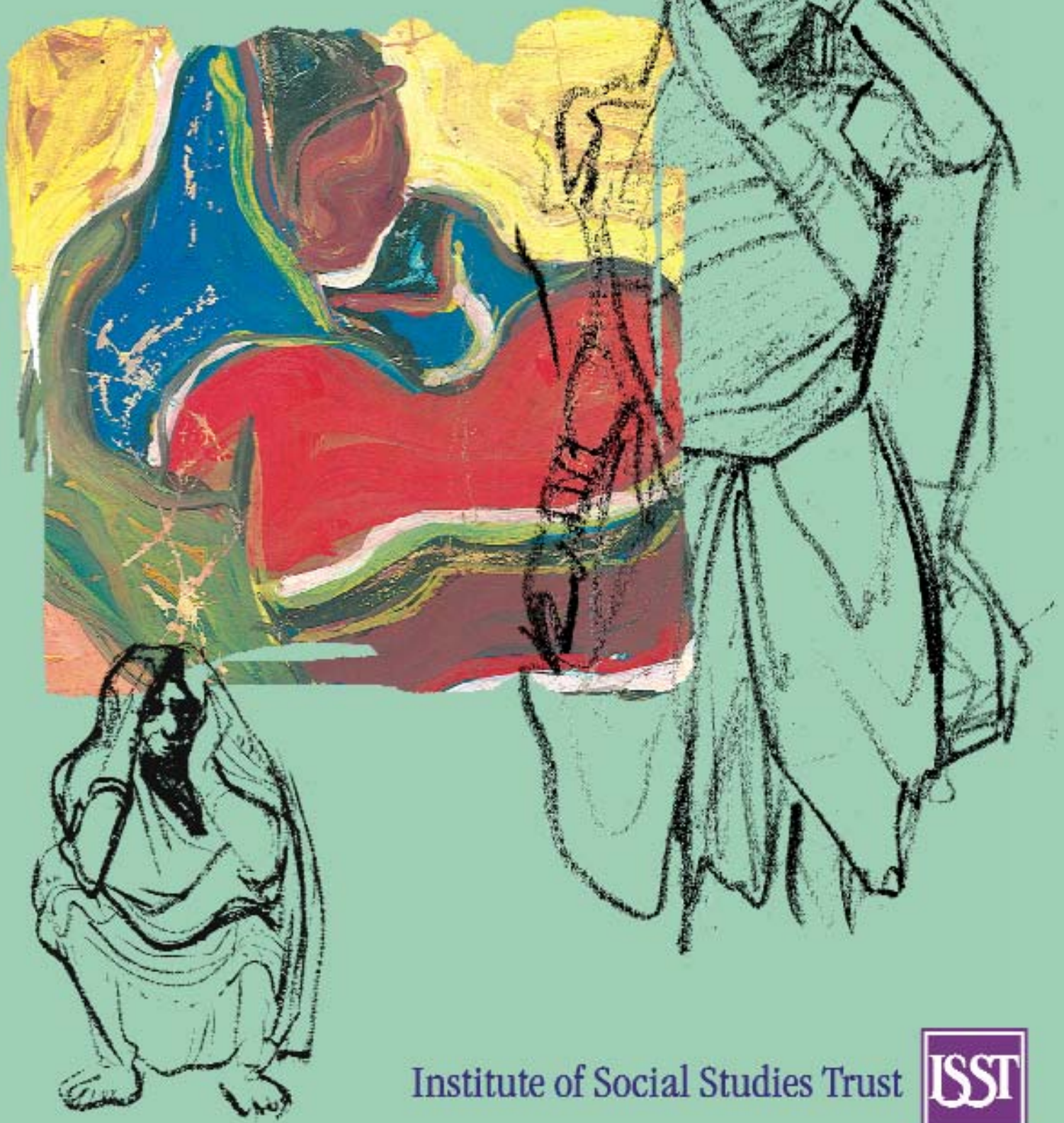


2005-06

# Annual Report



Institute of Social Studies Trust



**ANNUAL REPORT**  
**2005-2006**



**INSTITUTE OF SOCIAL STUDIES TRUST**



### **INSTITUTE OF SOCIAL STUDIES TRUST**

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 is dedicated to conducting research and action programmes to promote social justice and equity for the underprivileged with a focus on women. 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.

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# From the Director's Desk

## From the Director's Desk



It has been a pleasure to celebrate ISST's Silver Jubilee this past year with discussions and get-togethers with old friends both at Bangalore and Delhi, and we have been warmed by the friendship and goodwill towards the institute that was evident in both places. As ISST moves into its maturity, it seems a good time to review our future directions with a concerned and critical eye. We are grateful to Pradeep Srivastava and Kameshwari Jandhyala, who conducted an institutional review of ISST, for their thoughtful comments. The process of review and reflection is expected to continue into the next year.

On the research front, the staff of ISST has explored a wide range of issues in the three broad areas of our current focus (work, governance and economic reforms), and we hope to disseminate the findings and insights in a variety of ways.

It is one of our aims to seek excellence in research and this is not possible without a love of what one does: so it has been especially rewarding to note that ISST has not just organised formal seminars and discussion forums, but also been witness to many debates and discussions at our in-house conference table. Consultants and interns have contributed to the lively and energetic completion of various tasks.

As always, we are grateful to our sponsors; to the IDRC for responding to, and supporting, our proposal for an institutional review, in addition to ongoing project support; to the UNDP, ILO, and the Ministry of Women and Child Development for trusting us with many different studies and evaluations. The Ford Foundation has supported an exploratory seminar on coastal communities, as well as action research with HomeNet South Asia on social protection for home-based workers. Details of our work and sponsors are presented in this report.

We have worked with many grassroots partners over the year, and as always, been inspired and encouraged by their commitment. In its own limited way, we hope our work has strengthened theirs, and that these partnerships will continue to grow over the years to come and that together we can continue to contribute to the task of building a more caring, equal society.

Finally, we feel proud of our Trustee, Dr. Devaki Jain who has been awarded the Padma Bhushan, a testimony to her own individual talents and her sustained commitment to the cause of gender equality and social action.

