

Name	**Dr. Preeti Soni**
Designation	**Joint Director**
Education	**Ph.D. (Social Work)**
Specialization	**Disaster Risk Reduction & Management, Social Defence and Substance Use Disorder Prevention, Gender and Child Development, Monitoring & Evaluation**
E-mail ID	**preetisoni4@gmail.com**
Phone (O)	**+91-9717735481**

Brief Academic/Professional Profile

Dr. Preeti Soni holds a Ph.D. (2014) and M.Phil. (2006) in Social Work from the University of Delhi, along with a Master of Social Work (MSW) and Bachelor of Social Work (BSW), also from the University of Delhi. She is an Internationally Certified Trainer on the Universal Treatment Curriculum (UTC) for Substance Use Disorders, and was awarded the Senior Research Fellowship (SRF) by the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), AIIMS, Delhi. She joined NILERD as Joint Director in September 2026, bringing nearly 25 years of experience in research, training, teaching, Monitoring & Evaluation, and policy formulation in the social and development sector.

Over her career, she has been engaged with several Ministries of the Government of India, including the Ministry of Home Affairs (National Institute of Disaster Management), the Ministry of Women & Child Development, the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment, and the Ministry of Education, as well as the Indian Council of Medical Research and other government and academic institutions since 2001. Her professional focus has centred on Disaster Risk Reduction and Management, Social Defence, Substance Use Disorder Prevention, and Gender and Child Development, with particular expertise in psycho-social care, women and child welfare, and elderly care.

Prior to joining NILERD, she served as Senior Consultant at the National Institute of Disaster Management (NIDM), Ministry of Home Affairs, where she led implementation of Agenda-6 of the Hon'ble Prime Minister's 10-Point Agenda on Disaster Risk Reduction, spearheading the India Universities and Institutions Network on Disaster Risk Reduction (IUINDRR) and mainstreaming DRR into higher education through model curricula, capacity-building programmes, and research initiatives. She has contributed extensively to the academic community with over 20 research papers and has authored and edited books and government publications addressing disaster risk reduction and women's welfare.

Work Experience/Job Role

Current Job Role

1. Joint Director, National Institute of Labour Economics Research & Development (NILERD), Under NITI Aayog, Government of India, Delhi (September 2026 - onwards).

Prior Work Experience

1. **Senior Consultant, National Institute of Disaster Management (NIDM), Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India, Delhi (March 2021 - September 2026).**
   - Implemented the Hon'ble Prime Minister's Ten Point Agenda 6 - India Universities and Institutions Network on Disaster Risk Reduction (IUINDRR-NIDM) at the National Level.
   - Spearheaded national-level policy advocacy for mainstreaming Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) in India's higher education system, resulting in integration of Disaster Management (DM) into NET of UGC from 2024.
   - Institutionalisation of DRR Clubs, and mainstream DRR at undergraduate and postgraduate levels into Higher Education system of country.
   - Organised State, Regional and National Training/Conferences & seminars on Disaster Risk Reduction and its related issues.
   - Conceptualised, formulated and finalised 3-credit & 36-credit Model Curriculum for undergraduate level and 45-credit for PG level on Disaster Risk Reduction as Nodal Person, circulated by UGC vide D.O.No.2-9/2022 (CPP-II), dated 24th Feb, 2022.

