



Institute of Social Studies Trust, India Habitat Centre, Core 6A, U.G. Floor,
Lodhi Road, New Delhi 110 003

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

The Institute of Social Studies Trust (ISST), a non-profit non-governmental organization, was set up as a society in 1964 and registered as a Trust in 1980. ISST's overall aim is research for social change with focus on work and well-being from a gender perspective. In recognition of its work, ISST has been conferred NGO Consultative Status by the United Nations.

Inside This Issue

| | |
|--|---|
| Completed Programmes | 1 |
| Ongoing Programmes | 2 |
| Outreach Programmes of ISST | 3 |
| Workshops/Seminars conducted by ISST | 5 |
| Workshops/Seminars attended by ISST | 6 |
| Presentations made by ISST Researchers | 7 |
| Recent Publications | 7 |
| Staff News | 8 |

Completed Programmes

Institutional Strengthening and Support: IT Up-gradation, Training, Research and Dissemination

ISST has completed a set of activities including IT Infrastructure up-gradation, IT training with the intention of building up research and dissemination capacities at the Institute. As a part of this project, ISST Bangalore also completed a research project



on IT sector programmes for the Youth from Low Income families in Bangalore. Under the study, ISST research team mapped the training institutions of Malleswaram area and a questionnaire has been administered to gather information regarding the type of courses conducted, duration and fee structure as well as their involvement in job placement. Another set of questionnaire was used to carry out interviews with the working youths from the low income group in the IT sector; in connection with this various NGOs working with low income groups have been identified and with their help interviews with the working youth is in progress. The key findings from the study were presented in a workshop at Bangalore on 15 February, 2010.

Empowering Adolescent Girls as future leaders and Trainers

An impact assessment study on "Empowering Adolescent Girls as future leaders and trainers" for Indian Academy of Self Employed Women (SEWA) was completed. The report has been submitted to the SEWA Academy. The study assesses the impacts of the

trainings being imparted to the adolescent girls of Ahmadabad by using structured questionnaires and some case studies. The study consisted of two phases- baseline and end line. The baseline survey was carried out in April'08 and the baseline in September'09.

Brief Review of the Equal Remuneration Act [ERA], 1976

ISST has completed a quick study on Equal Remuneration Act [ERA]. The study analyzed different cases filed under ERA and conducted a comparative study with Minimum Wages Act. Under this study, trade union leaders and lawyers were interviewed to get an understanding of the issues related to implementation of ERA. In March this year, ISST organized a consultative meeting to present the findings of the study and seek recommendations from different stakeholders. The study was sponsored by ILO, New Delhi.



Ongoing Programmes

Examining the NREGA – Women’s Participation and Impacts in Himachal Pradesh, Kerala and Rajasthan

The study explores the likely reasons behind varying levels of women’s participation, wider impacts of the programme, and the various



ways in which local contexts influence outcomes. The section on Rajasthan is under preparation and will be completed by the end of April 2010. Field visits have been made to Mahikheda and Nichalagarh villages in Abu Road Block of Sirohi district in Rajasthan. Structured questionnaire was canvassed at the household level to illicit information from the head of the household or equivalent. In order to get a deeper understanding of the issues, a few focus group discussions were held with the male and female NREGA workers, panchayat members, mates and others. Presently the research team is analyzing the data.

Baseline and End line Study for Street Vendors in Ahmedabad City

ISST has undertaken a baseline study on Street Vendors in Ahmedabad under project, “New Strategy of SEWA: To Save the Livelihoods of women street vendors in the Era of World Class Cities”. SEWA has organized 57110 vendors in Ahmedabad city with an objective to save the vendors’ livelihood and to bring them in the main stream. To assess the impact of SEWA’s work on the socio-economic and working conditions of street vendors in

Ahmedabad city in the areas of capacity building and promotion and protection of livelihoods with street vendors, Mahila SEWA Trust has commissioned the ISST to conduct an impact study through baseline and end line research survey. ISST has already submitted the report of the baseline survey to SEWA in September 2009. The end-line survey would be conducted in 2011.

The Policy Research Environment and Policy Research Organizations in South Asia

ISST has undertaken a research project entitled, 'The Policy Research Environment and Policy Research Organizations in South Asia' with support from IDRC, Canada. This project includes various activities designed to develop better understanding of the nature of policy research organizations in South Asia and the

varying environments in which they function. A set of background papers have been commissioned and three Roundtables held with heads of organizations from five countries in South Asia. The background papers are available online at ISST website. The project will continue till May 2010.

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

ISST completed a baseline study in September 2008 sponsored by SEWA Bharat, Delhi to assess the impact of SEWA's work in Delhi in the areas of capacity building and promotion and protection of livelihoods with street vendors, construction workers and home-based embroidery workers. ISST has

conducted surveys and interviews which were supplemented with the discussions with SEWA Bharat activists on issues like advocacy, representation efforts and achievements. An end-line survey will be conducted after two years in 2010 to study the impact of SEWA Bharat intervention.

Gender and Participatory Development: Evaluation Concerns

ISST is carrying out the above project with a grant from International Development Research Centre (IDRC), Canada. The objectives of this project are to organize a workshop with an aim of improving evaluation

processes so that they are sensitive to gender concerns and contribute to better understanding of the processes of social transformation that development projects are engaged in.

A study of the Bachpan Programme at Community Centre, ISST

ISST Community Outreach Programme in East Delhi runs a bachpan programme for children who are below six years of age. The programme aims to provide an enabling environment for children's overall development through non formal education and prepares them to join mainstream school. The aims of the present study are to explore

the extent to which the programme helps mothers (i.e. taking up employment, free up time for house hold chores, etc.); to document the efficacy of the programme and to explore further scope of improvement. The interviews and observations have been conducted. Report writing is going on. The study will be completed by the end of April, 2010.

Outreach Programme of ISST

Adolescent Resource Centre

ISST expanded its areas of work and activities in the east Delhi through the inception of ISST Community Centre in the year 2000. Ever since, the ISST community centre continues to empower the youth through information, education and dialogue and reaches out to them in a variety of innovative and interactive ways like discussion groups, workshops,

theatre groups, film club, non-formal education, computer training etc. The community also runs a programme named 'bachpan' for the children below six years of age. Recently National Foundation for India (NFI) started supporting part of the Adolescent Resource Centre.

ISST Community College

ISST Community College is a collaborative initiative with Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU) that offers two programmes: Six month Certificate Course in basic Computer Literacy and Six month Certificate Course in Functional English Language. The certificates will be awarded by IGNOU on successful completion of the course. The course on Functional English has been started from July 2009. Over 30 students are enrolled currently for this course. The course on basic computer literacy started in January 2010.



Gender Resource Centre

ISST has started a Gender Resource Centre – Suvidha Kendra, a Delhi government initiative for women. The Gender Resource Centre of Delhi government had been started in collaboration with the Voluntary organizations in the context of growing influx of migrant population, mounting growth of slums and resettlement colonies, adverse sex ratio of girls, low female work participation rate, high



incidences of violence and crime against women, disturbingly high prevalence of anemia amongst women along with other areas of vulnerabilities such as RTI/STI, TB, reproductive errors, malnutrition etc. Essentially the Centre is expected to take care of all dimensions related to women empowerment in a holistic manner. In keeping with the Bhagidari (Partnership) the project attach Multi stakeholders collaboration with the involvement of stakeholders. ISST has started working in several locations like Kalyanpuri, Kichripur and Mayur Vihar, Phase-II. ISST's Gender Resource Centre also running two vocational courses on Beauty Culture and Cutting and Tailoring.

