



**Centre for the Study of Law and Governance
Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi – 110067**

**Cordially invites you to
National Webinar on**

**Digital Transformation and Artificial Intelligence
for Youth Mental Health– From Problems to
Sustainable Public Policy and Practice**

DATE



26/02/2026

TIME



4:00 PM–6:00 PM

For registrations, use the link or QR code

Link- <https://forms.gle/LmsNppjwrNAq6enU9>

Scan code



For more details, contact:

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Digital Transformation and Artificial Intelligence for Youth Mental Health- From Problems to Sustainable Public Policy and Practice

Chief Patron: Prof. Shantishree Dhulipudi Pandit, Vice Chancellor, JNU, New Delhi



Prof. Shantishree Dhulipudi Pandit, born on July 15, 1962, in Leningrad (now St. Petersburg), Russia, and raised in Chennai, Tamil Nadu, is an acclaimed Indian political scientist and academic. A gold medalist in B.A. and M.A. from Presidency College, she earned her M.Phil. and Ph.D. in International Politics from Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU), along with a post-doctorate in Peace and Conflict Studies from Uppsala University, Sweden. Her career includes teaching at Goa University from 1988 and Savitribai Phule Pune University from 1991, where she became a professor in 2006, specializing in Northeast India studies, foreign policy, and authoring books like Parliament and Foreign Policy in India. She made history as JNU's first woman Vice-Chancellor, appointed on February 7, 2022, for a five-year term, during which she has focused on academic excellence and global rankings. Multilingual in six languages including Tamil, Telugu, Sanskrit, Hindi, Marathi, and English, she has supervised over 30 Ph.D. students and served on key bodies like UGC and ICSSR

Chair: Prof. Sigamani Panneer, Centre for the Study of Law and Governance, JNU



Dr. Sigamani Panneer is a Professor of Public Policy, Centre for the Study of Law and Governance, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, India. Former Dean School of Behavioural Sciences and Former Head, Department of Social Work, School of Social Sciences and Humanities; Coordinator, Centre for Happiness, Central University of Tamil Nadu and former Coordinator, Department of Applied Psychology, School of Behavioural Sciences, CUTN. Mentor Professor, Department of Social Work Bharathiar University, Coimbatore. He has been a Visiting Research Professor at the School of Public Health, University of Minnesota, MN, Visiting Professor, Jishou University, China; Guest Professor, Tianjin University of Finance and Economics, Tianjin, China and Visiting Professor, Department of Management Studies, Sacred Heart College (Autonomous), Affiliated to Thiruvalluvar University, Vellore. He has conducted research in various areas relating to disaster management, climate change, new public health management, drug delivery system, public private partnerships in healthcare, occupational health and women's health.

Co-Chair: Dr. Reeta Sony, Centre for the Study of Law and Governance, JNU



Dr. Reeta Sony A.L. is an Associate Professor at Jawaharlal Nehru University's Centre for the Study of Law and Governance. She directs the university's Intellectual Property Management Cell and researches intersections of law, science, technology, and society, including AI, data protection, and IP rights. Her expertise covers IT law, cyber sovereignty, and e-governance, with 175+ Google Scholar citations. Key publications address AI in justice systems and science communication.

Topics and Speakers

Topic : **Integrated digital mental health infrastructure and institutional care.**

Speaker : **Prof. Navaneetham Janardhana,**
National Institute of Mental Health and Neuro Sciences,
Bangalore

Dr. Navaneetham Janardhana, also known as Janardhana N., is a Professor in the Department of Psychiatric Social Work at NIMHANS in Bengaluru, India. He holds advanced degrees including MSW, M.Phil in Psychiatric Social Work and Ph.D. in Social Work from NIMHANS, with research expertise in disability, caregiving, family therapy, and children in need of care and protection, amassing over 2,368 citations on Google Scholar. His prolific career includes more than 280 publications in national and international journals and 12 books on Research Methodology, Disability and mental illness, psychosocial care for children in need of care and protection.



Topic 2: **Digital innovation and AI tools: Gaps and mitigation strategies.**

Speaker : **Prof. Anubha Gupta,**
Indraprastha Institute of Information Technology,
New Delhi

Prof. Anubha Gupta is a Professor in the Electronics and Communication Engineering Department at IIIT-Delhi. She earned her PhD in Electrical Engineering from IIT Delhi in 2006, along with B.Tech and M.Tech degrees in ECE from Delhi University (formerly NSIT). Her career includes roles as Assistant Professor at NSIT Delhi (2000-2008), Associate Professor at IIIT-Hyderabad (2011-2013), and at IIIT-Delhi since 2013, where she advanced to full Professor in 2019, served as Dean of Academic Affairs (2019-2020). She leads the SBILab, focusing on biomedical signal/image processing (fMRI, EEG, ECG), genomics for cancer research, AI/ML, wavelets in deep learning, and communications, with over 150 publications and 4 patents; she is a Senior IEEE member and SERB POWER Fellow.



