Social Neuroscience: Exploring the Neural Basis of Social Behavior, Empathy, and Interpersonal Processes – A Study on Social Works Attached with Civil Societies of Bihar and Jharkhand

Dr. Shivajee Kumar
Research Scholar

***Abstract*—Social neuroscience provides a multidisciplinary framework for understanding how the brain supports social behavior, empathy, and interpersonal relationships. The present study by Dr. Shivajee Kumar investigates the neural underpinnings of social cognition in relation to real-world social work practices carried out by civil society organizations across Bihar and Jharkhand. Using a mixed-method approach—integrating neuroscientific literature review, structured interviews, and field-level observations—the study explores how prosocial behaviors, community engagement, and empathetic responses exhibited by social workers correlate with known neural mechanisms such as mirror neuron systems, affective empathy circuits, and prefrontal regulatory networks. The findings highlight that social workers' abilities to understand others' perspectives, manage interpersonal conflicts, and sustain motivation in challenging socio-economic environments align with neuroscientific models of emotion regulation, compassion, and social bonding. Further, the study underscores that civil society initiatives in Bihar and Jharkhand—working in areas such as disability inclusion, women empowerment, child protection, and rural development—rely heavily on the cognitive-emotional competencies of their staff, many of which can be conceptually mapped to neural processes supporting empathy and cooperative behavior. By bridging neuroscience with grassroots social work, this research provides a novel framework for designing training modules, enhancing emotional resilience, and strengthening community-based interventions. The study concludes that integrating social neuroscience into social work practice can enhance the effectiveness of civil society organizations and promote evidence-based, human-centred approaches.**

***Index Terms*—Social Neuroscience, Empathy, Social Behavior, Civil Society, Bihar, Jharkhand**

I. INTRODUCTION

Human behavior is fundamentally social in nature, shaped by the continuous exchange of information, emotions, and actions within interpersonal and community contexts. The ability to understand others' thoughts, empathize with their feelings, and respond appropriately to social situations forms the foundation of harmonious social functioning. These capacities are essential not only for individual well-being but also for building cohesive and resilient societies. In recent years, the field of social neuroscience has emerged as a significant multidisciplinary bridge, integrating insights from psychology, cognitive neuroscience, anthropology, and social sciences to explore how the brain enables social cognition, empathy, cooperation, altruism, and interpersonal relationships.

Social neuroscience seeks to answer a central question: How does the brain make us social? Its focus spans a range of neural systems—from the mirror neuron system (MNS) that supports imitation and intuitive understanding of others' actions, to the limbic and paralimbic regions that underpin affective empathy and emotional resonance, to the prefrontal cortex responsible for emotion regulation, moral reasoning, and decision-making. Additionally, neurohormonal mechanisms involving oxytocin, vasopressin, dopamine, and serotonin contribute to trust, bonding, motivation, and prosocial tendencies. The past two decades have witnessed rapid

advancement in social neuroscience, offering empirically grounded explanations for behaviors traditionally examined within social work and community psychology.

These neuroscientific insights have profound implications for social work, a field that operates at the intersection of emotional labor, human welfare, vulnerability, and social justice. Social workers routinely engage with individuals and communities experiencing poverty, marginalization, trauma, disability, and social exclusion. Such environments demand high levels of empathy, emotional self-regulation, perspective-taking, problem-solving, and cultural sensitivity—all of which are behaviors supported by identifiable neural circuits. Therefore, applying principles of social neuroscience to social work practice provides a scientifically grounded understanding of the skills, challenges, and emotional experiences that shape the everyday functioning of professionals in this sector.

The relevance of social neuroscience becomes even more salient in regions like Bihar and Jharkhand, where civil society organizations (CSOs) operate amidst structural socio-economic constraints, limited resources, and complex social dynamics. CSOs in these states lead interventions in disability inclusion, women's empowerment, child protection, rural livelihood, tribal welfare, environmental sustainability, and community development. Their effectiveness often depends on the ability of social workers to establish trust, navigate conflict, motivate communities, and maintain sustained empathetic engagement in the face of adversity. These competencies correspond to neural mechanisms associated with empathy networks, behavioral regulation, and social bonding.

Given this backdrop, the present study explores how social neuroscience can expand our understanding of the behavioral, emotional, and cognitive processes that guide social workers in Bihar and Jharkhand. It examines the neural foundations of their prosocial behaviors, interpersonal skills, empathetic responses, and conflict- resolution capacities. By integrating neuroscientific evidence with field-level realities, this paper aims to demonstrate how an interdisciplinary approach can strengthen training, enhance emotional resilience, and promote more effective community-based interventions.

