



Institute of Social Studies Trust
Annual Report 2008-09

Annual Report

2008-09



INSTITUTE OF SOCIAL STUDIES TRUST

The Institute of Social Studies Trust (ISST), a non-profit, non-governmental organization, was set up in 1964 as a Society and was registered as a Trust in 1980. The overall aim of ISST is to carry out **research for social change** with a focus on work and well-being from a gender perspective. In recognition of its work, ISST has been conferred NGO Consultative Status (II) by the United Nations.

ISST attempts to bridge the gaps between research, action and policy debate, believing, on one hand, that academic research can provide valuable inputs for grassroots activism and policy debate, and equally on the other hand, that activist experience and policy concerns need to influence the directions of research. ISST, thus, positions itself at the interface between research, action and policy.

The main office of ISST is located at the India Habitat Centre in New Delhi. ISST also has a Community Centre in East Delhi and a branch office in Bangalore.



Contents

From the Chairperson	.....	7
From the Director's Desk	.....	8
Projects	.....	10
Completed Activities	.....	12
On-going Activities	.....	16
Community Outreach Programme	.....	20
Publications based on ISST research	.....	30
Presentations 2008-09	.....	32
Our Team	.....	35
Interns/Volunteers	.....	36
ISST Board of Trustees	.....	36





Research carried out at ISST extends from policy research, independently as well as in partnership with university academics and activists. It has also been satisfying to see the community outreach programme evolving in new and challenging directions.

From the Chairperson

I have been associated with ISST as Trustee and now Chairperson, since 2006, and informally since it was set up and have been witness to its evolution as an organization contributing both to policy research and to community action. It has been satisfying to observe the substantial contributions made by the ISST team on both fronts. A major strength of the organization is its committed staff and ability to carry out field work in remote rural areas. Working with activist groups over a period of time has deepened the understanding of researchers and we hope that such interactions will continue to enhance the quality of ISST's research.

It has also been satisfying to see the community outreach programme evolving in new and challenging directions with the setting up of the ISST Community College from July 2009, to offer certificate courses in Computer Literacy and Functional English to begin with.

Research carried out at ISST extends from policy research, independently as well as in partnership with university academics and activists. The range of work has not diluted ISST's quest for excellence. The Trustees and I appreciate the efforts of the team at ISST and give them our full support and good wishes for the future.

Sharada Jain
Jaipur

We record with deep regret the passing of Prof. Ranjit Gupta who as Chairperson (1988-1997) and as Member of the Board of Trustees (1997-2004) guided the Institute during its formative years.



One of the highlights of the last year has been ISST's role in co-ordinating three Round Tables held in Sri Lanka, India and Nepal

From the Director's Desk

The winter of 2008 may be largely remembered for the global financial crisis and its wide and varying impacts. However, the fieldwork that ISST carried out during the year, for research projects among the urban poor in Delhi, and in rural areas in Himachal Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, and Kerala did not show any immediate fallouts of the crisis, pointing to both the segmented nature of the economy and perhaps the slowness of the trickle-down effect. Instead, the problems identified by the respondents in these areas were the persistent problems—erosion of natural resources and insecure livelihoods. We have, accordingly, continued to focus on inspiring civil society efforts to bring about a more equitable and sustainable development trajectory. This focus has been evident in ISST's interactions with its many research partners.

One of the highlights of the last year has been ISST's role in co-ordinating three Round Tables held in Sri Lanka, India and Nepal, and in bringing together heads of research organizations to reflect upon the Policy Research Environment. This initiative, supported by the International Development Research Centre (IDRC), included the preparation of background papers on policy organizations. One of the papers prepared at ISST has enabled us to share our views that action-based research needs to be seen as a full-fledged member of the policy research community. We have sought to make the point that the policy-relevant experience of practitioners and activists is not adequately captured in what might be described as 'mainstream research'.

ISST continues to respond to requests from

the government. Several evaluations have been carried out for the Ministry of Women and Child Development, Government of India, in addition to impact assessment studies and documentation for some of our activist partners. Longer-term research has been undertaken on issues affecting women and men in the informal economy, education, social protection, and the wider impacts of important national programmes such as the NREGA (National Rural Employment Guarantee Act) and microfinance. ISST is part of, and contributes to, the Social Protection in Asia (SPA) programme—a research, advocacy and network-building programme being co-ordinated by the Institute of Development Studies (IDS), Sussex.

In partnership with Pathways of Women's Empowerment, IDS, ISST held a workshop in Delhi with practitioners organizing women in the informal economy with the intention of bringing out a book documenting these experiences. This activity represents a unique and innovative way of bridging some of the gaps between research and practice.

ISST seeks to disseminate its research findings and insights from the field in various ways. Working papers and publications constitute a part of this process. In addition, through participation in seminars and representation on official committees, learnings from research have been communicated to a wider group including policy-makers and researchers. In particular, mention should be made of a close association that has developed over this year with the Mahila Samakhyas Programme for women's empowerment, and with a working

group on women's empowerment constituted by the Government of Madhya Pradesh. A special effort was also made in partnership with UNIFEM and HomeNet India, to organize policy workshops in state capitals. Regular workshops linked to projects as well as the open forum of the IHC-ISST Gender Policy Forum, and the smaller discussion groups at ISST, have all helped to strengthen ISST networks and communication efforts.

As we enter into the next year, we do so with a stronger research team at ISST, Bangalore, housed in new office premises, and backed by a year-long programme of IT upgradation and training being supported by the IDRC.

As regards the Community Outreach Programme, it has now evolved into a strong and largely community-managed programme. The ISST Community College, one of the first hundred such colleges to have entered into a partnership

with IGNOU (Indira Gandhi National Open University), has commenced in July 2009. We hope to expand the scope of this initiative in the coming years. We also expect the activities being carried out at the community centre to be consolidated and systematized further during the coming year, with the Community College providing an overall umbrella to the teaching effort; with resource centre activities being centred around service delivery; and with the setting up of a youth resource centre characterized by peer learning and awareness of the citizen's rights and duties.

Finally, we would like to express our thanks to the Kalyanpuri Police Station for housing the community centre, and to all our sponsors for their continued support.

