



POLICY CENTRE & GENDER LAB ANNUAL REPORT 2024-25



Negotiation Workshop



The Policy Centre and Gender Lab, in collaboration with NITI Shala, hosted a workshop on negotiation at Miranda House on October 21, 2024. This immersive workshop, organized alongside experts from the Rashtram School of Public Leadership at Rishihood University, introduced participants to real-world negotiation complexities through a 6-party land acquisition simulation based on a Harvard Case Study.

Participants engaged in a role-play negotiation exercise, simulating the establishment of a deepwater port. Six groups represented different stakeholders, each tasked with advancing their own agendas while attempting to reach a consensus on the project. The key takeaways from this simulation were: Understanding multi-stakeholder negotiations, Navigating policy-making trade-offs, and Making decisions under pressure.

The stakeholders involved were: Governor who was to balance state interests and public opinion ; Environmentalist, advocating for environmental sustainability; Other Ports, protecting regional competitive interests ; Federal Department of Coastal Resources (DCR), regulating coastal development ; Trade Union, representing workers' rights and job security ; Deepport Consortium , seeking approval to establish the port.

The simulation revolved around a proposal by the Deepport Consortium to build the East Coast's first deepwater port, modeled after Rotterdam. This massive infrastructure project required approval from the Federal Licensing Agency (FLA) and political backing from other stakeholders, emphasizing a

loan request, environmental compliance, and trade union negotiations. The goal was to secure the necessary support for the project to proceed.

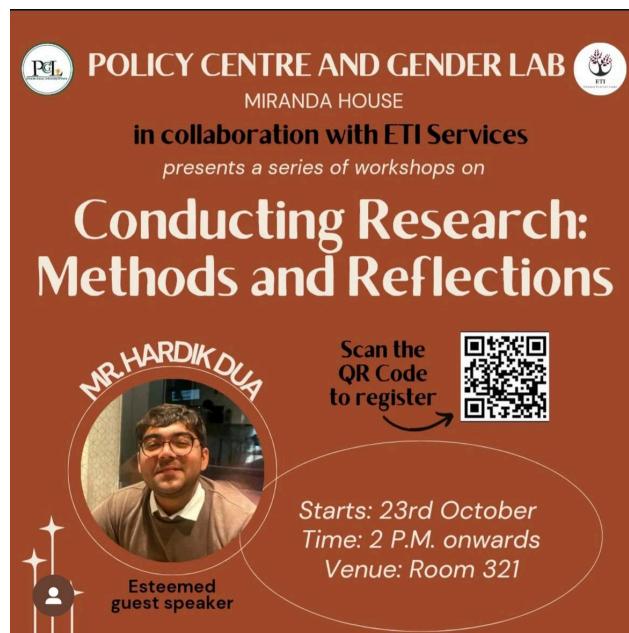
The groups had 40-45 minutes to negotiate, representing their assigned stakeholders. The exercise highlighted both positional negotiation (where parties are adversarial and goal-focused) and integrative negotiation (where parties collaborate to find win-win outcomes). Strategies for claiming value, managing interests, and defusing difficult tactics were discussed.

Following the negotiation, participants scored themselves on their strategy, exploration of interests, persuasion, and communication. This self-assessment enabled them to reflect on their approach to negotiation and the effectiveness of their strategy.

Finally, the workshop facilitators from NITI Shala shared real-world examples of negotiation challenges and successes, offering valuable insights into how negotiations shape policy and governance in practice.

The workshop was a valuable experience for all attendees, providing a hands-on understanding of negotiation in policy contexts. It effectively combined theoretical knowledge with practical application, equipping participants with the tools needed to navigate complex, multi-party negotiations.

Research Certificate Course



The Policy Centre and Gender Lab, in collaboration with ETI Services, organized a five-day workshop titled “Conducting Research: Methods and Reflections”, led by Mr. Hardik Dua, Lead-Programs at ETI Services. The workshop offered a comprehensive and practice-oriented understanding of research methods, aimed at equipping participants with core skills for academic and policy-oriented research.

The inaugural session on 23rd October focused on initiating research, from formulating questions to designing frameworks, emphasizing observation-based inquiry, time management, and source reinterpretation. The second session on 14th November developed participants' reading and writing skills, guiding them on building viable hypotheses and crafting evidence-based arguments. The third session on 25th November delved into research methods and sampling techniques, distinguishing between methods and methodology, and between quantitative and qualitative research. On 26th November, the fourth session explored ethics in research, led by Mr. Dua and Ms. Steph Stephen. Discussions centered on autonomy, beneficence, cultural sensitivity, and confidentiality in ethical research engagements. The final session on 27th November focused on fieldwork and research analysis, offering a structured, adaptable framework for conducting and analyzing on-ground research.

