

## **THINKING THURSDAYS: IIHED RESEARCH SEMINAR SERIES**

# **DOES GENDER MATTER IN VIRTUAL COMMUNITIES OF TEACHERS?**

### **SPEAKER**

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Deepak Maun is an Assistant Professor at the International Institute for Higher Education Research and Capacity Building (IIHed) at O. P. Jindal Global University (Sonapat, Haryana). He received his PhD in Innovation and Management in Education (IME) from IIM Ahmedabad. His thesis focused on collaborative learning of government primary school teachers in online spaces. Prior to starting his PhD, he was working with a social sector organization focused on teaching XI-XII grade students from poor families. His research interests include governance and leadership in higher education, critical thinking, and unschooling/homeschooling.



### **ABSTRACT**

In recent years, peer-driven, technology-mediated online communities of government schoolteachers built around common interests have emerged. Such bottom-up communities focus on finding solutions to context-specific problems and complement formal in-service teacher training. We examined four such communities of learners using interpretive case studies to understand the nature of groups that emerge.

Although the existing literature does not give much weight to the gender of the teachers in such communities, we found it to be a significant factor impacting participation within Indian context. Broader social factors influenced the opportunities, as well as the nature of participation in the virtual and physical groups. The implications for policy and practice, as well as for the existing understanding of learning of teachers within virtual spaces in a situation where the community members (in-service teachers) are located within geographically distributed workplaces are discussed.

 **THU, 18<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY 2021**

 **11:00 AM – 12:30 PM IST**

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