Ratna M. Sudarshan
New Delhi

Projects April 1, 2008 – March 31, 2009

Completed Activities

Project Title	Sponsoring Agency	Date of Commencement	Date of Completion
EVALUATION			
Evaluation of STEP Project in Himachal Pradesh (Carpets)	Ministry of Women and Child Development (MWCD), Government of India	January 2008	June 2008
Evaluation of Doosra Dashak Projects in Laxmangarh and Pindwara Blocks, Rajasthan	Foundation for Education and Development (FED), Jaipur	July 2008	November 2008
Evaluation of STEP Projects in Madhya Pradesh (Handicrafts)	MWCD	February 2009	March 2009
RESEARCH			
Study on Health Needs of <i>Beedi</i> Workers in Murshidabad District, West Bengal	SEWA Bharat	November 2007	August 2008
WORKSHOPS			
Policy Workshops on Home-based Workers	UNIFEM	December 2007	May 2008
Consultation with Domestic and Fish Workers, Bangalore	WIEGO Law Project	August 2008	November 2008
Organizing Women in the Informal Economy: Lessons from Practice	Pathways of Women's Empowerment, IDS, Sussex	July 2008	October 2008
Work Theme Workshop	Pathways of Women's Empowerment, IDS, Sussex	July 2008	October 2008

On-going Activities

Project Title	Sponsoring Agency	Date of Commencement	Expected Date of Completion
RESEARCH			
Revisiting Education For All	International Development Research Centre, Canada (IDRC)	April 2006	September 2009
Study of Policy Research Environment and Organizations in South Asia	IDRC	November 2008	May 2010
Urban Poor Livelihoods in the National Capital Region: Emerging Trends	Sir Dorabji Tata Trust (SDTT)	January 2008	November 2009
Microfinance and Domestic Violence	MWCD	March 2009	September 2009
Examining the NREGA: Social Protection and Impacts in Himachal Pradesh, Kerala, Rajasthan	IDS, Sussex	April 2008	October 2009
Institutional Support Grant	IDRC	February 2009	February 2010
EVALUATIONS/IMPACT ASSESSMENT STUDIES			
Impact Assessment of Doosra Dashak (3 Blocks)	Foundation for Education and Development (FED)/ Sir Dorabji Tata Trust (SDTT)	April 2007	April 2009
Impact Assessment of Training to Empower Adolescent Girls as Future Leaders and Trainers	Sewa Academy, Ahmedabad	March 2008	May 2010
Impact Assessment of SEWA Bharat's Work in Delhi	SEWA Bharat/SDTT	July 2008	September 2008
WORKSHOPS			
National Consultation on Current Employment Strategies and Women's Work	ILO	December 2008	July 2009
Gender Policy Forum	India Habitat Centre and ISST		On-going
COMMUNITY OUTREACH PROGRAMME			
Community Outreach Programme	National Foundation for India (NFI), Habitat Learning Centre (HLC) and ISST	November 2008 (NFI)	October 2009 (NFI)



Completed Activities

1. Policy Workshop on Home-based Workers

ISST organized three policy workshops on Home-based Workers at Lucknow, Patiala and Patna, in partnership with the Lucknow Mahila Sewa Trust, Nabha Foundation, and Bihar Rajya Gharkhata Mazdoor Union, respectively. This was an advocacy initiative at the state level for developing policies towards improving the conditions of home-based workers. The workshops were also aimed to increase awareness about the living and working conditions and needs of home-based workers. The findings of the research studies on home-based work, which had earlier been conducted by ISST in the states of Uttar Pradesh (UP), Punjab, and Bihar were communicated through a presentation and screening of the film titled 'Our Hands at Work'. The key emerging policy issues

were discussed and special attention accorded to concerns pertaining to minimum wages and social security for the home-based workers. The impact of globalization on different trades in the context of the vulnerability of the latter was discussed. The participants at this workshop included home-based workers, representatives from relevant government departments, and media personalities along with the representatives from HomeNet India and ISST.

Sponsored by UNIFEM, New Delhi.

2. Evaluation of STEP Project in Himachal Pradesh (Carpets)

ISST has completed an evaluation of a carpet weaving project implemented by the Himachal Pradesh State Handloom and Handicrafts Cooperative Federation Ltd., Kullu (HIMBUNKAR) in six districts of the state under the Support to Training and Employment Programme for Women (STEP) programme. The concurrent evaluation was done on behalf of the Ministry of Women and Child Development. The terms of reference require assessment of whether the project has been implemented as per the STEP guidelines, and its impact on the handicrafts sector in Himachal Pradesh, in general, and on women beneficiaries, in particular. The evaluation was carried out by using a combination of methods including a questionnaire-based survey of the beneficiaries, focus group discussions and personal interviews. The evaluation report has been submitted to the Ministry of Women and Child Development (MWCD), Government of India, New Delhi.

Commissioned by MWCD.



3. Evaluation of STEP Projects in Madhya Pradesh (Handicrafts)

ISST was requested to carry out a concurrent evaluation of another STEP project in the handicraft sector implemented by Sanidhya Samiti, Bhopal. This project was implemented in the Hoshangabad district of Madhya Pradesh for

has a high prevalence of water-borne diseases, respiratory tract infections, and arsenic-related illness. Most tubewells are clogged with sewage and contaminated water. Awareness levels are generally low amongst women and their families about primary health care and disease prevention methods. Public health services are difficult

ISST has carried out several evaluations for the Ministry of Women and Child Development, Government of India, in addition to impact assessment studies and documentation for some of our activist partners.

beneficiaries from four villages in the state, namely Malakhedi, Jasolpur, Raipur and Bandrabhan.

Commissioned by MWCD.

4. Evaluation of Doosra Dashak Programme in Laxmangarh and Pindwara Blocks, Rajasthan

ISST was requested to evaluate the Doosra Dashak Programme in the Laxmangarh block, Alwar district, and the Pindwara block in Sirohi district, as required by Oxfam NOVIB, which has supported the work in these blocks. During their field visits to the two blocks, the ISST team members conducted interviews with persons associated with Doosra Dashak as well as its staff members, villagers, community leaders and officials from the relevant government departments. The report on the evaluation has been submitted to Foundation for Education and Development (FED), Jaipur.

Commissioned by FED, Jaipur.

