

# CALL FOR PAPERS

## CONCEPT NOTE

### **Title: Transformative Approaches to Knowing Women and Work**

Over the last four decades women's work has been a central focus of research at ISST. From making women's work visible to recognising the value of paid and unpaid work, analysing impacts of macro-economic contexts, and the gendered analysis of specific policies on women and work have been some of the consistent themes of research at ISST. To expand and extend the discussion this call for papers invites scholars, researchers, activists, and practitioners to contribute original research, critical analyses, and innovative perspectives that explore transformative approaches to understanding women and work. This theme foregrounds feminist methodologies that challenge traditional knowledge frameworks and highlight diverse experiences of women in labour across various contexts. We seek contributions that interrogate power structures, intersectionality, and the socio-economic, cultural, and political dimensions shaping women's work.

### **Objective**

- To foster new methods and tools for understanding women and work
- To foreground new areas of enquiry and action around women and work
- To learn from empirical studies that utilise feminist methods to address gendered realities.
- To foster interdisciplinary and intersectional conversations on methodological practices.
- To encourage reflexivity and positionality in research processes.

### **Themes and Sub-Themes:**

#### **1. Foundations of Feminist Theory and Gender-Sensitive Methodologies to study Women's Work**

- a. Theoretical understanding and interpretations (e.g. Feminist political economy on Care, Quantitative methods like TUS)
- b. Contestations and Contributions of alternative epistemologies (e.g. Autoethnographic research methods)
- c. Decolonial approaches to gender research
- d. Addressing intersecting identities and structures of inequality (gender, class, caste, sexuality, ability, etc.) in research design and analysis

#### **2. Contemporary and Innovative Methods in Gender and Labour Studies**

- a. Methodological innovations for capturing embodied and situated intersectionality (e.g. Participatory action research, community-based approaches, narrative, storytelling, arts-based methods, etc.)
- b. Digital, AI and Visual methodologies in feminist research

#### **3. Ethics, Reflexivity, and Positionality in studies of Women and Work**

- a. Navigating power dynamics between researcher and participants
- b. Ethical challenges in gender-sensitive research

- c. Reflexivity as a methodological tool
- d. Challenges and strategies in doing intersectional feminist research

#### **4. Feminist Methodologies grounded in Realities and Practice**

- a. Empirical studies employing feminist methodologies in diverse contexts of women and work (informal labour, care economy, technological and digital skilling, etc.
- b. Impact of feminist methodologies on policy and practice

#### **5. Evidence Around Newer and Innovative Forms of Collectivisation in Women and Work**

- a. Women's collectives on digital platforms and social media
- b. Collectivisation in Informal and Precarious Work
- c. Intersectional alliances across caste, disability, migration, and religion
- d. Feminist legal advocacy groups and alliances

***Selected authors will get an opportunity to present their paper at the 'Shram Aur Hum' event to be held on 23-24 September 2025 at India Habitat Centre, New Delhi.***

**Please note:** The sub-themes are illustrative, and authors can make submissions related to the main themes listed. Apart from contributions from India, papers related to other countries and regions are also welcome.

#### **Submission Guidelines:**

- Abstracts up to 500 words outlining the research focus, methodology, and relevance to the theme. Submit your abstract here [Click here to submit Abstract](#)
- Full papers should be between 5,000 to 7,000 words (excluding references)
- Submissions should follow APA style of referencing
- Deadline for Abstract Submission: 15 July 2025
- Notification of acceptance: 30 July 2025
- Submission of first draft of Paper by 23 September 2025
- Full paper submission deadline: 25 December 2025
- All presenters will be awarded certificates. A few outstanding papers may also be accorded special recognition.
- A selection of high-quality final paper submissions will be considered for inclusion in a forthcoming publication by ISST.

#### **Bursary:**

An amount of Rs 10,000/- will be provided to outstation participants and Rs 2000/- to participants from Delhi-NCR. Modest stay arrangements will be provided by ISST.

#### **Contact Information:**

- **Abstract Submission:** [Click here to submit Abstract](#)
- **General Inquiries:** Email at [callforpapers@isstindia.org](mailto:callforpapers@isstindia.org) or **contact us at:** +91-11-47682222