# ANNUAL REPORT 2001-2002



INSTITUTE OF SOCIAL STUDIES TRUST

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The Institute of Social Studies Trust (ISST), a non-profit non-governmental organization, was set up as a society in 1964 and was registered as a Trust in 1980.

The main office of ISST is located in the India Habitat Centre at New Delhi. There is a field office in East Delhi and a branch office in Bangalore.



# From the Director's Desk



In an age of donor-funded project-based research, institutions may very well find themselves in the unenviable position of being propelled by project-driven and time-bound commitments. It is a little like living perpetually in the present, being in a state of permanent transience as it were. It is easy under such conditions to lose one's bearings and go where the market forces lead. While finances are vital for running an institution, it is important under such circumstances to have one's priorities clearly in sight and to steer away from making unacceptable compromises, even when they happen to be hugely lucrative. Unless

of course one is as fortunate as we have been, to have sponsors who are as supportive as friends and as interested in the outcome of our work as partners. We are very thankful for the support we have received from our sponsors over the years.

On our part, we have been selective about accepting project offers, i.e., accept only those that build on our previous work and those that match the interests of our team members. This process of selective expansion has helped us build in-house expertise in a number of closely inter-linked research areas. An overview of this can be obtained from our new website, www.isst-india.org, and is summarized in the following pages of this report.

Being selective of course does not mean that we have shunned new challenges. We have always striven for change, for breaking new grounds. This year we have broken out of past practices in a number of ways and initiated new ventures. There have been some interesting additions to our agenda. The most notable amongst these is the initiation of a whole range of new activities in our Community Centre in the trans-Jamuna region of Delhi.

Over the last year or so, these initiatives have grown in strength. In one location, with the help of local unemployed youth, informal education centres have netted in almost all the children in the neighbourhood. Children who were either never enrolled in the MCD schools or were drop-outs, have now been enrolled or reinstalled in the schools with the help of our field staff. In another location a range of different activities have been started for different

groups of women and children. The commitment of the trainers have made these centres popular venues for the neighbourhood.

Until now, we have been financing these activities largely from our own resources. Our experience over the last year has given us confidence to seek resources from outside the organization. We feel that the time has come to both widen and deepen our involvement with the communities. We see such initiatives to be forming an increasingly important part of ISST's future agenda.

During this period, ISST has also had the opportunity to experiment with a system of collective self-management in the physical absence of the Director of the organization for a large part of the year. While developments in long distance communication technology helped maintain regular contact, the fact that the experiment in such collective self-management in the organization worked out as well as it did, is proof of its resilience and sustainability.

While these exciting things have been happening at the organizational level, one is pained and baffled by the general anarchy which has engulfed the country. The carnage in Gujarat, the inhuman savagery it entailed, has cast a pall of gloom all around. What does one do when utter madness prevails on such a massive scale? When mass frenzy in the name of religion overwhelms common sense? What does one do when humans shun their basic humanity? When the work done by generations of social reformers is uprooted and thrown asunder?

Hatred can only beget more of the same. One fervently hopes that the coming year will see restoration of balance and sanity.

Swpana Mukhopadhyay Director

8 August, 2002



This report covers ISST's activities during the period 1 April 2001 to 31 March 2002 within the context of a two-pronged longer run programme, which consists of research on the underprivileged sections of society with a focus on women, as well as a training and outreach component which is our direct interface with the community we intend to serve.

Over the years, ISST has conducted several pioneering research studies with a view to design alternative development strategies that recognise the role and contribution of women.

Our research projects are geared to

- ♦ Working closely with grassroots groups in conducting research,
- ♦ Identifying information gaps and building up a database on the poor with a special focus on gender.
- ♦ Disseminating information obtained from field studies to research scholars, planners, development agencies and decision-makers.

ISSTs Outreach Programme is involved in providing Counselling services to community members through our Family Counselling Centre.

- ♦ Working with selected communities in the Trans-Jamuna region of Delhi to raise awareness and ensure service delivery
- ♦ Under the UMA project, ISST has been providing outreach facilities to rural women of Karnataka for many years.