In doing so, the study offers a novel perspective for researchers, practitioners, and policymakers by illustrating how the brain–behavior–society interface can be leveraged to improve social service delivery within civil society organizations. The integration of social neuroscience and grassroots social work thus represents a promising pathway toward more human-centred, evidence-driven, and neurobiologically informed social development practices.

II. REVIEW OF LITERATURE

2.1 Social Neuroscience: Theoretical Foundations

Social neuroscience emerged as a multidisciplinary field aiming to explain how neural systems give rise to social processes such as empathy, cooperation, conflict resolution, and interpersonal communication. It integrates methods from neuroscience, cognitive psychology, social psychology, physiology, and anthropology
to understand how the human brain supports complex social behaviors. Several theoretical models and neural mechanisms form the core of this discipline:

• Mirror Neuron System (MNS):
Discovered by Rizzolatti and colleagues, the MNS comprises neural circuits located primarily in the premotor cortex and the inferior parietal lobule. These neurons activate during both action performance and observation, facilitating imitation, intention-reading, emotional resonance, and the intuitive understanding of others' behaviors. The MNS serves as a foundational mechanism for empathy, social learning, and interpersonal synchrony.

• Affective Empathy Networks:
Affective empathy is supported by limbic and paralimbic structures such as the amygdala, insula, and anterior cingulate cortex (ACC). These regions allow individuals to experience emotional resonance, identify distress in others, and generate compassionate responses. The ACC in particular mediates emotional conflict monitoring, making it crucial for social workers dealing with highly vulnerable populations.

• Cognitive Empathy and Theory of Mind (ToM):
Cognitive empathy refers to the ability to understand another person's mental state without necessarily sharing their emotions. Neuroimaging research highlights the role of the medial prefrontal cortex (mPFC), temporoparietal junction (TPJ), and superior temporal sulcus (STS) in perspective-taking, mentalization, and social reasoning. These processes are essential in navigating diverse cultural settings and interpreting complex social dynamics.

• Emotion Regulation Systems:
Sustaining prosocial behavior requires effective emotion regulation, especially in high-stress environments. The dorsolateral prefrontal cortex (DLPFC) and ventromedial prefrontal cortex (VMPFC) modulate impulses, support reappraisal strategies, and enable socially appropriate responses. These systems are particularly relevant for social workers engaged in trauma counselling, crisis intervention, or conflict mediation.

• Neurohormonal Systems:
Hormones such as oxytocin, vasopressin, serotonin, and dopamine influence trust, cooperation, bonding, motivation, and reward. Oxytocin enhances interpersonal closeness and altruism, while dopamine sustains goal- directed prosocial action. These neurobiological mechanisms underpin the emotional connections foundational to community engagement and social work practice.

Collectively, these models provide a scientific basis for understanding how neural circuits shape the interpersonal competencies central to social development and welfare interventions.

2.2 Empathy and Prosocial Behavior

Empathy—central to both human sociality and professional social work—is widely conceptualized as a multidimensional construct encompassing affective, cognitive, and behavioral components.

Affective Empathy:
This involves experiencing or resonating with the emotions of others. It is associated with neural systems that generate shared affective states, enabling compassion and emotional attunement.

Cognitive Empathy:
Also known as perspective-taking, it refers to the ability to understand another person's thoughts, intentions, or beliefs. Cognitive empathy allows individuals to interpret complex interpersonal situations and respond with sensitivity and accuracy.

Compassionate Empathy (Empathic Concern):
This form translates emotional understanding into concrete prosocial actions such as helping, comforting, or intervening. It links empathy with behavioral motivation, making it crucial for social work and community service.
Empirical research demonstrates that empathy activates common neural circuits across individuals, creating emotional synchrony and enhancing mutual trust. This shared neural activation promotes cooperative behavior, fosters social bonding, and reduces interpersonal conflict—all of which are essential in effective community mobilization, especially in culturally and socio-economically diverse regions such as Bihar and Jharkhand.

2.3 Social Neuroscience in Social Work

The interdisciplinary linkage between social neuroscience and social work is an emerging area of academic interest. Contemporary social work emphasizes:

- person-centred approaches,
- emotional resilience,
- cultural competence,
- ethical decision-making, and
- collaborative problem-solving.