On January 13th, 2010 the Shri Sandeep Dikshit, the MP of East Delhi, officially inaugurated ISST's GRC-Suvidha Kendra at Kalyan Puri.



Workshops/Seminars Conducted by ISST

Seminars/Workshops

Consultation on the Work of Uttarakhand Mahila Parishad (UMP)



The discussion meeting based on a recent documentation of UMP's Experiences by ISST was held on 29 March 2010 at India Habitat Centre, New Delhi. The discussion centered around the role of NGOs in development and people's participation. The participants debated on the issues of integration of NGO activities with the government. The study and the meeting were supported by Rajeshwar Susheela Dayal Charitable Trust, New Delhi.

Engendering Public Policy in India



The two-day workshop was organized by ISST with support from SEWA Bharat and IDRC on 25-26 March, 2010 at India Habitat Centre, New Delhi. The workshop shared the ideas and experiences on the ways in which public policy can be engendered. The workshop was attended by the members of the committee of Feminist Economists, other feminist scholars, activists and policy makers.

Consultation on Implementing the Equal Remuneration Act:

The one-day consultative meeting was organized by ISST, on March 26, 2010 at India Habitat Centre, New Delhi. The meeting discussed the specific definitions of the Act, its limitations and social implications of using the Act. The meeting was attended by the feminist scholars, lawyers, trade union leaders and others. The meeting was supported by the International Labour Organization, New Delhi.

ICT for the Community: Barriers, Divides and Work pathways



The One-day workshop was organized by ISST, Bangalore on 15 February, 2010 at United Theological College, Bangalore. In the workshop, ISST researchers presented the key findings two recent research projects on above subject in Delhi and Bangalore. The workshop also discussed ways forward to improve the situation and maximize the opportunities for the disadvantaged communities. The workshop was attended by the representative from government department and civil society organizations and also by the activists, scholars and researchers and students. The workshop was sponsored by IDRC, Canada.



ISST-IHC Gender Policy Forum

Structured Inequalities: Factors associated with Spatial Disparities in Maternity Care in India

The eighteenth session in the series of talks under the Gender Policy Discussion Forum, jointly organized by Institute of Social Studies Trust (ISST) and India Habitat Centre (IHC), was held on 5 March 2010 at Casuarina Hall, India Habitat Centre. The speaker of this forum was Dr. Sonalde Desai, senior Fellow, NCAER and Professor of Sociology University of Maryland, USA.



Workshops / Seminars Attended by ISST

Ratna M. Sudarshan

- Board of Governors meeting - UKSN, 2 January 2010, Almora.
- SPA Progress Review Workshop, Bangkok 1-3 February, 2010.
- Thematic Session on 'Nine Decades of the ILO – Retrospect and Way Forward', ILO and MOLE, Feb 4, 2010 as a panelist.
- MacArthur Foundation Consultation on Women, Gender and Development, 5 February, 2010.
- SAARC Gender Information Base (SGIB) Core Committee Meeting at UNIFEM, Kathmandu, 11-12 February 2010.
- 'Development as Trusteeship', Reflection Retreat, Seva Mandir, Udaipur, 19-20 February, 2010.
- Seminar on SAS2 Collaborative Inquiry and Social Engagement by Dr. Daniel Buckles, IDRC, Feb 22.
- "Building a Safe City Through Community Based Policing" With Mr. William Blair, Chief of Police for City of Toronto and Dr. Alok Mukherjee, Chair of the Toronto Police Board. Aspen Institute India, 25 February, 2010.
- Technical Seminar On Institutional Approaches To Promote Gender Equality In The World Of Work In India, ILO, 12 March, 2010.
- National Seminar on Financing Elementary Education in States: Fund Flow Pattern and Utilization of Resources under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, NUEPA, 18 March, 2010.
- Technical workshop on survey of the homeless in Delhi, Samajik Suvidha Sangam, Govt of NCT of Delhi, 31 March, 2010

Rina Bhattacharya

- Conference on "Inclusive Paradigms for Inclusive Growth" by World's Leading Economist, Hernando De Soto, FICCI, New Delhi. 15 February, 2010.

Swati Gupta

- National Seminar on Dalit Women Rights and Citizenship in India, on 19 March,

2010, organized by IDRC and Indian Institute of Dalit Studies.

Divya Sharma

- Technical Seminar on Institutional Approaches to Promote Gender Equality in

the World of Work in India, 12 March, 2010, ILO, New Delhi.

Presentations made at Seminars / Workshops**Ratna Sudarshan**

- *"Women and NREGA"* at SPA Progress Review Workshop, Bangkok 1-3 February 2010.

the workshop on 'ICTs for the community: barriers, divides and work pathways' on 15 February, 2010, at Bangalore. Organised by ISST and sponsored by IDRC, Canada.

Divya Sharma

- *"Gender and Participatory Development: Evaluation Concerns"* at Community of Evaluators (COE) writing workshop for a volume on Evaluation In South Asia, IDRC, on 19-21 January, 2010, New Delhi.
- *"Uttarakhand Mahila Parishad"*, at the Consultation on the Work of Uttarakhand Mahila Parishad, organized by ISST on 29 March 2010, New Delhi.

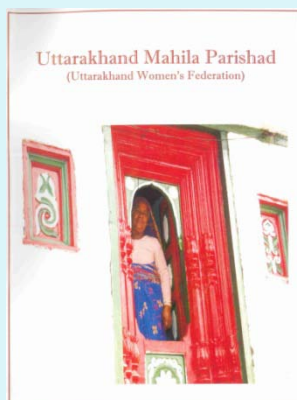
- *"Urban Poor livelihoods in the National Capital Region of Delhi: A survey on Domestic Workers and Low-end IT Occupation Workers in Delhi"* in Consultation Workshop with TUs and NGOs on Work and Livelihoods of the Poor in National Capital Region on 22 March, 2010, Delhi. Organized by the Institute of Human Development, New Delhi.

Sudhamani. N.

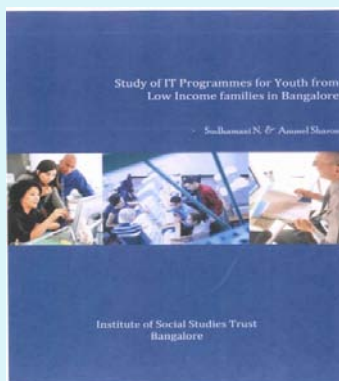
- *"IT sector programmes for the youth from low income families in Bangalore"*, at the workshop on 'ICTs for the community: barriers, divides and work pathways' on 15 February, 2010, Bangalore. Organised by ISST and sponsored by IDRC, Canada.

Rajib Nandi

- *"Low End IT Occupation Jobs in Delhi- Work pathways, Challenges, Barriers"* in

Recent Publications**Reports:**

- **Uttarakhand Mahila Parishad (Uttarakhand Women's Federation).** Report prepared for Uttarakhand Seva Nidhi Paryavaran Shikshan Sansthan, Almora.



