



# ISST Newsletter

Vol.5

No.1

January – March 2008

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*ISST newsletter seeks to provide information on research and action programmes being conducted by the institute. The newsletter is available on ISST's website.*

The Institute of Social Studies Trust (ISST), a non-profit non-governmental organization, was set up as a society in 1964 and registered as a Trust in 1980. ISST's overall aim is research for social

change with focus on work and well-being from a gender perspective. In recognition of its work, ISST has been conferred NGO Consultative Status by the United Nations.

## *Projects at ISST*

### *Ongoing Projects*

#### **Urban Poor Livelihoods in the National Capital Region: Emerging Trends**

ISST has undertaken a study in the National Capital Region (NCR), Delhi broadly on livelihood issues of urban poor in the context of growth, regional plan and migration. The study proposes to analyze current and emerging employment opportunities, quality of employment with special attention to obtaining a gendered understanding with focus on informal work for the poor and migrated population outside the traditional networks. The study will closely look at a sector within informal care economy i.e. domestic work and a sector that is continuously growing to offer employment opportunities i.e. IT-enabled services. It is expected that, findings from the proposed studies will lead to action and policy interventions that would directly benefit the group of workers studied and indirectly contribute to a more pro-poor and growth oriented policy and planning in the NCR. The research team working on the project organized an internal workshop on 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2008 to discuss the background data available from the secondary sources on migration and various other information on domestic work and IT-enabled services in NCR. This project is being sponsored by Sir Dorabji Tata Trust, Mumbai.

#### **Revisiting Education for All 2006**

This study named 'Revisiting Education for All' seeks to capture the changes in the delivery of elementary education among India's disadvantaged children in the states of Bihar, Chattisgarh, Himachal Pradesh, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Uttaranchal, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh over the last ten years. The study also intends to do a citizens' report on the current state of primary education in these states. Preliminary findings from the project were presented in a workshop on

25<sup>th</sup> February at India Habitat Centre. The study is supported by the International Development Research Centre, Canada.

### **Evaluation of Doosra Dashak**

ISST has conducted a baseline survey of the Doosra Dashak programme in three blocks in Rajasthan, sponsored by Sir Dorabjee Tata Trust, Mumbai. A report on the findings has been submitted and includes information on education, health, youth, community participation, people's rights and public institutions and livelihood issues.

### **Workshops to share research findings with home-based Workers**

ISST had undertaken a research study on the home-based workers in selected sectors in the states of Bihar, Punjab and Uttar Pradesh for HomeNet India. The findings have been published in a user friendly brochure in English and Hindi with a note on policy implications. Now it is proposed to hold one-day long workshops in those three states to share the findings directly with the home-based workers. The workshops will help to enhance the capacity of partner organizations in the respective states to communicate and lobby for issues concerning home-based workers. The initiative is supported by UNIFEM.

### **Evaluation of STEP Project in Himachal Pradesh**

ISST has been commissioned to evaluate Support to Training and Employment Programme for Women (STEP) project being implemented by H.P. State Handloom and Handicrafts Cooperative Federation Ltd., Kullu. The proposed concurrent evaluation, on behalf of Ministry of Women and Child Development, will assess 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.

### **Empowering Adolescent Girls as future leaders and Trainers**

ISST is undertaking an evaluation on Empowering Adolescent Girls as future leaders and trainers for "Indian Academy for Self Employed Women". The study will assess the impacts of the trainings being imparted to the adolescent girls of Ahmedabad city. The study consists of two phases – baseline and end line. The end line study will be carried out after one and half year from the baseline study.

### ***OUTREACH PROGRAMME OF ISST***

ISST's Community Outreach Programme established a strong relationship with the community in a few East-Delhi neighborhoods in last six years. The key area of focus has been

empowerment of younger people in the community through information, education and dialogue. ISST reaches out to children in a variety of innovative and interactive ways like discussion groups, workshops, theatre groups, film club, non-formal education, computer training etc.

### ***Discussion Groups***

In last three months, discussion groups were organized on honesty, courage and personality. Adolescent boys and girls from the neighbouring communities and the coordinators, educators and the volunteers of the community centre participated in the lively discussions held at the Saathi Centre of Kalyanpuri. The children initiated the discussion, presented examples showing the power of truth and finally developed a method to practice honesty in life. In the discussion on courage, the children tried to develop a definition of courage and differentiated courage from revenge and violence.

### ***Activities on Art and Craft***

A group has been formed for art and craft activities by the children in Kalyanpuri. A session on basics of drawing and sketching was conducted by Mr. Mahesh Chander on 18<sup>th</sup> January 2008. Another two day workshop on making of greeting cards was organized on 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> January 2008. An exhibition was organized on 30<sup>th</sup> January - the Martyr Day. The theme for the workshop and the exhibition was 'Gandhi'. All the greeting cards prepared by children during the workshop and the posters made by them during the poster competition on Martyr Day were displayed during the exhibition. The DCP also made a visit and interacted with all the children.

On 8<sup>th</sup> February 2008 another art session was organized with the theme 'Jo mumkin nahin'. The theme for the workshop was to encourage the participants to think out of the box and stimulate their creativity. On 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2008, Chetnaji held a workshop on Tile painting.

### ***Empowering Out of School Adolescents through Life Skill Education Program***

ISST jointly with the Modi Care Foundation will be organising a Life Skill workshop with adolescent participants at Saathi centre. These young youths through this training will be trained as master trainers and be expected to train more peer educators. In this regard Amita Joshi and Shubh Sharma had received training from the Modi Care Foundation to facilitate and coordinate the project. The master trainers will be trained in the beginning of April.

### ***Nakshatra- the theatre group***

Nakshatra was invited by the Habitat Learning Centre to participate in their Sixth Anniversary Celebrations. Fourteen children of the group jointly staged a play 'Andha Kaun'. Apart from this children from the Community Centre participated in the painting competition and in the cultural programme. Several other NGOs from Delhi took part in the celebrations. It was a great source of exposure for all the children.

Nakshatra was also invited at the youth week by the Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi.

### ***Orientation for our adolescent participants***

Around 40 children applied for computer training and English coaching. As it was not possible to accommodate everyone, the applicants were shortlisted on the basis of their need. However, for all other activities the centre is open to everyone. An Orientation Programme for new incoming students was held at the Centre on the 29<sup>th</sup> of March 2008. Those supporting the community centre, the DCP for East Delhi, the National Foundation for India and the Habitat Learning Centre were also invited to address the participants. With the invitations a list of all our adolescent participants with details on their age, address etc were sent.

