

All India Institute of Local Self-Government (AIILSG)'s International Center of Equity and Inclusion for Transformation



The Vision of AIILSG's International Center of EQUI-T

Life of
Dignity &
Equity for
the
Deprived



Headquartered in Mumbai, AIILSG has 30 offices in India which are spread across the entire country. AIILSG has the capability of undertaking poverty alleviation, equity & inclusion related initiatives throughout India and with other countries too. AIILSG's poverty initiatives, international initiatives and collaborations are anchored at its International Center of EQUI-T.

Innovations for Poverty Alleviation Pioneering Actions for Transformation Global Think Tank for Synergization

AIILSG: Legacy since 1926

Founded in 1926, AIILSG is one of the oldest NGOs in India and Asia.

AIILSG Quick Fact Sheet

- Registered as Public Charitable Trust
- 30 Offices, Team strength of 298
- Undertaken capacity building of about 1.5 million functionaries for development & poverty alleviation
- Certificate under 80G.
- Tax exemption under Sec 10(23C)

A Unique Blend: Status as a Government Supported Resource Institution as well as NGO

Apart from direct actions in field for poverty alleviation, AIILSG has a unique endowment of hosting 2 resource institutions supported by Government of India: Regional Center for Urban and Environmental Studies (RCUES) established by Ministry of Urban Development, Government of India since 1968 and National Resource Center for Urban Poverty (NRCUP) established by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation, Government of India and UNDP since 2005. Both these resource institutions are fully supported entity of Government of India and provide research, policy facilitation and capacity building support to the Government.

International Center of EQUI-T

Being in sync with the key global & national priorities, International Center of EQUI-T builds on the rich inheritance from AIILSG's learnings generated since 1926. It undertakes research, actions, capacity building, policy advocacy, knowledge management & provides customized need-based support to the stakeholders. It also anchors the Government of India supported National Resource Center for 'Support for National Policies for Urban Poverty Reduction'.

Pioneering Actions for Transformation:

- With more than 24000 from nomadic tribes
- With more than 36000 tribals in poverty
- More than 0.1 million rural deprived
- More than 5500 urban deprived
- Community development with-
 - 240 villages, 60 tribal villages
 - 181 settlements of nomadic tribes
 - 13 Urban Slums

Innovations for Equality & Poverty Alleviation developed by AIILSG's International Center of EQUI-T

- **Dedicated to the cause of Nomadic Tribes:** 110 mn in India (more than population of 202 nations), very low literacy levels, among the poorest in the world, rigid patriarchy, high gender inequality
- **'Right to Education with Right Education'**- Holistic model of education for children-in-deprivation
- **Gender Sensitive Self Assessment and Planning for Disaster Risk Reduction by Vulnerable Communities**
- **'Men for Women's Health' Movement**
- **'Understanding Adolescents'**- Resource Kit under the aegis of a UNFPA project
- **An institution dedicated to gender issues-** 'International Center for Women-in-Deprivation'
- **'Appropriate Technologies for Women-in-Deprivation'**, Addressing Gender Gap in Technology, Fostering Women Technopreneurs
- **"Invest in Financial Literacy a Penny Multi-fold returns through Women's Empowerment for Many"** - Holistic Model of Financial Literacy for Women-in-Deprivation



Our Humble Contributions: Illustrative recent

“The RISK AWARD 2015 Project” supported by Munich Re Foundation, Germany

AIILSG felicitated with prestigious RISK AWARD 2015



The RISK award is a joint initiative of The United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR), Global Risk Forum, Davos and Munich Re Foundation, Germany.

Our innovation ‘Community Self Assessment and Planning with Women’s Participation for Disaster Risk Reduction of Vulnerable Communities’ was ranked first among 145 entries from 62 countries.

The award worth 90,000 Euro was announced at the ‘Third UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction’ at Sendai, Japan on 16th March 2015.

The project is a global innovation as it addresses 3 aspects hitherto neglected vis-à-vis disaster risk reduction: (a) Disaster Risk Identification and Assessment by the Community there by empowering the vulnerable urban slum communities to assess their own disaster preparedness & plan for disaster risk reduction. (b) Preparedness for Effective Response with special emphasis on participation of women & children who are among the most vulnerable to disaster impacts. (c) Knowledge Management and Education with special focus on developing child-friendly visual tools/ medium. The

pioneering grassroot implementation project will reach to atleast 25,000 slum dweller populations from 10 slums in Pune city. The global innovations being fostered through this Risk Award 2015 Project are: (a) self assessment & planning by the vulnerable slum communities to assess their own disaster preparedness and plan for disaster risk reduction (b) developing participatory & child friendly visual self-assessment and planning tools for the same, (c) gender sensitive disaster risk reduction planning by centre-staging the participation of slum dweller women who are worst affected by disasters, (d) Innovative IEC through creative communication mediums e.g. street play, puppet shows etc, (e) Developing innovative scientific and systematic tools like ‘Slum Disaster Risk Reduction Plan’ (f) establishing grassroot participatory mechanisms e.g. Slum Level Disaster Risk Reduction Committee, developing a cadre of community volunteers-cum-Master Trainers for enabling the sustainability of the initiative. For more information on Risk Award 2015, please refer: <http://www.risk-award.org/>

