



# Annual Report 2017-2018



**Institute of Social Studies Trust  
New Delhi**

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## **Message from the Chairperson**

For ISST, the year 2017-2018 has been of great institutional significance. It has brought to successful conclusion extremely productive projects while simultaneously marking the beginning of new long term projects. This will have an impact on the expansion of the organization and enhancement of its capacity. ISST's core agenda is the pursuit of research, capacity building and community level outreach activities with the aim of influencing policy for more gender equitable outcomes.

The findings of the completed project on 'Balancing Unpaid Care Work and Paid Work' under an international initiative called 'Growth and Economic Opportunities for Women' (GrOW), a project covering 14 countries, have provided a deep insight into the implications of unpaid care work in India and Nepal, the nature of issues that need to be addressed for gender equality and the scope for further research. The research work has been published as Country Reports for both India and Nepal and IDS Working Papers, and has also been presented and shared in various seminars and workshops, both internationally and nationally. Another research project on Social and Solidarity Economy, which was conducted in collaboration with Graduate Institute Geneva, has been completed during this year. This project used SEWA Kerala as its case study.

ISST completed two short term research studies this year. These involved collecting, collating and presenting empirical data on the impact of Forest Rights Act (FRA) 2006 on the economic empowerment of tribal women of Southern Rajasthan and a scoping study on the extent and nature of home-based work in some selected communities of Delhi.

This year, ISST entered into the second phase of the project 'Capacity Building in Gender Transformative Evaluation' supported by the Ford Foundation with the principal focus of broad basing the capacity for gender transformative evaluation. The development of an on-line course for the purpose has not only served as a platform to disseminate the tools and methodologies developed during the first phase but also led to the enhancement of the capacity of the ISST team as it involved exposure to a new methodology. ISST's online community of practice on Feminist Evaluation has over 3,500 members and has been active in discussions and exchange of information. ISST has also

played a leadrole in organizing activities of the Evaluation Community of India, including organizing the Eval Fest2018 attended by national and international evaluation experts.

ISST has also obtained a major funding for a four year period from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation for ‘Creating Momentum for Gender Transformative Programming and Advancing Gender Equity’. This project aims to enhance the understanding and capacities of a gender-integrated approach in a range of policy and programme areas. The focus of the inception phase of the project, which started in January 2018 was to develop a detailed programme of work for the project.

In terms of the outreach programme, the Saathi community centre, through their WIPRO Care and EASACT sponsored ‘Bachpan Programme’ and ‘Youth Resource programme’ respectively, carried out number of activities for the children and young adults who are members of the Centre. A proposal developed by ISST for action oriented research targeting adolescent girls called ‘An Enabling Environment for Realizing the Aspirations of the Adolescent Girls in Slum Settlements in Delhi’ was accepted for funding by The American Jewish World Services (AJWS). This is currently being conducted in the community centre of ISSTand has bridged the research and outreach programme.

The Gender Economic Policy Forum funded by Heinrich Boll Stiftung has continued working on a wide range of issues. This has given scope and provided a platform to academicians, researchers, students, policy makers, social workers to come and share their opinions on a variety of subjects. The topics this year included the gender digital divide, the baby market and assisted reproductive technologies and public spaces and everyday narratives of violence against women. The response to the organisation of these fora has always been encouraging and enthusiastic.

This year the ISST Library and Documentation Centre has expanded its information and documentation support to researchers, development professionals and gender advocates by a free service of providing through e-mail the latest newspaper articles on gender with hyperlinks. This has been widely appreciated.

On behalf of the Board of Trustees, I would like to acknowledge and congratulate each member of the small, efficient and dedicated team of ISST, individually and collectively, for the above progress and achievements, and would urge them to continue with the same inspiration and vision. Needless to say, I would also like to thank the various agencies and individuals who have enabled our working and supported us in multiple ways during the year.

**Sarojini G. Thakur**  
**Chairperson**  
**Board of Trustees**



## **Message from the Office-in-Charge**

ISST as an organization has been working towards building an understanding on gender, through holistic engagement with research and consultation, sharing and dissemination of knowledge as well as community outreach work. It firmly believes that each of these components do not stand in isolation but actually inform one another in a way that helps to build a gender discourse for subsequent policy interventions, necessary for moving towards a gender just society.

In the year 2017-18 ISST conducted empirical researches covering some of the major concerns in gender studies. These included, paid and unpaid work amongst women, home-based workers, practices of social and solidarity economy, forest rights and empowerment of tribal women. The research projects on one hand tried to unpack the major concerns of women workers related to access to basic services and entitlements; land ownership rights, socio-economic status and empowerment; and provisioning of accessible, affordable, equitable and gender responsive childcare support for women with young children. On the other hand, the projects tried to build evidence to create a momentum in terms of possible policy implications and organizing women workers. Research was also conducted to study institutional practices and responses, particularly that of organizations that have worked with women domestic workers, and those engaged in informal sectors of economy. Many of the research projects focused on case studies and comparative studies across variegated regions, marginalized societies, and different age groups in order to understand and develop an insight on different issues and possible policy outcomes that cater to women from different socio-economic backgrounds.



Simultaneously, ISST has also been working towards building a momentum for gender transformative programming for advancing gender equity, capacity building in gender transformative evaluation. These projects aiming to develop a gender sensitive understanding, introduce gender integrated approach in a range of policies and programmes. ISST has also continued its commitment of building capacities for creating gender transformative policy making by developing and conducting an online course on gender transformative evaluations for young to mid-level development practitioners. At the micro level it has directly worked with different community level organizations and has conducted gender sensitization training workshops on the issue of unpaid care work.

In 2017-18, ISST Saathi Centre continued with its Bachpan Programme and Youth Resource Centre and initiated a new action research programme on adolescent girls. Through these programmes Saathi Centre is trying to create an enabling programme for adolescent boys and girls from urban slums. ISST is directly working with the community at the micro level bringing its research, capacity building experiences to make a difference in the lives of young girls from poor and marginalized sections of the society despite stringent gender norms and discriminatory practices.

ISST also has a discussion forum where it invites researchers, government officials, policy makers and practitioners who engage in a dialogue on different issues with a gender perspective. The forum creates a platform for different experiences, perspectives and positions to engage with one another and bring about a positive outcome and way forward with regards to gender issues. Apart from maintaining a digital repository, ISST has initiated a News Op-Ed Service for researchers and feminist groups, and shares the work done at ISST on Gender and Evaluation online community. ISST has also published a range of books, monographs, research articles to share its experience and knowledge to the widest possible sections of society.

On behalf of the ISST Team, I would like to thank our funders, the board of trustees and my colleagues for their support and cooperation for continuing our valuable work.

**Rajib Nandi**

**Research Fellow and Office-in-charge**

Institute of Social Studies Trust (ISST) since its inception in 1980 has been committed to the cause of equity and well-being of the poor and the marginalized. It has specifically been working towards bringing the issues and concerns linked to women in all communities to the forefront. Using a gender-transformative approach, the main focus area of ISST's work has been to pursue multi-disciplinary social science research and conduct evaluative studies. While its research work comprises of both macro level policy researches to micro researches working towards gaining in-depth understanding on specific issues, its evaluative studies have provided a viable means to understand the reasons that lead to shortfalls in programme outcomes. ISST has also been involved in reaching out to the community directly through its outreach centre, 'Saathi', which works towards empowering women, children and adolescent youth through community mobilization work, information and inputs on education. The whole gamut of ISST's activities can therefore be understood as aiming towards bridging the gap between research, action and policy change. These activities primarily work towards:

**Producing empirical research** around women's work, their economic empowerment and well-being

**Promoting dialogue and debate** on issues linked to gender equality and development

**Building capacity** at micro and macro level for strengthening work around women's issues

**Knowledge Sharing**, disseminating information around gender issues with fellow social researchers and organizations and building solidarity networks

**Reaching out** and making a difference at community level through small interventions

The year 2017-18 has been extremely fruitful in terms of promoting each of the above mentioned objectives. This report attempts to give a snapshot of ISST research activities, workshops, events, training programmes and knowledge sharing processes. It also gives a detailed account of the activities that were undertaken at the Saathi community centre run by ISST in the Kalyanpuri area. The following list gives an account of completed and ongoing research and other activities of ISST.