The workshop concluded with participants gaining enhanced conceptual clarity and practical skills, preparing them to conduct responsible, impactful, and methodologically sound research.





PCGL x Wisconsin University

The Policy Centre Gender Lab, Miranda House, in collaboration with the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire, USA, organized a four-day International Immersion Programme from 7th to 10th January 2025, themed “Sanskriti: The Living Tapestry of India.” The event aimed to showcase India’s cultural and historical richness through four key pillars: Itihaas (History), Samaj aur Vigyan (Culture and Science), Swaad (Cuisine), and Pratha (Traditions).

Day 1 began with a traditional Tilak ceremony, an introductory video, campus tour, and local market visit to set the tone for cross-cultural exchange. Day 2 featured a keynote by Prof. Bijayalaxmi Nanda on gender and tradition, a language session, folk art workshop, cultural games, and Mehendi application. Day 3 included a book launch, speaker session on India’s unity in diversity, spice identification and pottery workshops.

Day 4 opened with an Indian trivia quiz and keynote by Prof. Ujjwal Kumar Singh on India’s scientific legacy, followed by Dr. Nupur Ray’s talk on women in contemporary India. A panel on abortion rights, a saree draping workshop, cultural performances, and a felicitation ceremony added depth. The programme concluded with reflections and a Vote of Thanks, marking a vibrant celebration of India’s living heritage.







PCGL Collaboration with DU Lit Fest



The Policy Centre Gender Lab (PCGL), in collaboration with the Delhi University Literature Festival, hosted four engaging sessions on February 21st and 23rd, 2025. These sessions brought together experts from diverse fields to spark dialogue on urban development, historical narratives, geopolitics, and governance in India.

Session 1 featured Sanjeev Sanyal and Das Gupta discussing city planning models, public spaces, and iconic projects like Sabarmati Riverfront and Central Vista. Session 2 offered a deep dive into Shiv Kumar Verma's book *Life of an Industani*, touching on defense, China's strategy, and the Bhopal Gas Tragedy. Session 3 examined the North-East's geopolitical complexities with insights from Lt. Gen. Himalaya Singh, Seilenb Haokip, and Rajeev Bhattacharya. The final session featured Neerja Choudhary and Shobhit Mathur analyzing the leadership and decision-making of India's Prime Ministers.

The collaboration was intellectually stimulating and offered students a unique platform to learn and engage with pressing national issues.



PCGL with ICSSR National Seminar on Out-of-School Children for Viksit Bharat 2047



On February 25, 2025, the ICSSR-sponsored National Seminar on Out-of-School Children: Bringing Them Back to School was held at the India International Centre, New Delhi, aligning with the Viksit Bharat 2047 vision. PCGL members played a pivotal role as rapporteurs and photographers, documenting critical insights and capturing the seminar's emotional and analytical depth. Sessions explored factors behind dropouts—socio-cultural barriers, systemic illiteracy, conflict, and exclusion of vulnerable groups. Speakers like Dr. T.V. Kattimani, Prof. R. Govinda, and Prof. Praveen Jha provided data-backed critiques and policy suggestions. Rapporteurs recorded findings from multi-state studies and thematic analyses, while photographers created a compelling visual narrative, from emotional testimonies to impactful data visuals. The seminar's closing assertion—"No Viksit Bharat without Viksit Shiksha"—underscored the urgency of inclusive education. PCGL's meticulous contributions reinforced its commitment to educational equity and social justice, leaving behind a valuable archive that will support future policy advocacy and community-driven reintegration efforts.

POLICY & CULTURAL CONSORTIUM
"SAMAVESH"2025
TOWARDS INCLUSIVE GOVERNANCE: INTERSECTIONAL APPROACHES IN POLICY
& JUSTICE

POLICY TURNCOAT COMPETITION



On 24th April, Samavesh 2025 hosted the thought-provoking and high-energy event Policy Turncoat, which brought out the best of spontaneity, critical thinking, and public speaking among the participants. Designed to challenge students to explore multiple sides of complex policy issues, the event witnessed impressive participation from across departments.

Participants were given a policy-based motion on the spot and were required to speak for and against the same issue, switching sides midway through their speech. The topics ranged from climate change and urban development to data privacy laws, free speech limitations, and universal basic income, pushing students to think on their feet and approach policy debates with a nuanced lens.

