

Institute of Social Studies Trust

Annual Report, 2006-07



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The Institute of Social Studies Trust (ISST), a non-profit, non-governmental organisation, was set up in 1964 as a Society and was 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 (II) by the United Nations.

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

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

Contents

From the Director's Desk	5
Projects	7
Completed Projects	9
On-going Projects	17
Resource Centre	19
Community Outreach Programmes	23
In-house Activities	27
Publications and Presentations by ISST	32
Summary Financial Statement 2006-07	35
Our Team	36
ISST Board of Trustees	





From the **Director's** DESK

This last year saw a continuation of the process of institutional review and reflection and the emergence of a consensus that a concern for 'work and well being' issues lies at the heart of ISST's research agenda. 'Work' is shorthand for activities that people do through the day—it is linked to survival as well as achievement, to emotional satisfaction as well as mental stress, in diverse and complex ways. The ingredients that differentiate the conditions of life for men and women, for one group and another, for one community and another, are reflected in differences in the work that people do. Interpreted not in the narrow sense of work-for-wage, but rather in the broader sense of the sources of livelihood and including within it the notion of both productive and reproductive activities, this is the prism through which ISST seeks to examine the world.

The invisibility of women's work has been a recurrent theme in the literature. Because women take the primary responsibility, in most situations, for housework and home maintenance, the perception that this is all they do, is deep rooted in the minds of men and women both. Not surprising then that the recorded official data from national surveys shows lower rates of work participation than micro studies do. ISST's survey of women's work in Delhi carried out this last year shows higher rates of work participation than is suggested in NSS or Census data; it also provides confirmation that marriage and the family—irrespective of education, income, age—are major determinants of women's decisions to work or not. This is one aspect of invisibility, resulting from the fact that for various reasons the pressure to work outside the home is muted.

Studies of selected clusters of home-based workers in different states in India and in five countries of South Asia articulate another aspect of invisibility: that it is a part of the organisation of production to recognise and encourage contractual and home-based work by women and households, a type of work arrangement that further contributes to invisibility. The fact that women themselves are, often, strongly in favour of home-based work forces us to face a whole range of issues: the lack of strong and reliable infrastructure for water and electricity, which means that households have to spend time in the collection of water; the lack of safe and reliable transport networks which makes women feel insecure in working away from home; the



ISST's survey of women's work in Delhi carried out this last year shows higher rates of work participation than is suggested in NSS or Census data.

Public policy towards women's work has sought to increase opportunities for participation in paid work outside or inside the home, without necessarily addressing this wider context and the contradictory messages that need resolution.

absence of child care facilities, which forces older girls to help in sibling care; women's role in the performance of religious rituals; and so on. These wider issues are rarely addressed in talking of women's work. ISST's research on women's work over the last year confirms that a focus on individual attributes alone is inadequate, that we need to find ways of enhancing collective security, in recognition of the interplay between work and collectivities in well-being outcomes.

The dialogue between social norms, based on culture and religion, and the legal framework, with its assertion of universal and secular values; a rapidly changing economic and political environment; forms the context in which individual women make choices about work. Public policy towards women's work has sought to increase opportunities for participation in paid work outside or inside the home, without necessarily addressing this wider context and the contradictory messages that need resolution. Research carried out at ISST on two important programmes i.e. the STEP programme, which is 20 years old, and NREGA, which was introduced last year, helps to see how much—or how little—has changed in the perception of women's work in policy circles. The pathway from an increase in income to 'empowerment' remains elusive.

ISST's research findings, drawing upon both fieldwork based research in different parts of the country as well as insights from the outreach programme in Delhi, have been one of the many inputs placed before the Planning Commission and the Ministry of Women and Child Development of the Government of India in the process of formulation of the Eleventh Plan, apart from other contributions to public debate on policy and programmes.

Even though seeking to raise one's earnings may be a key motivation behind the participation of adolescents in ISST's community outreach programmes, it is heartening to find evidence of 'empowerment' in numerous ways: examples include the scripts of the plays performed by Nakshatra; the use of the RTI to enable school admissions and sale of rations at subsidized prices; the emerging confidence of the children as they manage various activities at the centre. This educational programme, seeking to provide inputs that will help the children to critically examine their own situation and collectively find ways to deal with problems, is an ingredient missing from usual school education which the centre seeks to provide.

While the outcomes of research are important, the process of research is even more so. The support of our sponsors and trustees is gratefully acknowledged, as it has enabled us to work with freedom and to pursue the directions that seem most meaningful to us. A comprehensive list of acknowledgments follows on page 7.

Ratna M. Sudarshan
New Delhi

Projects

April 1, 2006-March 31, 2007

Completed Projects

Project Title	Sponsoring Agency	Date of Commencement	Date of Completion
Gender and Governance			
Ensuring Public Accountability through Community Action	International Development Research Centre (IDRC), Canada	Aug. 2003	June 2006
Gender and Economic Reforms			
MIMAP-Gender Network (Phase III)	International Development Research Centre (IDRC), Canada	Jan. 2004	Dec. 2006
Gender and Work			
Social Protection for Home-based Workers in South Asia	Home-Net South Asia/ Ford Foundation	July 2004	June 2006
Study on Women and the National Rural Employment Guarantee Act	ILO	Jan. 2006	June 2006
Women's Work through Magnifying Glass	ILO	Aug. 2006	Oct. 2006
Case Studies of Home-based Workers in India	UNIFEM/Home-Net, India	June 2006	Dec. 2006
Concurrent Evaluation of STEP Projects:	Ministry of Women and Child Development, Government of India	June 2006	Nov. 2006
a. Bisnouli Sarvodaya Gramodyog Sewa Sansthan, Delhi			
b. Thirumala Education and Social Welfare Society, Bijapur			

On-going Projects

Gender and Work			
Women and the NREGA: Implication for Migration, Decent Work and Gender	ILO	June 2006	June 2007
National Evaluation of the STEP Programme	Ministry of Women and Child Development, GoI	July 2006	May 2007
Other Assignments			
Revisiting Education for all	IDRC	April 2006	Sep. 2008
Employment, Informality and Poverty: Comparative Research in China and India: Study Visit to India	IDRC	Dec. 2006	June 2007
Progress of South Asian Women 2007	UNIFEM	Mar. 2007	Sep. 2007
Community Outreach Programme			
Adolescent Resource Centre	National Foundation for India	Nov. 2006	Oct. 2007



Completed Projects

Gender and Governance

1. Ensuring Public Accountability through Community Action

ISST completed this action research project in 2006. The final dissemination seminar was attended by researchers, government officials, activists, international agencies and slum residents. The project was an attempt to improve the interface between the government authorities and slum residents, develop better models of interaction, so as to better address the immediate issues of urban governance in the areas situated in the periphery of the city or outside the core areas of civic management.

Within its limited scope, the project identified existing community groups and organised such groups for constructive dialogue with relevant official agencies on issues related to service delivery. Together with a couple of other community-based organisations, the project identified the problems in the service delivery system in three slum clusters in east Delhi. Different priority needs were identified including garbage collection, sanitation, sewerage connections and community toilet blocks. At the same time, the project organised participatory 'Area Workshops' with the slum residents and tried to build community awareness towards the 'right to participate' and the 'right to information' in the issues related to governance. ISST has documented the entire project process and the research issues in its final report. A short documentary film has been made as a part of the project documentation. Through the project, a space was created for dialogue and sharing information with activists, slum residents and others concerned in different ways with issues related to service delivery and urban development on a regular basis.

