



AIU-DEI-AADC



Report on Short-term Capacity-Building Workshop
on
Community Engagement in Research:
Excellence with Social Relevance

March 19, 2025 to March 21, 2025

Executive Summary

The Association of Indian Universities-Dayalbagh Educational Institute-Academic and Administrative Development Center (AIU-DEI-AADC), in association with the Dayalbagh Knowledge-for-Change (K4C) Hub, hosted a Short-term Capacity-Building Workshop on Community Engagement in Research: Excellence with Social Relevance from March 19 to 21, 2025.

Community engagement plays a crucial role in fostering a more inclusive, equitable, and effective society. This three-day workshop aimed to introduce academicians, researchers, and community practitioners to the concepts, principles, and processes of Community-Based Participatory Research (CBPR). It provided a thorough examination of how to integrate community perspectives into the design, implementation, and dissemination of research, thereby enhancing both the academic rigor and social relevance of scholarly work. The workshop highlighted the importance of educational institutions collaborating closely with communities to co-create knowledge and solutions for societal issues. Participants explored participatory research frameworks, community engagement strategies, and successful case studies of community-academic collaborations. The comprehensive content was delivered over six sessions by twelve distinguished resource persons. A total of 114 participants from various universities, institutions, and community organizations attended the workshop in a hybrid mode, ensuring broad accessibility and engagement.

Resource Persons

Dr. Rajesh Tandon

Founder-President, PRIA; UNESCO Co-Chair,
CBPR in Higher Education (Centre for Global
Studies)



Prof. Budd L. Hall

Professor Emeritus, University of Victoria,
Canada; UNESCO Co-Chair, CBPR in Higher
Education (Centre for Global Studies)



Prof. Satish B. Agnihotri

Former Head, Centre for Technology
Alternatives for Rural Areas (CTRA), IIT,
Bombay



Prof. Deepak Gupta

Professor, Materials, Science and Engineering
(MSE), IIT, Kanpur



Prof. Anand K. Plappally
Professor, Department of Mechanical
Engineering, IIT, Jodhpur



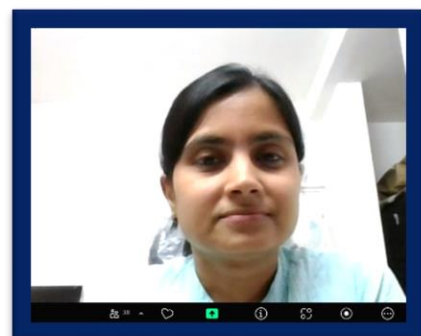
Dr. Vivek Vijay
Associate Professor, Department of
Mathematics, IIT, Jodhpur



Dr. Sharon Valarmathi
Associate Professor, Dept. of Commerce,
Director, Centre for Service Learning,
CHRIST, Bengaluru, Karnataka



Dr. Wafa Singh
Senior Consultant, Higher Education-Policy
& Engagement, CBPR Trainer



Ms. Anuradha Gupta
Founder cum General Secretary, Prithvi
Innovations, Lucknow



Prof. J.K. Verma
Professor & Head, Dept. of English, DEI




Prof. Akshay K. Satsangi
Professor, Dept. of Management, DEI



Mr. D. Sumir
Dean, DEI ICT Center,
Rajaborari and Timarni (Tribal Area)



