

# 25 Years and Onwards: *The CWDS' story*



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Centre for Women's Development Studies

New Delhi



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## 25 Years and Onwards: The CWDS' Story

The Centre for Women's Development Studies (hereafter the Centre) was established in 1980 by a group of men and women, who were involved in the preparation of the first ever comprehensive government report on the 'Status of Women in India' entitled '**Towards Equality**' (Report of the Committee on the Status of Women in India, 1975, GOI), and who were later associated with the Women's Studies Programme of the Indian Council of Social Science Research. The founders encouraged the Centre to undertake critical inquiry on women's issues, and question some of the prevailing assumptions and myths about Indian women perpetuated in social science disciplines, and educational and policy debates.

### Vision, Objectives and Priorities

The Centre has, over the last twenty five years been through many phases of growth and development. Each has involved a simultaneous process of reaffirming the founding principles that set the Centre apart as a unique institution combining **research** and **action**, while being responsive to new challenges and issues as well as making positive interventions in public policy. In addition to its basic commitment to creating integral links between women's studies, the women's movement, and educational reform, the Centre's use of research as a tool for actions, collaboration and advocacy has evolved, expanded and matured qualitatively to:

- (a) respond to major shifts in socio-political and techno-economic transformations at global, national and sub-national levels that are radically altering the contextual backdrop of gender relations and the philosophical foundations of the human rights and development debate;



- (b) participate in the debates that question the 'inevitability' or validity of some of these transformations that pose grave challenges to the future - affecting ecological, natural and human resources, and the socio-political development of India and South Asia in particular;
- (c) widen opportunities for closer collaboration/integration of inherited knowledge/wisdom/capacities and collective concerns of marginalized groups with knowledge institutions whose earlier leadership roles in social and human development now face the threat of marginalisation.

The Centre, from its inception, questioned ideas of the limited role of academic institutions in shaping human/social values and the theory of academic neutrality. This intention was translated through participatory women's development actions at different levels through the use of academic skills and tools such as research, action research, communication, and persuasion on the basis of hard data. Its interactions with grassroots' organisations of women during the last 25 years, at national and regional levels - through a series of peasant women's conferences and workshops spread across South Asia, and more intimate/sustained relationships in some districts of West Bengal since 1981, and more recently in the States of Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh - through participatory action research - offered opportunities for *radical bottom-up learning experiences, which raise several questions about the epistemic ancestry - not only of globally dominant knowledge systems, but also our own perceptions - of the transforming processes affecting these women, ourselves (as representing social science academe) and the communities of which the women are members.*

Mutual respect and reciprocity in research and action has emerged as an inspiring and guiding principle for the Centre, calling for sharper choices of research areas, explorations in methodology and

epistemology, and gradual expansion in the scope and depth of action research, in advocacy, networking and communication.

Having pioneered the establishment of a new role for educational institutions as 'intermediaries' embodying the aspirations of the women's movement and women's studies in India, the Centre played a key role in the State's acknowledgement of the need to promote Women's Studies within the University system (National Policy on Education - 1986 and 1992)\*. It expanded collaboration between universities and non-university institutions in research, teaching/training and development activities in the nineties. The other functions of the Centre as an educational institution are dissemination of information on issues in women's development, making such knowledge accessible through publication, documentation, specialised library services, and by organising seminars and conferences.

With rapid changes in society, economy and culture during the last 25 years, the Centre's research focus has widened to issues precipitated by the acceleration of globalisation - bringing about qualitative changes in the Centre's original preoccupations and priorities. The emphasis on gender, poverty, inequality and injustice remain - but their constituent elements - in terms of *demographic, democratic and ethical challenges emanating from the enhanced interface between India's "invisible" / diverse peoples/cultures and scientific technological changes - connote serious, even dangerous social imbalances.* These are not generally known, still less understood, even among the educated population. Because of its flexible structure, commitment to interdisciplinary collaboration and self-appointed catalyst role - the Centre has certain advantages in bringing diverse institutions/disciplines/functionaries together, to respond to these challenges collectively. This calls for some restructuring/reorganization of its foci, quest for allies and intellectual and technological capacity, without

\* Revised Programme of Action of the 1986 Policy Resolution by Parliament.



losing its existing sources of intellectual and ethical strengths – at the grassroots level.

The Centre's 'intermediary' role needs periodic reexamination to include various other social infrastructure e.g. the University system, other Educational and Research Institutes, R&D institutions, local level governance, the academic community, the legal system, etc. requiring *reformulation and reconceptualisation of the concept and role of civil society itself within the dynamics of social transformation in India. There is an urgent need today to establish sustained interaction of this kind of civil society with the grassroots processes for promotion of human rights and human development. It is also apparent that social science input to the current discourse on the role of law, technology and the long-term implications of development in the bio-sciences and technology is somewhat poor and therefore a dialogue and interaction needs to be initiated.*

At the cultural front, globalisation has set in a variety of responses at different levels and sections such as political/cultural response of ethnic revivalism, religion based fundamentalism, etc. Women's rights are invariably the targets of such movements that emphasise identity by birth. The 20<sup>th</sup> century promoted various rights discourses on oppressed sections and classes. Globalisation has tended to change or dilute those discourses.

*Within the existing cultural diversity of this country, disrupted at times by outbreaks of violence - a distinct commonality of women's voices was identifiable in struggles, movements and assertions of rights. However, social science academe did not pursue these for theoretical conceptualization and left such trends to be tackled by activists – who, hard-pressed for survival and sustaining effective activities, as well perhaps inadequacy of analytical or theorizing 'capability', also left it untouched.*

It is in these contexts and especially the extraordinary challenges thrown up by action research dynamics (see later) that certain major **new** responsibilities emerge for the Centre: (i) in widening/crystallising/reshaping of discourses on 'failures' of legal/educational/political systems; and (ii) reconceptualising networking/ advocacy at both theory and praxis levels – which calls for **formation** of collective thinking and action at various **intermediary** levels – organisations/ associations, institutions and communities - i.e. the basic elements of India's complex, plural yet composite society/culture - *to fulfil the Centre's dual responsibility to women and to social sciences or knowledge generation and dissemination as a whole.*

## Research

Research, which is the backbone of the Centre's work, is not a purely academic endeavour but both a means and an end in operationalising the Centre's objectives. The unanswered questions and the unresolved issues of the seventies naturally kept coming up in the early eighties and influenced the Centre's research focus then. *Since Women's Studies was seen as a perspective and not as a discipline by its pioneers in India, it was necessary to initiate a major consultation process with the academic community, then largely located in the universities.* Workable compromises were made in methodological issues, links between established disciplines and the perspectives of Women's Studies were explored, and a theoretical base for future research was created. The third compulsion emerged out of *a conviction, a challenge and a vision of its founding members - to provide the Centre an identity and a firm location within the higher education system.* This is reflected in its continuous attempts to combine its research concerns with interventionist approaches. Thus, the notions of 'academic neutrality' and 'value-free' role of academic pursuits was consciously abandoned, and the Centre strove to break out of dominant moulds of social science research. This distinct objective has continuously informed the Centre's research agenda over the years.



The Centre's research thrusts also remained largely on **rural women** - variously labelled as **adivasis, dalits** or **peasants**. In the initial years, the focus was **historical** and **anthropological** - for better understanding of the origin and nature of women's subordination and for unravelling women's role, position, contribution in the rural economy and society, and also for generating materials for the formation of women's studies. In the last 25 years, the scope in research on women has considerably expanded in India and there has been tremendous methodological innovation. The Centre, however, has had to limit its choice of research on the basis of its **competence, resources** and **outreach**. Preferring not to adopt any long-term plan in the face of unforeseen constraints of financial resources and the competence and skill required for the same, the Centre generally drew up five-year research plans.