5. Study on Health Needs of Beedi Workers in Murshidabad District, West Bengal

ISST, in partnership with SEWA Bharat, conducted a study on the health needs of *beedi* workers in Murshidabad district of West Bengal. While developing the organization of these workers and microfinance activities for them, SEWA Bharat has initiated a health and sanitation intervention in one of the panchayats in the district. The area

to access. Even where the health centres are available, they often lack the requisite equipment for providing quality care. SEWA's health programme is slated to reach approximately 22,000 community members. This study would help SEWA Bharat to assess the basic health and water needs of the target area.

Sponsored by SEWA Bharat, Delhi.

6. WIEGO Consultation on Domestic and Fish Workers

ISST, in partnership with the WIEGO (Women in Informal Employment: Globalizing and Organizing) Law Project, organized a consultation with activists and other concerned functionaries





on issues affecting the livelihood of domestic and fish workers, on 23 August 2008 at Bangalore. A report on the consultation is available at http://www.wiego.org/informal_economy_law/india/content/fw%20&%20dw_consultation_bangalore_report.pdf

Sponsored by WIEGO Law Project.

interviews were supplemented with discussions with SEWA Bharat activists on various issues like advocacy, representation efforts and achievements. The baseline report has been completed. An end-line survey will be conducted after two years to study the impact of SEWA Bharat's intervention.

Sponsored by SEWA Bharat, Delhi and SDTT.

In partnership with Pathways of Women's Empowerment (Institute of Development Studies, Sussex) ISST held a workshop in Delhi with practitioners organizing women in the informal economy. These experiences will be brought out in a book form. This activity represents a unique and innovative way of bridging some of the gaps between research and practice.

7. Workshop on 'Organizing Women in the Informal Economy: Lessons from Practice'

ISST, in collaboration with the Pathways of Women's Empowerment Programme at IDS, Sussex, organized this workshop in Delhi on October 20-21, 2008. The participants included women engaged in organizing women workers in different sectors in the informal economy from India, South Africa, Brazil and Thailand. The presentations made at the workshop are being edited and compiled in the form of a book. A report on the workshop is available at http://www.pathways-of-empowerment.org/research_empowering.html.

Sponsored by IDS, Sussex.

8. Baseline Study to Assess the Impact of SEWA Bharat's Work in Delhi

ISST has completed a baseline study sponsored by SEWA Bharat, Delhi, to assess the impact of SEWA's work in Delhi in the areas of capacity building, and promotion and protection of livelihoods among street vendors, construction workers and home-based embroidery workers. SEWA has been organizing these workers in five different parts of Delhi, namely Jahangirpuri (North Delhi), Raghbir Nagar (West Delhi), Sundarnagri (East Delhi), Rajiv Nagar (East Delhi) and Anand Vihar (North-East Delhi), where a baseline survey was carried out. The survey and



9. Baseline Study on SEWA Academy Training for Adolescent Girls, Ahmedabad

ISST has also completed a baseline study for SEWA Academy, Ahmedabad, for a training programme on empowering adolescent girls as future leaders and trainers. The study will assess the impacts of the trainings being imparted to the selected group of adolescent girls of Ahmedabad city. The end line study will be carried out after one year.

Sponsored by Sewa Academy, Ahmedabad.



On-going Activities

1. Revisiting Education for All

Revisiting Education for All (REFA), a field-based study of the schooling situation in rural India, has entered its third year and initial findings from the study have been shared through seminar presentations. ISST, Bangalore, has completed qualitative studies in the south of India by assessing six innovative initiatives in education. The project is a collaborative venture between ISST and researchers based at Collaborative Research and Dissemination (CORD).

Supported by IDRC.

2. The Policy Research Environment and Policy Research Organizations in South Asia

This project includes conduction of various activities designed to develop better understanding of the nature of policy research organizations in South Asia and the varying environments in which they function. A set of background papers has been commissioned and three Round Tables held with heads of organizations from five countries in South Asia.

Supported by IDRC.

3. Urban Poor Livelihoods in the National Capital Region (NCR): Emerging Trends

This study examines livelihood issues while paying special attention to obtaining a gendered understanding and focusing on informal work for the poor and migrated population. The study specifically examines a sector within the informal care economy, that is, domestic work, and a sector that is continuously growing to offer increased employment opportunities, that is, IT-enabled services and low-end IT work. More than 1,000 households have been surveyed under each category through the adoption of a representative sampling method. Apart from this, case studies have also been carried out to supplement the findings from the survey. It is expected that the findings from the present study will lead to action and strategizing of some long-term policy interventions that would directly benefit the groups of workers studied.

Supported by SDTT.

Who is the typical female domestic worker in Delhi?

Average age 34.5 years	Majority Social group SC (50%)
Currently married 85%	Average family size 4.2
Not educated 41%	Average age of children 12 years
Migrants (birth place) 93%	Children in school 64%
Migrated alone 2.3%	Girls in school 62%
Remittances reported 24%	Girls working as domestic workers 3.7%

Source: ISST survey 2009 (sample percentages)

4. Examining the NREGA: Social Protection and Impacts in HP, Kerala, Rajasthan

ISST is contributing through this study to the research programme, 'Social Protection in Asia' (SPA), Phase II, being co-ordinated by IDS, Sussex and supported by the Ford Foundation and IDRC.

6. National Consultation on 'Current Employment Strategies and Women's Work'

ISST will partner the ILO and provide technical inputs towards organizing the Consultation. A background paper on Women's Contribution to the GDP will be prepared and commissioned by ISST.

Sponsored by ILO, New Delhi.

ISST is part of, and contributes to, the Social Protection in Asia (SPA) – a research, networking and advocacy programme in order to create a research and policy network on Social Protection in the Asia region being co-ordinated by the Institute of Development Studies (IDS) Sussex.

SPA is a research, advocacy and network-building programme. The ISST study will explore the likely reasons behind varying levels of women's participation, wider impacts of the programme, and the various ways in which local contexts influence outcomes.

Supported by IDS Sussex.

5. Impact Assessment of Doosra Dashak Programme

ISST is carrying out a baseline and endline study as well as a mid-term 'village study' on the Doosra Dashak programme in three blocks in Rajasthan, where it is being supported by the Sir Dorabji Tata Trust, Mumbai.

Sponsored by FED/SDTT.