The Orientation Programme was an opportunity for us to familiarise the new students with the structure and ambitions of the Centre, and also to introduce these promising young people to those, such as the Delhi Police, who so generously support our work. Indeed, it is one of the goals of the Saathi Centre to foster community-building between civic institutions and local residents.

The Programme introduced the students to ISST's mission, ongoing activities at the Centre and our rules and regulations. Students were also be provided with a rationale for the curriculum of computer training and English language and encouraged to contribute to the Centre's ethic of community responsibility. Several alumni of the centre were invited to share their experiences, stories, and advice as well.

### ***Picnic and excursion***

125 Participants from all four centres with our coordinators, educators and volunteers went on a picnic to Nehru Planetarium, India Gate and Akshardham Temple on 9<sup>th</sup> February 2008. Arrangements for transport and food were made by Delhi Police.

### ***Community Profile***

ISST Community Centre is presently working on drawing a profile of the neighbourhood of Kalyanpuri, the resettlement colony, slums and institutions and facilities. A household survey is being conducted for the same. In addition, we intend to contact the Municipal Corporation of Delhi, the Office of the Local Counselor, the Election Office for the voters' list, and local schools, dispensaries, NGOs like Parivartan and banks. We will also make visits to common meeting points in the community.

A poster to publicise Saathi Centre has been prepared, which has been put up all over Kalyanpuri and is being distributed with the Household survey in progress for a community profile.

### ***Visitors***

Students under an exchange programme with TERI visited Saathi Centre and Indira Camp on 18<sup>th</sup> March 2008 and we are happy to acknowledge their donation of Rs 7500.

Amanda Beswick and Natalie Parker of the Oak Foundation made a visit to Saathi Centre on 26<sup>th</sup> March 2008.

### *Workshops/Seminars Conducted by ISST*

- ❖ ISST organized a seminar on 'Inter-state migration'. Dr. Veena jha, Coordinator, UNCTAD, Delhi and currently a Visiting Fellow at the University of Warwick presented a paper titled, "Trickle down effects of Inter State Migration in a period of high growth in the Indian economy". The paper presented at the seminar is part of her research programme, "Reality Checks in an Emerging Economy: the case of India" supported by IDRC, Canada. The seminar was held at India habitat Centre on 4 January 2008.
- ❖ ISST organized a half-day workshop on "Revisiting Education for All" at India Habitat Centre on 25<sup>th</sup> February 2008. The findings of the project "Revisiting Education for All" was presented and shared with an expert audience including scholars, activists and the representatives from the development organizations.
- ❖ The twelfth session in the series of talks under the Gender Policy Discussion Forum, jointly organized by Institute of Social Studies Trust (ISST) and India Habitat Centre (IHC), was held on 25<sup>th</sup> February 2008 at India Habitat Centre. **Dr. Radhika Chopra**, Reader, Department of Sociology, University of Delhi spoke on "New Age Gender: Masculinity and Gender in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century". The presentation followed by a lively discussion on the topic by a group of scholars, activists and others.

### *Workshops /Seminars Attended by ISST*

#### *Ratna M. Sudarshan*

- Talk on Gender and Poverty Alleviation programmes, Indian Institute of Public Administration, New Delhi. 3 January 2008.
- Workshop on Strategies for poverty reduction: focus on infrastructure, financial inclusion and social sector interventions, NCAER, New Delhi. 9 January 2008.
- Presented 'Progress of Women in South Asia 2007' at Sixth South Asian Regional Ministerial Conference, Commemorating Beijing, UNIFEM and the Govt of India, New Delhi. 17-19 January 2008.
- Second Meeting of the Pathways of Women's Empowerment South Asia Advisory Committee, Dhaka. 20 January 2008.
- Dialogue on Concepts of Women's Empowerment, Dhaka. 21 January 2008.
- Thematic Meeting, Building Constituencies for Gender Justice, Dhaka. 22 January 2008.
- Governing Body Meeting, Uttarakhand Seva Nidhi Paryavaran Shiksha Sansthan, Almora. 25 January 2008.
- Book Launch 'How India earns, spends and saves', NCAER and Max New York Life, New Delhi. 6 February, 2008.

- Inauguration, Delhi Sustainable Development Summit 2008, TERI, New Delhi. 7 February 2008.
- Research Workshop : “Networks, Intermediaries and Labour Migration”, Indian Statistical Institute (Planning Unit), New Delhi. 2 February 2008.
- Presented ‘Key challenges for Women’s leadership in Local Government’, at South Asian Regional Meeting, Aagaz Academy, New Delhi. 12 February 2008.
- National Advisory Committee meeting of RECOUP project, CORD, New Delhi. 19 February, 2008.
- Presented “Gender and social protection in India: implications of substantive equality” at ‘Universalising socio-economic security in South Asia’, IHD and ISS, New Delhi. 17-20 February, 2008.
- Presented “Social protection, globalisation and informality” at Workshop on ‘Globalisation and the State in India’, Centre for Policy Research, New Delhi. 20 February 2008
- Overcoming Barriers to the Extension of Social Protection: Research Design Workshop, IDS and IHD, New Delhi. 21-22 February 2008.
- Expert Committee Meeting to design programmes in Gender and Development Studies, IGNOU, New Delhi. 28-29 February 2008.
- Presented ISST’s Institutional Review Process at IDRC Annual Learning Forum, New Delhi. 10 March 2008.
- Meeting of National Resource Group, Mahila Samakhya, Shastri Bhavan, New Delhi. 14 March 2008.
- Executive Committee Meeting, Mahila Samakhya Karnataka, Bangalore. 20 March 2008.
- Meeting of Anusuya Trust, New Delhi. 24 March 2008.
- Presented Gender and the IT Sector, at Brainstorming Workshop on Gender and Trade: Special Focus on the Social and Gender Implications of the EU-India FTA, Heinrich Boll Foundation (India) – WIDE (Brussels) – SAI (New Delhi). New Delhi. 26 March 2008.

### ***Rina Bhattacharya***

- Attended a symposium on ‘Financing for Gender Equality-Is It Attainable’ organized by Amity World Women Forum & ICSSR on 5<sup>th</sup> March 2008.