- Conceptualised, formulated and finalised a 2-credit Skill Enhancement Course on Disaster Risk Reduction as per NEP 2020, circulated by UGC vide D.O.No.15-19/2025(CPP-II) (C.161224), dated 29th Jan, 2026.
- Conceptualised and formulated DRR Club guidelines to sensitise and create awareness among youth, notified by UGC, Ministry of Education, and AICTE vide notification AICTE/P&AP-Misc. in 2025, dated 29.08.2025.
- Conceptualised and launched the Disaster Risk Reduction Research Facility - NIDM Doctoral Fellowship Programme, Research Project and Best Thesis Ranking to promote research in DRR, with approval of the Ministry of Home Affairs, GoI.
- Represented NIDM as an expert in development of the MOOC/foundation course on DRR in collaboration with UGC.
- Conceptualised and edited Handbook Vol. I: Concept of Disaster and Vulnerability - Handbook for Academicians on Disaster Risk Reduction (Foundation Course - Undergraduate Level), NIDM (2025), 320 pages.
- Organised training programmes for State Officials, Academicians, Youth and Community on issues related to Disaster Management at the State and Regional level.
- Formulated and edited a compendium on Agenda-3 of the Hon'ble Prime Minister's 10 Points, "Role of Women in DRR".
- Conceptualised and formulated SOPs for the Internship Programme of NIDM and related research work.
- Prepared Governing Body Agenda Items, Action Taken Reports, and other administrative work.
- Coordinated updating of the list of National and International Universities and Institutions within the network.
- Coordinated matters pertaining to the IUINDRR Secretariat, including compilation of UGC/AICTE/MHRD rules and regulations and Executive Committee meeting minutes.
- Delivered talks on the Role of Education in DRR at training programmes organised by UGC MMTC centres and other institutes across the country.
- Served as Expert Panel Member for the project "Development of a GLOF Warning System through Strong Endurance Drone-based Long-Range (LoRa) Communication for the Upper Catchment of the Tista River", sanctioned by NIDM, MHA, GoI.
- Organised the National Workshop on Forty Years of Bhopal Gas Tragedy: Lessons Learned, Challenges & Way Forward, 03 December 2024, IHC, New Delhi.
- Organised the Conference on Enhancing Disaster Resilience in the Himalayan Region and Beyond, in collaboration with the 16th Finance Commission, 27-28 March 2025, UT Ladakh.
- Organised National conferences for the observance of International Disaster Risk Reduction Day, 2024 & 2025.
- Organised the International Conference on Psychosocial Support & Mental Health Services in Disaster Management - "Beyond the Rubble: Building Resilience through Psychosocial Support", 10-12 October 2025, in collaboration with NIMHANS, Bangalore.
- Served as Session Chair, International Conference on Safety, Health and Analytics-Driven Governance for Sustainable Development, CoE-SEA, IIT Kharagpur, 29-30 January 2024.
- Organised the National Critical Care Nursing Conference (NCNCON), 14-15 February 2025, in collaboration with PGIMER, Chandigarh.
- Organised the National Workshop on "Preparedness and Resilience for Disaster Management & Health Emergency Scenarios", in collaboration with PGIMER, Chandigarh, 27 September 2023.
- Delivered sessions on "Psychosocial Care in Disaster Risk Management", 7-9 May 2024, for master trainers and stakeholders from Odisha.
- Organised state level training programmes for effective implementation of Skill Enhancement Course on DRR to create a pool of trained youth to respond effectively towards any disaster situations.

2. Senior Consultant, Ministry of Women and Child Development, Government of India, Delhi (July 2018 - March 2021).

- Implemented the Hon'ble Prime Minister's Flagship Programme "Beti Bachao Beti Padhao" (BBBP) at the National Level.
- Oversaw implementation of the scheme across Delhi, Jammu & Kashmir, Lakshadweep, Ladakh, Andaman & Nicobar, Daman & Diu, Dadra Nagar Haveli, Chandigarh, Puducherry and Haryana.
- Developed SOPs, guidelines and proposals for implementation of the BBBP Scheme at the national level.
- Organised capacity-building training programmes on Sex Ratio and Girl Child issues for District Collectors, District Magistrates, State officials and elected members at the national level.

- Edited the Compendium of Best Practices on the Hon'ble Prime Minister's flagship scheme "Beti Bachao Beti Padhao", Ministry of Women and Child Development, GoI.
- Developed resource/training material for various stakeholders under BBBP.
- Organised and delivered lectures as a Resource Person for Regional & National Training programmes under BBBP.
- Supported budget preparation for expansion of the BBBP Scheme; drafted and noted at the Ministerial level.
- Prepared talking points for Minister, Secretary and Joint Secretary as directed by senior officials.
- Provided support for PMO dashboards, including Darpan, PRAYAS and UT dashboards.
- Organised review meetings with States/UTs, NIPCCD and other training agencies.
- Reviewed Statements of Expenditure (SOE) and suggested corrective measures to States/Districts.
- Coordinated with States/Districts on display of IEC materials for exhibitions and events.
- Supported translation of the BBBP guideline into Hindi and provided inputs for its revision.