These competencies draw heavily upon the neural mechanisms associated with empathy, impulse control, stress regulation, and social cognition. For instance, effective communication with marginalized groups requires the activation of cognitive empathy networks, while crisis intervention relies on the prefrontal cortex's regulatory functions.

Despite its relevance, research connecting social neuroscience with grassroots social work—particularly in low- resource contexts—remains sparse. Most existing studies are situated in Western,

clinical, or experimental settings. Limited empirical work has been conducted in the socio-cultural landscapes of India, where social workers face unique challenges such as poverty, caste-based marginalization, patriarchal structures, and infrastructural deficits.

This gap underscores the significance of the present study, which seeks to conceptually map neural mechanisms to the real-world behaviors of social workers in civil society organizations across Bihar and Jharkhand. By integrating neuroscientific insights with qualitative field data, the study addresses an underexplored intersection and contributes to a deeper understanding of how brain-based processes support prosocial engagement, conflict resolution, and community empowerment in challenging environments.

III. RESEARCH OBJECTIVES

1. To explore the neural basis of empathy, social behavior, and interpersonal skills among social workers.
2. To examine how social neuroscience concepts align with real-world practices in civil society organizations in Bihar and Jharkhand.
3. To identify cognitive-emotional patterns that influence community engagement, conflict resolution, and prosocial behaviors.
4. To propose a neuroscience-based framework for training and strengthening CSO interventions.

The present study is guided by the overarching aim of integrating social neuroscience with grassroots social work practice in the socio-cultural contexts of Bihar and Jharkhand. Specifically, the study pursues the following objectives:

1. To explore the neural basis of empathy, social behavior, and interpersonal competencies among social workers engaged in community-based interventions, with particular focus on the brain systems underlying emotional resonance, perspective-taking, self-regulation, and prosocial decision-making.
2. To examine the alignment between social neuroscience concepts and the everyday practices of civil society organizations (CSOs) operating in Bihar and Jharkhand, thereby identifying how neuroscientific mechanisms manifest in real-world social work processes such as counselling, mobilization, advocacy, and field engagement.
3. To identify the cognitive-emotional patterns and behavioral processes that shape community engagement, conflict resolution, trust-building, and sustained prosocial behavior among social workers, drawing connections to neural circuits associated with empathy, motivation, and stress regulation.
4. To propose a neuroscience-informed framework for training, capacity building, and organizational strengthening within CSOs, with the aim of enhancing emotional resilience, communication skills, cultural sensitivity, and effectiveness of social development interventions.

IV. METHODOLOGY

4.1 Research Design

The study employed a mixed-method exploratory research design, integrating neuroscientific theory with empirical field-level insights. This design was chosen to bridge the gap between laboratory-based understanding of social cognition and the practical realities of grassroots social work. The research design comprised three key components:

- Comprehensive Neuroscientific Literature Review:

A systematic review of literature published between 2000 and 2025 was conducted, focusing on neural mechanisms related to empathy, social cognition, mirror neuron systems, emotion regulation, and prosocial behavior. Peer-reviewed journals, books, and meta-analyses were included to ensure theoretical robustness.

- Structured Interviews with Social Workers:

In-depth structured interviews were conducted with 72 social workers affiliated with civil society organizations across Bihar and Jharkhand. The interviews sought to capture their experiences, emotional processes, interpersonal strategies, and real-world challenges in community settings.

- Field Observations:

Observational field visits were undertaken during community meetings, disability assessment camps, women's self-help group (SHG) initiatives, child protection interventions, and village sensitization programmers. Observations focused on naturalistic behavior, interpersonal interactions, and situational demands that required emotional regulation, empathy, and conflict resolution.

The combination of these approaches allowed for triangulation of data, enhancing the reliability and validity of the findings.

4.2 Sampling

Purposive sampling was used to select civil society organizations representing diverse sectors of social development. The sampling strategy ensured the inclusion of CSOs working in socio-emotionally demanding fields, where interpersonal skills and empathy are central to service delivery. Organizations were selected from the following thematic areas:

- disability rights and inclusion,
- gender justice and women's empowerment,
- child protection and welfare,
- livelihood promotion and SHG strengthening,
- rural and tribal development initiatives.

This sampling approach enabled the study to examine social neuroscience constructs within a wide range of community-based contexts.

4.3 Tools and Data Collection

Multiple tools were utilized to capture psychological, behavioral, and experiential dimensions relevant to the study's objectives:

- Semi-Structured Interview Schedule:

Designed to explore emotional experiences, interpersonal challenges, decision-making processes, and coping strategies used by social workers.

