

**SIVA MATHIYAZHAGAN, Ph.D., MSW.**

[sivam@upenn.edu](mailto:sivam@upenn.edu)

***Current Faculty Appointments***

July 2023 – **Research Assistant Professor**

Present      School of Social Policy and Practice | University of Pennsylvania

***Fellowship***

***Pradeep Mehendiratta Fellow*** (2025-26) American Institute of Indian Studies, Chicago, Illinois 60637.

***Senior Fellow*** (2024-27) at the Leonard Davis Institute of Health Economics at the University of Pennsylvania.

***RSM Assembly Fellow*** (2022-23) Institute for Rebooting Social Media at the Berkman Klein Center for Internet & Society, Harvard University.

***Education***

***Postdoctoral Fellow*** | 2022-23 | SAFE Lab | University of Pennsylvania (USA)

*Mentor: Prof. Desmond U. Patton, School of Social Policy and Practice & Annenberg School of Communication, University of Pennsylvania.*

***Postdoctoral Research Scientist*** | 2021-22 | SAFE Lab | Columbia University (USA)

*Mentor: Prof. Desmond U. Patton, Columbia School of Social Work, Columbia University.*

***Ph.D. in Social Work*** | 2015 | Department of Social Work | Pondicherry University (India)

*Dissertation Topic: A Situation Analysis of Community-Based Child Participation and Protection Mechanisms*

*Chair: Prof. Satheesh Kumar, Department of Social Work, Pondicherry University.*

**UGC-NET** | 2010 | University Grants Commission-National Eligibility for Lectureship in Social Work- India

**Master of Social Work (MSW)** | 2010 | Pondicherry University (India)

*Recognized by International Social Work Degree Recognition & Evaluation Service, Council on Social Work Education (CSWE)-USA.*

*Thesis Topic: Implementation of Child Protection Policy in Government Schools of Puducherry*

**Bachelor of Commerce (B. Com)** | 2008 | Tiruvallur University (India)

### ***Work Experience***

#### **Research**

Sept. 2023– **Faculty Associate**

2024              The Berkman Klein Center for Internet & Society  
                    Harvard University

Sept. 2022– [Affiliate](#), The Berkman Klein Center for Internet & Society

Aug. 2023      Harvard University

Sep. 2022–      SAFE Lab | University of Pennsylvania

Present          ***Associate Director - Strategies and Impact***

- Lead transdisciplinary public interest tech research projects.
- Develop new strategies for research and community initiatives.
- Co-develop emerging tech social work policy briefs.
- Managing grants, donor relations, and building partnerships.
- Facilitating student research opportunities at the lab.
- Lead & write grant proposals for lab projects with the interdisciplinary team.
- Research Publications

Feb. 2020–      SAFE Lab | Columbia University

August 2022 ***Associate Director- Strategies and Impact***

- Lead transdisciplinary public interest tech research projects.
- Develop new strategies for research and community initiatives.
- Co-develop emerging tech social work policy briefs.
- Managing grants, donor relations, and building partnerships.
- Facilitating student research opportunities at the lab.
- Lead & write grant proposals for lab projects with the interdisciplinary team.
- Research Publications

Sept. 2018- SAFE Lab | Columbia University

Jan. 2020 ***Affiliate Researcher***

- Co-develop emerging tech social work policy briefs.
- Facilitating student research opportunities at the lab.
- Lead & write grant proposals for lab projects with the interdisciplinary team.
- Research Publications

### **Practice**

Dec. 2018- Trust for Youth and Child Leadership (TYCL) International Inc.

Present ***Founder-Director***

- Lead evidence-based youth-led community development projects in Asia, the USA, and South America.
- Develop social innovations around child rights, youth mental health, public interest tech, and gender justice.
- Raised over a million USD for social projects.
- Document and disseminate evidence-based practices with/for young people.

Mar. 2011- Trust for Youth and Child Leadership (TYCL) - India

March 2021 ***Founder-Director***

- Build and managed 150+ volunteers and management team for 13 youth-led projects.
- Established a publication unit and creative hub for young people's creativity.
- Raised over a million dollars for youth-led initiatives.

- Document and disseminate evidence-based practices with/for young people.
- Co-developed curricula for holistic self-defense for girls and positive masculinity for boys.
- Instituted young social change maker awards, child leader awards, and child-friendly awards.

Sept. 2018- United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)

Present ***TYCL Main Representative*** to the UN Headquarters in New York, Geneva, and Vienna.