Judged on content, clarity, confidence, and transition, each participant showcased their ability to argue from conflicting standpoints with logic and conviction. The event stood out for its dynamic energy and intellectual depth, drawing a packed audience that remained engaged throughout.

Policy Turncoat on 24th April was a testament to the spirit of Samavesh—where ideas are tested, voices are heard, and dialogue is embraced. It not only sharpened rhetorical skills but also deepened participants' understanding of the layered nature of policymaking in a democratic society.



POLICY & CULTURAL CONSORTIUM "SAMAVESH"2025 TOWARDS INCLUSIVE GOVERNANCE: INTERSECTIONAL APPROACHES IN POLICY & JUSTICE

Samavesh 2025: Towards Inclusive Governance



On April 24-25, 2025, Miranda House's Policy Centre and Gender Lab hosted Samavesh 2025, a flagship policy consortium fostering inclusive governance through intersectional approaches. The event convened policymakers, scholars, students, and bureaucrats for vibrant discussions on equity, inclusion, and social justice. Principal Prof. Bijaylakshmi Nanda's inaugural address celebrated youth leadership and women's solidarity, urging a re-evaluation of public policy through a gender-just lens.

Dr. Shilpi Agarwal, IRAS Officer and former Divisional Railway Manager, delivered a keynote on women's transformative roles in Indian Railways, a male-dominated field. She highlighted progressive policies like Meri Saheli, flexible duty hours, enhanced security, and leadership workshops, emphasizing gender-inclusive governance.

Session II featured Mr. Abhay Kumar, IFS officer and poet, who explored Nalanda's legacy as a model for inclusive education. He outlined its interdisciplinary ethos, diversity, and global vision, drawing parallels with modern institutions like Miranda House. In Session III, Prof. Ujjwal Kumar Singh critiqued neoliberalism's erosion of constitutional values, spotlighting privacy threats from technologies like Aadhaar, referencing the Puttaswamy judgment. Session IV, led by Mr. Praveen Prakash Ambashta, focused on disability rights, advocating for accessible infrastructure and empowerment through legal frameworks like the Rehabilitation Council of India Act.

Day 2 opened with Shri Tarun Kumar Kapoor's humanistic analysis of the Valmiki Ramayana, emphasizing ethical leadership and inclusivity through Ram's interactions with marginalized figures. A panel on women's health, featuring experts like Mona Goel, addressed hormonal balance, mental wellness, and systemic stressors, advocating holistic care. The valedictory session by Dr.

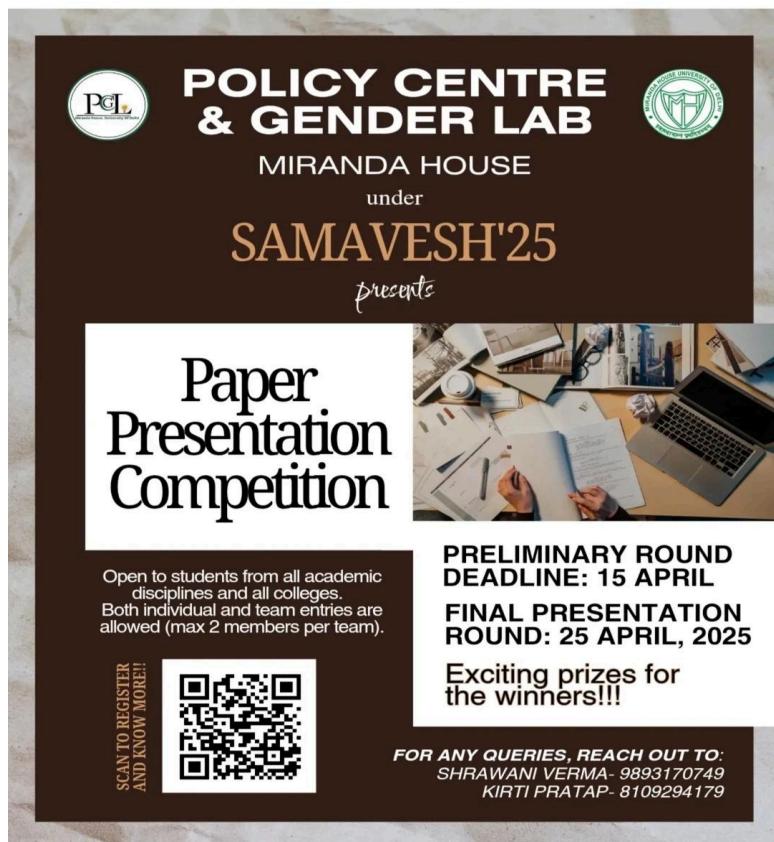
Venkatanarayanan S and Shri Rajit Punhani underscored constitutional morality and public conscience as pillars of ethical democracy. A paper presentation competition showcased student research, followed by vibrant cultural performances, including Lavani, Bhangra, and Gidda, celebrating India's pluralistic spirit. Samavesh 2025 reinforced Miranda House's commitment to inclusive policy discourse and cultural unity.







