



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.

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Completed Programmes

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

This research examines women's participation in NREGS in selected areas in three states: Kerala, Himachal and Rajasthan. The Indian government's NREGS (National Rural 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 improvements that could maximize impact. NREGS has achieved some success in empowering women, economically and socially. The study 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, Ford Foundation and IDRC. To read more on the findings from the study and



on Social Protection in Asia programme, please log on to:

<http://www.ids.ac.uk/go/idsproject/social-protection-in-asia-spa>

Review Paper on Home-based Workers

Collaboration had been made between ISST and WIEGO to write an overview paper

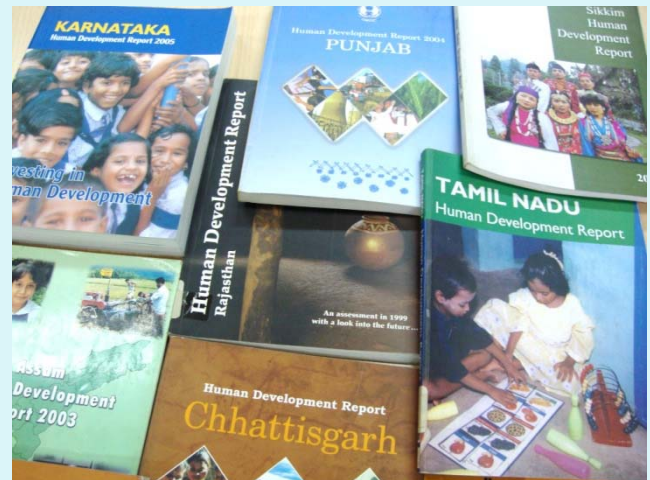
reflecting the data and issues related to home-based workers in South Asia in general and in

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. Please click on the following link to read the paper: http://www.inclusivecities.org/research/RR10_Sudashan%20revert2.pdf

UNDP-Planning Commission Programme on Human Development

ISST had been commissioned to undertake an evaluation of the UNDP-Planning Commission programme on Human Development in India at the conclusion of ten years of active engagement of the UNDP with operationalising the concept of human development in India. The evaluation was carried out based on review of a sample outputs, interviews and field visits to five states, Himachal Pradesh, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and West Bengal. The objective of the evaluation was to appraise the overall impact of the programme: and to assess whether, and if so in what ways, a further UNDP engagement is recommended.



The evaluation responded 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; Govt. of India and UNDP's approach in

mainstreaming human development at national, state and district level in formulating policies, planning and implementation etc. (This study was sponsored by UNDP, India)

Evaluation of STEP Project: Zari Zardozi Programme of Adarsh Mahila Kalyan Shiksha Samiti, Allahabad, Uttar Pradesh

ISST has submitted a concurrent evaluation report to Ministry of Women and Child Development, Govt. of India about the programme on Zari Zardozi work under STEP programme, by Adarsh Mahila Kalyan Shiksha Samiti in Allahabad, Uttar Pradesh. The evaluation team visited all five locations where the women are currently engaged in production after they had received the training. A total of 83 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 and the key personnel in the project management.



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.

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)

The Institute of Social Studies Trust (ISST) has been entrusted to carry out a concurrent



evaluation of the various training activities carried out by SEWA under the PROSVIL project. The impact assessment study intends to assess and evaluate the activities in a participatory manner with an aim to strengthening and improving the quality of the activities. The first year of evaluation has been carried out through a three stage process. The first two is largely based on responses of trainers. The third stage is direct evaluation carried out by ISST using focus group discussions with a sample of trainees, discussions with SEWA Academy team, and direct observation though field visits to some of the training venues.



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.

Trauma, Development and Peace-building: Psychological Programming and Social Transformation (A Case study of Kashmir)

The aim of the Kashmir case study is to explore the impact on social change of psychological programs that are located in the context of political violence. The study tries to determine whether and how psychological programmes within a context of political violence influence social transformation that contributes towards peace and development. The study adopts the PADHI model of psychological analysis. A research protocol is

being developed based on the objectives of the study and the conceptual framework. The research will be conducted in a manner that is ethical, respectful and appropriately participatory. A Research Ethics Committee has been formed, who reviewed the research proposal in the context of ethical standards for research involving human participants set by the University of Ulster, United Kingdom. The study is sponsored by University of Ulster.

Outreach Programme of ISST

Adolescent Resource Centre

ISST has been working with a few slum communities of east Delhi for almost a decade now. ISST's outreach programmes are coordinated from ISST Saathi Centre located at Kalyanpuri. The programme intends 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 Saathi centre of ISST also runs a programme named 'bachpan' for the children below six years of age. The children's group named 'Balmanch' performed in cultural programmes.

