

# **INFORMALITY, POVERTY, AND GROWTH: LABOUR MARKETS IN CHINA AND INDIA**

## **A RESEARCH AND EXCHANGE PROJECT**

### **Report of the Visit of the Chinese Team to India February 3-12, 2007<sup>1</sup>**

**Saturday, February 3:** A welcome dinner offered the opportunity for introductions and a review of the proposed programme.

**Sunday, February 4:** Visit to Social Centre for Rural Initiative and Advancement (SCRIA), Khori Gaon, District Rewari, Haryana.

Mr Sunder Lal, Director SCRIA met with the group, and explained the approach to rural development followed by this NGO. Started 25 years ago, SCRIA works in three broad areas, dealing with political empowerment, livelihood, and natural resource management.

In the interaction with the group that followed, questions raised included

- Nature of migration from rural areas
- Nature of the organization (SCRIA) – how is non co-operation dealt with, what are the sources of funding, would the employment offered by the NGO be classified as ‘formal’ or ‘informal’, what motivates the staff, what benefits are given to employees, what was the motivation of the founder

A visit to a neighboring village offered the opportunity to see some home-based work (small retail shop, rug weaving) and a village primary school. Further, a visit to the SCRIA training centre gave the delegation a better idea of water harvesting and soil conservation practices being attempted.

**Monday, February 5:** A day long seminar had been organized at the National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER). The morning presentations were on India and the afternoon China, followed by a wrap up session.

Discussions during and through the day drew attention to the following issues:

- India and China are both fast growing, yet with persistent poverty, and there was an agreement that we need to focus on employment to understand this

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<sup>1</sup> This report was prepared by the Institute of Social Studies Trust (ISST) in New Delhi, India. The ISST, which organized the visit of the Chinese team to India, is a member of a network of Indian researchers and research institutions working on the informal economy in India. The Project Outline (Annex 3), drafted by Marty Chen, summarizes the joint planning of the two country teams on February 10-11, 2007.

- Other similarities include the shift from planning to the market, large size of the populations, regional disparities, a shift to services, and migration.
- In China, the consumption: GDP ratio is relatively low; there is a focus on manufacturing which has been the driver of growth (with implications for the possible overuse of natural resources and levels of pollution); there is a gradual shift from capital goods to consumption, and from manufacturing to services. (The distributional implications of these shifts need to be explored).
- Definitions of ‘home based’, ‘informal’ etc were queried and discussed, with more detailed discussions left to the Wednesday workshop. It was suggested that while using internationally accepted definitions is necessary for any comparison across countries, priority needs to be given to using definitions that will allow the identification of national trends over time

Promising areas for collaborative work included

- Comparative historical overview and current institutional picture
- Social security in both countries
- Comparative sectoral studies, including top five sectors in each country
- Migration and local development and the extent of fund flows
- Get the broader picture: relation between informal employment and economic and social development
- Can we develop any laws of economics/ demography or society from the empirical trends
- Impact of trade liberalization on informalisation of the economy; and on self employed
- Micro surveys to deconstruct concepts
- Social and economic environment of informal employment
- Community based employment services: learning from China
- Institutional arrangements and effectiveness of voice and organizing
- Urban infrastructure, water and sanitation

A book release and panel discussion was arranged in the evening around the new Oxford University Press publication, *Trade Liberalization and India's Informal Economy*, edited by Barbara Harris White and Anushree Sinha, and based on an NCAER-Queen Elizabeth House/Oxford project.

**Tuesday, February 6:** A meeting was held in the morning at the National Commission for Enterprises in the Unorganized Sector (NCEUS). Discussions centered around social security, and skills.

The existing status of social security in India and the approach proposed by the NCEUS were briefly presented, as was the social insurance system prevalent in China. The approaches in both countries on vocational training were also presented.

An interaction with Prof Abhijit Sen, Member, Planning Commission, took place in the afternoon. The interaction focused upon the current trends in the Indian labour market and employment. Dr Sen elaborated upon the recent data that the NSS had provided on

India. In exchange, he queried the definition and composition of the informal economy in the Chinese context, observing that while the Indian informal economy consisted of self-employed persons, in the Chinese case, the sector comprised workers in special economic zones and in export-oriented sectors. Further, the performance, future and functions of the Planning Commission of India were discussed. Dr Sen was accompanied by Dr. Arvind Virmani from the Commission during the interaction.