Paper Presentation Competition – Samavesh 2025



Paper Presentation Competition – Day 2 | Samavesh 2025

The second day of Samavesh 2025 began with the much-anticipated Paper Presentation Competition, a celebration of academic curiosity and critical thought. Students from various colleges and disciplines participated, presenting original research papers that addressed contemporary and emerging challenges in fields such as public policy, gender studies, environmental justice, constitutional law, and global politics.

The session was marked by insightful deliberations, well-structured arguments, and innovative perspectives. Each paper presentation was followed by an engaging question-and-answer round, which encouraged meaningful interaction between the presenters, judges, and the audience. This not only allowed for constructive feedback but also sparked dynamic intellectual exchanges.

A distinguished panel of faculty members and guest academicians evaluated the presentations based on research methodology, clarity of expression, originality, and relevance to current socio-political contexts. The competition served as a testament to the academic excellence nurtured within the student community and exemplified the role of youth in shaping critical discourse.

The participants were applauded for their dedication, and the best papers were acknowledged with special mentions and certificates of appreciation, adding a touch of motivation and recognition to the

EMPOWERMENT & SUSTAINABILITY OF WOMEN WORKFORCE
Organised by
Miranda House College
in Collaboration with UNHU

MAY DAY : 1st MAY



EMPOWERMENT & SUSTAINABILITY OF WOMEN WORKFORCE



1ST MAY, 2025

May Day with UNHU and Miranda House isn't a celebration. It's a confrontation—with silence, with hierarchy, with systems that exclude. For the first time, women workers—who have long built our cities, fed our children, and fuelled our industries—take centre stage, not as guests, but as guides. This is not a CSR panel or a symbolic gesture. It's a coalition of government, business, academia, and grassroots leaders who believe dignity is not a perk—it's a right. If you believe real change listens before it leads, you're not attending an event. You're entering a movement.



UNHU – Empowering the Unseen to Unstoppable.

UNHU walks alongside the invisible workforce that holds up our cities, industries, and lives—men and women whose labour builds what we often take for granted. It is reshaping the future of work through real-world access to safety, training, financial tools, and healthcare. It doesn't speak for workers—it creates platforms where they can speak for themselves. Rooted in respect and driven by systems change, UNHU believes that empowerment isn't an intervention—it's a mindset. Because when we recognise every worker's worth, we stop managing labour and start honouring it.

On May 1, 2025, Miranda House, University of Delhi, in collaboration with Unseen Humans (UNHU), hosted a landmark conference titled “Empowerment and Sustainability of Women Workforce” to mark International Labour Day. The event sought to reimagine May Day not as a symbolic celebration, but as a platform to elevate the lived realities and leadership of women in India’s blue-collar and informal sectors.

The conference commenced with a short film, Life of Unseen Humans, highlighting the invisibility of informal workers. Prof. Dr. Bijayalaxmi Nanda, Principal of Miranda House, inaugurated the event and released the Women in Workforce Report 2024–25, presenting data-driven insights on government schemes like MGNREGA and Skill India.

Keynote speakers such as Mr. Sunil Dutt (Reliance Jio), Ms. Anjali Rawat (MoL&E), and Dr. Vinita Sahay (IIM Bodh Gaya) addressed crucial themes including digital access, policy gaps, and upskilling. Mr. Dutt emphasized mobile technology as a tool for empowerment and called for an empathetic redefinition of "blue-collar" narratives.

Two panel discussions followed. The first, on Health, Education & Safety, featured experts from ILO, Sodexo, Fujifilm, and PPHF who highlighted intersectional issues of caste, class, and gender. Testimonies like that of Somvati Didi, a security worker at Miranda House, grounded these discussions in lived experience. The second panel, on Financial Inclusion & Security, included voices from Dr. Reddy's, BMGF, IRMA, and the Labour Ministry. Speakers stressed financial literacy, systemic reform, and inclusive credit models.

Miranda House's Policy Centre and Gender Lab (PCGL) presented critical findings, underscoring the urgent need for institutional and societal transformation. The conference concluded with Dr. Anoop Khandelwal's call for collective action by the state, industry, academia, and civil society to create an equitable and dignified future for India's women workers.



