



# Sambād

THE IIDS NEWSLETTER

number 23-June 2002

## SPECIAL STUDY

### Development of a SAARC Social Charter

One of the main tasks to be undertaken in the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) programme that was adopted at the 10<sup>th</sup> SAARC Summit, held in Colombo in July 1998, is the development of a social charter. In the words of the declaration issued by the SAARC leaders at the conclusion of the summit, the social charter would draw up targets with a broad range to be achieved across the region in the areas of poverty eradication, population stabilization, women empowerment, youth mobilization, human resource development, promotion of health and nutrition and protection of children.'

The social charter has to be placed in the context of the initiatives that have already been taken by the SAARC. The charter could be perceived as a logical outcome of an ongoing process in which the SAARC countries have attempted to define and set the goals and objectives of social development which need to be pursued. From the inception of the SAARC, the declarations made at the various summit meetings have expressed the commitment of the member countries to a wide range of social goals; programmes of action for the realization of these goals have followed these. For the most part, this process has

unfolded as the SAARC counterpart of the international covenants and declarations on relevant issues. The declarations at SAARC summits during the period 1985-1998 contain the region's responses to the initiatives taken by the international community to chart out a direction for social policy and set goals to be attained by the member countries in fields such as population, wellbeing of women and children, social integration and unemployment. At the same time, SAARC has taken initiative to focus on problems which have special relevance for the region: poverty, food security, drug trafficking and drug abuse, relief to the disabled, etc. The SAARC Social Charter, therefore, has to be approached as an integral part of this ongoing process. Since the preparation and adoption of the SAARC Social Charter is the culmination of this process, it should follow the stocktaking of thirteen years of commitment and performance. With the entering into the 21<sup>st</sup> century, SAARC needs to redefine and renew its social goals and strategies in an economic environment of new global and regional opportunities and challenges.

In the changing conditions of the regional economy of SAARC and the process of globalization in which

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“With the entering into the 21<sup>st</sup> century, SAARC needs to redefine and renew its social goals and strategies in an economic environment of new global and regional opportunities and challenges.” See P.1

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## Editorial

Following an adoption of the 10th SAARC Summit, held in Colombo in July 1998, IIDS has prepared a draft of the Social Charter for Nepal. The charter has draw up targets with a broad range to be achieved across the region in the areas of poverty eradication, population stabilization, women empowerment, youth mobilization, human resource development, promotion of health and nutrition, and protection of children. However, the provisions of the charter cannot be implemented unless there is strong political will, commitment and accountability on the part of the government, and a common stake on the part of NGOs and civil societies in terms of monitoring, evaluating and pressurizing the government for translating them into action in letter and spirit. The NGOs and civil societies must play their roles as watchdog and pressure groups in implementing the charter to achieve the desired goals and objectives.

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The National Planning Commission, with the Rastriya Janajati Bikas Samiti, is undertaking a strategic analysis and action plan designed to include *janajati* (indigenous peoples and nationalities) issues in the 10th Five Year Plan. IIDS has been identified as a potential lead among others for this work. Development of a strategy and action plan with the meaningful participation of stakeholders and target beneficiaries will be the basic approach of this work.

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The project, *Institutional Development of PCRW Federated Groups with Advocacy Capacity-building in Fourteen VDC Areas in Five Districts of the Eastern Development Region*, aims to strengthen the capabilities of the women members of the PCRW programme to establish grass roots institutions and to undertake women and child development activities. The project has helped the participating groups federated under the PCRW programme and its members to identify their advocacy needs and explore possible ways for improving women's conditions and position in society; to understand the importance of institutional development of women's organizations. The institutional support under this project has helped the women members of cooperatives and federations to enhance their access to various economic opportunities and resources; enhance their decision-making ability; and equip them with advocacy skills to advocate for their rights. It has also sensitized the male members of the community towards their parenting role.

these changes are taking place, the proposed charter could fulfil three important goals:

First, it could define the past commitments and the ongoing and future efforts within a larger framework of social values and norms that would guide social policy in the countries of the region.