As an indirect outcome of the project, ISST's community outreach programme has been strengthened and several trainings were organised for the communities with whose co-operation the project was implemented. These have included workshops on health, nutrition and sanitation, public distribution system, gender sensitisation, right to information and issues related to education and schooling.

Under this project, several background papers were commissioned. These research papers were presented at the final seminar along with the project findings.

The project process and background papers are available as a publication titled "Ensuring Public Accountability through Community Action: A Case Study in East Delhi" edited by Ratna M. Sudarshan and Suchi Pande.

The International Development Research Centre (IDRC) Canada supported this action research project.



As an indirect outcome of the project, ISST's community outreach programme has been strengthened and several trainings were organised for the communities with whose co-operation the project was implemented.

Under its overall umbrella, several studies were carried at the micro, meso and macro levels to understand various dimensions of the changing situation of women, and men, as external environment of households undergo rapid economic change.

Gender and Economic Reforms

1. MIMAP—Gender Network: A Regional Gender Network in South and South-east Asia with Special Reference to Gender Dimensions of Macro Economic Reforms.

The Gender Network Project initiated in 1998 is an interdisciplinary thematic regional research programme under the MIMAP Programme Initiative of IDRC, Canada with a mandate to investigate the gendered impact of macro economic policy changes. Under its overall umbrella, several studies were carried at the micro, meso and macro levels to understand various dimensions of the changing situation of women, and men, as external environment of households undergo rapid economic change. The empirical basis of the project has been provided by a number of household surveys conducted mainly in South Asian countries and also in a couple of countries in South-east Asia. This has been supplemented by a few studies involving macro econometric and CGE modeling of gender and by selected sectoral studies.

The Network has broadened the scope of gender research by introducing the mental health dimension of gender bias in its fold. Mental health indicators have been used to bring in the phenomenon of violence against women as a crucial parameter for gaining insight into the measure of gender development. The research on the contradictory signals of gender development has led to a number of studies on the highly acclaimed case of the Kerala woman where high female literacy goes hand-in-hand with disquieting evidence of violence against women.

The Project has carried out a number of specific studies on various sub-themes like the gendered impact of the Information and Communications Technology in Asian countries, the qualitative dimensions of gendered poverty and economic growth, income inequality and gender disparities. The Network's research agenda had been conceptualised and coordinated by Professor Swapna Mukhopadhyay, erstwhile Director of the Institute of Social Studies Trust (ISST), India. The ISST website provides the full list of reports and papers prepared under the Gender Network Project.

[http://www.isst-india.org/publications_economic_reforms.htm]

The International Development Research Centre, Canada supported this programme of research.

Gender and Work

1. Social Protection for Home-based Women Workers in South Asia

ISST partnered HomeNet South Asia (a network for home-based workers) in an action research project to understand the risks and vulnerabilities faced by home-based women workers in selected sectors in five countries of South Asia. The study tried to identify social protection priorities and current coping strategies. Fieldwork was conducted in selected locations in Bangladesh, India, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka. Sectors studied included pottery-

making, shell and pearl collection, incense sticks (agarbatti), weaving, and garments. ISST supervised and co-ordinated the research, and HomeNet teams were involved in data collection in each country. The findings of the study were shared at a workshop held in New Delhi from February 22 to 24, 2006. The study will be used by HomeNet South Asia in designing its future advocacy strategy.

HomeNet South Asia and Ford Foundation, India supported this project.

Key findings

- Economic security (enough work to earn a reasonable income) emerges as the topmost need of home-based workers; ensuring economic security requires knowledge of the anticipated development trajectory; interventions need to be different for workers in expanding and contracting sectors.
- Given the high dependence of many groups of home-based workers on local and domestic markets, a locale-specific approach is recommended.
- Home-based work is a part of a system of production, implying that changes in the work and earnings of home-based workers will be reflected in re-structuring of production and marketing systems (or vice versa).
- The poverty of home-based workers means that there is need for social assistance as well as longer term promotional approaches.
- Health, housing and children's education emerge as top priorities, to address which, habitat planning and collective investments are required.
- Given the wide range of needs, successful social protection initiatives will call for joint action by many agencies. Partnerships are thus central.

2. Study on Women and the National Rural Employment Guarantee Act

A short term study of women and the NREGA has been sponsored by the ILO. The study aims to look at the implementation of the NREGA from the perspective of women. The study focused on the participation of women, the nature of the assets created, the immediate and likely impact on the livelihood base of local rural economy, and to provide in these respects a 'baseline' picture of selected villages in four districts, one each from the four states of Rajasthan (Sirohi), Madhya Pradesh (Dhar), Karnataka (Gulbarga) and Orissa (Sundargarh). All of these fall in the list of 200 districts selected at the national level for the implementation of NREGA. ISST conducted household surveys in each of these districts with the help of three grassroots level organisations, Doosra Dasak, SEWA and THREAD. In Karnataka the survey has been done by ISST's Bangalore office with support from local residents. The study gathered information about the availability of employment opportunities to households, level of awareness among the

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ISST conducted household surveys in each of these districts with the help of three grassroots level organizations, Doosra Dashak, SEWA and THREAD.

household members about NREGA, the extent to which panchayats have been active in dissemination of information, preparation of job cards and so on. The findings of the study were presented and discussed at a workshop organised by the ILO on June 5, 2006 in New Delhi.

ILO, New Delhi sponsored this project.

Women and the NREGA: Initial Findings

- Households rely heavily on land/forests and manual labour, both agricultural and non-agricultural to get by, and there is a lack of other sources of income.
- Among the sample households, the number of men and women eligible for work were roughly equal, and three members per household on average were eligible to work. The guarantee being per household, distribution of work and wages will vary.
- In Rajasthan, 70 percent or more of workers on NREGA sites were seen to be women. Creche facilities were not available. Implications for care remain to be explored.
- Illiteracy levels in males in the sample varied from 21 percent in Sundergarh to 47 percent in Sirohi. The corresponding levels for women varied from 61 percent in Dhar to 82 percent of the sample in Sirohi.
- Collectivization appears to be higher among women, with anywhere between 23 percent (Sirohi) and 77 percent (Dhar) of the women in the sample belonging to different kinds of collectives, from self-help groups to mahila mandals to trade unions.
- In Dhar, Sirohi and Sundergarh, about 80 percent or more of the women who participated in the study wanted the remuneration to be paid partly in food and partly in cash. These were predominantly tribal and forested areas, and women expressed concerns about food security in the focus group discussions. However, in contrast, in Gulbarga, over 90 percent wished for payment in cash.
- In an attempt to prevent leakages, the Gulbarga administration is making payments into bank accounts opened for households participating in REGS work in the name of the head of the household. The apprehension is that though women may participate in the scheme, the control over their wages may rest significantly with the men.

