

VIGNETTES

IGSSS' Coffee Table Book



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Foreword

India as a country is one of great diversity – her uniqueness lies in the contrasts and the similarities that exist. The oneness that exists in the many. It is through this variety – this study of contrasts - that the core essence of a country that has a civilization that is thousands of years old, is brought forth.

Those who work for the development of India also understand the joys and the challenges of working in a country such as ours. Its beauty and vibrancy is unmatched. And its challenges and misery tugs at the heart. Yet it is a country of smiles – whatever the situation, people everywhere are ever ready to smile and to move on. People who lack basic amenities and who have to struggle every day to survive are still able to see that ray of sunshine in their lives.

This book highlights a few of the development issues in India through a visual effort. IGSSS' focus areas of sustainable livelihood, youth, urban homelessness, disaster risk reduction, capacity building for leaders, and gender have been brought forth.

The photographs have been taken by five dedicated professionals who have taken months and even years to put together a collection that finds its place in this book. Each of them has a diverse background which has added to the varied hues of this book – Bilal, a photo journalist; Leesha, an ex-IGSSS staff and an independent consultant; Rohan, a freelance photographer; Ashish, an ex-IGSSS staff and development professional; Ajit, a freelance photographer; and Subroto, a highly creative IGSSS staff member.

This book would not have been possible without the inputs, planning and coordination of the IGSSS field staff and partners in Assam, Bihar, Jharkhand, Orissa, Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Delhi, Maharashtra and Kashmir. Ms. Shikha Srivastava, Manager, PQSD gave constant advice and direction to this book. Ms. Judith Smith, Independent Consultant provided concept design, text, and editorial support, coordinated print production and the photo shoots. Ms. Sohini Bhattacharjee assisted in text, provided editorial support and coordinated the photo shoots. Bosco press' perseverance and willingness to excel in design and print production helped take this book from concept to reality.

We present to you this essay of photos Vignettes with all humility saluting the hard work that IGSSS and its team has done since 1960. We acknowledge the resilience of the INDIAN and the support of many.

Dr. Joseph Sebastian
Executive Director
IGSSS



“
There is more hunger in this world for love and appreciation
”
than for bread.

Mother Teresa

Promoting Sustainable Livelihood

Livelihood options of the poor and vulnerable are becoming limited due to various factors. Agriculture is still providing livelihood to more than 70 per cent of India's population and is the backbone of India's self sufficiency in food grains; however, it is becoming unsustainable. Marginal and subsistence farmers are becoming more vulnerable. Indigenous communities and forest dwellers are losing access to natural resources which are central to their livelihood. Lack of alternate skills and education has made the situation worse. Vast sections of the people in the country are marginalised and poverty is still acute. There are gaps in access to and control over resources. The poor are unable to access resources while government mechanisms are not understood or implemented correctly. Farmers are not able to reach the market and obtain a fair price for their products.

IGSSS intervenes in livelihood diversification – strengthening the livelihood assets and ensuring a principle of equitable entitlement to the poor as constitutionally available to them. The particular strategy of combining land rights, land development, ensuring food security through service delivery and improved production, ensuring provision for livelihood finance is a holistic approach that is expected to bring sustainable results. IGSSS' approach focuses on increasing people's participation, their involvement and contribution and improving chances of long term sustainability.



Women have to trek a long distance to collect firewood from the jungle, Kashmir.
Photo credit: Bilal Bahadur



Women dry chillies in open spaces. The Kashmiri chilli is a famous spice used in local cuisine and other north Indian cuisines.

Photo credit: Bilal Bahadur



Carrying a heavy load of grass for cattle feed. Bandipora, Kashmir.

Photo credit: Bilal Bahadur



Heema of Beighpora village, Kashmir runs her own poultry business that was supported by her Self Help Group (SHG).

Photo credit: Bilal Bahadur



This girl belongs to the *Musahar* community, treated as one of the lowest castes in Bihar. The children in this community are left free to roam about the entire day while their parents go to work. They have to fend for themselves, do not go to school and have no protection. This photograph was taken on a cold winter day and the girl had no warm clothes to wear. Picture taken during a field visit to Jamsaut, Danapur, Bihar.

Photo credit: Ashish Anthony



Two brothers of the *Musahar* community of Jamsaut, Danapur, Bihar. These two boys, aged between 6-7 years, eat only one meal a day - they cook in the afternoon so that their parents are able to eat when they return in the evening from their work in the fields.

Photo credit: Ashish Anthony



Hadeesa of Karwan-e-Zainab SHG from Inderkote village has joined the dairy business. She bought cattle from her savings and through an SHG loan.

Photo credit: Bilal Bahadur



The search for livelihood takes fishermen far from family, from near and dear ones and even into deep peril or isolation. It is the memories of the loved ones that steers the fisherman showing him the way to come back for a brief moment before he gets ready for his next journey. Andaman & Nicobar Islands, IGSSS' Tsunami Programme in 2005.

Photo credit: Subroto Chatterjee





Left: For the community, IGSSS works to ensure two square meals a day through its interventions in Jharkhand.

Photo credit: Subroto Chatterjee



Sara, of Gousia SHG, Chak Ganastan village in Kashmir, and her husband started a traditional bakery business. The support was provided by her SHG.

Photo credit: Bilal Bahadur



Zamroda of Hamdard SHG, Harina village, Kashmir has started her rice and flour mill with active support from her SHG.

Photo credit: Bilal Bahadur



The men usually sing local songs while planting paddy in their fields, Kashmir. The paddy planting season brings a festive colour and people even share their workload with their neighbours.

Photo credit: Bilal Bahadur



Members of the local community at Okha, Jamnagar, Gujarat.
Photo credit: Ajit Bhadoriya



Top: Fatima runs this shop to support her family. She obtained the loan to set up this shop from her SHG Karwan-e-Zainab of Inderkote village, Kashmir.

Photo credit: Bilal Bahadur



Left: This young lady from Kaij, Beed district, Maharashtra received training on sewing. She subsequently took a loan from her SHG, opened her own shop and now stitches garments for the local residents.

Photo credit: Ajit Bhadoriya

Right: Ms. Shareefa from Murtaza SHG, Ankholla village, Kashmir selling animal feed at her shop. The shop was established by her through active financial support from her SHG.

Photo credit: Bilal Bahadur





IGSSS' interventions in Okha aimed for women's empowerment with a focus on Self-Help Groups. The women's groups have formed their own cooperative (OSSAD) and within that they have semi-cooperatives or *mandlis*. Each semi-cooperative deals in different activities – goat rearing, poultry farming, fishery and handicrafts. The main activity in this community is livestock management.



Top left: A young girl with her goat in Okha, Jamnagar district, Gujarat.

Top: An SHG member from Okha, Gujarat.

Left: An SHG member from Purna, Parbhani, Maharashtra.

Photo credit: Ajit Bhadoriya



The SHG members of the women's groups in Okha, Gujarat have purchased a piece of land – *Dunga* – on which they have set up a warehouse with refrigeration facilities to store fish and eggs that are later sold in the local market. These women SHG members have been able to change perceptions in Okha and have organised themselves to buy fish from the port, store it in the *dunga*, and distribute it to members who then sell directly in the local market – all activities that were earlier purely the domain of the men in the community. Due to their dynamism, these women have also been able to remove interference from middle men and rake in profits that are much above their previous earnings.

