

Samaita Jana

K-16 Navadarsha Housing Co-op Society, Nilachal, Birati, Kolkata 700134, West Bengal, India

Email: samaita.jana@gmail.com Tel: +91 8336071059

EDUCATION

- University of Pennsylvania School of Social Policy & Practice** PhD in Social Welfare, *expected*
- Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai, Maharashtra, India** M.A. Social Work in Mental Health, *May 2018*
- Bryn Mawr College, Bryn Mawr, Pennsylvania, USA** B.A., *May 2015*
Major: Economics

INTERESTS: Qualitative Research, Mental Health, Public Health, Labor, Community Organization

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Researcher, Dream Building and Aspiration-Building Project, Adam Smith Business School - University of Glasgow and Durbar Mahila Samanwaya Committee (DMSC)

February 2019 – September 2019

- Conducted quantitative and qualitative research to determine the impact of Dream Building, a psychological training program used as an intervention among sex workers and members of self-help groups in West Bengal, India
- Translation and compilation of the Dream Building Module and Facilitator's Guide in the English language for dissemination across international sex workers' collectives and self-help groups

Research and Documentation Officer, Anjali – Mental Health Rights Organization, Kolkata, India

May 2018 – January 2019

- Coordinated a national study on deinstitutionalization sanctioned by the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Govt. of India, titled 'National Strategy for Inclusive and Community Based Living for Persons with Mental Health Issues'
- Monitored quantitative and qualitative data collection at four public psychiatric hospitals across West Bengal
- Documented program-specific events, annual and half-yearly reports of the organization
- Managed Twitter account and social media content of the organization

Project Director, DRISHTI, University of Pennsylvania School of Social Policy & Practice, Philadelphia

May 2015-May 2016

- Coordinated National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH) funded project titled 'Implementing DRISHTI: Reducing HIV Risk Among High Risk Women' which seeks to lower depression and drug addiction among sex workers in Kolkata, India through Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (CBT) in a support group setting
- Trained members of the support group in Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (CBT) techniques
- Facilitated weekly interventions with members of the support group
- Monitored and evaluated outcomes of training and intervention

PUBLICATIONS

October 2018

- Jana, S., Ray, P., Roy, S., Dam, M., Sinha, S., & **Jana, S.** (2018). Assessing Acceptability, Feasibility and Deliverability of Prep among Female Sex Workers in Brothel Settings. *International Journal of Medical Science and Health Research*, 2(5).

July 2018

- **Jana S**, Maitra S, Bose K, Ray P, Jana S (2018) Positioning Health Interventions from the Perspective of Well-Being-as Conceived by the Community. *J Nurs Womens Health: JNWH-147*. DOI: 10.29011/2577-1450.100047

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June 2017

- Jana, S., Ray, P., Roy, S., Piduttia, J., Ghose, T., **Jana, S.** (2017) Depression and Its Relation with HIV Risk and Social Well-Being among the Brothel-Based Female Sex Workers in Kolkata, India. *J Community Med Public Health Care* 4: 025.

PRESENTATIONS

December 2015

- Stanton, M., **Jana, S.**, Ray, R., Begum, A., & Ghose, T. (2015). "Formalizing labor, facilitating health: The impact of a community-led cooperative bank on sex worker well-being." Paper presented at the American Public Health Association 143rd Annual Meeting and Exposition, Chicago, Illinois.

November 2014

- Chaudhuri, Sambuddha, Samira Ali, and **Samaita Jana.** "Environment of Violence: Exploring Risk of Violence in LGBT Individuals in India." Diss. 2014. Abstract. American Public Health Association, n.d. Web. <<https://apha.confex.com/apha/142am/webprogram/Paper312526.html>>.
- Research paper was presented at the 142nd American Public Health Association (APHA) Annual Meeting and Expo, New Orleans, LA

August 2011

- Presented research on the role of economic empowerment through microfinance (USHA) in curbing rates of HIV/AIDS and other STIs in the presentation titled "Economic Empowerment Leads to A Higher Standard Of Living Among The Sex-workers Population" at the 10th International Congress of AIDS in Asia and Pacific (ICAAP), Busan, South Korea

