



Women Empowerment, Social and Policy Development

Project Title

WiSE (Women in Science and Engineering from Rural Parts of India).

**Funding
Requirement
INR- 57L over
3 years**

Objective

- Reach out to high-performing girl students from rural schools.
- Design a hands-on mentoring program where 9th-grade students from various schools will be invited to get trained at IIT Bombay.

Impact

The hands-on science and engineering training program will be focused on merging classroom theory with practical lessons. After initial training, the students will be building various projects (such as electronic design kits, robots, drones) on their own using a library of parts. They will learn the programming of the devices they build. They will be allowed to take the final project to their own school to encourage others and spread awareness thus increasing the participation of women in stem fields.

Project Description

Each year, about 200 girls from rural areas will be mentored to pursue higher education in STEM areas. Mentoring will start from 9th grade onwards. Each year, about 50 teachers will be trained in the SciTech program. They will be able to conduct the program in their own schools. Participating students will be always connected to the peer group so that they receive timely advice during their career path. Building a strong WiSE community from high school is important for a sustainable outcome.



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Women Empowerment, Social and Policy Development

Project Title

A hub for seaweed cultivation and processing using women entrepreneurs.

**Funding
Requirement
INR- 56L over
2 years**

Objective

Scientific and technological interventions to aid new livelihood establishment for the SC women community in Tamil Nadu's Ramanathapuram district.

Impact

Seaweed business will provide livelihood opportunity for the coastal community without the need of relocation and provides additional income to the coastal community families. Seaweed cultivation is a resource neutral technology, not requiring land, fresh water, fertilizers or pesticides. It also reduces the CO2 sequestration as a result of photosynthesis and carbon credit can be earned through large scale seaweed farming. The value chain generates jobs in various downstream sectors. Since they lack capacity and training, this proposal aims to setup STI hubs for Seaweed farming that caters to women SC entrepreneurs in the site.

Project Description

The proposed solution is to impart the knowledge on seaweeds cultivation, through Science and Technology and Innovation (STI) Hubs which will empower and enhance the socio-economic status of SC community. It also enhances their knowledge in training, capacity building and trouble shooting for Seaweed cultivation, processing and marketing.



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Women Empowerment, Social and Policy Development

Project Title

Film Workshop for public awareness on social issues.

**Funding
Requirement
INR- 5L over
2 years**

Objective

Expand public awareness on social issues. Use of films and documentaries as a form of pedagogy.

Impact

Working/ doing research in the field of public policy necessarily means interacting with social relations, social norms, values, and moral dilemmas. Since ancient times, these have been encapsulated in stories that take the form of an epic, a folklore, or a myth. Movies are the latest mode through which societies capture, code, propagate, and enforce societal norms. Movies thus provide a crucial source of material that molds identities of individuals in a society. The films we will curate will relate to CPS's research themes, viz. inequality, gender and sexuality, health/ ageing, caste, human ecology, surveillance, tech and society, states, markets and governance. Below are some of the films we are thinking about screening. We are trying to balance screening films in different Indian languages, English language films, and foreign language films.

Project Description

Retaining public attention on social issues are difficult in an economy that thrives of permanent distraction. We hope to use impactful films and documentaries to influence public policy.



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Women Empowerment, Social and Policy Development

Project Title

Gender initiatives at IIT Bombay.

**Funding
Requirement
INR- 30L over
3 years**

Objective

The project aims to work both rearward and forwards to increase the number of women students on campus and to provide mentorship for them to move ahead in their careers after they graduate.

Impact

Hopefully more women students at IIT Bombay.

Project Description

The number of women students on campus is still very low. Despite the supernumerary seats, we need new initiatives to increase the numbers organically.

The project aims to work both rearwards and forwards to increase the number of women students on campus and also to provide mentorship for them to move ahead in their careers after they graduate.



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Women Empowerment, Social and Policy Development

Project Title

World Wide Help.

**Funding
Requirement
INR- 30L over
2 years**

Objective

- Make information accessible to all.
- Create a user-friendly, low-cost, scalable alternative to call centers specifically designed for NGOs, regardless of literacy level or tech-savviness.

Impact

A few helplines which have been set up so far:

- *Ma and Sishu Poshan Helpline*: Provides guidance on breastfeeding, child and mother's nutrition.
- *BAIF Expert Feedback System*: Answers queries related to agriculture/livestock.
- *IITB Student Helpline*: Provides information related to academics to students.
- *Career Guidance*: Provides career guidance to municipal school kids.