**INSTITUTE OF SOCIAL STUDIES TRUST (ISST) WORK ACCOUNT 2017-18**

**COMPLETED RESEARCH PROJECTS**

<b>RESEARCH TITLE</b>	<b>FUNDING SUPPORT FROM</b>	<b>DATE OF COMMENCEMENT</b>	<b>DATE OF COMPLETION</b>
Bringing visibility to the home based workers: A Scoping study in Delhi	Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (FES)	June, 2017	December, 2017
Tribal Women's Empowerment through the Forest Rights Act, 2006, in Southern Rajasthan – a Short Study	Astha Sangathan, Udaipur	March, 2018	November, 2017
GrOW Project: Balancing women's paid and unpaid work in South Asia – India and Nepal	Institute of Development Studies (IDS), UK	January, 2015	July, 2017
Pathways to Accessible, Affordable and Gender-Responsive Childcare Provision for Children under Six: India Case Studies	UN Women, New York	February, 2017	July, 2017
Feminist analysis of social and solidarity economy practices: Views from Latin America and India	Network for International Studies and Graduate Institute, Geneva	December, 2015	December, 2017



<b>On-Going Research Projects</b>			
<b>Research Title</b>	<b>Funding Support from</b>	<b>Date of Commencement</b>	<b>Expected Date of Completion</b>
Creating Momentum for Gender Transformative Programming and Advancing Gender Equity	Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation	January, 2018	December, 2021
Creating an Enabling Environment for Realizing Aspirations of Adolescent Girls from Urban Slum Settlements	American Jewish World Service (AJWS)	December, 2017	May, 2019
Capacity Building in Gender Transformative Evaluation	Ford Foundation	January, 2017	December, 2019

<b>Other On-Going Projects</b>			
<b>Project Title</b>	<b>Funding Support from</b>	<b>Date of Commencement</b>	<b>Current Status</b>
Gender and Economic Policy Discussion Forum	Heinrich Boll Foundation (HBF)	January, 2018	December, 2018
Evaluation Committee of India (ECOI)	Members of ECOI	October, 2015	On-going

<b>Status of Activities at Saathi Community Centre</b>			
<b>Project Title</b>	<b>Funding Support from</b>	<b>Date of Commencement</b>	<b>Current Status</b>
Bachpan Programme	Wipro	February, 2017	On-going
Youth Resource Centre	EASACT + ISST	April, 2017	On-going

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

We are grateful to the following organizations for financial support in the year 2017-18:

- Ford Foundation
- Heinrich Böll Foundation (HBF)
- Institute of Development Studies (IDS), Sussex
- Swiss Network for International Studies (SNIS)
- Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (FES-India)
- Wipro Care
- EASACT – External Affairs Spouses Association Charitable Trust
- UN Women, New York
- Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF)
- American Jewish World Service (AJWS)
- Astha Sansthan, Rajasthan

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- Delhi Police
- Asmita Joshi
- Ratna M. Sudarshan, New Delhi

# Producing Empirical Research



The research work conducted in the year 2017-18 by the team at ISST included completion of a few short term researches as well as completion of certain research works which were already in process since the past years. Two new long term research projects were also initiated during this year.

The short term researches included a study of home-based workers (HBWs) in Delhi titled, '**Bringing visibility to the home-based workers: A Scoping Study in Delhi**'. This was conducted for **Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (FES)** in association with WIEGO and Homenet South Asia and with support from the local NGO partners- SEWA Bharat and Mahila Housing Trust. The objective of the study was to map the different home-based trades in Delhi to meet the urgent need of organising the home-based workers in the state. Since home is the place of work for the HBWs, it was stressed that the activity of organizing them must address their major concerns which include access to basic services, public infrastructure and provisions of child care facility at the community level apart from some work specific demands. Therefore a need was felt for evidence-building around these issues to create momentum for organizing the home-based workers in select few locations of Delhi.

The study was based on primary data which was collected from the field areas identified with the help of local NGOs. These field locations were Kalyanpuri/Trilokpuri, Savda Ghevra, New Ranjith Nagar and Batla House in Jamia Nagar. Apart from community mapping in all four locations, surveys and Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) were conducted to collect information on condition of housing and sanitation, waste management and hygiene, water and other basic infrastructural facilities. Other than that, information on availability of home-based work in the region, nature of work, stability of incomes, production chains, other livelihood opportunities, social security benefits and child care provisions at the community level were also collected.

The key findings of the research highlighted that all the four field locations followed a strict gender division of labour with women being considered as the primary housekeeper and care-giver both by the family and community and by the women themselves. It was also seen that the HBWs had to bear several costs and risks of production which included buying or renting and maintenance of equipment, providing workspace and paying for utility costs, buying some inputs and paying for transport. They also did not have access to any legal protection or help from those who contract work to them. It was seen that the home-based workers could neither function as independent workers nor as dependent workers. Those who worked through sub-contracts had to deal with

irregular work orders, strict delivery deadlines and quality control of the products or services they deliver on a regular basis. The self-employed home-based workers were also unable to function in an independent manner as they have limited access to capital, limited knowledge of markets, limited bargaining power and limited control in commercial transactions.

Specific findings of the study included demand for alternative home-based work opportunities due to infinitesimal earnings and irregular payment in Savda Ghevda and Ranjith Nagar and complete absence of home-based work in the Batla House area of Jamia Nagar. However, the method of payment was more regularized in all the four locations where work was available. Most of the HBWs were found to be working as piece rate workers. They maintained a diary where the contractor or the factory employer would enter the number of pieces issued to the worker on a regular basis and start afresh when the payment is made.



**Toy packaging in Kalyanpuri**  
**Photo Credit: ISST - 20<sup>th</sup> September 2017**

The young mothers were found to be lesser engaged in home-based work than the older women due to child care responsibilities on them. It is however important to point out that professional care providers at community level were available but there was non-willingness amongst mothers to use these provisions due to lack of trust in the quality of care that is provided to children in these facilities.

The seasonal nature of work was observed only in garland-making (with fresh flowers) in Trilokpuri which is a self-employed home-based work. Its peak season started from the month of August and ended in the month of March as major Indian festivals are celebrated during this period. The seasonality of work was also observed in Dhobi Ghat of New Ranjith Nagar in thread-cutting work

as the production of clothes usually shoots up during the festival months while during summers the production comes to a halt with most factory workers off for visits to their home towns.

The infrastructural facilities also varied considerably in all four locations. Due to the presence of Mahila Housing Trust (MHT) in Savda Ghevra, most houses included under the study had toilets built inside the house with the help of loans from MHT while the situation with respect to sanitation and housing both in Munshiram Bagh and Kalyanpuri was grim. There was only one working public toilet in both the places, the condition of which was also extremely poor.



**Strap Cutting in Savda Ghevra.**  
**Photo Credit: ISST – 14th October 2017**

Children’s contribution to home-based work in all the four locations was found to be substantial with their maximum participation being in strap-cutting work done in Savda Ghevra locality, toy packaging in Kalyanpuri and garland-making in Trilokpuri.

The research, thus, clearly demonstrated the plight of home-based workers based in the four fieldwork locations of Delhi.

The second short term research that was carried out by ISST during this period focused upon studying the impact of the implementation of ‘Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act’, (FRA, 2006), on the empowerment of tribal women of Rajasthan. This study was conducted for **Astha Sangathan, Udaipur** and was titled, ‘**Tribal Women’s Empowerment through the Forest Rights Act, 2006, in Southern Rajasthan – a Short Study**’.

FRA, 2006, had been devised by the government to recognize the traditional rights of the forest dwelling communities who have been depending on the forest for generations. What interested Astha Sangathan and ISST in this study was that in recognizing the tenure rights of forest dwellers over the forest land, the Forest Rights Act recognizes the right of women to get a legal title to land



as equal to men. Hence, by conferring land titles jointly in the name of both the man and woman in case of married persons under FRA, 2006, meant that women would have legally recognized ownership rights over land for the first time (although jointly with the husband). Single women who are the head of the family-usually the widows in the tribal context- too were being recognized for individual rights over land.

This study was carried out in 6 districts of Southern Rajasthan in India- Dungarpur, Udaipur, Banswara, Pali, Sirohi and Bhilwara. Astha Sangathan was instrumental in collecting the data as well as sponsoring this study. The study aimed to understand if women's rights over forest land have also resulted in an improved socio-economic status of tribal women within the household and community, and whether land rights have also endowed them with the bargaining power vis-à-vis the State, besides the community and the household. Hence, the study aimed to explore if rights under FRA, 2006, have triggered a process of positive change for the tribal women, or in other words a process of empowerment.

Data collection followed a mixed methodology approach which included quantitative surveys followed by semi structured qualitative interviews with both land title holders and non-title holders, semi structured interviews with the key informants in the community such as the forest officials, sarpanch or ward sarpanch, Forest Rights Committee (FRC) representatives and focus group discussions (FGD) with women groups comprising of all FRA title holders, all non-FRA title holders and mixed groups. A total of 310 surveys were administered that comprised of 243 married and 30 single women who had received titles under the Forest Rights Act, 2006, and 28 married and 9 single women who were non-title holders.



**FGD with women on wealth ranking –  
Bichiwada Block, Dungarpur  
Photo Credit: ISST – 13th Feb 2018**

The latter were studied to assess if there was any significant difference in the socio-economic and cultural status of the women who had access to land.

