



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

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

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

## Inside This Issue

Completed Programmes	1
Ongoing Programmes	2
Outreach Programmes of ISST	4
Workshops/Seminars organized by ISST	6
Workshops/Seminars attended by ISST	6
Recent Publications	8
Staff News	8

## Completed Programmes

### 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 has been submitted to the Asia Foundation in March 2012. (The Asia Foundation).



## **EVALUATION OF STEP PROJECTS: SOCIETY OF PEOPLE FOR DEVELOPMENT, DEHRADUN, UTTARAKHAND-HANDICRAFT TRADE**

ISST was requested by the Ministry of Women and Child Development to do a mid-term concurrent evaluation of the on-going STEP scheme in Handicraft (hand-made paper products) being implemented by Society of People for Development (SPD), Dehradun, Uttarakhand.

Total number of women to be trained under this 5 year STEP project are 800, out of which ISST team interviewed (through Focus Group Discussions) 116 of the 439 women so far trained. All major villages that SPD has so far mapped for its STEP training were covered for the evaluation.

*Sponsor: Ministry of Women and Child Development, Government of India*

## **ENGENDERING POLICY THROUGH THE BALLOT BOX: UNDERSTANDING THE BEHAVIOR OF WOMEN VOTERS**

ISST partnered with UN Women in organizing a one day conference on the occasion of International Women's Day, 9th March 2012, UNDP auditorium. The idea has been to identify and understand the Women voter behavior in the context of this year assembly elections, particularly in the state of Uttar Pradesh. The conference featured four experts, each of whom presented their findings against the background of the state assembly elections.

The presentations were a mix of impressionistic findings by journalists who hit the campaign trail during the forthcoming elections and analytical presentations by experts who have done work in this area.

*Sponsor: UN Women*

### **Gender Resource Centre**

ISST has been running a Gender Resource Centre at Kalyanpuri area of East Delhi since November 2009. In last one year, the centre has witnessed a lot of excitements and expectations in the community regarding various services available for them. ISST GRC covers the following services: health camp, nutrition camp, health clinic, legal counseling, Self Help Groups, non-formal education, adult literacy and conducts two vocational training courses- beauty culture and cutting and tailoring as per popular demand reflected in the survey. Young girls in the community showed a lot of interest for the vocational training. The health clinics run by the centre is attended by a good number of people across age groups. More women visit the health clinic than men. ISST also had organized a number of health camps in last one year, which was responded well followed by clinic visits. The nutrition camps were well attended too, where participants were demonstrated with cooking of health food and its importance.

Non formal education is another area, where both young girls and boys from the locality participate. Most of the children who participate in ISST-GRC's non formal education program are either school drop-outs or had never admitted to a formal school previously. A number of children joined open school after completing the program. The legal awareness program of the centre needs a boost to reach to more community members. However, the mass awareness sessions conducted previously were attended by large number of people. Till date, ISST's GRC has formed six self help groups. Three groups are already affiliated to nationalized banks.

An enrollment centre for UID was opened at ISST GRC in 2011. ISST GRC experienced lot of enthusiasm among the community members over the UID enrollment. An e-pds window was inaugurated at ISST GRC centre in March 2012.

However, at the end of March 2012, ISST decided not to continue the programme in the next financial year.

Sponsor: Samajik Suvidha Sangam, Government of NCT of Delhi.



### *Ongoing Programmes*

#### **Quality day care services for the young child: developing quality benchmarks and assessment of selected relevant models**

This project is build upon an earlier partnership between ISST and UNICEF, where the organizations collaborated to organize an international workshop titled, 'Who cares for the child? Gender and the care regime in India' on December 8-9, 2009. The present partnership (PCA), builds on the workshop recommendations, including a specific suggestion to 'undertake and highlight programme evaluations as a way to spell out relevant issues (i.e. gaps and opportunities) related to care'.

Project activities include a set of case studies to be commissioned by ISST, an annotated bibliography, a regular reading group, and design & dissemination workshops. The project got under way with the first reading group in March. Creating a space where ISST and UNICEF could interact and learn from experts and people working in the field of child care, the reading group was a coming together of new ideas and reflection on existing debates.

Sponsor: UNICEF

#### **Gender and Economic Policy Discussion Forum**

The Institute of Social Studies Trust in association with the Heinrich Böll Foundation is organising a series of five discussions under the 'Gender and Economic Policy Discussion Forum', between 1st February and 15th November 2012 in New Delhi, focusing on contemporary gender and economic policy issues.

