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Dear Reader,

Wishing you a Happy New Year!

May this year bring you immense joy, hope, and opportunities. As we welcome 2025, please take a few moments to go down the memory lane and highlights of the year 2024 at ISST.

The past year has been remarkable, marked by meaningful opportunities and impactful work. We made significant progress across our four core programs—Research, Evaluation, Community Outreach, and Capacity Building. Additionally, our Shram Aur Hum Series 2024 stood out as a platform for engaging in insightful dialogues, fostering critical conversations, and advancing our collective mission.

Thank you for being an integral part of our journey.

Shram aur Hum Series 2024

Taking inspiration from the love and warmth we received at our 2-day event 'Shram aur Hum' in 2023, we decided to follow up with the Shram aur Hum series 2024. The series included three events scheduled in September, November and December to focus on our four thematic areas – Gender Based Violence and Work, Informality, Precarious Work and Care, Gender and Digitalisation of Work and Women Powering the World of Work.

In all, the three events attracted participation of approximately 300 people from different areas of expertise and interest. These ranged from academic institutions, think tanks, research and community-based organisations, government, corporates including our friends & colleagues. With some great conversations happening on and off the table, the participants appreciated the space created by the institute for multi-stakeholder conversations, to deepen the thematic discourse.

**Shram aur Hum: Engendering the Labour Discourse
September 19-20 2024**

Informality, Precarious Work and Care

The discussions on Day 1 highlighted the need for inclusive and adaptive care models, emphasizing child-centric and community-driven approaches. Challenges like gender biases, undervaluation of care work, resource gaps, and systemic inequities were central themes. Experts advocated for recognizing care as a public good, fostering multi-stakeholder collaboration, and implementing equitable & sustainable policies to enhance care services and empower caregivers. A holistic approach to care can impact women's participation in the labour force.

Gender Based Violence and Work

Day 2 of ISST's discussions delved into structural aspects of gender-based violence, and youth aspirations. Key themes included rural safety audits, intersectional approaches to public and workplace safety, and challenges faced by marginalized communities. Experts emphasized the need for developing inclusive infrastructure, implementing transformative policies, and investing in grassroots engagement to ensure safe and secure environment in public spaces, workplaces, and community settings. Collaborative efforts and intersectional strategies were highlighted as essential for addressing systemic inequalities and fostering sustainable change.

[Click here](#) for photographs from the event.



Women Powering the World of Work November 25-26, 2024

Second in the series, the theme, 'Women Powering the World of Work' spotlighted the project 'Sustaining Power: Resilience and Resistance of Women's Movements in South Asia'. This two-day gathering featured the launch of the Sustaining Power exhibition and a full-day workshop to share insights from the four-year SuPWR project.

With movement partners as panelists, the workshop delved into the resilience of women's movements in South Asia amidst persistent backlashes. Discussions shed light on intersectional challenges, state complicity, and systemic barriers faced by marginalised women. Key strategies emphasised fostering collectivisation, leveraging digital platforms, and integrating grassroots activism with feminist research to strengthen solidarity, inclusivity, and impactful advocacy.

[Click here](#) for pictures from the event.

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Sustaining Power

An Exhibition

The Exhibition showcases contemporary women's movements across South Asia, offering a unique perspective on how they are shaping the region.

[Watch the exhibition online now.](#)

Gender and Digitalisation of Work December 12, 2024

The day began with the launch of two of our much-awaited reports '**Digitalisation at the Frontlines: ASHA's Experiences across Haryana, Rajasthan, Kerala and Meghalaya**' and '**Beyond the Screen: gender and Smartphone App Access, Use and Control Among youth - A case study of Kalyanpuri, Delhi**'. Next in line were the workshop on accountability in the digital world, panels, presentations and multi-stakeholder dialogues that explored the barriers and opportunities faced by marginalised women in accessing technology. Discussions addressed intersectional challenges, gendered norms in tech use, and innovative strategies to foster inclusivity. The panelists emphasised the need to go beyond the industrial era definition of 'worker' while addressing their issues and concerns. Accountability is complex and it is essential that all stakeholders be taken into account when forming policies and laws for the gig workers.

[Click here](#) for photographs of the event.



