

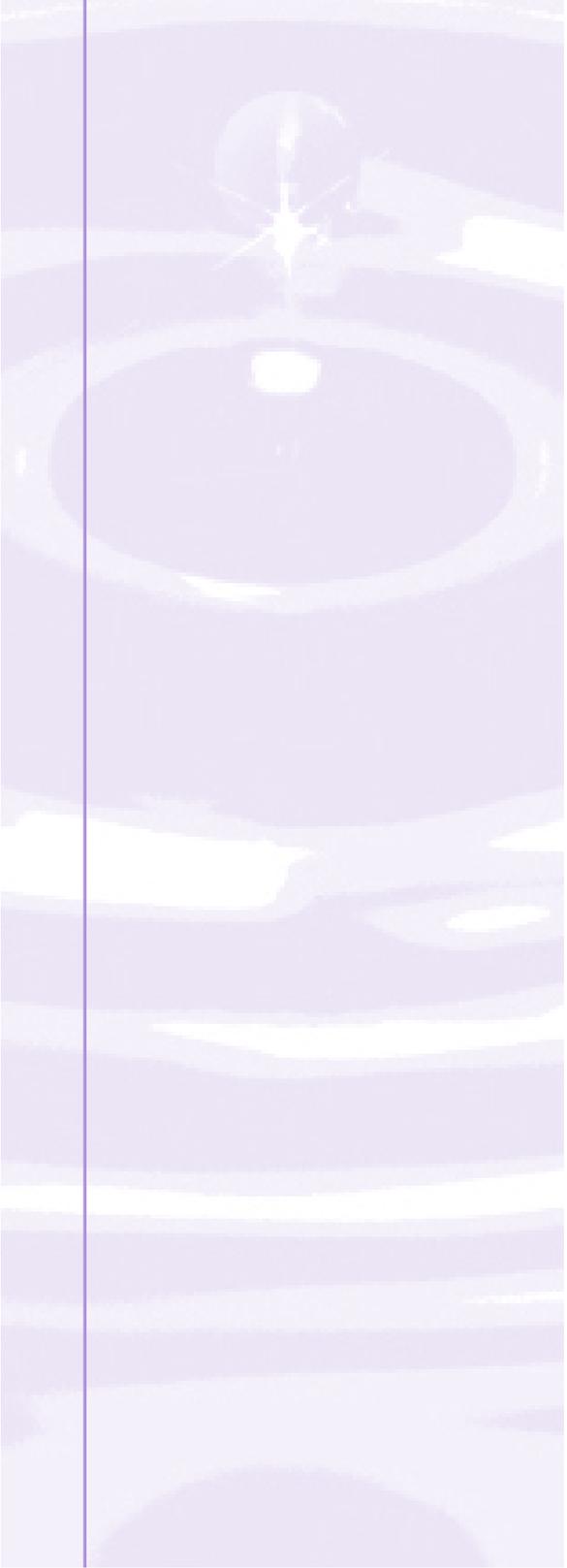


Institute of Social Studies Trust

Annual Report 2010 - 2011



INSTITUTE OF SOCIAL STUDIES TRUST



ANNUAL REPORT
2010-2011

INSTITUTE OF SOCIAL STUDIES TRUST



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

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

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

Institute of Social Studies Trust is a Public Charitable Trust registered with the Sub Registrar, New Delhi, vide registration No: 923 dated 25 February, 1980 having its registered address at Core 6A, UG Floor, India Habitat Centre, Lodi Road, New Delhi 110003.

ISST is permitted to receive foreign contributions for its work and its FCRA registration no is 231650070.

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

COVER DESIGNED BY SHUBH SHARMA

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRPERSON



The year 2010-11 has seen ISST actively engaged in several evaluation studies, and reflecting across evaluations. In the coming years, we expect to address policy and programme dilemmas through the lens of evaluation, and build up appropriate methods from what has been ISST's strength i.e. a gender-sensitive and participatory approach to research. It is a matter of satisfaction that ISST has built up a network of persons including researchers and feminist activists who could jointly work towards equity and inclusive development.

An annual report is the space to reflect on what has been achieved, and where the shortcomings were. Overall, the research, publication and dissemination activities at ISST have been well accomplished. All projects taken on have been successfully completed, and several have led to publications as well. ISST has continued to work in partnership with grassroot groups, with strong fieldwork in most studies.

It is particularly good news that as we move into the year 2011-12, we do so with support from the SDTT for a three year programme with women domestic workers, a recognition of the sustained good work done by the community centre team over the last decade. The not-so-good news concerning the overall financial situation possibly calls for some difficult decisions. We expect a year of some re-structuring and review to deal with this aspect.

SHARADA JAIN

CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF TRUSTEES

The ISST team shares a deep sense of sorrow at the untimely loss of a dear colleague, Rina Bhattacharya, who had been with the organisation since 1987. Rina contributed to the work at ISST in multiple ways, and beyond that was a caring, helping person who touched all our lives. She will be remembered equally by old timers who have known her over many years, as well as by our younger cohorts whom she counselled and guided with cheerfulness and encouragement. Rina, we will always miss you.

MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR



Over this last year, through its efforts at research, action, writing and communication, ISST has continued to explore the complex interactions between gender, economics and empowerment, and to build up a body of knowledge around these concerns.

The Indian economy, as is well known, is dominantly informal, and so is most newly generated employment. Recognising this, and recognising the significance of this informality for work-conditions and worker-benefits that women are able (or unable) to access, we have been encouraged to continue to research on women in the informal economy. We have sought to do so in ways that step outside disciplinary boundaries, that experiment with innovative research methods, respond to issues emerging from the field, recognize the role of experiential learning, and are accountable to the larger community.

