



**Two-Day Seminar-cum-Workshop  
and  
Mid-Term Conference of Research Committee on Gender Studies (RC-10),  
Indian Sociological Society**

on

# **Women Entrepreneurship, Skill-Based Training and Emerging Economic Spaces**

*Creating pathways for women's economic agency, skill development, self-reliance and leadership*

**DATES:** 24-25 June 2026

**VENUE:** Guru Nanak Bhawan, Conference Hall, Guru Nanak Dev University, Amritsar

**MODE:** Offline / Hybrid

With support from RUSA 2.0 - Golden Jubilee Centre for Entrepreneurship and Innovation (GJCEI), GNDU and Research Committee on Gender Studies (RC-10), Indian Sociological Society

## **ORGANISED BY**

**Department of Sociology and Political Science  
Guru Nanak Dev University, Amritsar**

## **IN COLLABORATION WITH**

**Research Committee on Gender Studies (RC-10)  
Indian Sociological Society, New Delhi**

No Registration Fee

Registration Mandatory

Certificates for Eligible Participants

## ABOUT THE SEMINAR-CUM-WORKSHOP

A thematic academic and participatory engagement

The seminar-cum-workshop focuses on women entrepreneurship, skill-based training and emerging economic spaces as important pathways for strengthening women's economic agency, self-reliance and leadership. It aims to bring together scholars, teachers, researchers, practitioners and students to deliberate on the changing nature of women's work, livelihood opportunities, skill development and institutional support systems.

The theme is especially significant in the contemporary context where women are increasingly entering new economic spaces such as digital platforms, small enterprises, self-help groups, skill-based initiatives, community enterprises and local markets. At the same time, structural barriers related to gender, mobility, finance, technology, family responsibilities, social norms and institutional access continue to shape their participation.

## OBJECTIVES

- To examine women entrepreneurship as a route to economic agency, social mobility and self-reliance.
- To understand the role of skill-based training in strengthening women's employability and livelihood opportunities.
- To discuss emerging economic spaces including digital platforms, local markets, cooperatives, self-help groups and community-based enterprises.
- To identify barriers faced by women in accessing finance, training, technology, markets, leadership and institutional support.
- To encourage dialogue among academics, practitioners, students and community stakeholders on inclusive models of women's economic empowerment.

## EXPECTED OUTCOMES

- ✓ Deeper understanding of women's economic participation in changing social and institutional contexts.
- ✓ Strengthened dialogue between academic knowledge, field realities and policy-oriented approaches.
- ✓ Greater awareness of skill-based empowerment, entrepreneurship and women's leadership.

## BROAD FOCUS AREAS

◆ Women entrepreneurship and livelihood transitions	◆ Skill development, vocational training and employability
◆ Gender, markets and emerging economic spaces	◆ Digital opportunities and challenges for women entrepreneurs
◆ Financial inclusion, credit access and institutional support	◆ Women's leadership, self-reliance and community participation
◆ Intersectionality, marginalised women and inclusive policy frameworks	◆ Role of higher education institutions in promoting skill-based empowerment

## ABOUT GURU NANAK DEV UNIVERSITY

Guru Nanak Dev University, established on November 24, 1969, commemorates the quincentenary of Sri Guru Nanak Dev Ji, the esteemed founder of Sikhism. Functioning as both a residential and affiliating institution, the University's founding principles, as outlined in the Guru Nanak Dev University Act of 1969, underscore its mandate to provide education and foster research across a spectrum of disciplines, including the humanities, learned professions, sciences particularly of applied nature and technology.

Over its distinguished 56-year history, Guru Nanak Dev University has emerged as a beacon of educational enlightenment, fostering academic excellence across diverse disciplines such as Science, Arts, Management, Information Technology, Media and Industrial Technology, Environment, Planning and Architecture. The UGC conferred this University with status of "University with Potential for Excellence". The National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC), Bangalore in December 2022 re-accredited the University in 4th cycle with CGPA of 3.85 out of 4-pointscale at "A++" the highest-level grade, as per accreditation framework of NAAC. The university's research output has seen remarkable growth, with a 179 % rise in its h-index from 62 in 2017 to 173 in 2025 and a 143 % increase in Scopus-indexed publications from 5,218 to 12,709 to date. Guru Nanak Dev University, Amritsar has also become the first University of Punjab to get the elite "Category-1" status by the University Grants Commission (UGC), giving autonomy to open new departments, schools, off-campus facilities and start new schools and distance learning programmes, besides the freedom to hire foreign faculty without the UGC's approval. Guru Nanak Dev University has been placed among Top Ten "High Performing State Public Universities" across India by MHRD. GNDU has been placed amongst the top 23% Universities of the world by Centre for World University Ranking 2024 (CWUR). Guru Nanak Dev University has been tracked by Nature Index amongst top four institutions in Punjab and top 10 institutions in North India. The India Today in its MDRA Best University Ranking Survey 2025 for the session 2024-25 has ranked the University at 12th rank overall under the category of Top General Government University in India-2024. The University has become the first government University of northern India to launch E-Sanad portal in 2025 providing a centralized platform for contactless and paperless document verification/attestation service for the Indian citizens.