Second, it could translate these commitments as far as possible into rights, entitlements and obligations, providing a clearer frame of social accountability of states than those existing at present.

Third, it could develop a collective vision to respond to the vastly accelerated processes of globalization and liberalization that have impact on South Asian societies. The processes have posed new threats of marginalization of the weaker segments of society. In this context, governments must be capable of designing appropriate social policies to include these segments in the mainstream of development. The social charter can help in this process. But at the same time they have also brought opportunities. Because globalization of social ideals and norms will reinforce the processes of social reform and advancement within the South Asian societies, the social charter can strengthen its links with these elements of globalization.

Accordingly, four draft papers on the charter have been prepared: (1) poverty alleviation, (2) women empowerment, (3) population stabilization and human resource development and (4) education.

The draft papers have been prepared, based on the available guidelines, in two parts. The first part includes a situational analysis, commitments made by the government on the subject at various regional and international summits, efforts of the government to improve the situation and the outcome of the efforts. This part provides an insight into each subject that has been dealt in for preparing the charter.

The second part deals with the contents to be included in the charter. It starts with a preamble, which deals with the justifications for preparing the charter. Second, the guiding principles, goals and strategies, which provides guidelines and strategies to be adopted for the preparation of plans, policies and programmes to be implemented. Third, targets to be achieved by implementing the programmes are set. Fourth, plans of actions, policies and programmes to be adopted for achieving the set targets are dealt with. And finally, approaches for the monitoring and evaluation of the programme implementation and stipulation of access to information about the implementation status of the provisions of charter are described.

Prior to the preparation of the draft charter, a series of consultative meetings were held at district level with civil society organizations as well as individuals for



gathering their feelings about the charter. In the same manner, officials of the district level as well as central level government and non-government agencies were also consulted for gathering their ideas about the charter. Based on the feelings and ideas of the people consulted, a draft charter was prepared. After the preparation of the draft charter, a central level consultative meeting was organized for receiving comments and suggestions from civil society organizations. In that meeting, the draft papers were presented to the representatives of the civil society organizations, which was followed by group discussions. Four groups of participants were constituted to discuss the papers (one group for each paper). After discussion, the participants deliberated on their summaries of findings, including suggestions on the papers.

Another important philosophy of these consultative meetings was to let the people know about the contents of the charter. It is hoped that, as a consequence of these meetings, it will receive greater acceptance of society and the participants will play a leading role in this course. The participants are expected to continuously educate the people to make them aware about their stakes and agitate for its implementation after its ratification by the government.

The major recommendations made by the participants of the central-level consultation are incorporated in the main text and conclusions drawn.

Nepal is one of the seven staunchly committed founder members of the SAARC countries and as such a signatory to international and SAARC summit declarations and decisions to implement social development activities in the country.

Currently, in the South Asian nations the new economic ideology has eroded the ethics of public responsibility towards the social sectors. Consequently, the social sectors have been inadequately financed and, with the ongoing policies, the constraints on social development can become even more severe. At the same time, the process of globalization, which is shifting the centres of decision making to trans-national actors, is likely to weaken the State's capacity to deal with many emerging social problems at the national level. The social charter has, therefore, been prepared keeping in mind the global context of this nature, and it prescribes and proposes to deal with these overarching issues.

The charter formulated is believed to provide a new opportunity to define the international obligations for its implementation in the SAARC region. This may enable the SAARC to expand and strengthen the social window of the South Asian Development Forum by incorporating

some of the concepts underlying the commitments made at the World Social Summit. This may also help the SAARC countries to mobilize the much-needed resources for the development of the social sectors, which are inadequately financed today.

The SAARC summits, from the first Dhaka Summit in 1985 to the latest Kathmandu Summit in 2002, have made various declarations about the social development of the people in the South Asian region. But, many aspects of social development have yet to be taken into consideration. Making declarations is not meaningful unless these are translated into action.

