

Roshni

January to March 2021



All India Women's Conference



Our Patrons, S/Smt. Bina Jain and Kunti Paul



13th February 2021 – S/Smt. Sheela Kakde, Kuljit Kaur and Rehana Begum garland the bust of Sarojini Naidu on her birth anniversary in the presence of officers and staff of AIWC.



Matajis of Tarash Mandir Old Age Home, Vrindavan, were given their first Vaccine Dose.

Editor's Note: Front Cover designed by Smt. Supriya Bhalerao, Joint Secretary, AIWC

ROSHNI

Journal of the All India Women's Conference

January - March 2021

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ROSHNI Editorial and Business Office

All India Womens Conference
6, Bhagwan Dass Road, New Delhi-110 001
Phone : 011-43389100, 011-43389101
E-mail : aiwc.roshni@gmail.com
Website : www.aiwc.org.in

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From the Editor's Desktop

From: Editor, Roshni

To: Members, AIWC

New Year 2021 ushered in a brief period of hope. In Delhi, members celebrated International Women's Day together at Head Office after spending many months apart. AIWC observed Women's Safety Week with enthusiasm. Our President and Secretary General were invited to make recommendations to a Parliamentary Committee. The Parallel Session at UNCSW65 was a well-attended success. We seemed poised to emerge out of the human catastrophe of the previous year. But sobering statistics continued to pour in, showing how serious the setback had been. "Save the Children" reported that the pandemic had led to a spike in child marriages globally, reversing the efforts of the last twenty five years. South Asia was among the worst hit. Even in normal times, UNICEF data reveals that India accounts for one third of all child marriages. Loss of livelihoods during the lockdown drove many more parents to marry off their underage daughters. Schools might have provided these girls with a space to reach out to teachers and friends for help, but schools had closed. Domestic violence rose 100% according to NCW, because women were locked in with their tormentors. Only 38% of Indian women own cell phones or have access to the internet – the rest had little recourse to rescue. Police officers, who could have helped, were overstretched. The disproportionate job losses by women in the labour market and the sharp increase in child trafficking tell more horror stories. In this dismal scenario, male insensitivity reached new heights when the Chief Justice of India asked a rapist if he would marry his victim.

We know that the road to recovery is long—but as the premier women's organisation in India, we will move forward with our usual determination.

Chitra Sarkar

PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS

Virtual Annual Conference (February 25 to March 3, 2021)

By Smt. Sheela Kakde, President, AIWC

“I welcome you all present in this virtual meeting, and thank you sisters, for extending substantial help to all the needy in your areas, providing them food and provisions, as many had lost their work and were penniless in the year 2020. I appreciate that you have worked in teams and nurtured the value of ‘teamwork’.

“I will now brief you about the yearlong activities in the year 2020.

* Regarding the proposed Aashiyana Old Age Home project planned in Mahavan, I am happy to inform you that it has got a ‘No Objection Certificate’ and approval from the Mahavan Gram Panchayat, so the construction can begin. Very soon the estimated budget will be in our hands which I will present to the SC members. Now we will succeed in making the last days of the Mata ji peaceful and comfortable. And the dream of



AIWC will come through with the support of each one of you. More about it, you will see in my presentation.

* AIWC has finally received the Fire License certificate, for the premises of Sarojini House and KD- LM Hostel, with validity up to February 2024. This was overdue since year 2016.

* AIWC was randomly selected for Income Tax scrutiny through CASS. The Finance Department of AIWC had to submit all the required information which seems to have satisfied the IT officials well. I appreciate the work of our Finance Department. Everyone should be proud of our Finance Department led by Smt. Biji Sebastian, as each one of the staff is very particular and strict where bills and money matters are concerned.

* I highly appreciate the Secretary General, Smt. Kuljit Kaur's work in the areas of Women's Safety. I am happy to inform you that the team of "SEXUAL HARRASSMENT & ATROCITIES AGAINST WOMEN" under the able guidance of our Secretary General, Smt. Kuljit Kaur is doing extremely well. Through this series of webinars, we are making our sisters aware of different aspects of Women's Safety and laws pertaining to this. This subject is very dear to her heart, and she has tremendous experience in this area.

I must add that it was an honor for AIWC to get invited for a meeting with the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Home Affairs to give recommendations on 'Atrocities and Crime Against Women and Children', on December 2, 2020. The presentation by Smt. Kuljit Kaur was extremely well appreciated by all. These recommendations will be apart of the report to be presented to both Houses of the Parliament.

