migration and Development/Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit).

2004 March to December 2006, was awarded the **International Postgraduate Research Scholarship (IPRS) by the Department of Education, Australian Government**, to take up Ph.D. at the School of Public Health, Queensland University of Technology (QUT) Brisbane, Australia.

## **Employment - Academic (in Universities/ Colleges/ Research Institutes)**

**Since March 2020 - Associate Professor, Centre for Women's Studies (CWS), School of Social Science, University of Hyderabad, India**

**Head, (CWS), University of Hyderabad. (1<sup>st</sup> July 2020 to 18<sup>th</sup> April 2021)**

Teaching several courses to Master's students in Women's Studies and Bachelor's students of Centre for Integrated Studies. Publication and research projects undertaken.

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**Feb 2016 - Jan 2018, Research Associate at the Department of Anthropology, South Asia Institute, University of Heidelberg, Germany.**

Along with teaching Master's and Bachelor's students, was Principle Investigator (PI) of a research project titled '*A Study of 'Desired Children' in Germany and India as a context leading to prenatal genetic diagnosis and selective abortions*'

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**Jan 2015 - Dec 2015, Senior Researcher at the Department of Medical Ethics and History of Medicine, University of Goettingen, Germany.**

Teaching gender methodology and began the research project titled '*A Study of 'Desired Children' in Germany and India as a context leading to prenatal genetic diagnosis and selective abortions*' as Principle Investigator (PI).

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**Jan 2014 - Dec 2014, Research Fellow - Lichtenberg-Kolleg, University of Goettingen, Germany.**

A writer fellowship to complete books/obtain funds for the University of Goettingen, Germany.

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**July 2009 - June 2010, Post-Doctoral Researcher at the Karl Jasper Centre, Asia-Europe Cluster of Excellence, University of Heidelberg, Germany.**

Along with teaching Gender Methodology, obtained funding from DFG titled 'Social Construction of Surrogacy in India: Indo-Euro Quest for Babies'.

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**Nov 1998 - Oct 2002, Researcher at Institute of Social Studies Trust (ISST), New Delhi, India.**

Coordination of the project funded by IDRC Canada titled 'Gender Planning Network' in five South Asian countries (Bangladesh, India, Sri Lanka, Pakistan and Nepal).

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**Aug 1995 - May 1996, Researcher at M.S.Swaminathan Research Foundation, Chennai, India. (Implementation Oriented project)**

Social Science Co-ordinator of the project '**Coastal Wetlands: Mangrove Conservation and Management**'.

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**Aug 1992 - June 1993, Lecturer of Environmental Studies at Saint Andrews College, Bombay.**

Taught 1) Environmental Studies, and 2) Foundational Course (FC) to First Year Commerce students to undergraduate students at Saint Andrews College, Bombay, India. The FC course included; Globalization and Indian Society, Human Rights, Ecology and Understanding & Managing Stress and Conflict in Contemporary Society.

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## **Employment - Research Consultancies**

**Dec 2019 - March 2020 Consultant GIZ (The German Society for International Cooperation) at Institute of Social Studies Trust (ISST), New Delhi.**

As a diaspora expert consultant, I conducted an impact assessment study of ISST's livelihood training programme in East Delhi. I also conducted an assessment of Women's Water Challenges in one of the East Delhi Low-income dwellings.

**Jan 2019 Consultant (Researcher), OXFAM, New Delhi, India.**

Research on Intersectionalities between Gender (SDG5) and Responsible Business in India.

Research for a policy brief that will employ the lens of responsible business conduct when assessing their intersectionalities with gender equality, decent work, discrimination, justice and human rights, respectively. The policy brief will be juxtaposed with the Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA) recently revised National Guidelines on Responsible Business Conduct (NGRBC) and NITI Aayog's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) framework.

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**Feb 2019 – Consultant, E.O.N.D.F.R. (The European Observatory for Non-Discrimination and Fundamental Rights), France**

Conducted research on the 'Experience and Impact of Surrogacy on the health, emotion and social well-being of surrogate mothers in India'. I conducted intensive field work in Nadiad, Anand and Ahmedabad speaking to 45 women who have been surrogate mothers to understand the economic, health and social impact of surrogacy on their lives.

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**Dec 2018 - Consultant GIZ (The German Society for International Cooperation) at IIMR, Indian Institute of Health Management Research, Rajasthan`.**

I conducted intensive field work in and around Jaipur city in Rajasthan to explore the feasibility and use of m-health (mobile phone based health) and e-platform (electronic platform) for enhanced maternal and infant health care provision and access during emergencies.

**Employment – Technical (GIS) Geographical Information System**

**May 1998 to September 1998, Mapping and Charting Technician (GIS) Farming and Rural Conservation Agency, Cambridge, United Kingdom.**

Conducted verification of Agri-Environmental data using GIS with the information provided by farmers in England who were paid by the Ministry of Agriculture, Farming and Forestry (MAFF), U.K. to conserve agro-environmental sensitive areas.

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**Sep 2005- Nov 2006, GIS Analyst, School of Public Health, Queensland University of Technology (QUT), Brisbane, Australia.**

Used MapInfo software to spatially investigate socio-economic differences in food purchasing behavior in Brisbane city. I was also involved in another project at its beginning stage in using GIS in the process of a randomized sampling method with the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) household data.