It is, therefore, first of all, required that the governments of the South Asian nations be more attentive towards the social development of their people. For this, if the social charter, which develops a long-term vision of the future and registers the path to that future, and which develops such a vision with broad-based participation by the people, is sincerely implemented, it could be of inestimable value as an instrument of good governance in Nepal.

The social charter is a legal document for binding national governments and making it obligatory to implement the hitherto committed but not implemented declarations and decisions made at different international conferences and SAARC summits held at different times and places.

However commendable and plausible may be the provisions of the charter, these cannot be implemented unless there is strong political will, commitment and accountability on the part of His Majesty's Government of Nepal and a common stake on the part of NGOs and civil societies in terms of monitoring, evaluating and pressurizing the government for translating the Social Charter into action in letter and spirit. Time has come that HMG/N, NGOs and civil society together implement the charter for greater good of the Nepalese people. The NGOs and civil societies must play their roles as watchdog and pressure groups in implementing it to achieve the desired social goals and objectives.

In Nepal, the charter was prepared by IIDS at the request of the Marga Institute of Sri Lanka (Sri Lanka Centre for Development Studies), which was selected by SAARC as the focal point for preparing the Charter. The persons involved in preparing the draft Charter were Mr Shyam Prasad Adhikari (Coordinator), Mr Mahendra Raj Sapkota (Poverty Alleviation), Ms Inu Aryal (Women Empowerment), Dr Madhav Prasad Gautam (Population Stabilization and Human Resource Development) and Mr Subarna Ram Joshi (Education). ●●●



## WOMEN AND DEVELOPMENT

### GENDER BUDGET AUDIT-NEPAL Field Visit to Dhanusa

A field visit was undertaken by the study team of the project, Gender Budget Audit-Nepal, to Dhanusa district from 7 to 9 April 2002. The participants of this two and a half-day field visit were Dr Meena Acharya, Ms Puspa Ghimire and Dr Vikash Raj Satyal. The main objective of this visit was to understand the role of women groups at the grass roots level in programme formulation. After the implementation of the Participatory District Development Programme (PDDP) in the country, it is assumed that the programme will reach the central level from the VDC level with some accommodation. The field study was also intended to measure to what degree women's voice is considered in the local level programme formulation.

The field team visited some government offices in Janakpur, including the DDC, Local Development Office (LDO), District Agriculture Office (DAO), District Health Office (DHO) and District Education Office (DEO). It also went to some villages around Janakpur and interacted with some women's groups there.

The visit brought forth the following information:

- ◆ Requirements (of both sexes) at the grass roots are not adequately reflected in the annual plans of the offices visited. Mostly predetermined and centre's ideas are imposed in the traditional planning model.
- ◆ NGOs are playing an active role at the local level, but the governmental mechanism seems to be sluggish.
- ◆ The level of consciousness of the local women has risen in recent years and the degree of their consciousness is proportional to the initiative of the women's groups with which they are associated. For example, the women associated with a highly motivated group such as the Jayalaxmi Mahila Samaj of Baghacauda VDC are highly conscious and focused about their requirements and rights. The level of consciousness also depends upon the composition of the group, the most influencing factors among which are caste and education level and the extent of male-dominating traditions prevalent in the community.
- ◆ The participation of the nominated women representatives in the regular VDC meetings is not effective. As there is only one nominated woman representative who can participate in these meetings and as the elected women cannot participate in these meetings, women's voice is not adequately represented in decision making at the local level. In every ward, the current system requires at least one ward member to be a woman. The lone woman representative

obviously seems unable to represent the ward adequately.

- ◆ Baghacauda, which is about 13 km from Janakpur, is relatively an impoverished village compared to Lohana VDC, which is about 7 km from the centre. In Lohana village, women are disorganized, dirty and more self-centred. The group we met had nine women from different castes, ethnicity and educational level. Some groups already exist there such as vegetable farmers a group (Radhakrishna Tarkari Kheti Samuha) and health group (Ama Samuha). In spite of the existence of such groups, women were lowly conscious about their possible role in society and about their rights and were less enthusiastic about their future. In contrast, the women's group of Baghacauda was unequivocal about the requirements of the community (they needed a primary school in the vicinity), conscious about their capacity (role in VDC meetings), were ready to confront the VDC members if the budget for the year wasn't approved as per their requirement and, above all, they were enthusiastic about their future. All the 23 women who participated in the focus group discussion at Baghacauda were from Mandal community, uneducated or lowly educated and of similar economic status, and husbands of most of them had gone to Punjab as agriculture labour. Even then, they have constructed a village trail and a fishpond, created a large community forest, and formulated and enforced various rules and regulations in village with their own effort and under the guidance of the local forum. These women possess characteristics of a model community.