3. **Consultant, National Institute of Social Defence (NISD), Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment, Government of India, Delhi (June 2015 - July 2018).**
   - Coordinated and supported International and National Training Programmes on Drug Prevention in India.
   - Organised programmes on drug abuse prevention in collaboration with Central Universities of India.
   - Organised the International Training Programme on Universal Curriculum on Substance Use Disorder, supported by the Colombo Plan, 7 September-20 October 2015, J.P. Continental, Vasant Vihar, Delhi.
   - Provided technical support to Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan, Red Cross Society and NIOS to organise sensitisation programmes for school students on Drug Abuse Prevention in North East India.
   - Organised skill development programmes for recovering addicts in collaboration with NSDC training providers across states.
   - Delivered sessions on "Understanding of Drug Abuse and its Consequences" at St. Anthony's College, Don Bosco, Shillong (3-4 March 2017, ICSSR & NISD).
   - Delivered sessions on "Drug Abuse Prevention" at Amity University, 4 August 2016.
   - Delivered sessions on substance abuse co-dependency at a training on Drug Abuse Counselling & Rehabilitation for Government functionaries of Punjab, 1-6 August 2016, ISTM, New Delhi.
   - Conducted a session on "Role & Responsibility of Peer Educator" at the International Training Programme for Bhutan Government functionaries, Ashoka Hotel, organised by NISD.
4. **Senior Executive Officer, National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS), Ministry of Human Resource Development, Government of India, Noida, UP (September 2014 - June 2015).**
   - Conducted sessions on prevention of substance misuse and related topics at Regional Training Programmes (AEP, UNFPA) for Kendriya Vidyalaya nodal teachers across Chandigarh, Gurgaon, Jammu and Delhi regions.
   - Broadcast a live online programme on "Right to Safety Against Sexual Abuse", 6 March 2015, NIOS.
   - Organised a three-day workshop on review of the Question Paper Bank of the Senior Secondary Curriculum, October 2014.
   - Organised workshops on Learner Engagement Activity guidelines, monitoring tools and protocols, and the On-Demand Examination Question Bank at NIOS.
5. **Senior Research Fellow (placed at VMMC, Safdarjung Hospital), Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), Government of India, Delhi (September 2009 - December 2013).**
   - Conducted an extensive research study on "Drug Abuse among Adolescents: with Special Reference to Tobacco Consumption among School Students in NCT of Delhi".
   - Developed plans and survey tools for Government schools of Delhi.
6. **Faculty Member/Consultant, National Institute of Social Defence, Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment, Government of India, Delhi (July 2008 - June 2011).**
   - Organised Capacity Development Training Programmes in Geriatric Care for State/District officials, college students and community members.

- Delivered sessions and guided student dissertations for the one-year PG Diploma in Integrated Geriatric Care at NISD.
- Provided technical support in organising a Five-Day Training Programme on Geriatric Care for SAARC countries, 2008.
- Conceptualised and organised student research-data-collection visits to old age homes, day care centres, hospitals and orphanages.
- Prepared project proposals, policies and documentation for the institute.

7. **Consultant, Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU), Delhi (July 2007 - June 2008).**
   - Developed course material for the Master of Social Work (MSW) programme for open distance learning.
   - Provided technical support for implementation of MSW across the country.
   - Conducted a seminar on key issues in social work and assisted in organising a seminar on HIV/AIDS on World AIDS Day, 1 December 2007.

8. **Research Associate, Institute of Management Technology (IMT), Ghaziabad, UP (January 2007 - June 2007).**
   - Prepared macro-level business case studies on supply chain management of selected firms.
   - Planned market surveys and developed data-collection tools (questionnaires, interview schedules).
   - Identified related elements of different types of supply chains.

9. **Adolescent Counsellor, WHO Project "SAHYOG" at Hindu Rao Hospital, Delhi (March 2003 - March 2004).**
   - Served as adolescent counsellor, organising sessions on adolescent issues and behavioural problems.
   - Conducted workshops on Capacity Building for Better Adolescent Care (2003 & 2004) and for professional social workers (organised by YWCA, January 2004).