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**Aug 2003 to Jan 2004, GIS Analyst, IYB Services, Brisbane, Australia.**

Carried out spatial analysis of market intelligence using MapInfo software to assess the existing market for the sales of broadband connection in Brisbane suburbs.

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**Grants Awarded**

**Ongoing Projects as Principal Investigator (PI)**

1. 2023, 29th August, Rs 14,50,000 obtained from ICSSR (Indian Council for Social Science Research) for a six-month research project titled '**Impact of the Beti Bachao Beti Padhao Scheme in Telangana State: Socio-political, Legal and Historical Environment of Women's Empowerment**'.
2. 2022 Feb 2022 to Jan 2024, Rs 14,85,000 obtained from Institute of Eminence, University of Hyderabad for the project, '**Intersectionality of Occupational Health and Safety among Formal and Informal Women workers in Hyderabad City**'.

### **One-time funding obtained**

1. 2022, 14<sup>th</sup> April, Rs 8,00,000 obtained for setting up a GIS (Geographic Information System) Laboratory from **GIZ The German Agency for International Cooperation/ Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit.**

### **Completed Projects as Principal Investigator**

1. 20<sup>th</sup> August 2021 to 20<sup>th</sup> November 2021 research funding awarded by the German Corporation for International Co-operation '**Returning Expert**' fellowship by **CIM/GIZ (The Centre for International Migration and Development/ Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit)** of Rs 85,000/- to undertake research project on '**Transforming Educational Landscape towards Women's Empowerment**'.
2. Jan. 2015 – Jan. 2018 Individual research grant by German Research Foundation (DFG) of Euros 300,000 for conducting research on '**Prenatal Diagnosis and Selective Abortions in Germany & India**'.

### **Courses taught**

#### **Semesters**

#### **Since 2020**

As required

August to Dec  
(4 hours per week  
- Semester)

March to July  
(4 hours per week  
- Semester)

March to July  
(4 hours per week  
- Semester)

October – Feb  
(4 hours per week  
- Semester)

#### **Before 2020**

Oct. Feb. 2017-  
18  
(2 hours per week  
- Semester)

April - June 2017  
(2 hours per week  
- Semester)

October-Feb.  
2016-17  
(2 hours per week  
- Semester)

#### **Taught Courses**

#### **In Hyderabad University, India.**

Supervision - PhD and MA Gender Studies course.

'**Women, Ecology and Environment**' Elective Course to Master of Arts (MA), - Social Science and Humanities students, University of Hyderabad.

'**Introduction to Gender Studies**' to Bachelor of Arts students of Humanities and Social Science at the Centre for Integrated Studies, University of Hyderabad.

'**Women and Health**' to Master of Arts – Gender Studies students, Centre for Women's Studies, University of Hyderabad.

'**Introduction to Women's Movements**' to MA – Gender Studies students, Centre for Women's Studies, University of Hyderabad.

'**Gendered Embodiment and Complementary Medicine**' to the Master of Arts Health and Society in South Asia (MAHASSA) students at the Department of Anthropology, South Asia Institute, University of Heidelberg, Germany.

'**Feminism and Public Health**' to the Bachelor students from the Department of Anthropology, University of Heidelberg, Germany.

'**Theories and Practice of Assisted Reproductive Technologies**' to the MAHASSA students at the Department of Anthropology, South Asia Institute, University of Heidelberg, Germany.

- April – June 2016 (2 hours per week - Semester) **‘Introduction to Socio-ethical Dimensions of Assisted Reproductive Technologies’** to the MAHASSA students at the Department of Anthropology, South Asia Institute, University of Heidelberg, Germany.
- December 2015 (6 hours block seminar) **‘Methoden der Geschlechterforschung’ (Methods of Gender Research)**, two sessions (4 hours) for Social Science and Gender Studies students in Goettingen University, Germany.
- August 1992 - June 1993 (12 hours per week, for 2 semesters) 1) **Environmental Studies**, and 2) **Foundational Course** which included; Globalization and Indian Society, Human Rights, Ecology and Understanding & Managing Stress and Conflict in Contemporary Society to undergraduate students at Saint Andrews College, Bombay, India.

### Supervision (PhD/Master’s thesis)

#### **PhD ongoing**

1. The Division of Labour and Occupational Health Hazards among Tea plantation women in Kerala - Silpa Das 2022.

#### **Master’s - completed 8**

1. Market Access and Sustainability in the Handloom Weaving Industry of Mothkur, Telangana: Challenges and Opportunities - Anuhya Tullimelli - 2023.
2. Health Issues and Prospects of Women Handloom Weavers: Mothkur Cluster, Telangana State - Babunaik Mudavath - 2023.
3. Motherhood: A Paradox - Antarixa Bhardwaj - 2022.
4. Curricular Construction of Gender in English Textbooks, Odisha Board - Yashaswini Mohanty 2022.
5. Biomaterial Accessibility from Toronto to India: A Transnational Feminist Perspective on Women Seeking Oocyte Donation.
6. Talking Through the Taboos: Menstrual Health in India - Imogen Pierce - 2019.
7. Engaging the Dharma of Gender in the Bodhisattva Path - Junghyun Yoon - 2018.
8. Health Communication Campaign in Slum in Bangladesh: An Analysis from Audience Perspective - Rahat Al Rafe - 2018.

