

# Harender

+91-8470870970 [harinderhappy.jnu@gmail.com](mailto:harinderhappy.jnu@gmail.com) | #212, CSMCH, SSS-2, JNU New Delhi – 110067

## AREAS OF INTEREST

- Rural Development and Social Change
- Agrarian Crisis, Farmers-Labour Suicide in Punjab
- Sociology of Health and Environment
- Caste, Class and Gender Relations in Agrarian Society



## DEGREE RESEARCH WORKS

1. **Researching Causes and Effects of Suicides in Peasant Households: A Sociological Study of Punjab**— Ongoing research as PhD project at Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, under Dr Vikas Bajpai and Prof Surinder Singh Jodhka.
2. **Dalits and Agricultural Land Rights: A comparative study of Socio-Economic Impacts on Dalits of Malwa, Punjab** – Research completed as partial fulfilment of masters’ degree at TISS Hyderabad under Dr Arjun Sengupta.

## PAPER PRESENTATIONS

1. *Against the dominant narrative(s) of international migration from Rural Punjab: The role of caste and occupation* presented in International Seminar on Migration Trends at NRI Sabha, Jalandhar on 22-23 February 2025.
2. *Suicides in agrarian society: exploring Anakh – dignity and humiliation in neoliberal rural Punjab* presented in national seminar on “Looking beyond income paradigms: bringing rural dignity in India’s policy discourse at India International Centre, New Delhi on 29<sup>th</sup> January 2024
3. *Farmers Movement, Political Activism, and Electoral Politics in India: A critical analysis of the role of farmers, farmers protest and Sanyukat Samaj Morcha in Punjab assembly elections 2022* presented in International Initiative for Promoting Political Economy - IIPPE Annual Conference 2023
4. *Ethical issues in social research of suicides with primary data: Evidence from agrarian suicides in Punjab, India paper presented in National Conference on ‘Ethics in Human Sciences Research and Publication’ at Jawaharlal Nehru University from 21<sup>st</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2023*
5. *Investigating Kisan-Majdoor Ekta in the context of farmers’ protest and Dalits’ land rights movement* presented in International conference on Globalization and future of rural-agrarian in 21st century India: challenges, lessons and opportunities on 23-24 February 2023 at SSS, Jawaharlal Nehru University
6. *Fighting for Hond, Claiming Citizenship: Political Meanings of the Punjabi Farmers’ Movement, 2020-2021* (co-authored with Prof Surinder Jodhka and Shivam Mogha) presented in seminar on Democracy beyond elections organised by CSH-CSDS-CPR on 29<sup>th</sup> August 2022
7. *Sociological Analysis of Agrarian policies through Gendered lens paper selected in Southern Forum on Agriculture, Rural and Environmental History 2020*

## ARTICLE PUBLISHED

### Research article/Book Chapters:

1. Happy. (2026) "Suicides in Agrarian Society: Exploring Dignity and Humiliation in Rural Punjab" in "Policy and Politics of Development in India: Quest for Rural Dignity" Palgrave Macmillan
2. Kamran, M., Happy, H., & Mogha, S. (2025). Exploring 'pindhoo' in Sidhu Moose Wala's sound (life) world. *Sikh Formations*, 1-13.
3. Happy, Harinder, and Shivam Mogha. (2025) "Uploading tractor to Twitter: How protesters used media during farmers' movement." in "A People's History of the Farmers' Movement, 2020–2021". Routledge India, 2025. 235-250.

### Newspaper/ web portal articles

1. Sociological perspective of agrarian movement/ *Kheti Andolan Da Samajik Najria, Punjabi Tribune*, 22th Oct 2021
2. Why farm unions must stay out of electoral politics, *Indian Express*, 19<sup>th</sup> Feb 2022
3. A flawed report on farm laws, *Indian Express*, 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022
4. Farm labourers: a long road ahead, *Deccan Herald*, 8<sup>th</sup> May 2022
5. Komagata Maru tragedy: Saying sorry isn't enough to address colonial oppression, *Indian Express*, 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2022
6. Wheat export ban, food security and public health, *The New Indian Express*, 27<sup>th</sup> May 2022
7. How Sidhu Moose Wala's celebration of rural life won him legions of fans in Punjab – and far beyond, *Scroll*, 4<sup>th</sup> June 2022
8. Making sense of BKU's split, *Deccan Herald*, 5<sup>th</sup> June 2022
9. Sociology of grief and politics of death in Sidhu Moose Wala's case, *Trolley Times*, 28<sup>th</sup> June 2022
10. Why Piyush Goyal's Call to Farmers to Increase Rice Cultivation Is Misguided, *The Wire*, 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2022
11. Despite 'Solutions', Anaemia Remains an Unsolved Problem in India, *The Science Wire*, 28<sup>th</sup> August 2022
12. Deaths by Suicide in India – Not Just a Public Health Issue but an Emergency, *The Science Wire*, 10<sup>th</sup> Sept 2022
13. Farmers Suicides: What Field Data Shows & What Union Govt Shrouds, *The Wire*, 14<sup>th</sup> Oct 2022
14. Environment Question & Farm Unions/Vatavaran da Sawaal ate Kisan Jatbandhia, *Punjabi Tribune*, 23<sup>rd</sup> Oct 2022
15. Farmers Protest and Trust Deficit, *The Quint*, 12<sup>th</sup> December 2022
16. Vidyarthiya Diya Khudkushia: Fauri Hall di Lorh, *Punjabi Tribune*, 21<sup>st</sup> March 2023
17. Mapping Miseries and Struggle of Farm Labourers: How Punjab is Reacting. WorkersUnity, May 2023
18. How Sutlej river is bearing the brunt of climate change, *Village Square*, 26<sup>th</sup> September 2023
19. Congress Must Apologise for the 1984 Sikh Pogrom, With Rahul Gandhi Leading the Charge, *The Wire*, 1<sup>st</sup> Nov 2023
20. Be-Chiraag Village Will Be Begumpura as Dalits Light Chiraags on Controversial Land in Punjab, *CounterCurrents*, 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2025