**Ratna M. Sudarshan**  
New Delhi



# Projects

## April 1, 2005 - March 31, 2006

### Completed Projects

Project Title	Sponsoring Agency	Date of Commencement	Date of Completion
<b>Gender and Governance</b>			
Women in Leadership Positions	UNDP	November 2004	May 2005
Beyond Practical Gender Needs—Women in North-Eastern and Hill States	UNDP	August 2004	June 2005
<b>Gender and Work</b>			
Evaluation of STEP Projects: a. Karnataka Milk Federation b. Nittur Education Society	Department of Women and Child Development, Government of India	February 2004	August 2005

### On-going Projects

<b>Gender and Governance</b>			
Ensuring Public Accountability through Community Action	International Development Research Centre (IDRC), Canada	August 2003	June 2006
<b>Gender and Economic Reforms</b>			
MIMAP-Gender Network (Phase III)	International Development Research Centre (IDRC), Canada	January 2004	December 2006
<b>Gender and Work</b>			
Social Protection for Home-based Workers in South Asia	HomeNet South Asia/ Ford Foundation	July 2004	June 2006
Study on Women and the National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme	ILO	January 2006	June 2006
<b>Other Assignments</b>			
Development Gateway	Development Gateway Foundation	March 2004	September 2005
Impact of the Sahbhagi Yojana 2 Support Project	SEWA Academy/Mahila Housing Trust, Ahmedabad	November 2005	September 2006
National Commission on Unorganised Enterprises: Research Support	UNDP	December 2004	August 2005
Women's Livelihood in Coastal Communities: Management of the Environment and Natural Resources	Ford Foundation	April 2005	June 2005

# ISST Celebrates 25 Years



## Bangalore: June 6, 2005

On June 6, 2005, ISST inaugurated its Silver Jubilee celebration with a seminar titled 'Women's Livelihood in Coastal Communities: Management of the Environment and Natural Resources' at Bangalore followed by a get-together and dinner hosted by ISST. The ceremony was attended by past and present employees of ISST Bangalore and other noted guests.

## Delhi: October 8, 2005

In Delhi, ISST celebrated its 25th Anniversary on October 8, 2005. The ceremony was attended by the past and present employees of ISST, the past and present members of the Board of Trustees and several other academicians, bureaucrats and activists. The programme was





held at the Godrej Auditorium, World Wide Fund for Nature and Conservation (WWF), New Delhi. Professor A. Vaidyanathan, Chairperson of ISST Board of Trustees delivered the

welcome speech. The ceremony was inaugurated with the release of a Souvenir 'ISST 25—Some Reflections' by noted feminist activist and scholar Professor Vina Mazumdar. Professor Mazumdar delivered the keynote address on the occasion. As part of the Silver Jubilee celebrations a panel discussion on 'Relevance of Research to Activism and Policy: A Dialogue on Women's Work' was also organized. Dr. Devaki Jain, a noted feminist activist and former director of ISST chaired the session. Professor Nirmala Banarjee, Smt. Renana Jhabala and Smt. C.P. Sujaya spoke in the panel followed by a discussion. The ceremony ended with a dinner hosted by ISST.





# Completed Projects



## Gender and Governance

### 1. Women in Leadership Positions

A concept paper on Women in Leadership Positions was written as part of a UNDP- DWCD Gender Research Programme. The paper is based on interviews with women leaders in four hill states—Himachal Pradesh, Uttaranchal, Manipur and Meghalaya. Women community leaders in these four states shared experiences of their lives with ISST researchers during the interviews conducted there. Interviewees include women in leadership positions within Panchayat Raj Institutions as well as women's groups such as the Mahila Mangal Dal in Uttaranchal and Synjuk Kanthai in Meghalaya. The interviews were supplemented with relevant literature. The paper is expected to provide a framework for further research in this area.

A workshop was held on June 10, 2005 at New Delhi to discuss the findings of the draft paper. This was attended by academicians, researchers and activists. The final version of the paper has been submitted to the UNDP, Delhi office in July 2005.

*Sponsored by UNDP, New Delhi.*

### 2. Beyond Practical Gender Needs—Women in North-Eastern and Hill States

This study was commissioned by the UNDP, New Delhi under the UNDP-Planning Commission National Research Programme on Growth and Human Development. The aim of the study is to understand the strategic and practical needs in development planning from a gender perspective. The study assumes that division of needs into the practical and the strategic is a useful device for understanding

the likely impact of various interventions. It looked at selected areas in four hill states to understand the nature of strategic interventions that could help advance greater gender equality and empowerment for women, which should be an integral part of planning for human development in practice.

The study is based on an analysis of the strategic gender needs in selected areas of Himachal Pradesh, Uttaranchal, Meghalaya and Manipur and has been conducted in partnership with local NGOs based in the respective states. These are North-East Network (NEN) in Meghalaya, Rural Women's Upliftment Society (RWUS) in Manipur, SUTRA in Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand Sewa Nidhi Paryavaran Shiksha Sansthan in Uttaranchal. The primary findings have been substantiated with secondary information. The study examines the key areas of intervention and capability. The analysis from this study provides suggestions towards engendering the development policies and programmes for planners and policy-makers.

*Sponsored by UNDP, New Delhi.*

## Gender and Work

### 1. Evaluation of STEP Projects (Dairy):

- a. Karnataka Co-operative Milk Federation
- b. Nittur Education Society

During the last year, ISST has evaluated two STEP (Support for Training and Employment of Women) projects in Karnataka at the request of the Department of Women and Child Development, Government of India. The STEP programme has the objective of training and supporting projects for the economic empowerment of poor women. Given the broad



objectives of the STEP programme, dairying has been selected as an appropriate activity for support from the STEP programme. Two dairy projects were evaluated by ISST under this study—Karnataka Milk Federation and the Dairy run by Nittur Education Society. The primary objectives of this evaluation study were to investigate the nature and extent of benefits gained by the women from poor households from the STEP programmes. Moreover, the study critically analyzed the sustainability of the dairy project and its feasibility as a source of economic empowerment for vulnerable and marginalized women.