- Sudhamani. N and Ammel Sharon – **Study of IT Programme for Youth from Low Income Families in Bangalore**. Report submitted to IDRC, Canada.
- **Socio-Economic Baseline Study of Street Vendors in Ahmedabad**, Report Submitted to SEWA Union, Ahmedabad, January 2010.

Articles published in Journals:

- **Shrayana Bhattacharya** – “*Maryada, Membership and Minimum Wage: Collective Action and Intra-Household Relations*”, **Asian Journal of Women’s Studies**, Vol. 16, No. 1. 2010.

- **Katherine Hay and Ratna M. Sudarshan** – “*Making Research Matter in South Asia*”, **Economic and Political Weekly**, Vol. 45 (3), Jan 16-22, 2010.

Newspaper Clippings (2009):

- Newspaper Clippings on: *Panchayat Raj, Business Process Outsourcing, Violence against Children, Education, Violence Against Women, National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme, HIV/AIDS*. Compiled by Grace Fernandez, ISST, Bangalore.
- Newspaper Clippings on: *Social Security in India, Violence against women, Self Groups and Micro-Finance*, compiled by Akila Ramesh, ISST, New Delhi.

Newsletters:

- *UMA Prachar (A Resource Letter on Women and Panchayat Raj) in Hindi and English.*
- *ISST Newsletter and Samachar Patrika (in Hindi)*

Staff News

- Ms. Aliya Hamid Rao, joined as Research Associate in January 2010.
- Ms. Ammel Sharon left ISST in March 2010.
- Ms. Arjumand Bano left ISST in March 2010.
- Shrayana Bhattacharya left ISST in march 2010.

Compiled and edited by Rajib Nandi

Send your comments and suggestions to rajibnandi@isst-india.org



Institute of Social Studies Trust

U.G. Floor, Core 6A
India Habitat Centre
Lodhi Road, New Delhi 110 003

Tel: +91-11-4768 2222

Fax: +91-11-4768 2220

www.isst-india.org



Institute of Social Studies Trust, India Habitat Centre, Core 6A, U.G. Floor,
Lodhi Road, New Delhi 110 003

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

The Institute of Social Studies Trust (ISST), a non-profit non-governmental organization, was set up as a society in 1964 and registered as a Trust in 1980. ISST's overall aim is research for social change with focus on work and well-being from a gender perspective. In recognition of its work, ISST has been conferred NGO Consultative Status by the United Nations.

Inside This Issue

| | |
|--------------------------------------|---|
| Completed Programmes | 1 |
| Ongoing Programmes | 2 |
| Outreach Programmes of ISST | 3 |
| Workshops/Seminars conducted by ISST | 4 |
| Workshops/Seminars attended by ISST | 4 |
| Recent Publications | 5 |
| Staff News | 6 |

Completed Programmes

The Policy Research Environment and Policy Research Organizations in South Asia

ISST has completed a research project entitled, 'The Policy Research Environment and Policy Research Organizations in South Asia' with support from IDRC, Canada. This project includes various activities designed to develop better understanding of the nature of policy research organizations in South Asia and the

varying environments in which they function. Three Roundtables were held with heads of organizations from five countries in South Asia. A set of background papers has been published under this study. The background papers are available online at ISST website.

A study of the Bachpan Programme at Community Centre, ISST

ISST Community Outreach Programme in East Delhi runs a bachpan programme for children who are below six years of age. The programme aims to provide an enabling environment for children's overall development through non formal education and prepares them to join mainstream school. The aims of the present study are to explore

the extent to which the programme helps mothers (i.e. taking up employment, free up time for house hold chores, etc.); to document the efficacy of the programme and to explore further scope of improvement. The interviews and observations have been conducted. Report writing is going on. The study will be completed by the end of April, 2010.



Ongoing Programmes

Examining the NREGA – Women’s Participation and Impacts in Himachal Pradesh, Kerala and Rajasthan

The study explores the likely reasons behind varying levels of women’s participation, wider impacts of the programme, and the various ways in which local contexts influence outcomes. This project is complete but the

publications and disseminations through policy workshops will continue until October 2010. This study is being sponsored by Social Protection in Asia (SPA) programme, Ford Foundation and IDRC.

Baseline and End line Study for Street Vendors in Ahmedabad City

ISST has undertaken a baseline study on Street Vendors in Ahmedabad under project, “New Strategy of SEWA: To Save the Livelihoods of women street vendors in the Era of World Class Cities”. SEWA has organized 57110 vendors in Ahmedabad city with an objective to save the vendors’ livelihood and to bring them in the main stream. To assess the impact of SEWA’s work on the socio-economic and working conditions of street vendors in

Ahmedabad city in the areas of capacity building and promotion and protection of livelihoods with street vendors, Mahila SEWA Trust has commissioned the ISST to conduct an impact study through baseline and end line research survey. ISST has already submitted the report of the baseline survey to SEWA in September 2009. The end-line survey would be conducted in 2011.

Baseline Study to assess the impact of SEWA’s work in Delhi

ISST completed a baseline study in September 2008 sponsored by SEWA Bharat, Delhi to assess the impact of SEWA’s work in Delhi in the areas of capacity building and promotion and protection of livelihoods with street vendors, construction workers and home-based embroidery workers. ISST has

conducted surveys and interviews which were supplemented with the discussions with SEWA Bharat activists on issues like advocacy, representation efforts and achievements. An end-line survey will be conducted after two years in 2010 to study the impact of SEWA Bharat intervention.

Gender and Participatory Development: Evaluation Concerns

ISST is carrying out the above project with a grant from International Development Research Centre (IDRC), Canada. The objectives of this project are to organize a workshop with an aim of improving evaluation processes so that they are sensitive to gender concerns and contribute to better

understanding of the processes of social transformation that development projects are engaged in. Papers have been commissioned to reflect on evaluation experiences and those will be discussed at a two-day workshop to be held on 26-27 August, 2010.

Assessment Impact of PROSVIL institutional grant (SEWA Academy)

ISST will play partly the role of advisor / trainer for the SEWA Academy staff who will themselves collect the data and undertake an on-going appraisal; and partly itself conduct

an evaluation to assess the overall impact of SEWA Academy’s work of the grant received from PROSVIL.

Revisiting Education for All (second phase)

A series of state level workshops is planned to disseminate findings of the Revising Education for All study, which has been completed recently. Data collected for this study along with the findings would be disseminated

through those workshops. Additional analysis of data is to be supported through a fellowship programme. This programme would be supported by IDRC, Canada.

Review Paper on Home-based Workers

A collaboration has been made between ISST and WIEGO to write an overview paper reflecting the data and issues related to home-based workers in South Asia in general and in India in particular. The objective of this paper

is to synthesize and disseminate existing work on home-based workers. Presently, ISST is reviewing data and literature on home-based workers published in recent years.

Outreach Programme of ISST

Adolescent Resource Centre

ISST has been expanding its areas of work and activities in the east Delhi through the inception of ISST Community Centre in the year 2000. The ISST community centre continues to empower the youth through information, education and dialogue and reaches out to them in a variety of innovative and interactive ways like discussion groups,

workshops, theatre groups, film club, non-formal education, computer training etc. The community also runs a programme named 'bachpan' for the children below six years of age. National Foundation for India (NFI) supports part of the Adolescent Resource Centre.