“Right to Education with Right Education” Model for Under-privileged Children: supported by Govt. of India’s National Stock Exchange Corporate Social Responsibility

Two Action Projects supported by Govt. of India’s ‘National Stock Exchange- Corporate Social Responsibility’

“Serving and Enriching Education to Under-Privileged Children in Urban & Rural cum Tribal areas”

- Our innovative concept ‘Right to Education with Right Education’ - a holistic model of education for bringing back childhood to the underprivileged children is supported by ‘Government of India’s National Stock Exchange-Corporate Social Responsibility’.
- The pioneering grassroot actions (through 2 action projects) are reaching more than 1600 under-privileged children from urban slums, rural & tribal areas and children of nomadic tribes.

The two action projects are based on a holistic concept model of ‘Right to Education through Right Education’ for under-privileged children from urban & rural cum tribal areas at four locations in Maharashtra. Both the project interventions focus on strengthening demand side as well as supply side of ‘Right to Education’ to improve access to and quality of education to the under-privileged children. The key innovations nurtured through both these projects are- (a) Children’s Resource Center – ‘Shikshan Ranjan Kendra’ (b) Community based Interactive Library (c)

activity based learning, use of therapies (drama, music, drawing, craft) & personality development (d) established a cadre of ‘Shikshan Mitras’ for closely working with under-privileged children (e) establishing grassroot organisations for sustainability of the educational initiative e.g. ‘Bal Panchayats’ & Community Apex Body (f) Developing Pedagogy and Customized Educational Inputs and Methodology tailored to the needs of under-privileged children (g) exposure visits for children (h) Strengthening resources of the mainstream schools attended by the project children (i) Scholastic Counselling and Psychological Testing



United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) supported project: 'Improving Health & Reproductive Health of Women and Girls from the Denotified and Nomadic Tribes (DNTs)'

In a rigid patriarchal society, the status of Denotified and Nomadic Tribal (DNT) women is highly precarious. The inhuman atrocities faced by these women and lack of access to basic services severely impact their health and reproductive health. Moreover there are hardly any studies focused on health status of DNT populations especially DNT women and girls in particular. This project addresses this hitherto neglected aspect and focus on improving understanding of the health and reproductive health needs of DNT women and girls. The current initiative with DNTs is spread over more than 181 settlements in 3 districts of Maharashtra state covering more than 24000 DNT population. The research findings in first year will lead to designing field interventions for improving health & reproductive health status of DNT women & girls. This project is a crucial step in long term social transformation of 'Empowerment of Denotified and Nomadic Tribes esp. DNT women'.

Reaching the Unreached: Empowerment of Nomadic Tribes- who are amongst the most under-privileged in the world

- Huge Population of 110 mn in India (more than population of 202 nations) living in extreme poverty, hunger & deprivation.
- Many Nomadic Tribes Communities still face Stigma of Criminality
- High Gender Inequality, women still facing inhuman medieval atrocities. E.g. social boycott and ostracism, forcing to walk through fire, balding the head, forcing to carry human or animal excreta, and even branding the tip of the tongue with hot iron.
- Nomadic Tribes Women most Vulnerable to Sexual & Gender Based Violence
- Child marriages are common and in some of the nomadic tribes, women are sold, mortgaged or leased out.
- Average literacy levels- 25%, Majority Children Out of School.
- Loss of Traditional Livelihoods

Our Endeavours for Empowerment of Nomadic Tribes:

- Improving Health & Reproductive Health of Women & Girls with support of United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)
- Education for Nomadic Tribes Children
- Poverty Alleviation

