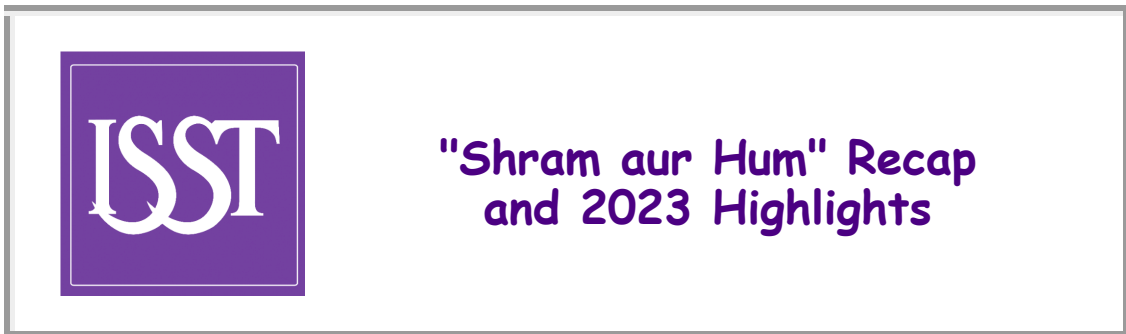


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Dear Reader,

Wishing you a joyous New Year filled with excitement and new opportunities! As we step into 2024, we are thrilled to share the highlights of our work in 2023, with a special focus on the two-day celebration marking the remarkable 40+ years of the Institute of Social Studies Trust (ISST).



The planning for "Shram aur Hum" began in January 2023, with Aanchal Kapur as the curator of the event. The event's title, "Shram aur Hum", beautifully encapsulated ISST's four decades of work on women and employment. The planning period was a whirlwind of activity, from regular Tuesday meetings to collaborations, to managing logistics and developing content.

Our guest list was meticulously curated, ensuring a mix of experts, friends of ISST, academicians, practitioners, donors and ex-colleagues who shared our journey and our vision.



Forging Future Pathways

Shram aur Hum featured thematic panel sessions over two days, covering crucial topics like women's collectivisation, gender-based violence, precarious work, and the impact of digital landscape on women. These sessions brought together diverse voices for engaging discussions.

The discussions on gender-based violence explored expanding the understanding of violence, including denial of constitutional entitlements. The session on precarious work and care delved into the challenges of work without social security, questioning care provisions in society. The movement building session focused on the role of social movements in addressing unjust power structures and layered marginalities, while the session on gender and digitality underscored the need to understand how the digital landscape impacts different sections of society based on gender, community, disability, LGBTQI+ belongingness, and the importance of addressing gaps in the system.

Additionally, ISST's commitment to research, learning, and dissemination was highlighted through two masterclasses on 'Women and Work: Making it Count' and 'Unpacking Gender Transformative Evaluations: To Leave No One Behind'.

Interactive Nazariya by ISST





The Interactive Nazariya was a space where ISST showcased its work through interactive means, ranging from films and fun games to live demos by women workers in the circular economy.

The film stall played a key role, premiering all the movies produced by ISST. These films provided a glimpse into ISST's work for over more than four decades. Notably, Founder-Director Devaki Jain and special guest Zanele Mbeki, feminist, social worker, and former first lady of South Africa, were amongst the guests who visited the stall.

The Open Palm Court turned into a hub of fun games and activities, creating connections, and offering an engaging learning experience. The community centre teams collaborated, showcasing their work on education, awareness, and gender transformation through enjoyable activities.

There was also a dedicated space for the women workers of the circular economy where they gave a live demo of activities like recycling footwear, food items, and copper wire. This live exhibit demonstrated the remarkable contributions of workers in the circular economy, emphasizing their role in sustainability and innovation.

The event also empowered women entrepreneurs of SEWA Ruaab, Umang, Gestures, Muskaan and Krishna creations (Kalyanpuri, New Delhi) by providing them with a platform to showcase their products and services. For activities in the Open Palm Court, we invited organisations dedicated to children, adolescents, and women, creating a special space for collaboration. We express our gratitude to Goonj, Basti Suraksha Manch, Centre for Advocacy and Research, SEWA Delhi Agewan, and Centre for Social Change and Development for their enthusiastic participation in the games and activities organised by our Saathi Centre.



