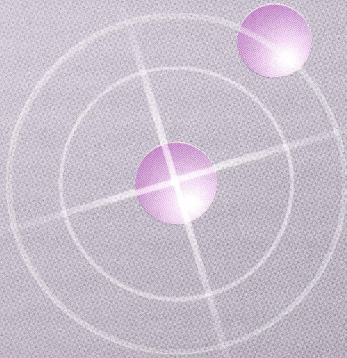




ANNUAL REPORT 2003-2004

GENDER ADVOCACY COMMUNITY OUTREACH ICT POVERTY PUBLIC
PUBLIC ACCOUNTABILITY POVERTY DEVELOPMENT INFORMAL SECTOR
WATER & SANITATION CALL CENTER POVERTY ICT DEVELOPMENT WA
INFORMAL SECTOR DEVELOPMENT GENDER ADVOCACY GENDER ICT AD
COMMUNITY OUTREACH DEVELOPMENT PUBLIC ACCOUNTABILITY POV
ADVOCACY COMMUNITY OUTREACH ICT POVERTY INFORMAL GENDE
ACCOUNTABILITY GENDER POVERTY DEVELOPMENT INFORMAL SECTOR
SECTOR POVERTY ICT DEVELOPMENT GENDER ADVOCACY GENDER IC



Institute of Social Studies Trust

ANNUAL REPORT 2003-2004



INSTITUTE OF SOCIAL STUDIES TRUST

The Institute of Social Studies Trust (ISST), a non-profit, non-governmental organisation, was set up in 1964 as a Society and was registered as a Trust in 1980. ISST is dedicated to conducting research and action programmes to promote social justice and equity for the underprivileged with a focus on women. In recognition of its work, ISST has been conferred NGO Consultative Status (II) by the United Nations. ISST attempts to bridge the gaps between research, action and policy debate, believing that academic research can provide valuable inputs into grassroots activism and policy debate, but equally that activist experience and policy concerns need to influence the directions of research. ISST, thus, positions itself at the interface between research, action and policy. The main office of ISST is located at the India Habitat Centre at New Delhi. ISST has a Community Centre in East Delhi and a Branch Office in Bangalore.

From the Director's Desk



It has been a privilege and an honour for me to follow in the footsteps of women like Devaki Jain (Director 1980-1994) and Swapna Mukhopadhyay (Director 1994-2003). The origins of ISST lie in the ferment and the passion of the mid-70s and the birth of the women's movement in India. Over the last decade, ISST has consolidated its academic strengths and also increased its activities through its community outreach programme. While some of these activities have come to a close, others have grown and flourished.

Most of our research work in the last year has been concentrated in three broad areas and we expect these will continue to engage us over the next two years as well. The first of these focus areas is *gender and economic reform* and this year saw the beginning of the third phase of the *Gender Network* supported by the International Development Research Centre, Canada. ISST is coordinating the network in South and South East Asia, under the leadership of Dr. Swapna Mukhopadhyay. A second activity undertaken in this area was a small study on women in call centers in Delhi and Bangalore, conducted by ISST staff in the two cities.

The next area of interest is *gender, governance and habitat* and under this a project on *Ensuring Public Accountability through Community Action* was started in August 2003. This project is an attempt to facilitate gender sensitive governance in Delhi slums and is being supported by the IDRC, Canada. A short study was undertaken to document *Voices of Women on Water and Sanitation* for the Vikram Sarabhai Foundation as part of this broad focus area. The third major area of research is *gender and work* and under this an impact assessment study was done for the International Labour Office, New Delhi. This study entitled *Decent Employment for Women in India* was undertaken in both Delhi and Bangalore.

As part of its research programme ISST has also carried out a study on *Chronic Poverty and Gendered Patterns of Intra Household Discrimination*, based on data from the East Delhi slums, for the Indian Institute of Public Administration/Chronic Poverty Research Centre.



While research remains at the core of ISST's work, its activities and interventions have gone from strength to strength. The activities of the Community Outreach programme now include computer classes for children from low income groups, in a project with the Habitat Learning Centre of the IHC. Activities and challenges faced by our field staff are given in the report. Research and action have been integrally linked in most of our projects.

ISST was invited to join the Development Gateway Gender and Development page as a Guide, and this activity has increased our own awareness of international events and views while allowing us to strengthen contributions from the developing world.

We took an important decision last year to transfer a part of our library resources to the India Habitat Centre Library, retaining only a portion of these resources at our Delhi office. This decision was prompted both by a shortage of space and the hope that the new location would make this excellent collection available to a wider range of users. Our collaboration with the India Habitat Centre has had other dimensions too: we have jointly organized two Gender Policy Forums over the last year.

ISST has had special consultative status with UN ECOSOC between 1986 and 1993, and since 1998. Our representative, Suchitra Mohan, attended the deliberations of the Committee on the Status of Women in New York in March 2004. We are pleased to welcome two new representatives, Sunanda Krishnamurthy in Geneva, and Dr Jaskiran Mathur in New York and look forward to their insights and contributions.

ISST Newsletter, *Samachar Patrika* and *Uma Prachar* in Hindi and English, are being published regularly and distributed widely within a network of interested NGOs. A new initiative started this year is a quarterly newsletter in English, which is being made available through e-mail and our website, to provide up-to-date information on our various activities. Considerable effort has been put in by ISST staff in revamping the website and keeping it updated.

To conclude, several of the initiatives started this year are expected to carry into the next year. We hope to strengthen our activities in Bangalore, and to further consolidate the links between our research and outreach programmes. The year 2005 sees the completion of the first 25 years of the institution and we look forward to celebrating ISST's silver jubilee. As always, we remain grateful to our sponsors, well wishers and advisors whose support is critical for the various programmes and projects undertaken by ISST.