I highly appreciate the extensive work put in by the Secretary General not only for these recommendations and on Women's Safety, but also for the mediation she did through a number of virtual meetings for the court case lodged by our Hostel Residents, for waiving off the entire fees, when they had occupied the rooms but stayed back home in the pandemic period. Secondly, she did the tireless persuading with the Canara Bank authorities for the delayed payment of the increased rate of rent, and this proved her tenacity. I will give more details about this in my Presentation.

* I would now like to share with you about the valuable files of AIWC which had been stored in Nehru Memorial Museum and Library (NMML) during the tenure of late President Dr. Aparna Basu, way back in 1993, which was the 4th installment of important files from AIWC MCM Library. This lot was received back with the efforts of the MIC, MCM Library, Dr. Yuthika Mishra and Librarian Ranjana Gupta, on January 21, 2021, in the digitized form.

Earlier three installments were given to NMML in 1980s, which are stored in the form of microfilms and now AIWC needs a researcher for the digitization and to get them back to AIWC office to be kept in MCM Library.

I am grateful to Dr. Kamallesh Joshipura, Board member of NMML, who is the husband of our Vice President, Dr. Bhavana Joshipura for his help in this matter. I am thankful to MIC, Dr. Yuthika Mishra for following this matter diligently and also for moderating our current series of webinars on our Past Presidents of AIWC. I thank our ever-ready Librarian Ranjana Gupta also for helping us in both these matters.

* I congratulate the MIC Environment and Climate Change, Smt. Kalyani Raj for getting

an International Project for AIWC from the European Network on Debt and Development (EURODAD). It is a network of fifty Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) from twentyfive European Countries. The project is on inequalities of gender, economic and social perspectives in coalition with the European Commission. AIWC has got the official approval from European Commission. The programme will begin from April 1, 2021 and many branches will be involved in it. The MOU will be signed shortly, and a core committee is formed to work in collaboration. I thank Smt. Kalyani Raj, who has worked extremely hard to get this project for branches to get more experience.

* I appreciate the work of the Vice President, Dr. Bhavana Joshipura and her team of 'Yoga for A Beautiful Soul,' for conducting twelve sessions in a year. Many sisters have benefited from these sessions and learnt the techniques to control common ailments like diabetes, blood pressure, arthritis, back and neck pains, knee pain etc.

I congratulate Dr Bhavana Joshipura and her Rajkot team, for the extensive social work done during the pandemic, in 2020. The Medical Centre run by the branch is now turned into a Vaccination Centre.

* I mention here that Smt. Usha Nair, Zonal Organizer of South Zone B, is a feather in AIWC's cap, as she made all her branches 'tech savvy' by giving them training and by arranging many virtual programmes in the local language. She received a Zoom platform free of cost through CSR funds, and used it for the branches of the Zone. She helped the Branches to arrange a webinar series to interview the newly elected Janapratidinidhis in their areas, which turned out to be very popular. I congratulate Smt. Usha Nair for her innovative and dedicated services to AIWC.

* I appreciate the efforts of MIC, National

Integration & Communal Harmony, Dr. Manju Kak for successfully doing ten webinars in all ten zones of AIWC on 'Communal Harmony and Peace in Covid Times' in partnership with the National Foundation for Communal Harmony, under the Home Ministry of Government of India. The Secretary of the Foundation, Shri Manoj Pant attended all the webinars and was impressed by the quality work of the branches, especially the participation of the youth.

Shri. Pant specially called me to mention the appreciation he received at the Parliamentary meeting with Education Ministry about the webinars in collaboration with AIWC, covering all the states of the country. I thank Dr. Manju Kak for her efforts.

* I offer special thanks to the Joint Secretary, Supriya Bhalerao for proving true to her post, by being an able helping hand in conducting all webinars by the Head office, making beautiful invites with quality content and extending full support in researching for the series of Past Presidents.

* I express gratitude to the ever-ready enthusiastic Vice President, Ashita Sharan's support in scheduling of webinars through a special WhatsApp Group, and also inspiring branches with MIC Youth Affairs, Amitha Anand to include Youth in the programmes and initiating Youth Wing in four branches.

