Read this first

What this file is. A sample synopsis for the IGNOU MAWGSR project course MWGP 101 (research route, social science structure), written as study reference by the ignouproject.com editorial desk. It shows how the parts that the MWGP-101 Project Manual (School of Gender and Development Studies, June 2024) asks for can be filled for one topic. It is not issued, checked or endorsed by IGNOU.

What it is not. It is not a synopsis you can send. Do not copy its title, wording or design. The manual asks for work that is your own; copied work is forwarded to the University's Examination Discipline Committee as an unfair means case (manual, p. 5). Choose your own topic and get it approved by email before you begin (manual, p. 7).

The brackets. Everything in [square brackets] is a fact only you can supply: your city, your respondents, your numbers, your dates. Nothing in this file is a finding; there is no data in it.

How it was made. Prepared in November 2026 from the MWGP-101 Project Manual (pp. 7, 9 to 15, 19, 20 and 24) and IGNOU's Common Prospectus (July 2026), with AI-assisted drafting. Every reference listed at the end was checked to exist before this file was published. Published under the editorial responsibility of BK Sahni, Shri Chakradhar Publication Pvt. Ltd., New Delhi.

What the manual asks the synopsis to carry. For a social science topic: an introduction, objectives, methodology, a description and a bibliography. For a humanities topic: an introduction, purpose of study, description and a bibliography (manual, p. 7). The synopsis travels by email with Proforma I (manual, pp. 7 and 20).

Manual component (social science)	Where it sits in this sample
Introduction	Section 1, with the statement of the problem and the reason for choosing the topic (manual, p. 12, part B)
Objectives	Section 2: four objectives (the manual suggests three to four, p. 12, part C)
Methodology	Section 3: design, population, sampling, tool, analysis, feminist approach, ethics, time limits (manual, pp. 10, 12 and 15)
Description	Section 4: how the 4,000 to 5,000 word report will be organised (manual, p. 9)
Bibliography	Section 5: references in APA style (manual, p. 12: latest APA and/or Chicago)

MWGP 101: PROJECT WORK

Synopsis of the Research Project

WORKING HOURS, SAFETY AND EARNINGS OF WOMEN BEAUTY-SERVICE WORKERS ON APP-BASED HOME-SERVICE PLATFORMS IN [CITY]

Submitted for approval of the research topic, with Proforma I, to the Course Coordinator, MWGP 101, School of Gender and Development Studies, IGNOU, New Delhi

Item	Entry
Name of the learner	[Your name]
Enrolment number	[As on your IGNOU identity card]
Programme	MA in Women's and Gender Studies (MAWGSR)
Specialisation	[Women's Studies / Gender, Literature and Culture]
Course	MWGP 101 Project Work, research project route
Suggested area (manual, p. 24)	Gender and Work
Regional Centre and Study Centre	[Names and codes]
E-mail and mobile	[The e-mail you will also write on Proforma I]
Date	[Date of sending]

The approval of the topic arrives by email; keep that email, because it goes into the final single file (manual, p. 7).

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1. Introduction

1.1 Background

Paid work done inside other people's homes has long been women's work in India, and app-based platforms have changed how part of it is found and paid for. A customer books a facial, a waxing or a bridal appointment on a phone; the platform assigns a worker; the worker travels to the customer's home with her own kit. The Code on Social Security, 2020 (Act No. 36 of 2020) gave such arrangements a legal name: a gig worker is a person who works and earns outside a traditional employer and employee relationship (section 2(35)), and a platform worker is a person engaged in platform work (section 2(61)), which section 2(60) describes as a work arrangement outside a traditional employer and employee relationship in which organisations or individuals use an online platform to access other organisations or individuals for specific services in exchange for payment.

NITI Aayog's report on India's gig and platform economy estimated that 77 lakh (7.7 million) workers were engaged in gig work in 2020-21 and projected 2.35 crore (23.5 million) by 2029-30 (NITI Aayog, 2022). Beauty and wellness services form one corner of this work. Raval and Pal (2019) studied app-based beauty work in India and examined how platforms reshape what counts as professional conduct for the women who do it. The annual Fairwork India ratings, which in 2024 assessed eleven platforms, including one large home-services platform, against five principles (fair pay, conditions, contracts, management and representation), found that no platform earned the point for fair representation (Fairwork India, 2024).

1.2 Statement of the problem

Much of the public discussion of gig work in India concerns delivery and ride-hailing. Women who provide beauty services at home through apps work alone in private spaces and carry their own materials. [Describe here how bookings and ratings work on the platforms in your city, and what earlier studies you found on these workers there; if you found none, say so.] The present study asks how women beauty-service workers on app-based platforms in [city] describe their working hours, their safety while travelling and working, and the money they keep after work-related costs, and how this work sits beside their responsibilities at

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home.

1.3 Why this topic

The topic falls in the suggested area Gender and Work (manual, p. 24) and builds on Unit 17, Women and Work, of MWG-102 Gender and Power (Neetha, 2023). It also uses the idea of emotional labour (Hochschild, 1983), since the work requires managing the customer's comfort as well as the service, and Kabeer's (1999) account of empowerment as resources, agency and achievements, which helps separate earning from control over earnings. [Add here, in your own words, why the topic matters to you and to your city, for example the platforms active there and what you have observed.]