As mentioned above, the Centre's research in the **eighties** was influenced by many sources such as

- a. the ideas and experiences of the Centre's Founders gained through their association with the Committee on the Status of Women in India;
- b. the opportunities provided by the International Women's Decade and the Non-aligned Movement (NAM) to highlight the critique of the dominant development paradigm voiced by women from the developing countries;
- c. the commitment of promoting Women's Studies within the higher education system; and
- d. engaging in policy dialogues in response to women's priorities; etc.

Thus, in the **eighties**, apart from the focus on **Women and Rural Transformation; Family and Household; Women in Social Movements; Women, Work and Development**, the Centre also consciously initiated a process of creating long term and focused

research interests in certain specific areas such as on **children** especially **girl children** (e.g. research projects on Who Cares: Child Care Facilities for Low Income Women; Child Care as an Essential Input in Women's Development); **Women's Right and Access to Natural Resources** (e.g. research projects on Women's Right to Land and other Productive resources; Social Forestry and Women's Development; Women and Changing Energy Availability; Macro Policies relating to Natural Resource Management, Impact of Irrigation Projects on Women); **Women in Communal Ideology**; etc.

Five most important achievements/accomplishments of the Centre in the area of research in this period are:

- The UNIFEM Award in 1987 in recognition of the major contributions of Women to National Development for the Project: **The Role of Public Specialised Agencies as Instruments of Women's Equality and Development in India**;
- Completion of a major collaborative research on **Women's Work and Family Strategies in South and South-East Asia, in collaboration with the UN University**;
- Completion of a major documentation on **Co-operative Movement and Women's Development**;
- Compilation and Publication of the first ever document on **Rural Women's Claim for Priority : A Policy Debate** (National and International);
- Compilation and Publication of **Gandhi's Writings on Women**.

In the **nineties**, the Centre continued with its research interest on **Women's Rights and Access to Productive Resources, Early Childhood Care and Education** etc. Similarly, some of the research projects undertaken in late eighties also continued till the early nineties. However, in 1991, the Centre drew up a new research plan for 1991-96 and a few new areas were identified in response to developments during the period. For instance, **Structural Adjustment Programme**,

**Domestic Violence against Women, the Status of Women's Movement in India** etc. became the focus of new research.

Later, in the latter half of the **nineties**, in response to reservation of seats for women in Panchayats and Municipal bodies, **Women and Democratic Decentralisation and Women and the Political Process** constituted a major research focus. Other research areas were **Gender and Cultural Politics, Women and Reproductive Behaviour, Women and Media, Micro-credit and Women**.

Some of the achievements/accomplishment of the **nineties** are:

- ☞ Completion of the Study on *Women and Panchayats*;
- ☞ Completion of the Study on *Women – Second in the Land Agenda*;
- ☞ Completion of the Project on *Political Ideologies and the Women's Question*;
- ☞ Completion of the Studies on –
  - a. *Media and Women Politicians*;
  - b. *Gender and Reproductive Behavior*.

#### **During 2000-2005**

The new century began with requests from UNDP for two case studies on India, which were duly completed and submitted by 2002.

Preparation of the India Case Studies - (both for UNDP)

- a. *Human Rights and Human Development* (2000)\*
- b. *Gender and Governance* (2002).\*

\* Cited and acknowledged by the Human Development Report 2000.

\*This was used as an input for UNDP's publication on the same theme by three authors.

#### ◆ **Women, Equality and the Indian Republic: A Documentation and Archival Project.**

In early 2001, responding to several requests from young officers in the Department of Women and Child Development, a public offer was made to the Minister for Human Resource Development to restore the GOI's "lost institutional memory" in the shape of official documents issued by various Ministries/other agencies of the Government. Sanctioned by the Department of Women and Child Development in 2002, a series of volumes presenting a massive collection of documents – to historically situate the dialogue between Indian Women and the Indian Republic – are currently under compilation. Publication will begin from 2004-5.

#### ◆ **Impact of Globalisation on Women**

This broad focus represents a combination of some of the on-going research and a few new programme areas which include **Historical and Socio-legal dimensions of Women's Work and the Labour Market; People's Movements and Women's Agency; Problems of Women in Special Circumstances**. Currently under investigation/exploration are the following :

- ❖ *Impact of Globalisation on Women – Analysis of Macro data on Women's Work and Labour*;
- ❖ *Women in Informal Sector – Macro-Micro Analysis*;
- ❖ *People's Movement, the Media and Women's Agency*;
- ❖ *The Threatened Species – the Girl Child and Adolescent Girls*;
- ❖ *Crimes Against Women, Children and the Aged*;
- ❖ *The Rights of Children*.

The Centre has also decided to place long term and focused interest in the following areas:-



### ◆ Indicators of Social and Women's Development

The Centre had not undertaken any critical work in this area earlier due to absence of suitable faculty support. However, work has already begun in this area with long-term focus – through analysis of time series data (e.g. on Crime Statistics, Demographic data, etc.) with emphasis on Rights, Responsibilities, Access, Participation and Impact – (at different levels). With the support of UNIFEM, the Centre has completed developing a **set of social indicators on women's development for the Department of Women and Children, Government of India.**

Thus to its original strength in historical and anthropological methods in the past and ongoing research, the Centre added quantitative methods so essential for developing indicators and analysis of macro data.

### ◆ Demographic Transitions and Social Dynamics:

The Centre's interest in Population Policy, Sex ratio, Crimes against Women, Employment Patterns, Trends in Education, etc. are evident from several publications by the Centre. The phenomenon of the "missing" girl children was exercising our minds even before the Provisional Results of the 2001 Census confirmed our worst fears. This has given birth to expanded methods of advocacy, including an active Campaign Against Female Foeticide.

However, the Centre's interest on children and their rights, have not been restricted to the girl child only. One of the Distinguished Fellows has completed a monograph on **Child and the Law**. The Centre was not only involved in the national level study on Girl Child in the late eighties, but was a major initiator in setting up the Forum for Creches and Child Care Services (FORCES). The Centre's researchers intend

to explore *Child Rights and Childhood Studies* at two levels: a) at the philosophical-methodological level; and b) at the level of policy and policy interventions. The Centre had already begun work on Child Care, Juvenile Sex Ratio, on Sex-selective Foeticide, Violence against Children, especially girl child etc. but a more focused attention is planned in future.

The Centre has always believed in **collaborative research** and setting up **thematic research networks**, inviting **Universities, Research Institutions and Women's Organisations/Groups** for greater **spatial coverage** and **expanding the base** of women's studies. It was practised earlier with good results (e.g. in the eighties - *Women's Work and Family Strategies, Research Study on Girl Children, Gender Dimension in Seasonal Migration*; in the nineties – *Study on Women and Panchayat*, and lately, *Impact of Rashtriya Mahila Kosh Programme on Women*). The Centre also enters into collaboration with external individual scholars (when particular expertise does not exist in the Centre) in developing needed conceptual or methodological frameworks for this purpose. The Centre has developed a tradition of ensuring academic freedom to its faculty in choice of research area or to grow special interests in issues facing oppressed groups.