Photo credit: Ajit Bhadoriya



Feeding the poultry, Okha, Gujarat.

Photo credit: Ajit Bhadoriya





An SHG member in Okha, Gujarat.
Photo credit: Ajit Bhadoriya



This woman SHG member took a loan from her group to rear goats, Purna, Maharashtra.
Photo credit: Ajit Bhadoriya



An SHG member in Okha, Gujarat.
Photo credit: Ajit Bhadoriya



Fishermen after the day's catch in Jamnagar district, Gujarat.
Photo credit: Ajit Bhadoriya



Top: Eggs are good for health – Poultry farming at Okha, Gujarat.

Photo credit: Ajit Bhadoriya

Facing Page-

Left: Children with bloated stomachs are a common sight in Kalahandi, Orissa. Malnutrition is a prevalent problem as it is difficult to obtain even one full meal in a day.

Photo credit: Rohan Dhawan

Bottom right: Training on organic farming has helped these women start their own kitchen gardens. They are even able to produce enough to sell in the local market, Purna, Maharashtra.

Photo credit: Ajit Bhadoriya



Top: This lady opened her own small-scale flour mill with the help of a loan she took from her SHG.

Photo credit: Ajit Bhadoriya







This lady in Kaij, Beed district, Maharashtra completed a beautician course with support from her SHG and is now running a beauty parlour of her own.

Photo credit: Ajit Bhadoriya



Facing page, Left, Bottom right : SHG members in Purna, Maharashtra, buy flowers from the local market and make them into garlands that they then sell.

Photo credit: Ajit Bhadoriya



An SHG member carrying implements to the *dunga* in Okha, Gujarat.
Photo credit: Ajit Bhadoriya

Left: A young man from the *kondh* tribe, outside his hut in the Bhatta Guda Village, inside Karlapat sanctuary, Kalahandi, Orissa. The natives still use the bow and arrow as a primary hunting equipment.
Photo credit: Rohan Dhawan



Income generation activities for the women SHG members in Kaj, Maharashtra has led to their being trained in a number of activities – mainly organic farming, and goat rearing.

Top: An SHG member in her kitchen garden

Photo credit: Ajit Bhadoriya

Left: An SHG member with the goat she bought after taking a loan from her SHG group.

Photo credit: Ajit Bhadoriya



A tribal lady works in the field combining traditional methods of farming with modern day knowledge, Karlapat Sanctuary, Rampur Block, Orissa.

Photo credit: Rohan Dhawan



A hand pump supported by IGSSS to ensure clean drinking water to the community. Karlapat Sanctuary, Orissa.

Photo credit: Rohan Dhawan



A farmer in Kalahandi district, Orissa ploughs his field to prepare it for the next crop.

Photo credit: Rohan Dhawan



A view of Bhatta Guda village in the Rampur Block of the Karlapat Sanctuary, Kalahandi District, Orissa.
Photo credit: Rohan Dhawan



A tribal lady carries her child home after her daily chores, which need her to trek a long distance away from her hamlet, Karlapat Sanctuary, Orissa.
Photo credit: Rohan Dhawan



A farmer's daughter watches inquisitively while her parents tend to the crops.
Photo credit: Rohan Dhawan



A farmer lost in thought. Karlapat Sanctuary, Orissa.
Photo credit: Rohan Dhawan



A tribal lady from Karlapat Sanctuary, Orissa.
Photo credit: Rohan Dhawan



A young girl enjoys her afternoon in Lakhimpur district, Assam.
Photo credit: Rohan Dhawan



Jattai Majhi, a farm owner has obtained his right to land under the Forest Rights Act. He now cultivates cauliflower, tomato, chilli and brinjal. Karlapat Sanctuary, Orissa.

Photo credit: Rohan Dhawan



An empty village school closed for the winter break. Education has even reached the people in the interior Bhatta Guda village, inside Karlapat Sanctuary, Orissa.

Photo credit: Rohan Dhawan



A tribal lady drying *mandia* which is a replacement for rice. Karlapat Sanctuary, Orissa.

Photo credit: Rohan Dhawan



The melancholic eyes reflect the half fed stomach. Statistics indicate that some of the worst cases of malnutrition are found in children from this region (Bhatta Guda Village, Kalahandi, Orissa).

Photo credit: Rohan Dhawan



A man peers from inside his hut in Bhatta Guda Village, Kalahandi, Orissa.

Photo credit: Rohan Dhawan



Left: A man busy making baskets from strips of bamboo - an important source of livelihood for many in the Bhatta Guda village of Kalahandi, Orissa.

Centre: A woman sitting in her hut in Bhatta Guda village, Orissa.



Right: A tribal lady grinding wheat to make flour. The apparatus is made up of two pieces of a tree trunk; grains are added from an opening on the top and they are ground get grinded between the two logs.

Photo credit: Rohan Dhawan



Top left: A man carrying back a portion of the harvest from the paddy fields - no tractors, no farming machinery just hard labour. Village Selajan, Dhemaji, Assam.

Top Centre: A farmer's house with its traditional style of living –water is still drawn from the well and used for household chores. Simolu Donga village, Lakhimpur, Assam.

Top Right: The farmers in Bhuma, Dhemaji, Assam still rely on manual labour. The bullock-cart is used to transport the harvested paddy to the granary.

Bottom: Children with the wife of the president of the village committee, Dhemaji, Assam.

Photo credit: Rohan Dhawan



A farmer harvesting the paddy that will be soon carried away to the store house in hand drawn carts. Village Simolu Donga, Lakhimpur, Assam.

Photo credit: Rohan Dhawan



A traditional seed bank built by the farmers to store grain. Village Bahabari, Lakhimpur, Assam.

Photo credit: Rohan Dhawan

In the midst of a laborious day and back breaking work in the field, a mother takes time out to tend to her little child in Simolu Donga village, Lakhimpur, Assam.

Photo credit: Rohan Dhawan



A traditional house in the forest in Bhatta Guda Village, Kalahandi, Orissa.

Photo credit: Rohan Dhawan





Through the changing seasons, a lady works religiously in her paddy fields, Simolu Donga village, Lakhimpur, Assam.
Photo credit: Rohan Dhawan



A young assamese girl, from Village Puthimari, Lakhimpur, Assam lays out the grain to dry in the sun. It is a traditional process of harvesting, following which the outer covering of the grain is removed to get rice.
Photo credit: Rohan Dhawan



A farmer using wind winnowing, an ancient agricultural technique to separate grain from the chaff at Kanaudi village, Hazaribagh, Bihar.
Photo credit: Rohan Dhawan



A farmer in Dhekiajuli village, Assam takes some time off work to play with his son.
Photo credit: Rohan Dhawan



The beautiful mustard fields in village Kanaudi, Hazaribagh, Bihar make it seem like nature has laid out a carpet.
Photo credit: Rohan Dhawan



The Potka Block in Jharkhand has faced major drought in the last three years. There is very little water for irrigation and hence the villagers depend on community labour to earn money for their farming and personal needs. This picture shows two women walking towards a dried river bed where they separate the stones from the sand and help the community earn ₹ 200 for a truck load of sand.

