

An appeal



Dear Well-wishers of ISST,

Institutions that build knowledge for social change often work quietly in the background – producing research, supporting dialogue, and strengthening public understanding of complex issues. Over the years, your engagement across our conferences, webinars, events, and digital platforms has been a vital source of support and strength. In a short amount of time, our online community has more than doubled in numbers, reaching and connecting with many people across diverse spaces.

Today, we find ourselves at an unusual moment. ISST is currently navigating a short-term funding gap. To sustain our work and teams whose commitment has made a difference over these years, we have had to draw upon a portion of our reserve funds – resources intended to safeguard the organisation’s long-term stability. While new partnerships and projects are in development, this transition period has created an urgent need for bridge support.

Since its founding over four and a half decades ago, ISST has worked at the intersection of knowledge, policy, and community engagement to advance women’s economic empowerment – particularly for those in informal livelihoods across rural and urban contexts. Our four programme pillars – Research, Evaluation, Community Outreach, and Capacity Building, are rooted in making women’s work, especially unpaid and care work, more visible and valued. Our research and participatory methodologies have positioned ISST as a leading voice on gender and labour. We have pioneered gender-transformative evaluation approaches and built capacities of practitioners and emerging professionals through our courses, strengthening the broader ecosystem working towards a gender-just world. We have always believed that when research meets practice, meaningful change begins. Since the past 25 years, our community outreach programme in Kalyanpuri, East Delhi, supports families engaged in informal work by creating safe spaces for over 300 children and adolescents each year, improving learning outcomes, and shaping their aspirations for decent work.

An appeal



At this moment, we are reaching out to you to help us bridge this short-term gap. Our target is 50 lakhs to be raised by June 2026. No amount is small for us. Every donation you make will help us be one step closer to the change we would like to see in the world. Indian citizens interested to donate up to Rs 1,00,000 can click on the link here - <https://isstindia.org/donate> or scan the QR code.



For contributions above INR 1,00,000 or in Foreign Currency, please connect with Nitin Shukla, our accounts manager at nitin@isstindia.org.

At the core of impactful funding lies trust. We invite you to extend your trust in us by bringing others into this shared commitment – connecting us with friends, colleagues, and philanthropists who share the same purpose.

We remain deeply grateful to the many people and institutions who have supported ISST over the years, and we look forward to continuing this journey together.

Warm Regards,
Team ISST
www.isstindia.org

