INTERNSHIP

(SHPL309A)

“Systematic Literature Review on the Climate Change Vulnerability of Women Farmers”

Internship Report submitted

in partial fulfilment of the requirement for the degree of

Bachelor of Arts
in
Political Science (Hons.)

By
Keshav Agarwal
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Under the Guidance of

Dr. Susmita Mitra, Council for Social Development (CSD), New Delhi
&
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Declaration

I hereby certify that this internship report, submitted by me, Keshav Agarwal (Roll No. 2208380028), is a record of internship work completed for the course titled Internship (SHPL309A) during the academic year 2024–2025, in partial fulfilment of the requirements for the award of the degree of Bachelor of Arts (Hons.) Political Science.

I hereby declare that the content of this internship report is my original work, and that wherever ideas, data or words from other sources have been used, they have been properly cited. Proper citations and references have been provided in accordance with academic standards. I affirm that I have adhered to the principles of academic honesty and integrity throughout this report and have not misrepresented, fabricated or falsified any information or sources.

I acknowledge that any violation of these principles may result in disciplinary action by the institute and may also invoke legal consequences from the original sources, particularly in cases of improper citation or failure to obtain necessary permissions. Furthermore, I declare that my supervisor and the university shall not be held responsible for any infringement of intellectual property rights or copyright associated with this report.

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Date: August 30, 2024

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TO WHOM SO EVER IT MAY CONCERN

This is to certify that Mr Keshav Agarwal, a student of K.R Mangalam University, Gurugram, Haryana, has successfully completed his internship as a Research Intern with the Council for Social Development (CSD), for the period 1st July 2024 to 2nd August 2024.

He had worked under the supervision of Dr Susmita Mitra, Assistant Professor, CSD, in online mode, and assisted her in the following works:

- He has gone through the training of systematic literature review using transparent reporting method namely Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analyses (PRISMA).
- He has applied the learning by going through the rigorous process of conducting a systematic literature review on the climate change vulnerability of women farmers.

Mr Keshav Agarwal has a keen interest in learning new things, the capacity to understand new concepts and skills, and the ability to apply the same within strict deadlines. During the period of his internship, he was found to be sincere and hardworking.

We wish him success in all his future academic endeavours.

COUNCIL FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT
DIRECTOR
NEW DELHI

(Prof. Nitya Nanda)
Director, CSD

Date: 05.08.24
Place: New Delhi

Acknowledgement

During my internship at the Council for Social Development (CSD), New Delhi, which took place from 1st July 2024 to 2nd August 2024, I worked as a research intern under the mentorship of Dr. Susmita Mitra, Assistant Professor at CSD. Initially, the work was challenging, as the methodology was new to me.

I am indebted to the university and the programme coordinator for the organisational support and encouragement I received.

This internship would not have been possible without the constant help of our programme coordinator and supervisor, Dr. Maitree Devi, whose leadership and support have been pivotal in guiding me through the complexities of the research. My sincere thanks go to the Council for Social Development and Dr. Susmita Mitra for their valuable support and contributions, which significantly enriched the scope and depth of my work. I am also grateful to Prof. Nitya Nanda, Director, CSD, for the opportunity to intern at the Council.

Finally, I express my gratitude to my supervisors, Dr. Susmita Mitra and Dr. Maitree Devi, for giving me their valuable time and guidance.

Signature: 

Keshav Agarwal

Roll No.: 2208380028

B.A. (Hons.) Political Science

Semester: V

K.R. Mangalam University

Date: August 30, 2024

Brief Overview of the Organisation

The Council for Social Development (CSD) is a renowned research and advocacy organisation based in New Delhi, India, dedicated to advancing social development through interdisciplinary research, policy analysis and training programmes. Established with a vision to address the multifaceted challenges of social justice and inclusive growth, CSD has positioned itself as a key player in influencing public policy and fostering social change in India.

CSD's mission is to promote equitable development by focusing on critical social issues such as poverty, education, health, gender equality and environmental sustainability. The organisation engages in comprehensive research that aims to inform and guide policymakers, practitioners and civil society in making evidence-based decisions that lead to the betterment of marginalised communities.

One of the distinguishing features of CSD is its commitment to addressing the root causes of social inequities. The organisation undertakes in-depth studies on various socio-economic issues, exploring the complex interplay between social structures, economic policies and environmental factors. By producing high-quality research, CSD contributes significantly to the discourse on sustainable development, particularly in the context of India's rapidly changing socio-economic landscape.

CSD also plays a vital role in capacity-building and knowledge dissemination. The organisation conducts workshops, seminars and training programmes aimed at empowering individuals and communities with the knowledge and skills needed to advocate for their rights and participate actively in the development process. By fostering a collaborative environment that includes academia, government agencies, international organisations and grassroots movements, CSD ensures that its research and advocacy efforts have a wide-reaching impact.

Moreover, CSD is actively involved in policy advocacy, using its research findings to influence and shape public policies at both national and international levels. The organisation works closely with policymakers to address pressing social issues, providing them with the tools and insights necessary to create policies that are not only effective but also socially just.