Project Description

All of us require help in the form of access to information time and again. Many of us use sites like Google, Quora, Facebook to get answers to our questions. But for a vast majority of Indians who are illiterate and poor, access to information is very limited. The goal of this project is to create a generic helpline that can provide similar access to information.



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Women Empowerment, Social and Policy Development

Project Title

Women's Autonomy and Fuel Choices: A Tale of India.

**Funding
Requirement
INR- 10L over
1.5 years**

Objective

- To investigate the impact of changes in women's autonomy on adopting clean cooking fuels in India.
- To analyze the indicators of women's economic autonomy.

Impact

If the women have clean fuel for cooking, it will improve the health and empowerment of women.

Project Description

The reliance on traditional solid fuels for cooking in developing countries is harmful to both the environment and human health. Women are primary end-users of cooking fuel, and thus most affected by such decisions, but often lack the power to enforce clean fuel use. Using a gender lens, we propose to examine how women's access to rights and resources can induce greater adoption of clean fuel for households.



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Women Empowerment, Social and Policy Development

Project Title

The cognitive dimension in textiles and handlooms: Intersections in technology, pedagogy and traditional rural livelihoods.

**Funding
Requirement
INR- 1.2Cr in
3 years**

Objective

- To foster an environment where body-knowledge in textiles and practice are central to the learning experience.
- To create an understanding, appreciation and capacity in the craft of weaving and allied activities like spinning yarn and colouring (dyeing) cotton.
- To develop opportunities for the IIT community to learn from practitioners of weaving and for the weaving community to learn new skills and techniques that might be of direct benefit to them in their lives and livelihoods

Impact

As part of the project, we propose to collaborate with weaving communities and their institutions to create residential programs for them within IIT. These will be tailored to build their capacities in the above-mentioned and related domains besides giving them exposure to one of the leading knowledge and technology institutions in the country. This will also offer the IIT community an opportunity to interact and learn from the practitioners while they are on campus.

Project Description

While the body-mind relationship has been studied in philosophy, it may be pointed out that pedagogy and curriculum, do not sufficiently recognize the cognitive dimension of knowledge in activities that underline practice and hands-on dexterity. This proposal seeks explicitly to bring the hand and the body (the physical) back into the equation.



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Women Empowerment, Social and Policy Development

Project Title

Gender Gap, Monetary policy, Credit Market Discrimination and Firm Innovation.

**Funding
Requirement
INR- 10L over
1 year**

Objective

- To examine whether female-owned firms face more difficulties to obtain external finance than male-owned firms during the monetary contraction period.
- To explore whether monetary policy-led discrimination is less in a country with a lower gender gap as compared to countries with a higher gender gap?
- To investigate whether a monetary contraction hampers innovation of female-owned firms more than male-owned firms?

Impact

The monetary policy literature largely focuses on its transmission mechanism, its impact on the asset market, and access to credit. Unlike those studies, this study explores a differential effect of monetary policy on credit access among female- and men-run firms. In other words, this study seeks an additional factor, monetary policy, that widens credit market discrimination. This helps policymakers to be more vigilant in formulating policies and to reduce both economic and social costs. This result further has more significance in the current period since governments throughout the world are working hard to reduce gender disparities by introducing different policies and regulations (see, Sustainable Development Goals). Further, since finance is one of the main factors that help smooth operations of firms, providing better access will help improve the performance of female-run firms which in turn contribute to economic growth. Additionally, our study intends to explore an alternative channel through which the innovation of female-owned firms is affected.

Project Description

On the one hand, a monetary contraction will reduce credit availability and economic agents face more financial crunch. On the other hand, the female-owned or managed firms find it more difficult to obtain formal loans compared to male-owned (or managed) firms. This phenomenon is due to the lenders' preferences and beliefs about women (taste-based or prejudicial discrimination), or they use soft information about borrowers while approving loans to cope with asymmetric information problems (statistical discrimination). Given this backdrop, it is important to understand whether a monetary contraction further pushes female-run enterprises to be more financially constrained. In other words, since monetary contraction reduces loanable funds in the economy, financial institutions are more likely to cut short funds for women. Additionally, if the discrimination is purely prejudice-based and not on the real abilities of women, then the differential impact of monetary policy on female- and male-run firms are supposed to be less when the gender gap is lower. As a result, a study on the heterogeneous effect of monetary policy-led discrimination in low- and -high gender gap countries have its significance. Further, innovation is considered one of the major factors that drive economic growth and development. It has long been recognized that technological advancements and industrial innovation drive long-run economic growth. However, an important factor that abstains firms to engage in innovation activities is financial constraints. Therefore, the innovation of female-run firms may be adversely affected (as compared to male-owned firms) due to monetary contraction by the central bank.