ISST Community College

ISST Community College is a collaborative initiative with Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU) that offers two programmes: Six month Certificate Course in basic Computer Literacy and Six month Certificate Course in Functional English Language. The certificates will be awarded by IGNOU on successful completion of the

course. In June 2010, the first examination was conducted for the first two batches of Functional English and the first batch of Computer Literacy Programme. 48 students appeared for the examination in Functional English and 39 students appeared for the examination in computer literacy.

Gender Resource Centre

ISST is successfully running a Gender Resource Centre – Suvidha Kendra, funded by the government of Delhi. The Gender Resource Centre of Delhi government had been started in collaboration with the Voluntary organizations in the context of growing influx of migrant population, mounting growth of slums and resettlement colonies, adverse sex ratio of girls, low female work participation

rate, high incidences of violence and crime against women, disturbingly high prevalence of anemia amongst women along with other areas of vulnerabilities such as RTI/STI, TB, reproductive errors, malnutrition etc. Essentially the Centre is expected to take care of all dimensions related to women empowerment in a holistic manner. In keeping with the Bhagidari (Partnership) the project

attach Multi stakeholders collaboration with the involvement of stakeholders. ISST is working in several locations like Kalyanpuri, Kichripur and Mayur Vihar-Phase II under this

project. ISST's Gender Resource Centre also running two vocational courses on Beauty Culture and Cutting and Tailoring.

Digital Library of ISST

Presently, ISST is developing its own digital repository, which included all types of institutional digital content including ISST research reports, annual reports, monographs,

working papers, data set and photographs. In the next step, ISST's digital repository will be linked to ISST website, this would provide access to the readers through the internet.

Workshops/Seminars by ISST

Forthcoming

ISST-IHC Gender Policy Forum

"Women's Empowerment or Domestic Discipline? Reconciling the Evidence on Female Education, Gender Equality and Child Health in Historical and Contemporary Populations"

Speaker:

Prof. Alaka M. Basu

Dept. of Development Sociology, Cornell University, NY & Visiting Professor, Centre for Social Medicine and Community Health, JNU, New Delhi.

Casurina Hall, India Habitat Centre, Lodhi Road, New Delhi.

Date and time: 27 Aug, 2010, 7.00 pm.

Workshops /Seminars Attended by ISST

Ratna M. Sudarshan

- Fourth SAARC Gender Info Base (SGIB) Review Meeting, co-hosted by UNIFEM and GOI, April 5-6, 2010.
- Roundtable discussion on 'Rethinking human behavior in modern economics', Institute for Studies in Global Prosperity, April 10, 2010.
- Lecture on "Dynamics of Rural Change in Latin America" by Dr Julio A Berdegué, Executive Director, RIMISP – Latin American Center for Rural Development, Chile, IDRC 40th anniversary lectures, April 13, 2010.
- Fifth WIEGO General Assembly, 20-21 April and seminar 'Inclusive Cities for the Working Poor' 22 April, 2010, Belo Horizonte, Brazil.
- Panel discussion on Honour Killings, Women's Studies and Development Centre, University of Delhi, May 4, 2010.
- SARO seminar, 'An introduction to evaluations of complex interventions:

making evaluations matter', Sanjeev Sridharan, University of Toronto and St. Michaels Hospital, May 7, 2010.

- SEWA and UNIFEM, discussion on 'Empowering women in an insecure world: the impact of SEWA', May 14, 2010.
- Evidence given before the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Rural Development in connection with examination of 'The Constitution (One Hundred and Tenth Amendment) Bill, 2009', May 19, 2010.
- Sustainable Textiles For Sustainable Development: Occupational Health And

Safety In The Informal Sector. Chair, Panel Discussion On 'What Are The Laws And Policies And How Effective Are They At The Implementation Level?' organized by All India Artisans and Craftworkers Welfare Association (AIACA), New Delhi, June 8, 2010.

- Pathways of Women's Empowerment RPC Consortium Advisory Group meeting, Pelham House, Lewes, UK, 17-18 June, 2010.
- SPD appraisal visit to Mahila Samakhya Jharkand, 22-23 June, 2010.

Rina Bhattacharya

- Attended National Convention: Celebrating Twenty years of Forum for Crèche and Child Care Services (FORCES) India Islamic Centre, Lodhi Estate, New Delhi April 21, 2010
- Attended MGNREGA Consultative Workshop, organized by Vardhaman Mahaveer Open University, Kota at VMOU Regional Centre, Jaipur, May 27-29, 2010.

Sudhamani. N.

- Meeting with the Regional Manager, Water Aid India, Southern Region regarding documenting and writing report of the regional workshop that will be held on 6th & 7th May, 2010.
- Meeting with Dr. Suchitra Vedanth, Director, Mahila Samakhya – Karnataka regarding Newsletter preparation. 19th April 2010.
- Participated in the two day workshop on 'Gender Education for Men' at KMF training centre, Bangalore organised by Mahila Samakhya Karnataka. 20th & 21st April 2010.
- Participated in the two days Regional Consultation on 'Drinking Water and Sanitation Sector – Issues and Challenges' held at UTC – Bangalore organised by Wateraid India, Southern Regional Office. 6th & 7th May, 2010.
- Participated in the state level consultation on 'National Policy for Children' held at NIPCCD- Southern Regional Office, Bangalore organised by Karnataka Child Rights Observatory. 17th May 2010.
- Took a session on 'Gender Sensitisation' for animators of parishes organised by NBCLC, Bangalore. 25th May 2010

Recent Publications

Articles published in Books/Journals:

- **Rina Bhattacharya, Meera Pillai and Ratna M. Sudarshan** (2010) "The NREGA and the Rural Women in Poverty: Entitlements, Issues and emerging Concerns" in David Lawson et. al (eds.) *What Works for the Poorst: Poverty Reduction Programmes for the World's Extreme Poor*, Practical Action Publishing: U.K.
- **Ratna M. Sudarshan** (2010) "Reading the Signposts: Social Protection for Home-based Women Workers in South Asia" in

Sarah Cook and Naila Kabeer (eds.) *Social Protection as Development Policy: Asian Perspectives*, Routledge: London.

- **Ratna M. sudarshan and Medha Bisht** (2010) "'Voice' as a Pathway to Women's Empowerment: Reflections on the Indian Experience", in Firdous Azim and Maheen Sultan (eds.) *Mapping Women's Empowerment: Experiences from Bangladesh, India and Pakistan*, Brac Development Initiatives/The University Press Limited: Dhaka.

- **Shrayana Bhattacharya** (2010) "Need for Domestic Workers in Households in the Current Economic Scenario", *Labour File*, Vol. 8, No. 1-3, Jan-Jun 2010.
- **Ratna M. sudarshan** (2010) "Learning to Ask" (in response to an article by Mandakini Devasher Surie, "Watching the Watchdogs" in *Indian Express* on July 10, 2010 and the editorial 'NGO non-governance' on July 8, 2010), *Indian Express*, July 17, 2010.

Reports:

- ISST (2010) *Report on Policy Research Environment and Policy Research Institutes in South Asia*.
- ISST (2010) *Impact Assessment Report of Project Empowering Adolescent Girls as Future Leaders and Trainers*.
- ISST (2010) *The Experience in Implementation of the Equal Remuneration Act (ERA), 1976*.

Staff News

- Ms. Aliya Hamid Rao, left ISST in May 2010.
- Ms. Divya Sharma left ISST in June 2010.
- Mr. Nasim Arif left ISST in June 2010.
- Mr. Inderjit Saggi worked as an intern at ISST during May-June 2010.