The adoption of new research themes does not mean abandoning the Centre's earlier concerns while taking up new issues. Focus of the nineties still informs our choice of present research. For instance, **Women's Access to and Rights over Productive Resources** continues to remain an 'interest' area (e.g. *Study on Land Rights of Women* has been followed up with *Gender and Changing Livelihood Patterns along the Ganges; Women and Water Resource Management* etc.). Similarly, earlier focus on **Gender, Identity and Cultural Politics** has been followed up with the ongoing **Study on Communal Violence; Women and the Political Process** with *Study on Women and Panchayat* and its current follow up through collaborative Action Research; and **Family and Household with Space for Power**, etc.



Exploration in new research areas includes a study on **Work, Health and Family Life – Muslim Women in Home-based Industry**, which has grown out of the Centre's earlier concern for *Women and Work*; *Women and Health*; *Girl Child/Adolescent Girls*; and a recently completed study in a slum of Delhi on the **Reproductive Behaviour and Practices of Two Religious Communities (Hindu and Muslim)** which showed that many adolescent girls were keen to know about various issues related to health, education and work and the Islamic provisions in these matters.

An evidence of methodological leap and new focus, are two recent exercises on (i) **Crimes Against Women**; and (ii) **Gender Development Indicators**. These will remain long term research interests.

Women's Studies in India has made a great deal of methodological advance/innovation with its expansion in terms of scholarship at various points of time. It has used various sources as its resource materials. **The Narratives of First Generation Women's Studies Scholars** is one such resource, and chronicling and analysing such narratives is a new methodology. The Centre is presently engaged in one such exercise.

### Action Research and Civil Society Linkage

Since its inception, an important area of the Centre's work has been its linkage with rural women and rural communities through participatory development action. Such involvement is the evidence of its dual loyalty to social sciences and the women's movement, and its belief in the social responsibilities of academic institutions and of social sciences especially in a country like India. As for Women's Studies the Centre has sought to live up to the honour extended by the late Prof. M.N. Srinivas – describing Women's Studies as the “most significant development in India's social sciences” and “a challenge from below”.

\* Inaugural Address at the World Congress of Sociology, Delhi, 1984.

The Centre's work with poor peasant women in Bankura District (West Bengal) began initially to 'help' and 'change' the miseries of their existence, but has evolved over the years into a **mutual learning and empowerment process – a partnership in ever widening ventures and responsibilities**. From wasteland development to generate their collective employment – to retrieval and promotion of their traditional, inherited knowledge and values in dealing with the natural environment, **this 'action-research' project has provided one major foundation for CWDS' reputation – nationally and internationally – as a responsive and responsible, intervening and empowering development research institution, with a large number of partners/allies always prepared to assist/teach others to successfully traverse the same journey that they had trod years earlier**. As field based project activities, the Centre organised village-level women's groups for collective action, leadership, and employment generation and, in 1986, a federation of grassroots' women's groups, **Nari Bikas Sangha (NBS)** was founded in Bankura to promote the concept of women's agency at local level.

The major action oriented activities taken up consisted of organizing village-level groups of women around some viable economic activities with provision of support services like child care, training in management of enterprise and organization and awareness raising. The economic activities consisted of both traditional (land/forest resource based) and non-traditional economic activities with potential for high employment generation. One of the land-based activities that emerged in a major way quite early was Tasar silk rearing on trees grown on wastelands. These wastelands were donated by villagers to the women's groups who are now collective owners of such lands – **a great achievement within the usual scenario of women owning no land**. Today, the 34 Samitis\* affiliated to the NBS own more than 600 acres of wastelands on which more than 1.5 million trees have been

\* Organisations



planted for Tasar silk rearing. The land based activities also include raising plantation of **babui** grass (for rope making) and for horticulture (fruit trees, vegetable cultivation). A system is in place now whereby the women's groups collect quality seeds of vegetable from the NBS and pay back their cost after harvest. The non-traditional activities include machine made plates and cups from sal leaves, football manufacture, khadi spinning etc.

The NBS also started a micro-finance programme supported by a revolving fund to take up livestock rearing, grain processing, vegetable cultivation and rope making etc. The Tasar rearing activity provides them employment for nearly 5 months per year, the standing trees give them needed annual household fuel and the grass growing underneath provide enough fodder to their livestock. **Rehabilitation and regeneration of wastelands through this activity has helped to conserve the soil and raise the water table around.**

As regards support services, the NBS manages 15 creches for the children of working mothers, 20 village libraries (fitted with solar lights), and continuous participatory training in management of the organization, the enterprise, loan programme, horticultural activities etc.

During the last few years, CWDS was entrusted with the responsibility for implementing a major programme of development of Tasar culture through these women groups by the State Government, the financial and technical support being provided by the UNDP and the Central Silk Board. **The State Government's decision reflected its recognition of the quality of the CWDS-NBS partnership.**

The Washington based **International Centre for Research on Women** presented the Investing in Women Award in 1998 to CWDS with the citation "for the Bankura Project – using partnership and the power of information to enable the women of Bankura to regenerate the

land, create economic opportunity and extend the boundaries of community", and to NBS with the citation "For overcoming economic and environmental loss to regenerate the land, create economic opportunity and rebuild community". There are at least six documentaries on the *Bankura Project* prepared at various points of time by individuals/organisations outside the CWDS and several articles on the 'Bankura experience' by CWDS' researchers and peripatetic journalists.

In the nineties, the partnership began a mobilisation programme of a different nature. Nearly seventy Forest Protection Committees (FPC) [promoted by the state under the Joint Forest Management Programme] - in which membership of women was achieved as a result of a strong protest and agitation by the NBS, were mobilised with the hidden agenda of strengthening women's participation in such Committees and also to promote separate women's groups in FPC villages. This joint endeavour resulted in the foundation in 1996 of a new federation, of the FPCs - the **Ranibandh Banabasi Sangha (RBS)**, whose membership included both men and women. Being aware of the 73<sup>rd</sup> Constitutional Amendment (1993)<sup>\*</sup>, the founders of the RBS adopted a similar provision. **The two federations have jointly adopted a task of area development and in promoting mutual respect for each other while maintaining each other's autonomy. This is an example of a new grassroots collaboration and partnership**, viewed as evidence of a more 'gender-balanced' approach by the respective members. According to some male members of the leadership – the NBS 'Didis' (elder sisters) taught them the real meaning of people's participation in development, as well as the 'responsibilities' that 'rights', conferred on people – irrespective of gender.

In Bankura, network expansion is happening more at the initiative of NBS and RBS, with the Centre opting increasingly for an advisory and

<sup>\*</sup> Which provided one third reservation of seats for women in all Panchayati Raj bodies (three tier – village, block and district).



liaising role in this transformative process. What began as a project has now taken the shape of a process. The Centre intends to continue its collaboration with these groups and federations so as to support their endeavour and strengthen them organisationally, and also to help them organise new groups and diversify their activities and enterprise. The Centre's engagement with these two federations for development action and empowerment is a **major community linkage for Livelihood Issues and will continue in future.**

In the contiguous district of Medinipur, originally at the request of the then Chairman, Zilla Parishad (District Council)\*. NBS assisted the Centre to initiate a similar network in 1996, with very similar objectives. A University nearby, the Vidyasagar University, joined to forge a **new partnership in Research and Development** activities between the women's groups at the village level, some teachers and students of the university, and the Centre. This resulted in sustained interaction and involvement in two specific projects:-

- Vermiculture/Vermicompost production by the women's groups and the University teams' R&D adaptation, which has entered the stage of promotion and spread to other areas in the district; and
- Oral history of the members of grassroots groups – jointly by themselves, the Centre and a university team.

