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Editor-in-Chief

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Contact us

www.apijgs.com

[Email-apijgs@gmail.com](mailto:apijgs@gmail.com)

Publishers:

Asha Paras for Peace and Harmony Foundation

A93, Emerald Park city, Bagh Sewaniya, Bhopal,
Madhya Pradesh (India)-462026





Editorial Board

Prof. K. Manimekalai

Senior Professor and Head, Department of Women's Studies, Alagappa University, Tamil Nadu- 630003, India

Email- manimekalaik@alagappauniversity.ac.in

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Former Head & Ex- Pro VC, Munger University, Anta Khoti, Katari Hill Road, Gaya, Bihar-823001, India

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Email- vinita.dhondiyal@gmail.com

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Social Feminist Thinker, Mumbai, (MH)

Email- kusumtripathi1801@gmail.com

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Assistant professor, Department of Ancient History, Culture & Archaeology

Siddharth University, Kapilvastu, Siddharth Nagar (U.P.)- 272202, India.

Email- drvandanagupta@suksn.edu.in

Editor-in-Chief		Editors	
Prof. Asha Shukla ashashukla2006@yahoo.co.in Mob. 9926310987	Dr. Jaya Phookan jayaphookan2017@gmail.com jayakav78@yahoo.co.in Mob: 9826751736	Dr. Kamalaveni drvenibu2013@gmail.com kamalaveni@buc.edu.in Mob: 9344454400	
Managing Editor			
Dr. Ramshankar ramwardha1986@gmail.com Mob. 9890631370			

Preface...

To build a healthy and inclusive society, more equity in terms of resources and opportunities for all the members of the society, especially all genders must be ensured. This is also very important for achieving UN's sustainable development goals 2030 especially goal number 5. India has recognised the equal role of women in society which is evident in constitutional provisions and policies. Several initiatives in the forms of national and state level policies, legal frameworks, and programs have been designed and implemented for advancement of women in the areas of empowerment, social security, access to education and allocation of resources, political representation. Stronger representation of women and agenda setting power has been ensured with the passing of Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam (NSVA) 2013 on women's reservation in Parliament. Recently, The Gender Inequality Index 2022 has been released on the 13th March 2024 by UNDP in their Human Development Report 2023/2024 in which India stands at rank 108 out of 193 countries with a score of 0.437. India stood at rank 122 out of 191 countries with a score of 0.490 in the Gender Inequality Index 2021 which shows a significant jump of 14 ranks on GII 2022 vis-à-vis GII 2021. The *Global Gender Gap Report, 2023* published by the World Economic Forum evaluates the performance of 146 countries on the Global Gender Gap Index, a scale of 0 to 100 which marks countries on the "percentage of the gender gap that has been closed". Countries are ranked as per the current state of gender parity across the four dimensions of economic opportunities, education, health, and political empowerment. India is ranked 127th out of 146 countries with a score of 0.643. In the 2022 report, it was ranked 135th with a score of 0.629. Improvement in some of the indicators is the result of the Government's initiatives spanned across women's lifecycles including large scale initiatives for girls' education, skill development, entrepreneurship facilitation, and safety in the workplace. Overall, these reports and frameworks underscore the importance of addressing gender inequalities to achieve sustainable development and promote inclusive societies. Progress has been made in some areas, but significant challenges remain especially gender-based violence requiring continued efforts and commitment from governments, organizations, and individuals worldwide. The present issue of the Journal includes and highlights diverse issues concerned with women including gender issues. The contributors deserve applause and appreciation for their contribution to the issue. It is hoped that this issue of the Research Journal will be well received by academicians and researchers of gender studies and allied disciplines.



Prof. Asha Shukla
Editor-in-Chief
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