Internal meeting of ISST staff members in Delhi office.

#### I. THRUST AREAS OF ISST'S RESEARCH IN RECENT YEARS

In recent years, ISST's research has concentrated on the following broad areas:

- i. Regional Network on Gender
- ii. Poverty, Gender and Economic Policy
- iii. Health
- iv. Local Government

#### (i) REGIONAL NETWORK ON GENDER

Since 1998, ISST has been involved in the design, co-ordination and supervision of research carried out by a network of Gender Researchers. The work has evolved around a project on the impact of economic reforms on various dimensions of Gender -based inequality in South and South East Asia. Coordinated country level studies in the first phase of the project were launched in Bangladesh, India, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka. These were supplemented by regional studies, which are of relevance to the region as a whole. The Phase I of Gender Network ended in 2001.

A book containing some of the findings of the research conducted under Gender Network Phase-I is currently in press and is likely to be out in the market by early 2003.

Forthcoming Publication

TRACKING GENDER INEQUITY UNDER ECONOMIC REFORMS:

Continuity and Change in South Asia

Edited by Swapna Mukhopadhyay and Ratna Sudarshan

A list of the relevant documents can be obtained from ISST's website: www.isst-india.org and from the IDRC-MIMAP website: www.mimap.org. The Gender Network Project has been sponsored by the International Development Research Centre (IDRC) of Canada under the Micro Impact Macro Adjustment Policy (MIMAP) Programme.

Phase II of Gender Network started in July 2001. In this phase, a new set of country-level and regional studies has been launched. Some of these are designed to take the research questions initiated in Phase I further along; some others are investigating new areas of research.



## Gender Network (Phase II) (On-going)

As in the first phase of GPN, Phase II of the Gender Planning Network (GPN) undertakes theoretical and empirical research in some South and Southeast Asian countries to measure and understand differences in the impact of macroeconomic shocks and structural reforms between men and women. Coordinated research is being carried out simultaneously at the macro, meso and micro levels at several countries of South and South East Asia. Some of it is extension of the work carried out in the first phase, and some are new areas of inquiry. ISST has been involved in the designing and coordination of the activities of this regional Network.

On the modeling side, an extension of the Computable General Equilibrium (CGE) Modeling exercise carried out in the first phase is being attempted in the current phase to incorporate the information that has been made available by the Central Statistical Office of the Government of India from a Time Use Survey that was conducted in a large number of households in the country the late Nineties. In addition, a comprehensive review of the status of gender modeling at the household as well as the macro levels is being prepared. This phase of the Network will also explore the possibility of starting off new initiatives in gender modeling in a few countries of the region.

Reports and Papers from
Gender Planning Network (Phase I)
can be browsed and downloaded from
http://www.mimap.org

## Gender Network (Phase II) Partnering Organisations and Individuals\*

Organisation/Researcher	Country location	Research module	Research output	
Institute of Social Studies Trust (ISST)	India	Household survey	Survey of retrenched workers' households	
Center for Women's Research (CENWOR)	Sri Lanka	—Do—	-Do-	
Pakistan Institute of Development Economics (PIDE)	Pakistan	—Do—	Incorporation of Gender in Poverty Monitoring Surveys	
DLSU Angelo King Institute of Economic and Business Studies	Philippines	_Do_	_Do—	
Institute of Policy Research (IPR) and CENWOR	Sri Lanka	_Do_	_Do_	
National Labour Academy (NLA)	Nepal	Community based survey	—Do—	
National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER)	India	Gender modeling	An extended CGE model incorporating gender	
International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI)	Regional	—Do—	Status report on SAM based Gender Models and possible extensions	
Institute of Social Studies Trust (ISST)	Regional	Mapping of gender indicators	Consolidation of conventional and non-conventional gender indicators in South Asia	
Institute of Social Studies Trust (ISST)	Regional	Review Paper	Gender and Poverty in South Asia	
Ansar Hospital Mallepuram, Kerala	India	Household survey	Survey of Mental Health of men and women in Kerala	
Prof. Swasti Mitter	Regional	Research Report	A paper on employment opportunities for women in ICT sector in the Asia Pacific region	

<sup>\*</sup> Project co-ordination by ISST, India

At the micro level, as a sequel to the household surveys done in Phase I, some countries in the region have embarked on household surveys in the households of workers, men and women, who have lost their jobs due to reforms-related factors. This is to supplement the results of the first phase where surveys were conducted in households for which the direct impact of reforms had been positive, in the sense that new jobs were created for women in the Export Processing Zones (EPZ) and Export Oriented Units (EOU).