A detailed questionnaire was developed to understand the structure and functioning of the co-operatives. This was canvassed among the secretaries of selected co-operatives. A second questionnaire was canvassed among the

beneficiaries who have availed loans under the STEP project. Information was also collected through interviews and focus group discussions, with special attention given to issues relating to women's time and earnings, outreach of the programme to the poorest, environmental aspects of dairying, and the impact on household consumption of milk.

On the basis of the findings, the present evaluation study has recommended some modifications in the current STEP programme in order to make it more inclusive of poorer women in a more sustainable manner. There is an urgent need to strengthen the training part of the programme. Finally, further research is needed to assess the implications of selling milk on child nutrition in low income households.

*Sponsored by the Department of Women and Child Development, Government of India.*



A Training Session under the STEP Programme in Karnataka

# On-going Projects



## Gender and Governance

### 1. Ensuring Public Accountability through Community Action

ISST has completed the substantive part of this action research project last year with the final dissemination seminar attended by researchers, government officials, activists, international agencies and slum residents. The project was an attempt to understand the nature of the interface between the government authorities and slum residents, towards developing models of interaction that can better address the immediate issues of urban governance in the areas situated in the periphery or outside the core areas of civic management.

Within its limited scope, the project identified existing community groups and organized such

groups for constructive dialogue with relevant official agencies on issues related to service delivery. Together with a couple of other community based organizations, 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 organized participatory 'Area Workshops' with the slum residents and tried to build community awareness towards the 'right to participate' and the 'right to information' in issues related to governance. ISST has documented the entire project process and the research issues in its final report. A short documentary film has also been made as a part of the project documentation.



The Final Dissemination Seminar on Ensuring Public Accountability Project is under progress



Under this project, ISST also provided small research grants to a number of researchers and activists who have been working with these issues. These research papers were presented at the final seminar along with the project findings.

### List of Research Papers

1. Dr. Joy Deshmukh-Ranadive (CWDS)—'Housing the Poor: How Relevant are Human Rights?'
2. Dr. Jyotsna Bapat (Independent Consultant) 'Urban Governance Issues and the Sacred Canopy'.
3. Dr. Jyotsna Bapat (Independent Consultant) —'Experiences of People—Government Interaction: In Urban Infrastructure Provisioning'.
4. Bikram Jeet Batra (Independent Researcher) 'Entitlement to Services and Amenities in JJ Clusters, JJ Relocation Colonies and other non-planned Settlements in Delhi: An Overview'.
5. Dr. Solomon Benjamin (CASUM-m, Bangalore)—'The Lifestyle Advertisement and the Marxist Manifesto as Trojan Horses in a City of Stealth'.
6. Indu Prakash Singh (Action Aid India)—'The Discovery of 'A' Name: The Coming of Community, Identity, Dignity ... to deal with Homelessness'.

During the fieldwork undertaken for this action research project, it was felt that there is a need to develop the role of the ISST Community Centre as an information and resource centre in a more focused manner. ISST also felt that it was important to provide a space for dialogue and sharing information with activists, slum residents and others concerned in different ways with issues related to service delivery, urban development etc., on a regular basis. Consequently, ISST started organizing trainings on several contemporary and relevant issues for the communities with whom the Community



Centre works. In the past year ISST has organized interactive workshops on health, nutrition and sanitation, public distribution system, gender sensitization, right to information and issues related to education and schooling. There is more information on this activity under the section entitled Community Outreach Programmes.

The International Development Research Centre, Canada supports this action research project.

### Gender and Economic Reforms

1. **MIMAP—Gender Network (Phase III): A Regional Gender Network in South and South-East Asia with Special Reference to Gender Dimensions of Macro Economic Reforms.**

IDRC sponsored MIMAP—Gender Network Project has been investigating the impact of economic reforms from a gender perspective. Several individual scholars and research organizations from South and South-East Asia including ISST have been involved in the project, which has been coordinated by ISST, New Delhi. The project has now been extended up to December 2006. The project has already completed most of its research studies done in the areas of Poverty and Gender, ICT and Gender, Gender Training and Gender Modeling, Growth and Gender Inequality. In the current year the project is concentrating on finalizing the project reports and publications from the research studies done so far.



## List of Reports Prepared in the 3rd Phase of Gender Network

Report/Paper	Researcher/Organisation
<b>Gender and Poverty</b>	
Gender and Poverty: A Qualitative Assessment in Selected Rural Areas of Pakistan.	Rehana Siddiqui, Shahnaz Hamid and Rizwana Siddiqui, Pakistan Institute of Development Economics (PIDE), Islamabad.
Coping with Poverty by Gender and Age.	Nurun Nahar Begum and Ranjan Kumar Guha, Bangladesh Academy of Rural Development (BARD).
<b>Gender and ICT</b>	
Gendered Impact of the Akshaya Project.	Swapna Mukhopadhyay and Rajib Nandi, ISST, India
Gendered Impact of Computer Literacy on Disadvantaged Children and Adolescents.	Swapna Mukhopadhyay and Malavika Kapur.
Information and Communications Technology and Gender in Sri Lanka.	Swarna Jayaweera, Thana Sanmugam and Leelangi Wanasundara, Centre for Women's Research (CENWOR), Sri Lanka.
Gendered Impacts of the Development of Information and Communications Technologies in Vietnam.	Le Thuc Duc <i>et. al</i> , Institute of Economics (IE), Vietnam.
<b>Gender Modeling</b> (in association with PEP Network, Gender Challenge Fund, Laval University, Canada)	
The Gender Wage Gap in Sri Lanka.	Dileni Gunewardena, Univ. of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka
Modeling Gender Dimension of the Impact of Economic Reforms in Pakistan.	Rizwana Siddiqui, PIDE, Pakistan.
Women's Employment and Industrial Restructuring in China: Investigation Using Urban Household Surveys.	Fenglian Du, Inner Mongolia University, China.
<b>Gender Sensitization Training Workshop for Economists</b>	
Report on the Gender Sensitization Training Workshop.	Swapna Mukhopadhyay, Marzia Fontana, IDS, in association with a team of resource persons.
<b>Econometric Analysis of Economic Growth, Income Inequality and Gender Disparities</b>	
Gender and the Millennium Development Goals: The Role of Economic Growth.	Nanak Kakwani (IPC), International Centre for Poverty Research, UNDP, Brazil, Swapna Mukhopadhyay (ISST) and Fabio V. Soares (IPC).
Gender Disparities in The Labour Market: An Analysis of NSS Data.	Suresh D. Tendulkar (CDE) and Swapna Mukhopadhyay (ISST).