It is often argued that it is systems that generate success or failure, and that macro analysis and design are therefore more necessary than a focus on the individual case- such cases are seen as ‘anecdotal’. But the ‘bottom up’ approach that we have favoured requires that we start from the individual case, because it recognizes that anecdotes add up to accumulated experience and eventually the hard data that constitutes ‘knowledge’. In a country with vast differences of geography, occupation, class, caste and gender, the aggregated macro picture can easily miss the nuances that contextually differentiated approaches would appreciate.

Another area of concern is the frequently large gap between the intentions of programmes/policies that seek empowerment (itself an elusive concept), and their actual outcomes. It is our belief that evaluations and evaluative studies offer a potentially very valuable means of understanding this shortfall. We have therefore undertaken a large number of evaluations, each one complete in itself, and together contributing to a larger canvas of knowledge. Thus, in the coming year, we expect to be able to distill these aggregated experiences into sharp messages, addressed both to policy makers and to programme implementers and indeed to ordinary people themselves, whom we see as being equally agents of change.

This annual report reviews the specific areas of ISST’s work in the last year. While we have remained vulnerable to delays in approval and fluctuations in project funding, the commitment of our team towards excellence in output and integrity in effort has not wavered. We are grateful as always to all our donors and other supporters of our work, and to the Trustees for their encouragement, and we hope to better fill the gaps between our own intentions and achievements in the years to come.

RATNA M. SUDARSHAN
DIRECTOR, ISST

PROJECTS (APRIL 1, 2010-MARCH 31, 2011)



COMPLETED ACTIVITIES

Project Title	Sponsoring Agency	Date of Commencement	Date of Completion
Examining NREGA - Women's Participation and Impacts in Himachal Pradesh, Kerala and Rajasthan	Social Protection in Asia Programme/Institute of Development Studies, Sussex	April 2008	June 2010
A Study of Policy Research Environment and Policy Research Organizations in South Asia	International Development Research Centre (IDRC), Canada	November 2008	May 2010
Gender and Participatory Development : Evaluation Concerns	International Development Research Centre (IDRC), Canada	November 2009	November 2010
Review of Green Jobs Programme in India	International Labour Organization (ILO)	July 2010	September 2010
Impact Assessment of SEWA Bharat's Work in Delhi	SEWA Bharat/Sir Dorabji Tata Trust	July 2008	July 2010
Review Paper on Home-based Workers	WIEGO	April 2010	March 2011
Evaluation of UNDP - Planning Commission Programme on Human Development	UNDP	October 2010	March 2011
Evaluation of STEP Project: Mushroom Cultivation in Haryana	Ministry of Women and Child Development, Govt. of India	August 2010	September 2010
Evaluation of STEP Project: Zari Zardozi in Allahabad	Ministry of Women and Child Development, Govt. of India	February 2011	March 2011
A Study of the ISST Bachpan Programme	Institute of Social Studies Trust (ISST)	January 2010	April 2010
Community Outreach Programme	National Foundation for India (NFI)	November 2009	October 2010

PROJECTS (APRIL 1, 2010-MARCH 31, 2011)



ON-GOING ACTIVITIES (AS ON MARCH 31, 2011)

Project Title	Sponsoring Agency	Date of Commencement	Date of Completion
Revisiting Education for All - Communication and Dissemination (Phase-II)	International Development Research Centre, Canada	March 2010	September 2011
Roadmap for Girl's Education 2015	UNICEF	September 2010	May 2011
Impact of PROSVIL Institutional Grant to SEWA Academy	SEWA Academy	April 2009	March 2013
Impact Assessment of Street Vendors Initiative in Ahmedabad City	SEWA Union	June 2009	June 2011
Trauma, Development and Peace-building : Psychological Programming and Social Transformation (A Case Study of Kashmir)	INCORE/University of Ulster, United Kingdom	January 2010	December 2011
Planning Meeting on Gender & Evaluation	International Development Research Centre, (IDRC)	February 2011	August 2011
Gender Policy Forum	India Habitat Centre and ISST	2003	On-going
Gender Resource Centre	Govt. of NCT of Delhi	November 2009	March 2012
Community Outreach Programme	Institute of Social Studies Trust (ISST)		

COMPLETED ACTIVITIES



EXAMINING THE NREGA – WOMEN'S PARTICIPATION AND IMPACTS IN HIMACHAL PRADESH, KERALA AND RAJASTHAN

This research examines women's participation in the NREGS (now MGNREGS) in selected areas in three states: Kerala, Himachal and Rajasthan. The Employment Guarantee Scheme has succeeded in bringing large numbers of women into paid work, many of them for the first time. The study explores the complex reasons why women's participation in the scheme varies significantly across and within states, and suggests that minor changes to the scheme, to address local development challenges and priorities, could deliver better outcomes. This study was sponsored by Social Protection in Asia (SPA) programme at the IDS, Sussex. The study is based on fieldwork carried out by Grace Fernandes, Rina Bhattacharya, Madhuri Karak and Ratna Sudarshan. The findings are published in an IDS Bulletin and available as an IDS WP at <http://www.ids.ac.uk/index.cfm?objectid=29ACA51D-FAE9-5CA7-536EEAF08DF89B9B>

For more on the Social Protection in Asia Programme, please log on to: <http://www.ids.ac.uk/go/idsproject/social-protection-in-asia-spa>

THE POLICY RESEARCH ENVIRONMENT AND POLICY RESEARCH ORGANIZATIONS IN SOUTH ASIA

The 'Think Tank Initiative' (then by the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation, the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, and IDRC) supported a scoping study on the policy research environment in South Asia carried out in partnership with ISST. This included the preparation of background papers and three Roundtables. The papers prepared at or through ISST include 'Social Science Research in

South Asia - An analysis of the published journal literature' by Subbiah Arunachalam; 'Policy Research and Practice in India' by Ratna M. Sudarshan; and 'Policy Research Organisations: Projecting Successful Performance in the South Asian Context: an Analysis of Annual Reports and Websites' by Anuradha Bhasin and Mubashira Zaidi.