Compiled and edited by Rajib Nandi

Send your comments and suggestions to rajibnandi@isst-india.org



Institute of Social Studies Trust

U.G. Floor, Core 6A

India Habitat Centre

Lodhi Road, New Delhi 110 003

Tel: +91-11-4768 2222

Fax: +91-11-4768 2220

www.isst-india.org



Institute of Social Studies Trust, India Habitat Centre, Core 6A, U.G. Floor,
Lodhi Road, New Delhi 110 003

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

The Institute of Social Studies Trust (ISST), a non-profit non-governmental organization, was set up as a society in 1964 and registered as a Trust in 1980. ISST's overall aim is research for social change with focus on work and well-being from a gender perspective. In recognition of its work, ISST has been conferred NGO Consultative Status by the United Nations.

Inside This Issue

| | |
|--------------------------------------|---|
| Completed Programmes | 1 |
| Ongoing Programmes | 2 |
| Outreach Programmes of ISST | 4 |
| Workshops/Seminars conducted by ISST | 5 |
| Workshops/Seminars attended by ISST | 6 |
| Recent Publications | 7 |

Completed Programmes

Review of the Green Jobs Programme in India

ISST has carried out a review of the Green Jobs Programme in India for ILO. The review draws specific recommendations for future direction of green jobs interventions in India, as contribution to the regional strategy. The Green Jobs initiative is a joint initiative by the ILO, the United Nations Environment Programme, the International Organization of

Employers and the International Trade Union Confederation, which supports a concerted effort by governments, employers, and trade unions to promote environmentally sustainable decent jobs in a climate-challenged world, and it seeks to facilitate a "just transition" that reflects the environmental, economic and social pillars of sustainable development.

Evaluation of STEP Project: Mushroom Cultivation in Haryana

ISST has submitted a concurrent evaluation report to Ministry of Women and Child Development, Govt. of India about the project on Mushroom Cultivation implemented under STEP programme, by Haryana Nav Yuvak Kala Sangam (HNYKS) in Rohtak district. The evaluation team visited 9 villages for data collection. A total of 273 women were interviewed during the evaluation using a questionnaire designed by ISST. Apart from the questionnaire survey, a number of focus group discussions were held with different groups of beneficiaries.



Gender and Participatory Development: Evaluation Concerns

ISST has completed this project with a grant from International Development Research Centre (IDRC), Canada. ISST organized a two-day interactive workshop with the aim of improving evaluation processes so that they are sensitive to gender concerns and contribute to better understanding of the processes of social transformation that development projects are engaged in. The papers which had been commissioned to reflect on evaluation experiences, have been presented and discussed in the workshop held on 26-27 August, 2010 in New Delhi.



Ongoing Programmes

Roadmap for girls' education 2015

ISST is presently carrying this research for development of a Roadmap for girls' education which will support advancing gender parity and equality in basic education across India. The purpose of this research is to provide technical support to UNICEF in the area of girls' education, and to support the development of a Roadmap for girls. The research involves compiling information and data from regional consultations and putting

together the Roadmap that will be made available to Ministry of Human Resource Development for use in planning and implementation of programme for girls' education. ISST will also prepare an analytical paper based on primary research studies. The findings from this research will recommend specific goals and interventions to reduce gender disparities in elementary education. This research is sponsored by UNICEF.

UNDP-Planning Commission Programme on Human Development

ISST has been commissioned by the UNDP, Delhi to undertake an evaluation of the UNDP-Planning Commission programme on Human Development (1999-2009). This evaluation has been commissioned at the conclusion of 10 years of active engagement of the UNDP with operationalising the concept of Human Development in India. The evaluation will respond to a few key questions on importance, relevance and consistency of the system of HDRs to UNDP and to India's national and state priorities; differences the National, State and District HDRs have made; Govt. of India

and UNDP's approach in mainstreaming human development at national, state and district level in formulating policies, planning and implementation etc.

The evaluation will draw upon methods used for both summative and formative evaluations. A gender lens will be applied throughout the analysis. An outcome mapping approach will be followed to reflect on the extent to which the theory of change of the programme has been confirmed in practice.

Examining the NREGA – Women’s Participation and Impacts in Himachal Pradesh, Kerala and Rajasthan

The study explores the likely reasons behind varying levels of women’s participation, wider impacts of the programme, and the various ways in which local contexts influence outcomes. This project is complete but the

publications and disseminations through policy workshops will continue until October 2010. This study is being sponsored by Social Protection in Asia (SPA) programme, Ford Foundation and IDRC.

Baseline and End line Study for Street Vendors in Ahmedabad City

ISST has undertaken a baseline study on Street Vendors in Ahmedabad under project, “New Strategy of SEWA: To Save the Livelihoods of women street vendors in the Era of World Class Cities”. SEWA has organized 57110 vendors in Ahmedabad city with an objective to save the vendors’ livelihood and to bring them in the main stream. To assess the impact of SEWA’s work on the socio-economic and working conditions of street vendors in

Ahmedabad city in the areas of capacity building and promotion and protection of livelihoods with street vendors, Mahila SEWA Trust has commissioned the ISST to conduct an impact study through baseline and end line research survey. ISST has already submitted the report of the baseline survey to SEWA in September 2009. The end-line survey would be conducted in 2011.

Baseline Study to assess the impact of SEWA’s work in Delhi

ISST completed a baseline study in September 2008 sponsored by SEWA Bharat, Delhi to assess the impact of SEWA’s work in Delhi in the areas of capacity building and promotion and protection of livelihoods with street vendors, construction workers and home-based embroidery workers. ISST has conducted surveys and interviews which were supplemented with the discussions with SEWA Bharat activists on issues like advocacy, representation efforts and achievements. An end-line survey has recently been conducted to study the impact of SEWA Bharat intervention.



Assessment Impact of PROSVIL institutional grant (SEWA Academy)

ISST intends to evaluate various training activities organized by SEWA, Ahmedabad for its members, workers as well as SEWA

Academy staff. The training addresses the need for the leadership capabilities and capacity building of the intended groups.

Revisiting Education for All (second phase)

A series of state level workshops is planned to disseminate findings of the Revising Education

for All study, which has been completed recently. Data collected for this study along

with the findings would be disseminated through those workshops. Additional analysis of data is to be supported through a fellowship

programme. This programme would be supported by IDRC, Canada.

Review Paper on Home-based Workers

Collaboration has been made between ISST and WIEGO to write an overview paper reflecting the data and issues related to home-based workers in South Asia in general and in India in particular. The objective of this paper

is to synthesize and disseminate existing work on home-based workers. Presently, ISST is reviewing data and literature on home-based workers published in recent years.

Outreach Programme of ISST

Adolescent Resource Centre

ISST has established a solid base in some areas of east Delhi through its community based activities run from the Saathi Centre located at Kalyanpuri. The ISST community centre continues to empower the youth through information, education and dialogue and reaches out to them in a variety of innovative and interactive ways like discussion

groups, workshops, theatre groups, film club, non-formal education, computer training etc. The community also runs a programme named 'bachpan' for the children below six years of age. National Foundation for India (NFI) supports part of the Adolescent Resource Centre.