10. **Project Coordinator, CHILDWATCH INDIA, a National Non-Governmental Organization, Delhi (June 2001 - May 2002).**
    - Implemented projects related to street and working children in Delhi NCT.
    - Conducted studies monitoring activities of slum/street children and institutional homes.
    - Wrote press notes and reports; organised training and workshops for civil-society stakeholders in the unorganized sector.

Academic/Professional Affiliation

1. Member, Board of Studies, Himalayan Centre for Disaster Risk Reduction and Resilience (HIM-DR), Himachal Pradesh University, H.P.
2. Internationally Certified Trainer on Universal Treatment Curriculum for Substance Use Disorders (UTC), International Centre for Credentialing and Education for Addiction Professionals (ICCE).

Research/Assignment/Policy Advocacy involved in

1. Nodal Person for conceptualisation, formulation and finalisation of the 3-credit, 36-credit (UG) and 45-credit (PG) Model Curriculum on Disaster Risk Reduction and Management, circulated by UGC vide D.O.No.2-9/2022 (CPP-II), dated 24th February, 2022.
2. Conceptualisation, formulation and finalisation of the 2-credit Skill Enhancement Course on Disaster Risk Reduction as per NEP 2020, circulated by UGC vide D.O.No.15-19/2025 (CPP-II) (C.161224), dated 29th January, 2026.
3. Conceptualised and launched the Disaster Risk Reduction Research Facility – NIDM Doctoral Fellowship Programme, Research Project and Best Thesis Ranking, with the approval of the Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India.

4. Expert Panel Member, Project "Development of a GLOF Warning System through Strong Endurance Drone-based Long-Range (LoRa) Communication for the Upper Catchment of the Tista River", sponsored by NIDM, Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India.
5. Implementation of the Hon'ble Prime Minister's Flagship Programme "Beti Bachao Beti Padhao" at the National Level, Ministry of Women and Child Development, Government of India.
6. Research study on "Drug Abuse among Adolescents: with Special Reference to Tobacco Consumption among School Students in NCT of Delhi", Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR).

Publications

A. Books/ Edited Volumes (Government Documents)

1. Vyas, M., Soni, P., Sindhu, K., Ritu, Rai, J., & Choudhary, G. (2025), "Handbook Vol. I: Concept of Disaster and Vulnerability - Handbook for Academicians on Disaster Risk Reduction (Foundation Course - Undergraduate Level)", National Institute of Disaster Management, New Delhi, 320 pages.
2. Kumar, S. and Soni, P. (2023), "Compendium of Best Practices on Women's Role in Disaster Risk Management", National Institute of Disaster Management, ISBN 978-81-969180-6-4, New Delhi, 122 pages.
3. Ratnoo, R., Parkash, S., Soni, P., Sindhu, K., Joshi, P. and Sarkar, A. (2025), "Forty Years of Bhopal Gas Tragedy: Lessons Learned, Challenges & Way Forward", National Institute of Disaster Management, New Delhi.
4. "Model Curriculum on Disaster Risk Reduction and Management (Skill Enhancement Course, NEP 2020)", National Institute of Disaster Management, 2025.
5. "Certificate Programme on Disaster Risk Reduction and Management (Model Curriculum)", National Institute of Disaster Management, 2021.
6. "Post Graduate Diploma Programme in Disaster Risk Reduction and Management (DRRM) (Model Curriculum)", National Institute of Disaster Management, 2021.