Three country level Roundtables/dialogues were organised with social science and policy research organization leaders from Bangladesh, India, Nepal, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka over the period December 2008-March 2009 in Puducherry, India; Galle, Sri Lanka; and Kathmandu, Nepal. A summary of the roundtable discussions, 'Making Research Matter in South Asia' by Katherine Hay and Ratna M. Sudarshan has been published in the *Economic and Political Weekly*.

GENDER AND PARTICIPATORY DEVELOPMENT : EVALUATION CONCERNS

The project supported reflective writing around evaluation by a group of feminist researchers and a workshop on *Gender and Participatory Evaluation* was organized by ISST on August 26-7, 2010 in New Delhi. This workshop focused on the ways in which a gender sensitive/feminist lens could be used to strengthen the role of evaluation in the social change process. It highlighted the perspectives of a set of gender equality advocates and social science researchers who have also been engaged with evaluation studies over the years. Six background papers were discussed at the workshop, by Vimala Ramachandran, Renu Khanna, Ranjani Murthy, Kameshwari Jandhyala, Radhika Govinda, and Ratna Sudarshan with Divya Sharma. Some of the papers were subsequently presented at the European Evaluation Society Conference in Prague, and the

COMPLETED ACTIVITIES



Evaluation Conclave in Delhi. A training workshop was also conducted based on these studies at the latter event.

An edited set of the papers has been accepted for publication as a special issue of the Indian Journal of Gender Studies.

REVIEW OF THE GREEN JOBS PROGRAMME IN INDIA

This review of a pilot project on Green Jobs of the ILO sought to assess what progress had been made in facilitating the development of a policy instrument that would put national policy and consensus on green jobs into practice, and to what extent the project has been able to lay the basis for an expansion of green jobs programme in the country. Further the review makes some specific recommendations for future direction of Green Jobs interventions in India and documents lessons learnt in regard to design and implementation. The review is focused on the interventions within India, and takes note of the global/inter-country developments.

The review, conducted by Ratna Sudarshan, was discussed at a Stakeholders Workshop in September 2010.

EVALUATION OF STEP PROJECT : MUSHROOM CULTIVATION IN HARYANA

A concurrent evaluation of this project was conducted and the report submitted to the Ministry of Women and Child Development, Govt. of India. The project supported training for Mushroom Cultivation through a grant from the STEP programme to the Haryana Nav Yuvak Kala Sangam (HNYKS) in Rohtak district. The evaluation team included Rina Bhattacharya and Swati Gupta, who

visited 9 villages for data collection. A total of 273 women were interviewed during the evaluation. Apart from the questionnaire survey, discussions were held with different groups of beneficiaries.

BASELINE AND END LINE STUDY TO ASSESS THE IMPACT OF SEWA BHARAT'S WORK IN DELHI

Following the baseline study conducted in 2008, an endline study was conducted in November 2010 and an assessment made of the impact of SEWA Bharat'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. The team for the endline study was led by Rina Bhattacharya.

REVIEW PAPER ON HOME-BASED WORKERS

An overview paper reflecting on the data and issues related to home-based women workers in South Asia in general and in India in particular has been prepared by Ratna Sudarshan, ISST and Shalini Sinha, WIEGO, and published as a Research Report by WIEGO under the Inclusive Cities project. The objective of this paper is to synthesize and disseminate existing research on home-based workers. It is available at: http://www.inclusivecities.org/research/RR10_Sudashan%20revert2.pdf

UNDP-PLANNING COMMISSION PROGRAMME ON HUMAN DEVELOPMENT

A final end of project evaluation of the UNDP-Planning Commission programme on Human Development in India was carried out by a team including Meera Pillai, Manabi Mazumdar, Anu Bhasin, Meenakshi Ahluwalia and led by Ratna Sudarshan. This evaluation, at the conclusion of ten

COMPLETED ACTIVITIES



years of active engagement of the UNDP with operationalising the concept of human development in India, was carried out based on review of a sample of outputs, interviews with a range of stakeholders and field visits to five states, Himachal Pradesh, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and West Bengal. The evaluation responded to a few key questions on the importance and relevance of the system of HDRs to UNDP and to India's national and state priorities; Govt. of India and UNDP's approach in mainstreaming human development at national, state and district level in formulating policies, planning and implementation etc.

EVALUATION OF STEP PROJECT: ZARI ZARDOZI PROGRAMME OF ADARSH MAHILA KALYAN SHIKSHA SAMITI, ALLAHABAD, UTTAR PRADESH

This concurrent evaluation of a training project on Zari Zardozi work was conducted by Shubh Sharma and Navika Harshe, who visited all five locations

where the women are currently engaged in production after receiving training. A total of 83 women were interviewed in a questionnaire based survey, and a number of focus group discussions were held with different groups of beneficiaries and the key personnel in the project management.

Sponsored by MWCD

A STUDY OF THE BACHPAN PROGRAMME AT COMMUNITY CENTRE, ISST

ISST Community Outreach Programme in East Delhi runs a programme for children intended specially for those under six years of age. The aims of the present study are to explore the extent to which the programme helps mothers (i.e. taking care of children while they go out to work, freeing up time for house hold chores, etc.); to document the efficacy of the programme and to identify areas where there is a scope for improvement. Largely based on direct observation and interviews, this study was carried out by Swati Gupta and Aliya Hamid Rao.