Policy Briefs based on each discussion are expected to be useful in taking the debate forward, more particularly to provide the gendered-perspective that is missing in the debate as of now.

On 28th March 2012, the first forum entitled, "Is Micro-finance at the crossroads in India? What does it mean for women's Livelihood concerns?" was organized. Mr. Jairam Ramesh, Minister of Rural Development Drinking Water and Sanitation, Government of India delivered the key note address.

Sponsor: Heinrich Boll Foundation India

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

ISST is the research agency for a proposed 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 are implemented by Development Facilitators in Sangam Vihar and Swami Sivanand Memorial Institute in Jahangirpuri. ISST is 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. An action research design workshop was organised on 18 January, 2012 to discuss the sampling design, questionnaire for the baseline survey and logical framework. The participants in the workshop were 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. The implementing agencies have already completed a listing survey in their respective locations. A report has been prepared based on the data collected through the listing survey.

Sponsor: Mission Convergence, Government of NCT of Delhi and UNDP

### **Engendering Policy through Evaluations**

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. This project is motivated by a 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.

The overall objectives of the project are 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. Activities include capacity building, research, and an interactive website. ISST organized the first workshop of the project in New Delhi on 15 -16 December, 2011.

Sponsor: International Development Research Centre, Canada (IDRC) and Ford Foundation, New Delhi

To know more on this project please logon to [www.feministevaluation.org](http://www.feministevaluation.org) .

### **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 that would capture the current state of gendered practices and attitudes in the four areas of politics, economics, programme implementation, and patriarchy, in the area included in a project being implemented by PRADAN through a grant from the 'UN Trust Fund to prevent Violence Against Women'. The project is spread over rural areas in four states (Madhya Pradesh, Orissa, Jharkhand and West Bengal) and nine districts and has the special focus of making women aware of their rights, sensitive to discrimination, and able to challenge patriarchal norms and practices.

The baseline study used collaborative methods, with ISST being responsible for 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. 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 interviews with duty bearers, and FGDs with a smaller sample of SHGs.

Sponsor: PRADAN

### **Assessment Impact of PROSVIL institutional grant (SEWA Academy): year 2**

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 in each of the 3 years of the 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. In addition to responses of trainers, focus group discussions have been held with a sample of trainees, discussions with SEWA Academy team, and direct observation through field visits to some of the training venues.

Sponsor: SEWA Academy

### ***Outreach Programme of ISST***

#### **Women Domestic Workers Programme**

The ISST Community Centre has focused its activities on a programme for Women Domestic Workers with support from The J.R.D. and Thelma J. Tata Trust/ SDTT, Mumbai.

The programme seeks to mobilize women domestic workers in the areas in and around Kalyanpuri in East Delhi to be aware of their entitlements and help them to gain access to those. One of the key strategies used to enable this has been to link women with the GRC in the area. The team also provides counselling and support in dealing with domestic problems including violence, alcoholism etc. Effort is made to create spaces for community members to share, understand and solve their problems. An integral part of the support offered to women is to provide child care support and create a space for older children to learn and be creative. A Child Care and Youth Resource Centre is run under the Women Domestic Workers Programme of ISST.

ISST is also playing 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, all of whom are partners of the SDTT, and who have been working on the issues of domestic workers in different parts of the country, to share experiences and exchange ideas.

Supported by The J.R.D. and Thelma J. Tata Trust/ SDTT

#### **Adolescent Resource Centre: Library and Infrastructure**

Over this last year, ISST has set up a Library and a Counselling Centre for adolescents with support from Australian High Commission. At March 31, there are 53 library members and many more use the library as visitors. The library contains more than 350 books ranging from encyclopedia to fiction and academic books.

A nutrition programme for the younger children, and a much needed improvement in the infrastructure and facilities at the Community Centre has been made possible by the support of the Australian High Commission.