Photo credit: Rohan Dhawan



A woman resting in the midst of her work. Potka Block, Jharkhand.

Photo credit: Rohan Dhawan



Women working in the fields. Potka Block, Jharkhand.

Photo credit: Rohan Dhawan



Women of village Kanaudi, Hazaribagh, Bihar separating the rice from the chaff.

Photo credit: Rohan Dhawan

Community labour for survival- separating the stones from the sand helps the community earn between ₹ 200-250 for a truck load of sand.

Photo credit: Rohan Dhawan



A woman from Dumri Guda, Koraput, Orissa, washing the rice grain before it is made fit for consumption.

Photo credit: Rohan Dhawan



Two women from Dumri Guda, Koraput, Orissa grinding wheat using a traditional method of beating the grain into fine flour.
Photo credit: Rohan Dhawan



A bumper yield - Ten farmers collectively cultivated their land using organic methods with support from the Gram Sabha. Potka block, Jharkhand.
Photo credit: Rohan Dhawan



A calendar of information related to food and nutrition painted on the walls of a storehouse at the Gadia Guda Village, Koraput, Orissa.

Photo credit: Rohan Dhawan

A tribal girl sitting outside her house in Dumri Guda, Koraput, Orissa.

Photo credit: Rohan Dhawan

A mother struggles hard to earn two square meals for the family while her little child plays unaware. Dumri Guda village, Koraput, Orissa.

Photo credit: Rohan Dhawan



A mother steals a moment from the day to embrace her little one. Gadia Guda Village, Koraput, Orissa.

Photo credit: Rohan Dhawan





The sun shines on a field on the way from Vishakhapatnam to Paderu, Andhra Pradesh.
Photo credit: Rohan Dhawan



Top: Life moves at its own pace, Hazaribagh, Bihar.

Bottom: The high ferrous content in the soil makes it ideal for a cashew plantation in Koraput, Orissa.

Left: This stream is the lifeline for the tribal population in Bhatta Guda village, Kalahandi, Orissa. It provides water for drinking, cooking and washing.

All Photo credit: Rohan Dhawan



A vermi compost facility, on the way to Paderu from Vishakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh.
Photo credit: Rohan Dhawan



These women of countryside Gurez, Bandipora, Kashmir have to make their way dangerously, across the bridge, to the “outside world”.
Photo credit: Bilal Bahadur



Fishing in the world famous Wular lake provides a decent livelihood for fishermen of Baramulla and Bandipora, Kashmir.
Photo credit: Bilal Bahadur

**“ The greatest discovery of my generation is that human beings
can alter their lives by altering their attitudes of mind. ”**

Lee Iacocca

The Change Makers

Sixty one per cent of India's population is between the age of 13 and 35 years old. In India, a growing democracy with a complex and diverse society, the challenge is to ensure that this huge cohort becomes a vibrant, constructive force that can address social issues and create a more just, equitable, and peaceful world. Rather than see young people merely as a passive recipient of services and consumers, it is critical to recognise them as change agents who have the energy, passion and creativity to make a significant contribution to society while also building their skills for the future.

IGSSS' interventions target the youth between 15-35 years to ensure their educational rights, promote employability, promote harmony among youth in conflict areas, encourage youth governance, and provide for networking and policy advocacy. The organisation also pays attention to the need to develop the young through a strong educational base. An understanding of the special needs in conflict areas (of Kashmir and the North-east) and of marginalised communities helps IGSSS and its stakeholders move towards quicker progress.



The National Smile Meet, at Guwahati, Assam in 2010, where youth from all IGSSS' smile centres came together to spend time on self-development. The picture was taken during an exposure visit to Shillong, Meghalaya.

Photo credit: Ashish Anthony



An orientation workshop, held in 2007 at Kolkatta, West Bengal where new SMILERS are inducted into the SMILE programme. In this picture, the girl is using an illustration to introduce her fellow participant.

Photo credit: Ashish Anthony



Youth at a life skills training, an essential component of the SMILE programme, held at 24 Parganas, West Bengal in 2010.

Photo credit: Ashish Anthony



Group work in progress at the National Smile Meet held in Guwahati, Assam.

Photo credit: Ashish Anthony



The youth in Purna, Maharashtra underwent a ten-day training in electrical wiring. Vocational courses for income generation are not only targeted at women but also the youth.

Photo credit: Ajit Bhadoriya



Youth at a public hearing on the Panchayat Extension to Scheduled Areas Act (PESA), Paderu, Andhra Pradesh. The Act strengthens the position of tribal people in the democratic process through self governance. The young boys' participation during in the entire hearing is a positive sign of their desire to build a stronger future for their community.

Photo credit: Rohan Dhawan



A rickshaw puller's son wakes up to an uncertain day and an unplanned future. Most rickshaw puller's children do not go to school and pick up odd jobs or just roam the streets through the day. Work with the community also focuses on bringing awareness on the need for education to bring in a direction to their lives.

Photo credit: Rohan Dhawan



This young boy completes his homework under the supervision of his mother. In Kaij, Maharashtra, the women members of the SHGs sit together in the afternoon to undertake income generation activities while also supervising their children's education.

Photo credit: Ajit Bhadoriya



The SHG groups in Purna, Maharashtra have realised the need to send their children to school – they want their children to study so that they have a chance to build a bright future.

Photo credit: Ajit Bhadoriya



The sheer joy of studying. Children in a school in Purna, Maharashtra.
Photo credit: Ajit Bhadoriya





Studying in school helps children build a stronger personality – they work with each other and learning is fun. Children in a school in Purna, Maharashtra.
Photo credit: Ajit Bhadoriya



The various activities and learning through play help the child to build strong concepts – the knowledge that is built through creativity will see them through life. Purna, Maharashtra.

Photo credit: Ajit Bhadoriya



Children play in IGSSS' Regarpura Shelter for women and children. The 24-hour shelter was set up in December 2009 and is home to over 27 women and 10 children.

Photo credit: Ajit Bhadoriya

The SMILE potato farm. IGSSS' interventions on the youth include helping them to undertake activities that lead to their independence. Seen here, two youth from the SMILE group in Simolu Donga, Lakhimpur, Assam working on their potato farm.

Photo credit: Rohan Dhawan



A soldier and a women in Gurez, Kashmir. Local residents go about their daily chores even while the threat of militancy looms large.

Facing Page: A young girl offers her prayers during Eid-e-Milad at the famous Hazratbal mosque in Kashmir.

Photo credit: Bilal Bahadur





Children busy doing their homework in Balkote village of Uri, Kashmir.
Photo credit: Bilal Bahadur



Women watch an election rally in Baramulla, Kashmir.
Photo credit: Bilal Bahadur



Families collect leaves and branches during autumn to process it into charcoal that is used for the traditional *kangiri*.
Photo credit: Bilal Bahadur



Villagers pose for a picture at Odina village, Kashmir.
Photo credit: Bilal Bahadur



Security forces conducting checks on the eve of Republic Day in Srinagar, Kashmir.
Photo credit: Bilal Bahadur



Debates and viewpoints abound on the need for security forces in Kashmir.
Photo credit: Bilal Bahadur



Children in Kashmir grow up with militancy and security clamp downs. Photograph taken during a siege laid by security forces in Baramulla after a deadly encounter with militants in 2010.