- Behavioral Observation Checklist:

Focused on specific behavioral indicators such as empathetic engagement, conflict resolution strategies, communication patterns, stress responses, and rapport-building techniques.

- Standardized Empathy Scales (for Theoretical Mapping)

Although not administered as formal psychological tests, validated empathy scales (e.g., Interpersonal Reactivity Index; Basic Empathy Scale) were used conceptually to guide the categorization of observed behaviors into affective, cognitive, and compassionate empathy domains.

- Field Notes and Contextual Documentation:

Detailed notes were maintained during field visits to capture socio-cultural context, environmental constraints, and situational dynamics influencing social worker–community interactions.

The use of these tools ensured both depth and breadth in the data collection process.

V. DATA ANALYSIS

Qualitative data were analyzed using Braun and Clarke's (2006) thematic analysis, which allowed for the identification of recurring patterns, emotional themes, and behaviorally relevant categories across interviews and field observations. Themes were coded inductively from the data and later connected with neuroscientific frameworks.

To address the study's interdisciplinary aim, a conceptual neural mapping approach was applied, whereby observed behaviors—such as empathy, conflict management, perspective-taking, and motivational patterns— were linked to corresponding neural circuits and theoretical models established in existing social neuroscience literature.

This analytical process provided a structured foundation for integrating real-world social work practices with neuroscientific constructs, supporting the development of a neuroscience-informed framework for civil society interventions.

5.1 Empathy-Driven Behavior and Mirror Neuron Activation

Across field observations, social workers consistently demonstrated emotional resonance, shared affective experiences, and an intuitive grasp of beneficiaries'

distress. These behavioral patterns closely align with the functioning of the mirror neuron system (MNS), which supports imitation, empathic attunement, and rapid social prediction. The workers' ability to ―feel with‖ beneficiaries suggest strong activation of embodied empathy pathways.

5.2 Cognitive Empathy in Complex Social Settings

In cases involving domestic violence, disability rights, and tribal welfare, workers displayed advanced perspective-taking, patient communication, and culturally responsive decision-making. These competencies are associated with the prefrontal cortex (PFC) and temporoparietal junction (TPJ), which underpin Theory of Mind, mentalization, and higher-order cognitive empathy. Such neural processes enable workers to interpret intentions, anticipate reactions, and adapt strategies to sensitive contexts.

5.3 Emotional Regulation Under High Stress

The socio-economic ecosystem of Bihar and Jharkhand—marked by poverty, marginalization, gender-based violence, and resource constraints—creates chronically stressful work environments. Social workers were frequently required to remain calm during verbal aggression, mediate community conflicts, and sustain motivation despite systemic limitations. These behaviors correspond to top-down regulation by prefrontal cortical circuits that modulate limbic reactivity, enabling emotional control and resilient decision-making.

5.4 Prosocial Motivation and Reward Pathways

Engagements such as supporting children with disabilities, empowering rural women, and facilitating self-help groups (SHGs) stimulated intrinsic motivation. Workers often reported feelings of purpose, satisfaction, and
social connectedness. These experiences are consistent with activation of dopaminergic reward pathways, indicating that prosocial behavior for them is internally rewarding and reinforces continued community engagement.

5.5 Community Bonding and Oxytocin-Mediated Trust

Long-term field interactions fostered trust, collaboration, reduced social distance, and sustained beneficiary engagement. These relational qualities can be conceptually linked to oxytocin-mediated bonding mechanisms, which enhance social trust and affiliation. The repeated interpersonal exchanges between workers and communities appear to strengthen neurobiological pathways that promote cooperative behavior and mutual understanding.

VI. DISCUSSION

The study demonstrates clear conceptual linkages between social neuroscience and frontline social work. Behavioral observations reveal that social workers frequently rely on neural capacities such as:

- empathy (insula, ACC),
- conflict resolution (prefrontal cortex),
- compassionate action (mirror neurons + limbic circuits),
- sustained motivation (dopamine-mediated reward networks).

The field experiences of CSOs in Bihar and Jharkhand provide real-world validation of neuroscientific principles describing how humans relate to and support one another in diverse social environments.

Social workers who can regulate emotions, adopt multiple perspectives, and establish interpersonal trust are more effective in community engagement—demonstrating that social work is deeply rooted in brain-based processes.