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 a number of RTI cases under the supervision and guidance of ISST Saathi centre. A workshop on RTI was also organized by the Saathi centre in Kalyanpuri. ISST also

worked with the community for the school admission done under EWS (Economically Weaker Section) Scheme of Delhi Government.

An exposure trip to Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti, Rajghat for the community boys and girls was arranged to make them exposed to Mahatma Gandhi's life and philosophy. During the exposure trip, they were shown a puppet show named 'Mohan se Mahatma-Gandhi Katha' on Gandhi's life.



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 ISST on successful completion of the course. At present 70 students are enrolled for these courses.

Gender Resource Centre

GRC-Suvidha Kendra of ISST is more than a year old now. 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 & tailoring. 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 health camps 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 seven self help groups. Three groups are already affiliated to nationalized banks. This scheme is taking on slowly but steadily. The help-desk of ISST GRC centre helps a number of people in filling in the forms and attaching relevant documents to obtain ration cards, caste certificates and birth certificates.

Workshops/Seminars by ISST

Planning Workshop: Gender and Evaluation



ISST organized a two-day Planning Meeting on Gender and Participatory Development: Evaluation Concerns on March 7-8 March 2011. The workshop discussed on engendering evidences based policy-making through evaluation and research. The papers presented in the workshop reflected upon the issues around evaluation, feminist concerns, and participatory methods with an attempt to theorize those from an Indian perspective.

Workshops / Seminars Attended by ISST

Ratna M. Sudarshan

- Meeting of Research Advisory Group, Centre for Gender and Labour, V.V. Giri National Labour Institute, Jan 4, 2011.
- 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.
- 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.
- International Conference on Access to Schooling, NUEPA, Feb 23, 2011.
- Attended seminar on 'Self-Help Groups: Some Reflections from the Field in Andhra Pradesh' presented by Howard White, at World Bank Feb 24, 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.
- Workshop on the Role of Membership Based Organizations of the Poor in Promoting Inclusive Growth, Planning Commission and SEWA, March 15, 2011.
- Technical Advisory Group consultation meeting, research study on women's political participation in South Asia, ICRW, March 15, 2011
- Consultation Workshop on an ADB flagship study "Asia 2050", March 17, 2011.
- WIEGO Agenda-Setting Research Conference, Cape Town, panelist on Country Panel: India, on Home Based producers, March 24-27, 2011.

Reports / Publications

Books/Reports/Working papers:

- 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.
- 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, Institute of Development Studies, Sussex.
- 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, International Labour Organization, Geneva.

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.

(Newspaper Clippings have been compiled by Akila Ramesh)

Newspaper Article based on ISST Study:

"Maid to Suffer in Delhi Households: Survey across 117 Slum Finds Domestic Helps Work in Poor Conditions", Article based on ISST research on domestic work in Delhi was published in *The Times of India* on January 9 2011.

Staff News

- Ms. Swati Gupta left ISST in January 2011.
- Nevika Harshe left ISST in March 2011.
- Anju from IGNOU worked as an Intern at ISST Saathi Centre between Dec 2010 and Feb 2011.
- Sarita, worked as an Intern at ISST Saathi Centre between Dec 2010 and Feb 2011.
- Priya from Bhimrao Ambedkar College, Delhi worked as an Intern at ISST Saathi Centre between Sept 2010 and Mar 2011.
- Abhinab from Bhimrao Ambedkar College, Delhi worked as an Intern at ISST Saathi Centre between Sept 2010 and Mar 2011.
- Shaista from IGNOU worked as an Intern at ISST Saathi Centre between Jan 2011 and Apr 2011
- Nidhi from IMI, Delhi worked as an Intern at ISST Saathi Centre in Feb 2011.
- Neha from IMI, Delhi worked as an Intern at ISST Saathi Centre in Feb 2011
- Angel Philip from AIIMS, Delhi worked as an Intern at ISST Saathi Centre in Feb 2011

Edited by Rajib Nandi

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

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Completed Programmes

Roadmap for girls' education 2015

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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 findings. The findings from this research would be able to recommend specific goals and interventions to reduce gender disparities in elementary education. This research was sponsored by UNICEF.

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Ongoing Programmes

Documentation/Process Evaluation of Implementation Experience of GRCs in North-West District, Delhi

The present study, sponsored by Samajik Suvridha Sangam, Govt. of NCT of Delhi, tries to assess the ways in which the GRC services are accessed and participated by the target communities in the North-West district of Delhi.

It had been proposed that both user households - who access GRC services and non-user households - who do not access the GRC services would be covered in the study. It was decided in a meeting with the SSS, that the study would select 10 GRCs from the district and cover 80 per cent of the user households and 20 per cent of the non-user households for the study.