Apart from the above research activities, ISST organized two seminars in the last year to take its research findings to interactive sessions with academicians, activists and policy makers. On September 9, 2005 ISST organized a one day national seminar on 'Information and Communication Technologies in the Context of Gender and Developmental Divides' at New Delhi. The seminar sought to provide an interface between NGOs and other development practitioners, researchers, gender specialists, technical experts, scientists, senior bureaucrats, who are interested and involved in the interface of ICT and Gender, in order to collectively address the basic question of how ICT policies and programmes can be utilized to deal with overarching 'social' problems, like gender discrimination in Indian society.

The International Seminar on Gender Under Economic Reforms, the last seminar of the Gender Network Project was organized at Jaipur between February 1 and 4, 2006. The seminar brought together several gender researchers both from partnering organizations and others as well as scholars outside the network. All the research findings were presented at the seminar. Two panel discussions were arranged during the seminar: Gender in Kerala and A Round Table Discussion on Action Research Policy Triad in Gender Studies.



International Seminar on Gender Under Economic Reforms at Jaipur.

In the current phase of Gender Network, ISST commissioned a few more research papers for a proposed book on women in Kerala. Professor Irudaya Rajan and Dr. J. Devika, both from the Centre for Development Studies (CDS), Thiruvananthapuram have written two articles titled 'Facets of Gender Disparity in Kerala' and 'Re-forming Women in Malayalee Modernity: A Historical Overview' for the forthcoming book *Enigma of the Kerala Woman: The Failed Promise of Literacy* edited by Professor Swapna Mukhopadhyay, Project Director of Gender Network.

On the basis of the debates and discussions, that took place during the national seminar on ICT Policies in the context of gender and developmental divides in India, Vigyan Prasar, an autonomous organization under the Department of Science and Technology, Government of India published a book '*Information and Communication Technology (ICT) and Gender*'. Professor Swpana Mukhopadhyay, ISST and Dr. Vinay B. Kamble, Director of Vigyan Prasar contributed papers in the publication on role of technology in addressing social concerns, especially when technological development is state sponsored.

The project is funded by the International Development Research Centre, Canada.

## Gender and Work

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

ISST has been assisting HomeNet South Asia (a network for home-based workers) in an action research project to understand the risks and vulnerabilities faced by home-based workers in several different situations over time, the coping mechanisms they adopt and their social protection priorities. The study has been carried out in five countries in South-Asia—Bangladesh, India, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka. Sectors like pottery-making, pearl extraction, rolling of incense stick (*agarbatti*), weaving and readymade garments etc., were selected for the study. ISST's research team has provided training to the HomeNet teams of different



countries, developed the research methods, designed and developed the survey tools, and supervised and coordinated the entire research. In the last year ISST has organized several workshops with the partnering teams. The final workshop of the project was held in New Delhi from February 22 to 24, 2006. The workshop was attended by all the representatives from HomeNet South Asia. On the basis of the recommendations HomeNet will design its future advocacy strategy. A consolidated report will also be prepared at ISST.

The project is supported by the Ford Foundation, India.

## 2. Study on National Rural Employment Guarantee Act

ISST has undertaken a study on the National Employment Guarantee Act sponsored by ILO. The study has been conducted in four districts, one each from the four states of Rajasthan (Sirohi), Madhya Pradesh (Dhar), Karnataka (Gulbarga) and Orissa (Sundargarh), which fall in the list of 200 districts selected at the national level for the implementation of NREGA. ISST has conducted household surveys in each of these districts with the help of three grassroots level organizations, Doosra Dasak, SEWA and THREAD. In Karnataka the survey is being done by ISST's Bangalore office with support from local surveyors. The study intends to address issues like availability of employment opportunities to households, level of awareness among the household members about NREGA, the extent to which *panchayats* have been active in dissemination of information, preparation of job cards and so on.

The study is being sponsored by ILO.

## Other Assignments

### 1. Development Gateway: Gender Page

The Development Gateway is an interactive portal where one can exchange information and knowledge on sustainable development and poverty. The portal provides a space for communities to share experiences on development efforts. The Development Gateway was initiated by the World Bank and is

currently operated under the mandate of Development Gateway Foundation, an independent non-profit organization. ISST has been guiding the Gender and Development page of the Development Gateway portal (<http://www.developmentgateway.org/gender>) since March 2004. ISST's responsibilities as the guide include updating the site regularly with news, events and online materials, preparing regular highlights and e-mail newsletters, approving or rejecting new content submitted by members, and promoting the gender page through its own networks and events. Highlights prepared at ISST over the last year include the following themes: 'ICT and gender, women in informal employment, women in public life, women and peace and space for women in the politics of development'. ISST also contributed the highlight paper, 'Online Education and Gender—Innovation and Extended Outreach' based on an interview with Dr. Eva Rathgeber, Joint Chair of Women's Studies, University of Ottawa/Carleton University. The highlight describes the ways in which online education can be different from traditional modes of teaching or self-study and speaks about reflections of traditional gender biases in online education as well.

The project is sponsored by the Development Gateway Foundation.

### 2. Impact of the Sahbhagi Yojana 2 Support Project

ISST is providing inputs to SEWA Academy, Ahmedabad in an impact study of the Sahbhagi Yojana 2 Support Project (SY2SP) for Mahila Housing Trust (MHT). The study will assess the impacts of the *Parivartan* project being implemented in the five selected slums in the city of Ahmedabad. Apart from assessing the direct and indirect impact of the *Parivartan* Project on the residents of the study area, the study will also assess the role of the CBOs and their interactions with local governance which would help in the implementation and development of such programmes in future.