Photo credit: Bilal Bahadur

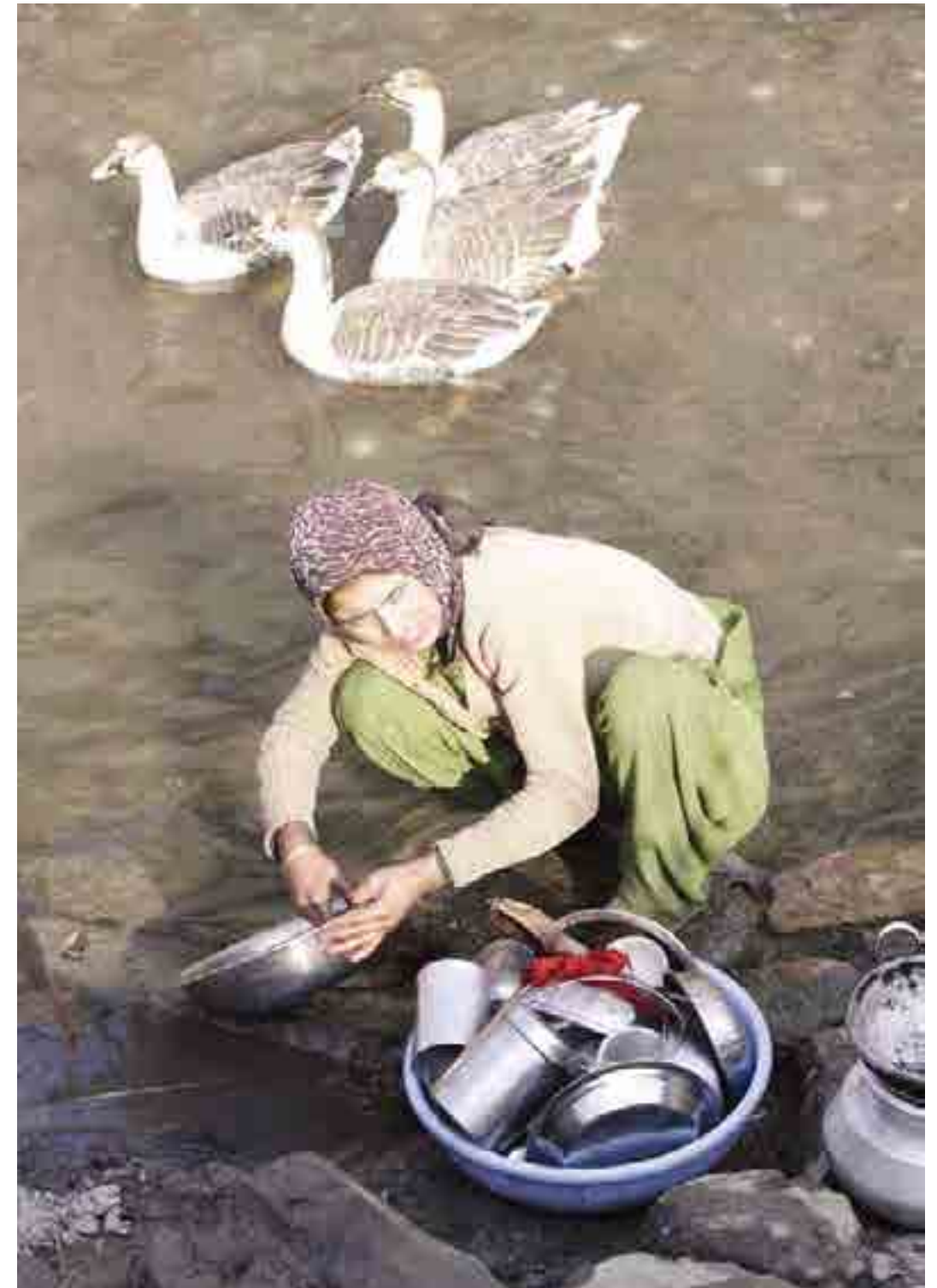


Protests and violence are a common sight in Kashmir during the summer.
Photo credit: Bilal Bahadur





Left: A traditional house of rural Kashmir.
Photo credit: Bilal Bahadur



Woman washing utensils at the local rivulet - water supply is a serious problem in rural Kashmir despite the fact that there is an abundance of water resources.
Photo credit: Bilal Bahadur



An election rally in Kashmir during the Parliamentary elections of 2009.
Photo credit: Bilal Bahadur



Village elders discussing routine affairs by the side of a dilapidated road in Kashmir.
Photo credit: Bilal Bahadur



Kashmiri girls performing "Rouf"-
song and dance in traditional
gear.
Photo credit: Bilal Bahadur



Annual prayers at the famous Hazratbal mosque during Eid-e-Milad in Kashmir.
Photo credit: Bilal Bahadur



Women praying at Jamia Masjid, Srinagar, Kashmir.
Photo credit: Bilal Bahadur



Submitting to the almighty during Friday prayers.
Photo credit: Bilal Bahadur

“

If you think about disaster, you will get it. Brood about death and you hasten your demise. Think positively and masterfully, with confidence and faith, and life becomes more secure, more fraught with action, richer in achievement and experience.

”

Swami Vivekananda

Protect Lives, Livelihoods and Assets from the Impact of Hazards

Communities lack knowledge on their vulnerabilities and the hazards they may face. They do not have the resilience to endure and overcome recurring disasters as they are not pre-positioned for emergency response. Stable crops are damaged during disasters (like floods, droughts, storms, landslides and earthquakes) and no sufficient food stock and cash is available during an emergency. Agricultural land becomes non cultivable with sand and silt deposits, soil erosion, and salinity. The depletion of the natural resource base and the decrease in income and general productivity due to recurrent hazards leads to the increased vulnerability of the community.

The Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) measures of IGSSS are designed to protect lives, livelihoods and assets including the natural resources of the communities from the impact of hazards. It focuses on risk reduction and mainstreaming with programmes to focus on other issues as well.



These women of Gurez, Bandipora district, Kashmir feel it is safer to cross the river by holding hands than to trust a hanging ropeway to bring back firewood to their homes.
Photo credit: Bilal Bahadur



The army was called in to help in rescue efforts after the earthquake in Uri, Kashmir.
Photo credit: Bilal Bahadur



A damaged house after the 2005 earthquake, Uri, Kashmir.
Photo credit: Bilal Bahadur



An old man describing the damage caused by the earthquake in 2005, Uri, Kashmir.
Photo credit: Bilal Bahadur



A child peeps out of his makeshift home. The earthquake devastated hundreds of homes in 2005 in Uri, Kashmir.