The study is primarily based on a household level questionnaire survey. However, FGDs and in-depth interviews have also been conducted with the communities and GRC office bearers at selected locations. ISST has started the research in May 2011. ISST developed the questionnaire, and conducted a survey in the selected GRCs. The GRCs and the households were selected on the basis of a stratified random sampling. The survey has covered a total of 820 households in the district covering 10 GRCs, as proposed. Presently the process of data entry is being carried out. The draft of the report would be submitted by October 2011.

Addressing Domestic Violence in Delhi: Filling the Gap between Intent and Outcomes

The project is motivated by the observation that despite several global, national and city specific initiatives seeking to end violence against women, the actual incidence of

violence continues to be high, and women are hesitant to seek help, so that there is a gap between 'intent' and 'reality'. The proposed study is grounded in the actual experience of

violence of residents of slum community of Kalyanpuri, in the East district of Delhi, to understand the nature of this gap. The study included interviews with women have faced or are facing domestic violence, and also the views of the officials handling the domestic violence law cases, particularly the Protection of Women Against Domestic Violence Act 2005. These interviews helped us in understanding the nature of gap persisting between policies and their on-the-ground implementation and effects so far. The methodology for this three-

month long study is purely qualitative, with the aim to capture the nuances of a socially accepted violence on women in our societies. It is expected that both, the situational and the structural picture of domestic violence on women can emerge clearly through our study. The findings from the study are expected to have broader relevance for policy makers and campaign managers of ongoing VAW initiatives in suggesting possible ways of addressing these gaps. The study is sponsored by The Asia Foundation.

Facilitating Women in Endemic Poverty Regions of India to Access, Actualize and Sustain Provisions on Women Empowerment

ISST has been commissioned to conduct a baseline, midline and end line that would capture the change in gendered practices and attitudes in the four areas of politics, economics, programme implementation, and patriarchy by PRADHAN and Jagori, who had received a grant from the 'UN Trust Fund to prevent Violence Against Women. The work is spread over four states (Madhya Pradesh, Orissa, Jharkhand and West Bengal) and nine districts with rural communities. The project has the special focus of making women aware of their rights, sensitive to discrimination, and able to challenge patriarchal norms and practices. As such while the progress of their normal activities would be monitored in established formats, ISST has been commissioned to carry out the above study.

The baseline study is being conducted in sample villages where the project is being implemented. ISST's involvement in the baseline has been to develop a design that includes sample selection, draft questionnaires, FGD guidelines, and an

analysis plan. In addition to that, ISST will be responsible for data analysis and writing of the baseline report. The methodology proposed for the study is a survey for quantifiable information with a sample of SHGs in each of the 9 districts where the project is being implemented. Stratified random sampling was used to select the sample villages. The questionnaire is designed to give an indication of the levels of awareness, attitudes, behaviour etc through a ranking. Training for the survey was organized in all the project districts with teams from all project blocks.

The qualitative information will be collected through FGDs with a smaller sample of SHGs. FGDs will also be conducted to complement the information, which had been collected from the survey. Separate training will be organized for conducting FGDs for research on sensitive issues. Village level secondary data will also be gathered for the baseline. Duty bearers with government departments will also be interviewed.

Assessment Impact of PROSVIL institutional grant (SEWA Academy)

The Institute of Social Studies Trust (ISST) has been entrusted to carry out a concurrent evaluation of the various training activities carried out by SEWA under the PROSVIL project. The impact assessment study intends

to assess and evaluate the activities in a participatory manner with an aim to strengthening and improving the quality of the activities. The first year of evaluation has been carried out through a three stage process. The

first two is largely based on responses of trainers. The third stage is direct evaluation carried out by ISST using focus group discussions with a sample of trainees, discussions with SEWA Academy team, and

direct observation through field visits to some of the training venues. The first phase of the project is now complete and the second phase of the evaluation has begun.

Outreach Programme of ISST

Action and Research Programme with Women Domestic Workers

Sir Dorabji Tata Trust is currently supporting a programme of action and research with women domestic workers at Kalyanpuri area of East Delhi. This project is built upon the findings of the study on domestic workers carried out at ISST over the period 2008-09, as well as the experiences of the ISST community outreach staff. The current programme will identify and address problems of women domestic workers, their children and

households, in and around Kalyanpuri, either directly or in partnership with the ISST Gender Resource Centre supported by the Delhi Government to enhance access to government services and entitlement. ISST will also play a coordinating role in pulling together the experiences of a group of organizations across the country who work with domestic workers, by convening annual workshops and documenting the various experiences.

Adolescent Resource Centre

ISST has been working with a few slum communities of east Delhi for decade now. ISST's outreach programmes are coordinated from ISST Saathi Centre located at Kalyanpuri. The programme intends to empower the youth through information, education and dialogue and reaches out to them in a variety of innovative and interactive ways like book reading and library, discussion groups, workshops, theatre groups, film club non-formal education etc. In the month of June a three-day workshop on Life-Skill for the adolescent youths was organized at the Saathi Centre. The Saathi centre of ISST also runs a programme named 'bachpan' for the children below six years of age. The children who visit the Saathi Centre are provided with nutritious food twice a week. The children's group named 'Bal Manch' organizes cultural programmes. Part of this programme is now sponsored by the Australian High Commission, New Delhi.