Family support (especially the role of husband and elderly household members such as mothers- or fathers-in-law) plays a vital role in the advancement of the women. A supportive family generates strong consciousness among women, which will eventually benefit the whole family. Hence, gender consciousness should be directed not only towards women but also towards men. If we compare the women of Dhanusa with those of Kavrepalanchok, a district previously visited, the above statement could be attested. Kavrepalanchok is a hilly area with poor social, economic and educational activities. In contrast, Dhanusa, which adjoins the Indian border, good availability of transportation facilities (East-West Highway and connected with railways) and its rich cultural heritage should have uplifted the socio-economic characteristics. But the reverse was the picture. This can be explained by the role of family support to a great extent.





## DEMOGRAPHIC, ENVIRONMENTAL AND OTHER SPECIAL STUDIES

## Inclusion of Janajati Issues in the Tenth Five-Year Plan

The National Planning Commission (NPC), with the Rastriya Janajati Bikas Samiti, is undertaking a strategic analysis and action plan

designed to include *janajati* (indigenous people) issues in the 10th Five Year Plan. The Department for International Development has agreed to support this work by funding and contracting a consultancy in support of HMGN.

IIDS has been identified among others as a potential lead for this work. The overall objective of this consultancy is to work with NPC and the National Committee for Development of Nationalities to ensure that development priorities and potentials of Nepal's indigenous peoples/nationalities are duly and adequately reflected in HMG's Tenth Plan.

At the end of the consultancy work, a final document will be prepared, which will include the following four main outputs:

1. A status report of the nationalities/indigenous peoples that summarizes geographic, demographic, health, education, employment/skills, political/legal and social/cultural status, and impact of development programmes targeted at them, based on a literature review and interviews with *janajati* organizations and government departments, non-government and donor agencies supporting programmes which directly or indirectly work with *janajatis*,
2. An analysis of development challenges, opportunities and constraints faced by nationalities/indigenous peoples, based on the information in the status report and on consultations,
3. A strategic plan on *janajatis* for the Tenth Plan period. It will identify key priorities and areas to be covered. They are in the fields of economic and social development: poverty alleviation, infrastructure development activities, language preservation and revitalization, preservation and promotion of tangible and intangible cultures. Also, in the areas

**Development of a strategy and action plan with the meaningful participation of stakeholders and target beneficiaries will be the basic approach of this work.**

of awareness raising, institutional development, human resource development, etc and other interventions or programmes, legal or policy reforms, and

4. An action plan and logframe, which will identify the actions and resources needed to implement the strategic plan.

Development of a strategy and action plan with the meaningful participation of stakeholders and target beneficiaries will be the basic approach of this work.

The study team is headed by Dr Chaitanya Subba. The other members of the team are Mr Nilamber Acharya (Constitution and Legal Expert), Ms Laxmi Limbu (Demographer), Ms Sangini Rana Magar (Gender Expert), Mr Shyamal Krishna Shrestha (Development Researcher) and Mr Amrit Yonjan (Linguist). Dr Dwarika Nath Dhungel, Executive Director of IIDS is the institutional head and political scientist.