Programme Schedule

Day/Date	Session 1 (11:00 am - 01:00 pm)		Session 2 (01:30 pm - 03:30 pm)	Session 3 (Special Talk) (08:00 pm - 09:00 pm) IST
Day 1 19.03.25 (Wed)	Inaugural Ceremony Prof. C. Patvardhan (Welcome and Opening remarks) Director, DEI Prof. Jyoti Gogia (Objective of the workshop) Dr. Rajesh Tandon (Inaugural Address) Founder-President, PRIA; UNESCO Co-Chair, CBPR in Higher Education (Centre for Global Studies) Prof. Rupali Satsangi (Vote of Thanks)	Break	Prof. Deepak Gupta (01:30 pm - 02:30 pm) Professor, MSE, IIT, Kanpur Ms. Anuradha Gupta (02:30 pm - 03:30 pm) Founder cum General Secretary, Prithvi Innovations, Lucknow	Prof. Budd L. Hall Professor Emeritus, University of Victoria, Canada UNESCO Co-Chair, CBPR in Higher Education (Centre for Global Studies)
Day 2 20.03.25 (Thu)	Dr. Sharon Valarmathi (11:00 am – 12:00 noon) Associate Professor, Dept. of Commerce, Director, Centre for Service Learning, CHRIST, Bengaluru, Karnataka Prof. J.K. Verma (12:00 noon – 01:00 pm) Professor & Head, Dept. of English, DEI	Break	Prof. Anand K. Plappally (01:30 pm - 02:30 pm) Professor, Department of Mechanical Engineering, IIT, Jodhpur Mr. D. Sumir (02:30 pm - 03:30 pm) Dean, DEI ICT Center, Rajaborari and Timarni (Tribal Area) Dr. Wafa Singh (03:30 pm – 04:00 pm) Senior Consultant, Higher Education-Policy & Engagement, CBPR Trainer	<p>Beyond participation: Knowledge Co- creation for community empowerment</p> 
Day 3 21.03.25 (Fri)	Dr. Vivek Vijay (11:00 am – 12:00 noon) Associate Professor, Department of Mathematics, IIT, Jodhpur Prof. Akshay K. Satsangi (12:00 noon – 01:00 pm) Professor, Dept. of Management, DEI	Break	Valedictory Ceremony Prof. C. Patvardhan (Welcome) Director, DEI Prof. Satish B. Agnihotri Head, Centre for Technology Alternatives for Rural Areas (CTRA), IIT, Bombay Dr. Anoop Srivastava Former Additional Director General of the IRPFS. Vice President <u>Ra Dha Sva Aa Mi</u> Satsang Sabha, Dayalbagh, Agra Prof. Rupali Satsangi (Workshop Report) Prof. Jyoti Gogia (Vote of Thanks)	

Inaugural Ceremony

The workshop, inaugurated on March 19, 2025, commenced with a prayer. Dr. Sona Dixit, the co-convenor of the workshop and the Mentor of Dayalbagh (K4C) Hub, welcomed the participants as change makers and emphasized the workshop as a collaborative



learning experience. Prof. Jyoti Gogia, the convener of the workshop and coordinator of the



Dayalbagh (K4C) Hub, outlined the workshop's objectives. She highlighted that the New Education Policy (NEP) 2020 acknowledges the essential contribution of the academic community to societal advancement and sustainable development. Higher

education institutions can significantly contribute by undertaking research pertinent to local community needs. She stressed that the optimal solutions to problems must be localized and contextualized, as a singular approach is insufficient for all scenarios. An insightful address was delivered by Prof. C. Patvardhan, the Director of the Institute, who explored the evolving concept of communities, transitioning from traditional geographical proximity to digital engagement.



Dr. Rajesh Tandon, Founder-President of PRIA and Co-Chair of the UNESCO Chair in Community-Based Research and Social Responsibility in Higher Education, spoke on International Perspectives on Community-Based Research. He discussed the historical evolution of higher

education, tracing its path from curiosity-driven, deeper learning to more structured systems. He emphasized the imperative for researchers to engage with localized solutions, ensuring that universities remain connected to society. He praised DEI's



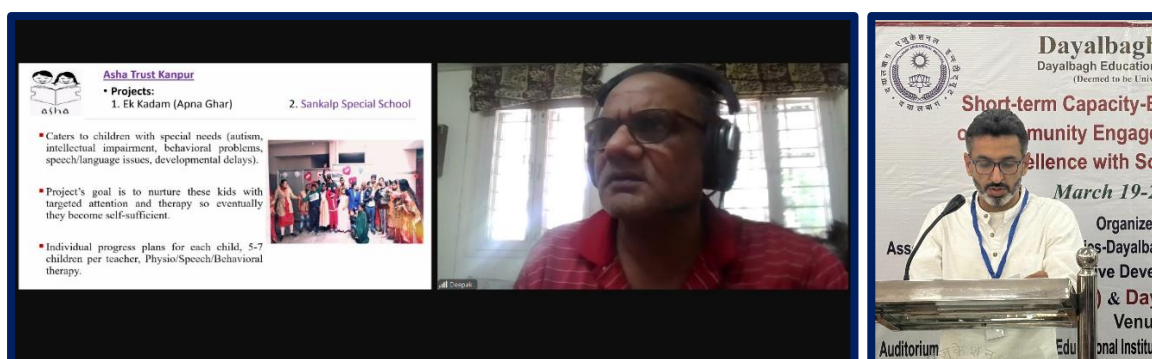
framework for lifelong learning, which has revolutionized community engagement, and he expressed admiration for the work being done in Dayalbagh. The session was chaired by Dr.