### ***Jyotsna Sivaramayya***

- National Workshop on Preparing a Training Manual on “Youth for Gender Equity” at Rajiv Gandhi National Institute of Youth Development, Sriperumbudur. 7-8 January, 2008.

### ***Shubh Sharma***

- Release of ‘Measuring India's Progress on the MDGs – A Citizens' Report’, UNDP. 7 January 2008

- ‘Towards Economic Freedom’ lecture by Ela R. Bhatt, India Habitat Centre. 18 January 2008
- ‘Freeship Quota in Education for Economically Weaker Sections’ by Satark Nagrik Sangathan. 1 February 2008.

### ***Recent Publications***

#### Articles

- “Engendering Governance: A Preliminary Enquiry into Formal and Informal Institutions”, in Smita Mishra Panda (ed.) *Engendering Governance Institutions: State, Market and Civil Society*, Sage Publications, New Delhi 2008.

#### Newspaper Clippings

- Unravelling the Thread of Violence: Newspaper Clippings on Violence against Women in India 2007. (compiled by Akila Ramesh)
- Bills, Debates and Reforms: The Road towards Social Security System in India 2007. (Newspaper Clippings, compiled by Akila Ramesh)
- Newspaper Clippings on Micro-Finance in India 2007 (Compiled by Akila Ramesh)
- Implementation of NREGA: Mixed Results 2007 (Newspaper Clippings, Compiled by Akila Ramesh)
- Newspaper Clippings on Child Labour and Child Rights 2007 (Compiled by Grace Fernandez).
- Newspaper Clippings on Business Process Outsourcing 2007 (Compiled by Grace Fernandez).
- Newspaper Clippings on Panchayat Raj (Compiled by Grace Fernandez).
- Newspaper Clippings on HIV and AIDS 2007 (Compiled by Grace Fernandez).

*Compiled and edited by Rajib Nandi*

*Send your comments and suggestions to [rajibnandi@isst-india.org](mailto:rajibnandi@isst-india.org)*

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# ISST Newsletter

Vol.5

No.2

April – June 2008

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change with focus on work and well-being from a gender perspective. In recognition of its work, ISST has been conferred NGO Consultative Status by the United Nations.

## *Projects at ISST*

### *Completed Projects*

#### **Policy workshop on Home-based Workers**

ISST organized three policy workshops on Home-based Workers at Lucknow, Patiala and Patna in partnership with Lucknow Mahila Sewa Trust, Nabha Foundation and Bihar Rajya Gharkhata Mazdoor Union respectively. The workshop was an advocacy initiative at the state level for developing policies towards improving the condition of home-based workers. The workshops were also aimed to raise awareness of the situation and needs of home-based workers. The research findings on home-based workers, which had been conducted by ISST in the states of U.P, Punjab and Bihar in 2006, were communicated in the workshops. The documentary film titled 'Our Hands at Work', prepared by the ISST was screened at each workshop. The key issues emerged for the study and the film were discussed at the workshop. The discussions featured around the minimum wage and social security for the home-based workers. The impacts of globalization on different trades in the context of vulnerability of several local trades were also discussed. The workshops were participated by the home-based workers, government officials, local media along with the representatives from HomeNet India and ISST.

### *Ongoing Projects*

#### **Urban Poor Livelihoods in the National Capital Region: Emerging Trends**

ISST is conducting a study in the National Capital Region (NCR), Delhi broadly on livelihood issues of urban poor in the context of growth, regional plan and migration. The study proposes to analyze current and emerging employment opportunities, quality of employment with special



attention to obtaining a gendered understanding with focus on informal work for the poor and migrated population outside the traditional networks. The study will closely look at a sector within informal care economy i.e. domestic work and a sector that is continuously growing to offer employment opportunities i.e. IT-enabled services. The project team started with a review of the relevant literature and visits to selected parts of the city to get an initial sense of the issues and conditions of work facing domestic workers and low-end IT workers. The research team has also done a preliminary review of the Census 2001 and NSSO 62<sup>nd</sup> Round data. The findings and the study design were presented and discussed at a Planning Workshop held on 9<sup>th</sup> April 2008. The research team has formulated a sampling and survey design, following the advice and suggestions by the experts. The survey is expected to start in July in Delhi. The questionnaire survey will be supplemented by in-depth interviews. This project is being sponsored by Sir Dorabji Tata Trust, Mumbai.

### **Examining the NREGA – Women’s Participation and Impacts in Himachal Pradesh and Kerala**

ISST has been invited to collaborate with the Institute of Development Studies, Sussex in connection with the project “Social Protection in Asia Phase (SPA) II: Examining the NREGA – Women’s Participation and Impacts in Himachal Pradesh and Kerala”. SPA is a research, advocacy and network building programme funded by the Ford Foundation and the IDRC. The proposed study will address the following themes: the current developmental potential of the NREGA in the study areas; the link between the women’s groups and NREGA implementation and building institutions for extending social protection, in particular the role and ability of the Panchayats. It is expected that the study would help in building institutions for extending social protection. The Study is sponsored by Institute of Development Studies, Sussex.

### **Revisiting Education for All 2006**

This study named ‘Revisiting Education for All’ seeks to capture the changes in the delivery of elementary education among India’s disadvantaged children in the states of Bihar, Chattisgarh, Himachal Pradesh, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Uttranchal, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh over the last ten years. The study also intends to do a citizens’ report on the current state of elementary education in these states. In addition to that, ISST has carried out a few case studies of good practices in Karnataka and Tamil Nadu. The final report from the project is under preparation. The study is supported by the International Development Research Centre, Canada.

### **Evaluation of Doosra Dashak**

ISST has conducted a baseline survey of the Doosra Dashak programme in three blocks in Rajasthan, sponsored by Sir Dorabjee Tata Trust, Mumbai. A report on the findings has been submitted and includes information on education, health, youth, community participation, people’s rights and public institutions and livelihood issues.

## **Evaluation of STEP Project in Himachal Pradesh**

ISST has been commissioned to evaluate Support to Training and Employment Programme for Women (STEP) project being implemented by H.P. State Handloom and Handicrafts Cooperative Federation Ltd., Kullu. The proposed concurrent evaluation, on behalf of Ministry of Women and Child Development, will assess 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.