3. Through the Magnifying Glass: Women's Work and Labour Force Participation in Urban Delhi

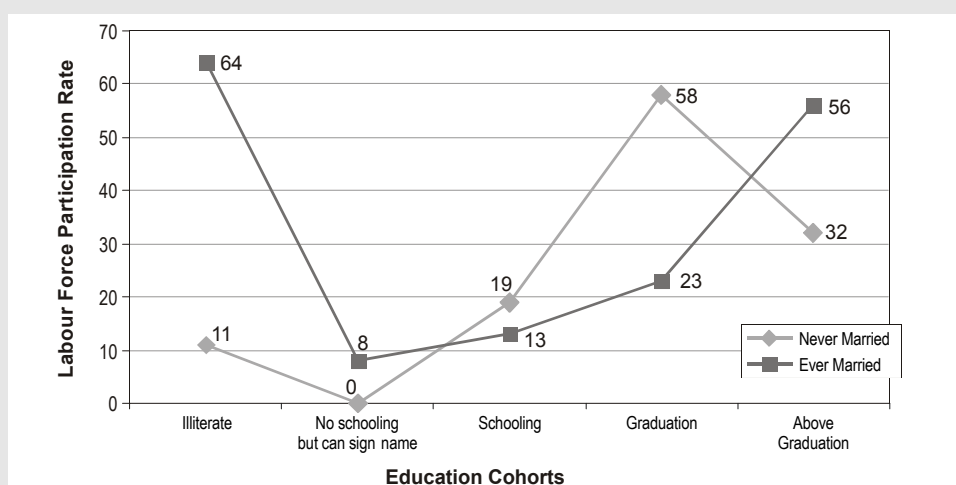
ISST has collaborated with the ILO and conducted a survey in Delhi which threw light on the extent, nature and constraints on women's work in a contemporary urban situation. The study has explored further the dynamics of female labour in terms of demand and supply in a particular section of people. The study also attempts to provide an estimate of women's labour force participation especially in the informal economy. The study imposes the need to understand the changing context within which labour market decisions are made and explore the dominant role of family and kinship structures to determine women's work life choices.

ILO, New Delhi sponsored this project.

Key findings

- The survey reports 21 percent female work force participation. Female labour force participation is registered at 24 percent. These numbers are considerably higher than NSS estimates for Delhi. 15 percent of the respondents were found to have withdrawn from the labour force.
- Increasing burden of reproductive workload could be a reason for lower participation at higher ages; alternatively this may also indicate a higher propensity to work amongst the younger generation.
- The survey shows that unmarried sections of the female population between the ages of 18 and 60, report 43 percent labour force participation rates.
- Women's decision to work is mediated by the level at which their labour choice operates. Women with no schooling report higher labour force participation than women who have completed schooling only.

Female Labour Force Participation Rate in Urban Delhi by Education and Marital Status



- The effect of household income on women's labour force participation is much less clear than that of education. The highest participation levels are seen among the BPL households and the richest households, followed by the upper middle income ranges.
- There is a strong relationship between income levels and education expenditures that a household can incur and such an explanation could spell out the relatively higher LFPR in upper income classes.
- It is interesting to note that LFPR for men and women is significantly higher for BPL families than the average calculated for Delhi.
- While the shares of female and male population who are currently students are similar, the share involved in household work is predominantly female.
- An important finding in the arena of exploring linkages between education and entry into the labour force is the amelioration of the anxiety and insecurity dealing with the world of work and the "outside" associated with graduate education.
- A key finding is that most working women do not have access to paid leave or provident fund. This reflects the informal structures within which women work.

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A short documentary film titled *Our Hands at Work*, has been made on these trades and the women involved in these trades.

4. Case Studies of Home-based Women Workers in Bihar, Punjab and Uttar Pradesh

ISST has documented through case studies the situation of women home-based workers in three states in India for HomeNet India and UNIFEM, New Delhi. The study focused on the nature and conditions of work in the selected trades; and social and economic insecurities faced by the workers in these trades. ISST worked in partnership with grassroots organisations working with home-based workers in the states of Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and Punjab. The trades included in the study are: box making at Lucknow; appliqué work at Rampur; zari-zardosi at Bareilly; *bidi* rolling in Samastipur and Begusarai; *mala*, flute and *chappal* making at Patna and embroidery work in Patiala. A short documentary film titled *Our Hands at Work*, has been made on these trades and the women involved in these trades. In addition, brochures have been prepared for disseminating the relevant issues of the home-based workers.

HomeNet India and UNIFEM, New Delhi sponsored this project.

Key issues highlighted in the study:

- Irregular Payments
- Minimum Wage is not received
- Lack of credit facilities
- Absence of training or marketing support and lack of market information
- No access to Social Security



Home-based appliqué workers giving the final touches at Rampur

5. Concurrent Evaluation of STEP Projects:

- a. Bisnouli Sarvodaya Gramodyog Sewa Sansthan, Delhi
- b. Thirumala Education and Social Welfare Society, Bijapur

ISST was commissioned by the Ministry of Women and Child Development to undertake a concurrent evaluation of two STEP projects - one a goatery project implemented by Thirumala Education and Social Welfare Society, Karnataka and the second a handicraft development project implemented by Bisnouli Sarvodaya Gramodyog Sewa Sansthan, New Delhi.

Ministry of Women and Child Development, Government of India commissioned these evaluations.

ISST was commissioned by the Ministry of Women and Child Development to undertake a concurrent evaluation of two STEP projects.



On-going **Projects**

Gender and Work

1. Women and the NREGA: Implication for Migration, Decent Work and Gender

This study builds on the earlier study of the NREGA to try and understand the interaction between EGA (Employment Guarantee Act), local development, decent work and migration with special focus on gender concerns. It is being conducted at selected sites of Orissa and Rajasthan. The study has three components, a household survey, tracking of selected worksites once a month, and capacity building/information sharing through discussions and workshops. Interviews and group discussions with officials, *panchayat* members and villagers have also been held. The study is expected to throw some light on the likely impact of the NREGA on local economic development, and decent work concerns.

ILO, New Delhi has sponsored this project.

2. National Evaluation of STEP Programme

ISST has been commissioned by the Ministry of Women and Child Development, Government of India to evaluate the STEP (Support for Training and Employment) Programme. The STEP programme was initiated in the Seventh Plan by the Department of Women and Child Development as a centrally sponsored programme, which emphasised the critical need to increase and improve employment opportunities for women. For this evaluation a sample of projects and beneficiaries has been selected from 7 states. States were selected so as to include those which had received substantial amounts of STEP funding, and to include different geographical regions. The findings of the evaluation are to be used in finalising the scheme for the Eleventh Plan.

Ministry of Women and Child Development, Government of India has commissioned this evaluation.

3. Employment, Informality and Poverty: Comparative Research in China and India: Study visit to India

The overall objective of this proposed project is to foster greater understanding on issues of informal employment among Chinese and Indian scholars and practitioners. As a first step in the process of mutual dialogue and comparative studies, dialogue and intellectual exchange between Chinese and Indian participants has been initiated through the conduct of a study tour in India and a workshop in Harvard; to establish a network of Chinese and Indian scholars and practitioners, including young researchers, for the development of research capacity and policy advice on the informal economy.



The STEP programme was initiated in the Seventh Plan by the Department of Women and Child Development as a centrally sponsored programme, which emphasised the critical need to increase and improve employment opportunities for women.

