

ISS Membership No. : LMI- 3601
Number and Name of RC: Adhoc Group- 04: Mother and Motherhood
Title of the Abstract: Studying Motherhood: Issues on Methodological Pluralism
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Studying Motherhood: Issues on Methodological Pluralism

ABSTRACT

Motherhood is so simple but a vexed complex concept. Motherhood is a social reality which is to be visualized, conceptualized and analysed from different perspectives of social paradigm. The study of motherhood needs to be contextualised. The contextualisation of study of motherhood needs the approach of methodological pluralism and various issues therein. Methodological pluralism or epistemological pluralism refers to different ways of knowing things, different methodologies i.e. multimethodologies for attaining a full description of a particular field. It expresses the view that no social phenomenon can be explained by a single theory. So, theorizing sociology of motherhood and conceptualizing different concepts of motherhood necessitates multi-methodological approach to know what motherhood is and motherhood's multi-ramifications in different societal and cultural contexts. The particularistic approach to study motherhood requires specific historical contexts within which mothering takes place and is influenced by different social locations. On the other hand, the universalist approach to 'motherhood study' aims at identifying what mothers do, rather than how they feel. It emphasizes on maternal practices. So, studying and theorizing sociology of motherhood demands methodological pluralism.

Membership No. : LMI-2890

Number and Name of RC: Adhoc Group- 04: Mother and Motherhood

Title of the Abstract: Children's Rights in the Context of Changing Notion
of Motherhood: Issues and Concerns

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Children's Rights in the Context of Changing Notion of Motherhood: Issues and Concerns

ABSTRACT

The concept of children's rights came into effect from '90s of the last century. The values of the society are changing rapidly. As society moves forward, its basic institutions, culture and values are altered continuously. Values are changed not only from generation to generation but also it creates differences among classes, castes, localities etc. of the same generation. Possibly, a silent revolution is taking place in every sphere of the society. Children's rights are becoming significant because mothers are entering into the workforce. Upsurge of individualism has created room for women's movement. It started against the oppression of the patriarchy. Feminism provided the necessary ideological backup to this. The activists of women's movement viewed gender inequality as the result of patriarchal and sexist pattern of the division of labour. As the women movement gathered momentum, they became aware of their rights. Side by side they also became conscious about their children's rights. But today the concept of motherhood has expanded its journey into new dimension. Many women do not want to identify themselves as mother. Career oriented women sometimes, perhaps, deny the notion of motherhood. In this changing circumstances, children, probably, do not recognise as the boon for them. The question regarding children's rights arises here. The present paper tries to explore the rights of the children in the changing facet of motherhood in theoretical perspectives.

Membership No. : M - 2338

Number and Name of RC: Adhoc Group- 04: Mother and Motherhood

Title of the Abstract: **Wombs on Rent**

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Wombs on Rent

(Sociology of Surrogacy: Surrogacy Act 2016 ,Role of the State and Civil Society and its Impact on Indian Society.)

ABSTRACT

Mothers are women who inhabit or perform the role of bearing some relation to their children, who may or may not be their biological offspring. Thus, dependent on the context, women can be considered mothers by virtue of giving birth, by raising their children. Woman cherishes the experience of motherhood. But unfortunately, some women due to certain conditions are not able to give birth to their own off-spring. This desire for motherhood leads them to search for alternative solutions, like adoption or surrogacy.No doubt surrogacy is a technical marvel, but All India Women's Conference (AIWC) strongly feels that this is exploitation of a woman's body and must be stopped immediately. In India there is a social stigma for the surrogate mothers as she is renting her womb for money in general. However, the changing face of law is now going to usher in a new rent-a-womb law as commercial surrogacy was legalized in India in 2002. Surrogate motherhood has raised complex ethical and legal issues, and lawsuits over custody after the child's birth have resulted from both types of surrogacy. This paper makes an attempt to raise surrogacy related questions like its legal basis in India, issues of the child born to an Indian surrogate mother and the questions mother's identity etc. Such questions need thorough analysis before any policy relating to surrogacy is designed and legal provisions are made.

Membership No. : M - 2338

Membership No. : LMI -1130

Number and Name of RC: Adhoc Group- 04: Mother and Motherhood

Title of the Abstract: **Bias-Free Motherhood from Male-Female Differences: A Study on Few Tribes in Paschim Midnapur, West Bengal**

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Bias-Free Motherhood from Male-Female Differences: A Study on Few Tribes in Paschim Midnapur, West Bengal

ABSTRACT

Tribal societies are more closed to nature. Male-female differences are seen biologically, and various social roles and prescriptions are attached to male and female differently which they accept for maintaining their tradition and culture. These tribal people are controlled by patriarchy but the girls are not treated as 'second sex' as defined by Simone-de-Beauvoir. Their day to day life struggle often minimizes the socially assigned subordinate status for females. Males and female have various social roles but these are mostly distributed equally among them without creating any major male-female differences for their survival.