BAL MANCH,
ISST COMMUNITY
OUTREACH PROGRAMME

ON-GOING ACTIVITIES



ROADMAP FOR GIRLS' EDUCATION 2015

This project includes the preparation of an annotated bibliography, which has been done by Shubh Sharma, a review paper by Ratna Sudarshan and Shubh Sharma, and a 'roadmap' which will build upon recommendations emerging from literature review and UNICEF staff experience, as well as inputs from Government and academia, and this latter is currently being finalized. The Roadmap for girls' education is intended to identify specific actions and approaches to advance gender parity and equality in, within and through education across India.

Sponsored by UNICEF

REVISITING EDUCATION FOR ALL (COMMUNICATION AND DISSEMINATION)

Following on the completion of the re-visit study of the PROBE survey of 1995, a series of state level workshops is planned to disseminate findings of the Revisiting Education for All study. Additional analysis of data is to be supported through a fellowship programme. This project is being implemented by Anuradha De, Meera Samson and other researchers.

Supported by IDRC, Canada.

BASELINE AND END LINE STUDY FOR STREET VENDORS IN AHMEDABAD CITY (SEWA UNION)

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, through a project titled "New Strategy of SEWA : To Save the Livelihoods of women street vendors in the Era of World Class Cities", Mahila SEWA Trust has commissioned ISST

to conduct an impact study through baseline and end line survey. The report on the baseline survey in 2009 was written by Shrayana Bhattacharya and Divya Sharma and the endline will be completed in 2011.

Sponsored by SEWA Union/SDTT

ASSESSMENT IMPACT OF PROSVIL INSTITUTIONAL GRANT (SEWA ACADEMY)

ISST has been entrusted to conduct a concurrent evaluation of the various training activities to be carried out by SEWA Academy under the 3 year PROSVIL project. This is being done in a participatory manner with an aim to strengthening and improving the content and methods of training, and addresses any challenges as they are noted. In the first year, perceptions of trainers were recorded through a questionnaire, a sample of trainees was met in groups, supplemented by discussions with the SEWA Academy team, and direct observation through field visits to some of the training venues. The ISST team is led by Rina Bhattacharya.

Sponsored by SEWA Academy/PROSVIL

TRAUMA, DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE-BUILDING: PSYCHOLOGICAL PROGRAMMING AND SOCIAL TRANSFORMATION (A CASE STUDY OF KASHMIR)

It is recognized that political violence inflicts trauma and suffering on individuals and communities and that it is often built upon and woven into systemic violence. In order to achieve lasting peace, post-conflict reconstruction must address the impact of direct violence as well as those aspects that constitute structural violence. The objectives of the Kashmir case study, being conducted by Shobhna Sonpar, will be to determine whether and

ON-GOING ACTIVITIES



how psychosocial programs within a context of political violence influence social transformation that contributes towards peace and development. *Supported by INCORE/University of Ulster.*

LOOKING AHEAD

As we enter into the next financial year, we are pleased to be doing so with a grant from the SDTT that supports a programme of action and research with women domestic workers over the next three years. This project builds upon the findings of the study on domestic workers carried out at ISST over the period 2008-9, as well as the experiences of the Community Outreach staff. The Community Centre programme will identify and address problems of women domestic workers, their children and households, in and around Kalyanpuri, East Delhi, either directly or in partnership with the ISST Gender Resource Centre supported by the Delhi Government to enhance access to government services and entitlements. ISST will also play a co-ordinating role in pulling together the experiences of a group of organizations across the country being supported by SDTT to work with domestic workers, by convening annual workshops and documenting the various experiences.

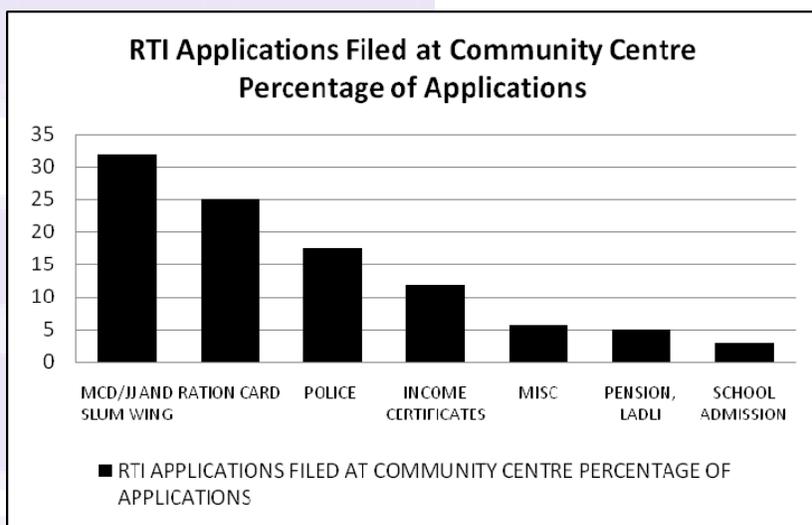
Through greater attention to the theory and practice of evaluation and feminist perspectives in evaluation, we hope to develop in the coming year a programme of research and training that would strengthen evaluation capacity among a group of social science researchers including those at ISST, develop stronger methods and practices in feminist evaluation, connect research with evaluation findings, and communicate stronger messages to policy makers.