The project will also explore the possibility of simultaneously measuring and monitoring women's well being and local poverty levels, with a view to exploring the links between gender and poverty. This is being done by incorporating questions relevant for exploring gender bias in the poverty measurement surveys which are currently being carried out under IDRC's Micro Impact of Macro Adjustment Programme (MIMAP). Different methods of doing this is being piloted in different countries of the region through gender-oriented community based monitoring mechanisms.

In addition, as a sequel to the Kerala study carried out in Phase I, a comprehensive survey on mental health and well-being of women and men in Kerala is being carried out in all the 14 districts of the state in order to deepen the understanding of issues relating to the status of women in that state of India which boasts of very high literacy and health status for women while at the same time continues to be steeped in patriarchal values and norms.

Also, under Phase II of GPN, a meso-level study on the ICT sector is being carried out to explore the gender-differentiated impact and growth potential of the sector in the region.

The First Annual meeting of GPN phase II project was organised at New Delhi in October 2001 by ISST. A copy of the Proceedings is available at the ISST Documentation Centre or can be obtained from ISST's website. The second one is due to be held in Bangkok in January 2003.

This project is funded by IDRC, Canada.

## (ii) POVERTY, GENDER AND ECONOMIC POLICY

Macro economic policies are likely to have gender-differentiated impact on the ground. However, it is not very easy to analyse these effects, primarily because a lot of these take place outside the sphere of the market, and oftener than not these are unmeasured and unmeasurable.

Apart from the work being carried out in the Gender Network Project, ISST has also been involved in researching the gender implications of bugetary policies in two states of India.

# Gender Budgeting In India (On-going)

Budgetary policies generally appear to be gender neutral. Taxes, revenues and expenditures are not gendered concepts. However, in reality, men and women lead different economic lives. They face different constraints and assume different socially determined responsibilities and consequently make different choices. Women, therefore, are affected by and tend to have different responses to, budgetary policy as compared to men. If budgets fail to be responsive



to the needs and demands of the poor and of women, resources will not be adequately directed to the achievement of equity goals. One of the major objectives of analyzing budget policy from a gender perspective is to assess such differentiated implications of government policies on men and women.

The main objective of a gender-sensitive budget is to attain more effective targeting of public expenditure. Creating gender-equitable budgets presupposes reviewing national budgets from a gender perspective and translating the rhetoric of gender commitments into budgetary commitments.

A related question is one of implementation. It is not enough to know how much is being allotted to which head, but also see how those resources are being used. This opens up a whole range of issues on the gender differentiated nature of service delivery. Any analysis on Gender Budgets has to look into all these angles.

Since October 2001, ISST has been involved in a project designed to carry out budget analysis from a gendered perspective in the states of Delhi and Himachal Pradesh. Two specific sectors, which on grounds of a prior reasoning may have gender differentiated impact of government budget policy have been selected for intensive study. The areas that have been selected for in-depth analysis of budget of government budgetory policy are (i) food security, with special reference to the Public Distribution System, and (ii) the health sector. The first has borne the brunt of reduction in subsidies in recent years and the second has undergone a resource crunch in the wake of structural reforms. The study of food security is being launched in some slum clusters in urban Delhi and the policy impact of government budget on the health sector is being analysed in the context of the state budget in Himachal Pradesh.

The Gender Budget project is funded by UNIFEM.