ISST Community College

ISST Community College - a collaborative initiative with Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU) - offers two programmes: Six month Certificate Course in basic Computer Literacy and Six month Certificate Course in Functional English Language. The certificates will be awarded by IGNOU on successful completion of the course. ISST

Community College has completed its first year in July 2010. The first examination was conducted for the first two batches of Functional English and the first batch of Computer Literacy Programme in June this year. Presently, around 80 students have been enrolled for the courses.

Gender Resource Centre

ISST GRC has been running for a year now. In last one year, the centre has witnessed a lot of excitements and expectations in the community regarding various services available for them. ISST GRC covers the following services: health camp, nutrition camp, health clinic, legal counselling, Self Help Groups, non-formal education, adult literacy and conducts two vocational training courses- beauty culture and cutting and tailoring as per popular demand reflected in the survey. Young girls in the community showed a lot of interest for the vocational training. Community

mobilisers interact with the community members on a regular basis. The health clinics run by the centre is attended by a good number of people across age groups. More women visit the health clinic than men. ISST also had organized a health camp in last three months, which was responded well followed by clinic visits. The nutrition camps were well attended too, where participants were demonstrated with cooking of health food and its importance. Non formal is another area, where both young girls and boys from the Kalyanpuri area participate. Most of the

children who participate in ISST-GRC's non formal education program are either school drop outs or had never admitted to a formal school previously. A number of children joined open school after completing the program. The legal awareness program of the centre needs a boost to reach to more community members.

However, the mass awareness sessions conducted previously were attended by large number of people. Till date, ISST's GRC has formed six self help groups. Three groups are already affiliated to nationalized banks. This scheme is taking on slowly but steadily.

Workshops/Seminars by ISST

Workshop

Workshop on Gender and Participatory Evaluation, August 26-7, 2010 at Willow, India Habitat Centre: The two-day workshop was organized to hold an interactive discussion based on the papers presented. The papers reflected upon the evaluation methodologies, evaluation experiences, and review of evaluation literature. The workshop was attended by academicians, development practitioners and policy makers. The workshop was sponsored by IDRC, Canada.



ISST-IHC Gender Policy Forum:

Women's Empowerment or Domestic Discipline? Reconciling The Evidence on Female Education, Gender Equality and Child Health in Historical and Contemporary Populations: The nineteenth session in the series of talks under the Gender Policy Discussion Forum, jointly organized by Institute of Social Studies Trust (ISST) and

India Habitat Centre (IHC), was held on 27 August 2010 at Casuarina Hall, India Habitat Centre. The speaker was Professor Alaka M. Basu, Department of Development Sociology, Cornell University, New York and Visiting Professor, Centre for Social Medicine and Community Health, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi.

Forthcoming Programme

ISST-IHC Gender Policy Forum

Feminism in India Today

Chair:
Mrinal Pande

Speakers:
Bina Agarwal
Madhu Purnima Kishwar
Meena Gopal

Gulmohar Hall, India Habitat Centre, Lodhi Road, New Delhi.

Date and time: 10 December 2010, 7.00 pm

Workshops / Seminars Attended by ISST

Ratna M. Sudarshan

- Board Meeting, National Foundation for India, July 2, 2010.
- GOI Nominee to 12th Joint Review Mission of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, July 19-20, 2010.
- Governing Body Meeting, USNPSS, Almora, July 24, 2010.
- Expert Group on Girls' Education, NUEPA, August 4, 2010.
- 2nd meeting of the Advisory Board of the GNCTD-UNDP project on 'Innovation support for social protection', Mission Convergence, at Yojana Bhawan, August 17, 2010.
- Presented paper on 'Women and the MGNREGA: wage work, unpaid work, and care' at SPA programme writeshop (Sept 6-7) and Chronic Poverty Research Centre (CPRC) Conference (September 8-10), Manchester, UK.
- Mahila Samakhya National Resource Group meeting, Ministry of HRD, GOI, September 14, 2010.
- Presented 'Review of RBSA Interventions on Green Jobs: INDIA' ILO, September 22, 2010.
- Panelist at seminar on 'Is Informal Normal? Towards more and better jobs in developing countries', report by OECD Development Centre, NCAER on September 22, 2010.
- Attended discussion on the OECD Development Centre's report, 'Perspectives on Global Development: Shifting Wealth', GDN Global Policy Dialogue series, September 23, 2010.

Rina Bhattacharya

- Attended Meeting of Expert Group on MGNREGA Research, at National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER), New Delhi on July 23, 2010.

Rajib Nandi

- The Workshop: *Pathways to Decent Livelihoods - the Role of Education and Skills Training, organized by Collaborative Research and Dissemination (CORD), New Delhi, August 3, 2010.*

Sudhamani. N.

- Participated in the Meeting on 'Cow Slaughter Bill' of Karnataka at Vimochana', Bangalore. July 1, 2020.
- *Women's Tribunal* organized by Tamil Nadu Women's Federation and 'Wadha Na Thodo Abhiyan' on 'State Accountability to end Poverty and Social Exclusion', Chennai, August 29-30, 2010.
- Participated in the *Samavesha of the elected women representatives of Grama Panchayats* organized by Sugrama and the Hunger Project at Mother Telka Auditorium, Bangalore on September 23, 2010.

Swati Gupta

- Attended Talk on 'Conditional Cash Transfers to Counter Sex-Selective abortion: A Study of the Ladli Schemes of Delhi and Haryana' by Bijayalaxmi Nanda at the Centre for Women's Development Studies, New Delhi on Sept. 10, 2010.

- Attended 'Global Maternal Health Conference 2010' organized by Maternal Health Task Force (MHTF) and the Public Health Foundation of India (PHFI) at India Habitat Centre, New Delhi on August 30-September 1, 2010.

Recent Publications

Articles published in Books/Journals:

- **Divya Sharma and Ratna M. Sudarshan** (2010) "Towards a Politics of Collective Empowerment: Learning from Hill women in Rural Uttarakhand, India" in *IDS Bulletin*, Vol. 41, No. 5, September 2010.
- **Ratna M. Sudarshan, Rina Bhattacharya and Grace Fernandez** (2010) "Women's Participation in the NREGA: Some Observations from Fieldwork in Himachal Pradesh, Kerala and Rajasthan" in *IDS Bulletin*, Vol. 41. No. 4. July 2010.
- **Ratna M. sudarshan** (2010) "Learning to Ask" (in response to an article by Mandakini Devasher Surie, "Watching the Watchdogs" in *Indian Express* on July 10, 2010 and the editorial 'NGO non-governance' on July 8, 2010), *Indian Express*, July 17, 2010.

Reports:

- ISST (2010) *Evaluation of STEP Project: Support to Haryana Nav Kala Sangam, Haryana for Mushroom Cultivation*. Report submitted to Ministry of Women and Child Development, Govt. of India.
- ISST (2010) *Report on the Workshop: Gender and Participatory Evaluation, 26-27 August, 2010*. India Habitat Centre, New Delhi.
- ISST (2010) *Report on Baseline Survey, an intermediate study and final evaluation in respect of 3 blocks covered under Doosra Dashak with financial support of Sir Dorabji Tata Trust*.
- UNICEF and ISST (2010) *Who Cares for the Child? Gender and the Care Regime in India: Report of the UNICEF-ISST Conference, 8-9 December, 2009*.