Looking Ahead

During the coming year, ISST plans to reflect upon its experiences through the evaluation of women-focused development projects; identification of the ways in which such an evaluation can capture both process and outcomes; and assessment of whether the meaning of 'women's empowerment' is simple and universally understood. A new research area that ISST plans to develop is health of the urban poor, in the context of gender and work, in both Bangalore and Delhi. In this context, the opening of the ISST Community College from July 2009 onwards can be seen as a great opportunity to use ISST research findings for teaching and for giving more concrete shape to the on-going educational activities at the community centre.

The ISST-IHC Gender Policy Forum

This initiative, which was launched in the year 2003 with the objective of encouraging debate and dialogue among its constituents in an open forum, continued during the last year with two meetings being organized in 2008-2009. The details of these meetings are delineated below.

- Meeting held on 19th August, 2008: Gender and Free Trade in the Age of Globalization. The speaker was Prof. Sunanda Sen, Visiting Professor, Maulana Mohammed Ali Jauhar



Academy of the Third World Studies, Jamia Milia Islamia, New Delhi. Professor Partha Sen, Department of Economics, Delhi School of Economics, University of Delhi, was the discussant.

- Meeting held on 23 October, 2008: A panel discussion on “The Enigma of Empowerment:



The ISST discussion group met on a few Saturdays wherein lively debates and discussions were held on the issues of capturing gendered perspectives in and through film, the idea of family, and research methodology.

Women and Work” was organized with the speakers on the occasion including Naila Kabeer, IDS, Sussex; Colette Solomon, South Africa; and Dzodzi Tsikata, Ghana.

The Gender Policy Forum is jointly sponsored by IHC and ISST.

Documentation and Library Resources

The ISST library and documentation centre was started in 1984 with the aim of providing information and documentation support to scholars, researchers, planners and development agencies. Additions to the library are made in accordance with ongoing research priorities. The library is open to all and ISST also offers a bibliography search service.

In-house Activities: ISST Discussion Forum

The ISST discussion group met on a few Saturdays wherein lively debates and discussions were held on the issues of capturing gendered perspectives in and through film, the idea of family, and research methodology.





Community Outreach Programmes

Ever since its inception in 2000, the ISST Community Outreach Programme in East Delhi has established a strong relationship with the community by engaging in various activities with the community members. It continues to empower the youth through information, education and dialogue, and reaches out to them in a variety of innovative and interactive ways like discussion groups, workshops, theatre groups, film club, non-formal education, computer training programmes, etc. The community outreach programme is co-ordinated from the SAATHI Centre located at Kalyanpuri Police Station, and has a two-fold approach, firstly, of community work built around accessing public services, and secondly, of direct activities with youth and women. Community centres are also run under the programme at Sonia Camp and Nehru Camp.

Activities Undertaken at the SAATHI Centre

Computer Training Programme: Under a six-month long programme, basic computer training is provided to adolescent boys and girls from the poorer and slum communities at Kalyanpuri and surrounding areas. The computer course is taught by former students of the centre.

English-speaking and Personality Development Programme: This programme is designed on the basis of an interactive dialogue between the adolescents in the community and the peer educators and the volunteers at the SAATHI Centre over a period of time, as a response to the expressed needs of the community members. The curriculum for the programme has been designed to address important areas of social interactions and communications with a fair understanding of the basics of the English language and its pronunciation. The peer educators conduct this course at the Centre with the help of books and multimedia.

Workshops: During the year, ISST organized several workshops, many of which were conducted by student interns and volunteers. The workshops included information and awareness workshops as well as those designed to encourage creativity and learning of new forms of expression. The participants consisted of adolescents and youth from the neighbouring Kalyanpuri area.

Workshops on Social Issues: Law interns (from Law Schools in Bhopal and Lucknow), conducted two workshops. The first of these, held on 28th



May, 2008, pertained to a First Information Report (FIR) and covered issues related to the filing of a First Information Report (FIR), its process and the legal aspects, and the role of the concerned police officers and citizens. The second workshop, held on 2nd June, 2008, was on the Protection of Women against Domestic Violence Act, 2005.

on the Juvenile Justice Act; Steps to be taken after the police arrests a person; the Consumer Protection Act, and the Right to Information Act (RTI) in the months of November and December, 2008. The discussions were followed by question and answer sessions.

The workshop on HIV/AIDS discussed the causes and symptoms of HIV/AIDS, ways of arresting the disease and the importance of relaxation techniques, among other things etc.

The participants at this interactive workshop discussed various social and legal aspects of domestic violence.

Two interns from the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) organized workshops on Passive Smoking and HIV/AIDS on two days in November 2008. The workshop discussed the harmful effects of passive smoking as well as the use of different treatments involving medicine and relaxation therapy, and the importance of family support in rehabilitating the victims and restoring normalcy in their lives. The workshop on HIV/AIDS discussed the causes and symptoms of HIV/AIDS, ways of arresting the disease and the importance of relaxation techniques, among other things etc.

The AIIMS interns also organized a three-day Life Skills Workshop. The topics addressed at this workshop included decision-making, conflict management, critical thinking, communication and interpersonal relationship, and coping and self-management skills. The role play method was used to facilitate a better understanding of these issues, and on the concluding day, a quiz was also organized to assess how well the teachings at the workshop had been assimilated and could be effectively applied by the participants in real-life situations.

Two interns from the Gujarat National Law University, Gandhinagar, organized four workshops





Workshops on Creative Activities: A ten-day theatre workshop was organized between the 8th and 17th May, 2008. The resource person introduced the participants to new scripts, and offered some advice regarding acting and expressions. Nakshatra, the theatre group of the ISST, was later invited by the Department of Training, Government of National Capital Territory (NCT) of Delhi to perform at their premises. The group performed 'Kuch to Puchoojee', a street play on the Right to Information.

A fifteen-day theatre workshop was also organized between 17th and 31st December, 2008. The participants read a few short plays of Habib Tanvir. The resource person helped and guided the participants on acting and expressions. One of the participants at the workshop, Sudhir, wrote a script on present-day terrorism, which was presented in the form of a play at the workshop. The play was aptly titled "AAG" (Fire).

A two-day Art and Craft workshop was held on 29th and 30th December, 2008. The resource person, Lakshmi, taught the boys and girls how to make greeting cards by using poster colours, wood granules and pieces of glazed paper.

