



Dear Reader,

Wishing you a Happy New Year!

We wish for 2026 to bring renewed hope, collective strength, and continued commitment to justice, equity, and inclusive change. Here's to learning, unlearning, and building together in the year ahead.

May this year bring you immense joy, hope, and opportunities.

Newsletter Highlights

- ## Community Outreach



Where We Left Our Footprints

1. The Freedom Media Roundtable – II | January 4, 2025 | Shipra
2. 2023 GEM Report on Technology in Education in India at the International Conference on Gender and Technology 2025 | Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham, Kochi | January 16-19, 2025 | Anweshaa Ghosh
3. Faculty Research Colloquium | School of Liberal Studies, BML Munjal University | Gurugram | March 12, 2025 | Mubashira Zaidi, Areesha Khan
4. Ideation Workshop: Building Evidence between heat and mental health of informal women workers | Centre for Budget and Policy Studies | April 8 - 9, 2025



Where We Left Our Footprints

5. Evaluation Conclave 2025 | Colombo | May 31, 2025 | Dr Jahnvi Andharia & Dr Alpaxee Kashyap

6.kNOw Fear: Reclaiming Rural Public Spaces for Women & Marginalized Communities | SWATI, ISST and TISS Mumbai | July 2 - 4, 2025 | Camellia Reja

7. She Leads: Women in Digital Economy – Inclusive Innovation | SANSAD TV and UN Women July 15, 2025 |Dr Jahnvi Andharia

8. International Sociological Association (ISA) Annual Conference 2025 | Morocco | July 6-11, 2025 | Mubashira Zaidi, Anweshaa Ghosh, Dr Sreerupa

9. National Consultation on "Platform Work as an Enabler for Women's Economic Empowerment" | IWWAGE | September 3, 2025 | Anweshaa Ghosh

10. The Transform Care Learning Forum | Kathmandu, Nepal | UN Women Asia and the Pacific, UNICEF East Asia and Pacific, and UNICEF South Asia| September 2-5, 2025 | Dr Jahnvi Andharia & Dr Sreerupa

11. Technical Care Facility: Strategies for Financing Care, the Transform Care Investment Initiative Asia-Pacific | UN Women | October 29 - 30, 2025 | Dr Jahnvi Andharia & Dr Sreerupa



Thoughtful Collaborations



The 4th Annual conference on Ageing organised by ISST, IIMAD, UNFPA, UN Women on December 4-5, 2025



Evaluation Conclave 2025, Columbo | Panel: Emerging Gaps in South Asia for Integrating Gender in Evaluation on May 29, 2025



Global Evaluation Week 2025 | Panel: Engendering Evaluation Capacity: Education and Application - A Case from India | Panel: Learning from Each Other: South-South Conversations on Mainstreaming Gender-Transformative Evaluations on June 5, 2025

Thoughtful Collaborations



Nikore Associates Forthcoming Study on CSR funding on care infrastructure in India commissioned by the UN Women India.



Mobile Creches Ongoing Study: Mapping Vulnerabilities to Ensure Universal Access and Equity to Childcare: A case study of Bihar, Jharkhand and Rajasthan



The Quantum Hub

Centering Care in India's economic policy | March 2025



Training of Trainers (ToT) of Leaders of Home Based Workers

ISST, in collaboration with HomeNet South Asia (HNSA), conducted Training of Trainers (ToTs) for leaders of home-based workers with partnering organisations of HNSA, including SAVE in Tirupur, SEWA Bharat in New Delhi, and IASEW in Ahmedabad. In addition, ISST also facilitated ToTs with three organisations in Nepal—SABAH, WHR, and SAATHI—strengthening the capacities of women leaders and volunteers working with home-based workers across the region. These trainings were held across multiple locations such as Delhi, Gujarat, Tirupur, and Nepal, and were complemented by the development of a dedicated training manual designed to support and standardise training for master trainers.

Shram aur Hum 2025



‘Shram aur Hum’ brought two days of conversations that mattered, unravelling evidence on key issues and situating policy interventions within broader discourse. The event engaged with themes of gender-based violence, digitalisation, informal and precarious work, care, and the women’s movement, all through the lens of the world of work.