Ratna M. Sudarshan

ISST Research Projects (April 2003-March 2004)

Project Title	Sponsoring Agency	Month/Year of Commencement	Status
A Regional Gender Network in South and South East Asia (Phase III)	International Development Research Centre (IDRC), Canada	January 2004	On going
Ensuring Public Accountability through Community Action	International Development Research Centre (IDRC), Canada	August 2003	On going
Development Gateway	Development Gateway Foundation	March 2004	On going
Chronic Poverty and Gendered Patterns of Intra-household Resource Allocation	Indian Institute of Public Administration (IIPA)	August 2003	Completed
Decent Employment for Women: Learning and Recommendations from the Pilot Project	ILO, New Delhi	December 2003	Completed

ONGOING AND COMPLETED PROJECTS AT ISST — 2003-2004

1. Gender Network – Phase III

The **MIMAP-Gender Network** comprises a group of researchers investigating the impact of economic reforms from a gender perspective. Started in October 1998, the first two phases of the project are now complete. The Network is now in its third phase. For country specific micro level analysis, it has involved various research institutions located in the South and South East Asian Region in countries like Bangladesh, India, Nepal, Pakistan, the Philippines, Sri Lanka and Vietnam. The Network has also drawn on individual scholars and experts from outside the region. (Cf. Table I)

The Network's research agenda has been conceptualized and coordinated by **Dr. Swapna Mukhopadhyay**, erstwhile Director of the **Institute of Social Studies Trust (ISST), India**. The project has been supported from its inception by the **International Development Research Center (IDRC), Canada** under its **Micro Impact of Macro Adjustment Policy (MIMAP) Programme Initiative**. Please log on to our website www.isst-india.org to know more about the earlier phases of the Gender Network Project.

The third phase of the Gender Network project will carry forward the investigation of the gender differentiated impact of economic reforms in South and South-East Asia. Some of the work will build on the research that has formed a part of the second phase of the project, and some will investigate new areas of interest. One of the new areas of research interest being looked at and analysed is the gender differentiated impact of the growth of the new Information and Communication Technology (ICT) in three countries of the region. A research module has been designed to investigate the linkages between economic growth, income inequality and gender disparities in a multi-country set up. A new element in the third phase agenda of the Network has involved developing a Gender Sensitization Training Programme specially designed for economists. Under this a two-day training programme was organized in June 2004 in Dakar, Senegal, which was attended by about seventy practising young economists from developing countries in Asia, Africa and Latin America. It is expected that by the end of the period, a consolidated report will be produced pulling together the insights gained from the research carried out under the Gender Network from the beginning of the project:

The following is a short description of the work being done under the Gender Network project:

Research Modules in the Third Phase of the Gender Network

(i) Poverty and Gender

During the second phase of the Network, five countries were involved in exploring the quantitative dimensions of the interface between gender and poverty. Of these, two countries have been selected in Phase III to conduct follow up studies with an emphasis on qualitative dimensions of the interface. These countries are Bangladesh and Pakistan. The focus of the studies will be to explore the manner in which men and women from the same households may *experience* poverty differently, and how they may *react to* poverty differently. The findings will be contrasted with gender differences in the nature of these experiences of, and reactions to, household economic conditions in out-of-poverty situations.

Apart from questionnaire surveys, detailed case studies and focus group discussions will be conducted to understand the qualitative dimensions of the issue. The **Pakistan Institute of Development Economics (PIDE)** and the **Bangladesh Academy of Rural Development (BARD)** are the two institutes that have been identified to conduct the studies in their respective countries.

(ii) ICT and Gender

The nature and extent of gender differentiation in the wake of the new technological changes in the area of ICT that are sweeping through the South and South-East Asian region will also be studied in the current phase of the Gender Network. Three countries have been selected from the region for this module. These are India, Sri Lanka and Vietnam. The respective institutions responsible for this study in each of the selected countries are the **Institute of Social Studies Trust (ISST)** in India, **Centre for Women's Research (CENWOR)** in Sri Lanka and the **Institute of Economics (IE)** in Vietnam. The objective of the research is to study the gendered impact of the ICT revolution at micro, meso and macro levels. There will also be an explicit emphasis on the policy relevance of the research.

(iii) Gender Modeling

Gender Network has been promoting innovative work on gender modeling since its inception. Until now, it had been operating as an independent thematic network but it was felt that in order to further the process of mainstreaming the work on gender modeling, and to ensure sustainability, it is necessary that the Network ties up with other research groups which may not have gender as the driving principle of their research agenda.

The first step in this direction has been to forge links with the Poverty and Economic Policy (PEP) Network under the MIMAP Programme. A two-pronged strategy has been

conceptualized for the purpose. The first of these being to institute a *Gender Challenge Fund* that will sponsor three innovative research projects on gender-related issues during the current phase in order to persuade mainline economists to carry out economic analysis of gender related themes in their own work. This fund will operate as part of the overall PEP Network research programme. (See the PEP website at www.pep-net.org)

The second part of this strategy is to organize workshops for gender sensitization. A two-day *Gender Sensitization Training Workshop* for economic researchers was organized at Dakar, Senegal on 13-14 June 2004 as part of the five-day training programme for economists who have been associated with the PEP research network. In all, nearly seventy economists from Asia, Africa and Latin America attended the Gender Training Workshop at Dakar.

(iv) An Econometric Analysis of Economic Growth, Income Inequality and Gender Disparities

This study will look into the patterns of association between economic growth, poverty, income inequality and gender disparities in a multi-country framework. A three-member team of researchers comprising Prof. Suresh Tendulkar, Centre for Development Economics, Delhi School of Economics, Prof. Nanak Kakwani, Director, UNDP Poverty Research Centre, Brazil and Prof. Swapna Mukhopadhyay, Coordinator of the Gender Network, are involved in this study.