Discussion Groups: In order to make learning more interesting and encourage solidarity, a

discussion group has been formed at the SAATHI Centre. The topics for the discussion group are suggested by the youth members of the centre. Last year, the discussion group covered the following topics: Violence and Hatred; Courage and Personality; Democracy, Responsibility and Right to Information (RTI); Meaningful Living, Social Responsibility and Accountability, among others. The discussion group has provided a platform to these young members of the community to think, observe and express their ideas in solving many complex problems in their lives and society.

Maqsad: Maqsad is an informal youth group that builds the capacities of the urban poor youth and empowers them with different types of knowledge and skills, which help them become better citizens. In partnership with Josh (an organization working with youth), a fellowship was offered to three students selected on the basis of consistent performance in the class and other activities. These students are 'teaching assistants' for the Computer and English classes.

Apart from its regular activities, the SAATHI Centre has arranged several other programmes for learning and recreation. Members of the SAATHI Centre celebrated various occasions like Independence Day, Children's Day, etc. A group of students travelled to Haridwar (Uttarakhand) in the month of June for an educational trip, which was sponsored by the ISST Welfare Fund.

Eminent visitors to the Community Centre included Joachim von Braun, Director General, International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) and Ashok Gulati, Director in Asia, IFPRI, who attended the Independence Day celebrations on 15th August, 2008.

ISST's outreach programme is supported by the National Foundation of India, Habitat Learning Centre of India, Habitat Centre and ISST.

Acknowledgements

We are grateful to the friends and colleagues who have supported the efforts of the community centre during the last year by offering assistance in cash or kind, or as volunteers.

Special thanks are due to Ms. Chandakanta and Ms. Agesh for conducting the theatre workshop,

to Ms. Pooja and Mr. Venkatesh for conducting workshops on legal issues, to Ms. Lakshmi for conducting an Art and Craft workshop, and to Saheli and Saurabh for helping develop Maqsad.

Contributions to ISST are exempted from tax under Section 80 G of the Income Tax Act.

proportion in precarious/insecure employment is very high as compared to that of men. Micro-credit schemes, which are targeted at women, might get downsized; migrant workers, many of whom are women, might lose their jobs; women as producers of crops, as sellers, and as factory workers in the export sectors in the developing

ISST represented at a public symposium, held at the Palais des Nations in Geneva on Friday, 6th March, 2009 to celebrate International Women's Day.

NGO Special Consultative Status (1996) with UN-ECOSOC

The Institute of Social Studies Trust is an NGO with Special Consultative Status; the United Nations Economic and Social Council (UN ECOSOC), at its Substantive Session in July 2009, took note of ISST's Quadrennial Report for the period 2003-07.

ISST's representatives at New York include Ms. Suchitra Mohan and Dr. Jaskiran Mathur.

Ms. Sunanda Krishnamurthy, who represents ISST at Geneva, attended some events including a lecture by the UN Secretary General on Tuesday, 29th April, 2009, on 'Are the Development Goals Doomed to Fail?' and International Women's Day celebrations on March 8, 2009. Details of the latter are reported below.

In order to celebrate International Women's Day, a public symposium was held at the Palais des Nations in Geneva on Friday, 6th March, 2009. The topic was 'The Economics of the Financial Crisis: Gender Equality and the Role of Women.' The panel of speakers included representatives from NGOs, the UN and its specialized agencies, and a few business houses. The symposium highlighted that women are and will continue to be badly hit by the economic downturn. They are concentrated at the lower end of the job market and are particularly vulnerable because their



countries are likely to be the worst hit. Job losses will also be higher in the sectors wherein women predominate, such as the informal sector. Single-women-headed households will be at risk.

The economic downturn will lead to protectionism and trade barriers. It will take the form of restrictions on investment outside the country and restrictions on immigration of workers. This, in turn, will reduce remittances and affect family income. Migrants and their families are a prime concern in many Asian countries because migrants are usually the first to be laid-off. Therefore, migrants, especially migrant women, are subject to discrimination and xenophobia. The credit



crunch, especially in microfinance geared towards aiding women in the developing countries, will have a huge negative impact on women. Moreover, as general unemployment rises, it will lead to a greater risk of domestic violence.

A reason for this crisis is that women are left out from the process of decision-making. The

York, to the present day, has been invaluable. The international women's conferences have impacted policy decisions significantly, and it is time for another such conference. The world is better interconnected now; this is the time when women can make their voices heard and take gender equality to the next level.

Women's unpaid, family-based work supports the formal sector, yet women are disadvantaged. This needs to change. We need to recognize their contribution to both the economy and the society.

financial institutions and the corporate world are overwhelmingly dominated by men. We need better governance in the financial sector and need more women on the boards of companies. There must be greater diversity involving more women at the management level of organizations, in both the private and the public sectors. The crisis needs to be handled through a human rights approach because it is impacting human rights. Recovery packages need to be inclusive; there must be social dialogue—listening to women's voices; larger investment in social infrastructure; and more comprehensive social protection including unemployment benefits. Greater co-operation between civil society branches and governments is essential. The solution must factor in gender considerations in recovery measures. For example, promotion of women's entrepreneurship through micro-credit, and other support for women-owned businesses. Trade policies should be more responsive to women's productive work and their needs. Since trade liberalization has had a mixed effect on women, trade liberalization agreements must be assessed in terms of their impact on women.

Women's unpaid, family-based work supports the formal sector, yet women are disadvantaged. This needs to change. We need to recognize their contribution to both the economy and the society. The role of the women's movement, starting in 1908 with a demonstration by women in New

Advisory Positions Held (2008-09)

ISST is a member of the Central Advisory Committee for the Equal Remuneration Act, 1976. Currently, Jyotsna Sivaramayya represents ISST on this committee.

Ratna M. Sudarshan

- Member, South Asia Regional Hub Advisory Committee of the project on Pathways for Women's Empowerment, IDS-BRAC and Member, Pathways Consortium Advisory Group.
- Member, National Advisory Committee of the Research Project Consortium on Educational Outcomes for the Poor (RECOUP), CORD;
- Trustee, Anusuya Trust.
- Member, Governing Body, Uttarakhand Seva Nidhi Paryavaran Shiksha Sansthan, Almora.
- Member, National Resource Group, Mahila Samakhya.
- Member, Managing Committee, National Resource Centre, Mahila Samakhya.
- Trustee, National Foundation for India.
- Member, Working Group on 'Women's Empowerment', Government of Madhya Pradesh.