This paper is an attempt to find out the mothers' attitude towards their children since their birth. The mothers of five tribal groups like the Santal, Lodha, Munda, Kora and Mahali are studied and their attitude have been expressed through this study. From all the tribal population of the Santal, Lodha, Munda, Kora and Mahali, 150 mothers from each group, totalling 750 mothers have been interviewed purposively from Paschim Midnapur district of West Bengal. For this study those villages have been selected which are dominated by any one sample tribal group and minimum 20% of the total families have been selected for the study. In this way good number of villages from each Gram Panchayat has been selected purposively for this study.

Membership No. : LMI -4080

Number and Name of RC: Adhoc Group- 04: Mother and Motherhood

Title of the Abstract: **Desire and Satisfaction of the Rural and Urban Mothers in terms of their Male and Female Children**

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Desire and Satisfaction of the Rural and Urban Mothers in terms of their Male and Female Children

ABSTRACT

Sex ratio is a sensitive indicator that displays the status of women. It is generally the outcome of the interplay of sex differentials in mortality, sex selective migration, sex ratio at birth etc. The issues related to gender inequality and gender differences are very common worldwide. In many cases, not only in rural areas but also in urban and semi-urban areas, boys are more preferred to girls. Sons are welcomed in family, but girls are considered as burden especially in rural areas.

This paper deals with the mothers' desire and satisfaction in terms of their male and female children. Specially when first child is a male the parents are satisfied and do not go for second child. On the other hand if the first child is a female then the parents will take interest for their male child.

For the present study, the Nadia district of West Bengal has been selected purposively. Kalyani municipality for urban and Krishnanagar - I block for rural have been considered for this study. All the Hindu mothers having at least one child in the age group of 0 – 6 years have been considered through complete enumeration. In this way total 945 mothers have been interviewed where 363 mothers are available in Kalyani (urban) and 582 mothers in Krishnanagar (rural).

Membership No. : M - 2477

Number and Name of RC: Adhoc Group- 04: Mother and Motherhood

Title of the Abstract: **Motherhood - a dynamic feature in the animal kingdom: with special reference to the Open-billed stork, *Anastomus oscitans* , one migratory bird species within a bird sanctuary, Raijang, Uttar Dinajpur, W.B., INDIA**

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Motherhood - a dynamic feature in the animal kingdom: with special reference to the Open-billed stork, *Anastomus oscitans* , one migratory bird species within a bird sanctuary, Raijang, Uttar Dinajpur, W.B., INDIA

ABSTRACT

Motherhood is the innate phenomenon within every members of the animal kingdom. Animals have their own society and there is a close bondage between mother and child not only in human being but in other animals too. Within the vertebrate animals, i.e., fishes, amphibians, reptilians, avians and mammalians, one can easily notice the diversity in the relationship between mother and the newborn individual. Most of the lower groups of animals are oviparous in nature while the higher groups of mammals especially from marsupials (e.g., Kangaroo) to higher mammals e.g., human beings are viviparous and give birth to the baby just looking like themselves.

In the present study, the topic motherhood has been considered on a migratory bird species, the open-billed stork, *Anastomus oscitans*, available in the wildlife Sanctuary, Raigang ,Uttar Dinajpur, W.B. during the entire breeding period, i.e., May to December of every year. During that period both the partners of a breeding pair take every responsibility from the construction of nest up to the nurture of the newly hatched birds till they attend maturity . These features are associated with nourishment of the newly hatched birds by both the partners although the mother takes the main role for their maintenance. The attraction of the mother and their offspring are very intimate and it may be due to the action of some hormonal (i.e., prolactin and oxytocin) action, secreted from the pituitary gland and other factors just like the mammalian one.

Membership No. : M - 2339

Number and Name of RC: Adhoc Group- 04: Mother and Motherhood

Title of the Abstract: **Mothers' attitudes towards girl child: A Sociological Study on Berhampore town in Murshidabad District**

Name: **Rimi Sarkar**

Institution: Doctoral Scholar, Department of Sociology, University of Kalyani,
West Bengal

Mothers' attitudes towards girl child: A Sociological Study on Berhampore town in Murshidabad District

ABSTRACT

Motherhood is a social construction. In patriarchal society, the birth of a girl child is generally an unwelcomed event. Almost everywhere, the son is more valued than that of the daughter. In India, the position of girl child is still low, particularly in field of education, occupation, and holding different occupational positions. Although the constitution of India has granted men and women equal rights, but gender disparity still remains. Being a mother she possesses different attitudes towards her children according to the norms of society. The traditional cultural practices reflect that the preference for son is deeply rooted in society.

This paper tries to explore mothers' attitudes towards girl child and how motherhood has been viewed from gender perspective. The attempt has also been made to observe how girl child is treated and discriminated from getting basic amenities like nutrition, education and health care services in patriarchal social system.

This study has been conducted in Berhampore town of Murshidabad district, West Bengal. For this study thirty (30) mothers have been interviewed purposively who have both boy and girl children.