## **Empowering Adolescent Girls as future leaders and Trainers**

ISST is undertaking an evaluation on Empowering Adolescent Girls as future leaders and trainers for “Indian Academy for Self Employed Women”. The study will assess the impacts of the trainings being imparted to the adolescent girls of Ahmadabad city. The study consists of two phases – baseline and end line. The end line study will be carried out after one and half year from the baseline study.

## **Health needs of beedi workers in Murshidabad district, W.B.**

ISST in partnership with SEWA Bharat is conducting a study on the health needs of beedi workers in Murshidabad district in West Bengal. The area has a high prevalence of water borne disease, respiratory tract infections, and arsenic-related illness. Most tube wells are clogged with sewage and contaminated water. Awareness levels are generally low amongst women and their families about primary care and preventive methods. Public health services are difficult to access and even when centres are open, they are often unable to provide quality care. Building on their organizing and microfinance activities, SEWA Bharat is initiating a health and sanitation intervention in one of the panchayats of the district. SEWA's health program will reach approximately 22,000 community members. To assess basic health and water needs, SEWA Bharat has ISST to design a baseline study to inform the programme design.

## ***OUTREACH PROGRAMME OF ISST***

ISST's Community Outreach Programme established a strong relationship with the community in a few East-Delhi neighborhoods in last six years. The key area of focus has been empowerment of younger people in the community through information, education and dialogue. ISST reaches out to children in a variety of innovative and interactive ways like organizing discussion groups, workshops, theatre workshops, film club, non-formal education, computer training etc. In last three months ISST Community Centre continued their activities in all the areas. Apart from that, a group of students also travelled to Haridwar (Uttarakhand) in the month of June for an educational trip. Trip was conducted by the ISST Community Centre under life skill education programme.

### ***Discussion Groups***

In last three months, discussion groups were organized on Violence and hatred, courage and personality. In the discussions on violence and hatred, the responses included anger, fight, hate, blood, murder, revenge, cheat, completion and enemy. Then the students gave the opposites of these words, love, peace, blood donation, forgive, believe advice etc. The discussion ended with everyone agreeing that all problems can be solved with peace. Adolescent boys and girls from the neighbouring communities and the coordinators, educators and the volunteers of the community centre participated in this lively discussions held at the Saathi Centre of Kalyanpuri.

### ***Workshop of Nakshatra - The Theatre Group***

The theatre workshops were organized between 8<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> May 2008 at Saathi Centre. The workshop began with an ice breaking session. Ms. Chandakanta conducted the workshop as a resource person. She shared the story of the play '*Bandar aur Musafir*' with all participants. She also gave some advice regarding acting and expressions. For the first four days everyone worked on the play and rehearsed their roles. Children really enjoyed the activities, Chandkanta'ji involved them in. The workshop lasted ten days.

### ***Workshop on First Information Report (FIR)***

A workshop on First Information Report (FIR) was held on 28 May 2008. Pooja and Vankhatash from Symbiosis Pune were invited as resource persons for the workshop. The workshop covered the issues related to FIR, its process and the legal aspects and the the role of concerned Police officers and the citizens were discussed in the workshop. The adolescent children and youth from the neighbouring Kalyanpuri area attended the workshop.

### ***Workshop: Protection of Women against Domestic Violence Act, 2005***

A workshop on Protection of Women against Domestic Violence Act, 2005 was organized on 2<sup>nd</sup> June, 2008. The interactive workshop discussed on various aspects both social and legal, of domestic violence.

### ***Workshops/Seminars Conducted by ISST***

- ❖ ISST organized a daylong workshop on “**Urban Poor Livelihoods in the National Capital Region: Methodology Workshop**, April 9, 2008.
- ❖ **Case Studies of Home Based Workers: Dissemination Workshops in partnership with Home Net India and UNIFEM**, May 19, 2008 Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh May 30, 2008 Patiala, Punjab May 31, 2008 Patna, Bihar

## *Workshops /Seminars Attended by ISST*

### ***Ratna M. Sudarshan***

- Seminar on Draft Urban water and Sanitation Policy for the Poor, Mahila Housing Trust, New Delhi, April 2.
- Regional Workshop on Home based workers in Asia: Building a Regional Presence, organized by HomeNet South Asia and Friedrich Ebert Stiftung, India office, Mumbai, April 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>, 2008
- 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, April 30.
- Technical Informal Consultation on ‘Mainstreaming women’s employment concerns in macro-economic and employment policy in India: identifying concrete policy actions’, ILO, May 5, 2008
- Meeting of the Advisory Committee on India Programme for Research in Human Development (IPRHD), NCAER, May 13, 2008
- Seminar on ‘Strengthening the delivery of social services in Delhi: a convergence model for empowering the poor’, May 19-20, IIC organized by Govt of NCT of Delhi, Institute for Human Development, ACCESS Development Services.
- Roundtable on “Engendering the Census 2011”, May 19 2008 at UNIFEM
- ‘Employment: IT Sector’ presented at National Consultation on Employment Policy for India, Ministry of Labour and Employment and ILO, 21-22 May
- Executive Committee Meeting, Mahila Samakhya Uttarakhand, Dehradun, 22 May.
- “Moving out of Poverty: Understanding Freedom, Democracy and Growth from the Bottom Up”, dissemination conference, ICRIER and The World Bank, 26 May.
- ‘Beyond Degrees’, book launch at the IIC. 28 May.
- Annual meeting of the Advisory Committee of the Developing Countries Research Centre, University of Delhi, 2 June 2008
- Experts meeting, SIDA-AIT Research Consortium on Support of Planning Urban Research, AIT, Bangkok, 5-6 June 2008
- Core Committee and Technical Group meeting, SAARC Gender Database, UNIFEM, Kathmandu, 7 June 2008

- Finalization of Results Framework, Mahila Samakhya, June 16.
- ‘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, June 25
- Meeting of the Focal Points to Review Progress of the Pilot Phase of SAARC Gender Database, SAARC Secretariat, Kathmandu, June 30.

### *Recent Publications*

#### *Working Papers:*

- Ratna M. Sudarshan and Shrayana Bhattacharya (2008) “Through the Magnifying Glass: Women’s Work and Labour force participation in urban Delhi”, ILO Asia-Pacific Working Paper Series, ILO, New Delhi.

#### Media

- Shrayana Bhattacharya, ‘Care to work? Undercounting Women’s Work is representative of a deeper misunderstanding’, Indian Express.