VII. IMPLICATIONS

7.1 Implications for Social Work Practice

The integration of social neuroscience insights into social work practice offers transformative potential for frontline interventions, especially in complex socio-cultural contexts such as Bihar and Jharkhand.

- Neuroscience-informed training for practitioners: Embedding knowledge of neural mechanisms—such

as affective empathy circuits, emotion regulation pathways, and reward systems—can strengthen practitioners' abilities to engage empathetically with diverse populations. Such training can also enhance skills in burnout prevention, stress management, and conflict mediation, enabling social workers to maintain emotional resilience in demanding field conditions.

- Enhanced trauma-sensitive and inclusive interventions:

A deeper understanding of how the brain processes trauma, chronic stress, and social exclusion can improve the design of targeted interventions for survivors of violence, persons with disabilities, tribal communities, and marginalized groups. Neuroscience literacy equips social workers to recognize neurobiological signs of distress, respond with appropriate psychosocial strategies, and support the gradual rebuilding of trust, safety, and empowerment.

Together, these insights reinforce the need for a more holistic, brain-aware approach to social work practice, ensuring that interventions are not only compassionate but also rooted in scientific understanding of human behavior and emotional functioning.

7.2 Implications for Civil Society Organizations (CSOs)

Civil society organizations working in Bihar and Jharkhand operate in emotionally demanding, resource- constrained, and socially complex environments. Integrating social neuroscience into organizational strategies can significantly strengthen their effectiveness and sustainability.

- Embedding social neuroscience in capacity-building initiatives:

Training modules that address the neural basis of empathy, stress regulation, motivation, and interpersonal communication can enhance staff resilience and emotional competence. Such programmers help field workers understand their own cognitive-emotional responses, manage compassion fatigue, and maintain long-term engagement with communities.

- Designing community interventions aligned with human neural processes:

Social neuroscience provides evidence-based tools for improving community mobilization. Interventions that incorporate storytelling, emotional resonance, shared experiences, and positive reinforcement leverage natural neural mechanisms of bonding, memory formation, and behavior change. Aligning program strategies with these mechanisms can increase trust, participation, and sustained behavioral outcomes among community members.

Overall, CSOs that integrate neuroscience-informed approaches are better positioned to foster meaningful social change, enhance staff well-being, and create community interventions that resonate deeply with human psychological and biological needs.

7.3 Implications for Policy and Governance

The integration of social neuroscience into social welfare and community development initiatives has significant implications for state-level policy frameworks in Bihar and Jharkhand.

- Incorporating neuroscience-based behavioral insights into government schemes: Welfare programs addressing disability, gender justice, child protection, and rural development can benefit from evidence-based understanding of human behavior, motivation, and social cognition. Policies that consider neural mechanisms—such as trust-building, emotional regulation, and empathy- driven communication—can enhance programmed implementation, increase beneficiary engagement, and reduce resistance to change.
- Strengthening mental health and emotional resilience training for social workers: Frontline personnel often experience chronic stress, emotional exhaustion, and burnout. Policymakers can mandate structured training on stress regulation, trauma-informed care, and neuroscience-informed communication skills. Such measures can significantly improve workforce retention, reduce turnover, and enhance the quality-of-service delivery in government-supported social welfare initiatives.

Overall, policy frameworks that incorporate neuroscientific evidence can foster more empathetic,

resilient, and effective social systems, thereby strengthening governance outcomes in socially vulnerable regions.

VIII. CONCLUSION

This study highlights that social neuroscience provides a robust and transformative framework for understanding the behavioral foundations of social work practice. By examining the cognitive-emotional processes of social workers in Bihar and Jharkhand, the research demonstrates that empathy, prosocial motivation, conflict mediation, and community bonding are deeply rooted in identifiable neural mechanisms. These capacities— often viewed as moral or professional attributes—are shown to arise from the coordinated functioning of mirror neuron systems, limbic circuits, prefrontal regulatory networks, and neurohormonal pathways.

Findings indicate that frontline social workers intuitively engage in behaviors that align with neuroscientific models of social cognition and emotional resilience. Their ability to sustain compassion, navigate culturally diverse contexts, and remain motivated in socio-economically challenged environments underscores the biological foundations of effective social practice.

Integrating social neuroscience into civil society initiatives can enhance intervention design, improve staff well- being, and promote human-centred, evidence-based program delivery. This interdisciplinary approach not only enriches theoretical understanding but also offers practical tools for policy reform, training, and organizational development. Ultimately, bridging neuroscience with grassroots social work holds significant promise for creating more empathetic, responsive, and sustainable social systems, particularly in regions marked by structural vulnerabilities.

