



# INSTITUTE OF DEVELOPMENT STUDIES KOLKATA

(A Centre of Excellence in Social Sciences funded by the Government of West Bengal)

SALT LAKE CAMPUS • DD 27/D, SECTOR 1, SALT LAKE, KOLKATA 700 064

## Seminar

Dr. Soma Chaudhuri, Associate Professor, Department of Sociology, Michigan State University, USA, will deliver a lecture on :

**Building Empowerment, Resisting Patriarchy:  
Understanding empowered intervention against  
domestic violence among grassroots women in Gujarat, India**

Date: July 14, 2017 Friday

Time: 3:15PM

Venue: IDSK Seminar Room, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor, Salt Lake

(All are welcome to participate in the seminar)

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### Abstract

This research explores how empowered women can intervene against domestic violence among community women. Drawing from interviews with participants in empowerment programs that focus on building community leaders, the study examines how grassroots women lead such interventions and the resulting effects on leaders' and survivors' lives. Findings suggest that although most survivors had displayed some agency in resisting violence independently, their efforts became largely ineffective. With the intervention of leaders, the survivors were able to better negotiate for justice with a renewed sense of agency. For the leaders, participation in programs gave them an identity independent from their status within the family. Strong organizational network ties facilitated successful interventions during which leaders promoted change by developing independent innovative and adaptive intervention strategies that worked despite the tight constraints of gendered norms.