Donations received: John and Elaine (check name!) Butcher

Additional activities at the community centre have been supported through individual donations received last year

### ***Workshops /Seminars Organized by ISST***

- *Celebration of International Women's Day: A Discussion on Engendering the Ballot Box – Understanding the Voting Behaviour of Women in 2012 Assembly Elections, India. Organised by ISST in association with United Nation's Information Centre and UN Women, UN Conference Hall, Lodhi Estate, New Delhi on March 9, 2012.*
- *Gender and Economic Policy Forum: Is Micro-Finance at the Crossroads in India? What does it mean for Women's Livelihood concerns?, organised by ISST in association with Heinrich Böll Foundation, India Habitat Centre, New Delhi on 28 March, 2012.*

## *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.
- Institute of Social Studies Trust (2012) ***“Addressing Domestic Violence in Delhi: Filling the Gap between Intent and Outcomes”***, Report submitted to The Asia Foundation, New Delhi
- Institute of Social Studies Trust (2012) ***“Evaluation of STEP projects: Society of People for Development, Dehradun, Uttarakhand – Handicraft Trade***, Report submitted to the Ministry of women and Child Development, Govt. of India.

## *Staff News*

- **Mythili Bhusnurmath** has taken over as Director of ISST on January 2, 2012.
- **Ratna Sudarshan** completed her tenure as Director of ISST on 1 January 2012.
- **Gurpreet Singh** joined ISST as a Consultant in January 2012.
- **Gurpreet Kaur** joined ISST as a Consultant in February 2012.

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*Edited by Rajib Nandi*

*Send your comments and suggestions to [rajibnandi@isst-india.org](mailto:rajibnandi@isst-india.org)*



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## Inside This Issue

Completed Programmes	1
Ongoing Programmes	3
Ongoing outreach Programmes	6
Workshops/Seminars organized by ISST	7
Reports/Publications	7
Staff News	8

## Completed Programmes

### **Pilot Project on Cash Transfer in lieu of PDS Ration in Sangam Vihar and Jahangirpuri, Delhi ( December 2011- June 2012)**

ISST briefly acted as the research agency for a pilot project on cash transfer in lieu of PDS ration in the areas of Sangam Vihar and Jahangirpuri, Delhi. This was being carried out as part of the project "Innovation Support for Social Protection", launched by the government of NCT of Delhi and UNDP and was later discontinued.

The action-research pilots were being implemented by Development Facilitators in Sangam Vihar and the Swami Sivanand Memorial Institute in Jahangirpuri. ISST was facilitating the project by helping with designing the research methodologies, preparing the questionnaires, and training the surveyors and was also expected to be responsible for the analysis of the data collected through baseline, midline and end line surveys and presentation of reports on the pilot. An action research design workshop was organised on 18 January, 2012 to discuss the sampling design, questionnaire for the baseline survey and logical framework. This was attended by implementing agencies, concerned officials of the government, UNDP, relevant Gender Resource Centres of the Mission Convergence programme of GNCTD and statistical and technical experts. **Following this, a listing survey was carried out by the implementing organizations. Before the project was discontinued, ISST had prepared a short report based on the listing data, for further actions to be taken by the government and the implementing organizations.**

Sponsor: Mission Convergence, Government of NCT of Delhi and UNDP

### **Facilitating Women in Endemic Poverty Regions of India to Access, Actualize and Sustain Provisions on Women Empowerment (June 2011- August 2012)**

ISST was commissioned to develop a baseline for a project supported by the UN Women's Fund for Gender Equality, being implemented by PRADAN. This study covered all the nine project districts spread across the states of Madhya Pradesh, Jharkhand, Orissa and West Bengal. The

overall goal of this project was to enable rural women from marginalized communities and their collectives to raise their voice against violations and access their political and economic rights (as mandated under Central and State government) by 2020. Thus, the baseline study was carried out with the primary objective of developing in depth information regarding the existing level of women's awareness of their social, economic and political rights and facilitating PRADAN with a framework for planning detailed and location specific interventions.

The study involved the use of collaborative methods with ISST being responsible for sample selection, development of questionnaires, FGD guidelines, an analysis plan and finally, data analysis and baseline report writing. The questionnaires included ranking scales and were designed to give an indication of the women's levels of awareness and their attitudes and behaviors. The sample was selected through stratified random sampling and training for the survey was organized in all the project districts with teams from all the project blocks. Qualitative information was also gathered through in depth interviews with duty bearers and FGDs with a smaller sample of SHGs. As intended in the project, this data was collected along four dimensions:

- women's political empowerment;
- women's economic empowerment;
- women's enhanced understanding of patriarchy and gender discrimination;
- mainstreaming learning and influencing the duty bearers to be more accountable.

The study concluded with several recommendations based on the profile of the respondents. These were aimed at improving their level of political, social and economic empowerment and access to entitlements.