REFERENCES

International References

[1] Adolphs, R. (2009). The social brain: Neural basis of social knowledge. Annual Review of Psychology, 60, 693–716.

[2] Cacioppo, J. T., & Decety, J. (2011). Social neuroscience: Challenges and opportunities. Social Neuroscience, 6(3), 290–302.

[3] Decety, J., & Jackson, P. L. (2006). A social-neuroscience perspective on empathy. Current Directions in Psychological Science, 15(2), 54–58.

[4] Eisenberg, N., & Spinrad, T. L. (2014). Prosocial development. In Handbook of Child Psychology and Developmental Science.

[5] Frith, C. D., & Frith, U. (2007). Social cognition and the brain. Neuron, 56(1), 48–58.

[6] Gallese, V. (2003). The roots of empathy: The shared manifold hypothesis. Psychopathology, 36, 171– 180.

[7] Singer, T. (2006). The neuronal basis of empathy and social emotions. Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society B, 361, 935–946.

[8] Van Overwalle, F. (2009). Social cognition and the brain: A meta-analysis. Human Brain Mapping, 30, 829–858.

Indian Books and Academic Publications

[9] Rao, N. S. (2010). Counselling and Guidance. Tata McGraw Hill, New Delhi.

[10] Kar, B. R. (2017). Cognitive Psychology. Pearson India.

[11] Chadha, N. K. (2009). Applied Social Psychology. MacMillan India.

[12] Mathew, V. (2014). Fundamentals of Social Work in India. Rajat Publications, New Delhi.

[13] Desai, A. S., & Patel, R. (2010). Human Behavior and Social Environment. Himalaya Publishing House, Mumbai.

[14] Kumar, R., & Gupta, S. (2018). Social Psychology in Indian Context. Sage Publications India.

[15] Bhattacharya, S. (2012). Social Work: An Integrated Approach. Deep & Deep Publications, New Delhi.

[16] Niraj, R., & Singh, A. K. (2020). Understanding Community Psychology in India. Sage India.

Indian Journals and Peer-Reviewed Articles

[17] Indian Journal of Social Psychiatry – Articles on empathy, mental health of frontline workers, stress regulation.

[18] Psychology and Developing Societies (SAGE India) – Research on social cognition, culture, and behavior.

[19] Indian Journal of Clinical Psychology – Publications on emotional regulation and prosocial behavior in Indian populations.
[20] Social Action Journal (India) – Articles on civil society, community engagement, and grassroots interventions.
[21] Journal of Social Work Education and Practice (JSWEP) – Studies on social work training, resilience, and field practices.
[22] Economic and Political Weekly (EPW) – Policy analyses and research related to civil society, social welfare, Bihar & Jharkhand socio-economic issues.

Indian Government Reports and Institutional Sources
[23] NITI Aayog (2018–2024). Reports on NGOs, CSOs, and social sector reforms in India.
[24] Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment (MSJE). Annual Reports & Disability Sector Guidelines.
[25] Rehabilitation Council of India (RCI). Manual for Social Rehabilitation and Disability Services.
[26] National Institute for Empowerment of Persons with Multiple Disabilities (NIEPMD). Research & training publications.
[27] Ministry of Women and Child Development (MWCD). Reports on Child Protection, ICPS, and community engagement.
[28] Jharkhand State Livelihood Promotion Society (JSLPS) & Bihar Rural Livelihoods Promotion Society (JEEViKA). Field training & SHG mobilization publications.

Authentic Indian Websites (Government/Research-Oriented & Credible CSOs)
[29] NITI Aayog NGO Darpan Portal: https://ngodarpan.gov.in
[30] National Institute of Mental Health and Neurosciences (NIMHANS): https://nimhans.ac.in
[31] Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment: https://socialjustice.gov.in
[32] Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR): https://icssr.org
[33] UNICEF India – Social Behavior Change (SBC) Resources: https://www.unicef.org/india
[34] PRADAN, India – Community Mobilization Research: https://www.pradan.net
[35] SEWA Bharat – Women Empowerment & Field Studies: https://sewabharat.org
[36] Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS) Research Publications: https://tiss.edu

Primary Data (From the Study)
[37] Kumar, S. (2025). Field interviews with social workers and CSOs in Bihar and Jharkhand (Unpublished Research Data).