Membership No. : LMI - 2819

Number and Name of RC: Adhoc Group- 04: Mother and Motherhood

Title of the Abstract: **The Witch Mothers: A Study on the Dialectic between the Image of ‘Mothers’ and Sanctions Imposed on the Witches**

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The Witch Mothers: A Study on the Dialectic between the Image of ‘Mothers’ and Sanctions Imposed on the Witches

ABSTRACT

In the popular belief the witches, having a diabolic link armored by the religious or spiritual affirmation, use occult power, generally malignant in nature, and so, are treated, in no uncertain terms, as someone who is extremely harmful and destructive. The supernatural power of the witch is something that originates within the witch itself as a result of her or his association with the devil on the one hand, and the god or spirit on the other. Motherhood, on the contrary, is a site where the self and society converge. Irrespective of cultural variations motherhood is considered – both by the individual and society at large – as the highest achievement of a woman. But serious confusions arise from the fact that, more often than not, the witches are mothers, who are either in their menopause or are incapable of giving birth to a child. Different negative sanctions are levied upon these ‘mothers’ as they are not considered as ‘normal’. The present study, conducted in Purulia District of West Bengal, tries to juxtapose the image of ‘mother’ with that of the ‘witch’ that the people of rural Bengal keep in their mind.

Membership No. : LMI - 4079

Number and Name of RC: Adhoc Group- 04: Mother and Motherhood

Title of the Abstract: **Attitude of Adopted Children Towards Their Mothers**

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Attitude of Adopted Children Towards Their Mothers

ABSTRACT

Motherhood is a natural as well as social fact and a woman attains motherhood by bearing a child and enters into a dyad as well as triad bond. In traditional society, motherhood was central fact of female existence but women of modern society are not eager to confine themselves within four walls. They dislike being depended and prefer service before marriage. Delayed marriages bring forth some medical complications for child bearing and so on. When a woman is unable to become natural mother, she may attain motherhood by adopting a child of another woman. Adoption is a legal process through which a parent-child relationship develops among those who have no blood relation. But some questions may arise such as – Does law create natural bond? How do adopted children accept their mothers? How does adoption affect family relation?

The main objective of this paper is to reveal the attitude of adopted children towards their mothers through a qualitative study. Ten cases are selected through purposive sample from the town of Berhampore in the district of Murshidabad in West Bengal. In-depth interviews and case studies have also been followed to collect information.

Membership No. : M - 2337
Number and Name of RC: Adhoc Group- 04: Mother and Motherhood
Title of the Abstract: **Crisis of Motherhood: A Study on Flying Sex Workers**
Name: Reshmi Chakraborty
Institution: Research Scholar, Department of Sociology, University of Kalyani,
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Crisis of Motherhood: A Study on Flying Sex Workers

ABSTRACT

Motherhood is not a static phenomenon. It has a vast context and broader connotation. Every woman becoming mother enjoys or suffers her motherhood as per prescriptions of the society though biologically she is a mother. Society has its complex structure which varies from time-space dimension and accordingly motherhood has been constructed and often shaped and reshaped by social norms.

Throughout the world sex workers are performing important roles for controlling the irregular or excessive sex desires of males which are not satisfied through marriage institution. The lives of sex workers are full of struggle, especially in India. They are treated as polluted women of the society. As a result, their motherhood is also not approved and often criticized in a rude manner.

The study has been conducted on the flying sex workers. It is an empirical study based on face to face interview following snow ball sampling method. All twenty-five respondents lived in various places of north 24 Parganas, the State of West Bengal.

This paper has tried to explore the crises of motherhood of the flying sex workers and their motherhood experiences along with struggles of their everyday life.

Membership No. : M - 2478

Number and Name of RC: Adhoc Group- 04: Mother and Motherhood

Title of the Abstract: **A reflection of the Status of Women in the Ramayana:
Sita an Ideal Mother, Beloved Wife and Virtuous Woman**

Name: Lopamudra Rana , Assistant Teacher

**A reflection of the Status of Women in the Ramayana: Sita an Ideal Mother, Beloved
Wife and Virtuous Woman**

ABSTRACT

Characters of Rama and Sita are depicted colourfully in different episodes of the Ramayana. This paper tries to focus on different aspects of Sita's character as an ideal mother, beloved wife and virtuous woman which reflected the status of women of that period. As a beloved wife and an ideal married Hindu woman, Sita accompanied Rama willingly by denying her comfortable life of a queen of Ayodhya and accepted to spend her life with her husband when Rama was forced to accept fourteen years exile as per the direction of King Dasharatha.

The existence of patriarchal society and domination of males were observed in the Ramayana. In this situation, Sita, being a married woman, established her distinguished power of decision making within the boundary of male chauvinistic social system.

Sita also showed her divine character when she was abducted by Ravana, the king of Lanka and she was forced to stay in Asok Vatika as a captive woman. Even she showed her divine character of an ideal married woman by denying all sorts of temptation created by Ravana to become his beloved. Finally she proved herself as a perfect mother when once again she was sent by her husband, Rama to spend her rest of life in Balmiki's Ashrama in spite of her pregnancy. Being a single parent she brought up her sons like princes and made them eligible to become future king of Ayodhya.