- Submitted written and oral policy statements for budget allocations for youth mental health in the global south.
- Organized side events for the UN Commission on the Status of Women, UN Youth Forum, and UN Indigenous People's Forum.
- Actively participated in the UN General Assembly, UN Commission on the Status of Women, UN Youth Forum, UN Indigenous People's Forum, Commission for Social Development, SDG Fair, and Civil Society Forums.

### **Teaching**

Sept. 2019- **Lecturer & Field Instructor** in Social Work

May 2026 Columbia School of Social Work  
20+ Graduate students' field placement supervisions and assessments for general practice, social entrepreneurship, and policy concentrations.

Sept. 2016- **Guest Faculty - Department of Social Work | Pondicherry University**

May 2017 Faculty for Human Rights and Social Legislations | Social Work with Communities | Social Entrepreneurship and Social Work Practice

June 2015- 2018 **Indira Gandhi National Open University | Pondicherry Study Centre**  
Social Work Academic Counsellor | MSW Field Work Facilitation | MSW Research Facilitation

### ***Recent Research Grants***

2025-26      American Institute of Indian Studies - Digital Scholarship Grant  
Developing an AI-driven Web Plugin for Culturally Responsive Assessment of Youth Suicidal Expressions on Social Media in India – A pilot project  
*Co-Principal Investigator*  
*Direct Costs: \$15,000*

2024-25      *HopeLab – JoyNet*  
*Co-Principal Investigator*  
*Direct Costs: \$50,000*  
*Partners: The University of Pennsylvania | Children's Hospital of Philadelphia (CHOP)*

2024-25      *Penn -The Kleinman Center for Energy Policy*  
  
*Heat Stress and Urban Resilience: how should we plan for the increasing cooling needs of vulnerable urban communities?*  
  
*Co-Principal Investigator*  
*Direct Costs: \$15,000*  
*Partners: The University of Pennsylvania - School of Design | School of Engineering and Applied Sciences | School of Nursing*

2023-24      **Penn4C** - Community Collaboratory for Co-Creation Designing technology for social justice & health  
Digital Healing: Co-Creating Youth Digital Creative Arts Space for Community Wellbeing  
*Principal Investigator | Direct Costs: \$60,000*

*Partners: The University of Pennsylvania - School of Social Policy and Practice | School of Engineering and Applied Sciences | School of Nursing | Creative Resilient Youth (CRY)*

2022-23 ***Microsoft - The AI for Accessibility***

*JoyNet: An inclusive culturally responsive digital community mental health hub*

*Co-Principal Investigator*

*Direct Costs: \$145,000*

*Partners: The University of Pennsylvania | Columbia University -Computer Science & Engineering | Children's Hospital of Philadelphia ( CHOP) | The Center for Black Wellbeing (CBW)*

2022-23 ***Notre Dame-IBM Technology Ethics Lab (Lab)***

*InterpretMe 2.0: A Web Tool for Community-Centered Interpretation of Social Media Posts*

*Co-Principal Investigator*

*Direct Costs: \$25,000*

2022-24 ***Sristi Foundation***

Exploring living and work experiences of persons with intellectual disabilities in Sristi Village: A community-centered participatory research

Direct cost: INR 1500,000

Partner: Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai, India.

2021-22 ***Brown Institute- Magic Grant | Columbia School of Journalism & Stanford University School of Engineering***

*Interpret Me: An Immersive Simulation Education for Community-Centered Understand of Social Media Content*

*Co-Principal Investigator*

*Direct Costs: \$100,000*

*Partners: MIT-Teaching Systems Lab | SAFE Lab – Columbia University |  
Stanford – Social Media Lab | Brownsville Community Justice Center (BCJC)*

### **Tech Policy Publications**

Mathiyazhagan, S., Tong , E., Houck , E., Terefe , B., & U. Patton , D. (2026-In Review). AGI for Collective Well-Being: A Policy Vision for Responsible Innovation in Social Work Lens . *ITU Journal on Future and Evolving Technologies*.

Mathiyazhagan, S., Nazzaro, L., & Patton, D. U. (2025-In Press). Generative AIs and Youth Wellbeing Policy: A call for a trauma-informed culturally responsive safety framework. *Nature Mental Health*.

Mathiyazhagan, S., Jha R, S., Patton, D. U. (2024) Towards just and equitable Web3: social work recommendations for inclusive practice of AI policies AI & SOCIETY <https://doi.org/10.1007/s00146-024-01994-0>

Mathiyazhagan, S. (2023) [A call for algorithmic justice for SC/STs](#). The Indian Express.

