



INSTITUTE OF SOCIAL STUDIES TRUST



INSTITUTE FOR HUMAN DEVELOPMENT

# WOMEN'S WORK IN DELHI: DIMENSIONS, CHALLENGES AND EMERGING ISSUES

Dates: **17-18 August 2021** | Virtual Platform: **Zoom**

*A Virtual Seminar organised by  
Institute of Social Studies Trust (ISST) and Institute for Human Development (IHD)*

## PROGRAMME

**DAY 1: 17 AUGUST 2021**

10.00– 11.15 hrs	: <b>INAUGURAL SESSION</b>
Welcome and Introductory Remarks	: <b>Jahnvi Andharia</b> Director and Research Fellow Institute of Social Studies Trust (ISST)
	: <b>Alakh N. Sharma</b> Professor & Director Institute for Human Development (IHD)
About the Seminar	: <b>Aasha Kapur Mehta</b> Chairperson Centre for Gender Studies, IHD
Keynote Address	: <b>Gita Sen</b> Director & Distinguished Professor Ramalingaswami Centre on Equity & Social Determinants of Health (RCESDH) Public Health Foundation of India
Vote of Thanks	: <b>Rajib Nandi</b> Associate Director and Research Fellow Institute of Social Studies Trust (ISST)
11.15 – 13.30	: <b>SESSION 1:</b> <b>WOMEN'S WORK AND CHALLENGES FACED BY WOMEN IN INFORMAL EMPLOYMENT</b>
Chairperson	: <b>Renana Jhabvala</b> President, SEWA Bharat
Presentations	: <i>Choice and Participation of Women in the Workforce in Delhi</i> Balwant Singh Mehta, Fellow, IHD

*Understanding Care Work as Barrier to Economic Empowerment of Women Informal Workers in Delhi*  
Monika Banerjee, ISST

*Who Wants to Become an Entrepreneur? A Gender-based Analysis*  
Swati Dutta, IHD

Panelists

: **Radhicka Kapoor**  
Senior Visiting Fellow, Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relations (ICRIER) New Delhi

**Farzana Afridi**  
Professor, Economics and Planning Unit  
Indian Statistical Institute (ISI), Delhi

**Sunita Sanghi**  
Former Principal Adviser, Ministry of Skill and Entrepreneurship, Government of India

13.30 – 14.30

LUNCH BREAK

14.30 – 16.45

: **SESSION 2:**  
**ADDRESSING CONSTRAINTS TO WOMEN'S WORK**

Chairperson

: **Ashwini Deshpande**  
Professor of Economics  
Ashoka University

Presentations

: *Women's Employment Opportunities and Challenges: A Panel Data Analysis of Informal Sector in Delhi*  
Balwant Singh Mehta, Fellow, IHD

*Home-based Work in Informal Settlements: Integrating a Lens of Women's Livelihood in Urban Infrastructure*  
Gurpreet Kaur, ISST

*Persisting Servitude and Gradual Shift Towards Recognition and Dignity of Labour: A Study of Employers of Domestic Workers in Delhi and Mumbai*  
Deeksha Tayal, IHD

Panelists

: **Amrita Datta**  
Assistant Professor of Development Studies  
Department of Liberal Arts  
Indian Institute of Technology  
Hyderabad

**Neetha N.**

Professor, Centre for Women's Development Studies  
New Delhi

**Suneeta Dhar**

Co-Founder, South Asia Women Foundation-India

**DAY 2: 18 AUGUST 2021**

10.00 – 12.15 hrs

: **SESSION 3:  
ADOLESCENT ASPIRATIONS AND FUTURE OF  
WOMEN'S WORK**

Chairperson

: **Vinita Aggarwal**  
Executive Member, National Council for  
Vocational Education and Training (NCVET)  
Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship  
Government of India

Presentations

: *Aspirations of Adolescent Girls in an Urban Low-  
Income Scenario*  
Mubashira Zaidi, ISST

*Organising Work as Migrant Domestic Workers and  
Construction Workers in the National Capital Region*  
Sudeshna Sengupta, Visiting Fellow, IHD

*An Exploratory Study on Women Workers in the Gig  
Economy*  
Anweshaa Ghosh, ISST

Panelists

: **Ishani Sen**  
Lead, Learning Voyages, PRAVAH, Delhi and  
Member, Vartaleap Coalition

**Ishita Mukhopadhyay**  
President, Indian Association for Women's Studies  
and Professor, Department of Economics  
University of Calcutta

**Soumya Kapoor Mehta**  
Head, IWWAGE, New Delhi

**12.15 – 13.15**

**LUNCH BREAK**

13.15 – 15.30

: **SESSION 4:  
WOMEN'S WORK DURING PANDEMIC AND  
CREATING OPPORTUNITIES**

Chairperson

: **Yamini Atmavilas**  
India Lead for Gender Equality, India Country Office  
Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation

Presentations

: *Is the Multiplier Effect from Urban Women's  
Employment Leading to Generation of Good Quality  
Employment? A Look at the Female Domestic  
Workers in Delhi NCR and Kolkata-Asansol*  
Tanuka Endow, IHD

*Locating the Processes of Non-state Relief Work during the COVID19 Lockdown in Delhi*  
Sneha Jha, Ashmeet Kaur and Risha Ramachandran, ISST

*Delhi Metro and Covid-19 – A Case Study of Working Women in Delhi-NCR*  
Deeksha Tayal and Aasha Kapur Mehta, IHD

Panelists	:	<b>Padmini Swaminathan</b> Former Professor and Director Madras Institute of Development Studies, Chennai
		<b>Ritu Dewan</b> Visiting Professor, IHD and Former Professor and Director, Dept. of Economics, University of Mumbai
		<b>Ratna Sudarshan</b> Trustee and Former Director, ISST

15.30 – 17.00	:	<b>CONCLUDING SESSION: PANEL DISCUSSION ON WOMEN'S WORK IN DELHI: PERSPECTIVES AND WAY FORWARD</b>
Chairperson	:	<b>Rashmi Singh</b> Spl. Secretary cum Director, Department of Social Welfare and Women and Child Development, Govt. of NCT of Delhi
Highlights of the Main Deliberations of the Seminar	:	<b>Tanuka Endow</b> Professor, IHD
Panelists	:	<b>Jeemol Unni</b> Professor of Economics Ahmedabad University
		<b>Ravi Srivastava</b> Director, Centre for Employment Studies, IHD
		<b>Hema Swaminathan</b> Associate Professor at the Centre for Public Policy Indian Institute of Management Bangalore
		<b>Shalini Sinha</b> India Country Representative Women in Informal Employment: Globalizing and Organizing (WIEGO)
Closing Remarks and Vote of Thanks	:	<b>Ratna Sudarshan</b> Trustee and Former Director, ISST
		<b>Aasha Kapur Mehta</b> Chairperson, Centre for Gender Studies, IHD