*Compiled and edited by Rajib Nandi*

*Send your comments and suggestions to [rajibnandi@isst-india.org](mailto:rajibnandi@isst-india.org)*

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## ***Projects at ISST***

### ***Completed Projects***

#### **Evaluation of STEP Project in Himachal Pradesh**

ISST has completed an evaluation study of Carpet Weaving under Support to Training and Employment Programme for Women (STEP) project implemented by H.P. State Handloom and Handicrafts Cooperative Federation Ltd., Kullu (HIMBUNKAR) in six districts of the state. The concurrent evaluation was done on behalf of Ministry of Women and Child Development. The objective of this study was to assess 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 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, Govt. of India, New Delhi.

### ***Ongoing Projects***

#### **Urban Poor Livelihoods in the National Capital Region: Emerging Trends**

ISST is conducting a study in the National Capital Region (NCR), Delhi broadly on livelihood issues of urban poor in the context of growth, regional plan and migration. The study proposes to analyze current and emerging employment opportunities, quality of employment with special attention to obtaining a gendered understanding with focus on informal work for the poor and migrated population outside the traditional networks. The study will closely look at a sector within informal care economy i.e. domestic work and a sector that is continuously growing to offer employment opportunities i.e. IT-enabled

services. The proposed study is situated in the context of growth patterns on the one hand, and the regional plan for the NCR on the other. To what extent are livelihood issues of the poor addressed within these contexts?

The research team had reviewed relevant literature and data and visited selected parts of the city to get an initial sense of the issues and conditions of work facing domestic workers and low-end IT workers. The findings and the study design were presented and discussed at a Planning Workshop held on 9<sup>th</sup> April 2008. The research team formulated a sampling and survey design, following the advice and suggestions by the experts. The survey has been started in September after piloting the questionnaires in South, East and West Delhi. The questionnaire survey is supplemented by in-depth interviews. A two day training workshop was conducted in early September to discuss the methodology of qualitative research techniques. At present, both survey and in-depth interviews are going on side by side. This project is being sponsored by Sir Dorabji Tata Trust, Mumbai.

### **Examining the NREGA – Women’s Participation and Impacts in Himachal Pradesh and Kerala**

ISST has been invited to collaborate with the Institute of Development Studies, Sussex in connection with the project “Social Protection in Asia Phase (SPA) II: Examining the NREGA – Women’s Participation and Impacts in Himachal Pradesh and Kerala”. SPA is a research, advocacy and network building programme funded by the Ford Foundation and the IDRC. The proposed study will address the following themes: the current developmental potential of the NREGA in the study areas; the link between the women’s groups and NREGA implementation and building institutions for extending social protection, in particular the role and ability of the Panchayats. It is expected that the study would help in building institutions for extending social protection. The Study is sponsored by Institute of Development Studies, Sussex.

### **Revisiting Education for All 2006**

This study named ‘Revisiting Education for All’ seeks to capture the changes in the delivery of elementary education among India’s disadvantaged children in the states of Bihar, Chattisgarh, Himachal Pradesh, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Uttranchal, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh over the last ten years. The study also intends to do a citizens’ report on the current state of elementary education in these states. In addition to that, ISST has carried out a few case studies of good practices in Karnataka and Tamil Nadu. The final report from the project is under preparation. The study is supported by the International Development Research Centre, Canada.

### **Evaluation of Doosra Dashak**

ISST has completed a baseline survey of the Doosra Dashak programme in three blocks in Rajasthan, sponsored by Sir Dorabjee Tata Trust, Mumbai. A report on the findings has been

submitted. The report includes information on education, health, youth, community participation, people's rights and public institutions and livelihood issues.

### **Empowering Adolescent Girls as future leaders and Trainers**

ISST is undertaking an evaluation on Empowering Adolescent Girls as future leaders and trainers for "Indian Academy for Self Employed Women". The study will assess the impacts of the trainings being imparted to the adolescent girls of Ahmadabad city. The study consists of two phases – baseline and end line. The end line study will be carried out after one and half year from the baseline study.

### **Health needs of beedi workers in Murshidabad district, W.B.**

ISST in partnership with SEWA Bharat is conducting a study on the health needs of beedi workers in Murshidabad district in West Bengal. The area has a high prevalence of water borne disease, respiratory tract infections, and arsenic-related illness. Most tube wells are clogged with sewage and contaminated water. Awareness levels are generally low amongst women and their families about primary care and preventive methods. Public health services are difficult to access and even when centres are open, they are often unable to provide quality care. Building on their organizing and microfinance activities, SEWA Bharat is initiating a health and sanitation intervention in one of the panchayats of the district. SEWA's health program will reach approximately 22,000 community members. To assess basic health and water needs, SEWA Bharat has ISST to design a baseline study to inform the programme design.

### **Evaluation of Doosra Dasak Projects in Laxmangarh and Pindwara Blocks, Rajasthan**

ISST has been assigned an evaluation study to be conducted in Laxmangarh block in Alwar district and Pindwara block in Sirohi district, Rajasthan by Foundation for Education and Development, Jaipur. Through this study, ISST is expected to make an assessment of the progress in implementation of Doosra Dasak programme in Pindwara and Laxmangarh blocks. The overall objective of the study is to facilitate decision making and to enable the management of Doosra Dasak to bring about necessary improvements in the programme. ISST team had visited both the blocks in Rajasthan. Currently, a consolidated report of the evaluation is under preparation.

### **Baseline Study to assess the impact of SEWA's work in Delhi**

ISST has been commissioned to conduct an impact study 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 with street vendors, construction workers and home-based embroidery workers. SEWA is working with 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). The study will be conducted



through baseline and end-line survey, case studies and discussions with SEWA Bharat on advocacy and representation efforts and achievements.

### ***OUTREACH PROGRAMME OF ISST***

ISST's Community Outreach Programme established a strong relationship with the community in a few East-Delhi neighborhoods in last six years. The key area of focus has been empowerment of younger people in the community through information, education and dialogue. ISST reaches out to children in a variety of innovative and interactive ways like organizing discussion groups, workshops, theatre workshops, film club, non-formal education, computer training etc. In last three months ISST Community Centre continued their activities in all the areas. Apart from that, a group of students also travelled to Haridwar (Uttarakhand) in the month of June for an educational trip. Trip was conducted by the ISST Community Centre under life skill education programme.