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LATEST RELEASES

Launch of ISST's 40th Year Book

'Making Women's Work Visible: A 40-year Legacy'

[Click here](#) or write to us at akila@isstindia.org to get your copy now!



A Safety Audit of Rural Public Spaces in Gujarat: Negotiating safe spaces for women and girls.

A collaborative study by Utthan and ISST

This study underscores the need for holistic and feminist-informed approaches to address women's safety in rural context. By recognising the intersectional nature of GBV and women's mobility, it calls for comprehensive strategies that promote women's safety and enforce their rights.

Read the full report [here](#).



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Digitalisation at the Frontlines brings to life the journeys of ASHA workers across Haryana, Rajasthan, Kerala, and Meghalaya

The study examines the impact of digitalisation on the work of ASHAs, mapping the integration of digital innovations into their roles and considering the implications from a feminist intersectional perspective. The team, as dissemination outputs created a comic book and a short animation film to bring attention to the issues of Asha Workers.

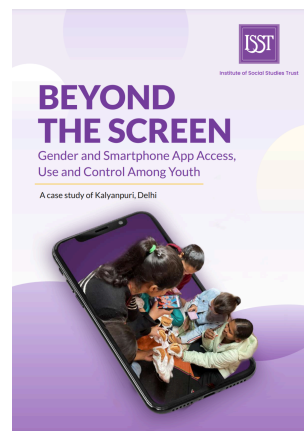
Read the full report [here](#)



Beyond the Screen: Gender and Smartphone App Access, Use and Control Among Youth – A case study of Kalyanpuri, Delhi

The study investigates the pattern of smartphone app access and usage among adolescents and young adults from low-income groups in Delhi, with a focus on gender-based differences.

Read the full report [here](#)



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BLOGS & ARTICLES

[NCAER's Gender Talk 'Gender and Ageing'](#) | Author: Sreerupa

[When women do nothing at all](#) | Author: Divya Khanna

[Empowering Women Farmers: Unveiling Utthan's Strategic Approach from Farms to Future](#) |
Compiled by: Bhavana Das

[Tools Adoption and Women's Evolving Role in the Traditional Fisheries Sector](#) | Author: Devangana Khargharia and Anweshaa Ghosh

[Unveiling 'The Help' in India: Understanding the Plight of Domestic Workers Amid Daily Humiliations](#) | Author: Diksha Shriyan

['Mera Wajood', A Short Poem](#) | Author: Sarita Kandari

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE COMMUNITY CENTRE





Each year, the Saathi Centre hosts a summer camp for children aged 3-15, with this year's theme being 'Gender, Hum aur Loktantra ki Samajh.' The camp's activities focused on exploring gender roles, paid and unpaid work, identity, and the democratic process.

Demographic Profile

Apart from the regular activities and events, a noteworthy initiative of the Saathi and Yuva Saathi Centre this year was the completion of Demographic Profile of the children of both the centres.

The team, over the last two years has worked to create this comprehensive profile which captures details about the children's health, learning levels, family members, their occupation and more. It will help us in identifying and addressing the concerns of the community in a more effective manner.

EVALUATION

Evaluation Studies

ISST undertook evaluation and meta-evaluation of various programmes and projects implemented by HomeNet South Asia and SEWA, cementing its place as an advocate of gender transformative evaluation.

Gender and Evaluation Community

Hosted on Ning Platform, the community continued to interest and engage its members, over 5200 in number, across the globe. The monthly corner features some of the remarkable work of our friends from the community.

Still not a member? [Join today.](#)

EvalFest 2024

As a member of the steering committee of the Evaluation Community of India (ECOI) and co-host of the EvalFest 2024, ISST continues to engender the evaluation ecosystem. It not only played a significant role in organising but also hosted a panel discussion "Engendering SDG Monitoring: Multiple Pathways".

CAPACITY BUILDING

Facilitating Gender Transformative Evaluations

We offered two courses this year, one for **Early and Mid-Career Professionals(EMP)** and the second for **Senior Professionals(SP)**. The course invites professionals from South Asian countries of India,

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An external evaluation of the course was undertaken this year to understand how the participants of the previous courses applied the learnings in their professional careers and personal lives.

Cohort for EMP : 28 participants

Cohort for SP: 40 participants

Feedback from FGTE Course

"I liked the video recorded presentations. It was as efficient as doing the sessions in persons. Facilitators were highly knowledgeable and helpful in clarifying doubts. None of them were threatening."