Photo credit: Bilal Bahadur



A woman and her child looking at the damage the earthquake caused to their home in Uri, Kashmir.
Photo credit: Bilal Bahadur



Relief distribution after the tornado in Kendrapara, Orissa in 2009.
Photo credit: Ashish Anthony



Top and bottom right: Devastation after the 2005 earthquake at Uri, Kashmir.
Photo credit: Bilal Bahadur



This photo was taken during IGSSS' Rehabilitation project in Andaman after the Tsunami in 2004. These girls were studying in the bridge course centre set up as part of IGSSS' rehabilitation work in the Andamans after the Tsunami. The girl in the centre, Viji, had lost both her parents and was living with her aunt in Port Blair.

Photo credit: Ashish Anthony

This baby was saved by her neighbour when the giant waves of the Tsunami struck her house. The baby was the second child of a young Tamil couple. The father of the baby worked at Port Blair, Andamans and had come home for Christmas, when disaster struck on 26 December 2004. The lady who saved this baby saw the child's parents being washed away by the giant waves of the Tsunami. She is now taking care of the girl and hopes that the couple's other child; a two-year old girl is also alive and safe with someone. The lady was one of IGSSS' beneficiaries and told our field executive that this baby was God's gift to her as she already had two sons and had been praying for a girl child.

Photo credit: Ashish Anthony





This boy had lost his mother during the tornado in Kendrapara, Orissa in 2009. He was so traumatised that he could not speak for an entire day. The father, a daily wage labourer, and son had come to collect the relief material provided by IGSSS.

Photo credit: Ashish Anthony



People staying in tents provided to them after a massive earthquake in 2005 in Uri, Kashmir.

Photo credit: Bilal Bahadur



Devastation in Uri 2005 after a massive earthquake in 2005 in Uri, Kashmir.
Photo credit: Bilal Bahadur



Left and top right : After the floods in 2010, the fertile top soil was washed away and replaced with sand leaving the farmers to face a tough time in cultivating their land. The community farming techniques introduced by the IGSSS team also helped farmers in recultivating their land. Dhemaji, Assam.

Photo credit: Rohan Dhawan



A farmer sprays pesticide to protect the first crop he has cultivated after the floods. Dhemaji, Assam.

Photo credit: Rohan Dhawan



A farmer inspecting his crop while his daughter tries to assist him by pointing out something he has missed. Dhemaji, Assam.

Photo credit: Rohan Dhawan



IGSSS provided a seed bank to the villagers of Berbhanga village, Dhemaji, Assam.

Photo credit: Rohan Dhawan

Farmers build a traditional seed bank with the bamboo that grows in abundance in the region. Dhemaji, Assam.

Photo credit: Rohan Dhawan



Top: IGSSS' intervention helped provide the flood affected farmers with seeds for farming. They have now come full circle - a farmer displays the seeds they have collected in the seed bank, provided by IGSSS, for the next season. Dhemaji, Assam.

Photo credit: Rohan Dhawan



A high raise platform, shelter, toilets and hand pump were built, to combat the floods, through IGSSS' support. Dhemaji, Assam.

Photo credit: Rohan Dhawan



A young girl who has just returned from school. Dhemaji, Assam.

Photo credit: Rohan Dhawan



These boats provided by IGSSS, ECHO and GAA (now WHH) during the floods helped the villagers move to dry land and to places from where they could access basic amenities. Dhemaji, Assam.

Photo credit: Rohan Dhawan



A wooden bridge that withstood the onslaught of the floods and connected the villagers to the highway. Seen in the background, a concrete replacement for this bridge is now being built. Lakhimpur, Assam.
Photo credit: Rohan Dhawan



A farmer working on his land that was affected by the floods in 2010. Dhemaji, Assam.
Photo credit: Rohan Dhawan



The beauty of the country side in Dhemaji, Assam.
Photo credit: Rohan Dhawan

“
There is a lot that happens around the world we cannot control.
We cannot stop earthquakes, we cannot prevent droughts, and
we cannot prevent all conflict, but when we know where the
hungry, the homeless and the sick exist, then we can help.”

Jan Schakowsky

Advocating for the Rights of CityMakers (Urban Homeless)

The undignified life of a homeless citizen has no mention in the policy documents of the Government and hence they have no schemes / entitlements in their favour. Other stakeholders attach little or no importance to the issue. IGSSS has taken up direct intervention by running homeless resource centres and setting up model shelters.

The programme has been initiated in Delhi, Bangalore, Kanpur and Luknow. The National CityMakers Caravan has created a network of agencies working for the cause of the homeless in urban centres across the country. Already IGSSS has brought the cause of the urban homeless and their living conditions to the notice of the Government, Media and Judiciary. The entire CityMakers work has been shaped into a vibrant National Campaign involving all stakeholders – the government, people's representatives, students, corporate organisations and resource persons.





Facing page and this page - Children from the Regarpura shelter, Delhi are sent to a government school in the vicinity. The shelter also has a tie-up with an anganwadi in the area, which sends food for the children once a day.

Photo credit: Ajit Bhadoriya





Facing page and this page: The National CityMakers Caravan (nCMc) was a five-month long campaign for the homeless citizens in urban India. It was organised by IGSSS, with support from Caritas India and Oxfam India, and in collaboration with leading urban rights groups and NGOs across the country. The caravan, which started from Delhi on August 17, 2010, travelled across the country to 155 cities in 22 states and culminated its journey with a programme for the citymakers of Delhi on January 12, 2011. It aimed to generate awareness about the rights and entitlements of the homeless and collect data about their conditions in various states. The Caravan also tried to determine the progress made by State Governments towards fulfilling the Supreme Court's directive (of January 27, 2010) to build one shelter per one lakh population.

Photo credit: Ajit Bhadoriya





A young girl collects garbage near her makeshift home in Pul Mithai, Delhi.
Photo credit: Ajit Bhadoriya



Seen in the background are the demands that the city makers (homeless) have from the government. Culmination of the citymakers caravan at Gandhi Darshan, New Delhi.
Photo credit: Ajit Bhadoriya





Facing page and this page: IGSSS' 24-hour shelters provide a safe haven to the citymakers of Delhi. The harsh winter of 2010 saw a rise in the number of people taking refuge in the warmth and comfort of the shelter.