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successful in registering the federated groups under the Cooperative Act and have established their own cooperative institutions. Of the 14 federations covered by the programme, only five were registered as cooperative institutions before the implementation of the programme. The remaining nine federations were registered after the programme intervention. The members of the cooperative institutions have become able to identify different advocacy issues relevant to their lives as well as their possible solutions. In this context, different types of advocacy actions related to several social malpractice, gender inequality, accessing to and benefiting from different resources and services, etc were carried out by the participating women members. Women now feel encouraged to undertake community development endeavours with active participation. They have increased their linkages with different development agencies such as the DDC, VDC, District Forest Office, District Cooperative Office, NGO-CC, etc. \*\*\*



## STATISTICS AND INFORMATION SCIENCE

### Status and Dimension of Trafficking within the Nepal Context An Update

A progress report on the project, Status and Dimension of Trafficking within the Nepal Context, was submitted to UNIFEM in May 2002. The report updated on the status of the project as at the end of May 2002, along with giving a background, objectives, methodology adopted in the first phase of the study, activities undertaken and limitations of the study as well as the work schedule. It also contained as annexes the checklists, status of information, minutes of steering committee meeting, interaction/discussion guidelines with different stakeholders and a list of organizations visited.

The study has two phases. The objective of the first phase is to prepare an inventory of the organizations working in anti-trafficking initiatives by collecting secondary information from relevant organizations (GOs, NGOs, INGOs and donors) and that of the second phase is to analyse the gaps in policy, action plan, programme implementation and methodology adopted to undertake initiative on the basis of the information collected in the first phase.

Two steering committee meetings were held till April 2002, which played a vital role in discussing the problems faced by the team during the study period. The steering committee provided the team with

suggestions and guidance to conduct the study.

A number of organizations including those in the Kathmandu valley were visited to discuss the issues raised in the checklist as well as interview the related personnel and for the collection of information, publications, reports and other information, education and communication materials.

The personnel concerned were interviewed as well as discussions held, sometimes with more than one person of an organization. About 16 NGOs, eight INGOs and four GOs were visited.

In the course of the study, the team visited 11 districts, namely Ilam, Jhapa, Morang, Bara, Rupandehi, Nawalparasi, Kalaiya, Sindhupalchowk, Nuwakot, Banke and Dhangadi.

The organizations visited during the field visit were District Administration Office, DDC, District Police Office, Women and Children's Cell, women development committee, local NGOs, transit homes, interception units of Maiti Nepal, ABC-Nepal's pressure group, prisons, district courts, Joint Initiative in the Millennium against Trafficking in Women and Girls (JIT). The officials concerned were interviewed and their working procedures observed. \*\*\*

#### SRDPP

### SRDPP-LAMJUNG An Update

IIDS implemented the Self-reliant Development of the Poor by the Poor (SRDPP) programme in 15 VDC areas of Lamjung district during 1987-December 2000. At the end of 2000, the programme was phased out, handing over the responsibility of programme implementation to the cooperatives of the VDCs concerned. Similarly, the district federation of 17 cooperatives was made responsible for the smooth functioning of the programme in the post phase-out period. From January 2001, IIDS limited its role to distance monitoring and providing critical backstopping to the programme till December 2002.

The programme is being financially supported by Helvetas-Nepal.

A strategy was developed to maintain continuous relationship between the supporting organizations, viz Helvetas-Nepal and IIDS, and the cooperatives after the handing over of the programme. So, a formal relationship was developed between the cooperatives, IIDS and Helvetas for providing distance monitoring and critical backstopping to SRDPP-Lamjung programme in 2001. The strategy also emphasizes developing linkages between the cooperatives and different development agencies at the local, district and national levels. Furthermore, the cooperatives continued to operate the savings and credit programme, mobilize Revolving Credit Fund (RCF) for various income-generating activities and diversify the income



generating activities in their areas. The number of share members has increased tremendously, which was mainly due to the involvement of the group members formed by DEPROSC-Nepal (an NGO working in the district) in Gaunda VDC. It increased by 79. This was the first time when the SRDPP cooperatives became successful in involving members from other programmes.