Table 1: Research Agenda of the MIMAP Gender Network

Level of analysis	Research Modules	Phase I (1999-2001)	Phase II (2001-2003)	Phase III (2004-2005) (On-going activities)
Micro	Direct Impact of Reforms	Surveys in the households of women workers in EPZs.	Surveys in the households of workers retrenched because of reforms-related factors.	
	(Household surveys)	(Bangladesh, India, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka)	(India, Sri Lanka)	
	Poverty and Gender (Household surveys)		Inserting Gender modules in MIMAP-Poverty Monitoring Surveys. (Bangladesh, Nepal, Pakistan, the Philippines, Sri Lanka)	Differential experiences of, and reactions to, household economic situations on men and women. (Bangladesh, Pakistan)
	Technology and Gender (Household and firm level surveys)			ICT and Gender (India, Sri Lanka, Vietnam)

Level of analysis	Research Modules	Phase I (1999-2001)	Phase II (2001-2003)	Phase III (2004-2005) (On-going activities)
	Gender Modeling	Review of non-unitary models of intra-household decision-making		Micro-econometric analysis of gender-relevant issues in developing economies. (Three studies to be commissioned)
Meso	Sectoral Employment	Exports, with special reference to female labour intensive export activities. (Regional)	Women's employment and livelihood issues in the context of new ICT technologies (Regional)	
	Research to Sectoral Policy issues			Gender and ICT in national policy (India, Sri Lanka, Vietnam)
Macro	Modeling gender by incorporating the domestic sector within standard CGE models.		Modeling women's work at home and outside in the context of international trade	
	Modeling gender using standard macro-econometric and CGE models	A CGE model with gender-disaggregated data on household types and factor ownership (India)	An extended CGE model of gender incorporating women's involvement in formal and informal sector activities (India)	
				Economic Growth, Income Inequality and Gender Disparities: a multi-country econometric analysis (Regional)
Special studies	Assessing women's status in high-GDI situations (Mixed methodology)	Status of women in Kerala (India)	Gender and Mental Health in Kerala (India)	
Training	Gender Sensitization			Gender Sensitization Training for Economists
Consolidation				Consolidating the research findings of the MIMAP Gender Network

**Table 2: Partnering Organisations and Individuals
in Gender Network (Phase III)**

Modules	Research Assignments	Organisation location	Country
Poverty and Gender	To study differential experiences of and reactions to household economic situations on men and women.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pakistan Institute of Development Economics (PIDE) • Bangladesh Academy of Rural Development (BARD) 	Pakistan Bangladesh
ICT and Gender	To study from a gender perspective the technological changes and ICT revolution at macro, meso and micro levels, in the light of macro-economic reforms in the country.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Institute of Social Studies Trust (ISST), India • (ISST), India • Centre for Women's Research (CENWOR), Sri Lanka • Institute of Economics (IE), Vietnam 	India Sri Lanka Vietnam
Gender Modeling	Micro-econometric analysis of gender relevant issues in developing economies.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ISST, in association with Laval University, Canada 	
Gender Sensitization Training Workshop for Economists	A two day interactive training workshop on economics of gender designed for mainstream economists.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ISST, in association with a team of resource persons 	Global
Econometric Analysis of Economic Growth, Income Inequality and Gender Disparities	Economic growth, income inequality & gender disparities: a multi-country econometric analysis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Centre for Development Economics (CDE, Delhi School of Economics) • International Centre for Poverty Research, UNDP, Brazil 	Global

The first meeting of the third phase of the Gender Network was held in New Delhi from 31 January-2 February 2004. See www.isst-india.org for details.



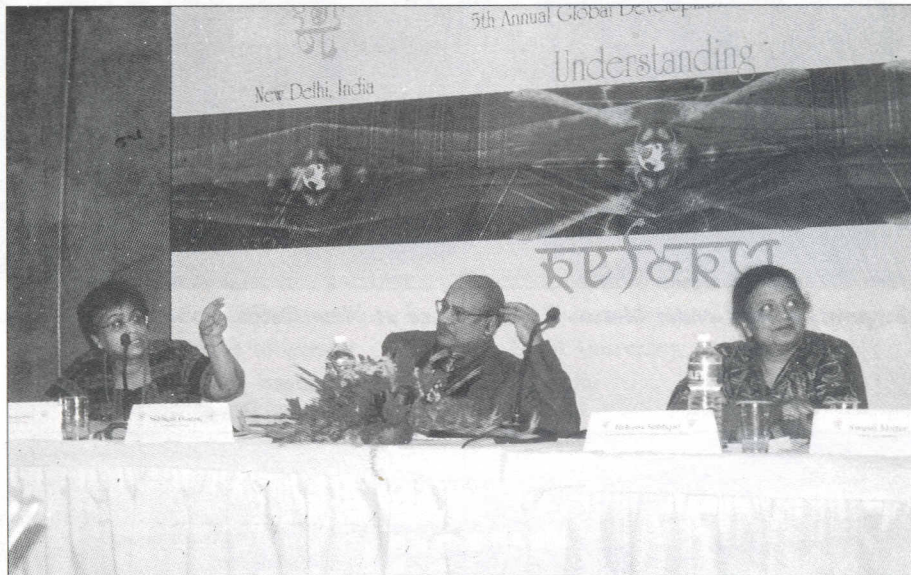
Inauguration of Gender Network Conference at New Delhi



The Session on 'Poverty and Gender' at Gender Network Conference

Institute of Social Studies Trust was invited to present the findings from the project, 'Gender Network in South and Southeast Asia' at the Fifth Annual Conference of Global Development Network in New Delhi on January 30, 2004. A separate session was organized entitled 'Gender and Economic Reforms' under the broad session on 'Global Perspectives of Reform'. This session was organized by the International Development Research Centre (IDRC), Canada. To see the details of this session, please log on to:

http://www.gdnet.org/activities/annual_conferences/fifth_annual_conference/conference_papers_by_theme/global_perspectives/gender.html



The Session on 'Gender and Economic Reforms' at GDN Community Action

2. Ensuring Public Accountability through Community Action

An estimated 30-40 per cent of the population in the city of Delhi live in slums or slum like settlements. These settlements are characterized by poor housing, inadequate facilities for sanitation, water and electricity. The legal entitlements of these areas are minimal. Most of these settlements have illegal water and electricity connections. The situation regarding toilets and garbage disposal is particularly bad. This project will explore the potential of community action with regard to service delivery as regards basic infrastructure.