- Member, Advisory Board, Developing Countries Research Centre, University of Delhi.

Manjushree Mishra

- Trustee, Mahila Haat.

Workshops/Seminars Organized by ISST

- Urban Poor Livelihoods in the National Capital Region: Methodology Workshop, 9th April, 2008, New Delhi.
- Case Studies of Home-based Workers: Dissemination Workshops in partnership with HomeNet India and UNIFEM:

Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh	19th May, 2008
Patiala, Punjab	30th May, 2008
Patna, Bihar	31st May, 2008
- WIEGO Consultation on Domestic and Fish Workers, 23rd August, 2008, Bangalore.
- Organizing Women in the Informal Economy: Lessons from Practice, ISST and Pathways of Women's Empowerment Programme at IDS, Sussex, 20–21 October, 2008, New Delhi.
- Work Theme Workshop organized by ISST for Pathways Programme, IDS, 29-31 October, New Delhi.
- ISST-IDRC Round Table on Policy Research Organizations and Policy Research Environment:

Galle, Sri Lanka	21st January, 2009;
Puducherry, India	24–25 January, 2009;
Kathmandu, Nepal	5–6 March, 2009.

Participation—Other Workshops, Seminars, Meetings

Ratna M. Sudarshan

- Seminar on Draft Urban Water and Sanitation Policy for the Poor, Mahila Housing Trust (MHT), New Delhi, 2nd April.
- Regional Workshop on Home-based Workers in Asia: Building a Regional Presence, organized by HomeNet South Asia and Friedrich Ebert Stiftung, Mumbai, 7-8 April.

- Data Users Conference for Census 2011, New Delhi, 24-25 April.
- Workshop on “An Overview of Civil Society's Engagement with Women's Control and Ownership of Productive Assets and Resources”, UNIFEM, 30th April.
- Technical Informal Consultation on ‘Mainstreaming Women's Employment Concerns in Macro-economic and Employment Policy in India: Identifying Concrete Policy Actions’, ILO, 5th May.
- Meeting of the Advisory Committee on India Programme for Research in Human Development (IPRHD), NCAER, 13th May.
- Seminar on ‘Strengthening the Delivery of Social Services in Delhi: A Convergence Model for Empowering the Poor’, 19-20 May, organized by Government of NCT of Delhi, Institute for Human Development (IHD), ACCESS Development Services.
- Round Table on “Engendering the Census 2011”, 19th May at UNIFEM.
- Executive Committee Meeting, Mahila Samakhya Uttarakhand, Dehradun, 22nd May.
- “Moving out of Poverty: Understanding Freedom, Democracy and Growth from the Bottom Up”, Dissemination Conference, ICRIER and The World Bank, 26th May.
- Annual Meeting of the Advisory Committee of the Developing Countries Research Centre, University of Delhi, 2nd June.
- Experts' Meeting, SIDA-AIT Research Consortium on Support of Planning Urban Research, AIT, Bangkok, 5-6th June.
- Core Committee and Technical Group Meeting, SAARC Gender Database, UNIFEM, Kathmandu, 7th June.
- Finalization of Results Framework for Mahila Samakhya, Ministry of HRD, 16th June.
- ‘Democracy and Development Round Table’, International IDEA and the Centre for the Study of Developing Societies, New Delhi 17-18 June.

- Round Table on Building Partnerships with Men to Promote Women's Empowerment and Gender Equality, Ministry of Women and Child Development and UNIFEM, New Delhi, 25th June.
- Meeting of the Focal Points to Review Progress of the Pilot Phase of SAARC Gender Database, SAARC Secretariat, Kathmandu, 30th June.
- National Employment Policy: Meeting of Working Group on Women Workers' Issues, ILO, New Delhi, 14th July.
- India Policy Forum, NCAER, 15-16 July.
- Executive Committee Meeting, Mahila Samakhya, Bangalore 25th July.
- 'Rolling Out the Nation's Future—By Chance or Choice?', Lovraj Kumar Memorial Lecture by Dr. Ashok Khosla, SPWD, 4th August.
- Report release and panel discussion on "The Next Urban Frontier: Twenty Cities to Watch", NCAER, 7th August.
- Ethics Committee Meeting, Public Report on Health, 26th August.
- International Literacy Day Celebrations, Vigyan Bhavan, (Ministry of HRD), 8th September.
- Initial Consultation on Migration, Global Human Development Report 2009, UNDP, 11th September.
- National Convention on Union Budget 2009-10, People's Budget Initiative, 17th September.
- Second National Technical Consultation on Employment Policy for India, ILO and Ministry of Labour and Employment, 19th September.
- Inclusive Social Assistance Workshop organized by International Labour Office, Geneva, 24 -26 September.
- Women's Forum, Third Summit of the India, Brazil and South Africa (IBSA) Dialogue Forum, New Delhi, 13-14 October.
- Consultation to Share the Report of the Independent Group on Home-based Workers, Organized by UNIFEM, New Delhi, 23rd October.
- Round Table on Professional Support for NREGA with Social Science Research Institutions, Organized by Ministry of Rural Development, NASC Complex, New Delhi, 11th November.
- ICSSR-ESRC Workshop on Economic Restructuring, Higher Education and the Labour Market and Social Inequalities, 4-5 December.
- UKSNPSS Board of Governors Meeting, Almora, 6th December.
- Workshop on Social Income and Economic Insecurities: Findings from a Survey in Gujarat, SEWA and GIDR, Ahmedabad, 9-10 December.
- International Conference on Development, Freedom and Welfare, IHD and Cornell University, 19th December.
- Board of Trustees Meeting, National Foundation for India, New Delhi, 7th January.
- Inaugural Conference: Law and Social Sciences Research Network, JNU, New Delhi, 8th January.
- Release of Annual Status of Education Report (Rural) 2008, 13th January.
- International Workshop on Social Protection Policies for the Urban Informal Sector across South Asia, Developing Countries Research Centre, University of Delhi, 30th January.
- Talk on Gender Issues to Friends of Pathfinder International (USA), New Delhi, 5th February.
- Workshop on Women's Empowerment, Organized by Department of Women and Child Development, Government of Madhya Pradesh, Bhopal, 11th February.
- Expert Consultation on the 2009 World Survey on the Role of Women in Development, United Nations Division for the Advancement of Women, Copenhagen, Denmark, 17-19 February.
- 'Facing Global and Local Challenges: The New Dynamics for Higher Education', Sub-regional



Conference of South, South-West and Central Asia on Higher Education, UNESCO and NUEPA, New Delhi, 25-26 February.

