

Ratna M Sudarshan
ISST

Home based work – focus on South Asia

Key research debates

- What are the inclusions and exclusions of different definitions of hbw?
 - Home workers/ home based workers
 - Live in domestic workers/ different views
- Best way forward? Transition out of the home to 'secure' workplace or recognition and protecting hbw
- Care and paid work - can hbw also be a route to overall 'empowerment' (how define empowerment)
- Involuntary – lack of options, marriage+ social norms; or voluntary – mutual benefit

Gaps in knowledge

- Data – linking case studies/ micro field work based studies to macro frame – political economy of hbw?
- Relevance and potential of cluster development and LED approaches for hbw (M&B)
- Changing social norms and outcomes
- Link between social protection deficits and development trajectories – policy response
- Documenting and analysing organising strategies

Challenges for future research

- Methods – mixed methods – relative value of quantitative/ qualitative
- Speaking to development policy – enabling 'upward' movement through alternative pathways – compliance capacity?
- Gender, hbw, pathways to empowerment