Our Other Humble Contributions: Illustrative recent

- The Ministry of Housing & Urban Poverty Alleviation, Government of India & DFID supported National Resource Center for 'Support for National Policies for Urban Poverty Reduction' (SNPUPR).
- UNFPA supported research initiative of 'Rapid Assessment of Adolescent Friendly Health Clinics'
- Dell Foundation supported research project in collaboration with Deloitte: 'Status of Access to Water & Sanitation in Slums & Innovative Solutions for improving access to services in a Cost-effective manner'.
- "Knowledge Facilitation for the South Africa Study Tour on 'Social Housing, & Livelihoods Promotions in South Africa' for High Level Govt. of India Delegation", by SNPUPR, Government of India & DFID.
- USAID supported initiative of Population Foundation of India: 'Health of the Urban Poor'
- Two Workshops per year on 'Social Development Policy', 'Appropriate Technologies for Women-in-Poverty' & 'International Careers in Social Work' conducted for a Swedish delegation under the Sweden-India Program.
- 'Welfare Lab' for senior development professionals from Sweden including representatives from academia, local governments & NGOs.
- Rural livelihoods program funded by AWO International, Germany and conducted by Action for Agriculture Renewal in Maharashtra (AFARM).
- Capacity Building Workshop for Senior Delegation from Afghanistan comprising of Mayors, Local Body representatives and UNDP representatives from Afghanistan Subnational Governance Programme.
- Knowledge Management support to the United Cities & Local Governments-Asia Pacific.
- Volunteerism Workshop for the Corporate Social Responsibility volunteers of UPS Jetair, world's largest cargo logistics company.



International Center of EQUI-T's Core Objective **Address the issues of poverty, equality & inclusion sustainably**

Our Key Focus Areas

- Poverty Alleviation: Urban, Rural, Tribal & Nomadic Tribes
- Gender (In)equality, Women-in-Deprivation, Women's Right
- Women's Reproductive Health, Adolescent Health, Men for Women's Health
- Education for under-privileged children
- Livelihoods & Employment for the Poor
- Disaster & Vulnerability
- Climate Change & Environment
- Basic Services: Water & Sanitation, Health, Education,
- Housing for Poor, Slums Redevelopment
- Financial Literacy & other financial services for the poor

AILSG, as host of 2 policy facilitation institutions for Govt. of India, conducts 8 – 10 researches for Govt. of India every year. Moreover, International Center of EQUI-T's research endeavors include conducting research studies, policy analysis, conducting capacity building of various stakeholders, development of capacity building modules & knowledge products for the project 'Support for National Policies for Urban Poverty Reduction' (SNPUPR). SNPUPR is a DFID supported initiative of the Ministry of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation of Government of India that has AILSG as a National Resource Center-West Region. Research studies conducted under SNPUPR initiative includes-

- 'Management and Maintenance of Tenements' (in context of Redeveloped Slums).
- 'Barriers to the Urban Poor in Accessing Municipal Services'.
- 'Community Structures and Community

Engagement' in the Processes of Developing Slum Free City Plans in Thane Municipal Corporation.

- 'Cost Effective Green Building Strategies: Potential Application in Affordable Housing in the Context of Rajiv Awas Yojana'

International Center for EQUI-T is closely working with the United Nations of Population Fund (UNFPA) on the health concerns of adolescents, women and the deprived populations. The key research projects include-

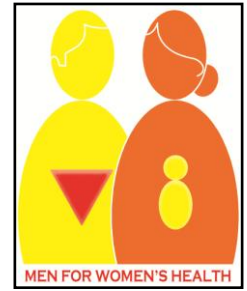
- 'Rapid Assessment of Adolescent Friendly Health Clinics' in Maharashtra
- Action oriented research study on 'Improving Health & Reproductive Health of Women and Girls from the De-notified and Nomadic Tribes'

The other Key Researches & Knowledge Products:

- 'Access to Water and Sanitation Services in the Slums of Four Cities - Nagpur, Jaipur, Surat and Vijayawada', for Dell Foundation supported research project in collaboration with Deloitte
- 'Status of Equity and Inclusion in Access to Basic Services' in Maharashtra
- Compendium of Case Studies on Community Participation in the Context of Rajiv Awas Yojana.
- Legal and Policy Provisions for Access of Basic Services to Urban Poor in Maharashtra.
- State Urban Poverty Profile: Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh
- City Slums and Poverty Profiles: Bhopal, Ujjain, Nagpur, Thane, Nanded
- Maharashtra State Reforms Study
- 'Low Cost Technologies for Sanitation, Wastewater and Solid Waste Management'. Innovative Solutions in Water Supply, Sanitation and Sewerage Systems in Indian Slums and Other Similar Environment.



‘Men for Women’s Health’ (MWH) Movement: ‘Enabling Men to be More Responsible towards Women’s Health’



An own initiative of AILSG’s International Center of EQUI-T, this movement is a path breaking approach for addressing gender inequality, violence against women, women’s safety & security and their health & reproductive health issues. The movement adopts a holistic approach in appreciation of interconnectivity of women’s health issues with economic participation, self reliance, decision making in wider societal context and empowerment.