Over the next year, we hope to build on completed and on-going research projects and continue to explore work and well being concerns in selected areas. One theme we expect to develop more strongly in the coming year is migration and its implications for women and their work.

ISST in partnership with NCAER, SEWA and GIDR organised a study tour around the theme “Employment, Poverty and Informality: India and China” with a focus on informal employment and institutional environments between 3 February and 11 February 2007. The Chinese group also paid a short visit to SEWA in Ahmedabad during this period. This project is co-ordinated by ISST.

IDRC Canada is supporting this project.

Other Assignments

1. Progress of South Asian Women 2005-2007

ISST has been commissioned by United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) to prepare a comprehensive analytical report mapping the situation and status of women on the twelve critical areas of concern identified in the Beijing Platform for Action between the years 2005 to date as a background document for the Sixth South Asia Ministerial Meeting Commemorating Beijing to be held in New Delhi in January 2008.

UNIFEM is supporting this study.

2. Revisiting Education for All

This study seeks to capture the changes in the delivery of elementary education among India’s children in the states of Bihar, Chattisgarh, Himachal Pradesh, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Uttaranchal, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh over the last ten years, as well as exploring the situation in South India through a few qualitative case studies.

International Development Research Centre, Canada is supporting this study.

Looking Ahead

Over the next year, we hope to build on completed and on-going research projects and continue to explore work and well being concerns in selected areas. One theme we expect to develop more strongly in the coming year is migration and its implications for women and their work. The studies on the NREGA suggest that migration is generally a reflection of lack of work. Domestic workers, beauty parlours, and IT enabled services are rapidly growing segments in urban areas, containing examples of both opportunity and exploitation and we propose field research to throw further light on these sectors. Some of this research is expected to be part of the proposed comparative research programme with China. Our research in Orissa also suggests a high level of migration of children between the ages of 10 and 18, and we hope both to study this further as well as to strengthen our community outreach programme with this age group.

Resource Centre

A. The ISST-IHC Gender Policy Forum (Delhi)

The ISST-IHC Gender Policy Forum was initiated in the year 2003 with the objective of encouraging debate and dialogue in an open forum. Three meetings have been organised in 2006-2007.

- 9th June 2006: The topic for discussion was “Gender Sensitivity and Health”. Dr. Ritu Priya Mehrotra, Associate Professor, Centre of Social Medicine and Community Health, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi and Mr. Lester Coutinho, Country Programme Advisor, The David and Lucile Packard Foundation, India were invited as speakers in this forum.
- 10 November, 2006: Professor Naila Kabeer, Institute of Development Studies, Sussex and Visiting Fellow at IDRC, spoke on “No Magic Bullet: Microfinance, Poverty Reduction and Women's Empowerment in South Asia”. Dr. Rohini Somanathan, Reader, Department of Economics, Delhi School of Economics, University of Delhi was the discussant.
- 23 January, 2007: Dr. Ravinder Kaur, Associate Professor, Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi, made a presentation titled, “Imported Wives and Desperate Bachelors: Social Consequences of Female Foeticide in Northern India”. Ms. Shrayana Bhattacharya of ISST (on behalf of Dr. Nitya Rao, Lecturer in Gender Analysis and Development, School of Development Studies, University of East Anglia) presented findings on migration of young women from Jharkhand.

B. International Students' Seminar (Bangalore)

As an effort in the larger endeavour of proactively appreciating the contributions of the sizable international student community in Bangalore, the Institute of Social Studies Trust has been organising a series of seminars on issues which are currently of importance to several of the countries, particularly developing ones, represented by this student body. These presentations will also simultaneously showcase the skills, resources and opinions of this diverse student body, and introduce them in a positive way to the larger Bangalore community. Such presentations build solidarity and understanding about common problems in different countries and differing responses to these problems.

The second in the series of seminars organised by ISST for international students in Bangalore was held on the theme of ‘HIV/AIDS in My Country - Challenges and Responses’ on the 20th of December, 2006.

The topic was selected from a pool of topics that the students had themselves suggested. There were 7 international student presentations. The

The ISST-IHC Gender Policy Forum was initiated in the year 2003 with the objective of encouraging debate and dialogue in an open forum.

The presentations provided a range of insights into the issue of HIV and AIDS due to the diverse levels of prevalence of the disease and the responses in the different countries represented that were driven by the varying cultural and political conditions prevailing in each country.



International Students' Seminar on HIV/AIDS

presentations were made by Jawed Nader (Afghanistan), Byomuhangi Kay Pontian (Uganda), İlker Çaken (Turkey), Torika Nyanga (Fiji), Nizla Naizer (Sri Lanka), Haithem Ali Saleh (Bahrain) and Hani Mohamed Qasim (Sudan). The presentations provided a range of insights into the issue of HIV and AIDS due to the diverse levels of prevalence of the disease and the responses in the different countries represented that were driven by the varying cultural and political conditions prevailing in each country.

A presentation on India was made by Asha Ramaiah, a prominent AIDS activist and founder of the Karnataka Network of Positive People. Her presentation focused on the issues of people living with HIV and AIDS and the work she was doing as a National Advocacy Officer for the Indian Network of Positive People. The floor was then opened for discussion on all of the preceding student presentations.

The final lecture for the day was delivered by Ms. Sonia Kandathil, an AIDS scholar with amFAR—the foundation for AIDS research. Her presentation, titled “HIV/AIDS—New Prevention Technologies” was well-received and appreciated for its relevance and comprehensiveness, and was followed by an animated question and answer session.

C. Seethalakshmi Iyer Memorial Panel Presentations (Bangalore)

ISST Bangalore office launched Seethalakshmi Iyer Memorial Panel Presentations on current research in the social sciences for undergraduate students. The series is an initiative to present exciting areas of current research in the traditional social sciences to undergraduate students. The

first seminar in the series—“Development Economics” was held at Mount Carmel College on 20 September, 2006. Four presentations on contemporary issues were made by the students from different colleges of Bangalore. The seminar was attended by a large number of college going students from Bangalore, and its relevance was highly appreciated by them.

The next two panel presentations in series were organized at St. Josephs Arts and Science College in collaboration with their Department of Economics on 21 February 2007 and at Christ College with support from the Centre for Social Action on 23 February 2007. This series of panel presentations was supported by Dr. Radha Ramaswamy, former Chair of the Department of English, Mount Carmel College, in memory of her mother, the late Mrs. Seethalakshmi Iyer.

D. Seminar on Gender and ICTs (Bangalore)

ISST Bangalore held a seminar on Gender and Information and Communication Technologies, titled, ICTs as an Inclusionary Imperative—A Seminar on Gender and Information and Communication Technologies at United Theological College, Bangalore on 14 December 2006. The seminar was intended to disseminate some of the work that ISST has done in this area, as well as to serve as a forum to learn from the experiences of other organisations working in this field. The Chief Guest for the seminar was Mr. M.N. Vidyashankar, Secretary to the Government of Karnataka, Department of IT, BT and Science and Technology. Ms. Anita Gurusurthy, Executive Director, IT for Change (ITfC), delivered the keynote address on the occasion.