In last few years ISST Community Centre worked closely with the community on Right to Information (RTI). On 16-17 June 2011 an RTI workshop was organised where community members from Kalyanpuri were provided an orientation programme on the RTI Act and filing of RTI cases.

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 ISST on successful completion of the course. In last couple of years, a number of students completed those courses. At present 70-75 students, both boys and girls, are enrolled for these courses.



Gender Resource Centre

GRC-Suvidha Kendra of ISST is almost two years old now. 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 & tailoring. 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. ISST also had organized health camps 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. The SHG mobiliser from ISST GRC facilitated the community members in forming SHG groups. Three such groups are already affiliated to nationalized banks. This scheme is taking on slowly but steadily. The help-desk of ISST GRC centre helps a number of people in filling in the forms and attaching relevant documents to obtain ration cards, caste certificates and birth certificates.

Workshops /Seminars Attended by ISST

Ratna M. Sudarshan

- Columbia–NCAER Conference on Trade, Poverty, Inequality and Democracy, New Delhi, April 1, 2011.
- South Asia Women's Fund - Donor Mapping Brainstorming Meeting, New Delhi April 6, 2011.

- International Workshop, "Towards Harmonization of Time use Surveys at the Global Level with special reference to Developing Countries", Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, Govt. of India, April 7-8, 2011.
- World Development Report 2012: Gender Equality and Development, Consultation, New Delhi April 8, 2011.
- Workshop with Ajmer Adult Education Association, Sarwar, April 10, 2011.
- Conference on Women's Leadership, IIC, New Delhi, April 14, 2011.
- Research Advisory Group Meeting, project on 'Impact of MGNREGA on living conditions of unorganized workers', V.V.Giri National Labour Institute, Noida, April 28, 2011.
- Presented 'Tackling poverty through international connectedness?' at workshop on Poverty and Indo-Norwegian Relations, RIS in collaboration with CSMN, New Delhi, April 29-30, 2011.
- Discussion on Social Norms, UNICEF – India, New Delhi, May 10, 2011.
- UNDAF Orientation Workshop, UN and Planning Commission, New Delhi, May 12, 2011.
- Consultative Meet on STEP, MWCD and NIPCCD, New Delhi, May 13, 2011.
- Attended talk on 'Development in a Multipolar world' by Ngozi N. Okonjo Iweala, Managing Director, World Bank, May 13, 2011.
- Consultation on Women's Skill Development and Employability, World Bank, May 16, 2011.
- Measuring Gender Equality Initiative, workshop organized by Gender at Work and IDS Sussex, West Sussex, 19-20 May, 2011.
- Meeting of Research Advisory Group to discuss project proposal on 'Engendering Gender Statistics: An analysis of gender differentiated statistics in India', V.V.Giri National Labour Institute, Noida, June 3, 2011.
- "Revisiting Education for All", Dissemination workshop, ISST with CORD and USNPSS, Almora, June 16, 2011.
- Panelist, Workshop on Varieties of rural governance and Varieties of outcomes, NCAER, New Delhi, July 14, 2011.
- Pathways closing conference "Re-visioning Women's Empowerment: New Horizons", BDI, Dhaka, July 26-8, 2011.
- Trustees Meeting, NFI, New Delhi, August 4, 2011.
- Governing Body meeting, UKSN, Delhi August 7, 2011.
- Consultation with think tanks on Gender Issues, Finance Ministry, September 1, 2011.
- IHD-UNICEF Workshop Sept 3, 2011.
- Consultation on Pooling Knowledge on Gender and Planning, Planning Commission and UN Women, New Delhi, September 6, 2011.
- Attended SARO seminar by Hallie Preskill, Executive Director, Strategic Learning and Evaluation, Seattle, WA, on "Increasing the Value of Evaluation: A Three-Part Conversation", September 9, 2011
- CWDS AGM, New Delhi, September 17, 2011.
- Meeting organized by Anusuya Trust, Ahmedabad, September 23, 2011.

Reports / Publications

Books/Reports/Working papers:

- Institute of Social Studies Trust (2011) ***Evaluation of PROSVIL Project, Year 1 (2010 – 2011)***, Report submitted to SEWA Academy.
- Institute of Social Studies Trust (2011) ***Evaluation of the STEP Project: Goat Rearing Programme of UNECCS Bageshwar, Uttarakhand*** (Phase –I),

Report submitted to the Ministry of women and Child Development, Govt. of India.