Briefly, the study found that land is a prized possession for women and it mainly gave women recognition, food security and security against eviction and led to marginal improvements in their economic conditions. Access to other basic resources such as water, wood, etc, either remained poor, or sometimes deteriorated if the land allotted was located in a remote area. The study did not find any significant improvements in her social status or changes in social practices of early marriage or polygyny on being recognized as land holders. However, on receiving the land under FRA, women showed a better control over their land and the produce of their land. A concern reflecting in the data and also highlighted in the study report, was the failure of the FRA Act in spreading awareness about the rights conferred under the Act, resulting in women not being entirely aware of what the Act entailed. There has only been a ceremonial attempt to engage women in decision-making on the management of forest resources.

The entire report of this research study can be accessed from the ISST website.

The researches which were continuing from previous years and were completed this year included, the **‘GrOW Project: Balancing women’s paid and unpaid work in South Asia – India and Nepal’**, the **‘Pathways to Accessible, Affordable and Gender-Responsive Childcare Provision for Children under Six: India Case Studies’** and the **‘Feminist Analysis of Social and Solidarity Economy Practices: Views from Latin America and India’**.

The GrOW research project **‘Balancing women’s paid and unpaid work in South Asia – India and Nepal’** was conducted in partnership with the Institute of Development Studies (IDS) in the UK, and BRAC’s East Africa Research and Evaluation Unit (REU) in Uganda, along with Oxfam Nepal, Mobile Creches in India, Oxfam Tanzania and ActionAid Rwanda. It was part of a larger international research initiative called Growth and Equal Opportunities for Women (GrOW), which was jointly funded by the UK’s Department for International Development (DFID), The William and Flora Hewlett Foundation and Canada’s International Development Research Centre (IDRC) in 14 countries in Sub Saharan Africa and South Asia.

This year the research team of ISST involved with the project in Nepal and India, worked on several deliverables. These have been listed in the Publications section of this report (Pp 36-37). Each of these deliverables were sent to IDS for further comments and inputs which were incorporated as per discussion. The working papers were also circulated to the attendees prior to the national dissemination workshops in India and Nepal and comments and inputs received from these helped in further strengthening the working papers which were published in November, 2017.

A research study for **UN Women, New York** on **‘Pathways to Accessible, Affordable and Gender-Responsive Childcare Provision for Children under Six: India Case Studies’** was completed in July, 2017. The aim of the research was to inform debates of the likely pathways to accessible, affordable, equitable and gender responsive childcare provision for children under 6 in India. Based primarily on secondary research, supplemented by qualitative research conducted in Chennai and Delhi, the research examined two case studies: the Tamil Nadu Integrated Child Development Services (TN ICDS) and Mobile Crèches. The TN ICDS was chosen as a case study because of the ‘constant innovations’ in the services it has provided since the introduction of the Tamil Nadu Integrated Nutrition Programme in the 1970s. Moreover, it has been the focus of studies seeking to understand the likely pathways for the delivery of quality childcare provision through the ICDS machinery; this is especially pertinent given the Supreme Court mandate to universalise childcare services through the ICDS machinery. Mobile Crèches was chosen as a case study because it is a pioneer in the field of Early Childhood Care and Development in India, and its focus on direct delivery of ‘holistic’ childcare, its diverse models of childcare provision, its training of childcare providers, and its long history of advocacy on the rights of children under 6 to childcare provision place it in good stead to inform debates of the likely pathways to accessible, gender responsive and equity focused childcare provision. In order to understand the context for the case studies, the research also located the broad swath of policy on childcare provision, particularly focusing on those policies targeting children under 6. The report was used by UN Women for their SDGs Monitoring Report, 2018, ‘Turning Promises into Action: Gender Equality in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development’, available at <http://www.unwomen.org/en/digital-library/sdg-report>.

The research project, **‘Feminist Analysis of Social and Solidarity Economy Practices: Views from Latin America and India’** which was initiated in December, 2015 with support from **Swiss Network for International Studies** and **Graduate Institute, Geneva**, aimed to examine 6 case

studies of social and solidarity economy (SSE) initiatives led by women in 4 different countries (Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil and India). In order to do so, a large network of researchers was established under the coordination of Professor Christine Verschuur (Gender Centre -Graduate Institute Geneva). The main objective of this project was to address the gaps in SSE analysis and policies from a feminist perspective.

Institute of Social Studies Trust (ISST) was part of the research team for this project and contributed a chapter on SEWA Kerala, based on empirical research data collected from the said organisation. The Kerala SEWA movement began as a response to the loss of traditional livelihoods due to deprivation of natural resources. Currently, SEWA Kerala organizes women informal sector workers, primarily the domestic workers, against social, political and cultural resistances for protecting their rights to work and engage in paid work or employment. Given the prevalence of informal labor in India, social protection is a major issue. SEWA is one of the best-known examples in India where the women members formed an alternative trade union to seek social and economic justice for the informal workers and their families. SEWA has no doubt addressed women's bargaining powers



within families, though the family continues to be their major source of social and emotional security. It is expected that development of collective forms of social security would effectively reduce personal dependence of women on families and would challenge the dominant mode of power relations.

This project was completed in December, 2017. However, a final workshop was scheduled to take place in early May, 2018 in Geneva. Post workshop, a Global Working paper comprising all case studies will be published by the Graduate Institute. An edited volume will also be published later with individual chapters from the individual researchers.

**Adolescent Girls Training**  
**Photo Credit: ISST - 16th April 2018**

**Two new research projects with components of action and policy analysis** were also initiated during this year.

ISST has received a grant from the Bill and Melinda Gates foundation (BMGF) for a four-year project titled, '**Creating Momentum for Gender Transformative Programming and Advancing Gender Equity**'. This project aims to enhance the understanding and capacities of a gender-integrated approach in a range of policy and programme areas. The Inception phase of the project, which started in January, 2018 will be used to develop a detailed programme of work for the project.

The second research project initiated this year focuses on '**Creating an Enabling Environment for Realizing Aspirations of Adolescent Girls from Urban Slum Settlements**'. The idea for this project emerged from ISST's direct work with the community for the past 14 years in the field of education, health, livelihoods and women's empowerment, through its community centre 'Saathi'. Though Saathi staff observed several positive changes in the community due to their intervention specifically in terms of increase in participation in centres of learning and recreational activities, and a higher number of students being able to qualify class 10<sup>th</sup> examinations; an important area of concern that emerged for ISST is linked to the persistent stringent gender norms and discriminatory practices especially towards the girl child, prevalent in the community. These practices have resulted in discontinuation of formal education of girls, early marriage and early motherhood.

Keeping the above concern in mind, ISST initiated this project in December, 2017 at its community centre 'Saathi' with funding support from **American Jewish World Service (AJWS)**. After the phase of exploration and identifying the needs of adolescent girls, it was felt that aspirations are not unidirectional and cannot be seen in exclusion to other factors. Hence, the project is designed to provide counseling, life skills, career/aspiration orientation and gender sensitization to girls. Also, the engagement of parents of girls, their siblings and community members will be ensured to create a sustainable impact and enabling ecosystem. The project has an action-based research approach where an on-going research will be held parallel to above mentioned interventions, for need analysis, impact analysis and monitoring through FGDs, quantitative survey, case studies, home visits and reflective learning.





Various trainings have been designed for girls on the topics of self-exploration and acceptance, career counseling, positive attitude, gender sensitization, effective communication, critical thinking, assertiveness, health, social confidence and societal awareness. One thing which is common in these trainings is that they all are based on participatory activity-based methods. Gender sensitization of parents, siblings (especially boys) and community members will be an intrinsic part of the project.

**Resource and Aspiration Mapping.**  
**Photo Credit: ISST**



# Promoting Dialogue and Debate



Promotion of dialogue and debate around issues linked to women, their work and well-being, like previous years, remained an on-going activity throughout the year for ISST. In this, the **Gender and Economic Policy Discussion Forum** which ISST has been organizing since the year 2012 in association with **Heinrich Boll Foundation (HBF)** was at the forefront in providing an opportunity to discuss and critique economic and social policy through a gendered lens. This year under this project, three highly enriching discussion forums were organized from April 2017 to March 2018.