E. Documentation and Library Resources

The ISST library and documentation centre was started in 1984 with the aim of providing information and documentation support to scholars, researchers, planners and development agencies. The library resources at both Delhi and Bangalore are open to visitors throughout the year. The Delhi library boasts over 7,000 volumes—books, conference/seminars papers, research reports, journal articles and other publications in the field of gender studies. The Bangalore library has a rich collection of printed materials on *Panchayati Raj* along with books on different social science disciplines. ISST libraries, both at Bangalore and New Delhi, bring out a compilation of newspaper clippings every year on various contemporary issues. In the past year, they have brought out volumes on Employment Guarantee Act, Violence against Women, Social Security Measures, and BPOs.

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Community Outreach Programmes

Activities at the ISST Community Centre

ISST's Community Outreach Programme in East Delhi is six years old. During this period ISST has established a strong relationship with residents of some slum communities, notably in Sonia Camp, Nehru Camp and West Vinod Nagar which is a resettlement colony. The key area of focus has been empowerment of younger people in the community through Information, Education and Dialogue approach. ISST reaches out to children through a variety of innovative and interactive activities such as discussion groups, workshops, theatre groups, film club, non-formal education, computer training etc. ISST also runs a computer literacy programme that is very popular among the youth in the community. A six-month long basic computer education module has been developed here. A number of students, who had completed this course, got IT related jobs. In June 2006, ISST started a new centre at Kalyanpuri Police Station in partnership with Delhi Police.

SAATHI Centre, Kalyanpuri Police Station

The origin of this centre lies in the use of the RTI to file an FIR by the Co-ordinator, Community Outreach Programme on behalf of one of the field workers whose mobile phone had been stolen in a local bus. As the police station appeared reluctant to file the FIR, the Co-ordinator decided to use the RTI. This was the first instance of use of the RTI at this police station, and the resulting conversations did not just lead to the field worker receiving compensation for loss of the phone, but also led to an invitation to ISST to open a centre for children at the police station. The high crime rate in the Kalyanpuri area is associated with a high drop-out rate from school. ISST started this centre with the basic computer literacy programme. The Police Department has provided the space and basic furniture for this centre. During the year, SAATHI Centre has become an important hub for several educational and recreational activities for the children. In 2006-2007 a number of children have participated in Street Plays, Photography Workshop and Life Skills Workshop arranged in this centre.

The National Foundation of India supported some aspects of our community programme activities over the last year, including support for the computer literacy programme; training to a group of adolescents from slums and resettlement colonies who joined the theatre workshop and periodic workshops on socially relevant issues.

Other activities:

- *Playground study*—An exploratory playground study was conducted by two interns from ISST. The objective was to identify interesting dimensions of the interaction among the children on the playground.



ISST reaches out to children through a variety of innovative and interactive activities such as discussion groups, workshops, theatre groups, film club, non-formal education, computer training etc.

Two older children, associated with the ISST Community Centre, volunteered to teach younger children English and computers, and are presently teaching at the SAATHI centre.

- *Mainstreaming children into the formal education system*—Approximately 105 children coming to the community centres have been enrolled in private schools like Alcon Public School (Mayur Vihar), Mayur Public School, Balbhawan, Mother Teresa, Preet Public School, Universal Public School, Cambridge School (Srinivaspuri), Daisy Dailies Public School, in East and South Delhi under the freeship quota in the last year. Field workers have been pro-active in mobilising the community to avail the 25 percent reservation for children of economically backward families and helping them with the required paperwork. It is heartening to note that during the last few months a greater number of girls have been enrolled, reversing, to some extent, the earlier pattern.
- *Nakshatra*—ISST's well established theatre group, popularly called *Nakshatra* was invited to perform street plays by various colleges like Delhi School of Social Work, Bhimrao Ambedkar College, IIT-Delhi and Lady Irwin College on various occasions like annual events, NSS Youth Week etc. Our enthusiastic and greatly talented team performed plays on RTI (Kuch to poocho ji) and (Janta ka Jamura) which were widely praised.
- *Initiation of discussion group*—To make learning more interesting, a new platform for children of ISST was introduced in our West Vinod Nagar centre. Every month the children come up with an issue to discuss. It can be a societal issue, career related or something that crucially affects their lives. Often a facilitator is invited to moderate the discussion group, this is someone who has practical knowledge about the issue. It is interesting to observe the articulation of children in such forums and how it enhances their self confidence and clarity about issues relevant to them.
- *Bachpan*—This programme was started as a response to the needs of young children in the community because *Aanganwadis* in the neighboring areas were either not operational or inactive. Also, since there are no other organisations in the area providing similar services, the prime objective was to provide a nurturing environment to these children and shape their attitudes, behaviour, values, practices, standards, and language etc. in order to enhance their all-round development.
- *Success stories*—ISST has reason to be proud. Many of the children who participated in the 6 month computer literacy project last year got jobs as tele-callers, computer operators and computer instructors. Two older children, associated with the ISST Community Centre, volunteered to teach younger children English and computers, and are presently teaching at the SAATHI centre.



The Children share their experiences with ISST

*I am **Aashkeen Ahmed**, currently pursuing Bachelors in Social Work from IGNOU and teaching English at the SAATHI Centre. Being a part of ISST benefited me in many ways. I completed a one year course in Computers along with my studies. I learnt English. It helped me improve my personality. I went to Jaipur for a lifeskills workshop and passed on what I learnt there to others at SAATHI Centre. I completed a photography course from Habitat Learning Centre. That was the first time I held a camera and took pictures. I was really happy. I also got to see a college for the first time and participated in a cricket match. I would like to thank ISST for all these opportunities.*

*My name is **Dharmendra Kumar**. I am a resident of Indira Camp. My father's name is Mr. Kanhaiya Lal Rai. He is a contractor. My mother is a housewife. I have three brothers and one sister who are younger than me. I joined ISST around two years back. Before that I was in ninth standard and had absolutely no knowledge about computers. I came to know about ISST through my friends and registered for the computer course here. Within a few months I was initiated into the activities of Nakshatra (our theatre group). Being a part of Nakshatra helped me overcome many inhibitions. Presently, I am a trainer at SAATHI centre for the computer course. I got the opportunity to go out of the city, to a place other than my village, through ISST. I and all my friends from Nakshatra went to Jaipur for a lifeskills workshop. After returning from there I gave training to children for the first time and passed on what I learnt in Jaipur to others. I feel blessed being a part of ISST's community outreach programme.*

*My name is **Furkana**. I am studying in the 12th standard. My sister came to know about ISST from a friend of her. Later, me and my sister visited ISST to avail the free tuition there. In the first meeting I liked the people at ISST. Gradually, along with my regular studies, I became a part of the ISST theatre group—Nakshatra. We performed street plays at several places. Later, I took part in the 10 day training workshop on theatre. I learnt a lot in that workshop. I got a wide exposure due to my association with this group at ISST. My performances in the street plays fetched me several awards and certificates. This would not have been possible without ISST.*

I also completed a one year computer training course at ISST. The educators at ISST are very good. During my interaction with them, I never felt that they were my teachers. Here everybody is friend. I received a lot of affection and respect from ISST. I might not have received so much love and affection from my own family. I never thought of studying in a good school like Ahlcon Public School, but it was possible only because of ISST. Today, my sister also studies in the same school.