Sponsor: PRADAN

### **Evaluating the Voice Message Service of IFFCO Kisan Sanchar Limited (IKSL) in Punjab and Rajasthan: Understanding the impact and need of the rural community (June 2012 – September 2012).**

IKSL is IFFCO's telecommunication programme, being operated as part of Airtel's free value added service, disseminating information regarding agricultural and non-agricultural issues, It aims at improving livelihood opportunities of the rural community through a daily mobile voice message service.

The primary purpose of the evaluation was to provide IKSL executives and partner organizations with useful information, analysis and recommendations, for effective implementation of the programme, hereafter. This evaluative study provides the stakeholders with an opportunity to present their perceptions and assessments of the IKSL programme. It examined the programme at the household level and brought out household well-being as a major outcome of the IKSL programme. A comprehensive perspective of the programme's relevance, effectiveness, effectiveness, impact and sustainability (as per the framework of evaluation) was developed with the help of several sources. Readily available support of IKSL regional staff members at the state and district level facilitated the process of primary data collection in rural Punjab and Rajasthan and the study benefitted greatly from discussions with the IKSL duty bearers responsible for implementing mobile service programme. Respondents who took out time to participate in the Focus Group Discussions also provided information that was crucial for the successful conduction of the evaluation.

Sponsor: Indian Farmers Fertilizer Cooperative Limited



## **A Study on the Gender Wage Gap in India (June 2012-August 2012)**

This study used 2009-10 NSS data and was a preliminary analysis of the extent and dimensions of gender pay gap in India. Its specific objectives were to provide an overview of the existing nature, dimensions and causes of the gender pay gap in India.

Through a brief review of the recent literature on the gender pay gap in India, it was confirmed that a significant gap between the wages of male and female workers existed across different regions and sectors in India. However, this analysis was limited in terms of its focus on the extent of gap in wages across sectors over time and therefore, a shortage of literature delving into the nature and causes of gender bias and discrimination (at the micro level) contributing to the wage gap, was observed.

In this context, to carry out a detailed analysis, this study selected 13 occupations and also looked at NSSO 66<sup>th</sup> round data. For the purpose of analysis, the study categorized the occupations into the following three broad groups; (i) occupations with more or less equal participations by both the genders, (ii) occupations which are female dominated as far as participation is concerned in terms of numbers, (iii) occupations that are clearly dominated by the male workers, as far as participation of workers is concerned. The analysis of the secondary data also provided crucial information on the dimensions of the gender pay gap in each of these selected occupations.

Sponsor: The International Labour Organization, India

### *Ongoing Programmes*

#### **Quality day care services for the young child: Developing quality benchmarks and assessment of selected relevant models (March 2012- June 2013)**

This project built upon an earlier partnership between ISST and UNICEF, where the organizations had collaborated to organize an international workshop titled, '*Who cares for the child? Gender and the care regime in India*' on December 8-9, 2009. The present partnership (PCA), builds on the workshop recommendations, including a specific suggestion to 'undertake and highlight programme evaluations as a way to spell out relevant issues (i.e. gaps and opportunities) related to care'.

Project activities include conduction of case studies commissioned by ISST, an annotated bibliography, organization of a regular reading group, and design & dissemination workshops. The first reading group under this project was organized in March 2012 and served as an invigorating space for representatives from ISST and UNICEF to interact and learn from experts and people working in the field of child care. Thus, this reading group facilitated a coming together of ideas as well as engagement with existing debates.

Sponsor: UNICEF

#### **Gender and Economic Policy Discussion Forum (February 2012-October 2013)**

The Gender and Economic Policy discussion forums organized by the Institute of Social Studies Trust in association with Heinrich Böll Stiftung aim to contribute to a process through which public discourse on economic policy is made more sensitive to gender concerns. Policy discourse is deeply rooted in economic analysis. Most often, gender does not appear as an integral aspect of economic

analysis; at best, it is seen as a 'second order' effect. It is often assumed that as the economy develops the gender gaps in health status, education, and capabilities in general, will be eliminated. In fact, however, there is ample evidence to show that while gender gaps may come down, gender biases do not go away with economic prosperity; and equally, poverty is not the cause of gender bias.

The Gender for Economic Policy Discussion Forums, thus, provide an opportunity to discuss and critique economic policy from a gender lens, and provide an opportunity for interaction between economists, policy makers and gender advocates in a structured manner. By bringing together people with different perspectives, background, and experience, the project expects to shift public discourse around selected key economic policy issues in the direction of gender sensitivity, to create space for dialogue between the concerned theorists, policy makers and practitioners, and to be reflected in the work of individuals who participate in the forums.