B. Research Articles

1. **Soni, P.** (2024), "Population and Pollution: A Reciprocal Study of Their Impact", SRS Publisher, ISBN 978-81-969932-1-4.
2. **Soni, P.** (2015), "Real Life Situations of Rag Picker Girls in New Delhi", LAP Lambert Academic Publishing, Germany, ISBN 978-3-8465-4030-5.
3. **Soni, P.** and Sunil, K. (2015), "A Study on Prevalence of Tobacco Use among Children: A Literature Review", Journal of Alcoholism & Drug Dependence, 3:187.
4. **Soni, P.** (2014), "Problem and Situation of Girl Rag Pickers in the National Capital Territory of Delhi", Journal of Alcoholism & Drug Dependence, Vol. 2, Issue 4, ISSN 2329-6488.
5. **Soni, P.** (2014), "An Overview of the Problem of Drug Abuse among Adolescents with Special Reference to Tobacco Use in Developed and Developing Countries", Journal of Pharmaceutical and Scientific Innovation, 3(4), pp. 283, ISSN 2277-4572.
6. **Soni, P.** and Raut, D.K. (2013), "Tobacco Use among School Students in the National Capital Territory of Delhi", Journal of Alcoholism & Drug Dependence, 1:120.
7. **Soni, P.** (2012), "Prevalence and Pattern of Tobacco Consumption in India", International Research Journal of Social Sciences, 1(4), pp. 36-43, ISSN 2319-3565.
8. **Soni, P.** (2012), "Pattern of Tobacco Consumption among the Elderly in NCT of Delhi", Ageing & Society - The Indian Journal of Gerontology.
9. **Soni, P.** (2009), "Eating Disorders among Adolescents: Role of Parents", Journal of School Social Work.
10. **Soni, P.** (2009), "Tobacco Use among Adolescents", Journal of School Social Work.
11. **Soni, P.** (2008), "Drug Abuse with Special Reference to Consumption of Tobacco", National Institute of Social Defence, New Delhi.
12. **Soni, P.** (2006), "Juvenile Delinquency: Role of Family in Causation and Prevention", Social Welfare Journal.

Workshops/Conferences

1. Resource Person, National Workshop "Role of Higher Education Institution in Disaster Management", organized by Chaudhary Bansi Lal University, Bhiwani, Haryana, 30th March, 2026.
2. Panellist, "Mental Health Issues of Vulnerable and Marginalised Social Groups" at the 1st International Conference on Psychosocial Support and Mental Health Services in Disaster Management, organized by NIMHANS, 10-12th October 2025, Bangalore.
3. Resource Person, "Inspiring Young Minds on DRR", organized by SRM Institute of Science and Technology in collaboration with Rajiv Gandhi National Institute of Youth Development, Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, Government of India, 3rd March, 2026.
4. Resource Person, UGC MMTC Six-Day short-term programme on "Disaster Risk Reduction" for University and College Teachers, organized by UGC MMTC Centre, Central University of Kerala, 27th October - 1st November, 2025.
5. Resource Person and Convener, UGC MMTC Six-Day short-term programme on "Capacity Building for Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR)" for University and College Teachers, organized by UGC MMTC Centre, Assam University, Silchar, 10th - 15th November, 2025.
6. Convener and Resource Person, 5-day Regional Capacity Building Programme "Inspiring the Minds for Disaster Risk Reduction", organized by Gautam Buddha University, Uttar Pradesh, 6-10 February 2023.
7. Resource Person, 5-day programme "Inspiring the Minds towards Disaster Risk Reduction" for academicians and state authorities, organized by University of Mizoram and State Disaster Management Authority (SDMA), Mizoram, 17-19 November 2025.
8. Convener and Session Chair, International Conference on "Climate Change Mitigation, Adaptation, and Resilience: A Holistic Approach", organized by JSS Academy of Higher Education & Research, Mysuru, Karnataka, 25-26 July 2024.
9. Session Chair, International Conference SHADH, 2024, organized by IIT Kharagpur, West Bengal.
10. Speaker, National Workshop on "Preparedness and Resilience for Disaster Management & Health Emergency Scenarios", organized by PGIMER, Chandigarh, 27th September, 2023.
11. Convener, Conference on "Enhancing Disaster Resilience in the Himalayan Region and Beyond", organized for the 16th Finance Commission, University of Ladakh, 27-28 March 2025.
12. Organized the International Training Programme on Universal Curriculum on Substance Use Disorder, supported by the Colombo Plan, J.P. Continental, Vasant Vihar, Delhi, 7th September - 20th October, 2015.

Awards/Honours

1. Awarded Senior Research Fellowship (SRF) by the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), Delhi, for pursuing research at VMMC, Safdarjung Hospital, September 2009 - December 2013.
2. Internationally Certified as a Trainer on the Universal Treatment Curriculum for Substance Use Disorders (UTC) in India, by the International Centre for Credentialing and Education for Addiction Professionals, Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs (INL), U.S. Department of State, and NISD, Government of India.