#### **Bachelor’s dissertation completed (1)**

1. *Weibliche Genitalverstümmelung im westlichen Kontext - Mögliche Ansätze zur Verbesserung der Situation genitalverstümmelter Frauen in Deutschland* - Female genital mutilation in a western context - possible approaches to improve the situation of genital mutilated women in Germany - Alena Eicker - 2018.

### Languages known

English	Expert Knowledge
Hindi, Marathi,	Good in speaking, reading and writing
Tamil, Malayalam,	Fluent in speaking
German, Gujarati, Bengali & Odiya.	Working knowledge

## List of Publications

### BOOK



Sheela, S. (2018) *'A Transnational Feminist View of Surrogacy Biomarkets in India'*. Singapore: Springer Nature Singapore Pte Ltd.

### JOURNAL ARTICLES

1. Suryanarayanan, S., & Ramswamy, R. (2022). Women's Empowerment through Skill Education and Entrepreneurship Development in the Handloom Sector in Mizoram. *SEDME (Small Enterprises Development, Management & Extension Journal)*, 49(3), 235–252. <https://doi.org/10.1177/09708464221111978>
2. Suryanarayanan, S. (2021) 'Impact of Commercial Surrogacy on Women in India and the Changing Paradigm towards Altruism', *SwissFuture*, 01(21): 15-17. [https://www.swissfuture.ch/wp-content/uploads/2022/10/2021-1\\_Magazin\\_Indien.pdf](https://www.swissfuture.ch/wp-content/uploads/2022/10/2021-1_Magazin_Indien.pdf)
3. Saravanan, S. (2016). "Humanitarian thresholds of the Fundamental Feminist Ideologies: Evidence from Surrogacy Arrangements in India". *AnALize: Revista de studii feministe*, (6 (20)), 66-88. <https://www.ceeol.com/search/article-detail?id=469880>
4. Asante-Sarpong, H., Owusu, A.Y., Saravanan, S. *et al.* (2016) Determinants of use of supervised delivery care under Ghana's fee exemption policy for maternal healthcare: the case of the Central Region. *BMC Pregnancy Childbirth* **16**, 172 . <https://doi.org/10.1186/s12884-016-0960-6>
5. Saravanan S. (2015) Global justice, capabilities approach and commercial surrogacy in India. *Medical Health Care and Philosophy*. 18(3):295-307. doi: <https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s11019-015-9640-y>
6. Saravanan, S. (2013). An ethnomethodological approach to examine exploitation in the context of capacity, trust and experience of commercial surrogacy in India, *Philosophy, Ethics, and Humanities in Medicine*, 8:10. doi: <https://peh-med.biomedcentral.com/articles/10.1186/1747-5341-8-10>
7. Saravanan, S., Johnson, H., Turrell, G., & Fraser, J. (2012). Re-examining authoritative knowledge in the design and content of a traditional birth attendant training in India, *Midwifery*, 28(1):120-30. doi: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.midw.2011.04.006>
8. Saravanan, S., Turrell, G., Johnson, H., Fraser, J., & Patterson, C. (2011). Traditional birth attendant training and local birthing practices in India, *Evaluation and Programme Planning*, 34(3): 254-265. doi: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.evalprogplan.2011.02.012>
9. Saravanan, S., Turrell, G., Johnson, H., & Fraser, J. (2010). Birthing practices of traditional birth attendants in South Asia in the context of training programmes, *Journal of Health Management*, 12(2): 93-121. doi: <https://doi.org/10.1177/097206341001200201>

10. Saravanan, S. (2010). Transnational surrogacy and objectification of gestational mothers, *Economic and Political Weekly*, 45(16): 26-29.
11. Saravanan, S., Johnson, H., Turrell, G., and Fraser, J (2009). Social roles and birthing practices of traditional birth attendants in India with reference to other developing countries, *Asian Journal of Women's Studies*, 15(4): 57-89. doi: <https://doi.org/10.1080/12259276.2009.11666078>
12. Saravanan, S. (2003). Reproductive Health of Women in South Asia – Beyond Beijing, *Asian Women*, (17): 171-203. doi: [https://doi.org/10.1016/S0033-3506\(89\)80045-9](https://doi.org/10.1016/S0033-3506(89)80045-9)
13. Saravanan, S. (2002). Female Infanticide in India - A Review of Literature, *Social Change*, 32(1&2): 58-66. doi: <https://doi.org/10.1177/004908570203200205>

## BOOK CHAPTERS

1. Saravanan, S. (2022) 'Surrogacy in India: Confrontation with Death' translated in French and published in the book titled '*Ventres à louer. Une critique féministe de la GPA' Bellies for hire: A feminist critic of Surrogacy*'. Eds, Marie Josephe Devillers and Ana-luana Stoicea-Deram.
2. Saravanan, S., Antarixa B. (2022). 'Gender Inequalities at Workplace in India: Present Situation and Persisting Challenges'. In Kakoli Banerjee (Ed) *Gender Equality and Empowerment: Workplace, Safety and Wellbeing*. New Delhi: SSDN Publishers and Distributors.
3. Saravanan, S. (2019). 'My Heart is Hurting' in, Jennifer Lahl, Melinda Tankard Reist, Renate Klein. ed. '*Broken Bonds: Surrogate Mothers Speak Out*'. Spinifex Press, Melbourne, Australia.
4. Saravanan, S. (2016). Addressing Global Inequalities in Surrogacy. In E, Scott Sills (Ed). *Handbook of Gestational Surrogacy: International Clinical Practices and Policy Issues*. Cambridge, United Kingdom; New York: Cambridge University Press, 41-44.
5. Saravanan, S. (2007). 'Reproductive Health Status of Women in South Asia'. In '*Gender Concerns in South Asia*', Bhatia, M., Bhanot, D., & Samanta, N. (Eds.). Jaipur: Rawat.