Compiled and edited by Rajib Nandi

Send your comments and suggestions to rajibnandi@isst-india.org



Institute of Social Studies Trust

U.G. Floor, Core 6A

India Habitat Centre

Lodhi Road, New Delhi 110 003

Tel: +91-11-4768 2222

Fax: +91-11-4768 2220

www.isst-india.org



Institute of Social Studies Trust, India Habitat Centre, Core 6A, U.G. Floor,
Lodhi Road, New Delhi 110 003

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

The Institute of Social Studies Trust (ISST), a non-profit non-governmental organization, was set up as a society in 1964 and registered as a Trust in 1980. ISST's overall aim is research for social change with focus on work and well-being from a gender perspective. In recognition of its work, ISST has been conferred NGO Consultative Status by the United Nations.

Inside This Issue

| | |
|--------------------------------------|---|
| Completed Programmes | 1 |
| Ongoing Programmes | 2 |
| Outreach Programmes of ISST | 3 |
| Workshops/Seminars conducted by ISST | 5 |
| Workshops/Seminars attended by ISST | 6 |
| Recent Publications | 7 |

Completed Programmes

Baseline & End line Study to assess the impact of SEWA's work in Delhi

ISST completed a baseline and End line study in November 2010 sponsored by SEWA Bharat, Delhi to assess the impact of SEWA's work in Delhi in the areas of capacity building and promotion and protection of livelihoods with street vendors, construction workers and home-based embroidery workers. ISST conducted the baseline survey in September 2008 supplemented with interviews and discussions with SEWA Bharat activists on issues like advocacy, representation efforts and achievements. The end-line survey was conducted to study the impact of SEWA Bharat intervention. The report has been submitted to SEWA Bharat.



Gender and Participatory Development: Evaluation Concerns

ISST has completed this project with a grant from International Development Research Centre (IDRC), Canada. ISST had organized a two-day interactive workshop in August 2010 in New Delhi. A few papers later have been presented in the 9th European Evaluation

Conference in Prague on October 6-8, 2010 and in the Evaluation Conclave held in New Delhi on October 25-29, 2010. The process has been begun to edit the papers to publish in an edited volume.

Ongoing Programmes

Examining the NREGA – Women’s Participation and Impacts in Himachal Pradesh, Kerala and Rajasthan

The study explores the gender dimensions of India’s NREGA programme to assess whether the programme is enhancing women’s well being and autonomy. Extensive fieldwork was carried out in selected pockets of those three states in different contexts of local economy and labour markets; gendered roles and responsibilities; institutional arrangements for programme implementation; and role of civil society groups. The study finds that all of these factors influence whether and to what extent women participate, and that in all cases actual outcomes are mediated by pre-existing norms around care responsibilities and other unpaid work. The project is now complete but the publications and disseminations through policy workshops will continue. This study is being sponsored by Social Protection in Asia (SPA) programme, Ford Foundation and IDRC.



To read more on the findings from social protection in Asia programme, please log on to <http://www.socialprotectionasia.org/Conf-program-pdf/SPA-Synthesis-report.pdf>

Roadmap for girls’ education 2015

ISST is presently carrying this research for development of a Roadmap for girls’ education which will support advancing gender parity and equality in basic education across India. The purpose of this research is to provide technical support to UNICEF in the area of girls’ education, and to support the development of a Roadmap for girls. The research involves compiling information and data from regional consultations and putting

together the Roadmap that will be made available to Ministry of Human Resource Development for use in planning and implementation of programme for girls’ education. ISST will also prepare an analytical paper based on primary research studies. The findings from this research will recommend specific goals and interventions to reduce gender disparities in elementary education. This research is sponsored by UNICEF.

UNDP-Planning Commission Programme on Human Development

ISST has been commissioned by the UNDP, Delhi to undertake an evaluation of the UNDP-Planning Commission programme on Human Development (1999-2009). This evaluation has been commissioned at the conclusion of 10 years of active engagement of the UNDP with operationalising the concept of Human Development in India. The evaluation will respond to a few key questions on importance, relevance and consistency of the system of HDRs to UNDP and to India’s national and

state priorities; differences the National, State and District HDRs have made; Govt. of India and UNDP’s approach in mainstreaming human development at national, state and district level in formulating policies, planning and implementation etc.

The evaluation will draw upon methods used for both summative and formative evaluations. A gender lens will be applied throughout the analysis. An outcome mapping approach will

be followed to reflect on the extent to which the theory of change of the programme has

been confirmed in practice.

Baseline and End line Study for Street Vendors in Ahmedabad City

ISST has undertaken a baseline study on Street Vendors in Ahmedabad under project, "New Strategy of SEWA: To Save the Livelihoods of women street vendors in the Era of World Class Cities". SEWA has organized 57110 vendors in Ahmedabad city with an objective to save the vendors' livelihood and to bring them in the main stream. To assess the impact of SEWA's work on the socio-economic and working conditions of street vendors in

Ahmedabad city in the areas of capacity building and promotion and protection of livelihoods with street vendors, Mahila SEWA Trust has commissioned the ISST to conduct an impact study through baseline and end line research survey. ISST has already submitted the report of the baseline survey to SEWA in September 2009. The end-line survey would be conducted in 2011.

Assessment Impact of PROSVIL institutional grant (SEWA Academy)

ISST intends to evaluate various training activities organized by SEWA, Ahmedabad for its members, workers as well as SEWA

Academy staff. The training addresses the need for the leadership capabilities and capacity building of the intended groups.

Revisiting Education for All (second phase)

A series of state level workshops is planned to disseminate findings of the Revising Education for All study, which has been completed recently. Data collected for this study along with the findings would be disseminated

through those workshops. Additional analysis of data is to be supported through a fellowship programme. This programme would be supported by IDRC, Canada.

Review Paper on Home-based Workers

Collaboration has been made between ISST and WIEGO to write an overview paper reflecting the data and issues related to home-based workers in South Asia in general and in India in particular. The objective of this paper

is to synthesize and disseminate existing work on home-based workers. Presently, ISST is reviewing data and literature on home-based workers published in recent years.

Outreach Programme of ISST

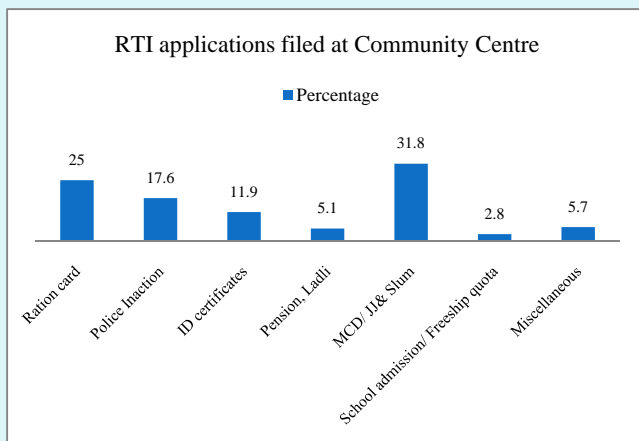
Adolescent Resource Centre

ISST has been working with the community members in some areas of east Delhi for almost a decade now. Those activities are coordinated from ISST Saathi Centre located at Kalyanpuri. The ISST community centre continues to empower the youth through information, education and dialogue and

reaches out to them in a variety of innovative and interactive ways like discussion groups, workshops, theatre groups, film club, non-formal education, computer training etc. The community also runs a programme named 'bachpan' for the children below six years of age. National Foundation for India (NFI)

supports part of the Adolescent Resource Centre.

