

The Kolkata Group: Fifth Workshop on 'Child Rights and Development'

Date: February 13-14, 2007

On February 13-14, 2007, the fifth workshop of the Kolkata Group in collaboration with IDSK concentrating on *Child rights and development* met in the premises of the Centre for Social Sciences and Humanities, University of Calcutta, Alipore Campus on the tenth floor.

The Kolkata Group was organized under the leadership of Amartya Sen. The chief organizations sponsoring the workshop were Global Equity Initiative, Harvard University, Pratichi Trust (India) and UNICEF India. This workshop was organized in collaboration with IDSK.

During those two days, two major reports concerning children's health and the health status of Indian children were discussed thoroughly. The key findings of the National Family Health Survey-III were summarized and discussed by A.K. Shiva Kumar, Adviser, UNICEF India and Siddiqur Osmani, Visiting Professor of Economics, BRAC University, Dhaka, Bangladesh and School of Economics & Politics, University of Ulstra, New Town Abbey, Northern Ireland. The other report, Focus on Children Under Six (FOCUS) was released and presented by Jean Dréze, Honorary Professor of Economics, University of Delhi and Visiting Professor, G.B. Pant Social Science Institute, Allahabad.

The participants in the workshop included:

- Sitaram Yechuri, MP and Member of CPI (M) Politburo
- Arjun Sengupta, MP and Chairman of National Commission for Enterprises in the Unorganized and Informal Sector
- N. Ram, Editor-in-Chief of the Hindu Group of Newspapers
- Syeda Hameed and Abhijit Sen of Planning Commission, Government of India
- Sudhir Anand and Sabine Alkire of Harvard Global Equity Initiative
- Cecilo Adorna, Ramya Subrahmanian, Sumaira Chowdhury and Deepika Shrivastava of UNICEF India
- Amiya Kumar Bagchi, Director, IDSK
- Lincoln Chen, Director of the Global Equity Centre, John F. Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University
- Jasodhara Bagchi, Adviser, Pratichi (India) Trust and Chairperson, Women's Commission for West Bengal
- Abhay Bang, Society for Education, Action and Research in Community Health (SEARCH)
- Shabana Azmi, film personality and ex-MP
- Kaushik Basu, Department of Economics, Cornell University, and Director, Programme on Comparative Economic Development
- Alaka Basu, Department of Development Sociology, Cornell University
- Asim Dasgupta, Honorary Minister of Finance, Government of West Bengal
- Antara Dev Sen, Managing Trustee of Pratichi (India) Trust and editor, The Little Magazine
- Raunak Jahan, Adjunct Professor of International Affairs, South Asian Institute, School of International and Public Affairs, Columbia University
- Minquan Liu, Department of Environmental Resources and Development Economics, Peking University, Beijing, China

- Poonam Muttreja, Country Director, MacArthur Foundation, India Habitat Centre, New Delhi
- Vikram Patel of International Mental Health, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, University of London
- A. J. Phillip, Senior Associate Editor, The Tribune, Chandigarh
- V. K. Ramachandran, Indian Statistical Institute
- Vina Ramani, Director General of Rajmata Jijau Mother-child Health and Nutrition Mission, Aurangabad, Government of Maharashtra
- Mala Ramadorai, Educational Consultant, TCS Maitree, Mumbai
- Srinath Reddy of All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS)
- Sujatha Rao, Director General, NACO
- Amarjeet Sinha, Joint Secretary, National Rural Health Mission, Department of Family Welfare
- Kumar Rana of Pratichi (India) Trust
- Syamasree Dasgupta and Meera Samson of CORD

Achin Chakraborty of IDSK made a brief presentation of the report on 'Allocation and utilization of resources for social sector programmes for women and children'. The two-day workshop thrashed out many issues in the areas of women and child health care, and suggested future directions of inquiry and policy making.