In this project ISST seeks to network with like-minded NGOs to develop different models of systemic interaction between local government and slum communities in a spirit of 'bhagidari' or 'partnership'. The thematic focus of the project is on sanitation and waste management. The project has three inter related components: a) an action component

facilitating the formation of community groups to strengthen community action; b) dialogue, including networking with NGOs, and meetings with government officials at different levels and venues; and c) research and process documentation.

On 11 August 2003, ISST organised a day-long workshop to introduce the project, '**Ensuring Public Accountability through Community Action**'. Participants from approximately 50 NGOs from all over Delhi attended the workshop. Presentations included the participatory governance initiative of the Delhi Government by the Bhagidari Cell; the Right to Information by the People's movement 'Parivartan' and sanitation by a senior representative from Sulabh International.

In February-March 2004, ISST conducted a general profile survey in 16 slum communities of East Delhi to assess basic service availability and accessibility. Following the survey, workshops were organised in March and April, to discuss the problems and issues identified in the survey with the representatives of the communities and the NGOs working there. Five area-workshops were also conducted within the communities to address issues of Community Based Leadership and the use of the Delhi Right to Information Act.

ISST has identified two communities in the initial phase to pilot the approach – Seemapuri and Rajiv Camp. Two NGOs, Sabla Sangh/ Action India and RASTA, who are working in these areas will facilitate the activities there. The issues identified for action and dialogue relate to sewage connections in Seemapuri and construction of a toilet complex in Rajiv Camp.

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



Workshop with the Representatives from the Slum Communities

ISST-RASTA & MCD Pilot Project- 'Garbage Segregation and Solid Waste Management'. In November 2003, ISST along with RASTA, an NGO in East Delhi, undertook a pilot project in collaboration with the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD). The focus of the project is an attempt to implement garbage segregation in selected slum communities of the trans-Yamuna region. Six communities in East Delhi were identified to implement the first phase of the project. After a series of preliminary meetings with the Commissioner of the MCD, a team of MCD officers met with the RASTA and ISST staff at ISST's West Vinod Nagar office on 18 November 2003. ISST suggested that given the background of the particular area it was best to begin with creating awareness and setting up of garbage disposal facilities. A field survey was conducted by ISST, RASTA and MCD to review the sites and explore the possible options for garbage disposal. ISST used the Delhi Right to Information Act, 2001, to get a better understanding of the roles and responsibilities of different departments and agencies. This sub-project within the larger project will be reviewed after a period of six months.

3. Development Gateway

ISST is currently the Guide to the Gender and Development page of the Development Gateway portal which has been set up in order to foster an environment where exchange of information and knowledge can take place. (<http://www.developmentgateway.org/gender>). ISST's responsibilities as the Guide include regularly populating the gender page with news, events and new online materials, preparing regular highlights and e-mail newsletters, approving or rejecting new content submitted by members, and promoting the gender page through our own networks and events. Issues of gender in the development discourse get exposure through the Development Gateway portal, which is accessed by around 7000 members from 150 countries around the world.

This project is sponsored by the Development Gateway Foundation.

4. Chronic Poverty and Intra-Household Resource Allocation

This study is a preliminary enquiry into the nature of gender-based discrimination in poor households in urban slums in Delhi. The data presented in the study is based on a household survey as well as case studies. The study finds evidence of gender-based disadvantage within households, with adult women and daughters, especially elder daughters, being the worst affected. While all children have access to schools, there is greater commitment to schooling for boys. As part of the informal labour force, both men and women are at a disadvantage when seeking work; women are further disadvantaged

by gender roles and norms. This includes reproductive responsibilities and household controls on women's mobility. A number of government programmes have been introduced for which the population of the areas studied is eligible, including free health and schooling facilities, and a public distribution system (PDS) targeted at the poorest households. Effective implementation of these programmes is expected to improve the quality of life and the capabilities of these households. Some programmes, such as the PDS, are essentially anti-poverty programmes. While the worst forms of disadvantage would be ameliorated with effective programme implementation, the underlying structural reasons behind intra household discrimination cannot be directly addressed. Although an identification of intra household disadvantage has been done by looking at individuals within households. On the basis of the findings from this study it is apparent that community action could have an important role to play in influencing household behaviour. Thus, the strengthening of collective action for improvement of community infrastructure, access to health, education and work, in a manner so as to be especially responsive to the needs of women and girls, could be one way of reducing intra household disadvantage.

This project was sponsored by IIPA, New Delhi.

5. Decent Employment for Women - Learning and recommendations from the pilot project

In December 2003, ISST documented the interventions undertaken so far under the project entitled 'Decent Employment for Women'. This is a project initiated by the ILO, New Delhi in 2001 to help poor women living in selected slum clusters in the cities of Bangalore and Delhi to acquire the skills and capacity to get decent employment. The project was specially designed keeping in mind the needs of married women and female-headed households. A total of 11 NGOs are currently partners in this project. Along with these NGOs, the Ministry of Labour, Government of India is an implementing partner in the project. The project attempts to link existing training institutes and schemes with the needs of the informal sector workers, and to provide them with a 'holistic package' in training so as to enable them to better their employment opportunities. The methods used for this study included direct observation, participatory discussions and in depth interviews with partner NGO staff, including field staff with direct involvement in the project, as well as with women participants. The report concludes with some of the learning and recommendations that emerged from the project.

This project was sponsored by ILO, New Delhi.

Other Research Assignments:

Water and Sanitation : Unheard Voices of Women

Women in rural and urban areas face a lot of problems due to the lack of proper facilities for water and sanitation. The problem requires new and sensitive solutions. ISST was invited by the Vikram Sarabhai Foundation to contribute to this project by reviewing the situation and documenting the voices of women in three slums (Nehru Camp, Rajiv Camp and Sonia Camp) and three schools in East Delhi (Government Sarvodaya Boys' School, Government Sarvodaya Girls' School and MCD Primary Girls School, Mandawali). In addition, the situation in Lapodia village in Rajasthan was also studied. Along with other partners who conducted similar studies in different parts of the country, a presentation of these 'voices of women' was made to the Members of the Task Force, Millennium Development Goal on Water and Sanitation, in March 2004.