**Wednesday, February 7:** A day long workshop was held on the concepts and methods of statistical measurement of the informal economy that are currently in use in each country, the sources of data, and the recommendations of international forums such as the Delhi Group.

There was a consensus that it would be useful for the statistical services of both countries to be in touch on methods and measurement issues, including survey questionnaires and sampling design.

**Thursday, February 8 – Friday, February 9:** Visit to Self Employed Women's Association, SEWA, Ahmedabad

The Chinese delegation visited SEWA on the 8<sup>th</sup> and the 9<sup>th</sup> of Feb., 2007 (see SEWA visit programme in the second annexure). The Self-Employed Women's Association (SEWA) is a national labour union of woman workers in the informal economy in India. It was registered as a trade union in 1972 and today has an all India membership of nearly one million.

At the Union office of SEWA, the Chinese delegation met with several SEWA office bearers and organisers. Ms Jyoti Macwan, General Secretary, SEWA highlighted that as a labour union, SEWA's underlying approach is to see the poor as workers and producers, rather than just as income-deprived or vulnerable people. Women workers are workers and producers in their own right. They need a continuous flow of employment through which they can earn enough in terms of cash and kind to meet their needs. In other words they need full employment. While organizing for collective strength and bargaining power is the central strategy of SEWA, the sister institutions in SEWA serve to provide essential support services – what it calls “development” – to its members. The savings, credit, and insurance, childcare, health services are seen by SEWA as an essential part of its integrated strategy to create assets for, build the capacity of, and provide social security to its members. The various elements of SEWA integrated approach reach SEWA members in different ways, at differing speeds and according to their own local needs. Yet the joint action “struggle” and “development” is the common strategy that unites SEWA and gives direction to SEWA's work.

Ms Manali Shah and other members of the SEWA Union team highlighted the joint strategy of Union and cooperative adopted by SEWA for building voice and visibility. She said that through the WEA Union, members struggle for their rights and to overcome the various layers of injustice that they face in their daily lives. They also build a mass movement of workers, which grows quickly from a local to international one, grounded

in the everyday issues of women workers. In the co-operatives, women are the worker-owners, not merely labourers. SEWA has promoted more than 3000 membership-based organizations and have experimented with several membership-based forms of organization. All of these economic organisations are owned by the women workers who put up the share capital, managed and controlled by a democratically elected board and are sustainable – both in financial terms and in terms of management and decision making. The other members of the SEWA Union spoke of specific trades and highlighted how they, as members of SEWA, had lead a movement for change based on justice and equality, and through women’s leadership, in their respective trades.

The SEWA Bank presentation by Ms Renana Jhbavala showcased the SEWA Bank - a financially sound, self-reliant and profit-making cooperative bank, owned by women members of SEWA. SEWA Bank has nearly 300,000 depositors and a working capital of 900 million rupees. SEWA Bank's main goal is the capitalization and asset creation of SEWA members to help them come out of poverty. To reach this goal the Bank has made efforts to link SEWA members with banking services and many poor, women workers have not only been encouraged to save but also have gained access to credit. A number of special schemes have been launched by SEWA Bank to help its depositors tide over crises in their lives. These include a housing fund, one to save for special events in the family like marriages, a pension savings plan and special credit schemes.

Ms Mirai Chatterjee made a presentation on the SEWA’s integrated Social Security programme including health, child care and insurance. SEWA organizes women for their economic rights – what it calls full employment. Full employment includes security of work and income, food security and social security. Social security, in SEWA’s experience, must include at least health care, child care, insurance and shelter. Speaking about the insurance program, she highlighted that the program runs on sound insurance principles. The proposed limits of coverage (sums insured) are modest and appropriate looking to SEWA's members. Insurance products are priced with a margin for reserves and contingencies. Management monitors claims loss ratio and other key indicators on a monthly basis. All policy provisions are modeled on the basis of policies that are in longstanding use by leading Indian insurance companies.

