

## AKHIL ALHA

Assistant Professor

Council for Social Development, 53,  
Sangha Rachna, Lodhi Estate, New Delhi-110003  
akhilalha@gmail.com  
Mobile No: +91 9821831540

## EDUCATION

PhD. Economics, CESP, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi (2014)

Thesis: Labour Market Dynamics and Well-being of Workers in India from the Early 1980s to the Present.

MPhil Economics, CESP, JNU, New Delhi (2009)

Dissertation: On some Aspects of Remittances and International Labour Migration from South Asia with Special Emphasis on India: 1980-2005.

MA Economics, Barkatullah University, Bhopal, MP (2006)

## RESEARCH AREAS

Labour Economics and Informal Economy

Economics of Discrimination and Marginalization

Political Economy of Development

Agrarian Structures

Public Policy

## PAST AND PRESENT GRANTS

1. **Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Government of India** Grant for the study of the *Evaluation of the Scheme for Evaluating the Implementation of PCR Act and SC-ST Prevention of Atrocities Act*, Rs. 51.13 lakhs (US \$ 63250), expected to be submitted in June 2025 (Team Leader).
2. **Indian Council for Social Science Research (ICSSR), Ministry of Education** Grant for the Study on the *Role of Caste and Gender in Defining Employment and Earnings Outcomes in the Gig Economy in India*, Rs. 20 Lakhs (US \$ 23809), expected to be submitted in January 2026 (Project Director).
3. **KFW Development Bank, Germany** Grant for *Status and Pathways for Portability of Cash and In-kind Transfers in India*, Rs. 1.24 Crore (US \$ 190477), December 2022 (Team Leader).
4. **ICSSR, Ministry of Education** Grant for *Scheduled Caste Entrepreneurship in India: Status, Challenges and Constraints*, Rs. 25 Lakhs (US \$ 39062), August 2020 (Co-Project Director).
5. **ICSSR, Ministry of Education** Grant for Transformations in *Agrarian Relations in the Time of Agrarian Crisis in India and Well-being of Small-Marginal Farmers and Agricultural Labourers*, Rs. 40 Lakhs (US \$ 62500), 2018 (Project Director).

## JOURNAL ARTICLES

## **Agrarian Economy**

1. Land Leasing in Kerala: Evidences from a Field Survey, **Social Change**, 53 (3), 2023.
2. Non-farm Diversification and Agrarian Change: A Story of a Semi-arid Village in Rajasthan, **Social Change**, 50 (2), pp 254-271, 2020.
3. Features of the Agrarian Market in Odisha: Insights from a Field Survey, **Man & Development**, Vol. XLII No. 1, March 2020.
4. Recent Development in Farm labour Availability in India and Reasons for its Short Supply (co-authored with Bijoyata Yonzon), **Agricultural Economics Research Review**, Conference Vol. 24, November, 2011.

## **Labour Market**

5. Production Organisation and Capitalist Labour Process: Timber-based Industry in Rajasthan, **Man & Development**, 41 (1), March, 2019.
6. Impact of MGNREGA on a Tightened Labour Market, **Social Change**, Delhi, 47 (4), 2017.
7. On some Aspects of Labour Migration and Remittances Inflow: An Indian Experience, **Manpower**, Vol. XLVII, numbers 2-4, April- December, 2012.

## **Caste, Marginalization, and Public Policy**

8. What Explains High Incidence of Poverty Among Dalits in Bihar and Uttar Pradesh? (co-authored with Krishna Ram), **The Indian Economic Journal**, 30<sup>th</sup> April 2025 (online issue).
9. A Tale of Two Sub- Plans: Status, Issues and Way Forward for Scheduled Caste Sub Plan and Tribal Sub Plan (co-authored with Savita Garwa), **Economic and Political Weekly**, forthcoming in June 2025.
10. The Other Side of Caste as Social Capital, **Social Change**, 48 (4), December, 2018.

## **WORKING PAPERS & COMMENTARIES**

1. Rhetoric versus Reality: Budgetary Allocations to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in Union Budgets (co-authored with Savita Garwa): CSD Working paper: CSD 1/2023, Council for Social Development, November 2023.
2. Dissecting General Election Results in Sikar and Bharatpur in Rajasthan, **Economic and Political Weekly**, Volume 59 (41), pp-27-29, 2024.
3. Shrinking Government Jobs and Trivialising Reservation: What Does Data Tell Us?, **Economic and Political Weekly**, 59 (34), pp. 17-21, 2024
4. A Story of a peasant Struggle in Jiwandesar, Rajasthan: Origin, Evolution and the Current Status, **Economic and Political Weekly**, Vol. 55, Issue No 40, October 3, 2020, pp. 19-21.