In last few years ISST Community Centre worked closely with the community on Right to Information (RTI). In last three months, community members from those east Delhi localities filed more than 80 RTI cases under the supervision and guidance of ISST Community centre. In last November, a workshop on RTI was also organized by the community centre in Kalyanpuri.



The table above gives the analysis of 176 applications filed over a 12 month period during November 2009- October 2010 by residents in and around Kalyanpuri, east Delhi.

ISST conducted a two-day workshop on RTI at Almora in August 13-14 2010 with Uttarakhand Sewa Nidhi Sansthan. The RTI training workshop was attended by 50 participants from 25 villages of the area, who work with various grassroots level organizations. The participants were exposed to RTI related issues and its uses through discussions and audio-visual media. The

Training Programmes for the Community

ISST Saathi Centre at Kalyanpuri offers two programmes: Six-month Certificate Course in Basic Computer Literacy and Six-month Certificate Course in Functional English Language. The certificates are awarded by

workshop was conducted by Amita Joshi and Md. Ashkeen Ahmed from ISST.



In the month of October, a Creative Art Workshop was organized in the community centre. Women and young adolescent girls from the community attended the workshop. The products made in the workshop were exhibited in the Diwali Mela for sell. In November a Life-skill camp was organized by ISST for the community members.



ISST on successfully completion of the course. In December, around 75 students appeared for the final examination in computer literacy and functional English programme.

Gender Resource Centre

ISST-GRC has been running for a year now. In last one year, the centre has witnessed a lot of excitements and expectations in the community regarding various services available for them. ISST GRC covers the following services: health camp, nutrition camp, health clinic, legal counseling, Self Help Groups, non-formal education, adult literacy and conducts two vocational training courses- beauty culture and cutting and tailoring as per popular demand reflected in the survey. Young girls in the community showed a lot of interest for the vocational training. The health clinics run by the centre is attended by a good number of people across age groups. More women visit the health clinic than men. ISST also had organized a health camp in last three months, which was responded well followed by clinic visits. The nutrition camps were well attended too, where participants were demonstrated with cooking of health food and its importance.

Non formal education is another area, where both young girls and boys from the locality participate. Most of the children who participate in ISST-GRC's non formal education

program are either school drop-outs or had never admitted to a formal school previously. A number of children joined open school after completing the program. The legal awareness



program of the centre needs a boost to reach to more community members. However, the mass awareness sessions conducted previously were attended by large number of people. Till date, ISST's GRC has formed six self help groups. Three groups are already affiliated to nationalized banks. This scheme is taking on slowly but steadily.

Workshops/Seminars by ISST

ISST-IHC Gender Policy Forum:

Feminism in India today: The twentieth session in the series of talks under the Gender Policy Forum, jointly organized by Institute of Social Studies Trust (ISST) and India Habitat Centre (IHC), was held on 10 December 2010 at Gulmohar Hall, India Habitat Centre. The speakers were Professor Bina Agarwal, Director, Institute of Economic Growth, Delhi, Madhu Purnima Kishwar, Editor, Manushi and Senior Fellow, Centre for Study of Developing Societies, Delhi and Meena Gopal, Fellow, Nehru Memorial Museum & Library, New Delhi. The session was chaired by well-known writer and journalist Mrinal Pande.



Workshops / Seminars Attended by ISST

Ratna M. Sudarshan

- Presented paper 'Gender and Participatory Evaluation' at 9th European Evaluation Conference, Prague, October 6-8, 2010.
- Attended National Conference on "Competition Regime - Benefiting the Consumer", jointly organized by CCI, DCA and CUTS, New Delhi on October 20, 2010.
- Talk on 'Development, Informality and Social Protection: the case of home based workers' to Economics Association, Lady Shri Ram College, University of Delhi, October 22, 2010.
- Attended Evaluation Conclave, New Delhi October 25-29, 2010; Co-facilitator with Kameshwari Jandhyala of workshop on 'Evaluating Gender Transformative Projects and Programmes', October 27-28, 2010; presented paper on 'Gender and Participatory Evaluation' at break out session on Gender, Rights and Transformation: building bridges between evaluation and change', October 28, 2010.
- Made a presentation on ISST's approach to evaluation of the UNDP Planning Commission partnership on Human Development at workshop on 'Human Development in India: analysis to action', UNDP and Planning Commission, October 29, 2010.
- Attended Brainstorming meeting on 'Women, Work and Child Care', Mobile Crèches, November 1, 2010.
- Attended Roundtable on Governance, Security and Justice, IDRC, November 3, 2010.
- Presentation on 'Girls Education: towards a road map' at UNICEF Education Network Meeting, Bangalore, November 18, 2010.
- Talk on 'Gender concerns in public policy: examples from Girls Education and Women's Work' at IIPA, December 1, 2010.
- Attended Board of Trustees meeting, NFI, December 2, 2010.
- Attended Global Clusters Experience Sharing Workshop, ILO, December 14, 2010.

Rina Bhattacharya

- Attended Conference on Social Protection as Development Policy in Asia: The Long Term Perspective October 27-29, 2010 organised by Social Protection in Asia at United Nation's Conference Centre, Bangkok.
- Attended National Convention on Union Budget 2011-12, November 19-20, 2010 organised by CBGA at New Delhi.

Swati Gupta

- Attended Conference on Social Protection as Development Policy in Asia: The Long Term Perspective October 27-29, 2010 organised by Social Protection in Asia at United Nation's Conference Centre, Bangkok.

Recent Reports / Publications

Articles published in Books/Journals:

Books/Reports/Working papers:

- G. Raveendran (June, 2010) *Contribution of Women to the National Economy*, ILO Asia-Pacific Working paper Series, ILO, New Delhi. (This paper is part of a series of studies that have been launched by the ILO in collaboration with ISST)
- ISST (November 2010) *An End line Study of Street Vendors, Construction Workers and Home-based Workers: Delhi*, Report submitted to SEWA Bharat.

Training Material

- ISST-Saathi Youth Centre (October, 2010) *Sang-Sang Jine ke Dhang* (in Hindi) Life-skill Training module, submitted to NFI, India.

Staff News

- Md. Ashkeen Ahmed left ISST Saathi Centre in December 2010.
- Ms. Vasundhra Sangwan joined ISST as a Research Associate in December 2010.
- Nevika Harshe joined ISST as a Consultant in November 2010
- Sanyukta Biswas worked as an intern at ISST Saathi Centre from 2 Nov to 10 Dec 2010.

Edited by Rajib Nandi

Send your comments and suggestions to rajibnandi@isst-india.org



Institute of Social Studies Trust

Head Office:
U.G. Floor, Core 6A
India Habitat Centre
Lodhi Road
New Delhi 110 003

Tel: +91-11-4768 2222
Fax: +91-11-4768 2220

Bangalore Office:
North Block, 6th Floor
N-601, Manipal Centre
47, Dickenson Road
Bangalore – 560042

Tel: +91-80-25583701
Fax: +91-80-25583704

ISST Community Centre:
Saathi Centre
Kalyanpuri Police Station
Compound
Kalyanpuri
Delhi – 110091

Tel: +91-11-22724710

Website: www.isst-india.org