Nature of Internship

During my internship at the Council for Social Development (CSD), New Delhi, which took place from 1st July 2024 to 2nd August 2024, I worked as a Research Intern under the mentorship of Dr. Susmita Mitra, Assistant Professor at CSD. The internship was conducted in online mode, and I was involved in a systematic literature review focusing on the climate change vulnerability of women farmers, contributing to an ongoing research project. My primary responsibilities included engaging in the literature review process, which involved searching, screening, synthesising and analysing relevant academic papers and reports. This role required close collaboration with Dr. Mitra, who provided me with valuable mentorship and guidance. Through this experience, I gained hands-on expertise in academic research, particularly in conducting systematic reviews using the PRISMA framework, and deepened my understanding of the intersection between climate change and gender vulnerability. The internship not only enhanced my research skills but also provided critical insights into the field of social development, which will be instrumental in my future academic and professional pursuits.

Abstract

This report provides a comprehensive overview of my internship experience, highlighting its key objectives, activities and outcomes. The internship was conducted at the Council for Social Development (CSD), New Delhi, with a focus on developing research skills, time management and critical thinking. The primary project undertaken during this period was a systematic literature review on the climate change vulnerability of women farmers, which initially focused on India and was later expanded to a global scope. The report details how the project contributed to both organisational objectives and personal skill enhancement, particularly in synthesising academic research, evaluating empirical studies and analysing the impacts of climate change on women farmers.

Through active engagement in daily tasks, valuable insights were gained into the complexities of climate change vulnerability, including how factors such as socio-economic status, access to resources and gender roles exacerbate the challenges faced by women in agriculture. The systematic review drew on case studies, empirical data and scholarly articles to assess how climate change affects women's livelihoods, food security, health and overall well-being. Key findings emphasise that women farmers are disproportionately affected due to limited access to technology, land rights and financial resources, compounded by social norms that limit their decision-making power. The report stresses the need for gender-sensitive policies and adaptive strategies to reduce vulnerability, such as improved access to climate-resilient technologies, financial support and capacity-building programmes for women.

The report concludes with reflections on the overall internship experience, the lessons learnt, the challenges faced and recommendations for future research. This experience has provided a solid foundation for career growth and professional development in research, particularly in the field of climate change and gender studies.

Key Words: Climate Change Vulnerability, Women Farmers, Systematic Literature Review, Gender-sensitive Policies, Adaptive Strategies, Empirical Studies.

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Chapter 1
Introduction

The purpose of this internship report is to document and reflect upon the experience of conducting a systematic literature review at the Council for Social Development. The focus of this review was to analyse and synthesise existing research on the climate change vulnerability of women farmers, with the aim of providing a comprehensive overview of current knowledge and identifying gaps in the literature. Systematic literature reviews play a crucial role in research by offering a structured and methodical approach to gathering, evaluating and summarising relevant studies. This process involves the use of search strategies, well-defined inclusion and exclusion criteria, and thorough data analysis to ensure that the findings are reliable and applicable. The research highlights that women farmers are disproportionately vulnerable to climate change due to intersecting factors such as socio-economic status, limited access to resources and gender-based inequalities, leading to severe impacts on their livelihoods, food security and overall well-being.

Chapter 2
Literature Review

The literature review began with gathering various articles related to the topic. The next stage included screening and analysis. The primary focus was on systematically screening a library catalogue of 780 manuscripts using the PRISMA (Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analyses) approach to identify relevant articles for a Systematic Literature Review on the climate change vulnerability of women farmers. The process involved a meticulous examination of titles and abstracts, starting with quick assessments based on titles alone and then moving on to abstract reviews when titles were unclear. This allowed for the rejection of non-English documents, books and review articles, ensuring that only pertinent English-language journal articles were considered.

Chapter 3
Problem Formulation and Objectives

Selecting the topic of climate change vulnerability of women farmers for research is both timely and crucial for several important reasons.

A. Problem Formulation

1. **Heightened Vulnerability of Women Farmers:** Women farmers are disproportionately vulnerable to the effects of climate change due to their socio-economic status, limited access to resources and traditional gender roles. Understanding how climate change uniquely impacts them is essential for developing targeted interventions that can address their specific needs.

2. **Impact on Livelihoods and Food Security:** Climate change affects agriculture, which directly threatens the livelihoods of women farmers, who are often responsible for food production and household sustenance. Research in this area can inform strategies to mitigate these risks, protect food security and promote sustainable livelihoods for women in agriculture.

3. **Increasing Climate Variability:** As climate change leads to more frequent and severe weather events—such as droughts, floods and heatwaves—there is a pressing need to comprehend its impacts on women farmers. A systematic study of this issue can contribute to the development of resilient farming practices and policies that help women farmers adapt to changing climatic conditions.

4. **Policy and Practice Implications:** Findings from research on women farmers' vulnerability to climate change can significantly influence policy and practice, leading to the creation of gender-sensitive policies, climate-resilient farming technologies, and better access to financial and institutional support for women in agriculture.

