

Academic Profile: Dr. Megha Deshpande

Current Role: Assistant Professor of Sociology, PES Modern College of Arts, Science and Commerce (Autonomous), Pune, India.



Summary

I am a sociology practitioner and academic researcher with extensive experience in field-based empirical research, curriculum development, and international collaborative networks. My work primarily focuses on the intersections of marginalized communities, urban social structures, health and inclusion. With a doctorate specializing in the sociological study of Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs), I bring a grounded, evidence-based perspective to contemporary socio-political landscapes.

Core Competencies

Empirical Research & Fieldwork: Expertise in conducting large-scale field studies in complex socio-political environments, including conflict-affected areas.

Curriculum Design: Specialized in restructuring UG and PG syllabi under the New Education Policy (NEP) framework.

Pedagogy & Instruction: Experienced visiting faculty for advanced courses in the Sociology of Development and Sociology of Globalization in Department of Sociology (Advanced study Department, Savitribai Phule Pune University)

Cross-Disciplinary Collaboration: Proven track record of working within different research networks.

Academic Background

Ph.D. in Sociology: Rashtrasant Tukadoji Maharaj Nagpur University (2003).

Thesis: "Sociological study of Baiga tribe - with reference to Balaghat district".

Master of Arts (Sociology): Dr. Harisingh Gour University; University Merit Holder.

Research Portfolio & Key Publications

I have authored numerous peer-reviewed papers and a book, with a focus on social anthropology, gender equity, sustainable development discourse, digital divide and post truth world, vulnerability and inclusion.

International & Collaborative Research Experience

Member participant in the Pan University Network for Global Health (PUNGH) in collaboration with the University of Pennsylvania and Savitribai Phule Pune University.

Served as Trainer and Fieldwork Coordinator for "Socio-Cultural Barriers to Toilet Use," funded by Non-Water Sanitation (Germany).

Research Associate for "Women's access to reproductive health services- Quality and Access" funded by Savitribai Phule Pune University.

Joined as a Collaborator in the project "Reading against grains" (Archival Work) funded by CHSS(Cultivating the Humanities and Social Sciences) Savitribai Phule Pune University.

Currently, lead investigator for "Understanding the perceptions and experience of stakeholders on Inclusion, Health and Safety in Urban Schools' funded by the PM-USHA (Pradhan Mantri Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyan) scheme.

Collaboration with various NGOs and Schools to promote scientific temper and Gender inclusive environment in campus and on organizational level, to bridging the gap between academic sociological research and foundational education

Mentorship & Academic Leadership

Successfully guided 35 Postgraduate Dissertations.

Mentoring first-generation learners: The core of mentoring is in identifying "vulnerabilities" and transforming them into academic strengths.

Curator and Course Coordinator for specialized training programs on-

- "Development: Exploring Dimensions"(2018)
- "Attaining Sustainability: Creating Public Discourse" (2025)
- "Academic Excellence and use of Knowledge Resources" (2025)

Professional Engagement:

Active participation in over 50 national and international seminars, workshops, and refresher courses.

Contact Information:

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