- First Meeting of the Managing Committee for National Resource Centre, Mahila Samakhya, at IIPA, New Delhi, 3rd March.
- ASER Centre: Future Directions, 16th March.
- Round Table on Home Workers in Global Supply Chains: Towards Building a Collaborative Approach, Organized by SEWA Bharat, 28th March.

Shrayana Bhattacharya

- International Conference on “Experience of Hate and Cultures of Violence”, Organized by Centre for Psychoanalytic Studies, University of Delhi at IIC, Delhi, on 11-12 September.

- International Seminar on “Marriage in Globalizing Contexts: Exploring Change and Continuity in South Asia”, Organized by I.E.G. Delhi, I.I.T. Delhi and Department of Sociology, Delhi University at IIT Delhi on 25-27 September.

Madhuri Karak

- National Consultation on ‘Strengthening Women’s Voices in Budgets and Policies’, Organized by CGBA and the Ministry of Woman and Child Development, 12th November.
- ‘The International Mobility of Talent: Trends and Development Implications’ by Anthony P. D’Costa, Organized by the Institute for Human Development (IHD), 16th January.



Publications based on ISST Research

Journals:

Bhatt, Wasudha (2009). "The Gender Dimension of Migration in India: The Politics of Contemporary Space in Orissa and Rajasthan", *Development in Practice*, 19:1, pp.87–93.

Book Chapters (accepted for publication)

Ratna M. Sudarshan with Medha Bisht, 'Voice' as a Pathway to Women's Empowerment: Reflections on the Indian experience, in *Mapping Women's Empowerment: Experiences from Bangladesh, India and Pakistan*, edited by Firdous Azim and Maheen Sultan, Dhaka: University Press Limited (UPL) (Forthcoming).

Ratna M. Sudarshan, "Reading the Signposts: Social Protection for Home-based Women Workers in South Asia" in *Social Protection as Development Policy: Asian Perspectives*, edited by Sarah Cook and Naila Kabeer, Publisher: Routledge, Taylor & Francis Group, London, New York, New Delhi, (Forthcoming: April 2010).

Rina Bhattacharya, Meera Pillai, Ratna M. Sudarshan, "The NREGA and Rural Women in Poverty: Entitlements, Issues and Emerging Concerns" in *What Works For The Poorest? Poverty Reduction Programmes For The World's Extreme Poor*, edited by David Lawson, David Hulme, Imran Matin and Karen Moore, Practical Action (forthcoming).

Media:

- Shrayana Bhattacharya, 'Care to Work? Undercounting Women's Work is Representative of a Deeper Misunderstanding', *Indian Express*, 2 July

Report (published)

- SEWA-ISST 2008 'Socio-Economic Conditions of Domestic Workers in Ahmedabad', FES, New Delhi

Reports (Submitted)

Evaluation of STEP Project: Support to HP State Handloom and Handicrafts Development Co-operative Federation Ltd. For Carpet Weaving, Phases I & II, Submitted to Ministry of Women and Child Development, Government of India.

A Baseline Study of Street Vendors, Construction Workers and Home-based Workers: Delhi, Report



Submitted to SEWA Bharat and Sir Dorabji Tata Trust.

Evaluation of Doosra Dashak Programme in Laxmangarh and Pindwara Blocks, Rajasthan, Submitted to Foundation for Education and Development, Jaipur.

Bangalore:

- “Panchayat Raj”, 2008
- “HIV and AIDS”, 2008
- “Employment (NREGS)”, 2008

ISST seeks to disseminate its research findings and insights from the field in various ways. Working papers and publications constitute a part of this process. In addition, through participation in seminars and representation on official committees, the research outputs have been communicated to a wider group including policy makers and researchers.

Report on Baseline Study for Impact Assessment of the Project Empowering Adolescent Girls as Future Leaders and Trainers, Submitted to SEWA Academy, Ahmedabad.

Health Needs of *Beedi* Workers in Murshidabad District, West Bengal: Report of the Baseline Survey in Sanmatipur, Murshidabad, Report Submitted to SEWA Bharat.

Evaluation of STEP Projects: Support to Sanidhya Samiti, Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh, for Handicrafts, Submitted to Ministry of Woman and Child Development, Government of India.

Resource Compendiums (Newspaper Articles):

Delhi:

- “Social Security in India”, 2008.
- “Microfinance in India”, 2008.

- “BPO”, 2008
- “Education”, 2008
- “Violence against Women”, 2008
- “Violence against Children”, 2008

(Available on request)

ISST Newsletters:

- **Uma Prachar:** Published quarterly in Hindi and English
- **Samachar Patrika:** Published quarterly in Hindi
- **ISST Newsletter:** Published quarterly in English

(ISST newsletters are available at <http://www.isst-india.org/Newsletters.htm>)



Presentations

Ratna M. Sudarshan

‘Employment: IT Sector’, Presented at National Consultation on Employment Policy for India, Ministry of Labour and Employment and ILO, New Delhi, 21-22 May.

‘Social Protection, Informality, and Globalization’, Presentation at Developing Countries Research Centre, University of Delhi, 29 July.

‘Telecentres as Public Spaces: Inclusiveness from a Gender Perspective’, Presented at Telecentre Forum, eIndia2008, New Delhi, 31 July.

‘Access to Markets and Marketing Opportunities’, Presented at Aga Khan Foundation—International Food Policy Research Institute Workshop on Women in Agriculture in South Asia, New Delhi, 12-14 August.

‘Impact of NREGA on Rural Labour Market in Kerala’, International Seminar on NREGA: Impacts and Implementation Experiences, IHD and CSH, New Delhi, 16-17 September.

‘Gender Statistics and Development Policy: Women’s Work’, Presented at International Seminar on Measuring, Managing and Evaluating Progress in Gender Equality: The Role of Statistics and Indicators, Organized by OECD Development Centre, Stockholm, Sweden, 20 November.

‘Gender Statistics and Development Policy: Women’s Work in India’, Talk Given at Training Programme on ‘Incorporating Gender Concerns in Public Policy’, IIPA, New Delhi, 2 December.

