

Research Scholar Profile



Name of the Scholar	MEENAKSHI NAYAK
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Name of the Course	Ph.D. in Sociology
Registration No.	27/2023/Sociology
Name of the Department & Address	P.G Department of Sociology, Sambalpur University, Jyoti Vihar, Burla, Sambalpur, 768019, Odisha, India
Name of the Supervisor & Correspondence Address	Dr. Tattwamasi Paltasingh, Professor and Head, P.G. Department of Sociology, Sambalpur University, Jyoti Vihar, Burla, Sambalpur, 768019, Odisha
Details of the Fellowship & Funding Agency	Junior Research Fellowship (JRF) Awarded by University Grants Commission (UGC), New Delhi, India
Title of the Research Topic	Traditional Practices for Environmental Sustainability: A Study among Tribal Women in Northern Odisha, India.
Abstract of the Research Work	Environmental sustainability is an important concern worldwide in contemporary times. Numerous initiatives have been taken to protect the environment by regional, national & international forums. But if we critically investigate the matter, the harmonious ecological space of indigenous people gets disturbed by developmental projects, policies, programs, and external interventions. Tribal women suffer greatly from conservational damage since their time and space are hijacked. This leads to a negative impact on the environment. These women have a crucial role in the link between nature and humans, as they have a direct connection in preserving and sustaining the environment through their traditional knowledge. The indigenous practices can help advance the nation's sustainable development goals (SDGs). Many theories have evolved supporting this view like Human ecology, Social Ecology, Cultural Ecology, Eco-feminism, Ecological Feminism etc. Although several studies on this aspect have been conducted, the explanations focus on the relationship between tribal women and the forest, as well as agricultural techniques. However, the ecosystem encompasses more than just forests and land. When it comes to tribal women's traditional ecological knowledge, it is most of the time mistaken for botanical knowledge in the literature. Thus, the study aims to highlight the impact of environmental degradation on the lives of tribal women and their skills, cultural practices, and traditional knowledge in managing and sustaining the environment with reference to Similipal Reserve Forest, Mayurbhanj, Odisha.
Progress of the Research Work	Currently preparing for fieldwork

Seminar, Conference & Workshop Attended	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Participated in Five-days National Workshop on “Systematic Literature Review and Meta-Analysis (SLR& MA-2023), organized by F.M. University, Balasore, during 31st July to 4th August 2023. Presented a poster entitled “Conservation Induced Displacement and Environmental Consequences: Evidences from Similipal Reserve Forest” in the National Seminar on Environment, Development and Society, organized by P.G. Department of Environmental Sciences and P.G. Department Sociology, Sambalpur University, Odisha during 20th & 21th March 2023. Presented a paper entitled “Displacement of Tribal Women and Environmental Conservation: Understanding the Nexus” in the National Seminar on Development and Discontents, organized by P.G. Department of Sociology and Environmental Sciences, Sambalpur University, Odisha during 11th & 12th March 2023. Presented a poster entitled “Traditional Livelihood Practices of Tribal Women and Environmental Conservation” in Central Zone Student Research Convention under the aegis of Association of Indian Universities, ANWESHA 2022-23 held at Ravenshaw University, Cuttack during 24th -25th January, 2023. Presented a paper entitled “Environmental sustainability and tribal women in informal sector: Evidences from Western Odisha” in National Seminar on Informal Women Workers in Western Odisha, Sustainability and Social Justice, organized by Panchayat College Bargarh, Odisha and ICSSR, New Delhi during 19th and 20th November 2022. Presented a poster entitled “Livelihood Practices and Contribution of Tribal Women in Environmental Conservation” in Odisha Research Conclave (ORC-2022) jointly organized by Odisha State Higher Education Council and Ravenshaw University, held during 14th to 16th, November 2022. Participated in UGC Sponsored Short-term Course on Research Methodology organized by UGC-Human Resource Development Centre (HRDC), Sambalpur University held during 12th & 17th December, 2022. Participated in Seminar on “Gender, Society & Economy: Towards Equality” organized by SOIL (Society of Indian Livelihood) in Collaboration with PG. Department of Sociology, Sambalpur University on 27th May, 2022. Participated in webinar series 2 on the topic “Indian Diaspora: Mapping Cultural Ties with Homeland” organized by the Department of Sociology, Ravenshaw University on 28th 2021.
Awards	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Junior Research Fellowship (JRF) Awarded by University Grants Commission (UGC), New Delhi, India. Best Poster Presenter Award at the National Seminar on “Environment, Development and Society” jointly organized by Department of Environmental Sciences and. Department Sociology, Sambalpur University Odisha held during 20th & 21th March 2023.