I came to know about ISST through my friends and registered for the computer course here. Within a few months I was initiated into the activities of Nakshatra (our theatre group).

Today, I don't hesitate to speak on any topic. I got this confidence from ISST. ISST has an immense importance in my life. I would never forget ISST and its people. I don't want to leave ISST.

During the training workshops and discussion groups at ISST, I learnt to ask questions on small issues of life, from which I was benefited to a great extent. I came to know about Right to Information (RTI) from ISST. I used this information in my life and told about RTI to other girls in my community.

Today, I don't hesitate to speak on any topic. I got this confidence from ISST. ISST has an immense importance in my life. I would never forget ISST and its people. I don't want to leave ISST.

Acknowledgements

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

We thank Mrs. Swapna Mukhopadhyay, Ms. Ritu, Ms. Ratna M. Sudarshan, Mrs. Manju Mishra, Mrs. Amita Joshi for contributing in kind and/or cash.

We also thank Ms. Jaimala Sharma, Ms. Kamalesh Gaur, Mr. Sundarlal, Ms. Shubh Sharma, Ms. Deepika Singh, Ms. Sophie, Mr. Digpal Singh and Ms. Suchi Pande, for their assistance as educators, interns and volunteers.

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

In-house **Activities**

1. Institutional Review

The process of institutional review which was initiated last year was continued this year with a day long retreat with trustees and all staff members from Delhi and Bangalore at India Habitat Centre on 13 October 2006. It was agreed that “work and well being from a gender perspective” describes the current and proposed areas of research; and that ISST's overall aim is “research for social change”. The discussions included a review of ISST's programme directions, and the mix of activism and research that informs its work. The day-long interaction was facilitated by Mr Harish Chaudhry, from the Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi.

2. ISST Discussion Forum

An informal discussion forum held at ISST on occasional Saturdays provided an opportunity to ISST researchers and invited guests to explore and debate on a wide range of issues, including secularism, masculinity, micro finance, gender equality in varying contexts, etc.

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ISST organised a Seminar on Gender and ICTs in Bangalore

The Institute of Social Studies Trust is an NGO with Special Consultative Status with the UN-ECOSOC. ISST's representatives at New York include Ms Suchitra Mohan and Dr. Jaskiran Mathur and Ms. Sunanda Krishnamurthy at Geneva.

NGO Special Consultative Status with UN-ECOSOC

The Institute of Social Studies Trust is an NGO with Special Consultative Status with the UN-ECOSOC. ISST's representatives at New York include Ms Suchitra Mohan and Dr. Jaskiran Mathur and Ms. Sunanda Krishnamurthy at Geneva.

Representing ISST at the UN

Conferences and meetings attended by Sunanda Krishnamurthy in Geneva on behalf of ISST

Tuesday, 19 September, 2006: European Premiere of Human Rights Short Films

Supported by several organisations including Youth for Human Rights International, European Human Rights Office, these 30 short films were on each of the 30 articles of the United Nation's Universal Declaration on Human Rights.

Monday, 9 October, 2006: Fourth Assembly for Human Rights, organised by the Canton of Geneva

Monday Nov. 20 and Tuesday Nov. 21, 2006: International Conference for the Reform of International Institutions: Dialogues between different levels of governance and civil society actors, Organised by World Forum of Civil Society Networks (UBUNTU), and ITUC-CSI-IGB.

Conferences and meetings attended by Jaskiran K. Mathur at the United Nations in New York on behalf of ISST

May 2, 2006: Mukhtar Mai speaks at the UN New York, USA, on the invitation of the Virtue Foundation and United Nations

September 6-8, 2006: 59th Annual DPI/NGO Conference, titled Unfinished Business: Effective Partnerships for Human Security and Sustainable Development.

November 16, 2006: Empowerment of Women: Access to Assets Inheritance Law, Housing and Land Rights and Basic Services, a panel discussion that was part of the International Forum on the Eradication of Poverty held on November 15-16 in New York City to mark the culmination of the first United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty, organised jointly by the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM), the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-HABITAT).



Workshops/Seminars
Organised by ISST
during 2006-07.

Workshops/Seminars Organised by ISST during 2006-07

Seminar/Workshop

- Methodology Workshop on documenting Home-based Work, New Delhi, 29-30 June, 2006.
- Evaluation of the STEP: Methodology Workshop, India International Centre, New Delhi, 14 July, 2006.
- Seethalakshmi Iyer Memorial Panel Presentations on Current Research in the Social Sciences for Undergraduate Students at Mount Carmel College, Bangalore, 20 September 2006.
- Writeshop: Social Protection in Asia, organised by IDS and ISST at IIC, New Delhi, 22-24 September, 2006.
- ICTs as an Inclusionary Imperative—A Seminar on Gender and Information & Communication Technologies, United Theological College, Bangalore, 14 December, 2006.
- International Students' Seminars on Current Issues on "HIV/AIDS in My Country—Challenges & Responses" at Bangalore, 20 December, 2006.
- Informal talk and poetry reading about the Holocaust of the Jewish Dutch Population and reading by Nirmala Nair from her new novel "A Bridge on no Rivers", ISST, Bangalore, 12 January 2007.
- Seethalakshmi Iyer Memorial Panel Presentations on Current Research in the Social Sciences for Undergraduate Students (in collaboration with the Department of Economics, St. Josephs Arts and Science College), Bangalore, 21 February, 2007.
- Seethalakshmi Iyer Memorial Panel Presentations on Current Research in the Social Sciences for Undergraduate Students, with support from the Centre for Social Action, at Christ College, Bangalore: 23 February, 2007.

ISST's Participation in Workshops, Seminars, Meetings in 2006-07

Seminar/Workshop/Meeting	Attended by
WIEGO General Assembly, Durban, South Africa: 21-23 April 2006	Ratna M. Sudarshan
'World Class Cities and the Urban Informal Economy: Inclusive Planning for the Working Poor', School of Development Studies, University of KwaZulu Natal, Street Net International, and WIEGO, Durban: 24-25 April, 2006	Ratna M. Sudarshan
Women's Property Ownership: A study of the process and impact of receiving titles to house in the Districts of Karnataka, held at IHC, New Delhi, 27 April, 2006	Rina Bhattacharya and Manjistha Banerjee