Mathiyazhagan, S., Salam, M., Willis, H. A., & Patton, D. U. (2022) [Social Work in Metaverse: Addressing Tech Policy Gaps for Racial and Mental Health Equity](#). Internet Policy Review.

Mathiyazhagan, S., Kleiner, S., & Patton, D. (2021, March 16). [To Make Good Policy on AI, Talk to Social Workers](#). *Tech Policy Press*.

### ***Selected Publications***

**Mathiyazhagan**, Siva, Yixi Zhou, and Desmond U Patton, 'Child Participation in AI Governance: Advancing Rights-Based Approaches to Technology Policy' (22 Aug. 2025), in Philipp Hacker (ed.), *Oxford Intersections: AI in Society* (Oxford, online edn, Oxford Academic, 20 Mar. 2025 ),  
<https://doi.org/10.1093/9780198945215.003.0092>

Landau, A. Y., Espeleta, H., **Mathiyazhagan, S.**, Blanchard, A., Heider, P., Cato, K., Hanson, R. F., Patton, D. U., Lenert, L., & Topaz, M. (2025). Participation of Marginalized Youth in Designing a Machine Learning-Based Model to Identify Child Abuse and Neglect. In: Christakis, D.A., Hale, L. (eds) *Handbook of Children and Screens*. Springer, Cham.  
[https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-031-69362-5\\_41](https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-031-69362-5_41)

Desmond U. Patton, Aviv Y. Landau, and **Siva Mathiyazhagan (2024)** ChatGPT for Social Work  
Science: Ethical Challenges and Opportunities, *Journal of the Society for Social Work and Research* <https://doi.org/10.1086/726042>

Aguilar, N., Landau, A., **Mathiyazhagan, S.**, Auyeng, A., Dillard, S., Patton, D. (2023). Applying Reflexivity to Artificial Intelligence for Researching Marginalized Communities and Real-World Problems. *In Proceedings of the 56<sup>th</sup> Hawaii International Conference on System Sciences*.

**Mathiyazhagan, S.**, Raj, F. K., Fitrianingsih, K., Raja, V. & Mayom, D. (2023). Addressing Socioeconomic Determinants of Youth Suicidal Ideation: Lessons from a Youth Development Approach in India. *Community Mental Health Journal*, 1–14.  
<https://doi.org/10.1007/s10597-023-01177-z>

**Mathiyazhagan, S.** & La Fors, K. (2022). Children's Right to Participation in AI: Transnational Co-Creative Approaches to Foster Inclusive AI Policy and Practice. *Information Polity*. <https://content.iospress.com/articles/information-polity/ip229014>

Ramalingam, K., Jiar, Y. K., & **Mathiyazhagan, S.** (2022). Speaking Skills Enhancement through Digital Storytelling among Primary School Students in Malaysia. *International Journal of Learning, Teaching and Educational Research*, 21(3), 22–35.  
<https://doi.org/10.26803/ijlter.21.3.2>

**Mathiyazhagan, S.** (2021). Field Practice, Emerging Technologies, and Human Rights: The Emergence of Tech Social Workers. *Journal of Human Rights and Social Work*.  
<https://doi.org/10.1007/s41134-021-00190-0>

Patton, D. U., **Mathiyazhagan, S.**, & Landau, A. Y. (2021). Meet Them Where They Are: Social Work Informed Considerations for Youth Inclusion in AI Violence Prevention Systems. In Algorithmic Rights and Protections for Children.  
<https://doi.org/10.1162/ba67f642.646d0673>

**Mathiyazhagan, S.**, & Wang, Z. (2021). N'KaNa-my dream: community action towards holistic child development in India. *Children and Youth Services Review*, 122, 105924.  
<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.childyouth.2021.105924>

**Mathiyazhagan, S.** (2020). Participatory Youth-Led Community Development: A Child-Centered Visual SWOT Analysis in India. *Children and Youth Services Review*, 104963.  
<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.childyouth.2020.104963>

**Mathiyazhagan, S.** (2014). Gender, Caste, and Violence: Are Dalit Women Vulnerable? *Journal of Social Vision*, 217-226.

**Mathiyazhagan, S.** (2012). A Child Right-Based Critical Analysis of Crime Against Children: Issues and Measures for Community-Based Child Protection. *Indian Journal of Human Rights and the Law*, 9(2), 147-158.