Out of the total 1,644 members in the 78 income-generating groups (IGGs) in 15 VDC areas of Lamjung district, only 1,241 have bought shares of the cooperatives. The total fund collection in the 17 cooperative societies has reached Rs2,486,608 up to the end of this reporting period. Out of this fund, Rs496,962.72 was provided by IIDS as RCF, Rs418,000 was provided by the Nepal Rastra Bank as the Rural Self-Reliance Fund and the remaining Rs1,571,645.28

was generated by the share members as Self-Reliant Fund (SRF). The total disbursement and repayment of loans in the 14 cooperatives was recorded as Rs634,980 and Rs529,008 respectively. Of the total repayment, Rs168,250 is for the RCF. The cumulative fund disbursement in all the cooperatives has reached Rs7,411,028 and repayment has reached Rs5,223,966.

Two cooperative societies, namely Aadibasi of Neta VDC and Chhaphdanda of Gaunda VDC, did not register any overdue loan during this reporting period. Ganeshmalika, Nauthar, Chhaphdanda and Bhalayakharka Cooperatives each earned a profit of more than Rs40,000. Of the 17 cooperative societies under the SRDPP Lamjung programme, nine are ranked as developed, seven as developing and one as inactive.



### Institutional Development of Federated Groups with Advocacy Capacity Building in Udayapur, Saptari, Sunsari, Ilam and Jhapa Districts of Eastern Development Region

IIDS has been implementing a programme, Institutional Development of PCRW Federated Groups with Advocacy Capacity Building in Fourteen VDC Areas in Five Districts of the Eastern Development Region, since October 2000. The five districts are Udayapur, Saptari, Sunsari, Ilam and Jhapa. Financially supported by UNICEF-Eastern Region Field Office (ER-FO), the programme aims at the institutional development of the federations formed under the Production Credit for Rural Women (PCRW) programme. The main objective of the programme is to strengthen the capabilities of the women members of the PCRW programme to establish grass roots institutions and to undertake women and child development activities.

The project was initially designed for a period of one year; however, it took additional two months to accomplish the designed tasks, which was caused by the frequent replacement of the Women Development Officer of Jhapa district.

The programme has helped the participating groups federated under the PCRW programme and its members to identify their advocacy needs and explore possible ways for improving women's conditions and position in society; to understand the importance of parenting in child development; and to understand the importance

of institutional development of women's organizations. In this process, a wide range of knowledge and skills related to these subjects were imparted to the participating members through training and workshops, and preparation and implementation of annual action plans. The participating federation members were encouraged to carry out different activities such as door-to-door visits as a part of awareness-raising; perform street drama and other cultural programmes; develop linkages with different development agencies; take advocacy actions on pertinent issues, etc. Advocacy actions were taken on issues such as discrimination against the girl-child in education; inadequate parenting in childcare; and violation of women's and children's rights. The participating members from cooperatives/federations successfully organized several public events during the one-year programme period.

The institutional support under this programme has eventually helped to enhance the cooperatives/federations' women members' access to various economic opportunities and resources; enhance their decision-making ability; and equip them with advocacy skills to advocate for their rights. It has also sensitized the male members of the community towards their parenting role. The participating women have been



## HRD NEWS

**Dr Dwarika Nath Dhungel**, Executive Director, and **Mr Shyamal K Shrestha**, Research Officer, attended a regional workshop, *Human Security and Human Development in South Asia: Issues and priorities for a regional strategy in South Asia*. The meeting, organized jointly by York University, Toronto, and India International Centre, New Delhi, was held in New Delhi on 8 March 2002.

**Dr Vikash Raj Satyal** attended the *World Day against Child Labour*, organized by the International Labour Organization, on 12 June 2002. This international day was celebrated in Nepal for the first time.

**Mr Anil Shrestha**, Editor, attended the *Editorial Training Workshop*, organized and conducted by Martin Chautari on 20 and 21 April 2002. The training workshop covered all aspects of editing for a range of publications (books, magazines, newspapers, reports).

The topics covered included 'What is an editor? Qualities, types and functions', 'Editor as commissions/acquisitions in charge', 'What is copyediting?', 'What is proofreading?'

The instructors were Anil Panicker, Basant Thapa, Bela Malik, Deepak Thapa, Mohan Mainali and Thomas Mathew—all well-known editors from Nepal and India.