Purnima Bhatnagar from the Department of Management at DEI. To conclude, Prof. Rupali Satsangi, the co-convener of the workshop and the Mentor, Dayalbagh (K4C) Hub, expressed the vote of thanks.

Programme Sessions

During the second session of day one, Prof. Deepak Gupta from IIT Kanpur shared insightful observations about the significance of community-based participatory research and engagement. He reflected on his experiences in a village and underscored the persistent challenges of casteism, feudalism, and marginalization, questioning their relevance to daily life. He challenged conventional perspectives on engineering, posing the provocative question of whether it inadvertently contributes to climate change.



Highlighting the paradox of pursuing infinite growth on a finite planet, he argued that this contradiction exacerbates the climate crisis. He emphasized that genuine progress requires a shift from an economic or technological focus to a welfare-oriented approach that prioritizes human well-being and sustainable development. The session was chaired by Dr. Rohit Rajvanshi from the Department of Management, DEI.

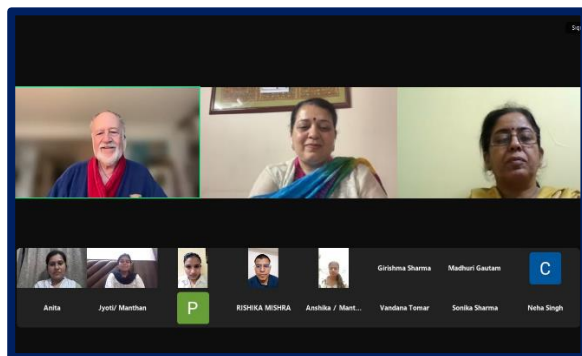


Further, Ms. Anuradha Gupta, Founder and General Secretary of Prithvi Innovations, opened the session with an interactive ice-breaking activity focused on community building. She emphasized the importance of community-based engagement and showcased initiatives at Prithvi Innovations, particularly community-based participatory research. Ms. Gupta outlined the five principles of CBPR: mutual respect and trust, co-learning and co-creation, action-oriented research, ethical

practices, and sustainability. She also addressed challenges in CBPR, such as sustaining engagement and cultural barriers, and praised DEI and Dayalbagh for promoting community transformation. The session was chaired by Prof. Kamaljeet Sandhu, Head of the Department of Psychology, DEI.



In his talk, Prof. Budd L. Hall, a pioneer of Community-Based Participatory Research, stressed the need for transformations in Higher Education Institutions to tackle global challenges. He praised DEI for its commitment to community engagement. Prof. Budd outlined three key areas of HEI engagement: Knowledge Validation, Pedagogy, and Structure.



He emphasized moving towards Knowledge Democracy, highlighting the importance of epistemic diversity and localized knowledge. He called for community-engaged learning instead of traditional teacher-centric models to develop critical skills in students. He noted the challenge of discipline-based teaching rigidity and advocated for a transdisciplinary approach to create community knowledge clusters. The session was chaired by Dr. Sona Dixit from Faculty of Education, DEI.

On day two of the workshop, Prof. Sharon Valarmathi, Director of the Centre for Service Learning at CHRIST, Bengaluru, discussed *CBPR: A Step-by-Step Process*. She highlighted that CBPR, as a collaborative approach, promotes equal participation between community members and researchers. Prof. Sharon outlined the key steps, starting with forming

partnerships, assessing community strengths, and analyzing priorities. She emphasized the cyclical nature of CBPR compared to traditional research models and highlighted the importance of translating findings into action through awareness campaigns and stakeholder engagement.



She concluded by likening CBPR to a tree, with its roots in principles, trunk in research environment, branches in research methods, and fruits in community impact, reinforcing its role in bridging academia and community engagement. The session was chaired by Dr. Sonal Singh, Department of English Studies, DEI.