- Anuradha De, Reetika Khera, Meera Samson, A.K. Shiva Kumar (2011) *Probe*

Revisited: A Report on Elementary Education in India, published by Oxford University Press, Delhi.

Staff News



Rina Bhattacharya
(23 December 1959 - 8 July 2011)

ISST has lost one of its old associate, **Dr. Rina Bhattacharya** on 8th of July 2011. Dr. Bhattacharya joined ISST in 1987 as a Senior Research Associate. Since 2007, she had been working as a Research Fellow with ISST. At ISST, she carried out a range of studies. Her area of focus was women, work and poverty. Her skills included both quantitative

techniques and qualitative methods. Since 2006, she took the responsibility of following the progress of the MGNERA programme, especially in Rajasthan. She was working closely with SEWA Academy over past one year. Apart from research, she gave oversight to the library, and kept in touch with much of ISST's informal network.

Other News:

- **Shalini Rani** joined ISST as a Research Associate in August 2011.
- **Gudrun Cecilie Eikemo Helland** joined ISST as an intern as part of her Masters degree in South Asian studies from the University of Oslo in July, 2011.
- **Prerna Dani**, Jamia Milia Islamia University worked as an Intern from June to August, 2011.
- **Nivedita Ghosh**, Amity University worked as an Intern from June to August, 2011.
- **Nandini Biswas**, Gujarat National Law University, Gandhinagar worked as an Intern in June, 2011.
- **Neha Nayyar** of Lady Sri Ram College for Women worked as an Intern from June to July, 2011.
- **Rhea Rana**, Hans Raj College, Delhi, worked as an Intern from July to August, 2011.
- **Shruti Gandhi** from Indira Gandhi Institute of Technology, Delhi worked as an Intern in July-Aug., 2011.
- **Kriti Singh**, Guru Govind Singh Indraprastha University, Delhi worked as an Intern in July-Aug., 2011.
- **Meenakshi Kaushik**, Delhi worked in the Project "*Documentation/Process Evaluation of Implementation Experience of GRCs in North-West District, Delhi*".

Edited by Rajib Nandi

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



Institute of Social Studies Trust

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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.

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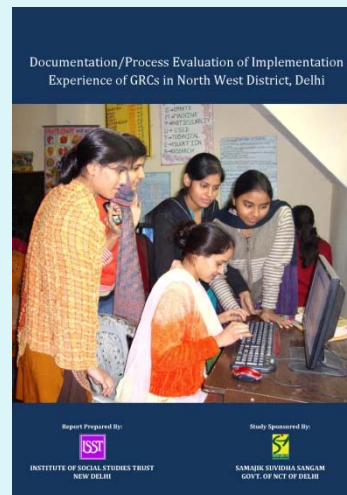
Completed Programmes

Documentation/Process Evaluation of Implementation Experience of GRCs in North-West District, Delhi

ISST has recently completed a study on Gender Resource Centres in North-West Delhi, sponsored by Samajik Suvidha Sangam, Govt. of NCT of Delhi. The study primarily tries to assess the ways in which the GRC services are accessed and participated by the target communities in the North-West district of Delhi.

The study includes both user households - who access GRC services and non-user households - who do not access the GRC services. It had been decided in a meeting with the SSS, that the study would select 10 GRCs from the district and cover 80 per cent of the user households and 20 per cent of the non-user households.

The study is primarily based on a household level questionnaire survey. However, FGDs and in-depth interviews have also been



conducted with the communities and GRC office bearers at selected locations. ISST developed the questionnaire, and conducted a survey in the selected GRCs. The GRCs and the households were selected on the basis of a stratified

random sampling. The survey has covered a total of 820 households in the district covering 10 GRCs, as proposed. The key findings from the report were presented in Samajik Suvidha Sangam on 14 December, 2011. The final report has been submitted to the Mission Convergence.



Ongoing Programmes

Engendering Policy through Evaluation

It is widely discussed that gender gaps continue to persist in education, health, work, participation and decision making in India despite substantial progress over the years. The conviction that a feminist and equity lens in programme and project evaluation can help in reducing gender gaps and inequalities stemming from caste/location/occupation, by enabling more appropriate programme design.



Feminist approaches towards evaluation seek to unpack the nature of gender and social inequalities and further see evaluation as a political activity, not a value-free assessment, and use it as part of the change process. A recent workshop organized by ISST brought together a group of feminist/gender sensitive equality advocates who, as social science researchers, have carried out evaluations and had not had the opportunity to reflect on the

role of those evaluations within their larger research agendas. The works brought out issues that evaluation has been able to shift policy perspectives through re-design of the programmes and more importantly through systems change. The present project is thus situated in a context where there is first, an increasing demand for transparency and accountability from programme managers, including the government; second, increasing interest in evaluation but equally recognition of gaps in capacity, and third, the presence of a group of feminist social science researchers who have also engaged with evaluation. A proposed website to be developed under this project would bring together information on gender and evaluation with focus on India/South Asia.