Women and Work: Making it Count

The course brings forth the trajectory of women's work in the larger discourse of economy as well as to reflect on how research and data can be critically used to teach, show and question the presence and absence (inclusion and exclusion) of women workers in the economy.

This year we re-launched the course in a three-stage format. Read more about the course at <https://isstindia.org/capacity-building>. We hope to take this course to a much wider audience.

ENGAGING THE ECOSYSTEM

IGR Report Launch

As a member of the steering committee of the Feminist Policy India (FPI), we co-hosted the Pre-budget consultation in December 2024. Anweshaa Ghosh (Research fellow and programme lead, ISST) contributed a chapter to the report and participated in the launch of the report along with Dr. Jahnvi Andharia (Director and Research Fellow, ISST)

Read more: [FPC Reflections on Union Budget 2024-25](#)

[India Gender Report](#)

National Consultation: Understanding the nature, forms, and implications of structural violence against rural women in the context of agrarian distress.

Dr. Jahnvi Andharia (Director & Research Fellow, ISST) shared the findings of our recent research 'Understanding work and identity of women farmers: Role of collectivisation ' at the consultation organised by Mahila Kisan Adhikar Manch (MAKAAM), Feminist Policy Collective, SOPPECOM, Institute of Social Studies Trust (ISST).

The 5th Asia Pacific Winter School for Young and Emerging Evaluators

Organised in Columbo, Sri Lanka, the winter school provided an opportunity to young and emerging evaluators from 12 different countries to connect, learn, and grow alongside evaluation experts and peers. Dr. Jahnvi Andharia (Director and Research Fellow, ISST) took a joint session and presented the importance of gender transformative approach in evaluations.

Academic Symposium on M&E Education

Dr. Jahnvi Andharia (Director & Research Fellow, ISST) presented the evaluation of our flagship course,

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64th ISLE Conference

ISST organised the panel "Gendered Experiences and Understanding of the Gig Economy in India" at the 64th ISLE Annual Conference in Hyderabad where the panelists delved deep into the realities of platform workers.



"Excellence in Research" Award
with IWWAGE and The Quantum Hub
at the Inaugural National Conference SAHIT 2024, "Women,
Workforce and Viksit Bharat: A blueprint for inclusive
growth".

UPCOMING IN 2025

ISST @ ISLE 65th Conference 2025

ISST's panel on "Labour dynamics in the
Garment industry: Unionisation, regional
challenges and worker's voices" at
the 65th conference of Indian Society for
labour Economics (ISLE).

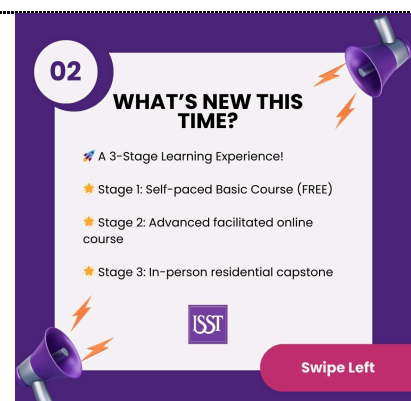


Spotlight@SAH

A series of bytes, anecdotes and experience
of participants at our Shram aur Hum Series
2024

Women and Work: Making it Count (2nd and 3rd Stages)

2nd and 3rd Stage of the course 'Women and Work: Making it
Count' in online and residential modes. Ideal for those looking
to build a comprehensive understanding and apply insights in
real-world contexts.



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The podcast series will delve into the intersection of gender and the digitalisation of work. Through these engaging episodes, we explore how technology reshapes opportunities, challenges, and aspirations for women workers, especially in informal sectors.

As we look ahead, we remain committed to building a more just and equitable world—one step at a time.
Thank you for being part of this journey.



Be a part of our journey. DONATE NOW!





FOR MORE DETAILS, WRITE TO US AT ISSTDEL@ISSTINDIA.ORG

All donations to the organisation contribute directly to our programs at ISST Saathi and the Yuva Saathi Centre. Your generosity fuels our mission to make a lasting impact by generating evidence-based knowledge and by improving the lives of individuals & communities. [Click here](#) to donate.



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