ISST's Community Outreach Programme in East Delhi has come a long way since its inception in 2000 and is expanding and growing. It continues to empower the youth in the community through information, education and dialogue and reaches out to children in a variety of innovative and interactive ways like discussion groups, workshops, theatre groups, film club, non-formal education, computer training etc.

#### ***Discussion Groups***

Discussion groups give a platform for social interaction for children that help them put forth their views and engage with each other. In the last three months, discussion groups were organized on Democracy, Responsibility and Right to Information (RTI). Adolescent boys and girls from the neighbouring communities, coordinators, peer educators and volunteers of the community centre participated in the lively discussion. The children initiated the discussion, they shared what democracy means to them and in the group discussion on RTI, the children were made aware of what is RTI, what problems they face and where to use right to information and how to write? On the discussion on Responsibility, they shared their experiences pleasant and unpleasant, the discussion concluded by understanding the meaning and importance of responsibility towards oneself and others.

#### ***Nakshatra – the theatre group***

Nakshatra was invited by Department of Training, Government of National Capital Territory (NCT) of Delhi to perform at their premises. They performed '*Kuch to Puchoojee*', a street play on Right to Information. Apart from this there is workshop for the adolescent to enhance their talent is in progress these days.

#### ***Maqsad***

*Maqsad* is an informal youth group that builds the capacities of urban poor youth and empower them with different types of knowledge and skills, which helps them to become better citizens. Under this there is a fellowship called Maqsad-Josh Fellowship and three students have been selected on the basis of consistent performance in the class and other activities. And these students are taking Computer and English classes along with other teachers, thereby reaching out to other deserving students.

## **Celebration**

Independence Day was celebrated on 15 August 2008 at our SAATHI Youth Resource Centre. The adolescents and youth performed skits, sang patriotic songs, participated in the debate. The chief guest was Dr Joachim von Braun (USA) and guest of honour Mr. Asholk Gulati (IFPRI) and Ms. Ratna M. Sudarshan (Director, ISST).

## ***Workshops/Seminars Conducted by ISST***

The thirteen session in the series of talks under the Gender Policy Discussion Forum, jointly organized by Institute of Social Studies Trust (ISST) and India Habitat Centre (IHC), was held on 19th August, 2008 at Casuarina Hall, India Habitat Centre. The title of the talk was ***Gender and Free Trade in the Age of Globalisation***. 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, Dept. of Economics, Delhi School of Economics, University of Delhi was the discussant .

## ***Workshops /Seminars Attended by ISST***

### ***Ratna M. Sudarshan***

#### Presentations made

- ‘Social Protection, Informality, and Globalisation’, presentation made at a seminar at Developing Countries Research Centre, University of Delhi, July 29, 2008, New Delhi..
- ‘Telecentres as public spaces: inclusiveness from a gender perspective’, presented at Telecentre Forum, eIndia2008, 31 July 2008 New Delhi
- ‘Access to markets and marketing opportunities’, presented at Aga Khan Foundation – International Food Policy Research Institute Workshop on Women in Agriculture in South Asia, 12-14 August 2008. New Delhi
- ‘Impact of NREGA on rural labour market in Kerala’, International Seminar on NREGA: Impacts and Implementation Experiences, IHD and CSH, 16-17 September, New Delhi

#### Seminars/ meetings attended:

- National Employment Policy: meeting of working group on women workers issues, ILO 14 July 2008, New Delhi
- India Policy Forum, NCAER, July 15-16, 2008. New Delhi

- Executive Committee meeting, Mahila Samakhya, July 25, 2008, Bangalore.
- ‘Rolling out the nation’s future- by chance or choice?’ Lovraj Kumar Memorial Lecture by Dr Ashok Khosla, SPWD, 4 August 2008. New Delhi
- Report release and panel discussion on “The Next Urban Frontier: Twenty Cities to Watch”, NCAER, August 7, 2008, New Delhi
- Ethics Committee meeting, PROH, August 26, 2008. New Delhi
- International Literacy Day Celebrations, Vigyan Bhavan, (Ministry of HRD), September 8, 2008. New Delhi
- Initial Consultation on Migration, Global Human Development Report 2009, UNDP, September 11, 2008. New Delhi
- National Convention on Union Budget 2009-2010, People’s Budget Initiative, September 17, 2008. New Delhi
- Second National Technical Consultation on Employment Policy for India, ILO and Ministry of Labour and Employment, 19 September 2008. New Delhi
- Inclusive Social Assistance Workshop organized by International Labour Office, 24 - 26 September, 2008, Geneva.

### ***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, 2008.
- 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, 2008.

### ***Recent Publications***

#### ***Reports:***

- Evaluation of STEP Project: Support to H.P. State Handloom and Handicrafts Development Cooperative Federation Ltd. For Carpet Weaving, Phase I & II, Submitted to Ministry of Women and Child Development, Govt. of India

## *Staff News*

Mr. Rajeev Ranjan Choudhary left ISST in March 2008.

Mr. Vishal Kumar Goyal left ISST in July 2008.

Ms. Arjumand Bano joined ISST in August 2008.

Md. Nasim Arif joined ISST in August 2008.

Ms. Mubashira Zaidi joined ISST in September 2008.

Ms. Avantika Joshi worked with ISST between July and August 2008

Ms. Namrita S. Singh worked as an intern with ISST between March and May 2008.

Ms. Shiny Saha worked as an intern with ISST between June and July 2008

Ms. Mahuwa Bhowal worked as an intern with ISST between June and August 2008

Ms. Subhashini Perumal worked as an intern with ISST between July and August 2008

Ms. Shalini Perumal worked as an intern with ISST between July and August 2008

## *Forthcoming Events*

### **IHC-ISST Gender Policy Forum**

#### **The Enigma of Empowerment: 'Women & Work'**

Speakers : **Andrea Cornwall**, IDS, Sussex, U.K. ; **Dzodzi Tsikata**, Ghana;

**Colette Solomon**, South Africa; **Naila Kabeer**, IDS, Sussex, U.K.

23 October, 2008 at 6.30 pm

Venue: Casuarina Hall, India Habitat Centre

*Compiled and edited by Rajib Nandi*

*Send your comments and suggestions to [rajibnandi@isst-india.org](mailto:rajibnandi@isst-india.org)*

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# ISST Newsletter

Vol.5

No.4

October – December 2008

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*ISST newsletter seeks to provide information on research and action programmes being conducted by the institute. The newsletter is available on ISST's website.*

The Institute of Social Studies Trust (ISST), a non-profit non-governmental organization, was set up as a society in 1964 and registered as a Trust in 1980. ISST's overall aim is research for social

change with focus on work and well-being from a gender perspective. In recognition of its work, ISST has been conferred NGO Consultative Status by the United Nations.