Meera Pillai and Radha Ramaswamy

‘A Survey in Hyderabad and a Visionary Pedagogy in Chennai: Do We Sound the Death Knell for Government Schools Just Yet?’

Presented at Third Annual International Conference on Public Policy and Management, “Public Private Partnerships and Urban Governance”, Organized by Centre for Public Policy, Indian Institute of Management, August 3-6, 2008, Bangalore.

Rina Bhattacharya

‘NREGA in Abu Road, Rajasthan’, Rina Bhattacharya and Ratna M. Sudarshan, Presented at Conference on “Employment Opportunities and Public Employment Policy in Globalizing India”, Centre of Development Studies, Thiruvananthapuram, April 3-5, 2008.

Shrayana Bhattacharya and Divya Sharma

‘A Stable Domestic: Shelter Security and Domestic Work in Urban Delhi’, Shrayana Bhattacharya and Divya Sharma, Presented at SPA Conference on “Shelter Security and Social Protection for the Urban Poor and the Migrants in Asia”, in Ahmedabad on Feb 11-13, 2009, Organized by CEPT University and MHT SEWA.

Summary Financial Statement 2008-2009

Summary Statement Annual Income and Expenditure as on 31.03.2009

Particulars	Financial Year 2008-2009 (Rs.in Thousand)	Financial Year 2007-2008 (Rs.in Thousand)
Income		
Interest Income	628.00	691.00
Donations & contributions	62.00	150.00
Other income	61.00	84.00
Overhead Charges	1,491.00	209.00
Project Income	10,923.00	6,011.00
Rental Income	255.00	
Total	13,420.00	7,145.00
Expenditure		
Administrative Expenses	2,611.00	3,399.00
Project Expenses	11,223.00	6,121.00
Property Expenses	337.00	82.00
Trustee Meeting Expenses	161.00	86.00
Depreciation	314.00	408.00
Total	14,646.00	10,096.00
Surplus / Deficit	(1,226.00)	(2,951.00)

SUMMARY BALANCE SHEET

Assets		
Fixed Assets	4,157.00	3,961.00
Investment	6,603.00	6,294.00
Current Assets	(93.00)	1,682.00
Income & Expenditure	4167.00	2,941.00
Total	14,834.00	14,878.00
Funds & Reserves		
General Fund	771.00	771.00
Endowment Fund	8,602.00	8,602.00
Building Fund	2,805.00	2,931.00
Welfare Fund	129.00	118.00
Fixed Assets Fund	854.00	237.00
Publication Fund	120.00	138.00
Secured Loan	1,553.00	2,081.00
Income & Expenditure	-	
Total	14,834.00	14,878.00

*Auditors: Jayaraman & Co., chartered Accountants, V.K. Krishna Menon Bhawan, 9 - Bhagwan Dass Road, New Delhi - 110001



Our Team (as of March 31, 2009)

Ratna M. Sudarshan,
Director

DELHI OFFICE

Manjushree Mishra,
Associate Director

Rina Bhattacharya,
Research Fellow

Rajib Nandi,
Research Fellow

Jyotsna Sivaramayya,
Research Fellow

Shrayana Bhattacharya,
Research Analyst

Divya Sharma,
Research Associate

Mubashira Zaidi,
Research Associate

Madhuri Karak,
Research Associate

Akila Ramesh,
Librarian

Vishal Kumar Goyal,
IT Officer (till July 2008)

Md. Nasim Arif,
IT Officer (since August 2008)

Shobha Sharma,
Administrator

Nitin Shukla,
Accountant

Deepa Rautela,
Secretary

Sultan Singh
Assistant Administrator

Mohan Singh,
Office Assistant

Birendra Kumar Singh,
Driver



COMMUNITY CENTRE, DELHI

Amita Joshi,
Coordinator

Arjumand Bano,
Projects Manager

Manju Sharma,
Field Supervisor

Udai Pal Singh,
Field Worker

Nirmala Paturi,
Field Worker

Kamalesh Gaur,
Field Worker

Sundarlal,
Field Worker

Sarita,
Field Worker

Jaimala Sharma,
Computer Instructor

Ashkeen Ahmed,
Peer Educator

Dharmendra Kumar,
Peer Educator



BANGALORE OFFICE

Bangalore Office

Meera Pillai,
Senior Consultant

Grace Fernandez,
Programme Manager

Krishna Karanth,
Office Assistant

Ratnamma,
Helper

Interns/Volunteers

Namrita S. Singh, (March 2008–May 2008)
University of Oxford, UK.

Tanya Verma (1–21 June 2008), Dr. Ram Manohar
Lohia National Law University, Lucknow.

Shradha Roy (1–21 June 2008), National Law
Institute University, Bhopal.

Mohuwa Bhowal (June 2008–August 2008),
Department of Social Work, Delhi University.

Shiny Saha (June–July 2008), Department. of
Sociology, Delhi University.

Subashini S. Perumal, (July–August, 2008),
College of Notre Dame of Maryland, USA.

Shalini Perumal (July–August 2008), Randolph-
Macon Women’s College, Virginia, USA.

Tapish (July 2008 – March 2009) Department of
Social Work, Bhim Rao Ambedkar College, Delhi.

Ruchika (July 2008–March 2009) Department of
Social Work , Bhim Rao Ambedkar College, Delhi.

Dhara Shah (November–December 2008), Gujarat
National Law University, Gandhinagar.

Sanskriti Rastogi (November–December 2008),
Gujarat National Law University, Gandhinagar.

Ms. Deepa Burman (February – March 2009), All
India Institute of Medical Sciences, (AIIMS), New
Delhi

Ms. Swati Sharma (February – March 2009), All
India Institute of Medical Sciences, (AIIMS), New
Delhi

Ms. Ruchika (August 2008-March 2009), Bhimrao
Ambedkar College, Delhi

Mr. Dabish (August 2008-March 2009), Bhimrao
Ambedkar College, Delhi

Mr. Shantanu (May- June 2008), Bhimrao
Ambedkar College, Delhi

Project Assistance

Ms. Avantika Joshi

ISST Board of Trustees

Dr. Sharada Jain,

Chairperson, Advisor, Sandhan, Jaipur

Professor A. Vaidyanathan

*Eminent Economist; Former Member,
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Professor, IIM Bangalore

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ISST Community Centre

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