Gender and ICT: Gender Evaluation Methodology (GEM) Workshop held in New Delhi 24-27 April, 2006	Rajib Nandi
Ninth Meeting of the Expert Group on Informal Sector Statistics (Delhi Group), New Delhi: 11 May 2006	Ratna M. Sudarshan
Productive Strategies for Poor Rural Households to participate successfully in Global Economic Processes: India Country Workshop, ODI, New Delhi: 12 May 2006	Ratna M. Sudarshan
Study on HIV/AIDS, NCAER, New Delhi, 20 July 2006	Ratna M. Sudarshan
'India: meeting the employment challenge', Conference on Labour and Employment issues in India. Organized by Institute for Human Development, New Delhi: 27 July, 2006	Ratna M. Sudarshan
"Convention of Elected Women Representatives from Panchayat Raj Institutions" organised by Singamma Sreenivasan Foundation, Bangalore: 4 September 2006	Meera Pillai Grace Fernandez
Meeting on 'Promotion of Discourse on Science, Religion and Development', organized by Institute for Studies in Global Prosperity, New York at Bahai House, New Delhi: 22 September 2006	Rajib Nandi
Gender and Education—talk to participants of training programme on 'Incorporating gender concerns in public policy', IIPA, New Delhi: 26 September, 2006	Ratna M. Sudarshan
World Conference on "Social Protection and Inclusion: Converging efforts from a global perspective", ILO, EC and Govt of Portugal, Lisbon, 2-3 October, 2006	Ratna M. Sudarshan
Prioritising Children in the 11th Five Year Plan co-organised by UNICEF and the State Department of Women and Children Bangalore: 5 October 2006	Grace Fernandez Sonya Thimmaiah
Regional (South India) Workshop on Gender-Just Budgeting organised by Women Power Connect, a national-level women's advocacy group, Bangalore: 6-7 October 2006	Sonya Thimmaiah
All-India Workshop on 'Alternative Forms of Care for Children without Parents' conducted by Kinderpostzegels and Cordaid, Bangalore: 6-7 November 2006	Meera Pillai Sonya Thimmaiah
Expert Group meeting on Health Financing by Local Bodies, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, New Delhi: 10 November, 2006	Ratna M. Sudarshan
Strengthening State Plans for Human Development: Brainstorming Workshop on MDG based Poverty Reduction Strategy, Indira Gandhi Institute of Development Research and UNDP, Mumbai, 12 December 2006	Ratna M. Sudarshan

Conference on Applied Economic Research in Independent India, NCAER Golden Jubilee Celebration, 17 December, 2006	Ratna M. Sudarshan
The National Seminar on Interlinking of Rivers at India International Centre, New Delhi. Organised by Development Alternatives and CEFS, New Delhi: 15 January, 2007	Rajib Nandi
Rural Employment Guarantee Schemes and their Impact on Children in South Asia Workshop organized by UNICEF, 25 January 2007	Ratna M. Sudarshan
Feminist Perspectives and the struggle to Transform the Disciplines, Southern Regional Workshop organised by the Indian Association For Women's Studies (IAWS) and the Women's Studies Dept, Bangalore: 2-3 February 2007	Grace Fernandez Meera Pillai
Workshop on Technology, Social Process & Gender in the Information Society jointly organised by IT for Change & Luleå University of Technology, Sweden, Mysore: 5-6 February 2007	Meera Pillai Sonya Thimmaiah
Conference on Sustainable Development and Livelihoods at Delhi School of Economics, organized by Centre for Development Economics, Delhi University. 7-8 February, 2007	Rajib Nandi
Panel Discussion on NCAER report, 'Examining Employment Figures in the Handloom Sector', organized by All India Artisans and Craft workers Welfare Association, 22 February 2007	Ratna M. Sudarshan
National Consultation on Self-Help Groups, Gender and Development, organized by Nirantar, 23 February, 2007	Ratna M. Sudarshan
Workshop on Gender, Masculinities and Development, organised by Visthar, Bangalore: 19-21 March 2007	Meera Pillai Sonya Thimmaiah
Book launch of 'Asian Informal Workers' edited by Santosh Mehrotra and Mario Biggeri, organized by ILO, 22 March, 2007	Ratna M. Sudarshan
National Advisory Committee Meeting of RECOUP project, CORD, 23 March 2007	Ratna M. Sudarshan
Ethics Committee Meeting for PROH study, 28 March 2007	Ratna M. Sudarshan
Conference on 25 percent Reservation of Seats in Private Schools in Delhi, National University of Educational Planning and Administration (NUEPA). 28 March, 2007.	Deepika Singh Shrayana Bhattacharya Shubh Sharma
Centre for World Solidarity based in Secunderabad organized a National Workshop on Panchayat Raj, Hyderabad: 28, 29 & 30 March 2007	Grace Fernandez Sonya Thimmaiah

Publications

and Presentations by ISST

Books:

- **Ratna M. Sudarshan and Suchi Pande** (eds.) Ensuring Public Accountability through Community Action: A Case Study in East Delhi, published by ISST, New Delhi, 2007
- **Swapna Mukhopadhyay** (ed.) The Enigma of Kerala Woman: A Failed Promise of Literacy, published by the Social Science Press, New Delhi, 2007

Articles:

- **Ratna M. Sudarshan** "Vocational Training for Women in Informal Employment", in Jandhyala B.G. Tilak (ed.), Women's Education and Development, Gyan Publishing House, New Delhi, 2007
- **Ratna M. Sudarshan** (with Jandhyala B.G. Tilak) "Private Schooling in Rural India" in Abusaleh Shariff and Maithreyi Krishnaraj (eds.) State, Markets and Inequalities: Human Development in Rural India, Orient Longman, New Delhi, 2007.
- **Swapna Mukhopadhyay and Rajib Nandi**, "Unpacking the Assumption of Gender Neutrality: Akshaya Project of the Kerala IT Mission in India", in Gender, Technology and Development, Vol. 11 (1), January-April 2007.
- **Rina Bhattacharya**, "Gender and Employment in the Context of Globalisation: Some Facts and Figures", in Rehana Ghadially (ed.) Urban Women in Contemporary India: A Reader, Sage Publications, New Delhi, 2007.

Working Papers:

- **Sophie Woehling and Shubh Sharma**, 'The Playground: A Place full of Interactions and Diverse Expectations', March 2007.*

Project Reports:

- Case Studies of Home-based Workers in Bihar, Punjab and Uttar Pradesh, Report prepared for UNIFEM, New Delhi.
- Evaluation of the STEP (Support for Training and Employment) Programme, Report prepared for the Ministry of Women and Child Development, Govt. of India
- Through the Magnifying Glass: Women's Work and Labour Force Participation in Urban Delhi, Report prepared for ILO, New Delhi.

*available on <http://www.isst-india.org/publications.htm>

Films:

- Accountability for the Common Man: Lessons from the Ground (Duration: 10 mins. 28 secs.)
- Our Hands at Work: A film on home-based workers (Duration: 16 mins. 17 secs.)

(Films are available on request)

Newspaper Clippings:

- Violence against Women 2006: Compiled by Akila Ramesh, ISST, Delhi
- Employment Guarantee Act 2006: Compiled by Akila Ramesh, ISST, Delhi
- Social Security Measures for Organised and Unorganised Sectors 2006: Compiled by Akila Ramesh, ISST, Delhi
- Newspaper Clippings on Business Process Outsourcing 2006: Compiled by Grace Fernandez and Krishna Karanth, ISST, Bangalore.
- Newspaper Clippings on Violence against Women 2006: Compiled by Grace Fernandez and Krishna Karanth, ISST, Bangalore.

ISST Newsletters:

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

(All the newsletters are available at www.isst-india.org)

Presentations:**Ratna M. Sudarshan**

- ‘Social Protection for Home-based Workers in South Asia’ at workshop on Ford Foundation Programme on Social Protection in Asia, 14-17 May 2006, Bangkok.
- ‘Gender sensitive macroeconomics and public policy’ at workshop on Social Services: Towards Universal Coverage and Transformation for achieving the MDGs, UNICEF ROSA, IRC and UNRISD, 24-25 May 2006, Kathmandu.
- ‘Gender and Food Security’ at training programme, Action Aid India, 6 June, 2006, New Delhi.
- ‘Women and NREGA’ at IHD Seminar, 23 June 2006, Institute of Human Development, New Delhi.
- ‘Voice as a Pathway to Women’s Empowerment: reflections on the Indian experience’, presented at Workshop on Regional Research Programme on Pathways to Women’s Empowerment, BRAC University and IDS Sussex, Dhaka, 19-21 August, 2006.