Topic 3: **Economic burden of mental health, healthcare service availability, accessibility, and affordability.**

Speaker : **Prof. Prasant Kumar Panda, Pondicherry University, Pondicherry**

Prashant Kumar Panda is currently working as Professor in Department of Economics, School of Management, Pondicherry University. He has served as Economic adviser, in Sixteenth Finance Commission, Ministry of finance, Government of India and contributed to policy making at national level on evolving issues of federal fiscal transfers and state finances. Earlier he has worked as Professor and Head in the Department of Economics, School of Management, and Dean (I/C), College Development Council, Pondicherry University (A Central University). Prior to this, he has worked as Professor and Head, Department of Economics, Central University of Tamil Nadu. He has a Ph. D in Economics from Pondicherry University and he has undergone training in public economics and policy at National Institute of Public Finance Policy (NIPFP), New Delhi. He was a K.N. Raj Fellow at Centre for Development Studies (CDS), Trivandrum in 2019. His area of interest in teaching, research and consultancy includes Public Economics and Public policy, Fiscal federalism and de-centralisation, Health Care financing, Health Economics and Econometric modelling of growth and development indicators. He has been recognized as an Inspired Teacher and invited to participate in the prestigious "Inspired Teachers' In-Residence Programme at Rashtrapati Bhavan" in 2015. To his credit he has published 52 research papers and he is the editor/co-editor of five books and completed several funded. projects in the area of Public finance, Health and human development. He has worked in editorial positions of several reputed journals



Topic 4: **Community-based mental health services and doable strategies for building resilience.**

Speaker : **Prof. Asha Solett,**
Tata Institute of Social Sciences,
Mumbai

Dr. Asha Banu Soletti is Professor at the Centre for Health and Mental Health, School of Social Work, Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai. A scholar-practitioner with over two decades of experience, she integrates research, teaching, and field action to promote equity in health and mental health. Her work focuses on social determinants of health and community-led interventions, exemplified by Pragati: Integrated Rural Health and Development Project with the Warli and Katkari tribes. Former Dean of Student Affairs and recipient of the Linnaeus-Palme Fellowship, she is widely recognized for her leadership, mentorship, and commitment to inclusive, community-driven public health practice.



Topic 5: **Youth empowerment- mental health and well-being- A Sociological perspective**

Speaker : **Dr. Sharmistha Bhattacharjee,**
Rajiv Gandhi National Institute of Youth Development,
Sriperumbudur

Dr. Sharmistha Bhattacharjee is an Associate Professor and Head of the Department of Sociology at Rajiv Gandhi National Institute of Youth Development (RGNIYD) in Sriperumbudur, Tamil Nadu, where she has served since 2017. She holds a PhD in Sociology from Visva Bharati Santiniketan, an MPhil from Delhi School of Economics (University of Delhi), an MA in Sociology from Jamia Millia Islamia (first rank), an MBA, and has qualified UGC-NET and SLET (WB). With over 20 years of teaching experience, previously as Assistant Professor (Senior Grade) at Jaypee Institute of Information Technology Noida and Academic Associate at IIM Ahmedabad, she has authored two books, published more than 35 research papers in peer-reviewed journals, presented 25+ papers at conferences, guided PhD and BTech students, and have established the social enterprise incubator in 2019 at RGNIYD. She also serves on editorial boards while being a life member of the Indian Sociological Society and Indian Association of Social Science and Health.



Topic 6 : **Gen Z and mental health trends- high and rising burden of mental health concerns.**

Speaker : **Dr. Karthikeyan P R,**
Schizophrenia Research Foundation (I),
Chennai

Dr. Karthikeyan Pandiyambakkam Rajendran serves as Project Research Scientist (Youth Mental Health) at the Schizophrenia Research Foundation (SCARF) in Chennai from 2022 to 2026, leading youth-focused mental health initiatives. His research areas includes community mental health, school mental health, suicide prevention initiative, arts and theatre based experiential learning . He has secured national and international grants and currently research interests span across AI in mental health and climate change and its impact on mental health. He is a member of Indian Epidemiological Association and Geopsychiatry and has published about 25+ articles in the fields of public health, NCDs, mental health, Dentistry and Geopsychiatry.