These forums are organized once in four months ( at the India Habitat Centre or other venues in Delhi) and the details of the forums organized between April- December 2012 are listed below:

GEP 2 - Empowering Women through Skill development - Challenges and Opportunities

GEP 3 – Women Farmer's Entitlement Bill 2011: Understanding the Changing Needs of Agriculture Economy

GEP 4 – Engendering the Government's Flagship Programmes: Looking at the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) and the Total Sanitation Campaign (TSC)

GEP 5 – Engendering Social Protection for Informal Economy Workers

Thus, the focus of these forums has been on contemporary issues and audience from related fields is invited to participate and contribute to dynamic discussions. A special effort is made to reach out to students and university faculty.

Sponsor: Heinrich Boll Foundation India

### **Engendering Policy through Evaluations (October 2011- September 2014)**

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. This project is motivated by a 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. The overall objectives of the project are 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.

Activities that continue to be conducted under this project include capacity building workshops, participation in other conferences or training events and a project website which disseminates resources on theory and practice, links to other sites, updates on evaluation seminars and conferences, has also been developed. The project also has provision to support, through small grants, reflections on/analysis of completed evaluations, suggested frameworks for new ones – which link with existing evaluation theory. Furthermore, to facilitate discussion and exchange on gender and evaluation, an

online community has been established and serves as an important space for professionals interested in gender sensitive approaches to evaluation, to converge and learn from each other.

To know more on this project please visit the following links:

[www.feministevaluation.org](http://www.feministevaluation.org)

<http://gendereval.ning.com/>

Sponsor: IDRC, Canada and Ford Foundation

### **Concurrent Evaluation of Project 'Increasing Grassroots Women's Leadership, Capacity and Awareness for Better Action and Rights' Year 2(2011-2012)**

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. This impact assessment study will be carried out in each of the three years of the project and intends to assess and evaluate the activities in a participatory manner - with the aim of strengthening and improving their quality. It has been designed in consultation with members of the SEWA team and ISST drew upon ideas based on the 'outcome mapping' approach to develop a better understanding of the key issues arising in evaluation and to focus the evaluation questions accordingly. Apart from attaining the responses of the trainers, focus group discussions have been held with a sample of trainees and members of SEWA Academy team as well. Direct observations through field visits to some of the training venues were also carried out.

On the whole, the study has tried to be inclusive and captures the views and perceptions of all persons involved in the training process.

Sponsor: SEWA Academy

### **Learning from STEP Evaluations: How Best to Strengthen Skills ( October 2012-March 2013)**

STEP programme was started in 1986 after the National Commission for Self Employed Women and Women in the informal sector carried out a situational review of women workers in the informal sector and made suggestions for introducing protective measures that could guarantee employment and income generation, minimum wages, welfare and support services, training and upgradation of skills. These projects were subsequently evaluated and ISST has been commissioned by the Ministry of Women and Child Development to carry out a 'meta-evaluation' of the already evaluated STEP projects. A framework, conceived as a formative evaluation, has been developed by ISST and uses a synthesis method to analyze the implications for the STEP programme design and implementation. The synthesis framework uses the OECD DAC criteria for evaluations and covers questions under the different heads of Relevance, Effectiveness, Efficiency and Sustainability. Also, specific questions on research process and use, not necessarily covered by the DAC criteria are also included.

This exercise aims to develop a better understanding of the recurring themes in these evaluations, the implications for programme design and development and also to develop a framework for evaluation that uses a gender and equity lens. It is hoped that this study will help the Ministry to develop a more comprehensive design for future evaluations of STEP projects.

Sponsor: Ministry of Women and Child Development

### **Current Status of Women in Karnataka –a Monograph (April 2011- March 2013)**

This project is being carried out by ISST in collaboration with the Institute of Social and Economic Change, Bangalore and aims at developing a monograph on the status of women in Karnataka for the Planning Department, Government of Karnataka. The main objective of this study is to take stock of the current status of women, covering a range of dimensions through a historical and analytical framework. This monograph is necessitated by the lack of a consolidated and holistic policy document providing a comprehensive picture of women's status in Karnataka. Some of the dimensions that will be covered in the monograph are as following:

- Political Participation
- Gender and Violence
- Women and Civil Society
- Gender Budgeting
- Institutional Mechanisms, Processes and Policies for the improvement of the status of women in Karnataka

Sponsor: The Karnataka State Planning Board, Government of Karnataka

## ***Ongoing Outreach Programme***

### **Women Domestic Workers Programme**

The ISST Community Centre has been successfully focusing its activities on a programme for Women Domestic Workers with support from The J.R.D. and Thelma J. Tata Trust/ SDTT, Mumbai.