Smt Ela Bhatt, Founder, SEWA gave a historical perspective of SEWA, of her struggle for forming a trade union of women workers in the informal economy, of organizing women for their economic rights three decades ago. She said that SEWA’s goals have been to organise workers for full employment and self-reliance – both economic and in terms of decision-making and control. Full employment includes security of work and income, food security and social security. One of SEWA’s first initiatives, after its inception in 1972, was addressing women’s needs for financial services – savings and credit. This has been achieved through the women’s own cooperative bank, SEWA Bank. She said that SEWA saw its members as not merely deprived persons, but workers and producers in their own right. They wish to earn their living, not depend on doles or outside support. They need a continuous flow of employment through which they can earn enough in terms of cash and kind to meet their needs. In other words they need full employment which essentially means strengthening these workers and producers to

overcome structural constraints and enter markets where they would be competitive. SEWA responds to the needs of the members, like banking, social security and the women themselves are the planners, users, managers and owners of their own organizations and services.

Ms Namrata Bali's presentation on SEWA Academy highlighted the critical role of the Academy in understanding the SEWA members – their lives and work of women workers in the informal economy and carry that understanding to the women themselves and also to policy makers, activists, academics, and the general public. Today, SEWA Academy is the focal point for all of SEWA's capacity building, communications and research efforts. It is the organizational wing responsible for member education, leadership training, literacy, print and video communications, and research.

The presentation by Nanditaben on the slum upgradation program of Gujarat Mahila Housing SEWA Trust (MHT) highlighted that there is a direct correlation between better housing and infrastructure facilities, on the one hand and increased income levels, improved health and decreasing poverty, on the other hand. The Slum Project brings basic infrastructure services, including water and sanitation, in an affordable and sustainable way to the slums and *chawls* of the city. Called Parivartan (literally, 'transformation') the project motivates and facilitates the target communities, local Non-governmental Organizations and the private sector to work together in a unique partnership to achieve slum upgradation for the urban poor.

**Saturday, February 10 (a.m.):** A half day discussion on women's work

A brief overview showed that gender disparities in India are large, though declining; in China such disparities have begun to emerge in the last 10-15 years. In China, the greater gender impact seemed to be in unemployment rather than in informalisation (although unemployment may be hiding the latter). It was pointed out that while child care in China was managed through collectives earlier, there has now been considerable commercialization and as much as 60 % of a worker's earnings may go towards child care. The interplay between productive and reproductive work is reflected in the increased number of domestic workers.

The need for using sex disaggregated data as well as gender analysis was suggested as a cross cutting theme in the proposed programme.

**Saturday, February 10 (p.m.) – Sunday, February 11:** Research Planning Sessions

On Saturday, the following areas were identified as holding potential for further collaborative work

- Concepts and methods of measurement of informal employment
- Socio-economic characteristics of informal employment, using internationally accepted definitions
- Comparative study of the top 5 large industries with focus on emerging work and production arrangements

- How are the traditional bases of segmentation (gender, informality) being affected by globalization in each country
- If in China the movement is from fully government programmes to involving NGOs, in India can be the other way – need to study programmes with a view to reviewing the role of state, market and NGO.
- Study the various forms that informal employment could take, including self employment, workshop employment, through a study of an industry such as garments
- Comparative studies of social protection - In China, the challenge in social security is how to break down the wall (between those included and those like migrants who are excluded); while India struggles to provide basic social security to all
- Relation between globalization, inequality and informality
- Influence of household characteristics of those in informal employment on the next generation – issues of inter generational transmission of poverty
- Forms of organizing that are permissible in China and could be used by various groups – garbage collectors, casual labour

On Sunday, the two teams broke into cross-country teams to discuss possible areas for collaboration in regard to a) quantitative research and b) qualitative research.

With ideas and suggestions from the two break-out group discussions, the two teams agreed that the collaborative and comparative research project on “Informality, Poverty, and Growth: Comparative Labour Markets in China and India” should have the following six components. The first four components relate to research studies, data collection, and data analysis; the last two components are designed to foster exchange between the working poor in the informal economy and the organizations that support them and to foster policy dialogues on key issues affecting the working poor in the informal economy.

# 1 – Data Methodology

# 2 – Data Analysis

# 3 – Value Chain Analyses

# 4 – Occupational Case Studies

# 5 – Documentation of Good Practice

# 6 – Publication and Dissemination

In addition, the project would include two other key components: Exchange Visits designed to foster exchange between the working poor in the informal economy and the organizations that support them; and Policy Dialogues on key issues affecting the working poor in the informal economy Please see the third annexure for an outline of the six research components of the project.