Membership No. : Pending

Number and Name of RC: Adhoc Group- 04: Mother and Motherhood

Title of the Abstract: **The tribal mother and motherhood: The Santal of Malda district**

Name: Parama Ray

Institution: Research Scholar, Department of Sociology, University of Kalyani,
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The Tribal Mother and Motherhood: The Santal of Malda district

ABSTRACT

The Santals are one of the dominant tribal groups in Malda district, though Malda district is one of the Muslim dominated districts in West Bengal. The tribal people in everywhere show their distinctive culture where the Santals of Malda's are not an exceptional one. In every society mothers play an immense role for the growth and development of their children and make them ready to adjust their own environment. In this paper the author tries to focus on the child caring and rearing practices of the Santal mothers of Malda district. The paper tries to find out the changing roles of mothers for growing up their children in the modern perspective.

For the purpose of the study, 26 Santal families are surveyed from the village 'Nawa Para' under Bhabuk Anchal (Old Malda Block) in Malda district. The village has been selected purposively.

The major thrust of this paper is to observe the role of pregnant mothers, lactative mothers and their changing attitudes towards modern medical services which are available in their village. Finally the researcher has tried to look into the role of traditional Santal mothers towards their children's upbringing and simultaneously the changing modern outlook of Santal mothers about their children.

Membership No. :

Number and Name of RC: Adhoc Group- 04: Mother and Motherhood

Title of the Abstract: **The ‘New’ Mother: Rethinking ‘Ethics of Care’ through an appraisal of ‘Bournvita’ advertisement**

Name: Pinaki Roy

Institution: Assistant Professor of Sociology, Government General Degree College, Mangalkote, Burdwan.

The ‘New’ Mother: Rethinking ‘Ethics of Care’ through an appraisal of ‘Bournvita’ advertisement

ABSTRACT

The ‘new’ mother enables us theoretically negotiate the wedge between ‘ethics of care’ and ‘ethics of justice’ in political philosophy in general and feminist philosophy in particular. Feminist ‘ethics of care’ has posited that women’s distinctiveness lies in their capacity as care-givers, which is uniquely associated with the female sex, and should be recognized as the unifying principle in the mobilization for feminist claims. Whereas ‘ethics of justice’ is a more male-centric discourse, which foregrounds both explicitly and implicitly that rationality is a male prerogative, rendering the male sex, compared to the female, more equipped to handle the challenges of politics and the public sphere. The ‘new’ mother, who is the subject of this paper, is definitely a care-giver in the sense in which ‘ethics of care’ has articulated, but she overflows that discourse to incorporate elements from the ‘ethics of justice’, thereby locating a re-worked notion of care in the popular discourses. This notion of care is imbued with hybridity and destabilizes the received notions of distinction between masculinity and femininity, maleness and femaleness, and most importantly, rationality and emotion, thereby attributing the notion of motherhood with a certain ‘newness’. The ‘Bournvita’ advertisement, through its representation of the ‘new’ mother serves as a singular instance to elaborate the argument presented above.

Membership No. : M - 2373

Number and Name of RC: Adhoc Group- 04: Mother and Motherhood

Title of the Abstract: **Motherhood and Care-Giving Industry: Exploring New Ways of Mothering/ Parenting**

Name: Rituraj Sharma

Institution: PhD Research Scholar, Centre for the Study of Social Systems School of Social Sciences Jawaharlal Nehru University

Motherhood and Care-Giving Industry: Exploring New Ways of Mothering/ Parenting

ABSTRACT

With heightened opportunities in education and career, nowadays more and more women are entering into various fields of employments. One can say that a full-time housewife was the role of mother in the past; now successful career oriented mothers are increasingly marking their presence in outside of their home. In order to explore multiple roles of mothers, the work proposes to revisit the traditional role of a mother as primary care-giver and (new-found) responsibilities, particularly of employed mothers in current times. How do mothers who are working in private sector, in full-time employment, in corporate jobs are negotiating with their roles and responsibilities when it comes to child-care? Are other family members increasingly taking child care-responsibility or does the major responsibility still resides with the mother? When it comes to child-care what are the roles and responsibilities of a father? Can we say that now fathers or other care-givers are actively replacing the place of employed mother when it comes to child-care? What role do various child-care options play for example day-care and crèches? The study would also explore various facilities provided by the employers say child-care allowances, flexibility in office timings, options of work from home, paid child-care leave and the role of government with respect to child-care.