Other research projects continue to be largely focused on women's work, the informal economy and education.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH PROGRAMME



ISST's community outreach programme in a few slum communities of east Delhi is now 10 years old. The programme has been actively associated with extending information about, and use of, the Right to Information (RTI) as a tool for accountability. The table below, based on analysis of 176 applications filed over a 12 month period during November 2009-October 2010 by residents in and around Kalyanpuri, East Delhi, suggests that the agencies that people reach out to most often are the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) and police, and that resort to RTI becomes necessary to obtain ration cards or income certificates, in particular. The RTI has become a necessary tool even to get responses and support for ordinary and everyday problems, and support that should be forthcoming in the normal way.



Amita Joshi and Md. Ashkeen Ahmed conducted a two-day workshop on RTI at Almora in August 13-14 2010 at the invitation of the Uttarakhand Sewa Nidhi Paryavaran Shiksha Sansthan. This was attended by 50 participants from 25 villages in Uttarakhand.

The Youth Resource Centre has continued to be an

active centre through the year, with regular discussion groups, workshops, theatre, film club, non-formal education, computer training etc.

A Creative Art Workshop was organized in October, and a Life Skills camp was organized in November. An exposure trip to Gandhi Museum was arranged to expose young girls and boys to Mahatma Gandhi's life and philosophy.

COMPUTER AND FUNCTIONAL ENGLISH TRAINING PROGRAMME

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 ISST on successful completion of the course. In December, around 75 students appeared for the final examination in computer literacy and functional English programme. At present 75 students are enrolled for the courses.

A decision was taken this last year to withdraw from the IGNOU Community College scheme for now, as there had been some lack of clarity on the qualifications of trainers under this programme as a requirement for participation.

GENDER RESOURCE CENTRE UNDER SAMAJIK SUVIDHA SANGAM

ISST-GRC started in October 2009. In the last one year, the centre saw an upsurge of interest by the community regarding the various services available

COMMUNITY OUTREACH PROGRAMME



through the GRC, which include health camp, nutrition camp, health clinic, legal counseling, Self Help Groups, non-formal education, adult literacy and vocational training courses (beauty culture and cutting and tailoring). Most of the children who participate in ISST-GRC's non formal education program are either school drop-outs or had never been admitted to a formal school previously. A number of children joined open school after completing the program. Till date, ISST's GRC has formed six self help groups. Three groups are already affiliated to nationalized banks.

Having noted that women domestic workers are a significant proportion of the women in the community, and that they, and their children and households, need support in various ways, from April

2011 the Community Programme will have a special focus on this group. ISST will also play a co-ordinating role to enable networking among a group of organizations working with women domestic workers across the country, with support from SDTT.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

We acknowledge and thank the following contributions for ISST Community Centre:

- Joachim Von Braun
- Richa Awasthi
- Shobna Sonpar
- Patang (Rita Mishra)

CONCENTRATION ACTIVITY FOR YOUNGER CHILDREN



OTHER ACTIVITIES



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. Additions to the library are in accordance with on-going research priorities. The library is open to all and ISST offers a bibliography search service. Over the last year, the process of developing a digital repository has been started at ISST. This includes all types of institutional digital content including ISST research reports, annual reports, monographs, working papers, data sets and photographs. ISST's digital repository will be linked to the ISST website once completed.

IN-HOUSE ACTIVITIES : ISST DISCUSSION FORM

Meetings of the Saturday discussion group included a discussion on the paper titled 'Advancing Toward the Equality of Women and Men', Prepared by the Institute for Studies in Global Prosperity.

NGO SPECIAL CONSULTATIVE STATUS (1996) WITH UN-ECOSOC

Dr Jaskiran Mathur and Ms Suchitra Mohan represent ISST at New York and Ms Sunanda Krishnamurthy is ISST's representative in Geneva.

ADVISORY POSITIONS HELD (2010-2011)

MANJUSHREE MISHRA

- Trustee, Mahila Haat

RATNA M. SUDARSHAN

- Trustee, National Foundation for India, New Delhi
- Trustee, Anusuya Trust, Ahmedabad
- Member, Governing Body, Uttarakhand Environmental Education Centre, Almora
- Life Member, Centre for Women's Development Studies, New Delhi
- Member, South Asia Regional Hub Advisory Committee, Pathways for Women's Empowerment, Institute for Development Studies, Sussex (IDS) – BRAC 2007-11 and Member, Pathways Consortium Advisory Group 2008-11
- Member, Research Advisory Group, Centre for Gender and Labour, V.V. Giri National Labour Institute
- Member, National Resource Group, Mahila Samakhya
- Member, Advisory Committee, Govt of NCT of Delhi-UNDP Project on conditional cash transfers in Delhi 2010
- Member, Gender Sub Group for engendering the BPL Census 2011, Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India 2010

OTHER ASSIGNMENTS

GOI Nominee to 12th Joint Review Mission of Sarva Shikksha Abhiyan, July 2010.

WORKSHOP/SEMINAR ORGANISED BY ISST



WORKSHOP ON GENDER AND PARTICIPATORY EVALUATION, AUGUST 26-7, 2010 AT WILLOW, INDIA HABITAT CENTRE

A two-day workshop was organized around six background papers reflecting on evaluation experiences, including methodologies and evaluation use.

Supported by IDRC, Canada.

PLANNING MEETING: GENDER AND EVALUATION

A two-day day Planning Meeting was organized on March 7-8, 2011 to take forward a proposal to develop a programme of research and training on feminist evaluation, and to draw in the views and suggestions of a group of social science researchers engaged with evaluative studies.

Supported 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 ISST and IHC was held on 27 August 2010. 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.

FEMINISM IN INDIA TODAY:

The twentieth session in the ISST-IHC Gender Policy Forum was held on 10 December and consisted of a panel discussion on Feminism in India. 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.