Photo credit: Ajit Bhadoriya





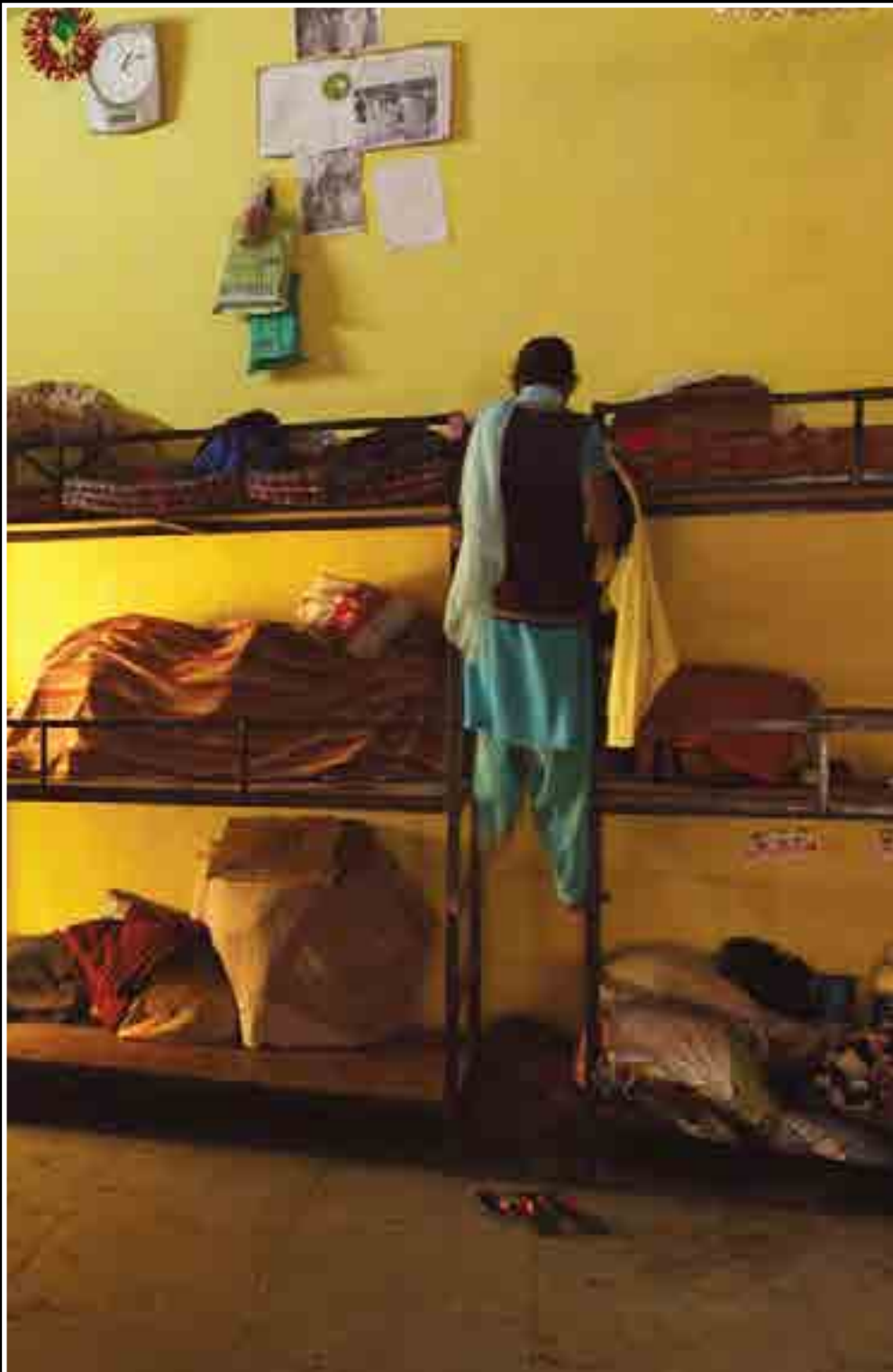


Facing page and this page: Homeless people on the streets of Delhi.

Photo credit: Ajit Bhadoriya



Men who have laboured hard during the day sleep comfortably in the shelter supported by IGSSS, Delhi.
Photo credit: Ajit Bhadoriya



Women and children at the IGSSS managed Regarpura shelter in Delhi.
Photo credit: Ajit Bhadoriya



Contrasting emotions of joy and despair can be seen at the Regarpura shelter in Delhi.
Photo credit: Ajit Bhadoriya



Top: Christmas at the Regarpura shelter in Delhi.

Photo credit: Ajit Bhadoriya

Bottom left and right: The homeless in Pul Mithai, Delhi.

Photo credit: Ajit Bhadoriya





A concrete staircase being used as a makeshift home by a homeless man in Pul Mithai, Delhi.
Photo credit: Ajit Bhadoriya



Top and Bottom right: Children enjoying their playtime in the Regarpura shelter, Delhi.

Photo credit: Ajit Bhadoriya

Bottom Left: Two old men are given a comfortable stay in IGSSS' 24-hour shelter.

Photo credit: Ajit Bhadoriya





Facing page and this page: A cold winter morning for the homeless in Pul Mithai, Delhi
Photo credit: Ajit Bhadoriya





A young boy at the Regarpura shelter, Delhi eats the nutritious lunch sourced from Aap ki Rasoi, a Delhi government initiative to eliminate hunger. Dinner is prepared by the women staying at the shelter.

Photo credit: Ajit Bhadoriya



As part of IGSSS' Citymakers Collective winter campaign, team members conducted daily night surveys of homeless citizens in New Delhi and attempted to provide help to the most vulnerable of them.

Photo credit: Ajit Bhadoriya



Women and children at the Regarpura shelter, Delhi are happy to have access to basic amenities.

Photo credit: Ajit Bhadoriya



The shelter management at Regarpura, New Delhi, makes medical aid available whenever needed, and provides legal assistance to those involved in court cases. There is a dispensary in the shelter building, and a maternity home (Dilli Nagar Nigam Matra-Shishu Chikitsalaya) very close to the shelter.

Photo credit: Ajit Bhadoriya



Left: A rickshaw repair shop, Labour Adda, Indra Nagar, Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh.

Top: A baby cries out for his mother while she is busy with the household chores, Bithauli, Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh.

Bottom: Rickshaws lined up in an empty plot in Khurram Nagar Chauraha, Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh.

Photo credit: Rohan Dhawan





Left: Labourers keeping themselves warm on a cold winter day when the mercury fell to 1° Celsius, Kanpur, Uttar Pradesh.

Top: Labourers burn the tyre of a cycle to keep themselves warm on a cold winter day, Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh.

Bottom: Most of the rickshaw pullers in Lucknow are migrants from other states and hence do not have homes to stay in. They cannot afford to rent a place, so the men find empty plots of lands and build a shelter for themselves on it.

Photo credit: Rohan Dhawan





Left: A girl runs down a slope to where her mother is washing utensils, Ahibaranpur, Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh.

Top: This community lives near a dirty drain and next to it is the only source of drinking water for over 500 people, Ahibaranpur.

Bottom: A woman washes utensils near a garbage dump which is also the backyard to her house, Ahibaranpur.

Photo credit: Rohan Dhawan





A child plays in the dirt while his parents are at work or busy with household chores. Vikas Nagar, Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh.
Photo credit: Rohan Dhawan



A puppet show organised by IGSSS' partners to emphasise the importance of life insurance policies and SHGs, Vikas Nagar, Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh.
Photo credit: Rohan Dhawan

Right: A family living in cramped conditions in Bithauli, Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh.

Far right: A little girl and her family stay in this makeshift home made with discarded sacks and plastic sheets. Kanpur, Uttar Pradesh.

Bottom: Children of rickshaw pullers in Bithauli.
Photo credit: Rohan Dhawan





Top: A mother feeds her child close to the *chullah* (fireplace) to keep her warm. Vikas Nagar, Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh.

Right : The SHG head listens intently and keeps a record of everything during the group meetings. Bithauli, Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh.

Bottom: Rickshaw pullers start their day early with roti's and boiled vegetables. Khurram Nagar Chauraha, Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh.