The overall objectives of the project would be strengthening the understanding of the gendered implications of policies and programmes and enabling formulation of gender sensitive approaches, in evaluating selected key issues in areas such as informality, governance, youth, sexuality, reproductive health and rights. ISST organized the first workshop of the project in New Delhi on 15 -16 December, 2011.

The project is supported by International Development Research Centre, Canada (IDRC) and Ford Foundation.

GNCTD-UNDP Pilot Project on Cash Transfer in lieu of PDS Ration in Sangam Vihar and Jahangirpuri, Delhi

ISST has become a part of the new pilot project on cash transfer in lieu of PDS ration to be carried out in Sangam Vihar and Jahangirpuri, Delhi. The Government of NCT of Delhi-UNDP Project "Innovation Support for Social Protection" has recently launched this pilot project. The action-research pilots will be implemented by Development Facilitators in

Sangam Vihar and Swami Sivanand Memorial Institute in Jahangirpuri. However, ISST will provide the research support to these pilots. ISST would be helping in designing the research methodologies, preparing the questionnaires, and training the surveyors. ISST also would be primarily responsible for the analysis of the data collected through

baseline, midline and end line surveys and present reports on the pilot.

ISST has already proposed to organize an action research design workshop on 18 January, 2012 to discuss the sampling design, questionnaire for the baseline survey and

logical framework. The participants will include the pilot project implementing agencies, concerned officials of the government, UNDP, relevant Gender Resource Centres of the Mission Convergence programme of GNCTD and statistical and technical experts.

Study on Informal Employment and Competition: Street Vendors

The street vending is an important segment of the informal economy in India. The national policy on street vendors 2004 recognizes that street vending is a source of employment for 2 per cent population of the city, as well as a way of providing 'affordable' services. On the other hand, street vendors continue to face a number of problems in getting license, and a position in the market. ISST would be preparing a discussion paper on "street vendors and competition" and hold a workshop

with activists and academics to review analysis of definitions of competition and the economics of street vending. The study would examine whether, and if so the ways in which, fair competition, as defined in the Competition Act, is being infringed in the street vending sector. This would enable subsequent formulation of regulatory recommendations. The study is being sponsored by Women in Informal Employment: Globalizing and Organizing (WIEGO).

Addressing Domestic Violence in Delhi: Filling the Gap between Intent and Outcomes

This study was undertaken by ISST to understand more closely the ways in which violence against women manifests itself and its numerous implications. As the ISST Community Centre in Kalyanpuri has considerable experience in counseling women victims of violence in the area where they work, this motivated ISST to take on a field study which would help uncover the nuances of actual policy outcomes.

However in the field study area, interviews were conducted with all stakeholders including women, men, girls and boys from the community, police, NGOs, legal counselors, and other duty bearers, to get a holistic picture of the extent to which the security offered through the PWDVA translates into effective protection, the inadequacies of infrastructure and implementation, and other factors.

At the end a clear message emerges from the study, i.e. that while better implementation of the PWDVA will help, there is a need to invest in community-building efforts that encourage

women to develop a stronger sense of self-esteem; and using both formal spaces such as schools and informal spaces closer to home to facilitate attitudinal change among men and the youth, is a necessary complement to these efforts. ISST presented the key findings and the recommendations in a dissemination seminar on 28 November, 2011. The final report would be submitted soon to sponsor (The Asia Foundation).



Facilitating Women in Endemic Poverty Regions of India to Access, Actualize and Sustain Provisions on Women Empowerment

ISST has been commissioned to conduct a baseline, midline and end line that would capture the change in gendered practices and attitudes in the four areas of politics, economics, programme implementation, and patriarchy by PRADHAN and Jagori, who had received a grant from the 'UN Trust Fund to prevent Violence Against Women. The work is spread over four states (Madhya Pradesh, Orissa, Jharkhand and West Bengal) and nine districts with rural communities. The project has the special focus of making women aware of their rights, sensitive to discrimination, and able to challenge patriarchal norms and practices. As such while the progress of their normal activities would be monitored in established formats, ISST has been commissioned to carry out the above study.

The baseline study is being conducted in sample villages where the project is being implemented. ISST's involvement in the baseline has been to develop a design that includes sample selection, draft questionnaires, FGD guidelines, and an

analysis plan. In addition to that, ISST is responsible for data analysis and writing of the baseline report. The methodology proposed for the study is a survey for quantifiable information with a sample of SHGs in each of the 9 districts where the project is being implemented. Stratified random sampling was used to select the sample villages. The questionnaire is designed to give an indication of the levels of awareness, attitudes, behaviour etc through a ranking. Training for the survey was organized in all the project districts with teams from all project blocks.