ISS Membership No: **LMI 2056** and **LMI 4176**

Number and Name of RC: Adhoc Group 4 on “**Mother and Motherhood**”

Title of Abstract:

Non-normative Sexualities of the Hijras: A Critical Understanding

Name and Address:

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Abstract

This paper tries to look into the diverse sexual identities, behaviours and roles associated with the hijra community as a unique subculture in West Bengal. The term hijra is used to refer to intersexed impotent hermaphorides belonging to an institutionalised gender order. Their non-heteronormative performances and anatomical presentations make them a minority group different from “mainstream” and “malestream” society. Hijras are internally divided into several groups and sub-groups. Yet, there is a simultaneous process of consolidation among them. In such a context, this paper tries to deal with narratives of different hijras and tries to decipher how they articulate their feminine identities in the process of confirming, subverting, questioning and negotiating discourses, political associations and institutions. The paper critiques the imagined abject identity of hijras and tries to show how identities do not fit into neat little categories. Conversely, there are various disjunctions between the cultural definition of the hijra identity and the various individually experienced social roles, gender identities, sexual orientations, and histories.

Membership No. : LMI - 4070

Number and Name of RC: Adhoc Group- 04: Mother and Motherhood

Title of the Abstract: **Prospects and Hindrances of Mothering: A Case Study on the unorganised female Tea-Garden Workers in Madarihat-Birpara Community Development Block**

Name: Nina Halder

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Prospects and Hindrances of Mothering: A Case Study on the unorganised female Tea-Garden Workers in Madarihat-Birpara Community Development Block

ABSTRACT

Situated in the district of Alipurduar, West Bengal, Madarihat-Birpara Community Development Block comprises a number of Tea estates. Workers in these Tea-gardens are chiefly women. Most of them are not permanent workers. The work is rigorous leaving little time to dedicate to the family or to herself. It is the onus of the mothers to look after the children as well as to earn a livelihood with minimum or no support from her husband or the other members of the family. This study explores the prospects as well as the hindrances the teagarden working mothers face in providing for and upbringing of the children.

This study was conducted in the tea gardens of Madarihat Birpara block with the help of convenient purposive sampling. The findings were quantitative and were supported by a number of group discussions as well as a few life histories obtained through case study method. The chief purpose of the study is to explore the management capacity of these working mothers of the T.G. s with respect to motherhood and an unsure livelihood. Their role of a mother is not an acknowledged phenomenon and sometimes even harassed more by imposing extra duties which the other family members could have done with ease. Moreover, there is gender discrimination in her job as well as her family. In this study most of these avenues dealt by the working mothers were explored.

Membership No. : LMI – 4071

Number and Name of RC: Adhoc Group- 04: Mother and Motherhood

Title of the Abstract: The life experiences of the mothers of the children with cerebral palsy

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The life experiences of the mothers of the children with cerebral palsy

Abstract

Cerebral Palsy may be considered a neurological disorder caused by a non-progressive brain injury or malformation that occurs while the child's brain is under development. Cerebral Palsy primarily affects body movement and muscle coordination. The incidence of Cerebral Palsy is 2-2.5 cases per 1000 live births. There are an estimated 25 lakh children and people in India with Cerebral Palsy, making it one of the commonest causes of disability. Cerebral Palsy is incurable. Rehabilitation is very much needed. This paper has tried to recognize the life experiences of the mothers who care for their children suffering with cerebral palsy. The individual life of the mother and the family life can be extremely affected by this condition of a young child. Mothers of young children with a chronic illness across four different cultures may have to experience more hassle than those of healthy children. In addition, the patterns of stress observed varied by culture, although the experience of stress was found to be consistent across all cultures. In both traditional and modern cultures stigmatization and social compartmentalization has been experienced by the mothers of this type of children. Mothers are more attached and responsible for caring them. In this paper social reality regarding understanding of life experiences of the mothers who care for their children suffering with cerebral palsy has been discussed. Chiefly secondary information have been analysed supported by few case studies.

ISS Membership No. : LMI- 3996
Number and Name of RC: Adhoc Group- 04: Mother and Motherhood
Title of the Abstract: Single Women in Indian Society and Motherhood
Name: Dr. Pankaj Kumar
Assistant Professor in Sociology, Asansol Girls' College, Asansol,
West Bengal.

Single Women in Indian Society and Motherhood

Abstract

The single women are living in an area of discrimination. In Indian cultural heritage where women are worshipped as 'Sakti', women especially single women are subjected to inhuman treatment by the society. Being single is seen as stigma, they are doubly victimized and exploited by society due to their identities as 'women' and 'single'. In postmodern democratic society, they now think of their own liberation. But, in playing the dual role of both men and women, they face a lot of problems. Their identities are marked with suspicion. The taboo and stigma attached to the singlehood and the negative attitude of the society towards these single women now should be a matter of great concern and therefore their plight and problems need greater attention. This paper highlights the life of single women in Indian society. The Women and the Child Development (WCD) ministry has revised the policy for the first time since 2001. It is taking a step towards recognizing and treating single women as independent entities. The paper tries to analyse the socio cultural dynamics involved in the changing context and conceptualization of motherhood.