<b>(GEP) Discussion Forum</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Chairperson</b>	<b>Speakers</b>
22 <sup>nd</sup> GEP  2 <sup>nd</sup> May 2017	Public Spaces and Everyday Narratives of Violence amongst Vulnerable Gender Groups: Towards Inclusive Policy Frameworks	<b>Prof. Saraswati Raju,</b> CSRD, JNU	<b>Aparajita De,</b> Delhi University <b>Syeda Jenifa Zahan,</b> National University of Singapore <b>Kiran Bhairannavar,</b> Delhi University <b>Kanchan Gandhi,</b> School of Planning and Architecture
23 <sup>rd</sup> GEP  3 <sup>rd</sup> August 2017	The Baby Market: Gendered Implications of Assisted Reproductive Technologies and the Surrogacy Industry in India	<b>Prof. Mohan Rao-</b> Centre of Social Medicine and Community Health (CSMCH)	<b>Deepa V,</b> Public Health Researcher <b>Chayanika Shah,</b> Feminist Activist <b>Anindita Majumdar,</b> Asst. Professor, IIT Hyderabad <b>Indu Agnihotri,</b> Director, CWDS
24 <sup>th</sup> GEP  10 <sup>th</sup> October 2017	‘Towards Bridging Digital India’s Gender Divide’	<b>Dr. M.R.Anand,</b> Dept of Telecommunications, GOI	<b>Nandini Chami,</b> IT for Change <b>Padmapriya Shastri,</b> BBC Media Action <b>Osama Manzar,</b> Digital Empowerment Foundation <b>Devahuti Choudhury,</b> Grameen Foundation, India <b>Anja Kovacs,</b> Internet Democracy Project

The first in this series for the year was organized on 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2017 around *‘Public Spaces and Everyday Narratives of Violence amongst Gender Groups: Towards Inclusive Policy Frameworks’*. This was the 22<sup>nd</sup> Gender and Economic Policy (GEP) Discussion Forum that ISST had organized since the inception of this project in 2012. This session, chaired by Professor Saraswati Raju examined how ‘gendered’ experiences of restriction and access to public space are negotiated within everyday lives and also explored possibilities of creating access to safer, inclusive public spaces for all.



**22<sup>nd</sup> GEP Discussion Forum.**  
**Photo Credit: ISST – 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2017**



**23<sup>rd</sup> GEP Discussion Forum.**  
**Photo Credit: ISST – 3<sup>rd</sup> August 2017**

The second forum of the year, GEP 23 was held on 3<sup>rd</sup> August 2017. This forum focused upon *‘The Baby Market: Gendered Implications of Assisted Reproductive Technologies and the Surrogacy Industry in India’*. It addressed the problems inherent with the current framework for regulation of Assisted Reproductive Technologies

(ARTs) in general and surrogacy in particular. It examined the legal understanding of the practice of surrogacy and the rights of the surrogate, the government’s role in legislation and regulation of the use of ARTs. It also focused on the social, medical, legal, ethical and economic implications of these technologies and arrangements on women in particular and society at large.

The 24<sup>th</sup> GEP forum discussed the topic, *‘Towards Bridging Digital India’s Gender Divide’*. It was held on 10<sup>th</sup> October 2017. This forum examined India’s digital gender divide as vast and attributed

it to structural antecedents of gender divides in income, education, employment etc. It also analyzed how the digital gender divide needed to be contextualised keeping in mind the socio-economic and other structural inequalities.



**24th GEP Discussion Forum.**  
**Photo Credit: ISST - 10th October 2017**

Policy briefs based on discussion in each of the forums were prepared and shared with participants as well as other organizations, experts and academicians. The briefs are also available online and can be accessed through the following links

- [https://in.boell.org/sites/default/files/uploads/2013/10/gender\\_brouchure\\_xxii\\_02\\_may\\_2017.pdf](https://in.boell.org/sites/default/files/uploads/2013/10/gender_brouchure_xxii_02_may_2017.pdf)
- [https://in.boell.org/sites/default/files/uploads/2013/10/gender\\_brouchure\\_xxii\\_03\\_august\\_2017\\_final.pdf](https://in.boell.org/sites/default/files/uploads/2013/10/gender_brouchure_xxii_03_august_2017_final.pdf).
- [https://in.boell.org/sites/default/files/uploads/2013/10/gender\\_brouchure\\_xxiv\\_10\\_october\\_2017\\_final.pdf](https://in.boell.org/sites/default/files/uploads/2013/10/gender_brouchure_xxiv_10_october_2017_final.pdf)



Apart from the GEP forums, this year on behalf of **Evaluation Committee of India (ECOI)**, of which ISST acts as a Secretariat, the organization also organized **EvalFest 2018: Visibility, Voice and Value** from 7th-9th February, 2018 in New Delhi. This event was designed with an aim to contribute to the evaluation of capacity-building by sharing knowledge about the best practices, approaches and evaluation methods. The event was envisaged to be inclusive and participatory for a range of actors from beneficiaries through evaluators to policymakers. EvalFest provided the convening space to bring all these actors together to have collective ideas that would help build common understanding of the importance of evaluation.

EvalFest was organized in three stages – one pre-event activity, two satellite activities and a two-day long main event. The pre-event activity was organized on 3rd February 2018 in association with the International Institute of Health Management Research (IIHMR), New Delhi. The two satellite events were organised on 7th February 2018 in association with the Centre for Media Studies (CMS) and Oxfam (India). The main event was organised on 8th and 9th February 2018. EvalFest 2018 was formally inaugurated and held in Silver Oak Hall and Maple Hall at India Habitat Centre, New Delhi. The programme was inaugurated by Prof. Vijay Paul Sharma,



**EvalFest 2018. Photo Credit: ECOI – 8<sup>th</sup> February 2018**

Chairperson, Committee on Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP), Ministry of Agriculture, Government of India.

A complete report on EvalFest 2018 is available at <http://www.ecoionline.com/assets/uploads/2018/05/EvalFest-Report-2018.pdf>.

*(EvalFest 2018 was organised by the Evaluation Community of India (ECOI). Institute of Social Studies Trust acts as the secretariat of this informal community. However, ECOI is already recognised by the International Organization for Cooperation in Evaluation (IOCE). EvalFest 2018 was jointly sponsored by UNDP, UNFPA, Impact Ready,3, ie; IHMR, Delhi; CMS, Delhi; Oxfam India; Campbell Collaboration and Radiance Media.)*



# Building Capacities



The capacity-building initiative of ISST in **Gender Transformative Evaluations** which was launched in the year 2016-17 with support from **Ford Foundation** saw the progress of phase II of the project during this year. The major components of this phase mainly focused upon working out strategies of **developing and conducting an online course on gender transformative evaluations**.

As an initiating strategy, it was decided that a four and a half day long course will be developed which would be pilot-tested in a face to face Blended Workshop between course conveners as well as participants. The feedback and learning from this pilot-testing would then be used to develop the final online course. For this purpose, the following tasks were undertaken:

- (i) **Meeting /consultation among the resource persons:** To finalize the four and half day training module the resource persons for the online course met twice for the preparation of the modules. The first consultative meeting was held in Delhi, from 27<sup>th</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup> July 2017 at India Habitat Centre. The meeting was attended by the key resource persons for the course- Ranjani K Murthy, Sonal Zaveri, Renu Khanna, and Ratna M Sudarshan, the expert on Moodle and MOOC platforms for online courses, Prof. K Srinivasan, and the ISST team. The agenda of the meeting was to:
- discuss and finalize a broad outline of course content, including likely resource persons and required materials to be used for each ‘module’, ‘unit’
  - discuss the pedagogical process for online learning, including process and tools of learning, viz, mentoring, webinars, videos, text, audio clippings, reading materials, discussion forums, tutorials, assessment
  - introduce Moodle as an online learning platform
  - decide the process of delivery and administration of the course including the respective role of the ISST team, advisory team and the resource persons.

At the end of the workshop a draft structure of the online course was ready and clarity was achieved on the deliverables, timelines and roles and responsibilities for preparation of the course.

The second consultative meeting was held from 4th-5th December 2017. This workshop focused on helping the key resource persons and the ISST team to understand ways in which they can use Moodle to deliver the online course. Prof. K Srinivasan from NEUPA and Atul Utreja from IAN facilitated the training. The trainers demonstrated the use of Moodle and trained the participants in tools such as presentation tube and tipcam to prepare materials for the online course. The workshop was also helpful in learning the method of embedding the course material onto the Moodle site.

(ii) ***Developing the course material:*** The course design comprising of six modules was finalized in the first consultative meeting held on 27th-28th July 2017. These modules were:

1. Introduction to Evaluation
2. Overview of Designing a Gender Transformative Evaluation
3. Approaches to Gender Transformative Evaluation
4. Frameworks for Gender Transformative Evaluation
5. Methods and Tools
6. Using Evaluations

Each of the resource persons took on the responsibility to develop their respective part of the course. The materials required to be developed by each resource person included handouts, PPTs, videos, word banks and glossaries, individual and group exercises for assessment and a list of essential and additional reading materials. The course conveners were supported by the ISST team in developing the templates and the final materials. For almost a week starting from 9th January 2018, all the materials developed for the blended workshop for pilot-testing were reviewed internally by the resource persons and the advisors. Revisions to the course materials were made based on suggestions against any repetitions in modules, keeping the level of difficulty to an intermediate level but at the same time maintaining the quality of the material.