ISST has been working on the issues of women and work for more than forty years now. The Trust was founded in 1980 by Devaki Jain, who laid down a fertile ground for nurturing the work on and with women for many years to come. Our "Shram aur Hum" event coincided with Devaki Jain's 90th birthday.

The two days were filled with activities that marked this celebratory spirit. Women of our Saathi Centre in Kalyanpuri performed a play titled, "Dus Din ka Anshan" (ten days of hunger strike). Curated by renowned artist Kuljeet Singh, the play was a satirical take on protests and strikes. We were also entertained by the much-talented standup comedian Preeti Das who left us in splits with her performance.

The event concluded with a gala evening. This included a special celebration for our Founder-Director Devaki Jain's birthday, with all her close associates, both within and outside ISST. The presence of Devaki Jain's esteemed colleagues, along with many prominent personalities from the feminist space, at the celebration, was particularly inspiring. This gathering included friends, funders, partners, alumni, and the families of our team members. It was a heartwarming reunion for many who have been closely associated with ISST over the years. The evening closed with captivating performances of Dastan-e-Choubuli by Meera Rizwi and Shadab Hussain and Sufi Music by Radhika Sood Nayak.

Photo Gallery: Shram aur Hum



[Click here to view the full photo gallery](#)

Watch: A Short Film on Shram aur Hum



OTHER HIGHLIGHTS OF 2023

ISST continued its capacity building work during 2023 through the following courses:

Facilitating Gender Transformative Evaluations (FGTE) (2.0): After completing the second iteration of the course, we launched the third iteration in May 2023, with participants from the South Asian countries of India, Bangladesh, Nepal, Bhutan, Sri Lanka and Pakistan. In response to a special request from the Malaysian Evaluation Association, participants from Malaysia also joined. A cohort of 27 professionals successfully completed the course.

FGTE for Senior Professionals: In response to a high number of applications from experienced professionals, ISST launched a new course tailored to the needs of professionals with expertise in gender issues, evaluations, or both. Once again we had an overwhelming 100 applications of which we selected 40 participants. We had participants from India, Nepal, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and Pakistan.

Women and Work: Making it Count (2nd Iteration): Launched as a 9-day residential course, the 2nd iteration of the course was a great success not only for the team but for the whole cohort. As a part of its innovative dissemination, a series of films based on the core themes of the course were released. Complementing these films was a series of podcasts with conversations between facilitators and participants, exploring how they related to the concepts they learned and their experiences with the course.



Films from the second iteration of the course 'Women and Work: Making it Count'

The following series of films highlight how the course unfolded and covers a range of topics that were part of the curriculum at the nine-day residential course.

[Women and Work](#)

[History of Women as Workers](#)

[Invisibilisation of Women's Work](#)

[Care Work Patriarchy, Caste and Women's work](#)

[Embodiment of Labour](#)



To listen to the podcast series, click here:

<https://open.spotify.com/show/6r3gvS4WejqgGrlbaHBKr8>

ISST Films in 2023

Films on theatre workshop with adolescents and women at the ISST Saathi and Yuva Saathi centres, Kalyanpuri, New Delhi

[Be the Change](#)

[Haath Mai Kalam Lekr Boli Beti Kranti](#)





Women's struggles against contemporary backlash in South Asia'

'Humara Haq, Humari Awaz'

'Conflict to Justice'

Not a Child's Play: Access to affordable and quality childcare for women's economic empowerment



ISST Publications During the Year

Study Reports:

- [Opportunities and Limits to Empowerment under MP-SRLM.](#)
- [Compendium: Towards Evidence Building for Childcare Provisioning for Marginalised Communities](#)
- [Unpacking the Circular Economy: Foregrounding the Contributions of Workers in the Informal Economy in Delhi.](#)

Policy Briefs:

- [Locating the Processes of Non-State Relief Work During the COVID-19 Lockdown](#)
- [Skilling Women in Non-Traditional Livelihoods: Pathways to Women's Economic Empowerment](#)

Blogs:

- [Rajasthan's platform-based gig workers bill through a gender lens \(by Anvesha Ghosh\)](#)
- [SALE! SALE! SALE! - A growing market for women's digital data \(by Shipra\).](#)



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