## DOCUMENTARY FILM

Saravanan, S. and Ranadive, R. 2010. '**Mother anonymous**' (Documentary Film). India: Frame of Mind Communications Pvt. Ltd. Mumbai. Funded by **Asia and Europe in a Global Context, Cluster of Excellence, University of Heidelberg, Germany**. Weblink: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2\\_yevJkBDhQ&feature=youtu.be](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2_yevJkBDhQ&feature=youtu.be)

## TRANSLATED ARTICLE

Saravanan, S. (2018), *Humanitäre Grenzen und Grenzüberschreitungen feministischer Rechtsforderungen – ein Bericht über Leihmutterchaft in Indien.* 'Streit: Feministische Rechtszeitschrift, 2: 70-80. (article in *AnALize: Revista de studii feministe* translated into German by Barbara Streidl).

## MEDIA JOURNAL PUBLICATIONS

1. Saravanan, S. (2022) 'Surrogacy Biomarkets in India: Troubling Stories from before the 2021 Act'. 1<sup>st</sup> September, *The India Forum*. Weblink: [https://www.theindiaforum.in/article/surrogacy-biomarkets-india-troubling-stories-2021-act?fbclid=IwAR2cCgNhAu6x\\_NaCkSOgu8\\_3vcA9-qjG-tWeIRVfrLXxIJ8cVdPNLpsJvBI](https://www.theindiaforum.in/article/surrogacy-biomarkets-india-troubling-stories-2021-act?fbclid=IwAR2cCgNhAu6x_NaCkSOgu8_3vcA9-qjG-tWeIRVfrLXxIJ8cVdPNLpsJvBI)
2. Saravanan, S. (2022) 'Mimi and the Surrogacy Bazaar of India', *India Art Review*, 2nd March 2022. Weblink: <https://indiaartreview.com/stories/mimi-hindi-film-surrogacy-motherhood-controversy-analysis/>

3. Saravanan, S. (2021) 'Public Humiliation, Witness Silence, Gender Bias in 'Sexist' Harassment Cases', *The Wire*, 23rd Oct.2021. Weblink: <https://thewire.in/rights/sexual-sexist-harassment-workplace-public-humiliation-witness-silence-gender-bias>
4. Saravanan, S. (2018), Socio-ethics of Surrogacy in India and Reproductive Justice', *India Foundation Journal*, 6(6): 23-31. Weblink: <https://indiafoundation.in/articles-and-commentaries/socio-ethics-of-surrogacy-in-india-and-reproductive-justice/>
5. Saravanan, S. (2017) 'When Doctors Rock the Cradle', *Governance Now*, February 16-28, 8(2): 56-58. Weblink: <https://www.governancenow.com/views/columns/when-doctors-rock-the-cradle>
6. Saravanan, S. (2016) 'Surrogacy and Gender Justice', *Governance Now*, September 16-30, 7(16): 40-42. Weblink: <https://www.governancenow.com/views/columns/surrogacy-gender-justice>

### **BOOK REVIEWS**

- Saravanan, S. (2017, November). [Review of the book *Conceptions. Infertility and Procreative Technologies in India*, by Bharadwaj, Aditya]. *Anthropos*, A.112. 2017/2, 640-641.
- Saravanan, S. (2018). Book review: Surrogacy: A human rights violation by Renate Klein. *Dignity: A Journal of Sexual Exploitation and Violence*. Vol. 3(2). Article 7.

### **POLICY DOCUMENTS**

1. Saravanan, S. (2019) 'Surrogacy Arrangements and the Sale and Sexual Exploitation of Children', United Nation's Special Rapporteur, submitted to the United Nations, Geneva.
2. Saravanan, S. (2020) 'Response to the Surrogacy (Regulation) Bill 2019' submitted to the Rajya Sabha Secretariat Select Committee on Surrogacy, Government of India.

### **RESEARCH REPORTS**

- Saravanan, S. (2019). 'Surrogacy in India: Bioethics, Human Rights and Agency', The European Observatory for Non-Discrimination and Fundamental Rights (E.O.N.D.F.R.), France.  
<http://europeanobsndfr.org/wp-content/uploads/etudes-et-rapports/final-surrogacy-report-in-india-17th-june-2019-dr-sheela-Sheela.pdf>
- Saravanan, S. (2002). 'Manifestation of Gender Bias in South Asia: An Overview', Institute of Social Studies Trust (ISST), submitted to International Development Research Centre (IDRC), Canada.
- Saravanan, S. (2000). 'Violence against Women in India – A Literature Review', Institute of Social Studies Trust (ISST), submitted to International Development Research Centre (IDRC), Canada.
- Saravanan, S. (1996). 'Inter-relationship between Mangrove Ecosystem and Human Economy in Bhitarkanika Reserved Forest, Orissa, India'. M.S. Swaminathan Research Foundation (MSSRF) India, submitted to Norwegian Agency for Development Corporation (NORAD), Norway.