## ABOUT INDIAN SOCIOLOGICAL SOCIETY (ISS)

The Indian Sociological Society (ISS), New Delhi, is one of the premier professional associations of sociologists in India. Established in 1951 in Bombay, the Society was initiated by eminent sociologist Prof. G. S. Ghurye and has played a significant role in promoting sociological teaching, research, dialogue and professional collaboration across the country.

## ABOUT RC-10: RESEARCH COMMITTEE ON GENDER STUDIES, ISS

RC-10: Gender Studies, a Research Committee of the Indian Sociological Society, New Delhi, has been continuously working to encourage sociological dialogue on gender relations, women's empowerment, feminist perspectives, intersectionality, and questions of equality and justice. The present seminar-cum-workshop further strengthens academic collaboration by focusing on women's entrepreneurship and skill-based economic empowerment.

## ABOUT GJCEI

The Golden Jubilee Centre for Entrepreneurship and Innovation (GJCEI), established under RUSA 2.0 at Guru Nanak Dev University, serves as an important platform for innovation, entrepreneurship, incubation and skill-oriented training. The seminar-cum-workshop is aligned with the Centre's broader vision of encouraging entrepreneurial thinking among students and young participants.

## ABOUT THE DEPARTMENTS

The Department of Sociology, which was established in 1976 is celebrating its 50th anniversary this year. It also published Guru Nanak Journal of Sociology was also published under this Department till 2018. Many Conferences and Seminars had been organized by Department of Sociology- 5th and 15th Conferences of the North West Indian Sociological Association, 27th Conference of the Indian Sociological Association, Shastri Indo Canadian Institute Lecture Series and National Conference funded by the National Commission for Women, New Delhi. The Department achieved distinction by getting the autonomous Centre for the Study of Social Exclusion and Inclusive policy in 2006. It was also recognized under Special Assistance Programme (SAP) from 2014-19. In 2020, Department of Sociology introduced a new course, i.e. Masters of Social Work and in these years 9 students have successfully cleared prestigious UGC-Net Exam. Department runs Ph.D. courses in both the subjects. The department is also offering internships and project engagement for the skill development of Master's students. The Department of Sociology provides an academic space for the study of social institutions, gender, development, social change, inequality, culture and contemporary social issues. The Department of Political Science adds a policy-oriented dimension to discussions on women's economic participation, institutional support, entrepreneurship and leadership.

## ACADEMIC LEADERSHIP AND ORGANISING TEAM

### Chief Patron

Prof. Karamjeet Singh, Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, Guru Nanak Dev University, Amritsar

### Patron

Prof. Karamjit Singh Chahal, Registrar, Guru Nanak Dev University, Amritsar

### Co-Patron

Prof. Satnam Singh Deol, Dean Students' Welfare, Dean, Social Sciences & Head, Department of Sociology and Political Science, GNDU, Amritsar

### Convener, RC-10, Indian Sociological Society

Prof. Ajailiu Niumai, Centre for the Study of Social Inclusion, University of Hyderabad & Former Member, Managing Committee, ISS, New Delhi

### Coordinator

Dr. Rajni Bala, Associate Professor, Department of Sociology, BUC College, Batala & Member, Managing Committee, Indian Sociological Society, New Delhi

### Organising Secretaries

Dr. Nirmala Devi, Assistant Professor, Department of Sociology, GNDU, Amritsar

Dr. Nirmal Singh, Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science, GNDU, Amritsar

## OUR DISTINGUISHED SPEAKERS

### Prof. Rajesh Gill

Retired Professor and Head, Department of Sociology, Panjab University, Chandigarh

### Prof. Ajailiu Niumai

Convener, RC-10, Indian Sociological Society; Centre for the Study of Social Inclusion, University of Hyderabad & Former Member, Managing Committee, Indian Sociological Society New Delhi

### Prof. R. Indira

Former President, Indian Sociological Society, New Delhi & Former Head, Department of Sociology, Mysore University, Mysuru

### Prof. Shweta Prasad

Department of Sociology, Banaras Hindu University; Former Secretary, Indian Sociological Society, New Delhi