ISS Membership No. : Pending

Number and Name of RC: Adhoc Group- 04: Mother and Motherhood

Title of the Abstract: **Mother and Motherhood: A Sociological Construct**

Name: **Biswajit Ghosh, M.A** , Jadavpur University

Kaushik Chattopadhyay, M.A, Ph.D, Kalyani University

Mother and Motherhood: A Sociological Construct

Abstract

The term 'mother' and 'motherhood' are eternally ascribed with the dignity of divinity or supremacy. But does a newborn have any exclusive feeling for its mother? Can it perceive its mother completely? As a mere biological organism a new born can only feel that there is another biological organism that feeds, gives total comfort and saves from all odds. With the development of social self, the society puts before a child a character called 'mother', who, like a candle, enlightens his/her intellectual and moral delicacies. Indeed, there was once an era when 'motherhood' rendered completeness to womanhood.

Time has changed. Today motherhood is one of the most challenging and creative 'jobs' anyone can do. Of course a mother, who decides to work as a full time mother according to her will, deserves a respect from us. But a woman, who in the present society gives secondary importance to motherhood in her priority list, would be considered as a bad mother? Does a working mother hold a powerful position in the role of motherhood than a homemaker mother as a role model or a homemaker mother who renders a wholesome loving and caring environment to her child is a better mother? What is the meaning of successful motherhood and who is a perfect mother? What is motherhood all about? The present paper endeavours to throw light on the new dimensions of the concepts.

ISS Membership No. : LMI - 1677

Number and Name of RC: Adhoc Group- 04: Mother and Motherhood

Title of the Abstract: Marital Motherhood as a Contested Virtue: Indian scenario from the intersectionality perspective

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Marital Motherhood as a Contested Virtue: Indian scenario from the intersectionality perspective

ABSTRACT

Customarily motherhood has always been thought of in terms of marriage. The Indian tradition puts great social prestige on the married mothers within the heterosexual norms. Substantively it views marriage and motherhood as the sacred goals of womanhood, which every woman should pursue religiously for their self- fulfillment. But the increasing participation of women in public sphere, resulting from the unprecedented technological improvement of the contemporary period, has raised serious questions about such homogenizing generalization about womanhood. The present paper makes an attempt to unveil the problematic involved in this in two ways. First, it analyses the proclivities of institutional motherhood to colonise the female body resulting into the alienation of the women from the agencies of their bodies and selves. Critics argue that in this situation motherhood, far from becoming a virtuous experience, turns out to be a compulsion for many women. Finally, the present exercise takes recourse to the intersectionality thesis, put forward first by Kimberlé Crenshaw and developed later by Patricia Hill Collins, to explore the reality of the proclaimed virtues of marital motherhood in the Indian context. Analysing fertility behaviour of primarily married Indian women, as revealed by the National Family Health Survey (NFHS) data, it tries to unveil the complex interaction of different socio-economic variables like, education, religion, class, caste, tribe and so on, in generating a kind of amorphous attitude of them towards becoming mother. In doing so, the present paper comes to the conclusion that there may be differential perception about the virtue of motherhood among the women belonging to different socio-economic levels.

ISS Membership No. : LMI - 4082

Number and Name of RC: Adhoc Group- 04: Mother and Motherhood

Title of the Abstract: **Changing Nature of Tribal Motherhood: A case study of Birhor Tribes in Purulia**

Name: Chandan Chatterjee, Guest Lecturer in Sociology, Barabazar B.T.M. College, Purulia

Changing Nature of Tribal Motherhood: A case study of Birhor Tribes in Purulia

ABSTRACT

With the march of modernity, the notion of mother and motherhood is undergoing changes universally. How the forces of change are influencing tribal motherhood in the Indian context is, nevertheless a relatively less researched area. This paper, therefore, attempts to explore and understand the pattern of changes in the nature of tribal motherhood, among the Birhor tribe of Purulia district, West Bengal. While existing literature in the field is scanty, this paper attempts to understand the nature of changes in general as evident among the tribals as a disadvantaged category of Indian society. At the same time specific nature of motherhood as a part of tribal way of life that is also supposedly undergoing changes, is attempted to be explored here. Methodologically, the study has an intergenerational focus and compares the opinions and experiences of younger tribal mothers with that of the older generations. A blend of quantitative and qualitative method has been used for a better understanding of the patterns of change. Socio-demographic factors influencing changes in tribal motherhood are also explored.

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Number and Name of RC: Adhoc Group- 04: Mother and Motherhood

Title of the Abstract: **Stereotyping Stepmother: Myths and Portrayals**

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Stereotyping Stepmother: Myths and Portrayals

ABSTRACT

Reconstituted families are one of the significant phenomena in case of family and relationships. The concept of 'step mother' in such families comes across with prevailing assumptions, mostly pejorative in nature. Stereotyping the concept of stepmother is based upon certain myths which, too, are portrayed in various forms of popular culture. Based on available literature, this paper attempts to elucidate on the nature of such stereotyping with reflections on actual reality.