The qualitative information is being collected through FGDs with a smaller sample of SHGs. FGDs are also conducted to complement the information, which had been collected from the survey. Separate training was organized for conducting FGDs for research on sensitive issues. Village level secondary data has been collected for the baseline. Duty bearers with government departments are also being interviewed.

Assessment Impact of PROSVIL institutional grant (SEWA Academy)

The Institute of Social Studies Trust (ISST) has been entrusted to carry out a concurrent evaluation of the various training activities carried out by SEWA under the PROSVIL project. The impact assessment study intends to assess and evaluate the activities in a participatory manner with an aim to strengthening and improving the quality of the activities. The first year of evaluation has been carried out through a three stage process. The

first two is largely based on responses of trainers. The third stage is direct evaluation carried out by ISST using focus group discussions with a sample of trainees, discussions with SEWA Academy team, and direct observation through field visits to some of the training venues. After the completion of the first phase, the second phase of the project has begun.

Outreach Programme of ISST

Action and Research Programme with Women Domestic Workers

The programme with the women domestic workers supported by Sir Dorabji Tata Trust, Mumbai started in April 2011. The programme had conducted a survey to identify domestic workers and community meetings were

conducted subsequently to gather insights to start interventions. Appropriate intervention programmes would be designed based on the findings from those interactions. The current programme would likely to identify and

address the problems of women domestic workers, their children and households, in and around Kalyanpuri. ISST has already set up child care and youth resource centres and linked the children of the domestic workers to those programme to support them through crucial years of their development. ISST will also play a coordinating role in pulling together the experiences of a group of

organizations across the country who work with domestic workers, by convening annual workshops and documenting the various experiences. In October 2011, ISST organized a two-day workshop with the organizations, who have been working on the issues of domestic workers in different parts of the country to share experiences and exchange ideas.

Adolescent Resource Centre

ISST has been working with a few slum communities of east Delhi for a decade now. ISST's outreach programmes are coordinated from ISST Saathi Centre located at Kalyanpuri.



The programme intends to empower the youth through information, education and dialogue

and reaches out to them in a variety of innovative and interactive ways like book reading and library, discussion groups, workshops, theatre groups, film club non-formal education etc. The Saathi centre of ISST also runs a programme named 'bachpan' for the children below six years of age. The children who visit the Saathi Centre are provided with nutritious food twice a week. The children's group named 'Bal Manch' organizes cultural programmes. There is theatre group named 'Nakshatra' run by the adolescent boys and girls from the community. Nakshatra works around the social issues and demonstrates the social evils through easy acts to the community. Part of the activities of this resource centre is now sponsored by the Australian High Commission, New Delhi.

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 ISST on successfully completion of the course. In last couple of years, a number of students completed those courses. At present 70-75 students, both boys and girls are enrolled for these courses.



Gender Resource Centre

GRC-Suvidha Kendra of ISST is two years old now. In last few months, the centre has become busy in enrolling community members for the UID numbers. The health clinics run by the centre is attended by a good number of

people across age groups. ISST also had organized health camps 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. The SHG mobiliser from ISST GRC facilitated the community members in forming SHG groups. Three such groups are already affiliated to nationalized banks. This scheme is taking on slowly but steadily. The help-desk of ISST GRC centre helps a number of people in filling in the forms and attaching relevant documents to obtain ration cards, caste certificates and birth certificates.

Workshops /Seminars Organized by ISST

- **SDTT Partners' Workshop on Domestic Workers**, India Habitat Centre, New Delhi, 13 – 14 October 2011. (supported by Sir Dorabji Tata Trust, Mumbai)



- **Workshop on "Addressing Domestic Violence in Delhi: Filling the Gap between Intent and Outcomes"**, India

Habitat Centre, New Delhi, 28 November 2011. (Supported by The Asia Foundation)

- **Engendering Policy through Evaluation: Uncovering Exclusion, Challenging Inequities**, India Habitat Centre, New Delhi, 15 -16 December, 2011 (supported by International Development Research Centre, Canada and The Ford Foundation)
- **ISST-IHC Gender Policy Forum** – "The Foundation of New Delhi: An Untold Story of Land Acquisition and Delhi's Heritage of Village Commons". Speaker – Prof. Minoti Chakravarty-Kaul (Founder of Rahat); Discussant – Rakhshanda Jalil (Senior Associate Fellow, Council for Social Development), India Habitat Centre, Lodhi Road on 21 October, 2011.

Workshops /Seminars Attended by ISST

Ratna M. Sudarshan

- UNDAF Validation workshop, New Delhi, October 3, 2011.
- Brainstorming session for finalizing the questionnaire of the baseline study, National Mission for Empowerment of Women, New Delhi, October 3, 2011.
- Premiere of documentary film on trade and gender, Heinrich Boll Stiftung and dev.inc, New Delhi, October 10, 2011.
- Regional Policy Seminar on Effective Public Service Delivery in Health and Education, GDN, October 12, 2011.