Highlights

Imagining Pathways for the WPWoW Knowledge Hub

The session created a dynamic, gender-transformative space for collaboration, knowledge sharing, and solidarity building. It brought together researchers, practitioners, activists, and students to co-create the Hub’s vision, features, and priorities.



Mapping Labour, an exhibition by ISST

The exhibition invited active participation and reflection through interactive displays. Visitors explored how labour experiences differ across caste, class, gender, and location, while engaging in dialogue to imagine more inclusive and equitable futures for women at work.



Call for Papers on ‘Transformative Approaches to Knowing Women and Work’

Over two days, the Transformative Approaches to Knowing Women and Work sessions brought together 12 emerging scholars and practitioners, selected from over 100 applications, who showcased powerful and innovative feminist research on women, work, and labour.



Shram aur Hum 2025

Launch of 'Learning Without Limits'

At the inaugural of Shram aur Hum 2025, ISST released "Learning Without Limits – Curriculum for Children from Marginalised Communities."

Developed at the Saathi Centre, the curriculum integrates academic learning, socio-emotional development, and gender sensitivity, grounded in the lived realities of first- and second-generation learners, and facilitated by the Eklavya Foundation team.



Panel : No One-Size-Fits-All: Designing Responsive Care Models for Diverse Realities

The panel brought in diverse perspectives from government representatives, private sector leaders, experts, and practitioners to advance the policy discourse on designing inclusive, gender responsive, and sustainable care models.



Panel: Artificial Intelligence, Gendered Labour & Digital Justice

This panel unpacked how AI is reshaping labour from gig platforms to manufacturing surveillance, while also reinforcing or contesting gendered inequalities. It further explored feminist possibilities for ethical AI.



First ever FGTE Alumni meet – FGTE Connect

Alumni from across cohorts reunited to reflect on how Gender Transformative Evaluation shapes their work, reaffirming community as central to change. A key highlight was the masterclass on Social Network Analysis, offering new ways to uncover power relations and strengthen gender justice strategies.



Closing Ceremony

The second day concluded with a powerful theatre performance by the Yuva Saathi Centre, "कल्याणपुरी का जमघट," depicting everyday gender stereotypes through young lives in Kalyanpuri, followed by reflections from Smt. Kanta Singh, UN Women India, on collective action and feminist leadership.



Conferences/Webinars hosted by ISST

Labour Relations and Social Dialogue in Delhi NCR's Garment Industry through a Gender Lens | 7th November, 2025

On 7 November 2025, ISST held a half-day validation workshop on its scoping study of labour relations in Delhi NCR's garment industry through a gender lens, bringing together unions, worker collectives, and researchers to validate the findings.

Visibilising Ageing: Cinema, Care, and Gendered Realities as part of the 4th Annual Conference on Ageing | 4th December, 2025

ISST and UN Women co-hosted the evening event "Visibilising Ageing: Cinema, Care, and Gendered Realities" as part of the Fourth Annual Conference on Ageing. The programme featured a screening of '*Aunty Sudha, Aunty Radha*' by Tanuja Chandra, curated by Aanchal Kapur of Kriti Film Club.

Digital Dilemma Webinar 'Towards Gender Justice in India's Platform Economy: Legislation, Inclusion, and Future Pathways' | 18th December 2025

ISST successfully concluded the first webinar of the Digital Dilemma Webinar Series, titled 'Towards Gender Justice in India's Platform Economy: Legislation, Inclusion, and Future Pathways' in December 2025. The session featured rich discussions and aligns with ISST's ongoing work on the theme of Gender and Digitalisation of Work.