The emphasis on livelihood choices/expansion remains, but the women take pride in the partnership with the university as social acknowledgement **of their own growing collective capacities, confidence and status** – within their own communities, empowering them to intervene in complex issues of social oppression and political marginalisation of women.

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\* The highest tier of local self-government, as per the Constitutional Amendment.

Recently the Centre's research focus on demographic change has identified some unexpected trends in social practices in the area e.g. **a revival of early marriage – of adolescent girls, and the penetration of dowry among families/communities whose inherited cultural practice was of bride-price.** The three partners (CWDS, the Women's organisations Network, and teachers/students of two University Departments) recently organised a dialogue with local community leaders, local government functionaries, and school Headmasters, in the hope of stimulating some joint intervention.

Emergence and expansion of such grassroots networks in three contiguous districts of West Bengal reflect only a fraction of the "women's upsurge from the grassroots" referred to by the Tenth Five Year Plan Working Group on Empowerment of Women (April 2001).

CWDS' commitment to action research has been demonstrated in other ways. As our respect for our partners, the peasant women, grew, we attempted the reversal of top-down training strategies pursued by Government agencies engaged in rural development by persuading the **Government of India to accept grassroots women of Bankura as trainers for training higher-level functionaries of the Government in Social Forestry and Wasteland Development** (see *Who Will Save the Earth* – 1989) and **Rural Women and Development** (see *Perspective on Rural Women and Development* – report of the Training Workshop for Secretaries of Rural Development – 1990).

Prior to the Earth Summit at Rio in 1992, UNIFEM decided to promote Peasant Women led Conferences in South Asia, climaxing in a Regional Summit in Lahore and then sending a delegation of South Asian peasant women to present their views at Rio. CWDS and NBS were involved at the two preparatory levels, and the final delegation to Rio included a woman from Bankura, to represent peasant women of India. In the post-Rio phase, CWDS organised five regional Peasant Women's



conferences across the country with the support of UNIFEM. (See *Voices of Peasant Women*).

Some unexpected outcomes of action research dynamics that are identifiable so far and require continuous follow up, documentation and theoretical understanding, are –

- impact of women's organised collective consciousness on their own growth – intellectual, moral, social – in capabilities and the will to shoulder larger and, at times, tricky responsibilities;
- transformative impact on local communities, the panchayat, local officials, other social groups, social and life scientists, activists – where some sustained interaction takes place;
- the methods selected, patience demonstrated and monitoring performed by women to resolve knotty problems of women's oppression/injustice by reformed use of traditional social institutions which rest on some foundation of representation and social acceptability.

Experience from these engagements has encouraged the Centre to expand the scope of action research and civil society interaction with legitimate but ill-equipped authorities in other areas such as the current engagement with elected women representatives of Panchayats in Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh.

### Library/ Information Services

The Centre's Library is a specialised resource centre with a wide-ranging collection of books, monographs, periodicals, journals, newsletters, bulletins, magazines, newspapers, conference/workshop documents, unpublished materials etc. including audio-visual

materials. Books have not only been purchased but have been received as complementary copies, gifts, donation of personal collection of individuals and in exchange. **Space is however a major problem now to acquire books.**

The Library currently receives 250 newsletters/bulletins gratis. Nearly 130 journals/newsletters on women are received on exchange from India and abroad. Another 120 journals/newsletters are received on general subjects on exchange.

The Library performs the function of a clearing house for individual and project related information needs of faculty and outside users. It brings out its own **Reading List** on various aspects of Gender Studies, and the **Current Awareness Bulletin**, keeping readers/researchers abreast with current information in the form of periodical articles, newspaper items, books, conference documents and reports added to the collection. **Thematic bibliographies** are also prepared by the Library such as on Gender and Democracy at the Grassroots: A Bibliographic Compilation on 'Women and Panchayati Raj', Gender and the Reservation Debate etc. The Library also maintains a few databases of which **Mahila** is the main database – containing entries of books, monographs, conference papers etc. Other databases include article database, audio-visual database, NGO database and data base on periodicals.

The Library participates actively in a number of information and documentation networks e.g. DELNET, COORDINET, INDEV. It is a partner in the Global Reproductive Health Forum based in the Department of Population and Health at the Harvard University. Based on this partnership, the Library has restructured the South Asia Forum, with detailed modules on topics such as dowry, domestic violence, female infanticide and violence against women. These modules include research articles, statistics, bibliographies on the said issues including



names of organizations working on these issues. Presently, in collaboration with the Library of the SNDT Women's University, Mumbai, several other modules are being developed to include film and documentaries, bibliographies, statistics etc. Since January 2000, the Centre's Library is the moderator for the electronic discussion list named "BOL" on Gender issues in South Asia. This list covers a large range of topics such as current events, conferences, research projects, judicial decisions, fellowships and many more issues related to women's rights in South Asia.

Over the years, necessary technological infrastructure has been provided to the Library e.g. it is equipped with Computers, Printers, CD Writer and Scanner. Today, as a part of capacity building programme among women's organisations in using information technology, the Centre's Library conducts training programmes on information management and documentation services. One of the unique features of the Centre's Library is its participation in various formal and informal networks of information services. The Centre believes that its Library has all the features and potential of a viable **Women's Resource Centre** developing in the future – if and when, however, its existing constraint of space can be resolved.

### **Archiving and Documentation**

In 2001, CWDS curated a Photo Exhibition (14-23 December 2001) on *A Century of Women's Expanding Horizons* (1875-1947). Accounts of women's emancipation in 19<sup>th</sup> century India are closely interwoven with the introduction of schooling, social reform and the Freedom Movement. Many historical moments have been recorded through photographic medium. The Centre is aware of the importance of this form of visual representation in understanding social change and women's expanding roles even though the process was confined primarily to a section of the urban middle class. About 200 photographs

were displayed, but the collection so far is at least double that number. *These photographs thus form the basis for the women's archive at the Centre.*

A section of the archive will also contain **oral history collection**, which is still available but scattered all over the country. Both these resources will be kept under one roof.

Since 2003, CWDS has been engaged in a major documentation of the evolving dialogue between the Indian Republic (represented by the Government) and the Women's Movement – presented through actual documents from both sides – spanning a period of more than half a century. The primary objectives are :

- ❖ to preserve institutional collective memories;
- ❖ to increase women's visibility in historical and policy debates;
- ❖ to provide source materials for educational and other socio-cultural purposes.

### **Advocacy/Networking**

In pursuit of its central objective for gender equality and improvement of women's status, the Centre from the very beginning resorted to advocacy with organs of government, academic establishments and civil society organisations. Its advocacy efforts in the area of public policy, educational reform and women's studies in the past have yielded some result.

For instance, in 1985, the Centre provided the planning and documentation support to the **Consultation on the Achievements of the Women's Decade** organized by national women's organizations; and assisted the Government of India to prepare documents and draft reports for the ministerial level conference of Non-aligned and other developing countries on **Role of Women in Development** held in Delhi. Earlier in 1983, eight national level organisations had issued an appeal



to heads of Governments of Non-aligned nations during a NAM Summit, held in India.

The Centre assisted the Ministry of Rural Development in its review of anti-poverty policies and programmes to deepen women's involvement in them as participants and beneficiaries. **The Centre's experience of Wasteland Development through Grassroots Women's Organisation in Bankura resulted in the incorporation of this approach in the Seventh Five year Plan.**

The Centre's active involvement and advocacy resulted in the inclusion of the **Chapter on Education for Women's Equality in the National Policy on Education**, (1986) articulating a new role for the national educational system in the empowerment of women.

