

Gender Empowerment and the State

Date: December 10-11, 2009

A two-day national conference on *Gender, Empowerment and the State* was held at the Institute of Development Studies Kolkata (IDSK) on December 10-11, 2009. Sponsored by the Rosa Luxemburg Foundation and organized by IDSK, this conference was a part of the project just completed on the same subject. Research scholars and academics from Jaipur, Delhi, Thiruvananthapuram, Calicut, Patna, Hyderabad, and of course, Kolkata presented their papers at the conference to give the latter a truly national character.

Subjects such as 'Do Self Help Groups empower women – Evidence from West Bengal', 'Reaching the Unreached: Women Empowerment through Vocational Training', 'Promoting Economic Empowerment of Rural Women through Entrepreneurship', 'Negotiating Spaces for Transformatory Change – Women's Empowerment and Role of the State' were discussed in the papers presented. The connecting link among the papers was provided by the role of the state and the evaluation of its programme designed to empower women.

The participants included:

- Kanchan Mathur and Shobita Rajagopal of Institute of Development Studies, Jaipur
- Chirashree Dasgupta of Asian Development Research Institute
- Pratyusna Patnaik of Council for Social Development, Hyderabad
- Sonali Mukherjee of University of Delhi
- Binita Thampi and others of University of Sheffield
- Azra Abidi and S.M. Sharq Abbas of University of Jamia Millia Islamia
- Nilabja Ghosh of Institute of Economic Growth, New Delhi
- Phanindra Goyari, University of Hyderabad
- G. Ramathirthan of Pondicherry University
- Diganta Mukherjee, Usha Martin Academy
- Mousumi Dutta of Presidency College
- Zakir Husain and Bidhan Kanti Das of IDSK