**Mathiyazhagan, S.** (2012). **Women Self Help Group (SHG) Federations; A Positive Tool for Sustainable Community Development.** *Journal of Integrated Community Health*, 01(01), 60-66.

### **Book Chapters**

Mathiyazhagan , S., & Raja, V., Yadama, N.G. (2025- In Press). AI in Environmental Social Work and Climate Change . In Artificial Intelligence in Social Work: Bridging Technology and Humanity. Springer.

Mathiyazhagan, S., & Shah, S. (2025). Unfiltered: The Way Forward. *Unfiltered: Mental Health Stories from the Margins*,. Mariwala Health Initiative.

[https://mhi.org.in/media/insight\\_files/Zine\\_Final\\_April\\_2025.pdf](https://mhi.org.in/media/insight_files/Zine_Final_April_2025.pdf)

Mathiyazhagan, S., & Landau, A.Y., Sampong, C., & Patton, D.U., (2025) Big Data in Social Work Practice, Social work and technology: A practical guide for using technology in social work practice.

Kelly, K., Shah, S., Vanathayaraj, H., & Mathiyazhagan, S. (2025-In Review). Youth-Led Mobile Mental Health Clinic: Addressing Accessibility and Affordability Gaps in Mental Health Service in India. *Administration and Policy in Mental Health & Mental Health Services Research*.

**Mathiyazhagan, S.**, Vanathayaraj, H. P., Govindhasamy, R., & Kulandai Raj, F. (2023). Youth Volunteerism and Disaster Risk Reduction in Puducherry: Experiences and Lessons from Youth-Led Community Action for COVID-19 Pandemic. In *Engaging Youth & Adolescents in Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) & Climate Change Adaptation*. National Institute of Disaster Management.

Gabel, Shirley Gatenio; **Mathiyazhagan, S.** (2020). Using evidence to protect and promote human rights in the UN system. *Behavioral Science in the Global Arena, Volume 1: Addressing Timely Issues at the United Nations and Beyond* (1st ed.; E. P. Congress, H.

Takooshian, & Asper Abigail, eds.). Retrieved from  
<https://www.infoagepub.com/series/International-Psychology>

**Mathiyazhagan, S. (2012). Community-Based Child Protection for Street Children: Issues and Measures.** In R. Mangaleswaran, *Social Development in India: Retrospect and Prospects*. New Delhi: Authors Press.

**Mathiyazhagan, S. (2012). Life Skill Education: A Path to Positive Social Transformation of Children in Puducherry.** In R. Nair, *Optimizing Positive Strength Through Life Skills*. New Delhi, India: Excel India Publication.

**Mathiyazhagan, S. (2012). Rural Women Federations: A Path to Sustainable Social Transformations.** S. Jenetius, *Rural Empowerment for Sustainable Development* (pp. 382-387). Chennai, India: Hickey Media India Publication.

**Mathiyazhagan, S. (2011). Child Protection Measures and Policies in Government Schools of Puducherry: Child Rights Perspective.** Khan, *Anatomy of Public Policy Reforms and Development*. New Delhi: Macmillan Publications - India. Ltd.

### ***Forthcoming Publications***

Siva Mathiyazhagan, Yixi Zhou, Christiana Rose Dillard, Tiffany Younger, Michael Esquea Jimenez, Naailah Frazier, Zuleka Ru-Glo Henderson, Henry A. Willis, Lydia Chilton, Ran Barzilay, Harry West, Desmond U. Patton. (n.d.). JoyNet: An Experience of Co-Designing Culturally Responsive Digital Mental Hub with Black Youth . *New Media & Society*.

Mathiyazhagan, S., Landau, A. Y., & Ren, T., Pilla, P., Patton, D. U. (Review). Leveraging Racial Equity-Centered Approaches to Qualitative Methods to Create More Just Data Practices. *AI & Ethics*.

Mathiyazhagan, S., & Patton, D. U. (Forthcoming). Community-Centered Research and Practice in Social Media: Pathways to Amplify Historically Marginalized Voices for Social Justice. *Social Media and Society*.

Mathiyazhagan, S., & Patton, D. U. (Forthcoming). Interpret Me: An Immersive Simulation for Community-Centered Interpretation of Social Media Posts by Youth of Color. *Social Media and Society*.

