



**Pradip Kapse**

**CHSS 2022 SPPU Workshop Fellow**

**Nationality:** India

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**Research interests:** student migration, marginalities, underprivileged groups.

“As a first-generation learner from a humble economic background, my academic journey from a small village in Maharashtra began with uncertainty and limited knowledge of the intricacies of academia and research processes. These intricacies included major language barriers. Having studied in Marathi and not in English, the road through higher education was not easy. However, my path underwent a remarkable transformation when I became part of the Sida-AAS-SPPU program. In terms of my personal academic growth, I believe this democratic cohort has significantly empowered me to voice my ideas in various ways. The interdisciplinary nature of the workshops, combined with a strong emphasis on feedback, encouraged me to share my challenges and concerns openly. I learned how to discuss my research paper with fellow participants, and the mentorship provided was invaluable; having mentors guide me closely through my research project enriched my experience.

I feel personally indebted to AAS, Sida, and SPPU for their unwavering support, which has inspired me to undergo academic growth within a supportive and motivational group of mentors. The friendships I have formed with fellow scholars have enriched my research experience and fostered a collaborative spirit that I find invaluable. An international exposure of this kind would not have been possible without their encouragement.

Reflecting on my journey, I recognize how the support from the Sida, AAS and SPPU program has been instrumental in my development. I am eager to extend my collaboration with this incredible team and continue to grow in my academic pursuits. The change I have experienced has transformed my research approach and ignited a lasting passion for learning and inquiry.”