Publications

1. **Weaving Technology, Collective Power and Gender Responsive Governance: the Journey of Mahila Swaraj Manch, Chapter, for the book 'People's Digital India' | Jahnvi Andharia, 2025**
2. **Learning Without Limits: Curriculum for Children from Marginalised Communities**
3. **Digital Dilemma Podcast Series:**
<https://open.spotify.com/show/6eNYh0c3kGg1VeEh1bG4WV?si=bab7f4d987864062> | Hosted by Anweshaa and Shipra, Produced and Edited by Deepa
4. **Navigating Gendered and Structural Barriers to Aspirations, Study Report, 2025**
5. **3 years on: Why the Dindigul Agreement still matters (even if little has changed) | Maktoob Media | Areesha Khan**
6. **Centring care in India's economic policy | The Hindu | Sreerupa**



Blogs

1. **Revenge Porn Isn't About Images: It's About Control | LinkedIn | Shipra**
2. **Who Really Holds the Phone? Digital Realities of Children in Delhi's Urban Margins | LinkedIn | Rajeev, Dharmendra and Shipra**
3. **How Are Women's Movements Fighting Backlash in South Asia? | SuPWR | Mubashira Zaidi**



New Cohorts This Year



FGTE EMP 2025

10 Weeks Online Course | Cohort of 40 with 50% Participants of India, and 50% from other countries of South Asia

Reflecting on the journey, Course Coordinator Alpaxee Kashyap highlighted:

“The course has come a long way, and we continue to learn from every batch, and this batch was very bright with almost 50% participants from other South Asian countries apart from India. It reflects the growing maturity of the field of gender and evaluation.

In this 2025 iteration, we tried few new elements like buddy system, revision of content flow and materials, coordinators playing the first point of contact as resource persons. We look forward to learning and growing as we move ahead.”

Women and Work: Making it Count

Advanced Course Iteration 2025 | 23 Participants across the country |

In the words of Ashmeet, Facilitator, Women and Work Course:

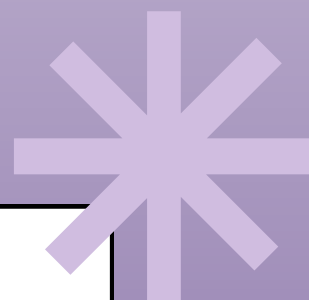
“This course emerges from years of feminist research at ISST where each year feels like a palimpsest that brings out layers of history and struggle that has shaped how we understand women and work. As facilitators and learners, we look back to draw lessons from history while staying attentive to how contemporary realities continue to reshape this discourse. The space we create is not about the transfer of knowledge, but about co-learning where each of us brings our own context, experience, and questions.”



Gender and Evaluation Community

We grew into a community of 5400 members this year. If you're interested in learning more about gender, evaluation or gender transformative evaluations, register to be a part of this community now! This global cohort is sure to give you more insights:

<https://gendereval.ning.com/>





Glimpses from the Community Outreach Programme

Celebration of Bal Utsav on 10th January, 2025

Celebration of International Women's Day with the women from the Community on 8th March, 2025

Launch of Saathi Centre's curriculum 'Learning Without Limits' at Shram aur Hum 2025

Visit to the 'Khiltey Raho – Bal Utsav' by Mobile Creches on 28th November 2025

Completion of the Computer Training Programme: 90 students from Rajkiya Sarvodaya Kanya Vidyalaya, Kondli; R.S.K.V. New Ashok Nagar; and R.S.B.V. Kalyanpuri completed the programme at the Saathi Centre.





Glimpses from the Community Outreach Programme

Summer Camp 2025 on the theme 'Emotional Well - being'.

The ISST Saathi Centre successfully conducted its summer camp programmes from 15 May to 26 June 2025, engaging children across multiple age groups with a strong focus on emotional well-being.



Skill - Building Courses @ ISST's Community Outreach Programme

This year, the Yuva Saathi Centre introduced new skill-building courses to boost youth confidence, creativity, and employability. The courses include Job Readiness Training (Via English language course and Theatre, Photography & Videography, and Graphic Designing, combining practical skills with creative and professional development.



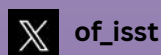
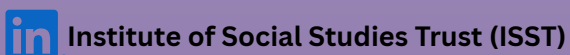
As we look ahead, we carry forward the inspiration and learnings of the previous year into the next one. Our commitment towards a better world that acknowledges the worth and work of women in the informal sector continues to grow stronger. And in the spirit of taking forward this commitment with you, we hope to engage with you again soon.

Thank you!

Be a part of our journey.
DONATE NOW!



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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