WORK EXPERIENCE

Translator, Penn School of Social Policy & Practice, Philadelphia, PA

June 2011- July 2014

- Conducted both qualitative and quantitative research on various public health and public policy issues surrounding marginalized women in West Bengal, India
- Translated qualitative interviews from Bengali and Hindi to English and vice-versa for PhD and MSW students
- Participated in a research project with a PhD student on the role of cooperative microcredit institutions in alleviating poverty among sex workers and coauthored abstract for submission to the 143rd American Public Health Association (APHA) Annual Meeting and Expo
- Participated in a group research project with MSW students on exploring the link between HIV intervention and allied social health programming on the quality of life and positive health outcomes on HIV positive female sex-workers in Kolkata, India during summer 2014
- Participated in a group research project with MSW students on USHA Multipurpose Cooperative Society Ltd. (USHA) titled "Sex Workers as Bankers: An Investigation In Community Led Economic Development in the Informal Economy" during summer 2013
- Participated in qualitative research with a PhD student exploring parent-adolescent sexual health communication in the sex-worker community during summer 2012
- Participated in a group research project with MSW students measuring the accessibility of USHA on marginalized groups within the sex-workers member population (such as HIV positive women, LGBT community members, etc.) during summer 2011

Cataloging Assistant, Canaday Library, Bryn Mawr College, Bryn Mawr, PA

September 2013-May 2015

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- Cataloging, printing and making labels, book mending, revising.

Office Assistant, Graduate School of Social Work and Research, Bryn Mawr College, Bryn Mawr, PA

September 2012-March 2013

- Assisted dean's office staff and faculty in organizing files, mail, lecture materials and coordinating special events

Research and Communications Associate, USHA Multipurpose Cooperative Society Ltd. (USHA), Kolkata, India

August 2010- August 2011

- Helped in building networks between other funding agencies, microfinance institutions and USHA, a microcredit venture designed by and for sex-workers of West Bengal, India
- Organized and coordinate incoming staff training workshops
- Worked on investment projects with the board of directors
- Coordinated and helped organize the Annual General Meetings
- Authored and presented a report on how economic empowerment of sex workers through USHA helped in curbing rates of HIV/AIDS and other STIs at the 10th International Congress of AIDS in Asia and Pacific (ICAAP)

VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCES

Balaram Dey Street Anandam, Kolkata, India

August 2019-present

- Presently acting as an external advisor and community organizer for Balaram Dey Street Anandam, a collective of LGBTQ+ members based in West Bengal
- Coordinating data collection to assess PreP feasibility among transgender persons and men who have sex with men (MSM)
- Planning community events such as LGBT Parliament, seminars, and protest marches

Anjali - Mental Health Rights Organization, Kolkata, India

November 2017-December 2017

- Assisted in casework (case history, rehabilitation, repatriation) of patients in public mental healthcare institutions
- Documented program-specific events
- Assisted in research conducted by agency
- Designed and conducted aspiration-building workshop with clients participating in vocational training programs in Kolkata Pavlov Hospital

A Village for Independent and Enterprising Women (A VIEW), South 24 Parganas, West Bengal, India

August 2017- September 2017

- Conducted case histories and mental state examinations of clients in A VIEW, a rehabilitation home for women with mental illness
- Assisted in repatriation of clients in rehabilitation home
- Conducted recreational activities for clients within rehabilitation home
- Conducted community health awareness events in Bererkhal village, South 24 Parganas

Koshish, Field Action Project on Homelessness and Destitution, Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai, India

July 2016-April 2017

- Conducted casework (repatriation, rehabilitation, follow-ups) with clients in Chembur Beggars Home, Mumbai
- Assisted in community-based intervention, linking clients from de-notified tribes with existing government schemes and raising awareness on issues of health, education, and livelihood
- Coordinated recreational activity sessions with clients in Chembur Beggars Home

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Noyce Math and Science Education Internship, Philadelphia, PA

March 2013

- Helped teach Chemistry classes for students of grades 10 and 11 at Franklin Towne Charter School, Philadelphia
- Graded exams, participated in after-school peer tutoring for students

Drexel University College of Medicine, Philadelphia, PA

January 2013

- Shadowed Dr. Robert Sataloff, Chair of Otolaryngology at Drexel University College of Medicine, and observed surgeries, assisted in rounds

Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU), Kolkata, India

January 2011- June 2011

- Taught classes in social science and commerce for the Bachelor's Preparatory Program (a course designed for students who have dropped out of high school in the past and would like to obtain a high school diploma) under IGNOU

AWARDS

Ariadne Solter Internship Fund Recipient, Bryn Mawr College, Bryn Mawr, PA

June 2014-August 2014

- Received competitive summer internship funding from Bryn Mawr College for experiential learning opportunity with USHA Multipurpose Cooperative Society Ltd. (USHA)
- Worked on business investment projects, organized workshops for collectors and monitoring officers at USHA
- Revamped website and updated online content

SKILLS

- **Languages:** English (bilingual proficiency), Bengali (bilingual proficiency), Hindi (professional proficiency), French (limited proficiency)
- **IT Skills:** SPSS, MS Office (Word, Excel, PowerPoint), Social Media (Twitter, Facebook)