Women Call Centre Workers in India

ISST contributed to a paper "Call Centres in India: Windows of Opportunities or Digital Sweatshops?" written by Prof Swasti Mitter for the Commonwealth Secretariat. From the study it appears that the fast growing call center industry has opened up new opportunities for young people between 19 to 23 years who have a good command over English and computer skills. This is especially true for young women. Among non-managerial job opportunities this is among the best paid. The training helps build self-confidence and communication skills. The work place is comfortable and the employees are provided with free transport to and from their place of work. Since the clients are international, there is a high premium on being able to understand and assimilate a different culture. Hence call centers do not simply seek to neutralize accents, but to introduce their young employees to the ways of a different society and culture. This, to an extent, creates a cultural difference between call center employees and young people outside the industry. Another major challenge faced by the call centers is the high attrition rate of employees which may be due to the high levels of job stress.

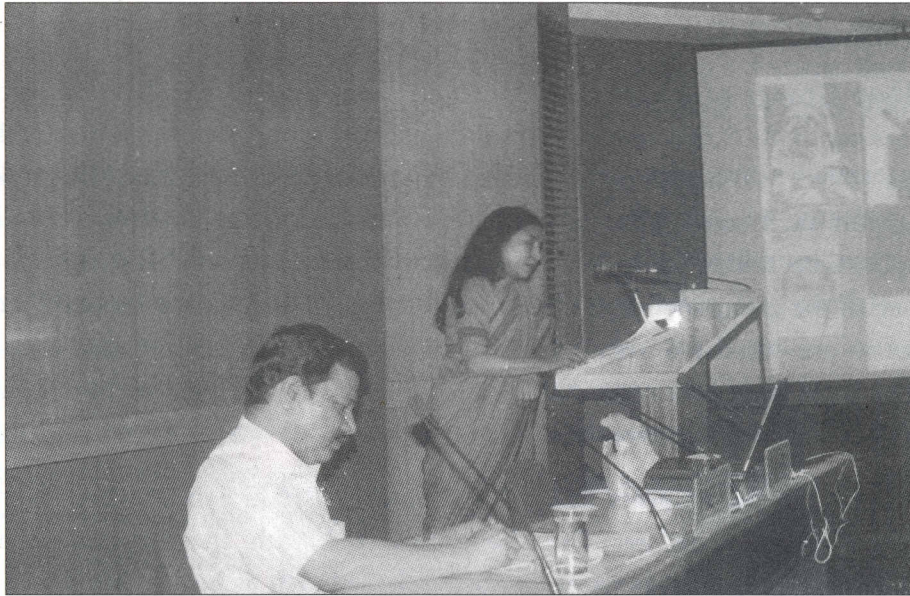
Outreach Programme

A. ISST-IHC Gender Policy Forum

ISST and India Habitat Center have jointly initiated a forum for exchanging ideas through talks and panel discussions. This forum will organize meetings at IHC three times a year. It provides an opportunity for ISST to extend and deepen its policy outreach as well as its interaction with other organizations in particular those at the IHC. Two such meetings have been held so far.

The first was a panel discussion on “Economic Reforms: Do Women Win or Lose?” The discussion took place around the book *Tracking Gender Equity under Economic Reforms: Continuity and Change in South Asia* edited by Swapna Mukhopadhyay and Ratna M Sudarshan, which was an outcome of the Gender Network project Phase I. The panelists included Swapna Mukhopadyay, ISST, Dr. Uday Verma, Director, V. V. Giri National Labour Institute, and Dr Nilima Chitgopekar, Jesus and Mary College, Delhi University. The Chairperson of the panel was Urvashi Butalia, Kali for Women/ Zubaan.

The second Gender Policy Forum was held on 31 March 2004. On this occasion Bina Agarwal of the Institute of Economic Growth, New Delhi and Dr. Pradeep Panda from the National Council of Applied Economic Research, New Delhi delivered a talk on ‘Marital Violence and Women’s Property Status’. The talk was based on a study conducted in Kerala.



Prof. Bina Agarwal and Dr. Pradeep Panda at ISST-IHC Gender Policy Forum

B. Community Out-reach Programme of ISST

The Community Outreach Programme seeks to enable women and children from two slum communities in East Delhi to reach their full potential. In Nehru Camp, the “Saheliyon ki Bari” programme adopts a holistic approach to development with activities undertaken in the three areas of health, learning and livelihood and income generation. It is also concerned with generating awareness on issues of health, nutrition and legal rights. Interventions include family counseling, behavioral counseling, vocational training skills and economical and psychological empowerment through formation of self- help groups (SHGs).



Non-formal Education: At the Basti Vikas Kendra in Nehru camp women are given non-formal education under ISST's 'Education for Better Living' programme. Women attend regular classes held by field educators.

Tailoring Classes: In 2000, ISST began an income generation programme for women. Currently 35 women and adolescent girls are enrolled under the training programme to learn cutting, tailoring and stitching. This was undertaken with an aim to help women from marginalized communities to seek self-employment and become economically independent. Tailoring classes are held regularly by qualified women trainers. So far these women have learnt to use the sewing machine and to cut and stitch small purses and hand-bags. Recently they have learnt to stitch and finish utility travel pouches and bangle cases. A few of these women who knew some tailoring earlier are now experts at stitching salwar suits, pants and blouses.

Self Help Groups (SHGs)

Two Self Help Groups of ten women each have been formed. The *Lakshmi* group has a collective saving of Rs 2,000 and the *Khushbu* group has a collective saving of Rs 1,200. Loans of Rs 500- 1,500 have been provided to the members of the *Lakshmi* group to help them to support their small home business. These loans were given after the women gave written applications asking for loans. Applications were passed only after the approval and signatures of all the group members. Two workshops were organized with the Bhartiya Yuva Shakti Trust to provide the women with information to obtain loans if they wish to set up a small business of their own. The members from BYST came down to the field office and interacted with the women after their presentation.