- ‘Social protection, Informal Economy and Globalisation’, presented at workshop on Globalisation and the State, National Foundation of India, 6-7 October, 2006.
- Keynote Address on Gender and Economics in India, delivered at the 89th Annual Conference of the Indian Economic Association, Kurukshetra University, 27 December, 2006.
- ‘Social security for women home-based workers in South Asia’ at Women, Work and Poverty: Policy Conference on Home-based Workers of South Asia, SEWA and UNIFEM, New Delhi, 19 January 2007

Rajib Nandi

- ‘Case Studies of Home-based Workers in Bihar, Punjab and Uttar Pradesh’ at National Workshop on Minimum Wage for home-based workers, 5-6 December, UN-APCIT, New Delhi organized by HomeNet India.
- ‘Gender and ICTs: Findings from the Gender Network Project’, at ICTs as an Inclusionary Imperative—A Seminar on Gender and ICTs, 14 December, 2006”, Bangalore, organized by ISST Bangalore

Shrayana Bhattacharya

- ‘Boundaries of Security: Gender, Agency and the Collective’, paper presented at the 15th Annual Conference on Feminist Economics, 7-9 July, 2006 at Sydney, Australia, organized by International Association for Feminist Economics.
- ‘Case Studies of Home-based Workers in Bihar, Punjab and Uttar Pradesh’, at National workshop on Minimum wage for home-based workers, 5-6 December, 2006 at UN-APCIT, New Delhi organized by HomeNet India

Meera Pillai

- ‘Women and the NREGA: An Overview and Emerging Issues’, at International conference—‘What Works for the Poorest?: Knowledge, Policies and Practices’, December 2006, Dhaka, Bangladesh. Organized by BRAC, Bangladesh, Chronic Poverty Research Centre, and Brooks World Poverty Institute, University of Manchester

Grace Fernandez

- ‘Women Call Centre Workers in India’, at ICTs as an Inclusionary Imperative—A Seminar on Gender and ICTs, 14 December, 2006, Bangalore, organized by ISST Bangalore

Summary Financial Statement*

2006-07

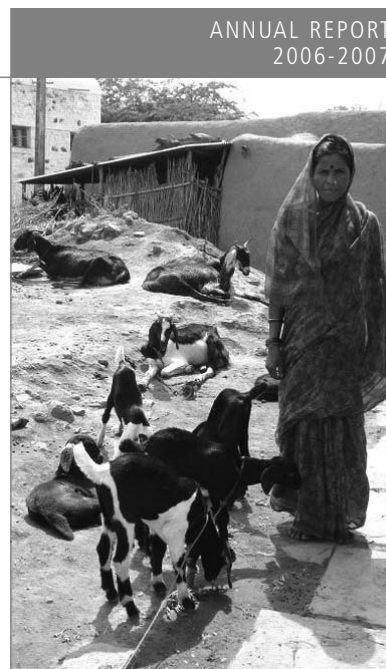
Summary Statement Annual Income and Expenditure

Particulars	Financial Year 2006-07 (Rs. in Thousand)	Financial Year 2005-06 (Rs. in Thousand)
Income		
Interest Income	697	1047
Donations and Contributions	149	24
Other Income	41	48
Service Charges etc.	1909	1026
Project Income	14451	12043
Total	17247	14188
Expenditure		
Administrative Expenses	1329	2263
Project Expenses	14830	11913
Property Expenses	124	111
Net Loss on Sale of Assets	0	94
Depreciation	384	377
Total	16667	14758
Surplus / Deficit	580	(570)

Summary Balance Sheet

Assets		
Fixed Assets	4396	4778
Investment	6294	4824
Current Assets	2442	3189
Income & Expenditure	0	570
Total	13132	13361
Funds & Reserves		
General Fund	900	895
Endowment Fund	8602	8602
Building Fund	3072	3228
Fixed Assets Fund	281	369
Publication Fund	267	267
Income & Expenditure	10	0
Total	13132	13361

*Auditors: Jayaraman & Co., Chartered Accountants, V.K. Krishna Menon Bhawan, 9-Bhagwan Dass Road, New Delhi-110 001



Our Team

(as of March 31, 2007)

Ratna M. Sudarshan, Director

DELHI OFFICE

Manjushree Mishra
Associate Director

Rina Bhattacharya
Research Coordinator

Rajib Nandi
Research Coordinator

Jyotsna Sivaramayya
Research Coordinator

Shrayana Bhattacharya
Research Associate

Rajeshree Dutta Kumar
Consultant (January-June 2007)

Akila Ramesh
Librarian

Shobha Sharma
Administrator

Vishal Kumar Goyal
IT Officer

Rajeev Ranjan Choudhary
Accountant

Deepa Rautela
Secretary

Sultan Singh
Asst. Administrator

Mohan Singh
Office Assistant

Birendra Singh
Driver

COMMUNITY CENTRE, Delhi

Amita Joshi
Coordinator, ISST Community Centre

Ms. Deepika Singh
Research Associate (Since March 2007)

Manju Negi
Field Coordinator

Udai Pal Singh
Office Assistant

BANGALORE OFFICE

Meera Pillai, *Senior Consultant*

Grace Fernandez, *Administrator*

Sonya Thimmaiah, *Programme Associate*

Krishna Karanth, *Office Assistant*

Ratnamma, *Helper*

INTERNS/VOLUNTEERS

Ms. Sonal Marwah, *York University, Toronto, Canada.*

Ms. Simran Kohli, *Marianopolis College, Quebec, Canada.*

Ms. Sophie Woehling, *Paris X University, France*

Ms. Onam Sharma, *Bhim Rao Ambedkar College, Delhi*

Ms. Bhawna Sagar, *Bhim Rao Ambedkar College, Delhi*

Ms. Shubh Sharma, *Department of Social Work, Delhi University*

PROJECT CONSULTANTS

Dr. Duru Arun

Ms. Medha Bisht

Ms. Josefina Oraa



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Ms. Madhu Purnima Kishwar
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Manushi, New Delhi*

Dr. Sharada Jain
*Director,
Sandhan, Jaipur*

Professor Nirmala Banerjee
*Sachetana,
Kolkata*



Head Office:

Upper Ground Floor, Core 6A, India Habitat Centre,
Lodhi Road, New Delhi-110003
Tel: 91-11-24647873, 24653780, Telefax: 91-11-24648724
E-mail: isstdel@isst-india.org, Website: www.isst-india.org

Bangalore Office:

N-601, Manipal Centre,
47, Dickenson Road, Bangalore-560042
Tel: 91-80-25583701, Fax: 91-80-25583704
E-mail: isstban@dataone.in

ISST Community Centre:

E-183B, Gali No. 3,
West Vinod Nagar, Delhi-110092
Tel: 91-11-22474711