As a founding Member of the Indian Association for Women's Studies, the Centre also assisted the University Grants Commission to formulate the guidelines for promotion of **Women's Studies** in the Universities and colleges.

The Centre's dialogue with the Ministry of Rural Development and the Department of Women and Child Development resulted in the recognition, by the Government of India, of the need to design training programmes for officials in women and development issues and the setting up of a Task Force to design strategies for such programmes for officials in Rural Development with the Centre as its Convenor.

The Centre brought together seven national women's organisations to intervene in the formulation of the Sixth Five Year Plan, forcing a dialogue with the Government that led to the introduction of a **Chapter on Women and Development for the first time in India's planning history.**

In 1990-91, the Centre's Study on Land Rights and the discrimination apparent in the Land Reforms laws forced the Ministry of Rural Development to consider the proposals for – (a) a *Constitutional Amendment on Panchayati Raj*; and (b) *legislative and other measures necessary to ensure joint titles of husband and wife to land distributed under land reforms.*

In 2000, during the formulation of the 10<sup>th</sup> Plan, the Centre was chosen by the Government of India as the Convenor for the Working Group on Social Empowerment of Women.

The Centre's engagement with the following networks began at various points of time.

- **IAWS:** In 1981, the Centre, the SNDT Women's University and the Kanpur University jointly initiated organisation of a National Conference on Women's Studies in Bombay – on the assumption that without the sustained effort through the educational systems - biases and attitudes, obstructing women's equality cannot be eliminated. The Conference in its plenary session resolved that the process initiated by the Conference must be continued through an **Indian Association for Women's Studies (IAWS)** and thus the Association was born. The Centre being its founder member held its Secretariat during the initial years. Since then, the Association, which holds a national conference every two years on a particular theme has become a forum for dialogue between academicians and those engaged in study or action for women's development – including officers (serving or retired) of the government in the national or state levels. Every National Conference since the first in 1981, received substantial financial support from the Department of Women and Child Development (and its predecessor, the Women's Bureau, within the Ministry of Education and Social Welfare. The Joint Secretary then in charge, Ms. Nirmala Buch,



was a member of the National Organising Committee which convened that Conference – which gave birth to the Association).

- The **Forum for Creches and Child Care Services (FORCES)** was born in 1989 at the initiative of several NGOs, and Trade Unions in a meeting to discuss how to end the neglect of childcare services. The Forum originally represented 19 organisations/institutions of which the Centre was one. A joint memorandum demanding inclusion of child care in the minimum needs programme was submitted to the Minister for Planning. The Forum has now expanded at the national level with regional chapters and is presently campaigning on issues relating to maternity entitlements, childcare, population policy, child labour and child abuse and women's and children's health. The first Secretariat of the Forum was held by the Centre.
- The **National Network of Women's Organisations** was formed in the early eighties with several organisations – fondly called **Seven Sisters**. It is a pressure group campaigning and advocating for all issues relating to women and children such as women's reservation issue, violence against women, reproductive health rights, legal reforms in rape laws, sexual harassment at work place etc. Way back in 1983, the 'Seven Sisters' and the Institute of Social Studies Trust submitted a Charter of Demands on Women's Employment to the Government. The Centre is one of its founder members.

The Centre joined the **National Forum for Forest People and Forest Workers** before it was formally founded in 1998, and is associated with its movement and mobilising days. The Forum is engaged in demanding back the rights of people in forest areas over forests and their produce.

The Centre also joined the **National Support Group for Joint Forest Management** almost since its inception in the early nineties. When a separate sub-group on **Gender and Equity** was formed, the Centre was represented on the same. This sub-group produced the document **Who Gains? Who Loses?** Published by the Society for Promotion of Wasteland Development.

Besides these, the Centre is member of the:

- ✓ **Women's Charter on Food Rights** campaigning for food rights as a fundamental human right;
- ✓ **All India Committee for Eradication of Illiteracy among Women;**
- ✓ **Indian Association of Social Science Institutions;**
- ✓ **Alliance for People's Movements;**
- ✓ **India Alliance for Child Rights;**
- ✓ **Women's Coalition for Peace and Development;**
- ✓ **Association of Labour Historians; etc.**

In order to promote strong advocacy, it is extremely necessary to build strong networks. Therefore, to push forward the women's movement and to build solidarity among women's organisations, the Centre joined several networks, and constantly attempts to promote/build variety of networks of inclusive nature from grassroots upwards. For instance, for advocacy for Reform in Law and the Criminal Justice System, the Centre plans to build an Action Research Network, in which research will be done with the support of a network, which in turn will take part in Action and Advocacy based on the findings of the Research.

Presently, the following form the priority areas of advocacy with the Centre:

- *Rights of the Child in Law and Society: with special focus on the Girl Child and Adolescents through focused research and campaigns (e.g. Campaign against sex selection);*

- *Enhanced Roles for Women: in Parliament and State Legislative Assemblies: through reservation;*
- *Emerging Patterns in Violence/Crimes Against Women* – to mount more effective preventive and rehabilitation measures: A statistical and spatial analytical model has been developed in collaboration with some expert/concerned social scientists. A campaign document to generate greater social awareness and concern has been published;
- *Reform in Criminal Law and Its Enforcement System:* through an Action Research Network to improve knowledge, sensitivity and capacity at diverse levels.

#### Seminars/Workshops/Conferences/Lectures

One of the important functions of the Centre since its inception was to engage itself in continuous dialogue with academicians, policy makers, activists and others through the forum of Seminars/Conferences/Workshops etc. The role of the Centre was either to organize such Seminars etc. itself or in collaboration with others, or encourage Faculty participation in seminars/workshops/conferences organised by others. Despite its financial constraints, the Centre has played the former role very effectively and as can be seen from the list of Centre's publications (at Annexure II), several documents are based on these Workshops, Seminars and Conferences. Some of the major Conferences/Seminars/Workshops organised by the Centre (often in collaboration with others) are listed below:

- ◆ Indian Women in the Eighties: The Development Imperatives, 1980.
- ◆ National Conference on Women's Studies, 1981.
- ◆ Women's Life Cycle and Identity, 1981.
- ◆ National Study on Women's Work and Family Strategy, 1984-87.

- ◆ Panchayati Raj and Women, 1989.
- ◆ Changing Family Patterns and Gender Roles in Asia, 1990.
- ◆ Role of Women in Water Resource Management, 1990.
- ◆ Role, Strategies and Structure of the Central Social Welfare Board, 1991.
- ◆ Management and Regeneration of the Natural Environment: A Wider Role for Peasant Women, 1991.
- ◆ Peasant Women's Conferences, 1992-95.
- ◆ Democracy, Governance and Gender, 1998.
- ◆ National Workshop on Women and Panchayati Raj, 1999.
- ◆ Panel Discussion on Experiences of Organisations in Organising Rural Women, 2000.
- ◆ Consultation on Poverty Eradication and Quality of Aid in South Asia [with Hivos], 2000.
- ◆ Consultations on Gender and Governance - Regional and National, 2000.
- ◆ Interrogating Disciplines/Disciplining Gender – Towards a History of Women's Studies in India, 2001.
- ◆ South Asia Conference on Women in Local Self Governance (with Konrad Adenauer Foundation, 2002.
- ◆ Context and Dynamics of Civil Society in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century (with Hivos and others), 2003.

#### J.P. Naik Lecture

In memory of Prof. J.P. Naik under whose leadership the foundation of the Centre was laid, the Centre holds an annual lecture. So far sixteen lectures have been held and majority of them have been published (see J.P. Naik Lecture Series in the Publication List at Annexure II).