(iii) ***Pilot testing of the course material at the Blended workshop:*** With an aim to have around 12 to 15 participants at the workshop, the first round of invitations were sent to organizations funded by Ford Foundation, followed by invitations to small research grantees under this project to join the workshop. In all, 12 participants from India attended the Blended (face to face) Workshop – Facilitating Gender Transformative Evaluations. This was held at India Habitat Centre, New Delhi from 29<sup>th</sup> January to 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2018. The participants of the workshop came from diverse organizations, which included, ICRW, Breakthrough, MAMTA, Outlook India, One Step Up Educational Services, National Institute of Educational Planning and Administration, Development Research and Policy Initiatives at S M Sehgal Foundation, Azad foundation, Sahaj, and Centre for Women’s Development Studies. All the materials developed by the resource persons for the course were uploaded to ISST’s Moodle website - <http://www.e-learnendereval.com/>. The materials and the delivery of the course were tested and a rigorous process of gaining feedback from the participants was followed through the entire week of the Blended Workshop



**Blended Workshop. Photo Credit: ISST**

iv) ***Designing the Online Course:*** Post the blended workshop, based on the module feedback, the module conveners and the ISST team re-visited the course/module materials and made relevant changes to it. The online course was finalized after a rigorous process of consultation and the following modules were included in it:

*Module 1: Introduction*

*Module 2: Overview of Monitoring and Evaluation within a Project/Programme cycle*

*Module 3: Evaluative thinking*

*Module 4: Engendering Evaluation Approaches*

*Module 5: Frameworks for Gender Transformative Evaluations*

*Module 6: Indicators, Methods and Tools for Gender Transformative Evaluations*

*Module 7: Conducting Evaluations*

- v) ***Designing Course Brochure and Advertising the course:*** The ISST team designed a brochure, application form as well as introductory videos of course conveners and the course coordinator. These were put together in an advertisement inviting applications for the online course. The advertisement was sent out on various online platforms such as the Gender and Evaluation Community maintained by ISST, various online networks such as feministindia, unpaid-work-collective, etc. The course was expected to go live from mid-May, 2018. The project also included granting of 10 small research and research writing grants on the theme gender transformative evaluation. The call for proposals was published in April, 2017 at ISST's website, Feminist evaluation website, online platforms and other social media platforms of ISST. Researchers and evaluators with an interest in reflective writing were invited to submit short proposals. It was decided that the papers developed from the small research grants would be peer reviewed and may be considered for publication in a suitable form at a later stage. The proposals received were reviewed by the selection committee consisting of members from Ford Foundation, ISST and an external member.

In terms of micro level capacity building initiatives, this year ISST conducted a **gender sensitization training** around the topic '**Unpaid Care Work**' for **Astha Sangathan**, an NGO located in Udaipur, Rajasthan. This training was conducted for different tribal leaders under Astha's Tribal Development Forum (the first People's Organization to be formed in 1992 by Astha Sangathan). These tribal leaders came from various remote districts of South Rajasthan.



The training was held with 50 participants (both men and women) over three days from 22nd to 24th August 2017 at the Astha training center in Udaipur. Some of the themes covered included:



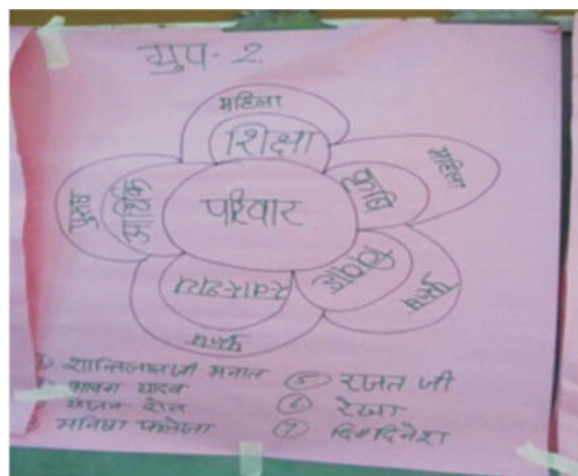
**Gender Sensitization Training.**  
Photo Credit: ISST – 23<sup>rd</sup> August 2017

*Understanding gender issues around the area*

- *What is sex and gender?*
- *What is gender inequality?*
- *What are women’s rights?*
- *What is women’s empowerment?*
- *What is unpaid care work?*
- *How can these gender gaps be addressed?*
- *What can the group do to bring awareness about the same in their communities?*

The training designed to be participatory used several participatory tools of Role Play, Care basket, Family Power Flower, Care Marbles, Care diamond, etc. Group discussions were encouraged and participants were encouraged to share their views and concerns. These views and concerns were further discussed in the training. The trainer also presented the IDS short film ‘Who Cares’ and some of their findings from the GrOW research study conducted in Udaipur and Dungepur to discuss the topic of unpaid care work with specific focus on the four R’s –

- *recognize*
- *reduce*
- *redistribute*
- *represent*



**Gender Sensitization Training.**  
Photo Credit: ISST – 22<sup>nd</sup> August 2017



# Knowledge Sharing



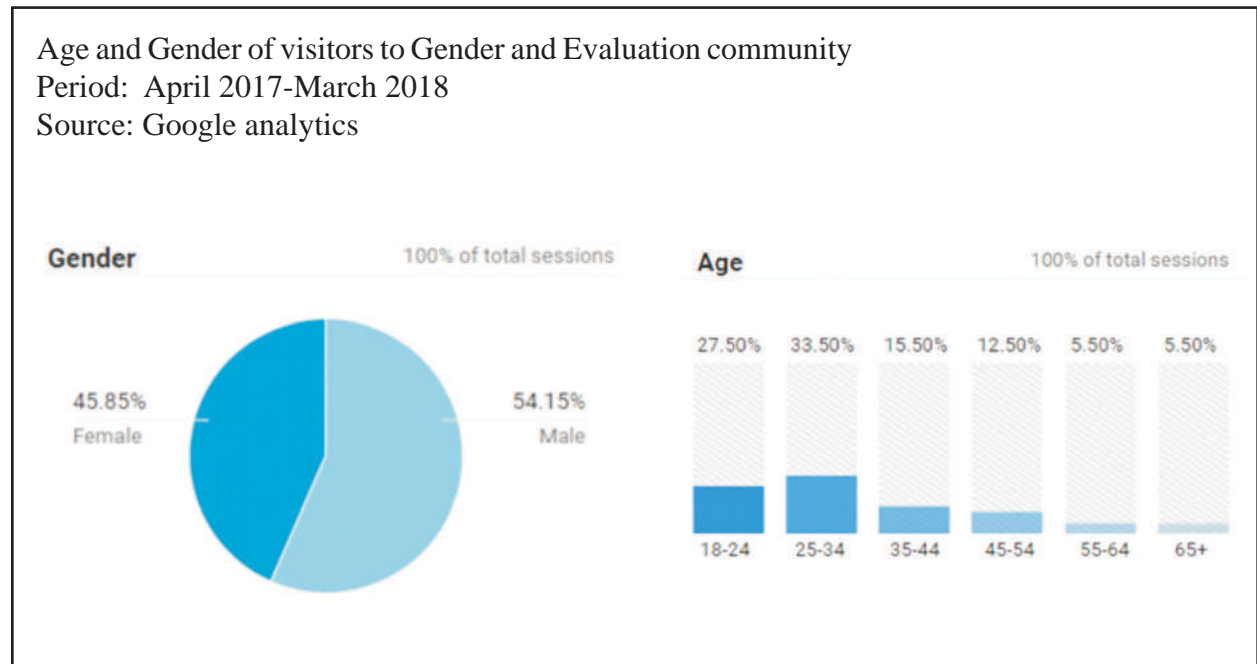
The ISST Library and Documentation Centre started in 1984 continues to provide information and documentation support to scholars, researchers, planners and development agencies on issues around gender equality and development. The Library has a good collection of gender related books, reports and newsletters and it is open for access to all. The centre also offers a bibliography search service. Several new additions to the library were made this year in accordance with on-going research priorities. These include developing a **Digital Repository for ISST** which provides access to all types of institutional digital content including ISST research reports, annual reports, monographs, working papers, data set and photographs. ISST's digital repository has also been linked to the ISST website and provides access to the readers through the internet. **DSPACE** is a knowledge repository of the library resources in the soft form simplifying storage and retrieval. This may be accessed through our website at <http://www.isstindia.org/>

The ISST Library has also upgraded its software from WINISIS to KOHA and DSPACE both of which are open-source online library software. KOHA provides internet-based services, which enables users to access materials from their desktop from any location. KOHA is an integrated Library System, which includes special features like OPAC module which provides a simple and clear interface for library users to perform tasks such as searching, receiving items and suggesting new items. The Cataloguing module enables the library staff to capture details of all library items. The Circulation module fully automates borrowing and item management, integrating with the OPAC. This may be accessed through our website. The ISST Library also keeps network with other gender-based organisations for knowledge and resource sharing.