Photo credit: Rohan Dhawan

“
As we look ahead into the next century, leaders will be those
who empower others.”

Bill Gates

Developing a Cadre of Leaders from the community as well as Civil Society Organisations

For the last decade IGSSS has brought in great focus on the capacity building of communities and civil society organisations (CSOs) as well as individuals. The best way forward to bring in sustainable change in the society is to build the capacities of the communities and local CSOs so that they can work towards the realisation of their rights to stand against violations and discrimination. The intervention focuses at three levels: Community level, Partner's level and IGSSS' level and all programmes include the specific component of capacity building.



Women return home after a successful Self-Help Group meeting in Kaij, Beed district, Maharashtra.

Photo credit: Ajit Bhadoriya



The women of Purna, Maharashtra take matters into their own hands - they ask for their rights and ensure that their dues are given to them. There has been a lot of change in perceptions in this district due to the self-help groups and the various income generation activities.

Photo credit: Ajit Bhadoriya



A woman SHG member from Okha, Gujarat in a shop that she and her SHG members obtained from the government.
Photo credit: Ajit Bhadoriya



Top: A woman listens a fellow SHG member during a meeting and awareness programme, Kaij, Maharashtra.



Bottom: A woman from Purna, Maharashtra takes part in a meeting of SHG members.
Photo credit: Ajit Bhadoriya



Facing page and this Page: A public hearing organised by IGSSS on the PESA act. This act enables communities to assume control over their livelihoods, conserve and manage natural resources and protect traditional rights. NGOs working for the welfare of tribals and community based organisations work together to pressurise the Government of India for the enactment of the PESA in tribal areas, Paderu, Andhra Pradesh.

Photo credit: Rohan Dhawan





The women of the SHG group in Okha work with love and laughter. It is difficult to see a dull and serious face in this group. Yet they did not always have everything easy. Obtaining a shop to sell their wares was a long drawn process and after many applications and requests to government authorities the shop was finally leased to the group. Today, the SHG group sells the handicraft items made by its members through the shop. Okha, being a place for pilgrimage, is a good market place for the sale of such items.

Photo credit: Ajit Bhadoriya



“ A woman is the full circle. Within her is the power to create,
nurture and transform.”

Diane Mariechild

Interventions to Promote Gender Equity

Women being an integral part of society have an equal bidding in all the activities that are taken up culturally, socially, economically and politically. But they are also found to be the most marginalised and the most vulnerable category when studied in the context of poverty, availing opportunities, literacy rate and health.

Gender is taken as a cross-cutting theme among all other themes in IGSSS. Here the focus is to consciously plan and implement activities, and programmes by taking into consideration the concerns and requirements of women, and also to enhance their participation.



Women SHG members undergo an awareness training on health and education, Okha, Gujarat.
Photo credit: Ajit Bhadoriya



Women of the SHG groups in Okha, Gujarat share their experiences with each other. Seen here women narrating the challenges they have faced and the hurdles they have overcome in order to obtain facilities from the government and local authorities.
Photo credit: Ajit Bhadoriya





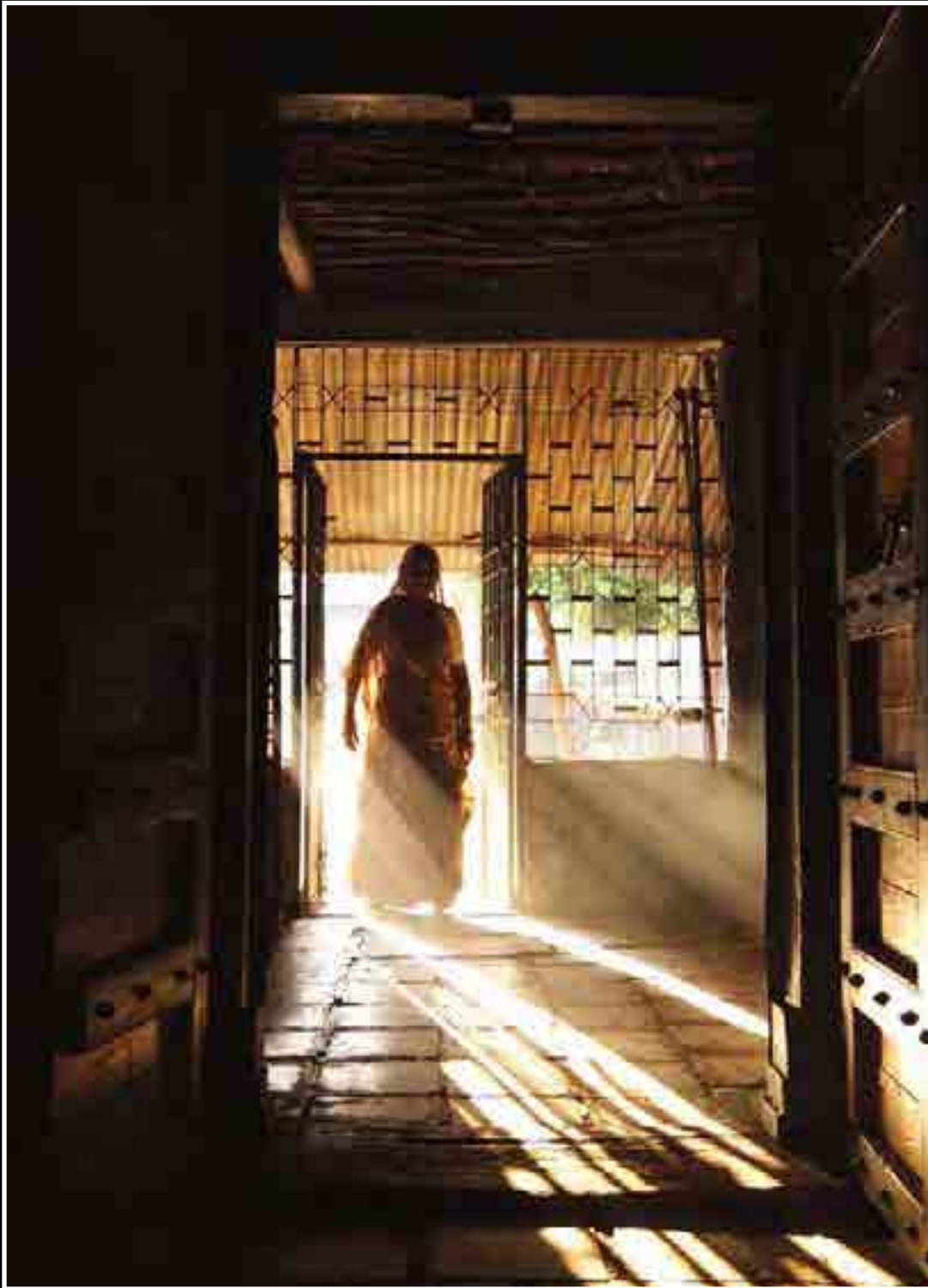
An SHG member preparing a patchwork item that will later be sold in the local market, Okha, Gujarat.

Photo credit: Ajit Bhadoriya



Top and bottom: Women of the SHG group in Kaij, Beed, Maharashtra find it very convenient to continue their income generation activities while they nurture and supervise their children.