This programme aims at mobilizing women domestic workers in the areas in and around Kalyanpuri in East Delhi. It aims to make them aware of and gain access to their entitlements.

An important way by which this is done is by linking women with the Gender Resource Centre in the area. The team also provides counseling support in dealing with domestic problems like violence, alcoholism etc. and a *Child Care and Youth Resource Centre* is also being run under this. It forms an integral part of the support services being provided and includes child care services as well as a space for older children to learn and explore their creativity. The programme reflects a consistent effort to create spaces for community members to share, understand and solve their problems.

Apart from this, ISST is also playing a coordinating role by bringing together the experiences of a group of organizations across the country who work with domestic workers. It has been involved in convening annual workshops and documenting their experiences. In October 2011, ISST organized a two-day workshop with the organizations, all of whom are partners of the SDTT, and who have been working on the issues of domestic workers in different parts of the country. This

workshop served as a space for them to come together and share experiences and exchange ideas.

Supported by: The J.R.D. and Thelma J. Tata Trust/ SDTT

### **Adolescent Resource Centre: Library and Infrastructure**

Over this last year, with support from the Australian High Commission, ISST has set up a Library and Counseling Centre for adolescents. By March 31, there were 53 library members with visitors and many more use the library as visitors. The library contains more than 350 books that cover a range of genres and fields. These include fiction, encyclopedias and academic texts.

A nutrition programme for the younger children and a much needed improvement in the infrastructure and facilities at the Community Centre has been made possible by the support of the Australian High Commission.

ISST is grateful to John and Elaine Butcher for their donations to the centre. Additional activities at the community centre have also been supported through individual donations received last year.

### ***Workshops /Seminars Organized by ISST***

- Gender and Economic Policy Forum: *Is Micro-Finance at the Crossroads in India? What does it mean for Women's Livelihood concerns?*, organized by ISST in association with Heinrich Böll Foundation, India Habitat Centre, New Delhi on 28 March, 2012.
- Engendering Policy through Evaluation: Uncovering exclusion, challenging inequities' Second and third workshop organized by ISST in association with IDRC, Canada and Ford Foundation in New Delhi (May 2-4 2012) and Hyderabad (September 20-22 2012) respectively.

### ***Reports / Publications***

#### **Books/Reports/Working papers:**

- Institute of Social Studies Trust(2012)**CONCURRENT EVALUATION ON PROJECT 'Increasing Grassroots Women's Leadership, Capacity and Awareness for Better Action and Rights'** Report on Year 2 submitted to SEWA Academy
- Institute of Social Studies Trust (2012) **Evaluating the Voice Message Service of IFFCO Kisan Sanchar Limited (IKSL) in Punjab and Rajasthan: Understanding the impact and need of the rural community**, Report submitted to IFFCO Kisan Sanchar Limited (IKSL)
- Institute of Social Studies Trust(2012)**A study on the Gender Wage Gap in India**, Report submitted to the International Labour Organization, New Delhi

- Institute of Social Studies Trust(2012)*Facilitating Women in Endemic Poverty Regions of India to Access, Actualize and Sustain Provisions on Women Empowerment*, Report submitted to Pradan, New Delhi

### Staff News

- **Mythili Bhusnurmath**, Director, resigned in June 2012.
- **Geeta Bansal**, served as Associate Director between April and June 2012.
- **Gurpreet Singh**, Research Consultant, completed his tenure and resigned in December 2012.
- **Shubh Sharma**, Research Associate, completed her tenure and resigned in December 2012.
- **Deepa Mehra**, Programme Manager, resigned in December 2012.
- **Shalini Rani**, Research Consultant, completed her tenure and resigned in December 2012.
- **Shraddha Chiragetri** joined as Research Fellow in December 2012
- **Gurpreet Kaur**, Research Associate, completed her tenure and resigned in December 2012.

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*Edited by Rajib Nandi*

*Send your comments and suggestions to [rajibnandi@isst-india.org](mailto:rajibnandi@isst-india.org)*



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