### Prof. Kulwinder Kaur

Department of Sociology, Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi

### Prof. Madhurima Verma

Former Dean, Social Sciences & Professor at University School of Open Learning, Panjab University, Chandigarh

### Dr. Rupan Dhillon

Head, Department of Psychology, GNDU, Amritsar

### Dr. Aditya Parihar

Assistant Professor in Social Work, GNDU

### Prof. Abha Chauhan

Former President, Indian Sociological Society, New Delhi; Former Head, Department of Sociology, Jammu University

### Prof. Manmohan Singh Gill

Retired Professor and Head, Department of Sociology, Guru Nanak Dev University, Amritsar

### Dr. Rajni Bala

Member, Managing Committee, Indian Sociological Society, New Delhi & Associate Professor, Department of Sociology, BUC College, Batala

### Prof. Sudha Khokate

Head, Department of Sociology, Bangalore University, Bengaluru & Member, Managing Committee, Indian Sociological Society, New Delhi

### Prof. Sudeshna Mukherjee

Director, Centre for Social Impact, Chanakya University, Bengaluru

### Prof. Bushra Beegom

Head, Department of Sociology, University of Kerala, Kerala

### Prof. Lilee Mayaglabam

Head, Department of Sociology, Manipur University

### Dr. Gurshaminder Singh Bajwa

Head, Department of Social Sciences, GNDU

## LOCAL ORGANISING COMMITTEE

<b>Prof. Satnam Singh Deol, Chairperson</b>	<b>Dr. Nirmala Devi, Organizing Secretary</b>
<b>Dr. Nirmal Singh, Organizing Secretary</b>	<b>Dr. Rajni Bala, Coordinator</b>
<b>Dr. Gurshaminder Singh Bajwa,</b> Head, Department of Social Sciences, GNDU, Amritsar	<b>Dr. Rupan Dhillon,</b> Head, Department of Psychology, GNDU, Amritsar
<b>Dr. Manu Sharma, Department of History,</b> Guru Nanak Dev University, Amritsar	<b>Dr. Swati Mehta, Punjab School of Economics,</b> Guru Nanak Dev University, Amritsar
<b>Dr. Aditya Parihar, Department of Sociology</b> Guru Nanak Dev University, Amritsar	<b>Dr. Prabhsimran Singh, Computer Engg. &amp; Tech.</b> Guru Nanak Dev University, Amritsar
<b>Dr. Shefali Chauhan, Department of History</b> Guru Nanak Dev University, Amritsar	<b>Manjit Singh, Department of Laws,</b> Guru Nanak Dev University Amritsar, Amritsar
<b>Dr. Malkiat Singh, Department of Political Science</b> Guru Nanak Dev University, Amritsar	<b>Dr. Harkiran Kaur, Department of Laws</b> Guru Nanak Dev University, Amritsar
<b>Dr. Harneet Kaur, Department of History</b> Guru Nanak Dev University, Amritsar	<b>Dr. Jagsir Singh,</b> Principal, GNDU College, Mitran
<b>Dr. Sandeep Kaur,</b> Deptt. of Guru Nanak Studies, GNDU, Amritsar	<b>Dr. Vishal Bhardwaj,</b> Department of Sanskrit, GNDU, Amritsar
<b>Dr. Seema Jaitley,</b> Head Department of Sociology, DAV College, Amritsar	<b>Dr Rama Gandodra,</b> Head, Department of sociology, Pt. Mahan Lal college, Gurdaspur
<b>Mr. Karanbir Singh</b>	<b>Dr. Avinash Verma</b>
<b>Ms. Tarashi Guglani</b>	<b>Ms. Cheena Devi</b>
<b>Ms. Sheetal Rajput</b>	<b>Mr. Sahil</b>

## REGISTRATION AND PARTICIPATION

### ABSTRACT SUBMISSION

#### Submission Guidelines

Last date for submission of abstracts: 21 June 2026

Abstracts should be submitted to Dr. Nirmala Devi, Organising Secretary.

Email: [nirmala.socio@gndu.ac.in](mailto:nirmala.socio@gndu.ac.in)

Abstract may include title, author name(s), institutional affiliation, contact details and 4-5 keywords.

#### Registration Fee

No Registration Fee will be charged.

#### Registration

Registration is mandatory for record, participation and certificate purposes.

#### Certificate

All registered participants attending the programme will be eligible for participation certificates.

#### TA/DA

No TA/DA will be paid to participants/delegates by the organisers.

#### VENUE AND CONTACT

For registration and programme-related information

#### Venue

##### Guru Nanak Bhawan, Conference Hall

Guru Nanak Dev University, Amritsar

Dates: 24-25 June 2026 | Mode: Offline / Hybrid

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