

December 29, 2024

Press Release

Launch of Damal Fellowship – 2025

Just Futures Pahal is pleased to announce the launch of the Damal Fellowship—a national initiative commencing in January 2025. This intensive fellowship aims to foster a deep critical understanding of caste, class, gender, and sexuality, and to generate new questions, knowledge, and imaginations related to these themes. It will focus on the love, joy, lived experiences, capabilities, and aspirations of Dalit women.

The fellowship takes its name from the term "[Damal](#)," which refers to a historical system of legal punishments based on caste and gender as outlined in the Muluki Ain of 1854. Through the Damal Fellowship, JFP seeks to engender new narratives on dignity, justice, equity, inclusive democracy, and sustainable futures, both within and beyond Nepal, through the prism of caste.

JFP invited applications for the Damal Fellowship from participants of the Just Futures Fellowship (conducted in Madhesh Province) and the JFP Faculty Seminar (organized at the national level). The following six talented Dalit women have been awarded fellowships from a pool of twelve applicants: **Anjana Bishankhe; Asmita Majhi; Kakunti Rabidas; Madhu Mahara; Seema Baitha; and Sita Devi Baudel.**

The nine-month fellowship aims to foster intergenerational and interdisciplinary learning among fellows. It will encourage writing and creative expressions through in-person seminars, exchanges, and community-based collaborative learning. A specialized curriculum and Dalit women-centered pedagogy will be employed.

[JFP core team](#) will participate in the fellowship's teaching and learning initiatives as both learners and faculty, connecting with the six dynamic Damal fellows. Shailaja Paik, Sarita Pariyar, Lucinda Ramberg, Uma Chakravarti, Tri Ratna Manandhar, Anna Stirr, and other prominent thinkers and intellectuals will contribute to the program.



Sona Khatik

Executive Director,

Just Futures Pahal