In terms of next steps, the two teams will meet at Harvard University from March 31-April 4, 2007 to plan the proposed project in consultation with outside resource persons. And that N.S. Sastry and Jeemol Unni from the Indian team would visit China in late May to participate in an event at Fudan University and to meet key persons in the National Statistics Bureau in Beijing.

## **ANNEXURES**

1. List of Participants
2. Study Tour Programme
3. Outline of Proposed Project



ANNEX 1  
LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

<b>Chinese Team:</b>		
Man	Ge	School of Labor Economics, Capital University of Economics and Business
Youli	Ge	Fair Labor Association
Yongping	Jiang	Women's Studies Institute of China
Chengfang	Liu	Center for Chinese Agricultural policy, Chinese Academy of Sciences
Ming	Lu	School of Economics, Fudan University
Xizhe	Peng	School of Social Development and Public Policy, Fudan University
Yuan	Ren	School of Social Development and Public Policy, Fudan University
Jufen	Wang	School of Social Development and Public Policy, Fudan University
Yaowu	Wu	Institute of Population and labor Economics, Chinese Academy of Social Sciences
Youshu	Xie	Shanghai Trade Union Polytechnic
Jianchun	Yang	Employment Statistics Department of National Bureau of Statistics
Yiyong	Yang	Institute of Economics Research, National Committee of Development and Reform
Yu	Yao	Institute of Economics, Chinese Academy of Social Sciences
Libin	Zhang	Institute for Labor Studies, Ministry of Labor and Social Security
Xinmei	Zhang	Employment and Social Security Department of National Committee of Development and Reform
<b>Indian Team:</b>		
Suman	Bery	National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER)
Shrayana	Bhattacharya	Institute of Social Studies Trust (ISST)
Renana	Jhabvala	Self Employed Women's Association (SEWA)
Rupinder	Kaur	National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER)
Seeta	Prabhu	UNDP
Uma	Rani	Gujarat Institute of Development Research (GIDR)
N.S.	Sastry	Consultant
Anushree	Sinha	National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER)
Shalini	Sinha	Self Employed Women's Association (SEWA)
Ratna	Sudarshan	Institute of Social Studies Trust (ISST)
Jeemol	Unni	Gujarat Institute for Development Research (GIDR) and National Commission on Enterprise in the Unorganised Sector, India

<b>Other Participants:</b>		
Marty	Chen	Harvard University and WIEGO
Sarah	Cook	International Development Research Centre (IDRC)
Stephen	McGurk	Institute of Development Studies (IDS), Sussex
Navsharan	Singh	International Development Research Centre (IDRC)

ANNEX 2  
CHINESE VISIT PROGRAMME

**Study Tour Programme, February 3-11, 2007**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Agenda</b>	<b>Venue</b>
Saturday 3	7.30-9.30	Welcome Dinner	IIC
Sunday 4	8-5.00 p.m.	Field visit: SCRIA, Khori village, Haryana	
Monday 5	9.30-5.00	Workshop on Economic Prospects and Informality	NCAER
	7.00-10.00	Release of NCAER-QEH –OUP Book on ‘Trade Liberalisation and Informality’ with a panel discussion and dinner	IHC
Tuesday 6	9.30-12.30	Visit to NCEUS: presentation by the Commission followed by presentation on Chinese approach to social security	NCEUS
	1.00-3.00	Lunch	TBD
	3.30-5.00	Meeting with Dr Abhijit Sen, Member, Planning Commission (approaches to employment and poverty)	Planning Commission
Wednesday 7	9.30-5.00	Workshop on National Statistics: concepts and measurement issues	IHC
Thursday 8-9	Ahmedabad	SEWA: programme below	IHC
Saturday 10	9.30-1.00	Workshop on ‘Women’s Work’	IHC
	1.00-2.00	Lunch	IHC
Sunday 10 (p.m.) - 11		Wrap up workshop: Issues Emerging for Research: India and China	IHC