- Chaired a session of International conference on Gender Equity and Exclusion in South and Central Asia: Emerging Challenges', Centre for Dalit and minorities Studies, Jamia Millia islamia, New Delhi, October 17, 2011.
- District Human Development Report Awards, meeting of Technical Review Group, UNDP Delhi, October 21, 2011.
- 'Conceptualizing Inclusive Growth', organized by UNDP India and Planning Commission, Government of India, October 24-5, 2011.
- Book launch 'Inside primary schools', ASER Centre, UNICEF and UNESCO. October 28, 2011.
- Meeting of Feminist Economist Group, UN Women, 31 Oct, 1 Nov.2011.
- Meeting of expert group on girls education, NUEPA and UNICEF, November 2, 2011.
- Attended panel discussion on "Effective States, Inclusive Growth, and the Challenge of Governing India?" organized by IEG, New Delhi, Nov 3, 2011.
- Panelist at Talk on 'Gender inclusivity in safety net programmes – or gender inclusive growth?' at South Asia Regional Autumn School, Lady Shri Ram College, New Delhi, November 4, 2011.
- Unconditional Cash Transfer project, SEWA-UNICEF workshop, Wednesday 16, 2011.
- J. Bradley Cousins' seminar on Participatory Evaluation: Theory, Research and Practice, at International Development Research Centre (IDRC), November 23, 2011
- Country Programme Document 2013-2017, Validation Workshop, UNICEF, New Delhi, November 24, 2011
- Consultation on Gender Equality and Development, World Bank, New Delhi, December 2, 2011.
- National Convention on Girls Education, UNICEF and SSA, December 8-9, 2011.
- Inclusive Growth: from Policy to Reality, International Expert Meeting, IDRC and IIDS, Dec 12 -13, 2011.

Rajib Nandi

- Presented, "Gendered Barriers: A Study of Akshaya Entrepreneurs in Malapurram, Kerala" at Consultation on Policies and Schemes for Women in Micro, Small and Medium Enterprise – Reviewing Status and Identifying Policy Asks for the Twelfth Plan, organized by UN Women, Gurgaon, December 9, 2011.
- Presented, "Documentation/Process Evaluation of Implementation Experience of GRCs in North West District, Delhi", at Samajik Suvidha Sangam, Delhi on December 14, 2011.

Shubh Sharma

- Presented: Experience with a Baseline Study for the project 'Facilitating Women in Endemic Poverty Regions of India to Access, Actualize and Sustain: Provision on Women Empowerment' implemented by PRADAN under UN Women's Fund for Gender Equality at the Workshop on Engendering Policy through Evaluation, organized by ISST at India Habitat Centre, on 15-16 December, 2011.
- Girls' Education Experts' Meeting, at NUEPA on 2 November 2011.
- National Convention on Girls' Education, organized by SSA-UNICEF at India Habitat Centre, New Delhi on 8-9 December 2011.

Shalini Rani

- Presented "Addressing Domestic Violence in Delhi: Filling the Gap between Intent and Outcomes", India Habitat Centre, New Delhi, 28 November 2011.

- ILO conference on “Emerging Employment Trends: Challenges for India and Beyond during Times of Crisis and Global Uncertainties”. Silver Oak-II, India Habitat Centre, New Delhi. 16 December, 2011.

Reports / Publications

Books/Reports/Working papers:

- Institute of Social Studies Trust (2011) ***Documentation/Process Evaluation of Implementation Experience of GRCs in North West District***, Delhi, Report submitted to Samajik Suvidha Sangam, Govt. of NCT of Delhi.
- Gudrun Cecilie Eikemo Helland (2011) ***“Accessing education in India: A Case Study of Out-of-School Children in an East Delhi slum”***, Project report submitted to ISST and University of Oslo, Department of Culture Studies and Oriental Languages, as a part of an internship programme at ISST and a MA course in South Asian Studies, UiO, December, 2011.

Staff News

Other News:

- ***Gudrun Cecilie Eikemo Helland*** worked with ISST as an intern as part of her Masters degree in South Asian studies from the University of Oslo since July, 2011.
- ***Digvijay S. Rewatkar*** from Gujarat National Law University, Gandhinagar has worked as an Intern with the ISST from 15 November to 15 December, 2011.
- ***Yogita*** a student of MSW from Indira Gandhi National Open University, interned at ISST in Nov to Dec., 2011.
- ***Chetna, Anshi, Shagun and Indrani*** students of Human Development and Childhood Studies, Lady Irwin College were engaged in voluntary work with ISST Community Centre for three days, in December, 2011.

Edited by Rajib Nandi

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