PRESENTATIONS/PARTICIPATION



RATNA M. SUDARSHAN

- Fourth SAARC Gender Info Base (SGIB) Review Meeting, co-hosted by UNIFEM and GOI, New Delhi, April 5-6, 2010.
- Roundtable discussion on 'Rethinking human behavior in modern economics', Institute for Studies in Global Prosperity, New Delhi, April 10, 2010.
- Fifth WIEGO General Assembly, and seminar 'Inclusive Cities for the Working Poor', Belo Horizonte, Brazil, 20-22 April, 2010.
- Pathways of Women's Empowerment RPC Consortium Advisory Group meeting, Pelham House, Lewes, UK, 17-18 June, 2010.
- Board Meeting, National Foundation for India, July 2, and December 2, 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.
- Mahila Samakhya National Resource Group meeting, Ministry of HRD, GOI, September 14, 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.
- Brainstorming meeting on 'Women, Work and Child Care', Mobile Crèches, November 1, 2010.
- Roundtable on Governance, Security and Justice, IDRC, November 3, 2010.
- Global Clusters Experience Sharing Workshop, ILO, December 14, 2010
- Meeting of Research Advisory Group, Centre for Gender and Labour, V.V. Giri National Labour Institute, Jan 4, 2011.
- Family Vulnerability Index and Implementation Plan of a Conditional Cash Transfer Programme in Delhi, India: a consultation workshop, Govt. of NCT of Delhi and UNDP, Jan 27-8, 2011.
- Discussant, session on Inter-generational Poverty, Health, Education and Assets, CPRC-IIPA International Seminar, IIPA Feb 4, 2011.
- Private luncheon with the Hon'ble President and members of the Austrian Parliament, Claridges, February 8, 2011.
- 'Saroj Gupta Memorial Paper Presentation Competition', Economics Association, Lady Shri Ram College, judge, Feb 18, 2011.
- Technical Advisory Group consultation meeting, research study on women's political participation in South Asia, ICRW, March 15, 2011.

PRESENTATIONS/PARTICIPATION



RATNA M. SUDARSHAN (CONTINUED)

- 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.
- 'Women and the MGNREGA: wage work, unpaid work, and care' presented at SPA programme writeshop (Sept 6-7) and Chronic Poverty Research Centre (CPRC) Conference (September 8-10), Manchester, UK.
- 'Review of RBSA Interventions on Green Jobs: INDIA' presented at ILO Stakeholders workshop, 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.
- 'Gender and Participatory Evaluation' presented at 9th European Evaluation Conference, Prague, October 6-8, 2010.
- 'Development, Informality and Social Protection: the case of home based workers' talk at 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
- 'Girls Education: towards a road map' presented 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.
- Talk on 'Role of Civil Society in the Policy process' at Training Workshop on 'State - Civil Society Interface for Improved Policy Performance', at IIPA, Jan 10, 2011.
- Panelist at National Symposium on 'Social attributes of exclusion and poverty in rural India: issues for identification and inclusive policy', Centre for study of social exclusion and inclusive policy, University of Rajasthan, Jaipur, Jan 12, 2011.
- Presentation on 'Social Protection, informal economy and older women' at Expert Group Consultation on 'Empowering Aging and Older Women: health, financial and social security', organized by Guild for Service and Development Welfare and Research Foundation, supported by National Commission for Women, March 2, 2011.
- WIEGO Agenda-Setting Research Conference, Cape Town, panelist on Country Panel: India, presentation on Home Based producers, March 24-27, 2011.

PRESENTATIONS/PARTICIPATION



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

SUDHAMANI. N.

- 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
- 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.

RAJIB NANDI

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

PRESENTATIONS/PARTICIPATION



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.
- 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.



ISST-IHC, GENDER POLICY FORUM

PUBLICATIONS



ARTICLES

- 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 pp 43-51.

RESEARCH REPORTS

- Ratna M. Sudarshan and Shalini Sinha (2011) *Making Home-Based Work Visible: A Review of Evidence from South Asia*. Urban Policies Research Report, No. 10, WIEGO at http://www.inclusivecities.org/research/RR10_Sudashan%20revert2.pdf
- Ratna M. Sudarshan (2011) *India's National Rural Employment Guarantee Act: Women's Participation and Impacts in Himachal Pradesh, Kerala and Rajasthan*, CSP Research Report, IDS, Sussex at <http://www.ids.ac.uk/index.cfm?objectid=29ACA51D-FAE9-5CA7-536EEAF08DF89B9B>

WORKING PAPERS

- G. Raveendran (2010) *Contribution of Women to the National Economy*, ILO Asia-Pacific Working paper Series (background paper prepared for ISSI –ILO conference on Current Employment Strategies and Women's Work, 2009) available at http://www.ilo.org/newdelhi/whatwedo/publications/lang-en/docName--WCMS_146136/index.htm
- Sukti Dasgupta and Ratna M. Sudarshan (2011) *Issues in Labour Market Inequality and Women's Participation in India's National Rural Employment Guarantee Programme*, Working Paper No. 98, Policy Integration Department, ILO, Geneva at http://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---dgreports/---integration/documents/publication/wcms_15304

NEWSPAPER ARTICLE

- Ratna M. Sudarshan (2010) “Learning to Ask” *Indian Express*, July 17, 2010 at <http://www.indianexpress.com/news/learning-to-ask/647791/0>