#### Women's Studies Refresher Course

The Centre has played a pioneering role in founding and establishing Women's Studies in India. Since 1981, when the first National



Conference on Women's Studies was held, incorporating Women's Studies into the existing disciplines of academic curricula became a campaign issue, resulting in its incorporation in the UGC's programme and the National Policy on Education (1986) and its two successive Programmes of Action (1986 and 1992). It was against this background that in 1996, the Centre approached the UGC with a proposal to introduce a Refresher Course in Women's Studies for college and university teachers. The UGC Standing Committee on Women's Studies welcomed the suggestion for collaboration between the Centre and the University system and identified seven Centres of Women's Studies within Universities across the country to run such Refresher Courses.

The Centre designed the course within a year's time and held two such Refresher Courses in 1998 and 1999 in collaboration with the Women's Studies Centre, Jadavpur University for teachers of the Eastern and Northeastern region. Similar Refresher Courses were held also at Lucknow in collaboration with the I.T. College, and in Delhi, with the Centre for Social Sciences, Jawaharlal Nehru University.

### **Publication/Documentation**

The Centre's function in publication, documentation and dissemination includes publication of:

- (i) **The Indian Journal of Gender Studies** brought out since 1994 through SAGE Publications (earlier the Journal was named *Samya Shakti* and was brought out by the Centre) acting as the bridge between activists and academicians in the women's movement and between established and new generation authors;
- (ii) **Books/Edited Volumes/Monographs/Compilations** – based on the Centre's own research;

- (iii) **Occasional Papers** of members of Faculty on their research and interest areas;
- (iv) **J.P. Naik Memorial Lecture Series** – an annual Lecture instituted in memory of Prof. J.P. Naik by eminent scholars, and then published for wider dissemination;
- (v) **Reports on Seminars/Workshop/Conferences** held by the Centre;
- (vi) **Bibliographies, Reading lists and Current Awareness Bulletins** brought out regularly by the Centre's Library and Documentation Unit;
- (vii) **Campaign Documents** focused on specific issues such as 'Population Policy', 'Crimes Against Women', Female Foeticide etc.

The Centre has so far published one book in **Bengali** and one occasional paper on Panchayat and Women, a Campaign document on Crimes against Women and a training manual on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights in **Hindi**.

### **The Centre's Staff**

The Centre's staffing policy began to develop with the receipt of the Ford Foundation grant in 1981-82 and the ICSSR's maintenance grant in 1985-86. Successive Executive Committees suggested changes in the staffing policy and created four categories of regular staff – viz. Academic, Action Research, Support and Maintenance. Under each category, posts were created keeping in mind the functional areas of the Centre, the available financial resources, physical space and the inter-disciplinary character of the Centre.

Besides these regular staff, the Centre avails the scholarly inputs of Visiting Fellows, External Collaborators, Advisors and Consultants and has instituted a Distinguished Fellowship in memory of Prof. J.P. Naik.

The Centre's Executive Committee has, from the very beginning, attempted to provide an interdisciplinary character to the Centre's Faculty. As a social science institute, therefore, the Centre has consciously tried to staff its faculty from several disciplines – such as Sociology, Anthropology, History, Political Science, Economics, Human Geography, Law etc. Presently, the Centre's Faculty (inclusive of Visiting Fellows) more or less consists of scholars from the above disciplines.

### Conclusion

The uniqueness of CWDS and its public image has been the result of deliberately chosen/formulated thrust areas from CWDS' early years and its responsible, rational and legitimate response to social, economic and political developments that took place in the country during the last 25 years – through research, action and networking – for collective intervention in public policy debates to ensure women's and children's legitimate rights, as well as to draw the attention of planners and policy makers to emerging new threats from certain processes of social/economic/cultural/political change.

Its legacy from the learning experience of the CSWI and its Report were the source of its founding principles, and shaped the identity and roles of CWDS. While maintaining its main identity as an academic institution, the Centre also chose to play the activist, and networking roles - developing collaboration/partnership with the post 1970s women's movement with relative ease - within the space provided by democratic principles and citizenship. CWDS has never viewed a positive value-based social intervention, as being detrimental to social science research. The centre has not wavered in taking positions in the face of social injustice inflicted on Indian women (and children), particularly from the socially marginalised and economically poor sections. The documentation and archival project on 'Women, Equality

and the Indian Republic' currently underway at CWDS provides sufficient evidence of the positive and robust role played by CWDS in partnership with the second wave of the women's movement in the country and also highlights the critical role of this partnership between concerned/specialised academics, women's groups and other activists supporting human rights and the basic ideology of Indian democracy – through direct interaction with the Government and its specialised agencies.

The historical context of the last decade of the 20<sup>th</sup> century and since called for some shifts in its research and advocacy focus on new issues – in response to the 'threat to the ideals of equality, equity, development and social justice'. In addition, the impacts of several developments of the previous decades on women and children **which are visible and identifiable only now form the added focus areas of the present decade** e.g. to mention a few:

- ✓ in combating female foeticide,
- ✓ deteriorating condition of the informal sector where women are largely employed,
- ✓ major loss in women's informal access to natural resources,
- ✓ increasing urban-rural divide in women's lives as a result of globalization,
- ✓ greater articulation of gender dimension in rights-based approach, etc.
- ✓ pressures on the women's movement under the impact of communal tension/conflict.

Several leaders of civil society have been emphasising the need for strengthening 'indigenous civil society' through **knowledge generation within India**. They have been advocating partnership with intermediate organisations like Indian Council of Social Science Research/Indian Council of Agricultural Research and the University



system, as potential allies in such knowledge generation as also in monitoring and evaluating the impact of development programmes from a grassroots perspective, i.e. that of the poor/disadvantaged groups. They also agree on the critical need for 'professionalism among civil society organisations – whether they work at the grassroots or at intermediate/policy advocacy levels'.

The Centre agrees that for building a vibrant and effective civil society alliances need to be further extended. All these processes and developments shaped and continue to shape CWDS' vision of its identity and roles, and therefore as a research institute, it must try to influence and continue to interact actively with:

- i. the State – in its policy planning, legislation etc.;
- ii. the social perception of women's roles/needs/aspirations within a rapidly changing process in which the dice are heavily loaded against the majority of women;
- iii. experimentation/innovative methodologies for research, action/intervention at different levels – in order to play a catalyst role;
- iv. poor rural women for the dual purpose of (a) challenging the globally dominant notion of academic neutrality; and (b) to set off a learning process for CWDS and others from poor rural women.

### **Acknowledgements**

The Centre acknowledges its gratitude to the Vikram Sarabhai Foundation for providing the initial financial support to begin its activities.

The Ministry of Labour was the first agency of the national government to support study projects on Rural Women's Training Needs in two

States – providing the Centre with an entry point to begin its action-research activities, which were thereafter supported for over a decade by the International Labour Organisation. The Ministry of Rural Development also supported various projects – for research, documentation and training over the next decade. In the nineties, the same Ministry supported both research and action-research on women and Panchayat in several states. The Department of Women and Child Development supported a number of research and documentation projects in the nineties. The Ministry of Environment and Forests, the Department of Science and Technology, the Ministry of External Affairs, the Central Social Welfare Board provided occasional support for Research, action research, organising workshops, seminars and for larger consultations.

Our special acknowledgement is due to the Ford Foundation for having provided sustained support to the Centre through successive institutional and project grants through nearly two decades of our existence, and more recently, an Endowment grant extended as a part of the Foundation's completion of 50 years' work in India.