### **OTHER ACADEMIC ACTIVITIES**

#### **KEYNOTE SPEECHES**

**2023**



13th February, Keynote lecture on '**Violence against Women and Empowerment**' at the inauguration of the two-day National seminar on 'Violence, an Impediment to Women Empowerment', organised by the Centre for Women's Studies, Acharya Nagarjuna University, Gudur, Andhra Pradesh.

## **2019**

6<sup>th</sup> March 2019, 'Exploitation of Global surrogacy in the Indian Surrogacy Market' at a panel on Maternal Surrogacy and Human Dignity of Women and Children at the **United Nations 40<sup>th</sup> regular session of the Human Rights Council, United Nations, Geneva**.  
Weblink: <https://www.facebook.com/ADFInternational/videos/sheela-saravanan-ob-stopsurrogacyun/267875550796130/>

## **2018**

10<sup>th</sup> October 2018, 'Transnational Surrogate motherhood in India' organised by *Büro für Frauengesundheit und Gesundheitsziele Wiener Programm für Frauengesundheit*, the **City Hall, Vienna, Austria**.

5<sup>th</sup> March 2018, 'Surrogacy Bio-markets in India: Exploitation of Women and Child Trafficking'. Behind the Baby Bed, a Panel Discussion on 'Why do we need an International Ban', organized by *Stoppt Leihmutterchaft (Stop Surrogacy)*, **Vienna, Austria**.

## **CONFERENCE PARTICIPATION/ INVITED LECTURES (since 2014)**

### **2023**

September 5th, session on "**Women and Gender Equality**" at the "Offline/Face to Face Short Term Course (STC) in "**Gender Sensitization**" for Assistant Professors from Degree Colleges and Universities of all disciplines from all over India organised by the UGC-Human Resource Development Centre, Maulana Azad National Urdu University, Hyderabad, India.

July 26th, lecture on '**Introduction to Gender & Equality**' at the '1st Faculty Induction Programme (FIP)" for Assistant Professors /Associate Professors of Degree Colleges and Universities (all disciplines) from all over India', organised by UGC-Human Resource Development Centre at Maulana Azad National Urdu University, Hyderabad.

May 21st, on '**Feminist Development Policy: Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment**', at a Returning Expert event held by Deutsche Gesellschaft fuer Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) in Soaltee Hotel, Kathmandu.

March 29th, on '**Feminist Political Ecology and its Application in Women and Environment**' at the C.B.Joshi Memorial lecture organised by Sathaye College, Mumbai and The Bombay Geographical Association (BGA), University of Mumbai.

March 17th, '**The impact of the Restrictive Surrogacy (Regulation) Act in India**' at the United Nations, NGO, Committee on the Status of Women (CSW), New York, Forum 67.

February 27th, conference paper presentation on '**Occupational Health Hazard and Women's Empowerment among Handloom Weavers in Telangana State**' at the National Seminar on "Emerging Issues & Trends of Socio-Economic Development in Rural Economy with Special Emphasis on Handloom and Handicraft Sector" organised by the Faculty of Management and Commerce, ICAF University Tripura, sponsored by NABARD.

February 23rd and 24th, **Gender Sensitisation** interaction and talk with Bachelor Vocational-Handloom Weaver students of Mizoram University, Aizawl.

February 21st, '**Gender Women and Surrogacy**' an Offline/Face to face Short Term Course in 'Gender Sensitization' conducted by The UGC-Human Resource Development Centre at Maulana Azad National Urdu University, Hyderabad.

February 17th, Research colloquium lecture on ‘**Son Preference and the PCPNDT and MTP Acts in India**’ at the Zentrum für Gesundheitsethik, Center for Health Care Ethics (ZfG) at the Protestant Academy Locum, Hannover.

January 14th, ‘**Gender Women and surrogacy**’ at an Online “3rd Faculty Induction Programme” for Assistant Professors /Associate Professors of Degree Colleges and Universities (all disciplines) from all over India, conducted by UGC-Human Resource Development Centre, Maulana Azad National Urdu University, Hyderabad.

## **2022**

November 17th, ‘**Feminism and Multiculturalism: Conceptual Discourse and Case studies**’ at an Online “**Refresher Course in Multiculturalism**’ for Assistant Professors of Degree Colleges and Universities (all disciplines) from all over India, conducted by UGC-Human Resource Development Centre, Maulana Azad National Urdu University, Hyderabad.

November 24<sup>th</sup>, lecture on ‘**Gender Inequalities and Vulnerabilities in Professional Rights**’ at the Department of Humanities and Social Sciences, National Institute of Technology-Trichy (NIT-T), Tamil Nadu.

November 22<sup>nd</sup>, talk on ‘**Sexual Harassment at Higher Education Institutions**’ organised by *Freie Universität* Berlin, New Delhi with Max Planck Institute & HCSA-Heidelberg Centre South Asia, Heidelberg University, Germany.

October 18<sup>th</sup>, talk on ‘**Vulnerability and Surrogacy Biomarkets in India**’, Department of English, University of Hyderabad.

September 30<sup>th</sup> talk on ‘**Occupational Diseases-Respiratory Diseases-The role of Social determinants of Health**’ at the Conference titled ‘Bench to Bedside to Brass Tacks Research: Opportunities and Challenges’ organised by School of Medical Sciences, University of Hyderabad and ESIC Medical College & Super Speciality Hospital, Hyderabad.