## *Projects at ISST*

### *Completed Projects*

#### **Evaluation of Doosra Dashak Projects in Laxmangarh and Pindwara Blocks, Rajasthan**

ISST has completed an evaluation study conducted in Laxmangarh block, Alwar district and Pindwara block in Sirohi district by Foundation for Education and Development, Jaipur. Through this study, ISST attempted to make an assessment of the progress in implementation of Doosra Dashak programme in those two blocks in Rajasthan. The overall objective of the study was to facilitate decision making and to enable the management of Doosra Dashak to bring about necessary improvements in the programme. ISST team had visited both the blocks in Rajasthan. A consolidated report of the evaluation has been submitted to Foundation for Education and Development, Jaipur.

#### **Health needs of beedi workers in Murshidabad district, W.B.**

ISST in partnership with SEWA Bharat conducted a study on the health needs of beedi workers in Murshidabad district in West Bengal. Building upon their organization and microfinance activities, SEWA Bharat has been initiating a health and sanitation intervention in one of the panchayats in the district. The area has a high prevalence of water borne disease, respiratory tract infections, and arsenic-related illness. Most tube wells are clogged with sewage and contaminated water. Awareness levels are generally low amongst women and their families about primary care and preventive methods. Public health services are difficult to access. Even where the health centres are available, often ill-equipped to provide quality care. SEWA's health program will reach approximately 22,000 community members. This study would help SEWA Bharat to assess basic health and water needs.

## *Ongoing Projects*

### **The Policy Research Environment and Policy Research Organizations in South Asia**

ISST has undertaken a research project entitled, 'The Policy Research Environment and Policy Research Organizations in South Asia'. The overall objective of the project is to better understand nature of policy organizations (PRO's) in South Asia. The study includes a set of papers, scientometric analysis, and roundtables with leading researchers. These stand-alone pieces will also inform and support the generation of a conceptual framework to understand and assess the performance of policy research organizations in South Asia. The project is supported by the International Development Research Centre (IDRC), Canada.

### **Urban Poor Livelihoods in the National Capital Region: Emerging Trends**

ISST is conducting a study in the National Capital Region (NCR), Delhi broadly on livelihood issues of urban poor in the context of growth, regional plan and migration. The study proposes to analyze current and emerging employment opportunities, quality of employment with special attention to obtaining a gendered understanding with focus on informal work for the poor and migrated population outside the traditional networks. The study will closely look at a sector within informal care economy i.e. domestic work and a sector that is continuously growing to offer employment opportunities i.e. IT and IT-enabled services. The proposed study is situated in the context of growth patterns on the one hand, and the regional plan for the NCR on the other.

The research team had reviewed relevant literature and data and visited selected parts of the city to get an initial sense of the issues and conditions of work facing domestic workers and low-end IT workers. Currently a questionnaire survey is going on in Delhi and four other NCR towns. The questionnaire survey is supplemented by in-depth interviews. In its next phase, the research team will start analyzing the primary data. It is expected that the findings from this study will help in strategizing some long term intervention for the poor in these sectors. ISST is in touch with other civil society organizations, working in these fields. This project is being sponsored by Sir Dorabji Tata Trust, Mumbai.

### **Examining the NREGA – Women's Participation and Impacts in Himachal Pradesh and Kerala**

ISST has been invited to collaborate with the Institute of Development Studies, Sussex in connection with the project "Social Protection in Asia Phase (SPA) II: Examining the NREGA – Women's Participation and Impacts in Himachal Pradesh and Kerala". SPA is a research, advocacy and network building programme funded by the Ford Foundation and the IDRC. The current study addresses the following themes: the current developmental potential of the NREGA in the study areas; the link between the women's groups and NREGA implementation and building institutions for extending social protection, in particular the role and ability of the Panchayats. It is expected that the study would help in building institutions for extending social protection. The study has already completed its first phase of field work in Palakkad district, Kerala. The second phase of the field study will be resumed in the month

of March, both in Palakkad and in Sirmaur district (Himachal Pradesh). Currently, a review of secondary literature is being carried out at ISST.

### **Revisiting Education for All 2006**

This study named 'Revisiting Education for All' seeks to capture the changes in the delivery of elementary education among India's disadvantaged children in the states of Bihar, Chattisgarh, Himachal Pradesh, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Uttaranchal, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh over the last ten years. The study also intends to do a citizens' report on the current state of elementary education in these states. In addition to that, ISST has carried out a few case studies of good practices in Karnataka and Tamil Nadu. The final report from the project is under preparation. Recently the project has been extended further for another year in order to undertake further analysis. The study is supported by the International Development Research Centre, Canada.

### **Empowering Adolescent Girls as future leaders and Trainers**

ISST has undertaken an evaluation on Empowering Adolescent Girls as future leaders and trainers for "Indian Academy for Self Employed Women". The study will assess the impacts of the trainings being imparted to the adolescent girls of Ahmadabad city. The study consists of two phases – baseline and end line. The base-line survey has already carried out in Ahmedabad. The findings are being analysed currently. The end line study will be carried out after one and half year from the baseline study.

### **Baseline Study to assess the impact of SEWA'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 with street vendors, construction workers and home-based embroidery workers. SEWA had started working with 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). ISST has conducted a base-line survey in those areas through questionnaire survey and case studies. The survey and interviews were supplemented with the discussions with SEWA Bharat activists on various issues like advocacy, representation efforts and achievements. A report has been prepared on the basis of this study. An end-line survey will be conducted after a year to study the impact of SEWA Bharat intervention.

### **Evaluation of Doosra Dashak**

ISST has completed a baseline survey of the Doosra Dashak programme in three blocks in Rajasthan, sponsored by Sir Dorabjee Tata Trust, Mumbai. A report on the findings has been submitted. The report includes information on education, health, youth, community participation, people's rights and public institutions and livelihood issues. An end line survey

will be conducted after two years to see the impact of Doosra Dashak programme in these blocks.