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Number and Name of RC: Adhoc Group- 04: Mother and Motherhood

Title of the Abstract: **Empowerment of the Mothers and Self Help Groups (SHGs)**

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Empowerment of the Mothers and Self Help Groups (SHGs)

Abstract

Women empowerment has been a serious concern of both Government and Non-governmental Organizations (NGOs) for many decades. The overall development of the women is not possible without empowering the mothers, who constitute a major portion of the women population. It is widely accepted that the empowerment of the women can be achieved through education and, equally important, through their participation in economic sector. Self-help Groups are playing a major role to empower the mothers and in eradicating poverty in rural and urban India. This paper tries to analyze how Self-help Groups have become instrumental in changing the position of the mothers in their family.

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Number and Name of RC: Adhoc Group- 04: Mother and Motherhood

Title of the Abstract: **Motherhood: Whether a Bliss or a Curse A Study on Rohingya Mothers**

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Motherhood: Whether a Bliss or a Curse A Study on Rohingya Mothers

Abstract

Biologically women are attributed with the capacity to become mothers by nature. Motherhood, the most common experience of female life is the state of having and raising a child. The contexts in which women spend their lives as mothers are socially constructed and culturally varied. It may be considered that variation in motherhood practises has its own importance in sociological understanding.

Rohingya is a Muslim ethnic group from the northern Rakhine state of Western Myanmar, formerly known as Arakan state. Rohingyas are an ethnic, linguistic, and religious minority both in Myanmar and in their province Rakhine. They have been subjected to repeated waves of displacement along with persecution since before and even after independence of Myanmar from the British rulers and their plight are continuing till today.

The present study tries to explore the difficulties of Rohingya mothers as stateless women to give birth and to raise their children in their own land. It also tries to highlight the devastating experiences of these mothers in course of their forced migration. Depending on both primary and secondary sources of information the study includes the life experiences of 20 Rohingya mothers who have been detained in the Correctional Homes of West Bengal, India. The paper finally attempts to find out the tragedy of Rohingya mothers as stateless one as well as forced migrants.

ISS Membership No. : LMI - 3958

Number and Name of RC: Adhoc Group- 04: Mother and Motherhood

Title of the Abstract: **Creating Sustainable Health Care System through the Mothers: A Study on the Mundas of Paschim Medinipur, West Bengal**

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Creating Sustainable Health Care System through the Mothers: A Study on the Mundas of Paschim Medinipur, West Bengal

Abstract

Is sustainable health care system possible to develop among the tribal people? Health is a prerequisite for the holistic development of a community and is an essential component of its general well-being. Health problems are not solely biological but are equally caused by the complex and multi-layered interplay between various factors not excluding the social, economic and political ones. And sustainable health is possible through an appropriate balance between the social, cultural and economic factors, on the one hand, and individual practices and belief patterns on the other. Mothers, who play a significant role in socialization, can be instrumental in developing a sustainable health care system both for the present and the future generations.

Tribal people live in remote areas and face different types of problem; one of the most important problems is lack of health awareness, which complicates the situation, more often than not. If mothers are aware enough they will be able to change the behaviour patterns of their children in many cases. Health and habitus are interrelated. The present study, conducted on the Munda women of Keshiary Block, Paschim Medinipur, West Bengal, analyzes the role of the mothers in Munda community to maintain the health of their families and to develop a sustainable health care system at the familial level.

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Number and Name of RC: Adhoc Group- 04: Mother and Motherhood

Title of the Abstract: **Role of Mother in Hijra Community**

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Role of Mother in Hijra Community

Abstract

Is the role of mother more significant in *Hijra* community? This paper examines the role of the mothers to unite themselves and also tries to find out how *Hijras* worship mother goddess. There is a proverb that “A mother is she who can take the place of all others but whose place no one else can take”. Mother is the most important person in our life. The *Hijras* worship Bahuchara Mata for religious identification and they undergo castration for the requirement of her devotion. Even at the time of castration, a picture of Bahuchara Mata is placed in front of the client and if he/she survives becomes one of Bahuchara Mata’s favourites. It is also found that in the relationship between *guru* and *chelas* in every *derra*, *gurus* play the role of mother and *chelas* are like their daughters. This paper shows that the *Hijras* are the devotees of this mother goddess called Bahuchara Mata who plays a vital role to unite them and influence every aspect of their life.

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Number and Name of RC: Adhoc Group- 04: Mother and Motherhood

Title of the Abstract: **Feminism and Motherhood**

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Feminism and Motherhood

Abstract

Beginning with some conceptual understanding of 'Feminism' and 'Motherhood' in the context of their evolution during the last five decades of sociological research, this paper attempts to understand the relationship between the two. It argues that the relationship is possibly marked by parallelism as well as dualism. Looking back, growth of motherhood research possibly received its major impetus from the development of feminist scholarship. While mothering and motherhood is portrayed as one of the fundamental reasons for women's cultural subservience to men in the eyes of the radical feminists, this variety of feminism, in particular, possibly tends to undermine the biological superiority of women over the men folk in the domain of reproduction and child rearing. Here lies the dualism, the contradictory role of the growth of feminism in fostering motherhood research. By depicting motherhood as an obstacle to woman for attainment of cultural goals in a modern society, radical feminism perhaps is increasingly alienating her from her biological superiority that adds to her value irrespective of time and space. In the meantime it undermines the identity of women by ignoring that motherhood is fulfilling for women and becoming a mother is a source of securing an adult identity for her (Delamont 2003). This paper attempts to examine such dichotomous relationship of feminism and motherhood scholarship besides complementarities between the two.

