

Centre for Social Development

'Sustainable development' means not only economic development of a sustainable nature, but also translating the fruits of development into enhanced quality of life. Therefore, the focus on social development is central in any 'sustainable development' approach. Centre for Social Development seeks to translate this vision into practice through studies, HRD interventions and other activities related to social development. Areas such as health, education, and social capital, are crucial in this regard. This Centre also deals with the social dimensions of enterprise development. Enterprise as a subject cuts across the traditional economic sectors, and hence, one can decipher an entrepreneurial approach even in the so-called 'social sectors'. Labour market, for instance, is a vital area which links enterprise and education, which often has been discussed under the rubric, 'services'. The Institute, since inception, has undertaken several studies on various social sectors, and, in some cases, have contributed to policy making in the country. Our track in the area includes studies and evaluations on:

- Primary Health care
- Demography Studies
- Energy use
- Rural Development programmes
- Social capital and self-help groups
- Rural Institutions
- Family and Kinship Studies
- Gender and Empowerment
- Labour Market
- Migration
- Primary Education
- Tourism

The services offered by the Centre includes, capacity building, research and evaluation services, technical assistance to field staff of community-based organizations, and development of information / technical assistance networks.

Expertise and Track

The social aspects of enterprise development are a critical area which is often lost sight of by most promotional agencies. On the contrary, most social development programmes lack the involvement and expertise in sustainability aspects. For instance, it has often been alleged that, enterprise and finance, even when they are strongly provided, do not, by themselves, lead to social empowerment of targeted social groups such as, women and other socially marginal groups. The expertise of ISED lies in maintaining a balance between the social and economic aspects of development. This has been facilitated by the balance between research, policy, and action, which the Institute seeks to achieve in its programmes.

Publications

The following are some of the publications that have emerged from the research at this Centre.

Services

Given its expertise, ISED extends a variety of services to social programmes and organisations:

- Consulting and advisory services to international agencies and donors, in gender-sensitive enterprise development programmes.
- Modelling of women's entrepreneurship development interventions.
- Evaluation of enterprise development programs.
- Advisory services in Institution Development.
- Other services.