The project is sponsored by the SEWA Academy/Mahila Housing Trust, Ahmedabad.



### 3. Research Support to the Commission on Unorganised Enterprises

ISST is managing a grant from the UNDP for research support to the National Commission for Enterprises in the Unorganised Sector, Government of India. Activities undertaken in this project will seek to fill gaps in existing information on the status and nature of unorganised/informal enterprises; it will study the spread, scope and magnitude of employment in those sectors and also do an assessment of credit and finance needs of the unorganised sector.

Sponsored by UNDP.

### 4. Women's Livelihood in Coastal Communities: Management of the Environment and Natural Resources

ISST received a small fund from Ford Foundation to explore the livelihood issues of women in the coastal fishing communities in the context of the Tsunami that hit the eastern

coast of India along with other South and South-east Asian countries in December 2004. ISST commissioned two research papers to be developed by Ms. Chandrika Sharma (International Collective in Support of Fish Workers, Chennai) and Ms. Nalini Nayak (Sakhi Women's Research Centre, Thiruvananthapuram). The basic idea was to develop research agenda on the basis of the ground research in the coastal regions. Both the papers were presented in the seminar organized on June 6, 2005 at Bangalore to inaugurate ISST's silver jubilee celebration.

#### The Papers:

1. Chandrika Sharma—Women of Coastal Fishing Communities in the Asian Region: An Agenda for Research.
2. Nalini Nayak—Sharpening the Interlinkages: Towards Feminist Perspectives of Livelihoods in Coastal Communities.

This activity was sponsored by Ford Foundation, India.



Workshop on Women's Livelihood in Coastal Communities at Bangalore



# Resource Centre

## Resource Centre



### A. The ISST-IHC Gender Policy Forum

The ISST-IHC Gender Policy Forum was initiated in the year 2003 with the objective of encouraging debates and dialogues on contemporary issues among policy-makers, scholars, researchers, students and activists. The forum organized two meetings in 2006. A panel discussion, titled 'Quality of Education: What is the Missing Factor' was arranged in the fifth session of the series of talks which forms part of the activities of the Forum. The speakers in the panel were Professor Vimala Ramachandran, a noted educational researcher and Professor Anita Rampal, Department of Education, University of Delhi.

The sixth session in the series of talks under the Gender Policy Discussion Forum, invited Dr. K.P.S. Kannan, Member, National Commission for Enterprises in the Unorganised Sector and Professor Aasha Kapur Mehta, Professor of Economics, Indian Institute of Public Administration to talk on National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (NREGA).

### B. International Students' Seminar

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 is organizing 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 under-

standing about common problems in different countries and differing responses to these problems. The first of these seminars was held on March 18, 2006 and as a follow-up to International Women's Day the theme was "The Status of Women in My Country". Ten students representing nations as diverse as Bahrain, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Iran, Uganda, Afghanistan, Kyrgyzstan, Belgium, Uzbekistan and Nepal made their presentations. They touched on the social and economic conditions of women in their countries. A brief and enthusiastic discussion followed the seminar and there was a general consensus among participants and the audience to hold more seminars like that.

### C. 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. The 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 NREGA, Panchayati Raj, Violence against Women and Children, HIV/AIDS and Child Labour.



# Community Outreach Programmes

## A. Activities at the ISST Community Centre

ISST's Community Centre located at West Vinod Nagar, in East Delhi works with two slum communities—Sonia Camp and Nehru Camp. ISST has been involved in these areas since 2000. Since its inception, the community centre has undertaken activities in three broad areas: health, education, livelihood and income generation. Awareness generation is attempted on various issues, including health, nutrition, and legal rights. Interventions include Family Counseling, Behavioral Counseling, vocational training skills and economical and psychological empowerment through formation of Self-Help Groups (SHGs).

The ISST Community Centre is continuing its regular programmes like 'Saheliyon ki Bari' for women in Basti Vikas Kendra, Nehru Camp. ISST



Nakshatra: The Children's Theatre Group at the India Habitat Centre.

works with children from the neighbouring slum communities. It runs a centre for non-formal education and vocational training for the children. A computer learning centre, set with help from the Habitat Computer Learning Centre of the India Habitat Centre, has been operational at the ISST Community Centre for more than two years. A film club and a children's theatre group called Nakshatra has also been formed by these children, as a part of their recreational activities. Nakshatra has staged '*Kuch to pucho ji*' a short act at festivals of creative expression and youth empowerment organized by Tehelka Foundation and Bal Bhawan Sanstha.

### Highlights of the Activities in the Year 2005 - 2006:

- **Vocational Training Workshop:** Apart from regular vocational training workshops, a couple of boys from the slum communities were facilitated to take diploma course in stenography from an institute in New Delhi.
- **Lobbying for free admissions in private schools:** According to a directive of the Supreme Court of India, Delhi's private schools are required to reserve 20 per cent of their seats for students from poor communities. ISST lobbied with the local private schools, relevant government departments and the concerned parents and successfully made this provision useful for several poor children in the slum communities.
- **Workshop on Ration Card:** In association with Parivartan, an organization that works exclusively for the Right to Information, ISST organized a workshop for slum residents to check the records of their

respective ration cards. The initiative was to make the ration card holder understand and exercise the entitlements given to him/her under the Public Distribution System.

- **Capacity Building Workshops:** Several workshops were held for the women in the slum communities to understand the Right to Information Act in the context of the Public Distribution System.
- **Gender Sensitization Workshop:** A one day workshop was held at the ISST field office with the teachers of the ISST Community Centre.



A Training Workshop with the adolescent girls is under progress at ISST Community Centre.



A Workshop on Right to Information is being held at ISST Community Centre

## B. Strengthening Information and Resource Centre Activities at ISST's Field Office

Last year, the Community Centre has taken some new initiatives which intend to provide the slum residents a platform where they can express themselves. ISST has regularized interactive sessions with the community with help from their own research team and a few experts invited from other organizations. Taking clues from the experiences of the project on 'Ensuring Public Accountability through Community Action', ISST has been organizing regular training workshops on health and

nutrition, public distribution system, gender sensitization, right to information, issues related to education and schooling.