September 20<sup>th</sup>, gender sensitisation session on ‘**Women’s Empowerment**’, Centre for Women’s Studies, St Ann's College, Hyderabad.

August 6<sup>th</sup>, lecture on ‘**Reproductive Technological Innovation & Organization Interventions**’ at the Refresher Course on Commerce and Management, UGC – Human Resource Development Centre, University of Hyderabad.

July 28<sup>th</sup>, talk on ‘**Transnational Commercial Surrogacy in India: Women’s experience with Physical, Emotional and Monetary Impact**’ at *Goethe-Zentrum*, Hyderabad.

March 22<sup>nd</sup>, lecture on ‘**Sex Selective Abortions**’ at the UGC-HRDC Refresher Course on Child Development, Women’s Issues and Gender Sensitization, organized by Gauhati University, Guwahati.

March 19<sup>th</sup>, a talk on ‘**Gender Equality, Public Policies and Surrogacy**’, at the parallel UN General Assembly 2022 event NGO- CSW66, organised by the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW), New York.

March 16<sup>th</sup>, lecture on ‘**Crimes Against Women**’ at the UGC-HRDC Refresher Course on Child Development, Women’s Issues and Gender Sensitization, organized by Gauhati University, Guwahati.

March 3<sup>rd</sup>, input on ‘**Women on Rent**’ a documentary film on surrogacy made by Ishani Dutta organised by Laval University, Quebec, Canada, Weblink:  
<http://matasud.codeetcie.ca/programme/session-5/>

Feb 22<sup>nd</sup>, a lecture on ‘**Sustainable Development Goals and Women’s Empowerment**’ for the Faculty Induction Programme Organized by UGC-HRDC University Grants Commission-Human Resource Development Centre at Osmania University, Hyderabad.

Feb 17<sup>th</sup>, conducted a gender sensitization session ‘**Son Preference and Gender Bias**’ for the faculty of Osmania University organised by Women Study Centre and Women Cell in collaboration with Internal Quality Assurance Committee (IQAC), Koti, Hyderabad, India.

## **2021**

- December 13<sup>th</sup>, ‘**Sustainable Development Goals and Women’s Empowerment**’ at a Short-term Course on Sustainable Development Goals (for all disciplines) organized by UGC-HRDC Osmania University, Hyderabad
- October 6<sup>th</sup>, ‘**Transnational surrogacy bazaar in India: impacts on surrogate mothers and their agency**’, at ‘Women’s Bio-capital: The Uses and Abuses by Technology and the market’, Lumsa University, Rome, Italy.
- September 28<sup>th</sup>, ‘**Transnational Surrogacy Biomarkets in India**’ at SIES College of Arts, Science and Commerce, Mumbai, India.
- July 1<sup>st</sup>, ‘**Physical and Psychological Health Impacts of Surrogacy on Surrogate Mothers and their Children**’, Webinar on ‘Surrogacy Kills’, ICASM, Paris, France. Weblink: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BbIHsstsCKc&t=11s>
- June 25<sup>th</sup>, talk on ‘**Definitions & Standard Practices used in Gender Domain**’. ‘Gender Workshop’, Deutsche Gesellschaft fuer Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), Delhi.
- June 22<sup>nd</sup>, ‘How do we stop the reproductive trade in women and children?’ Swedish Women’s Lobby`, Stockholm, Sweden. Weblink: <https://fb.watch/6n5f7FReS/>
- June 5<sup>th</sup>, conducted a special gender sensitisation training on ‘**Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act 2013, and University Grants Commission (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal of Sexual Harassment of Women Employees and Students in Higher Educational Institutions) Regulations, 2015**’ to all faculty members of Indian Institute of Health Management Research (IIHMR) University, Jaipur, Delhi and Bengaluru campuses, organised by IIHMR, Jaipur.
- March 17<sup>th</sup>, talk on ‘**Physical and Mental Impact of Surrogacy in India**’, Swedish Women’s Lobby`, Stockholm, Sweden.

## **2020**

- October 27<sup>th</sup>, talk on ‘**Gender Approaches to Disaster Mitigation and Adaptation**’, Online Short-time Course organised by UGC-HRDC, University of Mumbai, Mumbai.
- October 5<sup>th</sup>, ‘**Unwanted Girls in India: Sex Selective Abortions, Patterns, Technology and Implications**’ in Workshop on ‘**Pre-Birth Discrimination Against the Girl Child**’ organised by Girls Count and ADF, Delhi.
- September 9<sup>th</sup>, talk on ‘**Feminism and Multiculturalism**’ at the online Refresher Course in Multiculturalism for Assistant Professors and Associate Professor of Degree Colleges and Universities across India organised by UGC-Human Resource Development Centre, Maulana Azad National Urdu University, Hyderabad, India.
- July 30<sup>th</sup>, talk on ‘**The Covid-19 Pandemic Lockdown and Reproductive Health in India: Intersectionalities of Gender Inequalities**’ at the Webinar on ‘Promoting Gender Equality: Strategies and Challenges’, organised by the University College for Women, (Autonomous) Koti, Hyderabad, India.
- June 30<sup>th</sup>, talk on ‘**Gender-based Violence under Covid-19 Pandemic Lockdown in India**’, presented at the Webinar on ‘Transnational Feminist Dialogues in times of Corona Crisis’ organised by [Margherita von Brentano Center for Gender Studies](#) in cooperation with the [MA Program Gender, Intersectionality and Politics](#) at Freie Universität Berlin, [Academy in Exile](#) and [Academics for Peace Germany](#), in Berlin, Germany.
- June 16<sup>th</sup>, talk on ‘**The Physical, Emotional, Social and Financial Impact of Surrogacy on Surrogate Mothers in India**’, presented at the Webinar titled ‘Surrogacy Motherhood’, organised by The Swedish Women’s Lobby with The Federation of Social Democratic Women, The Women’s Federation of Centre Party and The Medical Women’s Association of Sweden, Sweden. Weblink: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=p39pyrpb5tE&t=947s>
- May 16<sup>th</sup>, talk on ‘**Research Aptitude**’ at the Webinar on ‘NET/SET Guidance Lecture Series’, organised by the Department of Geography, University of Mumbai, India, Mumbai.