**Mr Shyamal K Shrestha**, participated in the *First South Asia Water Forum*, held in Kathmandu during 26-28 February 2002. The meet was organized by Nepal Water Partnership and Jalsrot Vikas Sansthan and organized and supported by the Global Water Partnership and South Asia Technical Advisory Committee.

**Mr Shankar Aryal**, attended a talk programme, *The Prevailing Security Situation in South Asia*, organized by Nepal Foundation of Advanced Studies (NEFAS) in cooperation with the Embassy of Pakistan, in

Kathmandu on 16 June 2002. Dr Shireen M Mazari, Director General, Pakistan Institute of Strategic Studies, speaking at the programme, said that SAARC should be reviewed so as to allow open scrutiny on bilateral and controversial regional issues. She also said that Nepal could play a crucial role in de-escalating tension in South Asia.

**Ms Muna Nepal**, Programme Officer, participated in *Development of Policies and Guidelines of a Community Learning Centre*, a three-day national workshop organized by the Non-formal Education Centre, Sano Thimi, under the Ministry of Education and Sports, and Unesco, Kathmandu, from 12 to 14 June 2002. According to Ms Nepal, the workshop was extremely useful in view of IIDS's policy of developing resource centres (community centres run by women's groups), established in Kapilvastu, Kabhre, Bhaktapur and Lalitpur.

**Ms Silam Ranjeet**, Sr Librarian, participated in the *Training Workshop on Developing Electronic Libraries*, organized by the Centre for Women Development Studies and the School of Women Studies, Jadavpur University, at Calcutta from 22 to 27 April 2002.

The primary focus of the workshop was on providing knowledge about the latest developments in new information technologies and effective management of electronic information resources in the digital era. It imparted training in the use of Internet for effectively searching electronic sources available on World Wide Web and provided skills for developing an electronic library.





### **IIDS Introduction**

*Institute for Integrated Development Studies (IIDS) is a non-governmental, non-profit organization registered Under the Societies Registration Act 1997. Established on 25 November 1990, IIDS is a successor to the Integrated Development Systems (IDS), founded in 1979.*

### **IIDS Vision**

*To become Nepal's leading private, independent non-partisan research institute committed to holistic and sustainable development based on human values.*

### **IIDS Mission**

*To contribute to identification, analysis, understanding and response to major development policy issues facing the country.*

### **IIDS Objectives**

- 1. Contribute to more informed public policy and action by conducting empirically based, policy oriented research on Nepal's economic and social development in national, regional and international contexts.*
- 2. Foster informed debate and discussion on key development issues facing the nations.*
- 3. Provide training and technical assistance for government and non-governmental agencies in areas of Institute's expertise;*
- 4. Facilitate access to and exchange of experience with institutions within and outside the country.*



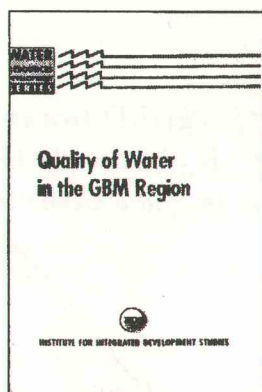


## Recent IIDS Publications

*Regional Energy Grid in the GBM Region* explores the possibility of developing energy grid systems for transmission of electricity and gas in the Eastern Region countries of Bangladesh, Bhutan, India and Nepal.  
Rs 75 or US\$3.

*Quality of Water in the GBM Region* focuses on the extent and causes of degradation of quality of water of the Nepalese rivers, as well as action programmes for better water management.  
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*Water-based Integrated Development in the GBM Region: An integrated approach*, with focus on issues not only of national concern and priority but of regional relevance and applicability should be considered for



the development of the GBM river system to achieve sustained economic growth of the countries of the region.  
Rs 75 or US\$3.

*Augmenting the lean Season Flow of the Ganges* offers insights into the possibility of dry seson augmentation through implementation of storage dam projects in Nepalese territory.  
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Website:www.nepalnet.org.np/iids

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