### **Women's Contribution to GDP**

ISST has been assigned by the ILO's sub regional office in New Delhi to prepare a background paper on Women's contribution to GDP. The paper would be a part of the high profile National Conference on women's work to be held jointly by ILO and ISST in early 2009.

### ***OUTREACH PROGRAMME OF ISST***

ISST Community Outreach Programme in East Delhi has established a strong relationship with the community through its work. Ever since its inception in 2000, the field of activities in the community has been expanding. 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 etc.

#### **Discussion Groups**

In the last three months, discussion groups were organized on Meaningful Living, Social Responsibility and Accountability. Adolescent boys and girls from the neighbouring communities, coordinators, peer educators and volunteers of the community centre participated in the lively discussion. The young members initiated the discussion by sharing their thought and meaning on 'living' and 'life'. The discussion session concluded with a debate on how they can lead a meaningful life. In the next group discussion on 'Accountability', the children made themselves aware of what is accountability and how each one of us is accountable for our actions. On the discussion on Social Responsibility, the discussion was centered around the understanding and importance of responsibility towards self and others.

#### **Workshop of Nakshatra – The Theatre Group**

A fifteen-day theatre workshop was organized between 17 and 31 December 2008 at SAATHI Youth Resource Centre. The workshop began with an ice breaking session. Ms. Aghesh conducted the workshop as a resource person. The participants read a few short plays from Habib Tanvir's (renowned theatre personality) book. She helped and guided the participants regarding acting and expressions. A script was written by Sudhir (one of the participants), on present day terrorism for presentation. The play was aptly titled "AAG." All the participants enjoyed the activities that Aghesh'ji involved them in.

#### **Workshop on Passive Smoking & HIV/AIDS**

Two interns from AIIMS organised a two-day workshop on November 11th and 12<sup>th</sup>.2008 in ISST Community Centre. The workshop on Passive Smoking was held on the first day. The workshop discussed on the harmful effects and benefits of passive smoking as perceived by



people, how to say no to smoking. The workshop also discussed different treatments through medicine, relaxation therapy and importance of family support to rehabilitate the victims and bring their lives back to normalcy. The workshop on HIV/AIDS discussed the causes of HI/AIDS, symptoms, how to arrest the disease and relaxation techniques etc.

### **Workshops on : Juvenile Justice Act; Steps to be taken after Police arrests a person; Consumer Protection Act and Right to Information Act (RTI)**

Two interns from Law College, Gujarat organised four workshops with the youths at ISST Community Centre on the above issues in the month of November and December, 2008. In the workshop on Juvenile Justice Act, the issues relating to the aim of the act; when it was formed and what the act is about were discussed. The discussion was followed by a question answer session. The workshop was held on 18 November 2008. A second workshop on Steps to be taken after Police arrest was held on November 21, 2008. The issues like the dos and don'ts by the community and the family after the arrest of a person; things to be observed immediately after the arrest were discussed during this workshop. The workshop on Consumer Protection Act 1986 was held on 25 November '08. The participants were made aware that they need to check the manufacturing date, memo etc, while purchasing a consumer item. Other basic terms in the act like consumer, complaint and manufacturer were discussed in detail in the workshop. In the workshop on Right to Information (RTI), the children were made aware of what is RTI, what problems they face and where to use right to information and how to apply? This workshop was held on 3 December '08

### **Art & Craft Workshop**

A two-day Art & Craft workshop was held between 29 and 30 December, 2008 at SAATHI Youth Resource Centre. The resource person in the workshop was Lakshmi. She taught the boys and girls at Centre to make greeting cards using poster colours, wood granules and pieces of glaze paper. All the participants enjoyed the workshop and came up with beautiful greeting cards.

### **Celebration of Children's Day**

Children's Day was celebrated on 14 November where children from Prateethi also participated in the programme. The children from both the organizations (ISST and Prateethi) presented plays and performed dances.

### ***Workshops/Seminars Conducted by ISST***

The fourteenth session in the series of talks under the Gender Policy Discussion Forum, jointly organized by Institute of Social Studies Trust (ISST) and India Habitat Centre (IHC), was held on 23 October, 2008 at Casuarina Hall, India Habitat Centre. The title of the talk was "The Enigma of Empowerment: Women & Work". The speakers were **Naila Kabeer**, IDS, Sussex, **Colette Solomon**, South Africa and **Dzodzi Tsikata**, Ghana.

## *Workshops /Seminars Attended by ISST*

### *Ratna M. Sudarshan*

Women's Forum, Third Summit of the India, Brazil and South Africa (IBSA) Dialogue Forum, New Delhi, October 13-14, 2008.

Consultation to share the Report of the Independent Group on Home-based Workers, organized by UNIFEM, New Delhi, October 23, 2008.

Roundtable on Professional Support for NREGA with Social Science Research Institutions, organized by Ministry of Rural Development, NASC Complex, New Delhi, November 11, 2008.

National Consultation on Strengthening Women's Voices in Budgets and Policies, organised by CBGA and MWCD, November 13, 2008

'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, November 20, 2008

Gender Statistics and Development Policy: Women's work in India' talk given at Training Programme on 'Incorporating gender concerns in public policy', IIPA, December 2, 2008.

National Seminar on Education Access, Exclusion and Outcomes, NUEPA and CORD, December 3-5, 2008.

ICSSR-ESRC Workshop on Economic Restructuring, Higher Education and the Labour Market and Social Inequalities, December 4-5, 2008.

UKSN Board of Governors meeting Almora, December 6, 2008.

Workshop on Social Income and Economic Insecurities: Findings from a Survey in Gujarat, SEWA and GIDR, Ahmedabad, December 9-10, 2008.

International Conference on Development, Freedom and Welfare, IHD and Cornell University, December 19, 2008.

Preparatory meeting on National Seminar on Women's Work, ILO, December 22, 2008.

## ***Recent Publications***

### ***Reports:***

- ***A Baseline Study of Street Vendors, Construction Workers and Home-based Workers: Delhi***, Report submitted to SEWA Bharat and Sir Dorabji Tata Trust.
- ***ISST Annual Report 2007-2008***.

## ***Staff News***

- Ms. Divya Sharma joined ISST as Research Associate on October 1, 2008
- Ms. Madhuri Karak joined ISST as Research Associate on November 3, 2008

*Compiled and edited by Rajib Nandi*

*Send your comments and suggestions to [rajibnandi@isst-india.org](mailto:rajibnandi@isst-india.org)*

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