Sakhi Sabha: At the end of every month, ISST holds a 'Sakhi Sabha' where women from the community come together. These are organized with the purpose of imparting information, and raising awareness on important issues such as health, hygiene, sanitation, HIV/AIDS, legal rights and eve teasing. A crucial aspect of these meetings is to involve the men folk of the community in the discussions. In April 2004 the Sakhi Sabha discussed issues of self-employment and home based business.

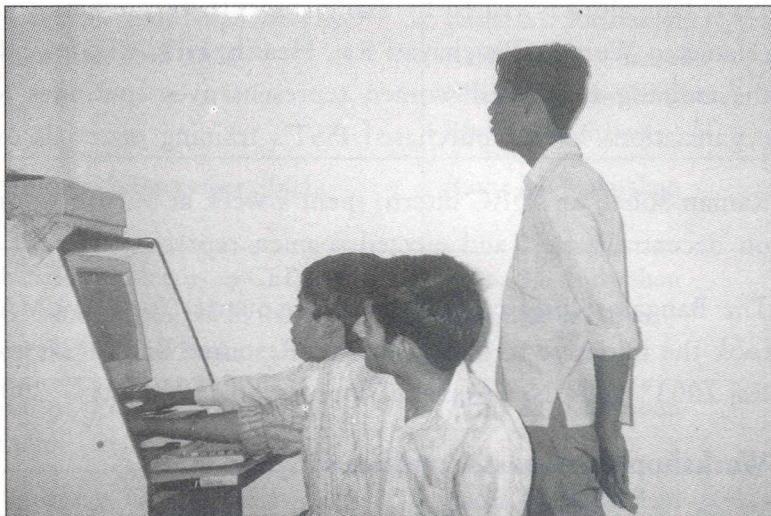
Educational and Recreational Activities for Children: Both non-school going children and school going children attend non-formal education classes at ISST's Community Centre. Out of school children are motivated to join regular schools. Over the last year, 18 children, out of which 10 were girls, have been enrolled into government schools. Children are also engaged in extra-curricular activities, like painting, singing, dancing etc. As part of the recreational activities children from the community are invited for a children's film screening, held at the ISST Field Office, at the end of every month. The field office has

a library of children's books. Children are encouraged to issue books to take home to read and can read books at the center as well. As part of the library facilities, English conversation classes are also provided to the children. Children are provided with nutritional snacks, like bananas or boiled spicy *channa* (gram) while watching the movies. A small group of children formed a Bal-Sansad and a theatre group called Nakshatra.

ISST's Computer Literacy Programme: ISST has set up a computer literacy centre at its West Vinod Nagar office. The computer training center has been set up with 6 computers, with the help of the Habitat Learning Centre, India Habitat Centre. Two trained computer educators have been hired to provide children with basic computer training. The children are receiving training in MS DOS, DTP, and Windows Operating system (MS Office).

In February 2004, the children took out a dummy issue of their children's magazine called Nakshatra. This magazine has been produced in Hindi as the children have a good grasp over the language and have picked up Hindi typing skills very quickly and with great efficiency. While the content and typing are entirely the children's domain, they have been assisted in layout by the ISST staff. The first issue was released in April 2004.

Public Distribution System Workshop : ISST field office organised awareness workshops on the Public Distribution System(PDS) in Nehru Camp on 14 October 2003 and again in February 2004. The main issues discussed in the workshops were The Delhi Right to Information Act, the Government prescribed rates for purchase of ration and kerosene oil, the process of filing out Form A under the Right to Information Act and viewing records for PDS related information, the Supreme Court order of May 2003 with regard to ration shops and the Essential Commodities Act-section 7. A pamphlet was distributed with the government prescribed rate chart for ration and kerosene oil along with telephone numbers of the Food and Supply Office, the raid offices as well as ISST's office numbers. ISST was very pleased to find that the pamphlets distributed during the workshop helped the community to get rations at the prescribed rates from the government shops.



Children working in the Computer Literacy Centre at ISST's West Vinod Nagar Office



Documentation and Library Resources

The ISST office both in Delhi and Bangalore has a valuable collection of books and seminar reports on issues of gender and development. In Delhi, a part of these materials have been transferred to the India Habitat Centre library and are available to scholars at their new location. At both offices the library resources are available to interested scholars, officials and activists.

ISST's NGO Consultative Status with UN-ECOSOC

The Institute of Social Studies Trust has had NGO consultative status (special) with UN-ECOSOC between 1986 and 1993, and since 1998. Suchitra Mohan, ISST's permanent representative, has attended several UN conferences in New York, including the 48th Session of the Committee on the Status of Women in March 2004. We are happy that ISST now has two additional representatives, Dr Jaskiran Mathur in New York, and Sunanda Krishnamurty in Geneva. We hope this would enable more active participation by ISST at UN meetings and discussions.

ISST Bangalore

Over this last year, the staff in Bangalore contributed to the study on *Women in Call Centres*. The review of the ILO programme on *Decent Employment for Women* in Bangalore was carried out with the help of a consultant (Bhuvana Krishnan). The ISST staff also worked closely with The Hunger Project, in its various activities in Karnataka.

ISST, Bangalore is visited by many students, researchers and NGOs doing work on issues related to Women, Panchayati Raj, Health, HIV/AIDS etc. Resource material prepared for the training of elected women representatives continues to be in demand with several organizations having purchased ISST's training materials over the year.

Raman Sohal, an IDRC intern, spent a week at our Bangalore office pursuing her research on decentralization and elected women representatives.

The Bangalore unit contributes every quarter for the UMA Prachar and Newsletter, and took the initiative to bring out two Resource Books "Newspaper Clippings on Panchayat Raj-2003" and "Newspaper Clippings on HIV/AIDS - 2003".

Workshops/Seminars Conducted by ISST

- The first meeting of the Gender Network Phase III, 31 January-2 February 2004 at India Habitat Centre, New Delhi.