FORTHCOMING

- Special Issue of the Indian Journal of Gender Studies on *Development, Gender and Feminist Evaluation* including papers by Vimala Ramachandran, Renu Khanna, Ranjani Murthy, Kameshwari Jandhyala, Ratna Sudarshan and Divya Sharma, Katherine Hay, Radhika Govinda and guest edited by Katherine Hay and Ratna Sudarshan (forthcoming 2012).
- Naila Kabeer, Ratna Sudarshan, Kirsty Milward (editors) ‘Refashioning the weapons of the weak? Strategies for organising working women in the informal economy’ (proposal submitted to ZED Books)

PUBLICATIONS



UNPUBLISHED PAPERS/REPORTS: (AVAILABLE FROM ISST)

Papers commissioned for a 'Study of Policy Research Environment' and available from ISST or the Think Tank Initiative include

- Subbiah Arunachalam: Social Science Research in South Asia - An analysis of the published journal literature
- Ratna M. Sudarshan: Policy Research and Practice in India
- Anuradha Bhasin and Mubashira Zaidi: Policy Research Organisations: Projecting Successful Performance in the South Asian Context: an Analysis of Annual Reports and Websites

Reports on Roundtables held at Puducherry, Galle and Kathmandu are also available.

TRAINING MATERIAL

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

NEWSPAPER CLIPPINGS 2010

- Extending Social Security Cover to All Citizens: Newspaper Clippings on Social Security in India 2010.
- Newspaper Clippings on Violence against Women in India 2010.
- An Insight into India's Vision of Microfinance and its Impact on the Nation so far: Newspaper Clippings on Microfinance in India 2010.
- The Varied Impact of the Process of Implementation of the Right to Education Act on the Government and the Public: Newspaper Clippings of RTE 2010.

Compiled by Akila Ramesh

NEWSLETTERS

- **Uma Prachar** : Published quarterly in Hindi and English
- **Samachar Patrika** : Published quarterly in Hindi
- **ISST Newsletter** : Published quarterly in English (Newsletters are available at <http://www.isst-india.org/Newsletters.htm>)

SUMMARY FINANCIAL STATEMENT



SUMMARY STATEMENT ANNUAL INCOME AND EXPENDITURE (AS ON 31.03.2011)

PARTICULARS	FINANCIAL YEAR 2010-2011 (RS. IN THOUSAND)	FINANCIAL YEAR 2009-2010 (RS. IN THOUSAND)
Income		
Interest Income	665.00	539.00
Donations & Contributions	36.00	2.00
Other Income	281.00	56.00
Overhead Charges	2,387.00	1,702.00
Project Income	7,746.00	11,676.00
Rental Income	-	765.00
Total	11,115.00	14,740.00
Expenditure		
Administrative Expenses	4,083.00	3,623.00
Project Expenses	7,746.00	11,676.00
Property Expenses	354.00	319.00
Trustee Meeting Expenses	84.00	147.00
Depreciation	160.00	283.00
Total	12,427.00	16,048.00
Surplus/Deficit	(1,312.00)	(1,308.00)
SUMMARY BALANCE SHEET		
Assets		
Fixed Assets	3,822.00	4,637.00
Investment	3,838.00	4,831.00
Current Assets	1,055.00	623.00
Income & Expenditure	1,312.00	1,308.00
Total	10,027.00	11,399.00
Funds & Reserves		
General Fund	(3,982.00)	(2,670.00)
Endowment Fund	6,568.00	6,568.00
Building Fund	2,601.00	2,697.00
Welfare Fund	134.00	139.00
Fixed Assets Fund	1,141.00	1,700.00
Publication Fund	2.00	24.00
Secured Loan	2,315.00	1,545.00
Unspent Project Fund & Current Liabilities	1,248.00	1,396.00
Total	10,027.00	11,399.00
*AUDITORS : THAKUR VAIDYANATH AIYAR & Co., CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS, 221-223, DEEN DAYAL UPADHYAY MARG, NEW DELHI - 110002.		

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Prof. Nirmala Banerjee

Sachetana, Kolkata

ISST TEAM (APRIL 2010-MARCH 2011)



ISST TEAM (APRIL 2010-MARCH 2011)

Ratna M. Sudarshan, Director and Secretary to the Trust

Manjushree Mishra, Associate Director and Treasurer to the Trust

DELHI OFFICE (RESEARCHERS):

Rajib Nandi, PhD, Research Fellow

Rina Bhattacharya, PhD, Research Fellow

Jyotsna Sivaramayya, M. Phil, Research Fellow (on leave)

Divya Sharma, M. Phil, Research Associate (till June 2010)

Swati Gupta, MSW, Research Associate (till Jan 2011)

Aliya Hamid Rao, MSc, Research Associate (till May 2010)

RESEARCH SUPPORT AND ADMINISTRATION:

Shobha Sharma, Administrator

Akila Ramesh, Librarian

Deepa Mehra, Secretary

Md Nasim Arif, IT Officer (till June 2010)

Nitin Shukla, Accountant

Sultan Singh, Asst Administrator

Mohan Singh, Office Assistant

Birendra Kumar Singh, Driver

BANGALORE OFFICE:

N. Sudhamani, Project Leader (till September 2010)

Grace Fernandes, Programme Manager

Krishna Karanth, Office Assistant

Ratnamma, Helper

COMMUNITY OUTREACH PROGRAMME, EAST DELHI :

Amita Joshi, Co-ordinator

Manju Sharma, Field Supervisor

Sundarlal, Field Worker

ISST TEAM (APRIL 2010-MARCH 2011)



COMMUNITY OUTREACH PROGRAMME, EAST DELHI (CONTINUED):

Udai Pal Singh, Field Worker

Ashkeen Ahmed, Peer Educator (till December 2010)

Dharmendra Kumar, Peer Educator

ISST GENDER RESOURCE CENTRE (GRC-SK):

Kamlesh Gaur, Project Co-ordinator

Deepak, Project Officer

Nirmala Paturi, Councillor Help Desk

Sarita, SHG Mobiliser

Gunjan, Community Mobiliser

Vinita Sharma, Community Mobiliser

Jyoti, Vocational Training Instructor

Sapna, Vocational Training Instructor

Sunita, Non Formal Education Trainer

PROJECT CONSULTANTS:

Anuradha Bhasin, Anuradha De, Kameshwari Jandhyala, Manabi Mazumdar, Meenakshi Ahluwalia, Meera Samson, Meera Pillai, Navika Harshe, Radhika Govinda, Ranjini Murthy, Renu Khanna, Subbiah Arunachalam, Vasundhra Sangwan, Vimala Ramachandran, Shubh Sharma.