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Women Empowerment, Social and Policy Development

Project Title

Effectiveness of Diversity Initiatives in STEM.

**Funding
Requirement
INR- 10L over
2 years**

Objective

- Examine the effect diversity initiatives in organizations help reduce bias in organizations.
- Examine employee perceptions of fairness as an outcome of diversity initiatives
- Examine how diversity initiatives impact social climate and employee outcomes like commitment and engagement.

Impact

Findings from such a study can be used to inform policy makers about how different initiatives are actually perceived by employees in an organization and highlight impact of such policies in perceptions of the organization and employee behavior on the job.

Project Description

Study the effect of diversity initiatives in the workplace.



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Women Empowerment, Social and Policy Development

Project Title

**Gender, Sustainable Development and Circular Economy:
Interrogating the Economies of Labour, Work and Value in Urban
Mumbai Slums.**

**Funding
Requirement
INR- 1Cr over
5 years**

Objective

Realizing the economic and environmental crises of modernity, the study is fundamentally about 'care' and the investment of 'human labour' in understanding 'the value' attached to the margins of poverty within larger within political and economic structures of accumulation and abandonment

Impact

The study would try to build from the point of fundamental dissatisfaction with the consequences of neoliberal economic policy, especially to address the shortcomings of the current circular economy approaches to economic growth. This attempt to an ethnographic framework would be a frontier for human-centred sustainable development that would further show 'inclusion' of circularity indicators into long-term development imperative.

Project Description

The research proposal is an attempt to an anthropological study of the slums in Mumbai, exploring the subjective understandings of the poor migrant populations and their minimum needs, through their engagement in circular economic practices that deals with waste management.



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Women Empowerment, Social and Policy Development

Project Title

Anthropology of Gendered Liminal Identity: Jogappas in Southern India.

**Funding
Requirement
INR- 25L over
5 years**

Objective

Revisiting on 'narrative community' of Jogappas that recounts to new form of consciousness that probably has never recovered before.

Impact

Study of Jogappas that provides concrete details about their experience of being a sexual minority in relation to the wider society and within the community of sexual minorities.

Project Description

The study is an attempt to build on the theoretical evidence to critic the Western imposition of gender theorization in the non-West. Further an approach to methodologically built upon the evidences to an importance to interrogate non-Western, provincial, 'local' understanding of gender transgression. And then, to explain the central area of the research -the jogappas: feminine dressed, feminine desired, temple worshippers who are gravely ostracized.



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Women Empowerment, Social and Policy Development



Project Title

Project Evergreen – Enabling Women in Stem by providing Student housing facilities for women students at IIT Bombay.

**Funding
Requirement
INR- 50 Cr
over 3 years**

Objective

1. Encourage women enrolment in IIT Bombay.
2. Provide state of the art hostel facilities for women students.
3. Build an exclusive hostel to accommodate 368 women students.

Impact

From just 1 women student in 1968 to 24% strength today, IITB has witnessed a dramatic surge in women students. Project Evergreen will enable enroll more women in STEM and provide them with state-of-the-art hostel at IIT Bombay.

Project Description

The first initiative of its kind for the women in the country by Alumni community of IIT Bombay. By 2024 campus will have new hostel complex built as a benchmark for the country – with sustainable living as the foundation.