- Ensuring Public Accountability through Community Action: Inception Workshop, 11 August 2003 at Gandhi Peace Foundation, New Delhi.
- Ensuring Public Accountability through Community Action: A Round Table Discussion, 18 March 2004 at India Habitat Centre, New Delhi.

**ISST's Participation in Workshop, Seminars, Discussions,
Meetings during 2003-2004**

Seminar/Workshop	Attended by
Seminar on Sustainable Development of Delhi, 16-17 June 2003 organised by Institute for Human Development at New Delhi	Swapna Mukhopadhyay, Rajib Nandi, Shambhu Ghatak
Seminar on 'Micro Insurance for the Poor: Strengthening Services and Addressing Policy Issues', 15 September 2003, organized by IRDA, SEWA and FWWB, Vigyan Bhavan, New Delhi	Ratna M. Sudarshan
National Level Workshop on Strategies for Economic Empowerment of Women, 22 September 2003, organized by Department of Women and Child Development, Government of Gujarat at Ahmedabad Management Association, Ahmedabad.	Ratna M. Sudarshan
Symposium on Trade, Globalisation and Gender, 3 November 2003, UNCTAD-UNIFEM, New Delhi	Ratna M. Sudarshan
PEP Steering Committee Meeting, 4-8 November 2003 at Hanoi, Vietnam Gender Poverty Summit, 9-11 November 2003, organized by Women's Political Watch and NCAER at New Delhi	Swapna Mukhopadhyay Ratna M. Sudarshan, Rajib Nandi, Shambhu Ghatak, Shaiby Verghese, Rina Bhattacharya
Research Advisory Committee Meeting, 8 December 2003, SEWA Academy, Ahmedabad	Ratna M. Sudarshan
Consultation on Gender and Education Concerns in CEDAW Shadow Report, 18-20 December 2003, organized by Nirantar and Partners for Law and Development, New Delhi	Ratna M. Sudarshan Rina Bhattacharya
Seminar on Poverty and Environment, 19 December 2003, UNDP Conference Hall, New Delhi	Ratna M. Sudarshan
National Consultation on 'The Budget: A Gender and Poverty Sensitive Perspective', 22 December 2003, organized by the National Commission for Women, New Delhi	Ratna M. Sudarshan

Impact of Trade Reforms on the Indian Informal Economy and Poverty: Macro and Case Study Analysis, 8-9 January 2004, organized by NCAER and UNCTAD. IIC, New Delhi	Ratna M. Sudarshan
Millennium Lecture by Prof. Joseph Stiglitz at Delhi University, 13 January 2004	Shambhu Ghatak, Swapna Mukhopadhyay, Rajib Nandi,
Symposium on Sustainable Society, 19 January 2004, organized by ICSSR and the Hawke Institute, University of South Australia at India International Centre	Ratna M. Sudarshan
World Social Forum, 16-22 January 2004 at Mumbai	Swapna Mukhopadhyay, Rajib Nandi
Discussion on the WDR 2004, 29 January 2004, NCAER	Ratna M. Sudarshan
Annual Conference of "Global Development Network", 27-30 January 2004 organised by World Bank <i>et al</i> at IHC, New Delhi	Ratna M. Sudarshan, Shambhu Ghatak, Suchi Pande, Swapna Mukhopadhyay
Discussion on Social Inclusion – Draft Strategy Paper, 13 February 2004, organised by DFID	Ratna M. Sudarshan
Workshop on ICT for Poverty Alleviation in India, 26-27 February 2004 organised by World Bank, NASSCOM, Ministry of IT and IIM-A at Ahmedabad.	Rajib Nandi, Shambhu Ghatak
Water and Sanitation Meeting, 3 March 2004, organized by Vikram Sarabhai Foundation, Videoconference on Community Based Poverty Reduction and Empowerment, 9 March 2004, at World Bank, New Delhi,	Manju Mishra Ratna M. Sudarshan Ratna M. Sudarshan
Advisory Group Meeting on ICPD+10, 15 March 2004, organised by UNFPA, New Delhi,	Ratna M. Sudarshan
Assessment of Informal Employment in India Based on NSSO Labour Force Surveys During 1999-2000, conducted by Council for Social Development, 22 March 2004	Manjistha Banarjee
Discussion on 'Role of Civil Society in Converting the Constitution's Directive Principles into Citizens Rights' 23 March 2004, at DFID India.	Ratna M. Sudarshan

Papers Presented at Seminars/Workshops

Papers Presented by Ratna M Sudarshan

- Presentation on 'Social Protection and the Informal Economy' at book launch and discussion, *Informal Economy Centre Stage: Studying Informality*, 3 September 2003, organized by NCAER, SEWA and GIDR, India Habitat Centre, New Delhi.
- Presentation on 'Economic Reforms in India and the Impact on the Informal Sector', at Advocacy Meeting on Globalisation and the Informal Sector, 23 September 2003, CUTS and Oxfam GB, New Delhi.
- Presentation on 'Economic Policies: Implications for Women in South Asia', seminar on 'Perspectives on Women in South Asia', 22 October 2003, organized by Women's Studies and Development Centre and Janaki Devi Memorial College, University of Delhi.
- Paper on 'Chronic Poverty and Gendered Patterns of Intra-household Allocation of Resources: A Preliminary Enquiry', 4-5 November 2003, at IIPA-CPRC Seminar on Chronic Poverty and Development Policy in India, New Delhi.
- Presented paper on 'Globalisation, the Informal Economy, and Women's Work in India' at the Gender and Poverty Summit, 9-11 November 2003, organised by Women's Political Watch and National Council of Applied Economic Research, Vigyan Bhavan, New Delhi.
- Report (with PK Ghosh) on "Trade Liberalization and Rice Processing Industry in West Bengal" at seminar on *Impact of Trade Reforms on the Indian Informal Economy and Poverty: Macro and Case Study Analyses*, organized by NCAER and UNCTAD at India International Centre, New Delhi, 8-9 January 2004.
- Paper (with Suchi Pande) titled "The Capability to Participate: A Preliminary Analysis of Selected Slum Clusters in Delhi" for workshop on *Reconstructing Governance: The Other Voices*, organised by Singamma Foundation, Bangalore 20-21 February 2004.
- Presentation on "Women, Environment and Development" at seminar on *Women, Environment and Development* organized by Swami Shradhdhanand College, University of Delhi, 9 March 2004.
- Paper on "Impact of Globalization on Women's Work: Some Methodological Issues" presented at National Seminar on *Globalisation and Women's Work* at the V.V. Giri National Labour Institute, NOIDA, 25-26 March 2004.