Similar acknowledgement is due to the ILO for supporting and providing an international profile to our action research project with rural women in Bankura. UNICEF, UNIFEM, UNDP, UNESCO have been our friends and allies, enabling the Centre to play a national, regional or international role at significant points of time in our history. In recent years, WHO and UNFPA has extended its support to action to awaken public conscience against female foeticide. The Embassies of Netherlands, Norway and Sweden and the Australian and British High Commission - reputed for their sympathy for women's development research and promotional activities have extended their support for specific activities. Research and action activities and seminars were supported by the USAID, Canadian CIDA and Konrad Adenauer Foundation.

Our partnership with Hivos for the last decade and more has been of tremendous significance to the growth and sustainability of our activities in their multiple dimensions. We value the partnership for the shared values that it represents.

The Indian Council of Social Science Research is our parent body, as the Centre grew out of the ICSSR's Programme of Women's Studies, initiated in response to the Report of the Committee on the Status of Women in India. The majority of the founder members of the CWDS had been deeply involved in that Programme, and the Centre's identity as a Social Science Research Institute engaged in this neglected area of development studies was acknowledged by the ICSSR's inclusion of the Centre in its list of supported Development Research Institutions in 1985-86.

Some of the Indian Foundations/Trusts such as National Foundation for India, Population Foundation of India, Action-Aid etc. supported various activities with small grants.

## **RESEARCH PROJECTS (1980-2004)**

(Sponsor in Brackets)

1. Extension of Vocational Training for Rural Women: A Study in the States of Punjab and West Bengal (Ministry of Labour, Government of India).
2. Community's Perception of Sex Roles : An exploratory Study for Developing a Methodology to promote Values of Sex Equality (UNICEF, Delhi).
3. Employment Generation for Rural Women Through their Own Organisations: An Action Research Project (ILO).
4. Women in the Process of Rural Transformation : An Enquiry into the Policies and Strategies of Planning Rural Women's Development (ICSSR).
5. Cooperative Movement and Women's Development: A Research and Documentation Project (UNICEF).
6. Strengthening Partnership on Forest Management: The Supportive Mechanism (Ford Foundation).
7. Women in Food Processing Industry (IDPAD/ICSSR).
8. Women Workers in Garment Export Industry in Delhi (IDPAD/ICSSR).



9. A Case Study of SEWA's Rural Action Project (Min. of Rural Reconstruction, Government of India).
10. The Role of Public Enterprises in Advancement of Women in India (International Centre for Public Enterprises in Developing Countries, Yugoslavia).
11. Role of Women in Popular Movement: A Bibliographical project + Two case studies a) Chipko Movement (UP); (b) Women Workers Movement in the Coir Industry (Kerala) (ILO).
12. Review of Five Employment Promotional Projects (NORAD)
13. Women and Cultural Values: A Three State (Punjab, W. Bengal, Western UP) Study. (UNESCO).
14. Women and Political Process: A Conceptual exercise based on some life histories and archival material. A paper based on this was presented at an International Seminar of Experts, convened by UNESCO at Lisbon, in 1983. (CWDS).
15. Women and Consciousness in Rural India: A Collaborative Study with the People's Institute for Development and Training (NORAD).
16. Role of Public Agencies as Instruments for Women's Equality: Four Case Studies (i) National Council of Educational Research and Training (ii) Central Social Welfare Board; (iii) Law Commission of India; (iv) Khadi and Village Industries Commission. (United Nations Voluntary Fund for Women, New York – later renamed as UNIFEM).
17. Rural Women's Claim for Priority: A Policy Debate (National and International document), (CWDS).

18. Who Cares? : Child Care Facilities for Low Income Working Women's Groups in India. (CWDS).
19. Assessing the Impact of Women's Decade (1975-85), CWDS prepared the Chapter on Health, Law, Education: Analysis of Obstacles and the Introduction for the GOI's Report to UN. (Ministry of Social and Women's Welfare, Government of India).
20. Mahatma Gandhi's Writings on Women (CWDS).
21. Political Participation of Women in Developing Countries : As a Chapter in the Non-aligned Movements (NAM) document on the Women's Decade titled New Delhi Document (1985) (ICSSR).
22. Review of Women's Decade: Renewing the Pledge (CWDS).
23. Women's Work and Family Strategies in South and South East Asia: An exploratory Study which created an international network of scholars, who went on to publish their own conclusions. Several papers based on these studies were published in Samya Shakti (1989-90, combining Vols. IV&V). A conceptual completion pooling all the studies generated by the network was CWDS' publication – *Space for Power* by Joy Ranadive. ((ICSSR/United Nations University).
24. Rural Women in Development : Indian and Chinese Experience.
25. Impact of Changing Energy Availability: Three Village Studies (FAO/UN).
26. Women, Media and Prostitution (UNESCO).

27. Women in Silk Industry, Bengal (ILO).
28. Wasteland Development and Rural Women's Empowerment: An Action Research Project (ILO).
29. Social Forestry and Women's Development (Govt. of India).
30. Impact of Irrigation Projects on Women. (Min. of Women's Welfare/USAID).
31. Human Dilemma of Technological Progress: Women, Technology and Employment (Min. of Labour, GOI).
32. Women and Indian Nationalism: An Exploratory Study which involved both CWDS faculty and external scholars from the Universities and resulted in several publications – collective and independent. Published in *Samya Shakti*, Vol. 1, No. 2, 1984. (CWDS).
33. Macro Policies relating to National Resource Management: Study contributed to National Commission on Self Employed Women and Women in the Informal Sector. See *Shifting Sands*, CWDS, Stree, 1997).
34. Child Care as an Essential Input in Women's Development: A Collaborative Study involving six institutions from different states. Published in 1992 (BVL).
35. Migrant Labour : Gender Dimension : Collaborative Study with scholars from four States (NORAD).
36. Women and Labour Laws (Min. of Labour, GOI).
37. Women's Identity and Consciousness (CWDS).

38. Social Reforms and Social Change: Prof. Aparna Basu's three generational study of her own family in Gujarat was published initially in *Samya Shakti*.
39. Women's Rights to Land and other Productive Resources: Study identified legal discrimination in several states, strengthening the case for the Cabinet Resolution (1992) to provide joint title to husband and wife in land distributed by the State (CWDS).
40. Women's Question in Communal Ideology: Two textual analysis were completed and published independently by the authors (CWDS).
41. Assessment of Changes in Perception of Women's Question in India 1975-85 See *Samya Shakti*, Vol 2, No. 1, 1985 (CWDS).
42. Women's Right to Land – Historical Exploration (CWDS).
43. Advocacy for Recognition of Early Childhood and Education as Basic Services.
44. Panchayats and Women: A Study of the Process Initiated before and after the 73<sup>rd</sup> Amendment and Women's Participation in Panchayats (Ministry of Rural Development, GOI).
45. Source Material on Women's Movement (CWDS).
46. Poverty, Gender and Micro Credit: A Study of the Experience of Rastriya Mahila Kosh and Socio-Economic Impact on Women (Dept. of Women and Child Development, GOI).
47. A Study of Women and Panchayats in the States of Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh (Min. of Rural Development, GOI).