# Details of projects on stream between 1st April 2001 and 31st March 2002

Project Title	Sponsoring Agency	Year of Commencement	Duration	Status	
A Regional Gender Planning Network in South and South East Asia (Phase II)	International Development Research Centre (IDRC) Canada	July 2001	Two years	On going	
Analysis of State Budget from a Gender Perspective with Special Reference to Delhi & Himachal Pradesh	UNIFEM November 200		One year	On going	
Community out-reach program in Mandawli area	ISST	November 2000	On going	On going	
Family Counselling Centre	Delhi Social Welfare Advisory Board	January 1988	Thirteen years	Completed	
Women in Local Governance : Networking and Dissemination at UMA Resource Centre (Phase II)	Action Aid India	October 2000	Twelve months	Completed	
Strengthening the Research and Dissemination Activities of ISST	Reserve Bank of India	January 1997	Five years	Completed	





#### (iii) HEALTH

Among the social sector issues that shape the nature of vulnerability of the poor and of women, health is of major significance. In a number of research studies over the last few years ISST has investigated different aspects of health in relation to poverty and gender. There have been projects which look into the general interface of health status and poverty and those that look at the potential of implementing health agenda through local government structures. We can broadly categorise the recent health sector projects undertaken by ISST into, (a) those that deal with reproductive health, (b) those that are specifically concerned with HIV/AIDS, and (c) those that look at health as an entry point for activating structures of local governance.

#### A Cultural Approach to HIV/AIDS Prevention and Care (Completed)

ISST was associated with a research project entitled 'A Cultural Approach to HIV/AIDS Prevention and Care: A Handbook for India'. The report - submitted to UNESCO, New Delhi - is based on a study of the cultural dimensions of sexual norms in different population groups in India, their traditions, religious beliefs, conceptions of health and disease and perceptions of life and death. This knowledge is particularly useful in assessing the behavioral risks and in suggesting pointers at countering these risks.

Recently UNESCO has come out with a printed Hand Book based on this research which has been disseminated among the NGOs and those concerned.

# Gender And HIV/AIDS: A Regional Workshop for Capacity Building among Community based Organisations and Women's Groups in Northern India (Forthcoming)

An important fact that emerged from the National Seminar on gender dimensions of HIV/AIDS organized by ISST in May 2000 was that issues concerning gender and HIV/AIDS require an intensive and locale specific handling. With evidence of women becoming highly vulnerable to the epidemic, it was felt that more organizations working with issues concerning women should be involved. However many women's groups also feel ill equipped to deal with the complexities concerning HIV/AIDS. ISST is scheduled to organize a training workshop to be held in October 2002 for building of knowledge and capacity among community based organisations in Northern India. The initiative is being funded by UNIFEM, Delhi.

The forthcoming training workshop will focus on organisations working in the states of Himachal Pradesh, Chandigarh, Uttaranchal, Uttar Pradesh, Punjab, Haryana, Delhi and, Jammu and Kashmir. The organisations will include CBOs organisations working with women on issues such as health, micro-credit, income generation etc. It will seek to bring together



a diversity of organisations working at the grassroots. The participants will be the middle level and grassroots workers of those organisations.

#### (iv) LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Ever since the 93<sup>rd</sup> and 94<sup>th</sup> amendment to the Indian Constitution came into place, the agency of elected women in local government structure has been a major point of entry for ISST's work. The Health Through Panchayats project that ISST carried out in three states of the country in association with three local level NGO's had utilized the agency of elected women Panchayat members for catering to the health needs of the community.

The UMA project, an acronym for Utsahi Mahila Abhyudaya, which has been operational in the Bangalore unit of ISST since 1993, has been deeply involved with the issue of local government in the state of Karnataka in particular and in all of Southern India in general. Considering that the major contribution of the UMA project has been to provide training to hundreds of elected women Panchayat members in Karnataka and other Southern states through innovative training methods and material for almost a decade now, and which in its current avatar was completed during the year 2001-2002, the UMA project is being shown as part of ISST's growing Outreach Programme.

#### II. ISST'S OUTREACH PROGRAMME

# (i) Strengthening The Participation Of Women In Local Governance - Utsahi Mahila Abhyudaya (UMA) (Completed)

The project better known as the UMA project - has several facets. But the major features of the project has been to:

- ♦ Set up a National Resource Centre for Women in Panchayati Raj, and
- ♦ Train elected women who are Gram Panchayat Members to empower them for leadership roles in public life.