Papers presented by Swapna Mukhopadhyay

- Paper on “Poverty, Trade, and Growth: Issues for Policy Research” presented in a seminar organised jointly by Asian Development Bank & IDRC at Manila, the Philippines, 29-30 October 2003.
- Special Lecture on “Gender Indicators and Globalisation” at V.V. Giri National Labour Institute, NOIDA, 26 December 2003.
- Presentation in an Expert Group Meeting in preparation for the High-level Intergovernmental Meeting on the Review of the Implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action at Bangkok, Thailand, 22-24 March 2004

List of ISST Publications

Books

- *Aadhi Duniya Se Bachegi Puri Duniya: Gender aur HIV/AIDS Sandharbh Pustika (A Hindi Manual on Gender and HIV/AIDS)*, Manjushree Mishra, Institute of Social Studies Trust with UNIFEM

Reports

- Decent Employment for Women: Learning and Recommendations from the Pilot Project, Report submitted to ILO, New Delhi in December 2003.

Working Papers

- *Chronic Poverty and Gendered Patterns of Intra-Household Resource Allocation : A Preliminary Enquiry*, Ratna M. Sudarshan and Rina Bhattacharya, Working Paper No. 12, Indian Institute of Public Administration, New Delhi.

ISST Newsletters

- **Uma Prachar**: Published quarterly in Hindi and English
- **Samachar Patrika**: Published quarterly in Hindi
- **ISST News**: Published quarterly in English (available at www.isst-india.org)

SUMMARY FINANCIAL STATEMENT

April 2002 to March 2003 and April 2003 to March 2004

Summary Statement Annual Income and Expenditure

Particulars	Financial Year 2003-04 (Rs. in Lakhs)	Financial Year 2002-03 (Rs. in Lakhs)
Income		
Interest Income	6.86	7.69
Donations and Contributions	0.60	-
Other income	1.96	0.31
Service Charges etc.	6.93	-
Project Income	43.70	57.94
Total	60.05	65.94
Expenditure		
Administrative expenses	16.08	13.54
Project expenses	45.47	51.50
Property Tax	2.35	-
Compensation for Space	3.00	-
Net Loss on sale of assets	-	0.04
Depreciation	4.50	4.40
Total	71.40	69.48
Surplus/Deficit	11.34	3.50

Summary Balance Sheet

	Financial Year 2003-04 (Rs. in Lakhs)	Financial Year 2002-03 (Rs. in Lakhs)
Assets		
Fixed Assets	55.28	60.81
Investment	64.65	60.35
Current Assets	7.60	24.27
Total	127.53	145.43
Funds & Reserves		
General Fund	1.12	12.57
Endowment Fund	84.02	84.02
Building Fund	35.95	42.97
Fixed Assets Fund	4.99	4.52
Publication Fund	1.45	1.35
Total	127.53	145.43

OUR TEAM

Director

Ratna M. Sudarshan

Delhi Office



Manjushree Mishra, Associate Director
 Rina Bhattacharya, Research Coordinator
 Rajib Nandi, Research Coordinator
 Shobha Sharma, Administrator and PA
 to the Director
 Shambhu Ghatak, Research Associate
 Shaiby Varghese, Programme Associate
 Manjistha Banerjee, Consultant

Vishal Kumar Goyal, Computer Programmer
 Talha Malik, Asst. Librarian
 R.K. Sharda, Financial Advisor
 R.P. Pandey, Sr. Accountant
 Rajeev Ranjan Choudhary, Accountant
 Sultan Singh, Asst. Administrator
 Mohan Singh, Office Assistant
 Ramdev Paswan, Driver

Academic Advisor

Swapna Mukhopadhyay



ISST Community Centre, Delhi

Amita Joshi, Coordinator

Suchi Pande, Project Coordinator

Shanta Gururani, Field Coordinator

Kapil Das, Consultant, Audio/video IEC

Udai Pal, Office Assistant

Bangalore Office

Grace Fernandez, Administrator

Krishna Karanth, Office Assistant

Ratanamma, Office Assistant



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Secretary, Kasturba Gandhi Memorial Trust, Indore

Ms. Madhu Kishwar
Editor, Manushi, New Delhi

Head Office:

Upper Ground Floor, Core 6A, India Habitat Centre,
Lodhi Road, New Delhi – 110003
Tel: 91-11-24647873, 24653780, Telefax: 91-11-24648724
E-mail: isstdel@isst-india.org, Website: www.isst-india.org

Bangalore Office:

N-601, North Block, 6th Floor, Manipal Centre,
47, Dickenson Road, Bangalore – 560042
Tel: 91-80-5583701, Fax: 91-80-5583704,
E-mail: isstban@giasbg01.vsnl.net.in

ISST Community Centre:

E-183B, Gali No. 3, West Vinod Nagar, Delhi – 110092
Tel: 91-11-55630739



Institute of Social Studies Trust

Head Office:

Upper Ground Floor, Core 6A, India Habitat Centre, Lodhi Road, New Delhi – 110003
Tel: 91-11-24647873, 24653780, Telefax: 91-11-24648724
E-mail: isstdel@isst-india.org, Website: www.isst-india.org

Bangalore Office:

N-601, North Block, 6th Floor, Manipal Centre, 47, Dickenson Road, Bangalore – 560042
Tel: 91-80-5583701, Fax: 91-80-5583704,, E-mail: isstban@giasbg01.vsnl.net.in

ISST Community Centre:

E-183B, Gali No. 3, West Vinod Nagar, Delhi – 110092, Tel: 91-11-55630739