Feb 12<sup>th</sup>, talk on ‘Gender Inequalities at Workplace in India’ at a Webinar on ‘Gender Mainstreaming at Workplace: Vigilance & Initiatives’ organised by Internal Complaints Committee (ICC), Central University of Odisha, Koraput, Odisha.

January 13<sup>th</sup>, talk on ‘**Sexual Harassment at Workplace: Local Complaint Committee for Women in Unorganised and Local Government Setup**’ in a Webinar on Prevention & Response Mechanism for Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace organised by Directorate of Mahila Kalyan, Department of Women and Child, Government of Uttar Pradesh in association with Vatsalya, Lucknow, India.

January 11<sup>th</sup>, talk on ‘**Sex Ratio at Birth and Child Sex Ratio in Uttar Pradesh: Situation, Causes and Implications**’ awareness session on PCPNDT Act organised by Directorate of Mahila Kalyan, Department of Women and Child, Government of Uttar Pradesh in association with Vatsalya. Lucknow, India.

## **2019**

December 18<sup>th</sup>, talk on ‘An Intersectional Approach to Gendered Water Challenges in East Delhi Low-income Settlements’, at the Water Resources: Challenges and Sustainable Management Practices’ Department of Geography, Kalina University, Mumbai.

## **2018**

December 11<sup>th</sup>, talk on ‘**Human Rights, Reproductive Justice and the Surrogacy Practice**’, at IIHMR (Indian Institute of Health Management Research), Jaipur.

May 10<sup>th</sup>, talk on ‘**A Feminist Discourse on the Global Indian Surrogacy Bazaar**’ at the ‘The Sexual Contract: 30 Years On’ School of Law and Politics and Feminist Legal Studies, Cardiff, UK. Weblink: <https://vimeo.com/284532186>

April 10<sup>th</sup>, talk on ‘**Transnational Surrogacy Bazaar in India from a Feminist Perspective**’. Institute for Anatomy and Cell Biology, Halle, Germany.

## **2017**

October 16<sup>th</sup>, talk on ‘**Surrogacy body bazaar in India: Transnational feminism towards Reproductive Justice**’ organised by Dhira e.V. Chemnitz, Germany.

October 10<sup>th</sup>, talk on ‘Female Genital Mutilation: Feminism and Health Rights’ at Leiden University College, The Hague, Netherlands.

September 13<sup>th</sup>, talk on ‘**Notions of ‘Wunsch Kinder/Vansh<sup>1</sup>’ expressed in Prenatal Diagnosis and Selective Abortions in Germany and India**’, held at the International Academic Forum (IWH) Heidelberg, Germany.

March 23<sup>rd</sup>, talk on ‘**Reproductive justice and transnational feminism: Surrogacy in India and Germany**’, at the Chamber of Deputies in Rome, a feminist meeting to include Surrogacy in the CEDAW (Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women) list of harmful practices & human rights of women, Rome, Italy.

## **2016**

June 28<sup>th</sup>, talk on ‘**Humanitarian’ Thresholds of the Fundamental Feminist Ideologies: Evidence from Surrogacy Arrangements in India**’, at the Medical Anthropology Forum, South Asia Institute, University of Heidelberg, Germany.

Feb. 2<sup>nd</sup>, talk on ‘**Commercial surrogacy in India and global Injustice**’. Feminists from all over the world signed a Charter (in an *Assisesi*) at the Assemblée Nationale, Paris, France.

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<sup>1</sup> *Wunsch Kinder* and *Vansh* are the commonly used local expressions in Germany and India. *Wunsch Kinder* in German language means ‘desired children’. In India, a lineage or an inheritor is referred to as ‘*Vansh*’ or ‘*Waaris*’.

Weblink: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7o00oq0nDZs&feature=youtu.be> (19:00 to 29:00 mts).

## **2015**

May 20<sup>th</sup>, talk on '**Global justice, capabilities approach and commercial surrogacy in India**', Colloquium at the Centre for Modern Indian Studies CeMIS, Goettingen, Germany.

May 6<sup>th</sup>, talk on '**Socio-ethical and regulatory challenges of global reproductive technologies in Europe and Asia**', along with screening of documentary film 'Anonymous Mother'. Workshop on International Medically Assisted Reproduction (IMAR) – The Central and Eastern European Perspective, at the Medical University of Innsbruck, Austria.

January 7<sup>th</sup>, talk on '**Capabilities approach for mutual fellowship in commercial surrogacy**', at the 10th World Conference on Bioethics, Medical Ethics and Health Law, Jerusalem, Israel.