## LANGUAGES

English, Hindi, Punjabi and Bagdi

## EDUCATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS:

Degree	Institute	Period
PhD in Social Sciences in Health	Centre for Social Medicine and Community Health, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi	Ongoing Expected June 2026
MA Rural Development and Governance	Tata Institutes of Social Sciences, Hyderabad	2017-2019
BA (Hons) Geography	Kirori Mal College, University of Delhi	2014-2017
SSC Humanities	Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya, Mahiyanwali, Sriganaganagar-1	2013-2014
Matriculation	Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya, Mahiyanwali, Sriganaganagar-1	2011-2012

## WORK EXPERIENCE

**Research Associate at Centre de Sciences Humaines, New Delhi,** – Aug 2025 to **Present**

**Research Assistant at IFP – French Institute of Pondicherry** in various parts of Punjab **March 2024**

- Worked on Social practices related to organic farming and changing modes of agriculture

**Researcher at Punjab State Farmers' and Farm Workers Commission at Chandigarh-Ludhiana.** **Oct 2023**

- Worked on Punjab State Agricultural Policy 2023

**Assistant Project Manager at Foundation for Ecological Security at Bhilwara, Rajasthan.** **May 2019 – Sept 2019**

- Monitoring and assisting in Common Property Resources and their governance in villages
- Setting coordination between rural communities, civil societies and governance

**Data Collection & Monitoring at ATARI- ICAR at Karimnagar, Telangana** **Sept, 2018**

- Review functioning of Krishi Vigyan Kendra towards sustainability through collective action of communities

**Research Internship at NCRI, MHRD, Govt of India in Faridkot, Punjab** **May-June 2018**

- Conducted Participatory Learning and Actions Tools of Chaina Village of Faridkot District.
- Reviewed PGS-Organic System of Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers welfare, Govt of India

**Field and Research intern at TATA TRUSTS at Krishna, Andhra Pradesh** **Nov- Dec 2017**

- Learning, Monitoring and Observation of Solid Waste Management Programme in Villages
- PRA Study of Two villages of Krishna District

**Field and Research intern at Kheti Virasat Mission, Jaito, Punjab** **May 2018**

- Study on small scale farmers' perspective, problem and possibilities related to Natural Farming

**School of Livelihoods and Development, TISS Hyderabad**

1. Research study on 'The living condition of informal migrant workers in Hyderabad'
2. Research study on "Living conditions of Women in Unconditional settings - Women in Police".

**At Dept of Geography, Kirori Mal College, Delhi**

Research study on Socio-economic and cultural activities and associated problems of Rural Himachal Pradesh. The survey was conducted in 7 villages of Kangra, Kullu and Kasol district of Himachal Pradesh in Sept 2016.

## WORKSHOPS/ SEMINARS

- Organised workshop on “National Education Policy” Kirori Mal College, University of Delhi on October, 2016
- Attended Yuwa Chintan Shivir by MKSS & School of Democracy – 30<sup>th</sup> May – 2<sup>nd</sup> June
- Organised 1st Kirori Mal Youth Parliament in Kirori Mal College on February, 2016
- Attended workshop on ‘Agrarian Distress’ in MANAGE, Hyderabad in April, 2018
- Organised a seminar on “Mapping govt initiatives: A geospatial perspectives’ in Kirori Mal College on April 2017.
- Attended workshop on “Community Forest Rights under the Forest Rights Act of 2006”, at Tata Institute of Social Sciences Hyderabad campus on Jan, 2018
- Attended Punjab Youth Leadership Camp in July 2018

AWARDS & HONOURS	CERTIFICATES & DIPLOMA
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>★ Coordinator, Election Committee at TISS Hyderabad</li><li>★ Hostel Representative at TISS Hyderabad</li><li>★ Achieved 1st Prize in Hindu College in Mecca</li><li>★ Awarded 6th Prize by Ministry of Culture, Govt of India</li><li>★ House perfect and Best student in JNV Sri Ganganagar</li><li>★ Got 3rd prize in Speech competition in JNV Pali</li><li>★ Awarded 2nd Position in JNV Pachpadra, Barmer in Science Exhibition</li><li>★ Got 2nd Prize in theatre in JNV Karnal</li><li>★ Awarded by DM Sri Ganganagar for Cultural Programme</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>→ Rajasthan State Certificate in Information &amp; Technology</li><li>→ MA in Sociology from IG National Open University</li><li>→ Special Mention Prize in 1st Kirori Mal Youth Parliament</li><li>→ Problem Solving Assessment Certificate by CBSE, New Delhi</li><li>→ Rajya Puraskar- The Bharat Scout &amp; Guide</li></ul>

## REFERENCES:

<p><b>Dr Sukhpal Singh</b> Chairperson, Punjab State Farmers and Farm Labour Commission, Govt of Punjab &amp; Former Principal Economist, PAU Ludhiana Phone # +91- 9876063523 Email: sukhpalpau@yahoo.com</p>	<p><b>Prof Surinder S Jodhka</b> Professor and Chairperson(Redt), Centre for Study of Social Systems Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi Phone # +91 - 9810002953 Email - jodhka@mail.jnu.ac.in</p>
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