48. The Effect of an Urban Environment upon the Lives of Women: A Case Study of Women Industrial Workers in NOIDA (Dept. of Women and Child Development, GOI).
49. Ranking of Districts in Terms of Indicators of Women's Status (Central Social Welfare Board).
50. Women – Second in the Land Agenda (Hivos).
51. Feminism in India and the Formation of Women's Studies (CWDS).
52. Human Rights and Human Development: A Case Study of India – 1947-99 (UNDP).
53. Gender and Governance – The India Case Study (UNDP).
54. Narratives of the First Generation Women's Studies Scholars (CWDS).
55. Translating Chandrabati (Ramayana Twice Retold: From 1600 to 2003 (CWDS).
56. Oral History of Peasant Women's Grassroots Organisations: Quest for Identity and Assertion – Building New Alliances (CWDS).
57. Survey of Literature on the Girl Child in India 1975-90 (ICSSR).
58. Child and the Law (CWDS).
59. Feminism as an Ideology and Practice (CWDS).
60. History of Human Rights: A Third World Perspective (CWDS).

61. Study on Women and Water Resource Management: Experiences and Strategies for the Future (IDPAD).
62. Reservation Policies and the Women's Movement (CWDS).
63. Feminism in India and the Formation of Women's Studies (CWDS).
64. South Asia Forum within Global Reproductive Health Forum: The Global Reproductive Health Forum is an Internet network based at the Department of Population and International Health, Harvard School of Public Health, University of Harvard (Harvard University).
65. Indian Feminism and the Problem of the Female Domestic Servant (CWDS).
66. Food Security and Sustainable Livelihood. (Society for International Development, Rome).
67. Forest Resources Based Livelihood and Women's Contribution in the Household Economy (CWDS).
68. Changing Political Role of Tribal Women: A Study of Panchayat Raj Institutions in M.P. (ICSSR).
69. Crimes against Women (CWDS).
70. Matriliney, Caste and Gender (CWDS).
71. Seasonality, Consumption Pattern and Distribution of Food in Poor Households (CWDS).

72. Ideas and Ideologies : It consists of three documents published in a series on thinkers: (a) Place in the Sun : Lohia, Women and the Socialist Imagination – by Avedhendra Sharan and Ravikant Sharma; (b) Resolution of the Women's Question-Evolution in the Thinking of Subhas Chandra Bose, by Reba Som; An Unfulfilled or a Blurred Vision? Jawharlal Nehru and Indian Women, by Vina Mazumdar (CWDS).
73. Voices from Below: Participation of Women in Gram Panchayats : A Case Study of Mewat, Harayana (CWDS).
74. Gender Development Indicators (CWDS).
75. Gendering of Communal Violence in India: The Historical Production of Backwardness – A Study of Uttar Pradesh (CWDS).
76. Gender Construction in the Media during the 12<sup>th</sup> Lok Sabha Elections (CWDS).
77. Gender and Reproductive Behaviour: A Comparative Study of Two Religious Communities Living in a slum of Delhi (CWDS).
78. Gender and Changing Livelihood Patterns along the Ganges (CWDS).
79. The Impact of Macro Policies on Women in the Period of Liberalisation and Adjustment (CWDS).
80. Violence Against Women ( Government of India).
81. 10<sup>th</sup> Plan Working Group Report on Social Empowerment of Women (Department of Women and Child Development).

82. Strengthening Partnership in Forest Management (Ford Foundation).
83. Women and Child in Bidi Industry (WHO).
84. Campaign Against Female Foeticide (WHO/ British High Commission/ Population Foundation of India/Action Aid/ UNICEF/National Foundation for India/Indo German Social Service Society).
85. Gender Equity in the Family (Govt. of AP).
86. Self-Help Groups, Poverty Alleviation and Empowerment: State Initiative in Andhra Pradesh (World Bank).
87. *Circle of Rights* (Hindi) : Concept Papers for Right to Food & Right to Housing.
88. *Work, Health and Family Life : A Study of Agarbatti Workers* (CWDS).
89. Gender Bias and Discrimination Against Women: What do Indicators Say? (UNIFEM)
90. Delhi Human Development Report (UNDP).
91. Paradigm of Justice Delivery Mechanism with the Perspective of Women Litigants: Empowerment or Victimisation? (CWDS).
92. Impact of Globalisation on Women Workers in Delhi (UNIFEM).



Annexure - II

PUBLICATIONS

(1980-2004)

Books/ Reports/ Documents

1. *The Non-Aligned Movement and the International Women's Decade: A Summary of Decision*, CWDS 1983.
2. *Women's Work and Employment: Struggles for a Policy* - Selection from Indian Documents, CWDS 1983.
3. *Women and Rural Transformation* - Two Case Studies, Rekha Mehra and K. Saradamoni, ICSSR, and CWDS 1983, Available from Concept Publications, Rs.70.00.
4. *Women in Focus*: Kumud Sharma, Sahba Hussain and Archana Saharya, 1984, Published in collaboration with Sangam Books, Rs.30.00.
5. *Directory of Women's Cooperatives in India* (Vol.1-7) (Mimeo), 1985.
6. *Who Cares?* A Study of Child Care Facilities for Low Income Working Women in India, Mina Swaminathan, CWDS, 1985.
7. *Nairobi Forward Looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women to the Year 2000*, Nairobi Kenya, July 15-26, 1985, (Hindi)
8. *Rural Women's Claim to Priority: A Policy Debate* - Excerpts from Indian and International Archives, CWDS, 1985.
9. *Forward Looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women to the Year 2000*, CWDS, 1986, (Hindi).
10. *Women and Development: Promises and Realities*: Anil Kumar Singh and S.S. Datta, CWDS, 1986, (Hindi).
11. *The Current Scene in Law and Education*, Some facts for you to consider, CWDS, 1986.
12. *Women in Struggle: Role and Participation of Women in the Chipko Movement in Uttarakhand Region in Uttar Pradesh: Occasional Monograph-I*, Kumud Sharma, Balaji Pandey, Kusum Nautiyal, CWDS, 1987.
13. *The First Six Years and Forward* (A Review of CWDS' activities), 1987.
14. *The Seeds of Change: Role of Grassroot Organisations in Women's Development*, CWDS, 1988.
15. *Gandhi on Women*, compiled: Pushpa Joshi (Comp), Joint Publication of CWDS and Navajivan Trust, Ahmedabad, 1988, Rs.125.00.
16. *National Specialized Agencies and Women's Equality*, Series: Four Titles:-
  - i. *Central Social Welfare Board* - Kumud Sharma, CWDS, 1988
  - ii. *National Council of Educational Research and Training* - Vina Mazumdar and Balaji Pandey, CWDS, 1988.
  - iii. *Law Commission of India* - Lotika Sarkar, CWDS, 1988.
  - iv. *Khadi and Village Industries Commission* - Vina Mazumdar, CWDS, 1988.

17. *Who Will Save the Earth?* CWDS, 1989. Report of the Workshop on Role of Women in Social Forestry and Wasteland Development, Bankura, West Bengal.
18. *Partners in Grassroots Democracy.* Report of the Workshop on Panchayati Raj and Women, New Delhi, CWDS, 1990
19. *Perspectives on Rural Women and Development - Report of the Training Workshop for Secretaries in Rural Development,* CWDS, 1990.
20. *National Colloquium on Role of Women in Water Resource Management,* 1990.
21. *Whither Child Care Service - A Report compiled by Mala Khullar,* 1991.
22. *Voices of Peasant Women.* Report of the Northern regional Conference on Management and Regeneration of the Natural Environment – Wider Role for Peasant Women, CWDS, 1993
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## CWDS CALENDAR

The Centre brought out Calendar during 2002, 2003 and 2004 on the following themes:

- ☛ Representing Indian Women - 1875-1947
- ☛ The Learning Experience
- ☛ The Girl Child.

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