## BOOK REVIEWS and REVIEW ESSAYS

1. A Journey of India's Agriculture and Rural Development through Gilbert Etienne's Work (*review essay of five books of Prof Gilbert Ettiene*), **Shodh Mimamsa**, October-December 2017.
2. *Remembering India's Villages* by Santosh K Singh (edited), **Social Change**, September 2023.
3. *Limits of Bargaining: Capital, Labour and the State in Contemporary India* by Achin Chakraborty, Subhanil Chowdhary, Suparna Banerjee and Zaad Mahmood, **Contemporary South Asia**, 28:4, pp. 527-528, December 2020.
4. *Uncertain Journeys: Labour Migration from South Asia* by A.S. Panneerselvan (edited), **Social Change**, Vol. 50, Issue No 3, September 2020, pp 491-493.
5. *Contesting Marginalisations: Conversations on Ambedkarism and Social Justice* by Vidya Bhushan Rawat, **Social Change**, Vol. 49, Issue No. 4, December, 2019.

## OP-ED PIECES

1. 'No Indian Institution is free from Caste-based Discrimination in Interviews and Viva-voce', [thewire.com](http://thewire.com), December 18, 2021.
2. 'Barking up the Wrong Tree: Scrapping Labour Laws to Combat Economic Slowdown in Corona Times', online edition of Outlook ([www.outlookindia.com](http://www.outlookindia.com)), May 16, 2020.
3. 'Why there is a rise in farm labour suicides', online edition of Outlook ([www.outlookindia.com](http://www.outlookindia.com)), July 31, 2018.

### Paper Presentations in Conferences/ Seminars

1. *The Missing Link between Self-employment and Entrepreneurship among Dalits*, 65<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of Indian Society of Labour Economics, Institute of Social and Economic Change, Bengaluru, Karnataka, (9-11 January 2025).
5. *The Role of Caste and Gender in Defining Outcomes in the Gig Economy*, 64<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of Indian Society of Labour Economics, Central University of Hyderabad, Hyderabad, Telangana (29-31 March 2024).
6. *Dalit Entrepreneurship in Neo-Liberal Times: Experiences from the Ground*, National Seminar on Manufacturing in the Unorganised Sector, Institute of Development Studies, Jaipur (21-22 March 2024).
7. *Agrarian Distress Induced Rural Transformation: A Study of Bundelkhand region in Central India*, 63<sup>rd</sup> Annual Conference of Indian Society of Labour Economics, Rajeev Gandhi University, Itanagar, Arunachal Pradesh (1-3 March 2023).
8. *Status and Pathways for Portability in Cash and In-kind Transfers in India*, Dissemination-cum-consultation Workshop, CSD and KFW Development Bank, Hotel Claridges Delhi (5<sup>th</sup> December 2022)