5. **Holistic Approach:** Studying the climate change vulnerability of women farmers allows for a comprehensive approach to climate adaptation, considering not only their economic roles but also the social and cultural factors that influence their resilience. This perspective is essential for creating effective, inclusive climate resilience strategies.

6. **Advocacy and Resource Allocation:** Research can bring attention to the specific challenges faced by women farmers in the context of climate change, advocating for increased resources and investments in gender-sensitive climate adaptation programmes.

7. **Ethical Responsibility:** There is an ethical imperative to ensure that women farmers, who play a crucial role in food production and rural economies, are not left behind in climate change adaptation efforts. Research helps uphold this responsibility by identifying key vulnerabilities and areas for improvement in support systems and policies.

8. **Knowledge Gaps:** There are often gaps in understanding the specific ways in which climate change impacts women farmers differently from their male counterparts. Research can fill these gaps, providing empirical evidence to enhance the effectiveness of interventions and support systems.

By conducting a Systematic Literature Review on this topic, it is possible to develop a deeper understanding of the challenges faced by women farmers, advocate for effective interventions, and ultimately improve their resilience to climate change, thereby enhancing the sustainability of agricultural systems and rural communities.

B. Objectives

1. To identify and screen relevant literature on the climate change vulnerability of women farmers using the PRISMA framework.
2. To synthesise the factors that make women farmers vulnerable to climate change, and the strategies they use to adapt.
3. To identify gaps in the existing literature that can guide future research and policy.

C. Research Questions

1. What methodology should be used for the research?
2. How can research papers relevant to the topic be identified?
3. How can the relevant papers be selected from a pool of 780 research papers?

Chapter 4
Methodology

This research used a systematic literature review (SLR) as its method to gather information from multiple studies, which increases the reliability of the findings. The training emphasised adopting a structured, transparent and replicable approach, with a specific focus on the PRISMA framework, to ensure a methodologically sound selection process.

Chapter 5
Implementation

The work involved categorising the articles using a drop-down menu in an Excel file, indicating whether each article should be accepted or rejected based on its relevance. Additionally, accepted articles were downloaded, with their PDFs saved under the format “Year_Author”, to be used in further analysis. The goal was to complete the abstract screening of 12–15 papers each day, with continuous progress updates provided on any challenges in accessing specific papers.

Chapter 6
Results

The systematic literature review on the climate change vulnerability of women farmers involved a series of methodical steps, each contributing to a comprehensive understanding of the issue. Over the course of my five-week internship, I applied systematic review techniques and adapted to evolving challenges.

The process began with establishing a solid foundation in the systematic literature review (SLR) methodology, with a particular focus on the PRISMA framework. This provided a structured and replicable approach that ensured the reliability and transparency of the review process. Initial exploration of research databases led to the identification of relevant sources, setting the stage for a systematic screening of 780 manuscripts. This screening process involved eliminating non-English and non-journal articles, effectively reducing the dataset to a manageable number. An organised Excel system was employed to categorise articles, allowing for a concentrated focus on studies relevant to the climate change vulnerability of women farmers. This meticulous screening resulted in 10 shortlisted articles for further evaluation.

Following this, the 10 shortlisted articles underwent a detailed analysis, in which each was reviewed for relevance, research quality and alignment with the review objectives. Critical appraisal tools facilitated a consistent evaluation of their methodologies, research designs and findings. Key data were extracted, highlighting the specific impacts of climate change on women farmers, their adaptation strategies and the socio-economic factors influencing their vulnerability. However, it became clear that this selection was insufficient for a comprehensive understanding.

To address this limitation, the scope of the review was expanded to include a global perspective, broadening the selection criteria beyond India. This expansion resulted in the identification of 30 articles, significantly enhancing the dataset for analysis. Accessing 22 of these articles was difficult and required additional effort in documentation and follow-up. Despite these obstacles, the enriched dataset provided a more robust foundation for understanding the climate change vulnerability of women farmers on a global scale.

The findings indicate that women farmers are disproportionately affected by climate change due to intersecting vulnerabilities, and the expanded dataset offers a more nuanced understanding of the challenges they face in different contexts worldwide.

Chapter 7
Conclusion and Future Scope

The internship project on conducting a systematic literature review of the climate change vulnerability of women farmers has highlighted several critical findings. It is clear that climate change significantly impacts women farmers, with vulnerabilities stemming from socio-economic disparities, limited access to resources and entrenched gender roles. These factors exacerbate their exposure to climate-related risks such as droughts, floods and changing weather patterns, leading to threats to food security, livelihoods and well-being.

The internship allowed me to develop a deep understanding of the systematic literature review process, which will be invaluable for future career development and job opportunities. Additionally, the focus on the climate change vulnerability of women farmers provided important insights into gender-sensitive climate adaptation strategies and policies. This knowledge will be instrumental during my dissertation and in future research efforts aimed at addressing climate change resilience in agricultural communities. Moreover, expanding the scope of the review to include global perspectives opens new avenues for comparative research across different regions, ensuring that future studies can develop more holistic and inclusive solutions for women farmers.

References

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