



CHSS 2022-23 Research Fellow
Nationality: Pakistani
Affiliation: Independent scholar
Project: "Climate Preparedness in Local Languages"

Sonal Dhanani

Sonal Dhanani is the founder of Parindey Training and Counseling, a social enterprise dedicated to combating violent extremism and promoting mental health access through creative educational programs. She advocates for the empowerment of youth and women, focusing on economic and climate awareness. Sonal has presented her climate policy paper at the 2023 AAS-in-Asia Conference in Daegu, South Korea. She also contributed insights on "people science for climate change" and "Gender, Climate, and Memory Documentation" at the Sida 2023 regional partners meeting held at the UN office in Bangkok. She currently leads dialogues on the impact of colonial histories on contemporary climate challenges.

Thanks to the CHSS research grant, Sonal significantly expanded her work at the policy level. What started as a project documenting indigenous practices for disaster risk reduction has now evolved into a comprehensive initiative to train government officials on addressing the urgent need for gender-responsive and equitable disaster management and climate crisis response. In Pakistan, where there is little to no memory documentation on climate change, Sonal aims to decolonize the climate field. Her goal is not only to create climate change content in local languages but also to run a mobile exhibition that highlights the lived experiences of climate change and indigenous practices. CHSS has empowered Sonal to create lasting changes by bridging gaps in climate knowledge and by fostering a deeper understanding of the intersection of history, gender, and climate change.