Recently, the ISST Library started a weekly **News Op-Ed Service (Newspaper Clippings and CAS)** for their researchers, trustees and other feminist groups. It has helped in bringing up some interesting and informative articles from newspapers and journals for reading, at the convenience of their desktops.

Taking forward the knowledge sharing work of ISST, the **Gender & Evaluation online community: <http://gendereval.ning.com>** which the organization has been hosting since 2013, remained active with full strength and saw a steep rise in the number of its members during this year. This international online community on Gender & Evaluation is functioning under the **'Engendering Policy through Evaluation'** project of ISST which is being supported by

**Ford Foundation.** It serves as a knowledge sharing hub for EvalGender+ a global partnership led by EvalPartners. Until March, 2018, the community had 3434 members, 451 blogs and 318 discussions. Over the past one year there have been vibrant discussions on comparing experiences with Most Significant Changes and keystone survey experience in trainings on equity-focused & gender-responsive evaluation and gender audits in government bodies. Members have appreciated the webinars, events and vacancies posted on the online platform. Members also utilized the community to get members for their events like the call for those based in London to attend Gender and Evidence roundtable. On several occasions, members also volunteered to translate documents like EvalPartner’s newsletters or discussions into international languages like Spanish, French and Portuguese.



Over the years, members have found the community extremely useful not just in terms of career development, but also in building networks, gaining knowledge, identifying useful trainings, and events.

I find this community vibrant and open to learning and discuss new challenges. I look forward to reading more about good practices.

— *Deepali Bhattacharya*

Gender Eval Online platform has been continuously sharing information and knowledge on gender based evaluation systems, approaches, opportunities and practices. It has helped me to wear an evaluative perspective in zooming gender issues while performing my responsibilities... I proudly mention in my profile that I am part of this online platform.

— *Arun Hial. M&E Manager cum Gender Focal Person, Practical Action, India*

My India experience dates back to 2011, conducting an ex-post evaluation on socio-economic programs in German-Indian development work before that time...I started searching for and appreciating solid experiences such as the ones compiled and shared by ISST only later. I am therefore extremely thankful for the gender and evaluation community being sourced by this hub, worth continuing for more voices and values, methods and ideas to making evaluations more balanced and powerful for the sake of equality

— *Sussane Lucie, Bauer*

I appreciate being a part of this online community [which] is really unique and positively impacts my learning. In addition, I enjoy knowing that there are others doing the same work I do. And Rituu is the best - always keeping us going. I appreciate having a moderator who maintains contact with us.

— *Amanda*

I recently found about a training course on Public Health through this platform and participated in it. The training was quite valuable for someone like me who is looking to work in the Public Health domain but has limited experience and formal education to do so.

— *Puneet Gupta*

I don't have a community of practice in my province (although I'm working to change that!) and so the different perspectives shared here help to keep my thinking fresh, expose me to new resources, affirm the need to question and analyze, allow me to discuss ideas with bright people, remind me that the world is bigger than the provincial (in all senses of the word) ideas I often encounter, give me access to international conferences and learning opportunities, and inspire me to keep improving frameworks, processes, tools. I'm very grateful to have found this group.

— *Margerit Roger*

Under the GrOW research project '**Balancing women's paid and unpaid work in South Asia – India and Nepal**', several national and district level research outcome dissemination events were organized through the year in both Nepal as well as in India.

In Nepal, a national level dissemination workshop was held on 31<sup>st</sup> May 2017. The main attraction of this dissemination event was a panel discussion where the research findings were discussed through three different perspectives,

- Social organization of Care
- Precarious working condition of women in the unorganised sector.
- Balancing paid and unpaid care work.

All three panels were chaired by renowned intellectuals. The event was concluded taking the participants' inputs to develop an uptake strategy to further take this for policy advocacy.

Apart from national dissemination, two district level disseminations were also organised. Since research was focused on site study of the two districts Surkhet and Jumla, findings were shared respectively on 2nd June 2017 and 4th June 2017. Unlike national dissemination, district level disseminations were short and very precise while sharing the findings of the research. Both events were attended by local government representatives, line agencies, CSOs and relevant stakeholders. Comments and feedbacks received on the presentation were addressed by ISST representatives.

In India too, a National Consultation to disseminate the findings of the study was organized in New Delhi on 2nd June 2017 by the advocacy partner Mobile Creches. The consultation was attended by the academia, civil society groups, women's groups, trade unions, non-governmental organizations and the local research partners. Ms. Devika Singh welcomed the participants and Ms. Ratna Sudarshan delivered the keynote address. The data on India was presented by the research team over three sessions:



- the social organization of care in the field
- the precarious conditions of paid work
- the (im)balance between paid work and unpaid work of women and ways to convert the burden of women into ‘Double Boon’.

The team received many useful suggestions on improving the presentation of data for policy uptake. Discussions were also held among participants on future strategies and ways by which the study could feed into the already existing work of many organizations and campaigns in the field. The group also collectively brainstormed on future policy intervention, policy advocacy and new research needs.

A one-day policy workshop was co-organized on 12th October 2017 in New Delhi by IDRC Canada, ISST and CBPS, entitled ‘Frameworks and Pathways to Women’s Empowerment: Policy Implications Emerging from GrOW Studies’, wherein findings from the GrOW research in India were presented to partner organisations to discuss future interventions towards the empowerment of women.



**District level Dissemination Event under the GrOW Project, Indore, Madhya Pradesh.  
Photo Credit: ISST – 18th July 2017**

District level dissemination events in India were held in Dungarpur, Rajasthan and Indore, Madhya Pradesh. In Dungarpur, the event was held on 29th May 2017 as a full-day event with participation from local villagers, local tribal groups including the Rajasthan Adivasi Adhikar Manch (Rajasthan Platform for Tribal Rights), Adivasi Vikas Manch (Tribal Development

Platform) and Wagad Mazdoor Kisan Sanghatan (Wagad Workers and Farmers Group). Representatives of the Right to Food campaign also participated in the event. The District President

of Dungarpur, Madhav Lal Barath and the President of the Bichiwada Panchayat Samiti, Radha Devi were the chief guests. The research findings were shared with the participants that created a lot of interest and discussions among the participants, specifically



**District level Dissemination Event under the GrOW Project, Dungarpur, Rajasthan. Photo Credit: ISST - 29<sup>th</sup> May 2017**

women participants who further affirmed similar experiences. The policy brief on MGNREGA (the selected Women’s Economic Empowerment programme under the research study) was also disseminated.

The second dissemination event was held in Indore on 18<sup>th</sup> July 2017. It was organized by SEWA under the GrOW project to disseminate the research findings with SEWA workers and members and government officials. A booklet was published in Hindi based on the findings from the research which was distributed at the event. Prior to the event, the local research partner SEWA had carried out group meetings with mainly women informal workers in Indore, Ujjain and Bhopal to disseminate findings from the GrOW research. A total of 40 such meetings were held wherein altogether 927 women participated.

The findings of the GrOW project were also disseminated at various conferences by the ISST researchers. The details of these presentations are as given below:

- 1) Ms. Anweshaa Ghosh from ISST along with Dr. Deepta Chopra from IDS presented the project findings for Nepal in two sessions at the **WEE Global Learning Program organized by SEEP Network from May 23-25, 2017 in Bangkok, Thailand**  
*Session 1: Accounting for Care: WEE Policies and Programmes under the Spotlight*  
*Session 2: Care Work and Women’s Economic Empowerment: Strategies from Burden to Boon*

- 2) Ms. Mubashira Zaidi and Ms. Anweshaa Ghosh, along with Dr. Deepta Chopra presented the GrOW findings from India and Nepal at the **‘Gender Inequities in a Multipolar World organized by IAFFE: 29 June – 2 July at Seoul, South Korea’**
  
- 3) Dr. Shraddha Chigateri from ISST assisted in organizing, and presented at the international conference organized by GrOW, in partnership with the International Centre for Ethnic Studies (ICES) in Colombo and the Urban Institute in Washington, D.C., - **‘Imagining Women’s Empowerment in South Asia: Pathways and Policies to Achieving Gender Equality and Empowering All Women and Girls held in Colombo, Sri Lanka on October 10, 2017.**

## Publications

Publications of ISST researchers for the year 2017-18 are as listed below –

Sudarshan, R. and Nandi, R., ed. *Voices and Values: The Politics of Feminist Evaluation*, New Delhi: Zubaan Books, 2018.

Nandi, R., Nanda, Rituu B. and Saha, Shiny, “Sense of ownership as Capacity Building: Experience of using SALT among domestic workers for systematic self-assessment”, in Brahmachari, A and Ghosh, S, ed. *New Directions for Evaluations: Visibility, Voice and Value*, New Delhi: Daya Publishing House, 2018.