Project Leads



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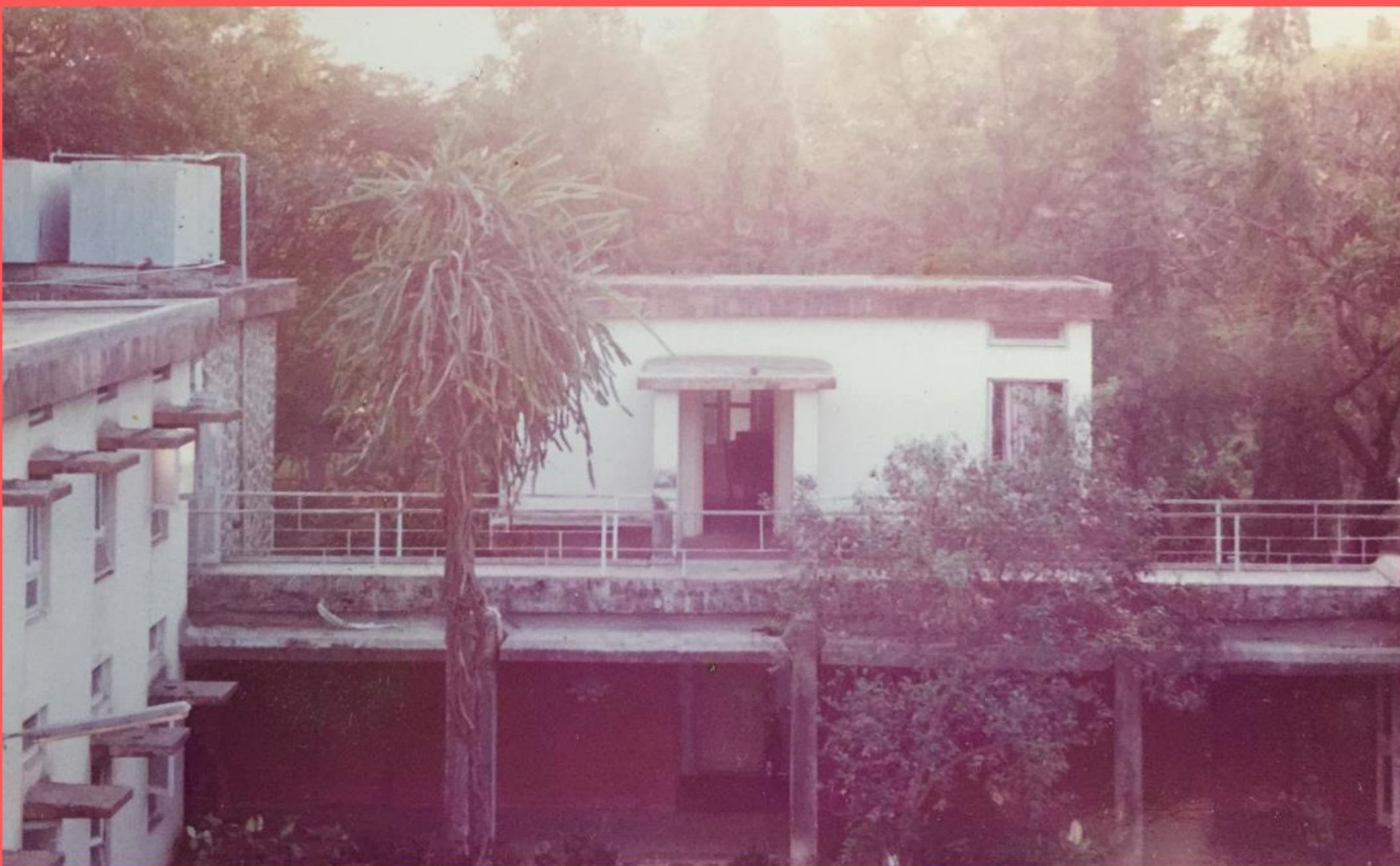
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Women Empowerment, Social and Policy Development



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Women Empowerment, Social and Policy Development

Project Title

Practical Skill development of Electronics Engineering Students through WEL, IIT Bombay

**Funding
Requirement
INR- 60L over
2 years**

Objective

- Provide hands-on experience, expertise to non-IITians
- To leverage the expertise developed in WEL and facilitate skillset to all learners
- Facilitate students to understand the application of theoretical concepts to real scenarios

Impact

- The project will have a very long-lasting impact on the education of the students in the area.
- Other than education, there will be noticeable impact on economy:
 1. Will provide at least 4000 skilled beneficiaries every year through courses and workshops
 2. 500+ extra practical hours for each beneficiary per year
 3. Students get exposure to industry-oriented hardware and resources
 4. A model for providing technology-driven courses to masses in tier-2 and tier-3 cities

Project Description

- WEL offers two courses in massive open online course (MOOC) mode that will help the beneficiaries understand the internal architecture of microcontrollers, digital circuits & the basics of embedded systems. Skills developed in these courses will help students to excel in jobs in digital system testing, verification and design.
- WEL kits shall be delivered to Academic Partners (APs) by suppliers. WEL Team shall provide training to the M-tech students and representatives of APs. After training, the AP will schedule the course on their campus during college vacations. During the course, regular assignments & assessments shall be carried out & an exam shall be conducted at the end of the course. AP shall also conduct workshops in their campus for the neighboring colleges. Students excelling the courses shall be considered for internship with WEL, IITB.

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Detailed Concept Note



Online Lab Report



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