9. *Persistent Social Inequalities and their Impact on the Ownership of Private Enterprises in India with a particular focus on scheduled caste entrepreneurship*, 3<sup>rd</sup> International Conference on Frontiers in Discourse Studies, Shanghai University, China (24<sup>th</sup> September 2022).
10. *Fund Allocation to MGNREGA in the Relief Package: How Adequate are They?*, in *International Webinar on COVID-19 and Reverse Migration in India*, organized by A S College, Khanna, Punjab (29<sup>th</sup> June 2020).
11. *Adequacy of Fund Allocation to MGNREGA in the Relief Package*, in *International Webinar on Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan and Indian Economy under Covid-19: Road Ahead*, organized by S.G. Govt Degree and PG College, Piler, Andhra Pradesh (10<sup>th</sup> June 2020).
12. *Agrarian Crisis and Land Leasing in Kerala*, in *27<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of Agricultural Economics Research Association*, Punjab Agricultural University, Ludhiana (18<sup>th</sup> December 2019).
13. *Agrarian Transformations in Rajasthan*, in *National Conference on Changing Rural Landscape*, Sardar Patel Institute of Economic and Social Research, Ahmedabad (4<sup>th</sup> July 2019).
14. *Incidence and Forms of, and Recent Changes in Land Leasing in Kerala*, in *National Conference on Economic Theory and Policy*, Ambedkar University Delhi (31<sup>st</sup> March 2019).
15. *Non-Farm Diversification and Changing Agrarian Relations in Madhya Pradesh*, in *National Seminar on Status of Rural Poverty and Migration: Impact on Agriculture*, Madhya Pradesh Institute of Social Science Research, Ujjain, MP (13<sup>th</sup> March 2019).
16. *Continuity amidst Change: Agrarian Relations, Non-Farm Diversification and Migration in Rural Rajasthan* in *National Seminar on 'Poverty and Social Exclusion: A Life Course Perspective*, Indian Institute of Public Administration, New Delhi, India, (13<sup>th</sup> April 2018).
17. *Public Intervention and Dynamics of Rural Poverty Alleviation in Rajasthan in Pre and Post-Reforms Period* in *International Conference on Development Challenges in India after 25 Years of Economic Reforms*, Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi (UP), India (16<sup>th</sup> March 2018).
18. *Land-Leasing Arrangements Amidst Changing Agrarian Relations in Rural Odisha*, in *Sam Moyo Memorial International Conference*, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, India (22nd Feb 2018).
19. *Employment, Migration and Segmentation In Urban Labour Market: A Case Study of an Industrial Township in Rajasthan* in *Third ICSSR Northern Region Congress*, Doon University, Dehradoon, Uttarakhand, India (28th February 2015).
20. *The Trajectory of India's Rural Development through the Lens of Gilbert Etienne's Work* in *National Seminar on Agrarian Distress in India*, Council for Social Development, New Delhi, India (11<sup>th</sup> November 2014).
21. *Recent Development in Farm labour Availability in India and Reasons behind its Short Supply* in *19<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of Agricultural Economics Research Association (AERA)*, Assam Agricultural University, Jorhat, Assam, India (28<sup>th</sup> November 2011).
22. *On some Aspects of Labour Migration and Remittances Inflow in Indian Experience* in *International Conference on Diaspora and Development: Prospects and Implications for Nation States*, Indira Gandhi National Open University, New Delhi, India (8<sup>th</sup> September, 2011).

## **Invited Talks and Presentations**

1. *The Question of Caste and Gender in Political Economy of Gig Work in India*, Motilal Nehru College, University of Delhi, 11<sup>th</sup> April 2025.
2. *The Political Economy of Gig Work in India*, RV University, Bengaluru (22<sup>nd</sup> January 2025)
3. *The Idea of Field and Field Research*, Dr B R Ambedkar School of Economics University, Bengaluru, (16<sup>th</sup> January 2025)
4. *The Idea of Field and Field Research*, St Xaviers College, Jaipur, (30<sup>th</sup> September 2024)
5. *Shrinking Government Jobs and Trivialization of Reservation Policy: What Does Data Tell Us*, Social Development Forum, Council for Social Development, New Delhi (30<sup>th</sup> May 2024).
6. *Dalit Entrepreneurship in Neo-Liberal Times: Evidences from the Ground*, Atma Ram Sanatan Dharma (ARSD) College, University of Delhi (23<sup>rd</sup> March, 2024).
7. *The Caste Question in Hindi Cinema: Where are Dalits in Bollywood?* Social Development Forum, Council for Social Development, New Delhi (25<sup>th</sup> November 2022).
8. *Beyond the Question of Budgetary Allocations for Marginalised Sections* in online webinar on ‘*What is in Union Budget 2022-23 for Poor and Marginalised?*’ on 12<sup>th</sup> February 2022, conducted by Academics for Equity.
9. *Dalit Entrepreneurship in Neo-liberal Era: Contested Reality, False Claims* in SDF webinar on ‘*Dalits in Contemporary India: Examining through a Prism of Educational Inequality, Poverty Incidence and Entrepreneurship among them*’, Council for Social Development, New Delhi, 24<sup>th</sup> June 2021.
10. *A Story of a Farmers’ Struggle: Six Decades without Success*, Social Development Forum, Council for Social Development, New Delhi, 31<sup>st</sup> January, 2019.
11. *Gandhian Economics and its Relevance in Contemporary Indian Economy*, Janaki Devi Memorial College, Delhi University, India, February 18, 2014.

## **Participation in Panel Discussions**

1. *Emerging Labour Market: Issues and challenges for marginalized social groups*, Indian Institute of Dalit Studies, 14<sup>th</sup> February, 2025
2. *Union Budget 2025-26*, Apparel Export Promotion Council, Ministry of Textile, Apparel House, Sector 44, Gurgaon, 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2025.
3. *Socially Inclusive Development: A Pathway to Viksit Bharat*, Dayal Singh College, University of Delhi, 31<sup>st</sup> January 2025.
4. *Empowering Women through Financial Inclusion, Innovation and Technology*, Pepsico’s RevolutioNari Conference and Awards 2024 - Celebrating Women in Agriculture, Hotel The Grand, Delhi, 17<sup>th</sup> December, 2024.