The first training workshop was conducted on health and nutrition with adolescent girls by ISST's own team of trainers with added inputs from other organizations. Along with the workshop, a more systematic documentation of the various initiatives of the Community Centre has started. This project is being undertaken as a supplementary activity under the 'Ensuring Public Accountability through Community Action' Project.

This activity is being sponsored by IDRC, Canada.

*We are grateful to the friends and colleagues who have supported the efforts of the Community Centre since its inception through assistance in cash or kind, or as volunteers.*

We thank Ms. Lata Pant, Ms. Prena Pant, Professor Swapna Mukhopadhyay, Ms. Chetna, Dr. Jyotsna Bapat and Dr. Duru Arun Kumar for contributing in kind and/or cash.

We also thank Ms. Anju Joshi, Mr. Dignpal Singh, Ms. Jaimala Sharma, Ms. Kamalesh Gaur, Mr. Sundarlal, Ms. Suchi Pande for their assistance as educators or volunteers.





# In-house Activities

## In-house Activities

### 1. Computer Training Workshop for ISST Staff Members

ISST conducted a ten-day long computer training workshop for its staff members between February 27 and March 10, 2006. The training programme was facilitated by NIPSTEC, a computer training institute located in Delhi. The course contained mainly Microsoft Office and Internet applications.

### 2. ISST Discussion Forum

ISST has started a Discussion Forum for their researchers and a few special invitees, with an objective to build a knowledge base and develop awareness and interest on various social issues, even outside ISST's work purview. The Discussion Forum was started with a discussion on Professor Amartya Sen's newly published book, *'The Argumentative Indian'*.

### 3. Institutional Review of ISST

An institutional review of ISST was carried out by Dr. Pradeep Srivastava and Mrs. Kameshwari Jandhyala. The report and recommendations were presented to the Board of Trustees and will continue to guide further reflection and planning over the next year.

This initiative has been supported by the IDRC.

#### ISST's NGO Consultative Status with UN-ECOSOC

The Institute of Social Studies Trust has had NGO consultative status (special) with UN-ECOSOC between 1986 and 1993, and since 1998. Dr. Jaskiran Mathur represents ISST at New York.

### Workshops/Seminars Organised by ISST during 2005-06

Seminar/Workshop
Seminar on Ensuring Public Accountability through Community Action, India International Centre, New Delhi, May 16-17, 2005.
Seminar on Women's Livelihood in Coastal Communities: Management of the Environmental and Natural Resources, Ecumenical Resource Centre, United Theological College, Bangalore. June 6, 2005.
Gender Policy Forum—Quality of Education: What is the Missing Factor, organized jointly with India Habitat Centre, New Delhi, August 5, 2005.
National Seminar on ICT in the Context of Gender and Developmental Divides, India Habitat Centre, New Delhi, September 9, 2005.
Gender Policy Forum—National Rural Employment Guarantee Act: The Gender Implications, organized jointly with India Habitat Centre, New Delhi, January 23, 2006.
International Seminar on Gender Under Economic Reforms, Hotel Jaipur Palace, Jaipur, February 1-4, 2006.
Workshop on Social Protection of Home-based Workers in South Asia, India International Centre, New Delhi, February 22-24, 2006.
International Students' Seminar on Current Issues: "Status of Women in My Country," Indian Social Institute, Bangalore, March 18, 2006.

## ISST's Participation in Workshops, Seminars, Meetings in 2005-06

Seminar/Workshop/Meeting	Attended by
Interaction and Consultation on the Issues of Achievements and Challenges in Promoting Gender Equality and Women's Employment after Beijing +10, organized by NCW, New Delhi. April 7, 2005.	Rina Bhattacharya
First Biennial Conference: Evaluation for Development Beyond Aid, organized by IDEAS, New Delhi. April 12-14, 2005.	Rina Bhattacharya
"Evaluating Development Outcomes: The Potential for Expanding Partnerships" organized by the office of the Resident Coordinator, United Nations, New Delhi, April 15, 2005.	Ratna M. Sudarshan
Talk on "The Vanishing Indian Village" by Professor Dipankar Gupta, World Bank, April 21, 2005.	Ratna M. Sudarshan
Working Group Session on Micro Planning and Child Rights at Women's Political Empowerment Day celebrations, Institute of Social Sciences, April 24, 2005.	Ratna M. Sudarshan
Building Financial Sustainability, a Training for Development Research Organizations in Asia, IDRC and Venture for Fund Raising, Colombo May 10-13, 2005.	Ratna M. Sudarshan
Consultation on Post-disaster Management and Prevention Strategies, M.S. Swaminathan Foundation and IDRC, Chennai, May 13-14, 2005.	Ratna M. Sudarshan
Meeting of Task Force on Skill Formation in the Unorganised Sector, National Commission on Unorganised Enterprises, June 24, 2005.	Ratna M. Sudarshan
Southern India Consultation on "Status of Village Panchayats and the Role of Elected Women Leaders", organized by Human Rights Advocacy and Research Foundation at Chennai, June 24-25, 2005.	Grace Fernandez
Seminar on Harnessing Strengths of Voluntary Sector for Enhancing Delivery Capabilities. New Delhi. July 8-9, 2005.	Amita Joshi
Discussion on SPSS Application, New Delhi. July 29, 2005.	Vishal Kumar Goyal
Panel Discussion on 'Towards Building a Gender Neutral Society: Issues and Concerns', V. V. Giri National Labour Institute, Noida, August 9, 2005.	Ratna M. Sudarshan
Gender Roundtable with World Bank President, Mr. Paul D. Wolfowitz, New Delhi, August 20, 2005.	Ratna M. Sudarshan
Lovraj Kumar Memorial Lecture: The Next Phase of Rural Development, organized by SPWD. New Delhi, August 24, 2005.	Manjushree Mishra
Developing Women's ICT-Based Enterprise: International Knowledge-Sharing Workshop, organized by University of Manchester and University of Kerala, Thiruvananthapuram, August 29-31, 2005.	Ratna M. Sudarshan
Seminar on Identity Formation, Nationhood and Women, Centre for Women's Development Studies, September 16, 2005.	Ratna M. Sudarshan
Consultation workshop on "Foreign Contribution Management and Control Bill 2005," organized by KROSS & ISI at Bangalore, September 16, 2005	Meera Pillai Grace Fernandez
Seminar on Chronic Poverty: "Emerging Policy Options and Issues", Indian Institute of Public Administration, New Delhi, Sept. 29-30, 2005	Ratna M. Sudarshan