Visit to SEWA, Ahmedabad, 7-9 February

DATE	TIME	AGENDA	VENUE
7 <sup>th</sup> February, 2006	Evening	Leave for Ahmedabad	
8 <sup>th</sup> February, 2007	7:30 a.m- 10a.m.	Ahmedabad heritage walk	
8 <sup>th</sup> February, 2007	11a.m – 12:00 a.m	SEWA: An Overview: by Jyotiben Macwan, General Secretary, SEWA	SEWA Reception Centre
8 <sup>th</sup> February, 2007	1200p.m – 1p.m.	SEWA: A Trade Union of women workers in the Informal economy: By Manali Shah	SEWA Reception Centre
8 <sup>th</sup> February, 2007	1p.m – 2p.m	Lunch	SEWA Academy
8 <sup>th</sup> February, 2007	2p.m – 4p.m	SEWA Bank: Issues of Financial Literacy by Renana Jhabavala, National Coordinator, SEWA	SEWA Academy
8 <sup>th</sup> February, 2007	4p.m – 6p.m	SEWA Social Security: by Mirai Chatterjee	Chanda Niwas
8 <sup>th</sup> February, 2007	7p.m – 9p.m	Dinner at Vishala	Vishala
9 <sup>th</sup> February, 2007	10:00a.m – 11a.m	Meeting with Ela Bhatt, Founder, SEWA	Chanda Niwas
9 <sup>th</sup> February, 2007	11:00a.m – 1p.m.	SEWA Academy: Building capacity through Research, Training and Video: by Namrata Bali.	SEWA Bank
9 <sup>th</sup> February, 2007	1p.m – 2p.m	Lunch	SEWA Academy
9 <sup>th</sup> February, 2007	2p.m – 5p.m	Slum Upgradation Programme: By MHT. Will include site visit.	MHT office and site visit
Friday	5p.m – 6p.m	Visit to SEWA shop	
Friday	Evening	Return to Delhi	

## ANNEX 3

# INFORMALITY, POVERTY, AND GROWTH: LABOUR MARKETS IN CHINA AND INDIA

## PROJECT OUTLINE

### Premise:

**employment – its quantity and quality – is a key pathway to understanding and addressing poverty and inequality**

### Goals:

**# 1 – to understand the structure, trends, and dynamics of labour markets – especially informal employment – under conditions of rapid economic growth, globalization, and trade liberalization; and different historical trajectories and institutional systems; in order to**

**# 2 – to help promote an appropriate policy and regulatory environment as well as other measures in support of the working poor, especially women, in the informal economy**

### Activities:

**# 1 – *research and statistics*: see below**

**# 2 - *exposure and learning exchanges*: e.g. SEWA delegation to China to learn about its social protection policies and schemes**

**# 3 – *policy dialogues*: e.g. on particular laws, policies, and schemes in both countries and to incorporate research findings into policy deliberations**

**# 4 – *policy and practice documentation*: to document innovative policies, laws, regulations, schemes, programmes, and organizing efforts, including lessons learned**

**Cross-Cutting Themes:**

**# 1 – poverty and inequality**

**# 2 – gender**

**# 3 – migration**

**# 4 – social protection**

**RESEARCH AND STATISTICS**

**COMPONENT # 1 – DATA METHODOLOGY**

**1.1 clarification, comparison, and improvement of *definitions*: to review and clarify different categories of the labour market in both countries + to capture all categories of informal employment**

**Activity # 1 - framing paper (Marty Chen and Sarah Cook)**

**Activity # 2 – technical consultation between two countries (Jianchun Yang/NBS, Yu Yao, Xinmei Zhang, NS Sastry, Jeemol Unni)**

**1.2 comparison and improvement of survey *questionnaires*: to learn from surveys in both countries + to move towards harmonized data collection**

**Activity # 1 – technical note, including questionnaire modules, of what was gained in the 55<sup>th</sup>. round of the National Sample Survey of India and was then lost in the 61<sup>st</sup>. round – to bring out what is needed to capture informal employment, both urban and rural (NS Sastry and Jeemol Unni)**

**Activity # 2 - comparison and modification (if needed) of economic and agricultural censuses, labour force and enterprise surveys, other sample surveys, and local administrative statistics in both countries (as above + Yaowu Wu, Ming Lu, Yongping Jiang, Man Ge, Uma Rani, Anushree Sinha)**