5. *Emerging Challenges before Unorganised Manufacturing Sectors in India*, Institute of Development Studies, Jaipur, 22<sup>nd</sup> March, 2024.

6. *Rhetoric Versus Reality: Budgetary Allocations to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in Union Budgets* in SDF webinar on 'The Missing Welfare of Dalits and Adivasis in the Welfare Measures of the State', Social Development Forum, Council for Social Development, New Delhi, 20<sup>th</sup> August 2021.

### **Teaching Experience**

Since 2014, taking lectures in Research Methodology course of CSD on themes like Research Design with a Special focus on field surveys, STATA, and Academic Writing (thesis, reports and other forms of publication).

Coordinated two iterations of CSD's Research Methodology Course in Social Science in 2023 and 2024.

### **Student Internships**

**Taanish Khanduri**, BA Pol Science, O P Jindal Global University, Sonipat, 9<sup>th</sup> December 2024-10<sup>th</sup> January 2025, 'Women Workforce Participation: Status, Challenges and Way Forward'

**Anshita Verma**, BA.LLB, National Law School, Bangalore, February 2024 'Declining Efficacy of Reservation amidst Declining Government Jobs'

**Ankit Gulsatiya**, MA Economics, Symbiosis School of Economics; Date 1<sup>st</sup> May-15<sup>th</sup> June 2023 'Dynamics of Poverty Reduction in Rajasthan'

### **List of Lectures Taken in Capacity Building/ Research Methodology Courses**

1. Data Management using STATA, Research Methodology Course, Council for Social Development, Hyderabad, 8<sup>th</sup> July, 2024 (1.5 hours).
2. Data Analysis using STATA, Research Methodology Course, Council for Social Development, Hyderabad, 8<sup>th</sup> July, 2024 (1.5 hours).
3. Introduction to data Analysis in STATA-I, Department for East Asian Studies, University of Delhi, 14<sup>th</sup> May 2024 (2 hours).
4. Introduction to data Analysis in STATA-II, Department for East Asian Studies, University of Delhi, 14<sup>th</sup> May 2024 (2 hours).
5. Introduction to STATA, Research Methodology Course of the CSD, New Delhi, 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2-2024.
6. Introduction to STATA and Data handling-I, Department for East Asian Studies, University of Delhi, 15 June, 2023 (2 hours).
7. Introduction to STATA and Data handling-II, Department for East Asian Studies, University of Delhi, 15 June, 2023 (2 hours).
8. The Idea of Field and Field Survey, Research Methodology Course of the CSD, New Delhi, 12 May 2023 (1.5 hours).

9. Introduction to Research Design, Research Methodology Course of the CSD, New Delhi, 13 April 2021 (1.5 hours).
10. Writing Academic Reports, Dissertation and Thesis, Research Methodology Course of the CSD, New Delhi, 16 December 2019 (1.5 hours).
11. Writing Academic Reports, Dissertation and Thesis, Research Methodology Course of the CSD, New Delhi, 21 December 2018 (1.5 hours).
12. Introduction to STATA for data Analysis-I, Research Methodology Course of the CSD, New Delhi, 16 December, 2015.
13. Introduction to STATA for data Analysis-II, Research Methodology Course of the CSD, New Delhi, 16 December, 2015.
14. Field Survey Based Research: What, Why and Pre-requisites, Research Methodology Course of the CSD, New Delhi, 26 September 2014 (1.5 hours).

### **Employment History**

#### **Council for Social Development**

Assistant Professor (In the GP of 15600-39100, PB 8000) from 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2023 till date.

Assistant Professor (In the GP of 15600-39100, PB 7000) from 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2018 till date.

Assistant Professor (In the GP of 15600-39100, PB 6000) from 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2014 to 1<sup>st</sup> June 2018.

### **Institutional/ Administrative and other Experience**

Coordinator of **Social Development Forum** at the CSD from October 2017 to March 2023. SDF is a platform that seeks to bring together academicians, activists, policy makers, planners and renowned figures from social sector to discuss and debate contemporary social, political and economic issues.

Chairperson of **Purchase and Maintenance Committee**, CSD between October 2016 and July 2019.

A regular reviewer of research articles for **Social Change (SAGE) and International Journal of Sociology (Taylor and Francis)**

**References:** On Request

**18/05/2025  
New Delhi**

**Akhil Alha**