2. Objectives

The objectives of the study are:

1. To describe the working hours and booking patterns of women beauty-service workers on app-based platforms in [city].

2. To examine how the workers experience safety while travelling to and working in customers' homes.

3. To study the earnings and the work-related costs (products, travel, platform charges) that the workers report.

4. To explore how the workers fit platform work alongside household and care responsibilities.

The objectives are worded neutrally and assume no finding. No hypothesis is proposed: the manual lists hypothesis testing as optional for a survey (p. 15), and this is a descriptive study.

3. Methodology

3.1 Research design

A descriptive survey using a structured interview schedule, supported by [5 to 8] in-depth interviews to understand the reasons behind the patterns the schedule shows. The study follows the survey steps listed in the manual (p. 15): selecting the problem, defining the aim and scope, fixing time limits, examining sources of information, deciding the unit of survey,

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deciding the amount of refinement, preparing respondents, constructing the tool, field work, processing and analysis, and interpretation and report writing.

3.2 Population, unit and area

Population: women aged 18 and above who have provided beauty services in customers' homes through an app-based platform in [city] during the last [six] months. Unit of survey: the individual worker. Area: [names of localities in your city].

3.3 Sample and sampling

Where no list of such workers is available to the researcher, the study uses snowball sampling: first contacts through [training centres / worker groups / personal contacts], each respondent being asked to suggest others. The sample will be [number] respondents, a number chosen by the learner for the time available; the manual sets no minimum. Snowball samples are not representative; the report will say so in its limitations and will not generalise beyond the respondents.

3.4 Tool of data collection

An interview schedule in [English / Hindi / local language] with five sections: (A) profile (age, education, marital status, years in beauty work); (B) hours and bookings in a typical week; (C) safety while travelling and inside homes; (D) earnings, costs and payment; (E) household and care work. The schedule will be tried on [3] workers outside the sample and revised. A blank copy will be attached to the report as an appendix.

3.5 Analysis

Answers from the schedule will be coded and presented as frequencies and percentages, with cross-tables where they serve an objective (for example, hours by years in the work). Notes from the in-depth interviews will be read for recurring themes and quoted without names. Each objective will have its own section in the analysis chapter.

3.6 Feminist approach and ethics

The manual (p. 10) reminds the researcher that the identities of researcher and respondent shape what is said, that women are not one homogeneous group, and that respondents may hold back information they fear will be exposed. The study responds to this in four ways:

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interviews at a time and place the respondent chooses, outside working hours; informed oral or written consent before each interview, with the right to stop; no names, phone numbers, platform IDs or customer details recorded; and no contact with any platform company about a respondent. [Note here any ethical permission your study centre or supervisor asks for.]

3.7 Time limits

The manual lists the definition of time limits as a survey step (p. 15). Field work: [month year] to [month year]. Analysis and writing: [month year] to [month year]. The report will be submitted in the cycle that IGNOU notifies for MWGP 101.

4. Description of the proposed report

The report will follow the manual's structure for social science projects (p. 9) and stay within 4,000 to 5,000 words (manual, pp. 7 and 9). The word split shown is a planning suggestion of this sample, not an IGNOU rule.

Part (manual, p. 9)	What it will hold	Planned words
a. Title	As approved by email	[ ]
b. Introduction and statement of the problem	Background, the problem, why it matters	[700]
c. Objectives	The four objectives above	[150]
d. Methodology	Design, sample, tool, analysis, ethics, limits	[700]
e. Analysis	One section per objective, tables and themes	[2,000]
f. Conclusion and recommendations	Answers to each objective; suggestions for workers' groups and policy	[600]
g. References	APA style, every source cited in the text	[ ]

5. Bibliography

Fairwork India. (2024). *Fairwork India ratings 2024: Labour standards in the platform economy*. Centre for Information Technology and Public Policy, International Institute of Information Technology Bangalore, and Oxford Internet Institute, University of Oxford.

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Hochschild, A. R. (1983). *The managed heart: Commercialization of human feeling*. University of California Press.

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Neetha, P. (2023). Unit 17: Women and work. In *MWG-102 Gender and power, Block 4: Gender and institutions*. Indira Gandhi National Open University.

NITI Aayog. (2022). *India's booming gig and platform economy: Perspectives and recommendations on the future of work*. Government of India.

Raval, N., & Pal, J. (2019). Making a "pro": 'Professionalism' after platforms in beauty-work. *Proceedings of the ACM on Human-Computer Interaction, 3*(CSCW), Article 175, 1-17.

School of Gender and Development Studies. (2024). *MWGP-101 project manual*. Indira Gandhi National Open University.

Before you send your own synopsis: check that every source in your introduction appears in your bibliography and every entry in the bibliography is cited in your text; attach Proforma I with the title in block letters; send both as soft copies to the address printed in the manual (p. 7).

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