



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	3
Outreach Programmes of ISST	4
Workshops/Seminars conducted by ISST	5
Workshops/Seminars attended by ISST	6
Recent Publications	6
Staff News	7

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

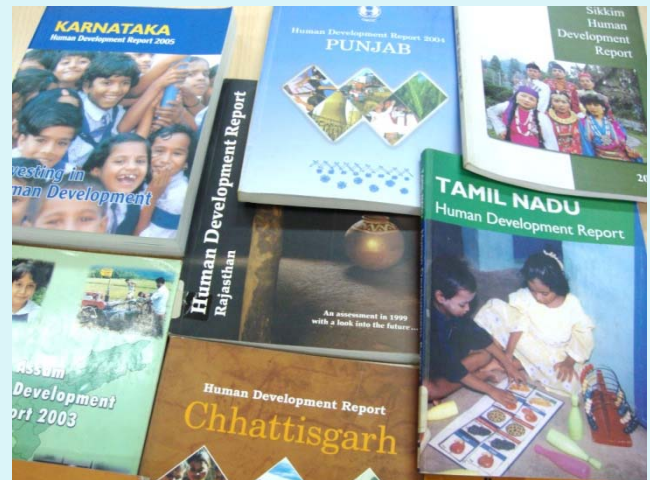
reflecting the data and issues related to home-based workers in South Asia in general and in

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

**Institute of Social Studies Trust**

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

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

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

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

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

Tel: +91-11-22724710

Website: www.isst-india.org