Mathiyazhagan, S., Fitrianingsih, K., & Kulandai Raj, F. (Forthcoming). Holistic Self-Defense for Gender Justice: A Girls-Led Intervention In India. *Gender and Society*.

Mathiyazhagan, S., Shah, S., Fitrianingsih, K., Vanathayaraj, H. P., Govindhasamy, R., & Panchayutham, Y. (Forthcoming). Youth-Led Mobile Mental Health Clinic: Addressing Access and Affordability Gaps in Mental Health Services in India. *Community Mental Health Journal*.

### ***Invited Lectures***

January 2026 | SSWR – RoundTable Organizer & Speaker - Emerging Technology and Social Work for Marginalized Voices: Potential Opportunities, Challenges, and Future Directions

January 2026 | SSWR – Symposia - Speaker - Macro-Level Synergies: AI Interventions for Social, Economic, and Environmental Justice

September 2025 | UNICEF – Expert Consultation for the Children's best interests in a digital world project. Office of Strategy and Evidence – Innocenti.

September 2025 | Session Chair - Artificial Intelligence, Data Protection and Online Safety – Second International Conference on AI and Child Rights, South Africa.

September 2025 | Keynote Speaker – Global Summer School organized by Global Consortium of Global Health – India

September 2025 | Invited speaker for KUTUNGA – Cultural Sensitivity and Contextual Design, Organized by MtotoNews, Kenya.

March 2025 | Co-Panel Member Speaker, AI & Social Work at the Social Work Day Celebrations at the United Nations, organized by IASSW & IFSW.

March 2025 | Panelist Judge, 10th Annual CSP Symposium, University of Pennsylvania

February 2024 | Invited Speaker | **Responsible Tech Summit** at the Union Stage, Washington DC organized by All Tech Is Human.

December 2023 | Co-Panel Member | **Co-Creation of Practice-Knowledge Interface in Research on People with Intellectual Disabilities** | Indian Journal of Social Work -Tata Institute of Social Sciences Roundtable, India.

March 2023 | Invited Speaker | **AI & Social Work: Opportunities and Obstacles for the Future of Social Work** at the Department of Social Work, Kalasalingam Academy of Research and Education, India.

January 2023 | Workshop | **Community-Centered Research and Practice in Social Media: Pathways to Amplify Historically Marginalized Voices for Social Justice** at the RSM Assembly Fellowship Mid-term session, The Berkman Klein Center for Internet & Society, Harvard University.

October 2021 | Keynote Speaker | **COVID-19 & Tech Social Work Practice for Youth Mental Health** at the Colombian Social Workers Day Celebration in the Universidad Santiago de Cali, Colombia.

March 2021 | Invited Speaker | ***Identity and social determinants of youth suicide in India*** at the Eastern Psychology Association International symposium in New York.

March 2020 | Guest Speaker | ***Adolescents Wellbeing and Emotional Extremisms on Social Media*** at the New School, New York.

October 2019 | Expert talk | ***Emerging Technology and Media for Youth Suicide Prevention: learning from India and the US*** at the UN NGO Committee on Mental Health, UN HQ New York.

March 2019 | Keynote Speaker | ***IFSW Student Forum, World Social Work Day at the United Nations***, New York.

March 2019 | Guest Speaker | ***Women in Non-formal Financial Institutions and Impact Investments*** at the Columbia School of Social Work, New York.

February 2019 | Guest Speaker | ***Youth-led Safe and Inclusive Spaces for Young People*** at the School of Social Services, Fordham University.

February 2019 | Guest Speaker | ***Adolescents and Emotional Extremism on Social Media*** at the New School, New York.

December 2017 | Workshops | ***Life Skills for Youth Development*** at the Department of Social Work, Pondicherry University & Rajiv Gandhi National Institute of Youth Development. Chennai, India.

August 2017 | Orientation Program for the MSW students | ***Self-Employment in Social Work: The Emerging Scope and Trends*** for Department of Social Work, Pondicherry University. Puducherry, India.

July 2017 | Orientation Program for MSW students | ***Introduction to Social Work Values and Ethics for Practice*** Department of Social Work, Bharathiar University. Coimbatore, India.

March 2017 | International Social Work Day Celebration Special Address | **Promoting Community and Environmental Sustainability** | Kerala Professional Social Work Association, Kannur, Kerala, India.

January 2015 | Orientation Program on Financial Management and Raising Capital for SC/ST Youth in the Union Territory of Puducherry. “**Idea Generation to Business Plan**” organized by the Department of Social Work, Pondicherry University, and the Department for Socially and Economically Disadvantaged Youth, Rajiv Gandhi National Institute of Youth Development. Chennai, India.