## **2014**

July 23<sup>rd</sup>, talk on '**Evidence-making and Therapeutic Practices of Commercial Surrogacy: A Case Study of Western India**' at the 23rd European Conference on South Asian Studies, University of Zurich, Switzerland.

May 28<sup>th</sup>, talk on '**Individual expectations of children in Germany and India in the context of prenatal genetic diagnosis and selective abortions**' at the Lichtenberg Kolleg, Goettingen, Germany.

## **Interviews/Television talk shows**

### **2020**

November 24<sup>th</sup>, interview with Daniela Thurner, 'Follow-up *Studie zu Leihmutterschaft in Indien*', Office of Women's Health & Health Targets, Women's health program of Vienna.

July 24<sup>th</sup>, Interviewed by Aline Kinzie on 'the surrogacy situation in India', for 'Wissen2go', a popular German TV channel, Germany. Weblink:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rseY3MX1KqI> at 9.45mts

May 31<sup>st</sup>, Interview with Vaishnavi Sundar, Lime Soda Films on 'Surrogacy Regulation Bill and the Problems, India'.

Weblink: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s05TMJ5Ei8Y&feature=youtu.be&fbclid=IwAR2OEYxUKmddBUwmQ8f3QXF-iCc6dkr9-J1sWikfPHke2QWNnFGwPeDv03I>

January 21<sup>st</sup>, invited to the Deliberations of the Select Committee on Surrogacy headed by Shri. Harsh Vardhan, Rajya Sabha Secretariat, New Delhi, Government of India to provide inputs on the Draft Surrogacy (Regulation) Bill 2019. Suggestion included in the report of the Select Committee, pg 11-12. Weblink:

[https://prsindia.org/files/bills\\_acts/bills\\_parliament/Select%20Comm%20Report-%20Surrogacy%20Bill.pdf](https://prsindia.org/files/bills_acts/bills_parliament/Select%20Comm%20Report-%20Surrogacy%20Bill.pdf)

### **2019**

November 24<sup>th</sup>, Resource person at We the People, NDTV- New Delhi Television, India.

Weblink: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kbcYe4UOfvo>

September 16<sup>th</sup>, Interviewed by Teresa Domínguez, from Spain, a columnist on human rights, also in Stop Vientres de Alquiler, @stopsubrogacion an organisation against surrogacy in Spain.: <https://letraescarlata.org/surrogacy-in-india-today-interview-to-sheela-saravanan-part-2/>

### **2018**

September 3<sup>rd</sup>, Surrogacy in India, a globalized bazaar built on women's exploitation – interview with CIAMS, Paris. Weblink: <http://abolition-ms.org/en/news/surrogacy-in-india-a-globalized-bazaar-built-on-womens-exploitation-interview-with-sheela-saravanan/>

June 22<sup>nd</sup>, *En Inde, les mères porteuses sont réduites à l'état d'esclaves*, French translation of interview with Newspaper *LeFigaro* "In India, surrogate mothers are reduced to the status of slaves". Weblink: <https://www.lefigaro.fr/vox/societe/2018/06/22/31003-20180622ARTFIG00335-gestation-pour-autrui-en-inde-les-meres-porteuses-sont-reduites-a-l-etat-d-esclaves.php>

### **Workshop/Panel Discussions Organised**

1. 9<sup>th</sup> December 2020, Dr. Renate Klein, Women's health activist, author and academic, Australia. Two sides of the same coin: New and old reproductive technologies. at Winter Series International Colloquium Series on 'Women and Reproductive Health': Lecture 4 at Centre for Women's Studies, University of Hyderabad.
2. 20<sup>th</sup> November 2020, Presentation by Prof. Kumkum Sangari, Vilas Professor of English and the Humanities, University of Wisconsin. Here, there, or everywhere? Questions on social reproduction. at Winter Series International Colloquium Series on 'Women and Reproductive Health': Lecture 3 at Centre for Women's Studies, University of Hyderabad.
3. 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2020, Dr. Silja Samerski, Professor, Department of Social Work and Health, Emden, Germany, The decision trap: How prenatal testing perverts female autonomy. at Winter Series International Colloquium Series on 'Women and Reproductive Health': Lecture 2 at Centre for Women's Studies, University of Hyderabad.
4. 30<sup>th</sup> September 2020, Presentation by Assistant Professor Pallabi Roy, South Asia Institute, Heidelberg University "*Stop crying, forget it and move on*": Reproductive Loss and Grief in Kolkata, at Winter Series International Colloquium Series on 'Women and Reproductive Health': Lecture 1 at Centre for Women's Studies, University of Hyderabad.
5. 17th June 2020, organised International Webinar on 'Transnational Widening Gender Inequalities amid Covid-19 Pandemic Lockdown', at Centre for Women's Studies, University of Hyderabad.
6. 26th June 2020, organised National Webinar on 'Missing Girls in India, Implementation of the Law and the Way Forward' at Centre for Women's Studies, University of Hyderabad.
7. 27th January 2018, Future Challenges of Advancing Prenatal Diagnosis Technologies in India: Linking Medical (Mis)Use with Regulatory Gaps and Trailing Social Reforms. India International Centre, New Delhi, India.
8. 13th - 14th September 2017, Notions of '*Wunschkind/Vansh*' expressed in Prenatal Diagnosis and Selective Abortions in Germany and India, held at the International Academic Forum (IWH) Heidelberg, Germany.