**1.3 design and implementation of *pilot surveys*: to identify what is happening in labour markets in study areas + to provide guidelines on how to improve national statistics**

**Activity # 1 - design and implementation of pilot surveys in 1 urban and 1 rural**

area of China building on pilot surveys done in India for National Sample Survey Organization (Yaowu Wu and Yuan Ren in consultation with NS Sastry, Jeemol Unni, and Uma Rani)

**Alternative Criteria for selecting areas:**

- a. resource rich / resource exhausted
- b. degree of exposure to global markets
- c. industrial clusters – link to sector studies (see below)
- d. synergy with other studies and existing studies
- e. feasibility and access

**COMPONENT # 2 - DATA ANALYSIS:** analysis of existing official statistical data to bring out comparative picture + to develop base line and guidelines for future data analysis

**2.1 analysis of *trends in macro indicators*:** to provide context and base line data for the overall project

**Activity # 1 – analysis of data on GDP growth, productivity, trade liberalization, poverty, inequality and informalization in both countries (Ming Lu and Yiyong Yang for China and NS Sastry, Jeemol Unni, Uma Rani, and NCAER for India)**

**2.2 analysis of *structure of employment by sex, average earnings, and poverty risk*:** to provide overview of the labour market in both countries + to identify different links with poverty of different segments of the labour market

**Activity # 1 – analysis of structure of employment by sex in both countries, including average earnings and poverty risk of different segments of the labour market using MDG # 3 indicator and poverty risk methodology (Ming Lu for China and Jeemol Unni for India with, as needed, Jianchun Yang, Yu Yao, Jiang Yongping, Man Ge, and Yuan Ren for China; NS Sastry for India)**

**2.3 further analysis in India of *links between informality and poverty*:** comparing 55<sup>th</sup> and 61<sup>st</sup> rounds of the National Sample Survey and using MDG # 3 indicator of structure of employment by sex and both household and individual-level

**measures of poverty risk (NS Sastry)**

**2.4 analysis of *rural and urban data*:**

**Activity # 1 – analysis of existing data in 2 cities (1 large and 1 small) and 1 rural area in both a developed and an under-developed province/state in each country (Yaowu Wu and Yuan Ren for China: Jeemol Unni and Uma Rani for India)**



### **COMPONENT # 3 – VALUE CHAIN ANALYSIS OF SPECIFIC SECTORS**

**(e.g. garments): to identify the types of workers/employment arrangements along the chain +to identify the tasks, value added, earnings/wages, benefits, skills, occupational hazards and other characteristics of workers along the chain**

**Activity # 1 – Literature Review and Framing of Issues for Selected Sectors (2-3 paired sectors in both countries)**

**Activity # 2 - Methodology and Research Design Workshop (October-December 2007 at Fudan University?): to review methods and findings of previous value chain studies (as below) + to design methods to be used in new studies**

***Generic Value Chain Methodology:* presentations on previous studies, including methods used, findings, and methodological lessons learned**

- 1. Medicinal Plants, China and India (Yu Yao and Ratan Sudarshan/ISST)**
- 2. Garments (Shalini Sinha/SEWA)**
- 3. Auto Component Sector (Uma Rani)**
- 4. Pearl Industry, Bangladesh and China (Ratna Sudarshan/ISST and Yuan Ren)**

***Specific Research Design (for selected sectors):* presentations on macro linkages and comparative picture (China-India) + development of research hypotheses + modification (as needed) of generic value chain methodology**

**Activity # 3 -Training Workshop (October- Dec. 2007 at Fudan University?): immediately after Methodology and Research Design Workshop for those who have not previously been trained in value chain analysis**

**Activity # 4 – Implementation of Sector Studies (2008)**

**Activity # 5 – Publication/s (2009)**

**Activity # 6 – Dissemination Workshops in China and India (2009)**

**Possible Sectors: to be selected at Harvard Workshop in April 2007**

**ICT (Yiyong Yang, Yuan Ren, Ratna Sudarshan)**

**Garments (Jufen Wang, Rupinder Kaur)**

**Shoes (Jufen Wang)**

**Buttons (Jufen Wang)**

**Horticulture (Shalini Sinha)**

**Automobile parts/components (Uma Rani)**

**Traditional medicines/herbs (Yu Yao)**

**Pearl industry (Yuan Ren)**

**Education and health (Rupinder Kaur)**

**Alternative Criteria for selecting sectors:**

- a. where working poor, especially women, are concentrated**
- b. where interventions can be made to help the working poor, especially women**
- c. dynamic and/or stagnating sectors**
- d. economic and/or social importance**
- e. export and/or domestic market-oriented sectors**
- f. goods and/or service sectors**
- g. feasibility of access**