Nandi, R. and Nanda, Rituu B. “Integrating Feminist Approaches to Evaluation - Lessons Learned from an Indian Experience” in Rob D. Van den Berg (ed.), *Evaluation for the 2030 Agenda: Providing Evidence on Progress and Sustainability*, Exeter: IDEAS and UNDP, 2017.

Nandi, R., Verschuur, Christine, et. al. *Feminist analysis of Social and Solidarity Economy Practices: Views from Latin America and India*. Working Paper. Geneva: Graduate Institute, 2018.

Zaidi, Mubashira., Chigateri, Shraddha., Chopra, Deepta., and Roelen, Keetie. ‘*My Work Never Ends*’: *Women’s Experiences of Balancing Unpaid Care Work and Paid Work through WEE Programming in India*, IDS Working Paper 494, Sussex: Institute of Development Studies, 2017.  
[https://opendocs.ids.ac.uk/opendocs/bitstream/handle/123456789/13203/Wp494\\_Online.pdf?sequence=1288](https://opendocs.ids.ac.uk/opendocs/bitstream/handle/123456789/13203/Wp494_Online.pdf?sequence=1288)

Ghosh, Anweshaa, Singh. Anjam, Chigateri. Shraddha, Chopra, Deepta., Müller, Catherine. “Working Paper: *A Trapeze Act: Women balancing paid work and unpaid care work in Nepal*” New Delhi: ISST and Sussex: IDS November 2017.

<https://opendocs.ids.ac.uk/opendocs/handle/123456789/13338>

Zaidi, Mubashira. and Chigateri, Shraddha.. ‘*My Work Never Ends*’: *Women Balancing Paid Work and Unpaid Care Work in India*, A National Report, Sussex: Institute of Development Studies, 2017.

[https://opendocs.ids.ac.uk/opendocs/bitstream/handle/123456789/13263/India\\_National\\_Report\\_My%20Work\\_Never\\_Ends\\_SCREEN.pdf](https://opendocs.ids.ac.uk/opendocs/bitstream/handle/123456789/13263/India_National_Report_My%20Work_Never_Ends_SCREEN.pdf)

Ghosh, Anweshaa, Singh. Anjam, Chigateri. Shraddha. “*A Trapeze Act: Women balancing paid work and unpaid care work in Nepal* (National Report), New Delhi: ISST and Sussex: IDS, October 2017 - <https://opendocs.ids.ac.uk/opendocs/handle/123456789/13261>

Zaidi, Mubashira., Chigateri, Shraddha, and Chopra, Deepta . *Making Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) More Care-Responsive*. Programmatic notes for Women’s Economic Empowerment Policy and Programming, New Delhi: ISST and Sussex: IDS, August 2017.

[https://opendocs.ids.ac.uk/opendocs/bitstream/handle/123456789/13214/PN India Final Making MGNREGA More Care Responsive.pdf](https://opendocs.ids.ac.uk/opendocs/bitstream/handle/123456789/13214/PN%20India%20Final%20Making%20MGNREGA%20More%20Care%20Responsive.pdf)

Ghosh, Anweshaa., Singh. Anjam., Chigateri. Shraddha. *Making Karnali Employment Programme more Care Responsive*: Programmatic notes for Women’s Economic Empowerment Policy and Programming. New Delhi: ISST and Sussex: IDS, June 2017 <https://opendocs.ids.ac.uk/opendocs/handle/123456789/13147>

Zaidi, Mubashira., and Chigateri, Shraddha, *Empowerment Programming and Unpaid Care Work: Learning from 30 years of the Self-Employed Women’s Association in Madhya Pradesh (SEWA MP)*. Programmatic notes for Women’s Economic Empowerment Policy and Programming, New Delhi: ISST and Sussex: IDS, August 2017.

[https://opendocs.ids.ac.uk/opendocs/bitstream/handle/123456789/13160/PN India Final SEWA Empowerment Programming and Unpaid Care Work.pdf?sequence=70&isAllowed=y](https://opendocs.ids.ac.uk/opendocs/bitstream/handle/123456789/13160/PN%20India%20Final%20SEWA%20Empowerment%20Programming%20and%20Unpaid%20Care%20Work.pdf?sequence=70&isAllowed=y)

Ghosh, Anweshaa, Singh. Anjam, Chigateri. Shraddha, “Care Responsiveness of Livelihoods Programming: The Enterprise Development Programme, Oxfam Nepal: Programmatic notes for Women’s Economic Empowerment Policy and Programming”, New Delhi: ISST and Sussex: IDS, June 2017

<https://opendocs.ids.ac.uk/opendocs/handle/123456789/13148>

Ghosh, Anweshaa., Singh. Anjam, and Kayastha, Bhishor. “Policy Brief: *A Trapeze Act: Women balancing paid work and unpaid care work in Nepal.*” New Delhi: ISST and Sussex: IDS, June 2017

<https://idl-bnc-idrc.dspacedirect.org/bitstream/handle/10625/56507/IDL-56507.pdf?sequence=2>



# 'SAATHI' Community Centre



**Saathi-** the community centre run by ISST from the premises of the Kalyanpuri Police Station, carries out the community outreach programmes of the organization with children, youth and women living in slum settlements around Kalyanpuri area. Currently two projects are running at the community centre:

- **Bachpan Program with support from Wipro Care**
- **Youth Resource Centre with partial support from External Affairs Spouses' Association Charitable Trust (EASACT)**

Under the Bachpan Programme, ISST Saathi Centre provides support to young children between the age group of 4 and 15 years in building character and personality. The program also focuses on providing school education support. Help is also provided in school admission, re-admission in case of school dropouts and admissions in private schools under 25% EWS quota. Currently 116 children are accessing this programme. The following activities took place under this programme during the year 2017-18. Certain regular activities under this programme include:

- Informal and remedial subject-wise classes in all subjects using innovative ways of teaching.
- Introducing children to varied mediums of learning such as theatre, story books, puzzles and group discussions.



**Day to Day Activities at the Saathi Centre under the Bachpan Project**

- Day to Day Activities at the Saathi Centre under the Bachpan Project
- Weekly outdoor and indoor game activities to keep the children mentally and physically healthy and try to develop team spirit, leadership, punctuality, discipline etc. in them.
- Different cultural activities using medium of theatre, dance and music to provide a platform to the children to bring out their hidden talents.
- Art and craft activities to develop and enhance the creative skills of children using waste material like old newspapers, socks, cotton and plastic bottles etc.
- Saathi staff also works with children with special needs.

Other activities that took place at the centre under this programme include:

- Self-Defense training from 14<sup>th</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2017 and 27<sup>th</sup> to 29<sup>th</sup> September 2017 organized in collaboration with Delhi Police with 54 girls. After the training, certificates were given to all the participants by the Delhi Police.



**Bal Utsav. Photo Credit: ISST - 14th November 2017**

- 12 Balmanch activities organized between February, 2017 and January, 2018.
- Bal Utsav- annual day programme of Saathi Centre was celebrated on 14th November 2017 on the theme of 'Udaan **mm+ku**'. The theme was symbolic of children's need to get a free space where they get every opportunity to fulfill their dreams. Students of Saathi centre prepared dance, songs and street plays for the programme.



- Health Awareness Mela was organized on different health issues and violence against children.



**Health Mela. Photo Credit - ISST**

- An Exposure trip was organized for the children to National Rail Museum and Lodhi Garden on 20<sup>th</sup> January 2018. Both locations were selected after discussing with the children.

- A summer camp was organized during vacations from 11<sup>th</sup> May to 28<sup>th</sup> June 2017 to engage children in constructive work. This year a total of 170 children participated in it.



**Exposure Trip to Rail Museum and Lodhi Garden.  
Photo Credit - ISST – 20<sup>th</sup> January 2018**

Under the **Youth Resource Centre programme** of Saathi centre, a number of activities takes place with an aim to enhance the employability and life chances of young people residing in Kalyanpuri and its neighbouring areas. Youth of these communities vary in their educational qualifications ranging between class 5 (or even below this) to graduation level. Thus, in order to benefit each and

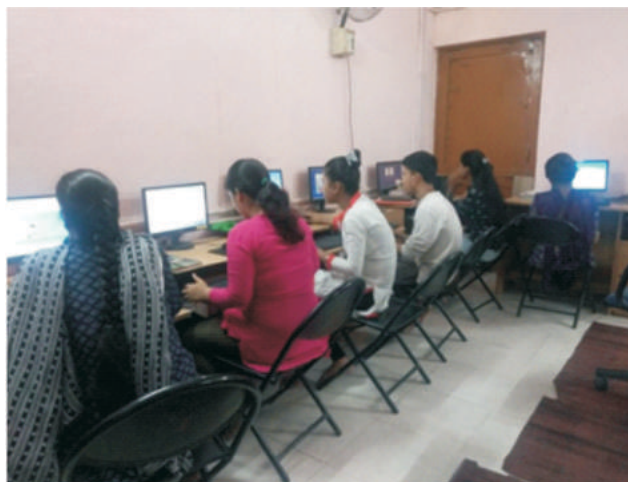
every entrant, the centre adopts several strategies. These include:

- Introducing computer literacy programme in order to enhance and supplement the education of the targeted youth.