Through 21 sensitisation programs the MWH movement has till now reached more than 7000 stakeholders of diverse types- Government Officials and Functionaries, Panchayati Raj Institutions, Civil Society, colleges, slums. ‘Youth’ are the key focus of this movement. To further the cause, a ‘Cadre of Enablers’ is developed who proactively reach to the stakeholders for engaging them in the movement. The innovative street plays & other modes of dissemination aim to sensitize the ‘Men’ esp. ‘Youth’ to bring attitudinal and behavioural change amongst themselves, creating awareness about domestic violence, safety & security of women & girls, women’s reproductive rights, promoting use of contraception by men such as Non-Scalpel Vasectomy, sensitizing against gender based sex selection etc. The other crucial endeavours under the ‘MWH’ movement include- ‘Training of Enablers on Reproductive Health’, ‘Sensitisation & Awareness Generation Programmes’ and ‘Development & Dissemination of Sensitisation Kit and Resource Material on Men for Women’s Health’.

‘International Center for Women-in-Deprivation’

“Gender Equality & Women’s Empowerment” is a priority issue for us. This commitment is reflected in an entity dedicated to the cause: ‘International Center for Women-in-Deprivation’. The center focuses on the issues of inequality of women-in-deprivation” from urban, rural, tribal and nomadic tribes context.

The current priorities and key focus areas of this center are-

- Addressing Health and Reproductive Health Issues of Women-in-Deprivation due to lack of access to - health services, education, economic resources and assets, appropriate technologies etc.
- Mainstreaming & center staging role of women-in-deprivation in disaster risk reduction planning, environmental upgradation planning, climate change resilience & adaptation planning.
- Promoting financial literacy & financial management skills among Urban, Rural & Tribal ‘Women-in-Deprivation’
- Promoting ‘Appropriate Technologies for Women-in-Deprivation’, Addressing Gender Gap in Technology, Developing a Cadre of Women Technopreneurs.
- ‘Grassroots Gender Inequality Report’: Bringing to fore issues of gender inequality, exclusion, lack of health, education & economic opportunities, violence against women etc.
- Promoting role of women-in-deprivation as ‘Enablers’ at community level for Environmental Education, Financial Literacy, Health & Nutrition, Livelihoods & Skills Development, Education of Children etc.



Global Think Tank for Synergization:

AILSG has been working with several international organizations such as UNDP, UNFPA, UNISDR, UNICEF, UNCHS, UNHABITAT, WHO, CARE, USAID, Munich Re Foundation- Germany, Global Risk Forum-Davos, DFID supported by Govt of U.K., World Bank, GTZ- Germany, FES, CIDA. AILSG has close work ties with international networks- United Cities & Local Governments- Asia-Pacific, CLGF, International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives, LOGOTRI, CITYNET& LACDE. Projects undertaken for: Bangladesh, China, Ethiopia, Indonesia, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Thailand, South Africa & other African countries.



Synergies & Partnerships:

The International Center of EQUI-T realizes that networking and collaborations have a multiplier impact on the factors of deprivation. It proactively forges alliances and enters into partnerships with every entity interested in making the earth a better place for the poor and deprived. If the reader is one of them, it will be our pleasure to enter into further dialogue with you through:

If The Societal Concerns Strike a Chord of Your Heart: Let's Work Together

- Action Projects
- Capacity Building & Training
- Action Oriented Research
- Knowledge Management & IEC
- Policy Analysis
- Customized Need-Based Support to the Stakeholders

Team Contacts:

Prof. Dr. Mukesh Kanaskar

Academic Head, Research, Publications & Documentation, AILSG (rank of Deputy Director General)
Director, International Center of EQUI-T
Initiator & Convener of the Movement 'Men for Women's Health'
director.aailsg.icequit@gmail.com, mukesh_kanaskar@yahoo.co.in

Shweta Gupta

Executive Director, International Center of EQUI-T of AILSG
Head, International Center for Women-in-Deprivation of
International Center of EQUI-T
asstdirector.aailsg.icequit@gmail.com, shweta.equit@gmail.com

Shriniwas Indapurkar

Programme Director,
All India Institute of Local Self-Government (AILSG)
shriniwasindra@rediffmail.com

Address for Communication:

AILSG's International Center of EQUI-T
4th Floor, L Building, PinnacMemories-Phase 2, Kothrud, Pune. 411038. Maharashtra, India.
Tel-fax: 91-20-25452301

Website: www.aailsg.org
www.aailsg.org/aailsgs-international-center-of-equi-t/