In his lecture, Prof. J.K. Verma discussed *Narratives of Action Engagement: Poetic Experiences of DEI Model*. He defined community as a collective of equals united by common traits and stressed that genuine engagement requires both action and advocacy. This concept, rooted in B. Malinowski's 'Action Anthropology,' merges academic research with community

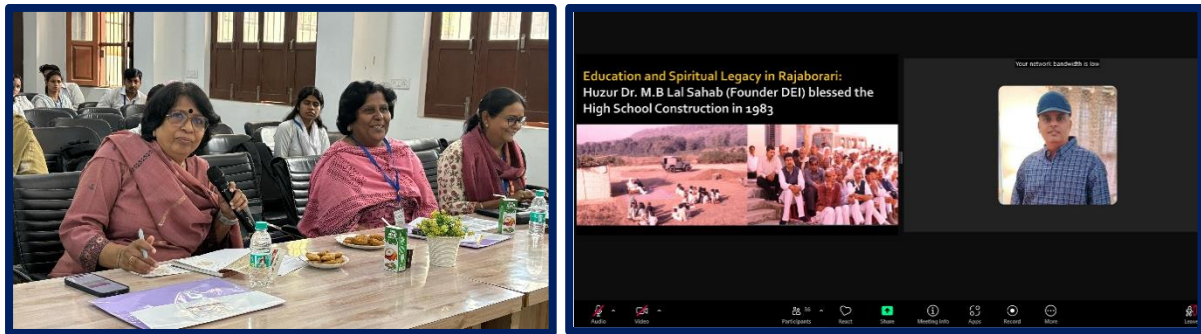
involvement for sustainable solutions. Prof. Verma highlighted DEI's ethical research philosophy centered on service, exemplified by various initiatives such as medical camps, self-help groups, and skill development programs. He described Dayalbagh as a poetic experience characterized by deep emotional and active engagement. DEI's holistic approach integrates research and community service, emphasizing its commitment to participatory research and societal impact. Dr. Resham Chopra from the Department of Economics chaired the session.



In his lecture on *Technology Transfer through Cultural Inheritance*, Prof. Anand K. Plappally from IIT Jodhpur discussed how indigenous communities, like the Kumhar (potters) and Sansi (horse breeders), sustain technological skills through cultural practices. He emphasized the connection between resource and skill localization, aligning with UN SDG 12 on responsible consumption.

Notably, he showcased G-filters made of clay and sawdust, highlighting sustainable health practices. Women, as material engineers and knowledge keepers, were recognized for their pivotal roles in these efforts, contributing to a circular economy. Prof. Plappally also introduced KJ technique, a localized approach integrating indigenous knowledge into modern sustainability initiatives, stressing the need to preserve traditional knowledge for community empowerment. The session was chaired by Dr. Ankit Sahai from Faculty of Engineering, DEI.

Mr. D. Sumir, Dean of the DEI ICT Centre, presented a lecture titled *Bridging the Gap: Community-Engaged Research for Inclusive Rural Development*. He emphasized the importance of addressing last-mile challenges to ensure developmental benefits reach rural communities.



Highlighting DEI's "Lab to Land, Land to Lab" framework, he used Rajaborari village as a case study to showcase initiatives like accessible education, virtual classrooms, community e-connectivity, global collaborations, women's empowerment programs, and ADyNAM (Agricultural and Dairy Nano Processing of Multi- Products). These efforts have led to improved financial stability, livelihood, health, education, and national recognition for DEI. Mr. Sumir concluded that community-engaged research fosters sustainable, grassroots solutions for inclusive rural development.



In her lecture, *Understanding CBPR: Concept, Principles, and Process*, Dr. Wafa Singh explored CBPR as a collaborative framework, emphasizing that research should be conducted with the community, not on it. She outlined ideal participation as a collegiate model, where

researchers and community members are equal partners. Dr. Singh discussed CBPR objectives, power dynamics, challenges, and practical outcomes, such as valuing community knowledge and fostering empowerment. She highlighted that CBPR advances research while promoting community engagement, organizational development, and sustainable social change. The session was chaired by Dr. Kavita Kumar, Department of Management, DEI.



On day three, Dr. Vivek Vijay from IIT Jodhpur discussed *Case Studies: Holistic Youth Development*, focusing on the Divine India Youth Association (DIYA) and its role in connecting youth with national progress. He emphasized that educated, healthy, self-reliant, and sensitive youth are essential for a prosperous and happy nation. One key case study highlighted was the Dingana Village Development Project aimed to transform the village through community participation. Another case study was the Aarohan Youth Program in Udaipur. The program addressed social media, relationships, holistic health, and leadership skills, empowering participants to create community solutions. Dr. Vijay also outlined DIYA's various community engagement initiatives and emphasized the importance of meaningful youth involvement rooted in purpose. Concluding with a formula for happiness—“Follow USA” (Upasana, Sadhana, Aaradhana)—he urged a holistic approach that fosters intellectual, emotional, and ethical growth for sustainable community development.