- Providing functional English courses to the targeted youth in order to strengthen their communication skills.
- Providing periodic vocational training on trades such as photography, mobile repairing, carpentry, tailoring, pottery and crafts, tailoring and dress designing, electrician training, plumbing etc. to the targeted group.

The **computer literacy programme** currently runs five batches per day with approximately 50-60 students per batch. Two batches pass out every year. The minimum qualification required for enrolling for the course is class 10. Saathi centre also helps the students to gain employment after completion of the course but it has been seen that most of the young people do not want to get into full-time employment in malls and show rooms as they are interested in continuing their education. Saathi centre has linkages with few companies which invite students for jobs as per their requirements. These companies are:

1. Vertex Noida Sector-4 (Life Insurance, call centre), works as a telly caller.



**Computer Training. Photo Credit: ISST**

2. Manage India (NGO), Kondali (Data Entry and presentations), works with the youth. They appoint freshers and give opportunities to prepare presentations on life skills which are to be presented in colleges and schools.

3. AMS sector-6 (Airtel, Vodafone, Call centre) works as call centre for Airtel and Vodafone.

**Vocational courses** offered at Saathi centre include courses in mobile repairing, photography, electrician, videography etc. These are short term courses which run for two weeks to four weeks depending on the nature of the course. There is no educational qualification required for these courses. This year two vocational courses were conducted.



1. **Photography workshop:** It was organized to provide some basic skills of photography to young people. During the workshop students learnt the techniques of handling a DSLR camera and taking pictures with it. To display the photographs clicked by the children a mini photo exhibition



**Jharokha-3**

**Photo Credit: ISST - 14th November 2017**

“JHAROKHA -3” was organized on 14<sup>th</sup> November 2017. It was inaugurated by the Assistant Commissioner of Police, Kalyanpuri Police Station.

2. **Electrician workshop:** The objective of this workshop was to enhance the skills of the youth in electrical works. The resource person for this workshop is linked with Jan Shikshan Sansthan (JSS) and he has also worked with prisoners of Tihar Jail, Delhi, in the past.



**Workshop on Electrical Works.**

**Photo Credit: ISST**

Several **life skill workshops** with support from EASACT are also organized by the Saathi centre on different topics for the youth and adolescents of the community. The aim of these workshops is to help the youth manage their inter-personal relationships, attitude, self-confidence and leadership qualities. This year four life skills workshops in total were organised for the youth and adolescents. The themes for this year’s workshops were:

## Enhancing inter-personal relationships

### Self-Confidence, Emotions Management, Leadership and Team Spirit

### Skills of living together

### Gender sensitization



**Life Skill Workshops. Photo Credit: ISST**

Saathi also undertakes several community level works, specifically with women of the community to help them with their everyday struggles. These are on-going activities and include:

**Community Awareness Meetings** which are held on a monthly basis with the women from the economically poor and socially backward communities. The primary aim of these meetings is to make them aware about government entitlements, legal provisions, domestic violence acts, alcoholism, Right to Information, reproductive and general health and hygiene aspects. On an average 100 women from the neighboring slum communities participate in the meetings.

**Community Help Desk** to facilitate and provide basic trainings in writing applications for opening bank accounts, school admission forms, application forms for various government entitlements, old-age pension, caste certificate etc. Under this activity, ISST also created a group of community volunteers who extend the activities of the help desk directly at the neighborhood level.

**Library activity** to provide young people of the community a space to read and share information. They can also access books for their studies. The Saathi centre library currently has 550 members with 4200 book. Some books were bought while some have been donated.

**Summary Financial Statement 2017-2018**

**Summary Statement Annual Income and Expenditure as on 31.03.2018**

<b>Particulars</b>	<b>Financial Year 2017-2018 (Rs.in Thousand)</b>	<b>Financial Year 2016-2017 (Rs.in Thousand)</b>
<b>Income</b>		
Interest Income	1,981.00	1,820.00
Donations & contributions	145.00	130.00
Other Income	63.00	49.00
Overhead Charges	365.00	694.00
Project Grant	11,043.00	11,489.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>13,597.00</b>	<b>14,182.00</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>		
Administrative Expenses	2,578.00	2,219.00
Project Expenditure	11,043.00	11,489.00
Property Expenses	408.00	436.00
Trustee Meeting Expenses	92.00	123.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>14,121.00</b>	<b>14,267.00</b>
<b>Excess of Expenditure over Income: 2017-18</b>	<b>(524.00)</b>	<b>(85.00)</b>

<b>SUMMARY BALANCE SHEET</b>		
<b>Application of Funds</b>		
Fixed Assets	1,537.00	1,656.00
Investment	20,800.00	20,800.00
Current Assets	18,986.00	11,824.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>41,323.00</b>	<b>34,280.00</b>
<b>Sources of Funds</b>		
Balance as per Income and Expenditure A/c	2,247.00	2,771.00
Endowment Fund	21,448.00	21,448.00
Building Fund	660.00	734.00
Fixed Assets Fund	878.00	924.00
Current Liabilities	114.00	120.00
Project Fund Balance	15,976.00	8,283.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>41,323.00</b>	<b>34,280.00</b>
*Auditors: Thakur Vaidyanath Aiyar & Co., Chartered Accountants, 221-223, Deen Dayal Upadhyay Marg, New Delhi - 110002.		

## **ISST BOARD OF TRUSTEES (as of March 31, 2018)**

**Ms. Sarojini G Thakur, Chairperson**

IAS (Retd.)

**Dr. Sharada Jain, Member**

Secretary, Sandhan, Jaipur

**Professor A. Vaidyanathan, Member**

Former Member, Planning Commission of India

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Former Professor, IIM, Bangalore

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**Professor Ashwini Despande, Member**

Professor, Delhi School of Economics, University of Delhi

**Professor Peter Ronald DeSouza, Member**

Professor, Centre for the Study of Developing Societies, Delhi



## **ISST TEAM (as of March 31, 2018)**

### **Delhi Office**

**Rajib Nandi**, Research Fellow and Office-in-Charge

**Shraddha Chigateri**, Research Fellow

**Rituu B. Nanda**, Consultant

**Mubashira Zaidi**, Research Analyst

**Anweshaa Ghosh**, Research Analyst

**Shiny Saha**, Research Associate (till May, 2017)

**Aditi Das**, Consultant

**Ayesha Datta**, Project Consultant

**Gurpreet Kaur**, Consultant

**Akila Ramesh**, Librarian

**Nitin Shukla**, Accountant

**Sultan Singh**, Senior Administrative Assistant

**Mohan Singh**, Administrative Assistant

### **ISST Saathi Centre, Delhi**

**Amita Joshi**, Coordinator (ISST Community Outreach Programme)

**Kamlesh Gaur**, Coordinator

**Sunderlal**, Community Programme Assistant

**Dharmendra Kumar**, Peer Educator (till June 2017)

**Udai Pal Singh**, Peer Educator (till September 2017)

**Sarita**, Peer Educator

**Ivanka Vaish**, Peer Educator

**Rajeev Kumar**, Field Coordinator

**Kanika Agrawal**, Project Consultant

## List of Interns and Volunteers who helped us during the year 2017-18

S.No	Name	Course	College/ institute
1	Anjali (Intern)	BSW (1 <sup>st</sup> year)	Ambedkar University
2	Sahil (Intern)	BSW (1 <sup>st</sup> year)	Ambedkar University
3	Astha Sabharwal (Intern)	MBA	Ambedkar University
4	Nishta Gupta (Intern)	MBA	Ambedkar University
5	Sudha (Intern)	M.Sc	AIIMS
6	Anchal (Volunteer)	BA (1 <sup>st</sup> Year)	Delhi University
7	Shrishti (Volunteer)	B. Com (2 <sup>nd</sup> Year)	Delhi University
8	Shanti (Volunteer)	B. Com (2 <sup>nd</sup> Year)	Delhi University
9	Ruby (Volunteer)	BSW (1 <sup>st</sup> year)	IGNOU
10	Kavita (Volunteer)	BA (2 <sup>nd</sup> Year)	Delhi University
11	Sanju (Volunteer)	BA (1 <sup>st</sup> Year)	Delhi University

The drawings used in this report have been done by Children coming to the ‘Saathi’ centre as part of a small workshop on ‘Women and Work’.





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