The project generated a whole range training material for neo-literate women, which has been translated in several Indian languages and is widely used for training purposes. The Resource Centre at the Bangalore unit of ISST houses a valuable collection of relevant documents on women's participation in local governance. A Newsletter from the project titled 'Uma Prachar' is being published in a number of languages and has been in circulation for several years now.

The UMA Project had been supported for several years by the Ford Foundation and subsequently, by Action Aid India.

For a list of UMA Resource Books, consult the ISST website at www.isst-india.org



#### (ii) Family Counselling Centre (Delhi) (On-going)

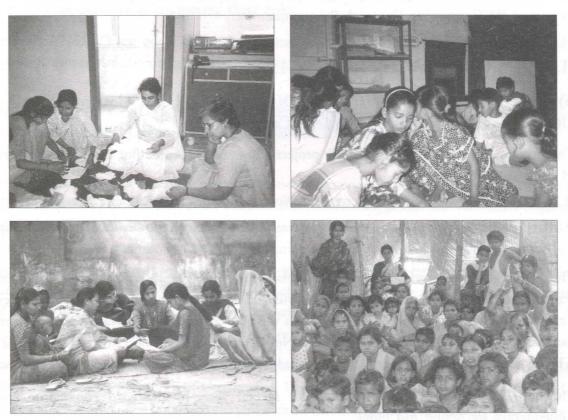
ISST's Family Counselling Centre (FCC) handles a wide variety of cases including marital maladjustment, desertion, dowry harassment and alcoholism. Two trained counsellors are available 5 days a week to provide this service to clients. To further enhance the services, FCC networks with institutions and agencies such as the Crime against Women Cell, Short Stay Homes, Vocational Learning Centres, Institutions for Children with Special Needs, etc.

FCC has also been training future counsellors for community work by providing affiliation to under-graduate and post-graduate students in its counselling activities and organising legal literacy camps in the community.

Until now, FCC has been partly financed by an annual grant from the Delhi Social Welfare Advisory Board. About 50% of the expenses are met from ISST's own resources.

#### (iii) ISST Community Centre

This fast growing component of ISST's Outreach Programme is currently located in some slum clusters in the trans-Jamuna region of Delhi state and is engaged in the following main activities:



Activities at ISST Community Centre in the trans-Jamuna region of Delhi



- Non formal education for school drop-outs,
- ♦ Remedial education for school going children,
- ♦ Adult education for women and young girls,
- Awareness generation on health, sanitation, cleanliness and income generating activities,
- ♦ Conducting legal awareness camps/health camps, and
- Organising exposure trips for women and children

We expect this component of our programme, the newest in the organization's rostrum of activities, to grow in the near future.

#### Workshops / Seminars organised by ISST

#### Gender Planning Network

The second phase of Gender Planning Network held its first workshop in Delhi between the 8th and 10th of October, 2001. This was attended by representatives of partnering organisations from several countries in South & South East Asia involved in the Gender Network Project.



Frist workshop of the second phase of Gender Planning Network is in progress at Delhi

#### Gender Governance and Grama Sabha

A seminar was organised by ISST Bangalore office on Gender Governance and Grama Sabha on 13-14 December 2001. The objective of this seminar was to facilitate sharing of experiences



of women in Panchayat Raj in Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Maharashtra and to understand effective strategic interventions and insights from the experiences.

#### Training Programmes conducted by ISST: Training for surveyors

#### Gender Budget Project

A two-day training program for the surveyors, who were working on the Food Security part of Gender Budget Project, was held on 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> of August 2001, at ISST's Community Centre in Shakkarpur, Delhi. A group of ten young boys and girls attended the training program. The objectives of the survey were to study the details of consumption of



Training of the surveyors under Gender Budget Project

food and non-food items in selected households.