**COMPONENT # 4: CASE STUDIES OF SPECIFIC OCCUPATIONAL GROUPS (e.g. waste collectors): to identify working conditions, needs/priorities, and trends/dynamics of particular occupations + to identify impact of/links with local institutional context as well as wider environment and economic/employment trends of different occupations**

**Activity # 1 – Literature Review and Framing of Issues for Selected Occupational Groups (2-3 paired occupations in both countries)**

**Activity # 2 - Methodology and Research Design Workshop (October-December)**

**2007 at SEWA Academy): to review methods and findings of previous case studies (as below) + to design methods to be used in new studies**

***Generic Case Study Methodology:* presentations on previous studies, including methods used, findings, and methodological lessons learned**

- 1. Home-Based Workers (Ratna Sudarshan/ISST)**
- 2. Health Care Service Workers (Yuan Ren)**
- 3. Domestic Workers (Jufen Wang)**
- 4. Street Vendors (Sharit Bhowmik)**
- 5. Local Development and Institutional Context (Ratna Sudarshan/ISST)**

***Specific Research Design* (for selected sectors): presentations on macro linkages and comparative picture (China-India) + development of research hypotheses + modification (as needed) of generic case study methodology**

**Activity # 3 – Implementation of Case Studies (2008)**

**Activity # 4 – Publication/s (2009)**

**Activity # 5 – Dissemination Workshops in China and India (2009)**

**Possible Occupational Groups: to be selected at Harvard Workshop in April 2007**

**Home-based workers, including both own account workers and sub-contract/  
value chain workers (Jiang Yongping, Rupinder Kaur, Ratna  
Sudarshan, Shalini Sinha)**

**Domestic service workers (Jufen Wang, Ratna Sudarshan/ISST)**

**Street vendors (Yuan Ren, Yao Yu, Shalini Sinha)**

**Beauty parlour operators (Yongping Jiang, Rupinder Kaur, Ratna  
Sudarshan)**

**Wholesale market sellers (Man Ge)**

**Transport**

**Waste collectors (Shalini Sinha)**

**Others:**

**Transport providers**

**Construction workers**

**Agricultural wage labourers**

**Food processors**

**\*Alternative Criteria for selecting occupational groups:**

- a. where working poor, especially women, are concentrated**
- b. where interventions can be made to help the working poor, especially women**
- c. where interventions can build on experience/interests of regional and national organizations of informal workers: e.g. home-based workers, street vendors, and waste collectors**
- d. dynamic and/or stagnating occupations**
- e. economic vs. social importance**
- e. export and/or domestic market-oriented occupations**
- f. goods and/or service generating sectors**
- g. feasibility of access**

## **COMPONENT # 5 – DOCUMENTATION OF GOOD PRACTICE OR INNOVATIONS, INCLUDING LESSONS LEARNED**

**5.1 policies, laws, and regulations (at different levels of government) (e.g. Shanghai Model - Yuan Ren; Xinmei Zhang; national policy for female migrant workers in China – Zhang Libin; national policy for street vendors in India; social security bill for informal workers in India)**

**5.2 programmes and schemes (both governmental and non-governmental) e.g. training school for migrant workers in Beijing; social protection for migrant workers in China – Lu Ming; various SEWA programmes)**

**5.3 organizing efforts (e.g. ‘dispatched workers’ in China – Yu Yao; various categories of women informal workers in India – Shalini Sinha/SEWA)**

**5.4 national strategies for data collection (Yaowu Wu for China; NS Sastry and Jeemol Unni for India)**

## **COMPONENT # 6 – TRANSLATION AND DISSEMINATION**

**6.1 translation and dissemination of existing research and statistical studies**

**6.2 translation and dissemination of new research and statistical findings**

**6.3 strategies for dissemination, including: policy dialogues and policy briefs; research workshops and publications, website**