January 2013 | International Conference on Protection of Child Rights: Issues and Challenges. “**Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act 2012**” Hosted by the Department of Applied Psychology, Pondicherry University. Puducherry, India.

#### ***Selected Presentations***

January 2026 | Mathiyazhagan, S., & Arunagiri, V. (2026) Poster Presentation on Evaluating Cyber Safety and Digital Citizenship for Public School Students in Puducherry, India in the SSWR, Washington, DC.

September 2025 | Mathiyazhagan, S., & Desmond U. P., (20205) Child Participation in AI Governance: Advancing Rights-Based Approaches to Technology Policy at the 2nd International Conference on Children’s Rights 2025, organized by the Faculty of Law, Stellenbosch University, South Africa.

September 2025 | Mathiyazhagan, S., & Arunagiri, V. (2025). Cyber Hygiene and Digital Safety Education for Government School Students in Puducherry, India at the 2nd International Conference on Children’s Rights 2025, organized by the Faculty of Law, Stellenbosch University, South Africa.

July 2025 | Mathiyazhagan, S., & Arunagiri, V. (2025). Digital literacy for young minds: Evaluating cyber hygiene and digital safety education for public school students in Puducherry, India. *2025 Digital Media and Developing Minds International Scientific Congress, Washington, DC*.

Feb 2025 | Adithya, MR., Mathiyazhagan, S., Poster Presentation in Global Mental Health in Asia 2025 Symposium, Singapore: Puducherry Youth Helpline: A Youth-Led Innovation for Addressing Social Determinants of Youth Suicidality in Puducherry, India.

Feb 2025 | Seleen., Mathiyazhagan, S., Poster Presentation in Global Mental Health in Asia 2025 Symposium, Singapore: Community Mental Health Camp: A Comprehensive Community-Based Strategy for Preventing Youth Suicide in Puducherry, India.

Mathiyazhagan, S., Ngan, A., Feng, E., Alvarez, A., Kaul, M., Lee, S., Choi, S. S. K., & Guntuku, C. (2024). Digital healing: Co-designing with youth for digital creative arts space for community mental wellbeing. *Conference Proceedings of the International Conference on Human Factors in Design, Engineering, and Computing (AHFE 2024 Hawaii Edition), Honolulu, Hawaii*.

Vinayagam, K., Adhithya, M. R., & **Mathiyazhagan, S. (2024)**. Mobile mental health clinic: A community-based youth suicide prevention strategy in rural Puducherry, India. *Conference Proceedings of the International Association for Suicide Prevention's 11th Asia Pacific Conference (APAC), Bangkok*.

June 2024 | Vinayagam, K., Adithya, MR., Mathiyazhagan, S., (2024) Mobile Mental Health Clinic: A Community-Based Youth Suicide Prevention Strategy in Rural Puducherry, India will be presented in the 11<sup>th</sup> International Association of Suicide Prevention Asia Pacific Conference 3-6 June 2024 in Bangkok, Thailand.

December 2023 | Unni C.K., Mathiyazhagan, S., Ganesan, K., Juvva, S., (2023) Compassionate Connections: Exploring Multifaceted Care Practices at Sristi Village paper presented at the Indian Institute of Technology, Hyderabad, India.

September 2022 | Global Conference on Children and Youth. Presented a paper on *Youth-Led Mobile Mental Health Clinic: Addressing Access and Affordability Gaps in Mental Health Services in India*, Cambridge, UK.

June 2022 | International Federation of Social Workers (IFSW) The People's Global Summit. Co-building a New Eco-Social World: Leaving No One Behind. Presented a paper on ***Global Tech Social Work: Addressing Algorithmic Inequalities for Social Equity*** from 29th June to 2nd July 2022 – Online.

September 2019 | International Federation of Social Workers Europe Conference on Social Protection Human Dignity. Presented paper on **“Participatory Youth-Led Community Development: A Child-Centered Visual SWOT Analysis in India”** in Vienna, Austria, between the 9th - 11th of September 2019.

June 2017 | The 16th Biennial Conference of the Society for Community Research and Action (Division 27 of the American Psychological Association) in partnership with the Global Alliance for Behavioral Health and Social Justice (GABHSJ). **“Poittu Varen: Relational and Ethical Practices for Translocal Community Partnerships.”** Co-hosted by the University of Ottawa and Wilfrid Laurier University. Ontario, Canada.