Photo credit: Ajit Bhadoriya



An older member of an SHG group coming in for a meeting. Okha, Gujarat.
Photo credit: Ajit Bhadoriya



SHG members undergoing training on maintenance of books of accounts, Okha, Gujarat.
Photo credit: Ajit Bhadoriya



SHG members sharing a laugh while making handicraft items, Okha, Gujarat.
Photo credit: Ajit Bhadoriya



Joy on the faces of women members of SHGs in Okha, Gujarat (left and bottom right) and Parbhani, Maharashtra (top right).

Photo credit: Ajit Bhadoriya



SHG members receive training in income generation activities - they maintain their traditional craft, find a forum to voice their concerns, enjoy the camaraderie that working together brings and have a growing sense of independence. Okha, Gujarat.

Photo credit: Ajit Bhadoriya





Women weaving carpets at their loom. This micro enterprise was started by members of Aman SHG of Gonchipora village in Baramulla, Kashmir.
Photo credit: Bilal Bahadur



Members of different SHGs working on their shawls in Balkote, Uri, Kashmir. IGSSS has provided advanced training to them and has also linked them to the market where can they sell their shawls.
Photo credit: Bilal Bahadur



These teenage girls of Bandipora, Kashmir have to tread dangerous paths to collect firewood from the jungles.
Photo credit: Bilal Bahadur



A lady with her baby during snowfall in Kashmir.
Photo credit: Bilal Bahadur



A woman from the Backarwals, a tribe which migrates every year from Jammu to the pastures of Kashmir.
Photo credit: Bilal Bahadur



These girls of Baramulla, Kashmir have to spend a large portion of their day to fetch water which has been always a scarcity for the community.

Photo credit: Bilal Bahadur



Top and bottom: Women's development programmes carried out in Shevgaon taluka of Ahmednagar district, Maharashtra, have brought in a great sense of satisfaction in the lives of these women who are in the later years of their life. For them the efforts have all been well worth it.

Photo credit: Leesha Manju





Top Left: A tribal girl and her mother pose for the camera after a dance performance. Dumri Guda, Koraput, Orissa.

Bottom Left: Tribal women with their children outside their huts, Dumri Guda, Orissa.

Top right : The SHG members of Amil village Hazaribagh, Bihar. The leader Savitri Devi has worked very hard to establish a very successful SHG. Also seen in this picture is Ms. Anjali Devi who has received training to administer medicine and emergency first aid.

Bottom right: Tribal women of Dumri Guda, Koraput, Orissa. These women are part of an SHG that undertakes income generation activities linked with the collection and sale of Non Timber Forest Products.

Photo credit: Rohan Dhawan



Kondh tribal women from Dumri Guda, Koraput, Orissa pose for the camera. These women are part of the community that has benefited from the income generation activities promoted by IGSSS and its partner. The organisations have been able to reach people living in the remotest areas of India and have helped them move towards a sustenance that also pays respect to their traditional knowledge. The community is an equal partner in the work that IGSSS implements on the field. Together they join hands in their stand for a strong and independent future.

Photo credit: Rohan Dhawan

Photographers' Profile

BILAL BHADUR

Photojournalist

bilalbhador@gmail.com

Bilal Bahadur is an acclaimed photojournalist from Kashmir. He has been working in the field for the last nine years and during this period has worked with leading local, national and international news groups. Bilal's interests lie in politics, health, films and theatre. His repertoire of work includes a wide range of assignments on areas ranging from culture, tourism, disaster, conflict and human interest.



He has also taken up many offbeat assignments which have been highly appreciated by many news agencies and development organisations. Bilal's uniqueness lies in his simplicity – he can turn even the mundane into a piece of wonderment just by a click. His pictures have soul; they make one stop and think because he puts his all into them.

ASHISH ANTHONY

Liaison Manager, Association of Bengal Collaborators for Development

aashish_antony@hotmail.com

Ashish's first assignment after his graduation was with Children's Aid Calcutta (CAC), an organisation he stayed with for 16 years. He left CAC to join IGSSS where he served across different locations looking after wide ranging portfolios; heading consultancy studies for international donors as well as the Youth Development programme. During these eight years his hobby for photography turned into passion and he matured into a sensitive and humane photographer. Ashish has won several accolades including the Kodak photography contest.



His photographs were also selected for an exhibition by The Government of West Bengal and other private agencies. Ashish also acts as a freelance consultant for development studies and photo documentation.

LEESHA MANJU

Independent Consultant

leesha.manju@gmail.com

Leesha works as an independent consultant specialising in the planning, designing and evaluation of development projects. She also undertakes documentation and has a great interest in and love for photography. Leesha has worked for various organisations in the development sector (including IGSSS) and her field travels are also a fertile ground for her to pursue her interest in photography.



ROHAN DHAWAN**Freelance Photographer****rohan.dhawan@yahoo.com**

Rohan is a self-taught photographer who left his corporate career to follow his passion - photography. He has undertaken various photography assignments for key client advertisements, marketing brochures, corporate portraits, coffee table books, events, and product launches. Rohan enjoys getting out with his camera, learning new things and teaching others what he knows. He is also the Co-Founder of Photo Splendours – A photography group that promotes the art and trains enthusiasts and new photographers by organising various photo walks in Delhi and photo trips to interesting places.

**AJIT BHADORIYA****Freelance Photographer****click4ajit@gmail.com**

Ajit's work always represents his love for travel and photo stories with the perspective of composing the 'uncomposed'. Photography interests him in the way that he goes out into the world, finds and responds to what's there and tries to see it in a way that will convey some kind of emotional or aesthetic sense. He spends most of his time photographing people on the street, taking portraits, and undertaking different documentary work. Ajit's aim is also to grasp the metaphysical abilities of photography, in the hope that this world will lead him onto a successful path of growth and self realisation.

**SUBROTO CHATTERJEE****Executive Programme, IGSSS****subrotosw@gmail.com**

Subroto's calling for social development has taken him from his birthplace of Varanasi to the islands of the Andaman, the historical state of Uttar Pradesh, the land of monasteries – Bihar, and finally to the capital of India – New Delhi. As part of his professional assignments, Subroto likes to visit different parts of India and meet with varied groups of people - unheard and unnoticed. Photography is his hobby and in his journey from one space to another, Subroto tries to capture the snapshots of life - stories of pain and joy, the spirit of living life. He says it awakens his soul and helps him start again with hope...





Established in 1960, Indo-Global Social Service Society (IGSSS) is an Indian development organisation that works with a vision to empower the poor and marginalised sections of society. As a national organisation, IGSSS focuses on five core areas: Sustainable Livelihood, Youth Development, Disaster Risk Reduction, Urban Poverty and NGO Capacity Building. In all the above five core areas Gender and building leadership at the community level and the NGO level are strategically built in. IGSSS has also helped many organisations (national and international) through its consultancy studies that have served to establish credibility and standards in the development sector.



Indo - Global Social Service Society
Head Office

28, Institutional Area, Lodhi Road, New Delhi - 110 003
Email : ed@igsss.net URL : www.igsss.org
Tel : 011 - 45705000, Fax : 011 - 24626259