Property Ownership and Inheritance Rights of Women for Social Protection: The South Asian Experience. September 30, 2005.	Rina Bhattacharya
National Workshop on Macroeconomics of Poverty Reduction, UNDP, October 17, 2005.	Ratna M. Sudarshan
Research Advisory Committee Meeting, India Programme of Research on Human Development, NCAER, November 2, 2005.	Ratna M. Sudarshan
Food Aid Transition in CARE supported ICDS Programme and Perspective for Strengthening Social Safety Nets, IFPRI, November 8, 2005.	Ratna M. Sudarshan
Hindustan Times Leadership Summit, New Delhi, November 15-16, 2005.	Ratna M. Sudarshan
SAARC Gender Database Meeting, convened by SAARC Secretariat and UNIFEM, Kathmandu, November 24-25, 2005.	Ratna M. Sudarshan
Conference on Women's Work and Health: Status of Women in Meghalaya. New Delhi, November 29, 2005.	Jyotsna Sivaramayya
"World Aids Day" organized by Sangama at Bangalore on December 2, 2005	Grace Fernandez
Training Course on Social Science Research Methodology, organized by Council for Social Development. New Delhi, December 12-23, 2005.	Jyotsna Sivaramayya
The Second Global Labour Forum, New Delhi, December 14, 2005.	Ratna M. Sudarshan
Second International Conference on Religions and Cultures in the Indic Civilization, New Delhi. December 17-20, 2005.	Manomohini Dutta
SHARP dissemination conference on 'Impact of Trade Liberalisation and Economic Reforms on Issues Related to Health, Poverty and Employment, Shastri Indo Canadian Institute, December 19, 2005.	Ratna M. Sudarshan
Gender Budget Meeting convened by Ministry of Urban Employment and Poverty Alleviation, December 22, 2005.	Ratna M. Sudarshan
Seminar on 'Improving the Outcomes of Education for Pro-poor Development', CORD and University of Cambridge, January 11, 2006.	Ratna M. Sudarshan Meera Pillai
Seminar on 'Reaching Safe Motherhood: Some Contributions from Small Case Studies', CORD and University of Edinburgh, February 10, 2006.	Ratna M. Sudarshan Jyotsna Sivaramayya
Women and Leadership: ILO, New Delhi, March 8, 2006.	Shrayana Bhattacharya Manomohini Dutta
Meeting on "Village Development Plan", organised by Singamma Sreenivasan Foundation at Bangalore on March 20, 2006.	Grace Fernandez
Talk: Urban Crisis in Contemporary Bombay Cinema, IIC, New Delhi. March 21, 2006.	Rajib Nandi
Afternoon with Professor Amartya Sen, India International Centre, March 25, 2006.	Ratna M. Sudarshan Shrayana Bhattacharya
Jagruti: Rural Community Initiative Launch by Intel, New Delhi, March 29, 2006.	Rajib Nandi Vishal Kumar Goyal
Monitoring, Evaluation and Capacity Building Workshop for NREGA, organized by UNDP and Ministry of Rural Development, GoI, March 31, 2006.	Ratna M. Sudarshan



## Publications and Presentations by ISST

### Research Articles/Books:

- ISST (2005) *Accountability to the World's Women: Progress of Women in South Asia 2005—A Series for the Fifth South Asia Regional Ministerial Conference Celebrating Beijing Plus Ten*, UNIFEM.
- Ratna M. Sudarshan and Rina Bhattacharya (2006) 'Chronic Poverty and Gendered Patterns of Intra-household Resource Allocation: A Case Study from East Delhi' in Asha Kapur Mehta and Andrew Shepherd (eds.) *Chronic Poverty and Development Policy in India*, Sage Publications, New Delhi.
- Swapna Mukhopadhyay and Vinay Kamble (2006) *Information and Communication Technology (ICT) and Gender*, Vigyan Prasar.

### ISST Monographs:

- *ISST 25: Reflections*, October 2005  
(A Souvenir to mark ISST's silver jubilee year. The Souvenir contains a review of ISST's work in last 25 years by Bhubana Krishnan and Rina Bhattacharya; and personal experiences narrated by several past associates of ISST between 1980 and 2005.)
- *Perspectives on Qualitative Research*, March 2006  
(This publication is a compilation of presentations from a two-day consultation organized by the ISST with CEHAT and Healthwatch, with support from the Anusandhan Trust, toward examining different aspects of qualitative research methodology.)

### Project Reports:

- Evaluation of STEP Projects: Support to the Nittur Education Society for Diary Project in Bidar, Karnataka, submitted to the Department of Women and Child Development, Govt. of India, June 2005.
- Evaluation of STEP Projects: Support to the Karnataka Milk Federation for Diary Project in Karnataka, submitted to the Department of

Women and Child Development, Govt. of India. June 2005.

- Beyond Practical Gender Needs—Women in North-Eastern and Hill States, submitted to UNDP-Planning Commission National Research Programme on Growth and Human Development, June 2005\*.
- Ensuring Public Accountability through Community Action, submitted to IDRC, Canada, June 2005\*.
- Women in Leadership Positions: A Scoping Paper, Submitted to UNDP, July 2005.\*

\* available on [http://www.isst-india.org/publications\\_governance.htm](http://www.isst-india.org/publications_governance.htm)

### Working Paper Series:

- Mallica, (2005) Poor Children in Rich Schools: A Report on the Implementation of 20 per cent Freeships to Economically Marginalized Children in Recognized Private, Un-aided Schools in East Delhi, October 2005.