June 2017 | The 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Learning Institute’s Conference on Children’s Rights: Building Resilience, Protecting from Harm, and Fostering Well-Being among our World’s Children. **“Community-Based Child Protection in India: A Satellite View of Social Workers.”** Hosted by Millersville University Learning Institute. Pennsylvania, USA.

March 2017 | National Conference on Women in the Changing World of Work: Planet 50-50 by Promoting UN SDGs, The Global Agenda 2030. **“The Waste or Women?”** Organized by the UN Information Centre for India and Bhutan. Guntur, AP, India.

February 2012 | National Young Scholars Colloquium on the State of Research on Human Rights: Prospective and Retrospective. **“A child right based grave scrutinizes of Non-registered crime against Children in Pondicherry.”** Organized by the Centre for Human Rights, University of Hyderabad. Hyderabad, India.

July 2011| International Conference on Students’ Mental Health: Issues and Challenges. **“Awareness of Child Protection Policy Among the Govt. School Teachers of Puducherry.”** Organized by the Department of Applied Psychology, Pondicherry University. Puducherry, India.

February 2011 | International Conference on the Relevance of Policy Reforms on Development: Challenges before Emerging Economics. **“Child Protection Measures and Policies in Government Schools in Puducherry: Child Rights Perspective.”** Organized by the Department of Social Work, Jamia Millia Islamia. New Delhi, India.

February 2011| Indian Association for Social Sciences and Health (IASSH) 8th Conference on Health, Environment, and Sustainable Development. **“Ecological Child Rights and Sustainable Development: A Child Rights Perspective.”** Organized by the Department of Populations Studies and Social Work, Sri Venkateshwara University. Tirupati, India.

January 2011| National Conference on Social Development in India: New Vistas and Challenges. **“Community-Based Child Protection for Street Children in Puducherry.”** Organized by the Department of Social Work, Bharathithasan University. Tiruchirapalli, India.

March 2010 | National Conference on Inclusive Perspective for the Development of the Schedule Tribes in India. **“SSA: Empowering Tribal Children?”** Organized by Pondicherry University. Puducherry, India.

January 2010 | National Seminar on Human Rights. “***Implementation of Child Protection Policy in Government Schools of Puducherry: A Child Rights Perspective.***” Organized by Periyar University. Salem, India.

### **Selected Training Program**

2024 | Workshop | AI Civil Rights and Human Rights: Visioning the Future of Rights in AI Governance | A Policy Roundtable & Publication Workshop, April 9-10, 2024. NYU-WASHINGTON, DC. AI in Society: Oxford Intersections, Oxford University Press | NYU Center for Critical Race & Digital Studies (CR+DS) | NYU Alliance for Public Interest Technology | New America, Public Interest Technology University Network (PIT-UN) | William & Mary Law School Digital Democracy Lab.

2022 | Workshop on **Racial Equity in Technology Entrepreneurship (RETE)** by Berkley Center for Entrepreneurship – NYU Stern School of Business powered by The Kauffman Foundation and The Center for Critical Race and Digital Studies, NYU.

2015 | Regional Consultative Workshop on **Psychosocial Care for Children in Difficult Circumstances** Organized by the National Institute of Mental Health and Neurosciences (NIMHANS). Bangalore, India.

2012 | ***CENSUS-2011 Data Dissemination Workshop on Houses, Household Amenities, and Assets.*** Organized by the Department of Geography, Bharathidasan University. Thiruchirappalli, India.

2012 | ***Workshop on Micro Skill Training in Research & Statistics.*** Organized by the Research Colloquium, Department of Social Work, Pondicherry University. Puducherry, India.

2011 | ***10-Day Research Methodology Course in Social Sciences.*** Organized by Bharati Vidyapeeth Deemed University. Pune, India.

2010 | Habitat Seminar Series on ***Harnessing the Strengths of the Voluntary Sector for Enhancing Delivery Capacities***. Organized by India Habitat Centre, New Delhi. Pondicherry, India.

2011 | ***10-Day Training Course on Methodology of Social Science Research***. Organized by the Department of Politics and International Studies, Pondicherry University. Pondicherry, India.

2011 | ***The use of Statistical Software in Social Work Research***. Organized by the Department of Social Work, Pondicherry University. Puducherry, India.