ISS Membership No. : LMI - 1858

Number and Name of RC: Adhoc Group- 04: Mother and Motherhood

Title of the Abstract: **Reclamation among Women in their Different Stages of Mothering: Role of Informal Adult Education towards Social Development**

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Reclamation among Women in their Different Stages of Mothering: Role of Informal Adult Education towards Social Development

ABSTRACT

Social development indicates towards a better life for everyone. To upgrade the position of women in society all round development is required to be initiated as well as accomplished. Future mothers of our society are probably not getting due advantages and opportunities altogether. They are getting deprived of formal education as well as non-formal education from different channels. The major portion of our women could not fulfil their desires, aspirations and rights in the society. They are not exposed to equal rights and privileges within the patriarchal domination. This paper tries to focus on various prejudices among future mothers during their mothering. In some instances, those are harmful and vulnerable to the child-bearing women in particular and women in general. Informal adult education (IFAE) may be one of the weapons along with other available modes of our society. It can impart necessary information and able to penetrate and touch those women with belief of illogical affairs of life. It can make them aware and active in their previous dark sides and became beneficial too. Thus, IFAE with its emphasis to reach each one with a flexible time and impart proper education to the adults (especially females) without feeling shaky will be the effective programme for the under-privileged and superstitious women. In this way they will be able to march forward with a sound (developed) mind.

ISS Membership No. : Pending

Number and Name of RC: Adhoc Group- 04: Mother and Motherhood

Title of the Abstract: **Mothering - From a symbolic perspective**

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Mothering - From a symbolic perspective

ABSTRACT

This article is based on a case study of a non-profit organisation identified as “Binapani Ashram” working in and around Shantiniketan focusing primarily on the upliftment and betterment of underprivileged girl children of the tribal society. In this context, I would like to shed light on Srimati Manjusree Saren, the founder secretary of the aforesaid ashram, the principal initiator behind this noble cause who has devoted her whole life in taking care and nurturing the un-nurtured. Like a motherly figure, she has been idolizing and influencing orphan children abandoned by their families since two decades and labouring intensively to make them self-reliant as well as introducing them to the mainstream culture and thus helping them to a secure a social identity for themselves.

ISS Membership No. : LMI - 4072

Number and Name of RC: Adhoc Group- 04: Mother and Motherhood

Title of the Abstract: **Role of Mother in the Views of Male College Goers**

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Role of Mother in the Views of Male College Goers

Abstract

Parenting and motherhood play partial role of shape social self of an individual. Both the male and female children are psychologically and socially deeply influenced by their family and parents. In early years of an individual's his/her mother play a significant role. In our society like other third world countries male domination is prominent in every sphere of the life. In this paper it has been tried to assess urban male college goers understanding about their mother's role in their life process. Fraud and others social scientists have assessed that "mother-son" relationship is special issues to concern. Basic objectives of this study are to assess the role of mothers on their male children in their early life and post teenage life. It is a primary data based study. Sample has been drawn purposively. Few case studies have been cited to support the empirical findings. Gender & socio-economic domination are seen as determining factors to shape this relationship.

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Number and Name of RC: Adhoc Group- 04: Mother and Motherhood

Title of the Abstract: STIGMATIZATION TO MEDICALIZATION: THE CHANGING
ETHOS OF INVOLUNTARY CHILDLESSNESS

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STIGMATIZATION TO MEDICALIZATION: THE CHANGING ETHOS OF
INVOLUNTARY CHILDLESSNESS

Abstract

Women, throughout the history, have been essentialized as child bearers. This is more so in a pronatalist (Parry, 2005) culture like that of India where the bodily health of a women is associated with reproductive health. A state of childlessness is considered deviant and incomplete. Folk models indicate that the Indian society has consistently glorified by motherhood. Voluntary childlessness is rare in India. Motherhood is a coveted position for which a woman is conditioned to strive for.

The social sanctions on childless woman have changed over time. The quantum of pressure exerted, and upon whom has also changed. It now includes the couple and not just the woman in its ambit while bringing childlessness to the forefront. The blame for childlessness has shifted from 'the fault in a woman' to the need for a 'couple to get tested' for infertility. The terminology has also undergone rapid changes. The notions have ranged from blatant ones such as 'barrenness' (stigmatization) to the subtler concepts like 'infertility' (medicalization).

This paper is an attempt at locating perceptions about infertility in a social context juxtaposed between socially construed roles of power and a pronatalist social structure of reproduction, nicely captured by the phrase 'stratified reproduction'. The sample of quantitative and qualitative data is predominantly drawn from Bangalore, Karnataka, a place gaining reputation for the medical aid.