STUDENT INTERNS/VOLUNTEERS:

Inderjeet Singh Saggu, May – June, 2010.

Sanyukta Biswas, November – December 2010.

Sarita, December 2010 to February 2011.

Anju, Indira Gandhi National Open University, New Delhi, December 2010 to February 2011.

Shaista, Indira Gandhi National Open University, New Delhi, January 2011 to April 2011.

Priya, Bhim Rao Ambedkar College, Delhi, September 2010 to March 2011.

Abhinab, Bhim Rao Ambedkar College, Delhi, September 2010 to March 2011.

Nidhi, IMI, Delhi, February 2011.

Neha, IMI, Delhi, February 2011.

Angel Philip, AIIMS, New Delhi, February, 2011.

In Memorium



Rina Bhattacharya
23.12.1959 – 08.07.2011

Rina obtained an MA in Psychology from the University of Delhi in 1982, and a PhD in Psychology in 1990. She joined ISST in 1987 as a Senior Research Associate, was Research Co-ordinator from 1993, and Research Fellow from 2007. At ISST, she carried out a range of studies. Her area of focus was women, work and poverty; her skills included quantitative and qualitative techniques, questionnaire preparation and conducting survey, project-coordination, report writing, and conducting trainings. Since 2006, she took the responsibility of following the progress of the MGNREGA programme, especially in Rajasthan. She was working closely with SEWA Academy over the last year. Apart from research, she gave oversight to the library, and kept in touch with much of ISST's informal network.

REMEMBERING RINA BHATTACHARYA



REMEMBERING RINA BHATTACHARYA - AN EXEMPLAR

DEVAKI JAIN

Building institutions particularly what is called autonomous, small, - generated by some issue is always challenging - wherever it is birthed. Even more challenging is the process of sustaining the institution with the same ethic/culture of shared space and open doors.

While money – funds – and space are a critical aspect of sustaining such entities what is the most critical is the quality of the personnel, the individuals who work in the centre. While the current trend amongst institutions big or small, economic or social is for mobility, - for small, fragile but dedicated study centres, commitment to ‘stay put’, continue with the institution through its troubled times, its fragilities is the most crucial ‘wealth/resource’. But doing that requires something beyond mere loyalty. It requires a certain ‘love affair’ with the institute coupled with a sophisticated sense of gratitude for what the institute has provided to the person.

Such combinations are rare in today’s seeking-better-opportunity culture. Hence our experience with a colleague Rina Bhattacharjee who was a *Shining Star* in what is otherwise a somewhat fractured atmosphere for such institutions.

Rina Bhattacharya who passed away on July 8th in Delhi was a PhD student at Delhi University when she was introduced to me by the Secretary [Culture] of that time Mr. Veeraraghavan. Mr. Veeraraghavan said to me, “here is this young girl who comes from a family which requires support and cannot continue her PhD work unless she can also earn. She requires many more skills than she has right now but she is unique in her seriousness of purpose and extraordinary humility. Can you meet her?” Sure enough a very young but not at all diffident, young woman presented herself to me and one could see straightaway that she had yet to master writing in English, get introduced to what is called the data. What was, however what can be called her USP was the affection and friendliness that poured from her eyes. It was like she was saying “Try me” without saying it. Rina Bhattacharya joined ISST and soon her colleagues began to find her most valuable as she was willing to help anybody on anything that they needed. She was a friend to the librarian, she was a support to the already existing researchers, to the accountant and always willing to go out to other libraries departments or centres to bring back what was needed at that time by ISST.

But her ‘burden’ - never brought to reduce her commitment to the time and the outcome of the institute - always there in the anxiety and weariness in her eyes was the responsibility of providing for her family. During the course of her several decades with the institute she was nursing her father, her brother, trying to help her sister find happiness in marriage, apart from long battles with her own health.

REMEMBERING RINA BHATTACHARYA



Yet almost every person who ever passed through the portals of ISST not only knew her but always commented that she welcomed them and was willing to help them in whatever way they wanted. She was ISST or its persona.

As she became senior, from being a research associate to research coordinator to research fellow, over the years 1987 to 2007, and others joined either as interns or as junior staff they found her the most helpful in getting them absorbed into the culture of the place. When leadership changed she was the strongest hand to the new leader.

It is such people who can make a small centre continue or perish as institutional memory is not so much what the computer holds but what the individual holds. It is like bringing up an adolescent into adulthood and for the small centres who do not have a huge bureaucracy what maintains its history, is individuals who contain the institution's history.

Rina got her PhD while working at ISST. When I visited her home to mourn her death with her family I felt even greater regard for her, a family of dependents were living in extremely humble set of rooms, far away from the office of ISST. How she could cope with that habitat yet do a PhD, yet come to office looking fresh and tidy, alert and willing was her grit. As she lay getting deeply unwell, I am sure she was thinking of how her mother and her unmarried sister will cope with life. Salut , dear dear Rina



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