#### ***International Programs***

2012 | Participation in ***the International Leadership Training program: A Global Intergenerational Forum***, organized by UNESCO, the Institute of Comparative Human Rights, and Mahidol University. Bangkok, Thailand.

2011 | Honors10 Speaker at the ***University of California Riverside, Claremont School of Theology***, and ***the University of La Sierra*** with support from the Honors Program, University of California, and Child Leader Project. California, USA.

2011 | Participation in the ***Clinton Global Initiative University Conference***, organized by the Bill Clinton Foundation and the University of California, San Diego. California, USA.

#### ***Editorial Board Member***

Nature Springer | *Journal on Human Rights and Social Work (JHRW)*

#### ***Peer Reviewer***

Nature Springer | *AI and Ethics*

Taylor & Francis Group | *Journal of Technology in Human Services*

ELSEVIER | *Children and Youth Service Review*

BRILL | *Youth Voice Journal (YVJ) UK*

### ***Tech Products***

[InterpretMe](#) | [JoyNet](#) | [Youth Helpline](#) | [N'KaNa](#) | [Digital Healing](#)

### ***Social Innovations***

- **EcoRights** – An online game for Ecological Child Rights
- **Village Innovation and Incubation Lab (ViiL)** with STREAM curriculum in India
- **Youth Helpline with Mobile Application** – A Safe Space for Youth Feelings!
- **N' KaNa with mobile application** – Mentorship Program Children in Difficult Circumstances
- **INAGI: A Visual SWOT** – Child-Centred Visual Media-Based SWOT for Community Development
- **Holistic Self-Defense for Girls** – An E-Learning Curriculum and Web tool for Simulation Learning

### ***Media Production – Creative Head***

[Makku](#) – A short film on Social disability in children's education and creativity (3.1+M views on YouTube)

[Kanam](#) – A short film on socio-economic determinants of youth suicidality

[Ratham](#) – A short film on Accessibility

[Aathiyan](#) – A child-centered visual SWOT

Towards Justice – An audio album by children

### ***Selected Media Coverages***

[Unfiltered: Mental Health Stories from the Margins](#)

[Penn Today & The Daily Pennsylvanian](#)

[Racist, sexist, casteist: Is AI bad news for India?](#)

[Responsible Tech Guide by All Tech is Human](#)

[Creative Arts for Positive Mental Health – Williamsport Sun-Gazette](#)

[Youth helpline mobile app launched in Puducherry - The Hindu](#)  
[Overcoming childhood trauma through art - The Hindu](#)  
[Why Does a Quaint Town in India Have the World's Highest Suicide Rate -OZY](#)  
[Working Together to Prevent Suicide | Dianova International](#)  
[Reaching out to youth to build a volunteers' network - The Hindu](#)  
[Behind Puducherry's suicide problem - Livemint](#)  
[Child Sex Tourism Big Business in UT: Study](#)  
[UT to Probe Child Sex Tourism Claim- The New Indian Express](#)

### *Awards & Recognitions*

2025 Digital Scholarship Award - American Institute of Indian Studies.

2015 **Best Youth Award**  
Youth Educational Centre, Sri Aurobindo International Institute of Educational Research (SAIIER). Auroville, India.

2010 **Senior Research Fellowship for Doctoral Research (Ph.D. Fully funded)**  
University Grants Commission. New Delhi, India.

2008 **Merit Scholarship for Professional Courses for MSW program (MSW Fully funded)**  
University Grants Commission. New Delhi, India.

### *Memberships*

**Program Committee Member**, AMC Conference on Equity and Access in Algorithms, Mechanisms, and Optimization (EAAMO 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024)

**Active Member** of the Association of Internet Researchers (AoIR)

**Active Member** of the American Psychological Association (APA)

**Active Member** of the International Association of Suicide Prevention (IASP)

**Executive Member-at-Large**, UN NGO Committee on Mental Health (2020-2023)

**Convener** – The UN NGO Working Group on Children, Youth, and Mental Health (2020-2024)

**International Member** of Society for Community Research and Action- Division 27 of the American Psychological Association.

**Founding Board Member** of Puducherry Professional Social Workers Forum (PPSWF), India

**Life Member** of the National Association of Professional Social Workers in India (NAPSWI)

**Life Member** of the Indian Association for Social Sciences and Health (IASSH)

***Languages***

Tamil & English

*A self-made and motivated social work practitioner-scholar, thought leader, speaker, social tech policy analyst, institution builder, and a rational community worker with proven leadership across transnational borders.*

*Last updated January 2026*