

## **Gender, Empowerment and the State**

*Funding Agency: Rosa Luxemburg Stiftung, Berlin*

*Coordinator: Zakir Husain*

The project on *Gender, empowerment and the state* sponsored by the Rosa Luxemburg Foundation, Berlin and implemented by the scholars of IDSK in 2009 focussed on the role of the state in providing employment to women in West Bengal. To what extent this employment has promoted empowerment among women was also examined in detail.

The scholars guided by Dr. Zakir Husain evaluated Group Based Poverty Alleviation Programmes, examined the question, 'Do Self Help Group really empower women?' and concentrated on the nature and utility of state sponsored development programmes.

As the emphasis was on the role and functioning of the Self Help Groups, the research listed a number of measures in the conclusion which could improve the overall situation. Some such measures are (a) guarantee for marketing the products (b) pre-financing of unit purchase (c) quality management through appropriate injection of human and physical capital and (d) branding to provide assurance of product quality. The project report was submitted in December 2009.