### Seminar Reports:

- Seminar on Women's Livelihood in Coastal Communities: Management of the Environment and Natural Resources, Bangalore. June 6, 2005.
- Social Protection Policy Dialogue conference, organized by HomeNet South Asia, New Delhi. February 22-24, 2006.
- A Report on the Workshop on Public Accountability through Community Action, Organised by ISST with assistance from IDRC, New Delhi May 16-17, 2005.

### 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](http://www.isst-india.org))

### Newspaper Clippings (2005):

Compiled by Akila Ramesh, Librarian, ISST New Delhi

- National Rural Employment Guarantee Act.
- Violence Against Women.



Compiled by Grace Fernandez, ISST, Bangalore

- HIV/AIDS.
- Child Labour.
- Violence Against Women and Children.
- Panchayat Raj.

## Presentations

### *Ratna M. Sudarshan*

- "Progress of Women in South Asia", presented at Fifth South Asia Regional Ministerial Conference "Celebrating B+10", UNIFEM South Asia and Government of Pakistan, Islamabad May 3-5, 2005.
- Talk on "Reviewing Beijing +10: An Overview of Issues in the Context of Gender", at training programme on 'Incorporating Gender Concerns in Public Policy', Indian Institute of Public Administration, New Delhi, Sept 15, 2005.
- "Social Protection for Home-Based Women Workers in South Asia" at 10th AWID International Forum on Women's Rights and Development, Association for Women's Rights in Development, Bangkok October 27-30, 2005.
- "Globalisation, Informal Economy and Social Protection" at the first meeting of project

partners, Globalisation and Indian State Research Project, National Foundation for India, November 11-12, 2005.

- "Reconstructing Women's Identity: Influences of Globalization" at the International Conference on Globalisation: Social and Political Dimensions, Centre for Law and Governance, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, November 17-18, 2005.

### *Suchi Pande*

- "Lack of Basic Services and Implications on Health Status of Urban Slum Dwellers—Experiences from East Delhi," and "Public Accountability through Community Action: The Project Findings," at the Workshop on Public Accountability through Community Action, Organised by ISST with assistance from IDRC, New Delhi, May 16-17, 2005.

### *Rajib Nandi*

- "Gendered Impact of the Akshaya Project" presented at National Seminar on ICT in the Context of Gender and Developmental Divides, India Habitat Centre, New Delhi, September 9, 2005 and at the International Seminar on Gender Under Economic Reforms, Jaipur, February 1-4, 2006.

Dr. Devaki Jain, former Director of ISST and a member of the ISST Board of Trustees has been awarded the **Padma Bhushan** in the year 2006, the third highest civilian award from Government of India for her contribution as a social worker. We congratulate her and wish her a long and healthy life.



Dr. Devaki Jain



# Summary Financial Statement\*

## 2005-06



### Summary Statement Annual Income and Expenditure

Particulars	Financial Year 2005-06 (Rs. in Lakh)	Financial Year 2004-05 (Rs. in Lakh)
<b>Income</b>		
Interest Income	10.47	6.25
Donations and Contributions	0.24	0.20
Other Income	0.48	0.46
Service Charges etc.	10.26	14.58
Project Income	120.43	116.70
<b>Total</b>	<b>141.88</b>	<b>138.19</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>		
Administrative Expenses	22.63	18.03
Project Expenses	119.13	103.95
Property Expenses	1.11	1.75
Net Loss on Sale of Assets	0.94	-
Depreciation	3.77	4.48
<b>Total</b>	<b>147.58</b>	<b>128.21</b>
Surplus / Deficit	(5.70)	9.98

### Summary Balance Sheet

	Financial Year 2005-06 (Rs. in Lakh)	Financial Year 2004-05 (Rs. in Lakh)
<b>Assets</b>		
Fixed Assets	47.78	51.07
Investment	48.24	64.65
Current Assets	31.89	19.99
Income & Expenditure	5.70	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>133.61</b>	<b>135.71</b>
<b>Funds &amp; Reserves</b>		
General Fund	8.95	9.95
Endowment Fund	86.02	85.02
Building Fund	32.28	34.15
Fixed Assets Fund	3.69	4.99
Publication Fund	2.67	1.60
<b>Total</b>	<b>133.61</b>	<b>135.71</b>

\* Auditors: Jayaraman & Co, Chartered Accountants, New Delhi



# Our Team (as of March 31, 2006)

## Our Team (as of March 31, 2006)

**Ratna M. Sudarshan**, Director

### Delhi Office

**Manjushree Mishra**

Associate Director

**Rina Bhattacharya**

Research Coordinator

**Rajib Nandi**

Research Coordinator

**Jyotsna Sivaramayya**

Research Coordinator

**Medha Bisht**

Research Associate

**Shrayana Bhattacharya**

Research Associate

**Manjistha Banerjee**

Consultant

**Mallica**

Consultant

**Manomohini Dutta**

Research Associate (Part-time)

**Akila Ramesh**

Librarian

**Shobha Sharma**

Administrator

**R.K. Sharda**

Financial Advisor

**R.P. Pandey**

Sr. Accountant

**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

**Suchi Pande**

Project Coordinator

**Shanta Gururani**

Field Coordinator

**Udai Pal**

Office Assistant

### Bangalore Office

**Meera Pillai**

Senior Consultant

**Grace Fernandez**

Administrator

**Krishna Karanth**

Office Assistant

**Ratnamma**

Helper

### Interns/Volunteers

**Devika Chaddha**

**Vijayanka Nair**

### Project Consultants

**Professor Malavika Kapur**

**Professor Irudaya Rajan**

**Dr. J. Devika**

**Dr. Jyotsna Bapat**

**Mandira Kalra Kalaan**

**Avanti Mukherjee**

### Academic Advisor

**Prof. Swapna Mukhopadhyay**

# ISST Board of Trustees

## ISST Board of Trustees



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Sachetana, Kolkata





# Offices

## Offices

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