#### Gender Discrimination under Structural Reform



Gender Sensitization Training for the surveyors is in progress

Members of ISST research team conducted a two-day Gender Sensitization Training for investigators involved in the Retrenched Workers Households' survey in Delhi under the Gender Planning Network Project sponsored by IDRC. The training was organised on 23<sup>rd</sup> · 24<sup>th</sup> of January 2001.



# Training Programmes for Panchayats under the UMA project

Two-day training programmes for elected women representatives (EWR) in ten districts of Karnataka were conducted between April and October 2001 by Bangalore ISST under the auspices of the UMA project. The training was designed to generate awareness among the EWR's on their rights and responsibilities.

Sl. No	District/ State	Taluk	Gram Panchayat	Date & Year
1.	Bangalore Urban	Anekal	Hebbagodi, Bommasandra, Neraluru, Chandapura, Guddahalli, Athibele, Anekal	11–12 April 2001
2.	Chikmagalur	Tarikere	Siddarahalli, Haadikere, Neralakere, Cheeranahalli, Bettadahalli, Gadeehalli, Gulladamane, Mugali, Tarikere	27–28 April 2001
3.	Bellary	Sandur & Bellary	Chooranur, Siriwara, Metriki, Vitalapura, Linganahalli, Bommagatti, Anthapura, Baadanahalli, Belagal, Sanganakallu	9–10 May 2001
4.	Gulbarga	GP Athnur	EWRs from Selected GPs from all 5 zones	28-20 June 2001
5.	Gulbarga	Athnur & Afzalpur	Athnoor Nimbarga Naroona Kamalanagar	12-13 July 2001
6.	Kerala	Kottayam	2 GPs, 1 Grama Sabha, 10 SHGs, NGO, Historic sights	18–20 July 2001
7.	Karnataka	Bagalkot District	Badami Taluk	13-14 Sept. 2001
8.	Bangalore Urban	Anekal	Attibele Hebbagodi, Bommasandra, Neraluru, Guddahalli, Athibele Anekal, Chandapura	25–26 Sept. 2001
9.	Chikmagalur	Tarikere	Siddarahalli, Haadikere, Neralakere, Cheeranahalli, Bettadahalli, Gadeehalli, Gulladamane, Mugali Tarikere	9–10 Oct. 2001
10.	Bellary		Chooranur, Siriwara, Metriki, Vitalapura, Linganahalli, Bommagatti, Anthapura, Baadanahalli, Belagal, Sanganakallu	- SuleTEER - Data Fractur - - Samachar Parifi

# LIST OF PUBLICATIONS 2001-2002

#### **BOOKS**

- > Living under a shadow: Gender and HIV/AIDS in Delhi
- ➤ A Cultural approach to HIV/AIDS Prevention and Care : Towards a Handbook for India (Published by UNESCO Division of Cultural Policies)
- ➤ Tracking Gender Development under Economic Reforms: Continuity and Change in South Asia (In press)

#### **REPORTS**

- ➤ Gender, governance and grama sabha: Presentation from Karnataka, Tamilnadu and Andhra Pradesh. (English & Kannada)
- > Winds of Change: Study of AWGP
- > Project complete report on Women in Local Governance: Networking and Dissemination at UMA Resource Centre

#### RESOURCE BOOKS

- > Goodininda Gaganakke Case Studies (Kannada)
- > Panchayat Parihara (English & Kannada)
- > Beyond boundaries Case Studies
- > Grama Sabha People's Sabha (English & Kannada)
- > Grama Panchayat Budget Karnataka
- Anubavaguchcha (Kannda)
- Tarabeti Tantragalu (Kannada)

#### **NEWSPAPER CLIPPING**

> Newspaper Clipping on Panchayati Raj

#### WALL MAGAZINE

Namma Panchayathi - Kannada (4 issues)

#### **NEWSLETTER**

- > Uma Prachar English, Hindi, Kannada & Tamil
- > Samachar Patrika Hindi

#### **PAPER**

> Female infanticide in India: A review of literature - Sheela Saravanan (published in Social Change March-June 2002)

ISST wishes to express its gratitude to the agencies that have sponsored its activities over the years

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