Prof. Akshay K. Satsangi, DEI, delivered a talk on *The Role of Community Engagement in Social Responsibility and Holistic Development*. He discussed how community influences individual identity, arguing that no one is truly self-made as our surroundings shape our development. He identified four key aspects of community engagement: Participation, Collaboration, Empowerment, and Sustainability.



He explained that identity operates in layers—species, gender, nationality, religion, and profession—affecting decisions and values. He illustrated how external aspects like community and behaviour are built on deeper internal elements, such as beliefs and identity, shaping goals. He emphasized that true happiness comes from aligning with one's values and community.



In response to audience questions, he noted that strong individuals can balance personal values with community influences and underscored the importance of respecting differences. He

dismissed the idea that everyone pursues wealth, highlighting that priorities vary. He closed with an inspiring message: “Hand in hand, we rise and stand; a thriving world, a nurtured land.”

The session was chaired by Dr. Amla Chopra, Faculty of Science, DEI.



The Valedictory session for the workshop was held on 21st March 2025. The session began with a prayer and warm welcome from Dr. Sona Dixit. Prof. C. Patvardhan, Director of the Institute, highlighted the organization of the workshop series by AIU-DEI-AADC and the insightful sessions on CBPR. Prof. Satish B. Agnihotri delivered an impactful valedictory address on the importance of community engagement in research. He argued that effective research stems from active scholarly interaction with the community, bridging the gap between academia and practice. He shared practical examples, emphasizing that understanding community needs is essential for meaningful innovations in technology and policy.



Prof. Agnihotri illustrated his points with stories from CTRA’s field-based program, where students engage with community realities. He highlighted successful initiatives like the

smokeless stove and the *sabzi cooler* that arose from grassroots involvement. He also noted that community engagement helps identify data inaccuracies, stressing that while research develops capacity (Kuwat), community input shapes intent (Niyat), making research socially relevant and impactful.



Further, in his address, Dr. Anoop Srivastava, Former Additional Director General of the IRPFS, Currently the Vice President of Ra Dha Sva Aa Mi Satsang Sabha, Dayalbagh, Agra shed light on the distinctive model of community engagement practiced in Dayalbagh, which he described as an ongoing socio-spiritual experiment that has been evolving for over a century. Dayalbagh community is deeply embedded in the principle of sustainability and self-reliance. Dr. Srivastava pointed out that Dayalbagh uniquely harmonizes modernity with nature, creating an environment where community living, spirituality, and scientific progress coexist. He emphasized the community's commitment to continuous evolution, reflected in various initiatives spanning education, technology, agriculture, and social welfare.

Notably, the Dayalbagh Educational Institute (DEI) has collaborated with several prestigious institutions, reinforcing their dedication to innovative practices focused on community well-being. Esteemed visitors, including a Nobel Laureate, have praised Dayalbagh, noting that its philosophies resonate with ideals they advocate. In a similar vein, Prof. Budd Hall remarked

on Dayalbagh's early adoption of values related to Mahatma Gandhi's ideals long before they became widely recognized.



The valedictory session was chaired by Prof. J.K. Verma. It included further a comprehensive report presentation by Prof. Rupali Satsangi, summing up the key insights and outcomes of the discussions. Prof. Jyoti Gogia delivered a heartfelt vote of thanks, acknowledging the contributions of the Institute's administration, the AIU team, resource persons, participants, and the organizing committee, which included students, faculty, and technical staff. The program concluded with the distribution of certificates to participants and organizing committee members, followed by the Institute's song.

DEI Advisors

Prof. C. Patvardhan, Director, DEI
Mrs. Sneh Bijlani, Treasurer, DEI
Prof. Anand Mohan, Registrar, DEI

AIU Advisors

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Dr. Amarendra Pani, Joint Director & Head, Research Division, AIU
Mrs. Ranjana Parihar, Joint Secretary, Publication & Sales Division, AIU

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Professor, Dept. of Economics, DEI

Workshop Co-Conveners

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Professor, Department of Economics, DEI

Dr. Sona Dixit
Mentor, Dayalbagh (K4C) Hub
Assistant Professor, Faculty of Education, DEI

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Ms. Shubhankshi Sonker, Department of Sociology & Political Science, DEI
Ms. Rinky Satsangi, Faculty of Education, DEI

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Mr. Shivam Yadav, Department of Economics, DEI

AIU-DEI-AADC Nodal Officer

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