* Many branches are doing excellent work and I mention some of them here. The virtual programmes on different topics by Women's Indian Association under the leadership of President Padma Venkatramanji and guidance of Secretary Bhargaviji, with ever helping hand of Shanti Socratesji, have been very interesting. Kakinada branch under leadership of Bhanumatiji is also doing good work with the help of VP Ashitaji and

ZO Varaprasadiniji. Both Dr. KG Vijayalakshmi and Zonal Organiser of Central Zone B, Madhu Saranji in collaboration with the local Educational institutes are arranging webinars, and enlightening the college students. The Eastern Zone Zonal Organiser, Kalpana Royji's tremendous work of handling cases of 'Atrocities of Women' in this pandemic time is commendable. Jagriti Women's Association, Haridwar, under VP Neeru Jainji, is also doing excellent work.

MIC, Rekha Rajwade's Swachatta Abhiyan work through webinars has covered most of the Zones and now AIWC needs action to keep our country swachha and swastha. MIC Bapnu Ghar- the MIC-Short Stay Home at the Head Office, Smt. Magdaleen Marin is handling the cases of 'women facing violence' very efficiently, with the help of MIC Legal Affairs Adv. Shubhraj, the Warden and the Counsellors.

Adv. Shubhra and MIC, Women's Safety, Adv. Bulbul Das have conducted webinars, to create awareness about various legal issues regarding women which were extremely useful for our members.

I may have missed some names, but I congratulate each one of you for doing selfless service to Society.

The above programmes give us a fair idea of how we all faced difficult times in pandemic period and trying to come out of it with God's Grace, our strong WILL and DETERMINATION!

I truly believe that great work is never achieved by a single person, it is always the entire team that succeeds when we work together. I express my sincere gratitude to our Patrons - Shobhna Ranadeji, Kunti Paulji, Manorama Bawaji, Gomathi Nairji, Bina Jainji, Veena Kohliji, and Rakesh Dhawanji,

for their timely guidance. AIWC Management wishes them Happiness, Peace and Good Health.

I now thank from the bottom of my heart for doing great work for AIWC –all five Vice Presidents, the Joint Secretary, all ten Zonal Organisers, two Assistant Secretaries, all Members-in-charge, the Administrative Department head and staff, the Project Officers, Engineers, the Finance Department Head and staff, and the Mess manager and her team.

The Secretary General, Kuljit Kaurji and Treasurer, Rehana Begumji are my biggest supporters, I am grateful to God for giving me their support. I fall short of words to express my feelings here for them both. Rehanaji always distributes the bundle of joyous moments along with a few noteworthy ideas here and there. I am sure, together we shall achieve the impossible and that will be the biggest gift ever from you both, Kuljitji and Rehanaji!

Today I conclude by quoting the words of our dear leader Smt. Sarojini Naidu- *"The day of triumph of this Conference will be that day, when it can declare, there need be no further specialized Women's Conferences. In future, we shall be in such a position that we may securely invite the men to work with us and we shall have no women's or men's conferences but people's conferences. Our common humanity is the bond that cannot, that must not be broken. Let us repeat "we are human". Let us identify ourselves with our soul, and read its capacity and its need. Let us dedicate ourselves anew to become the interpreters of the larger gospel of humanity transcending barriers of race, creed and land."*

I truly believe in her words, her dream and vision".

Thank You, take care and be safe.

Violence at Home and Beyond: Women's Daily Lives Under Covid-19

By Smt. Rehana Begum, Treasurer, AIWC

I was very fortunate to be able to attend the 65th session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW65), as this year sessions were held virtually due to the pandemic. This was a rare opportunity for me, which I can say, was due to two benefits of the most destructive disease that engulfed the world in the recent past. Namely, the wide and compulsive use of technology by all who intended to continue to work without meeting physically/personally, viz, virtual meetings; and the increased level of communication happening across the globe so that the entire world is connected in a short span of time, giving a feeling of togetherness.

CSW:

Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) is a commission set up by the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), and is a global policy-making body dedicated exclusively to promoting gender equality and the empowerment of women. The Commission was established in 1946 with a mandate to prepare recommendations on promoting women's rights in the political, economic, civil, social and educational fields. It also offers recommendations to the ECOSOC Council on urgent problems requiring immediate attention in the field of women's rights. ECOSOC also has an NGO CSW in New York, which provides a platform for the voices of feminists and women's rights organizations globally, that try to lobby for their inclusion in the UN deliberations in pursuit of gender equality and a world without sexism, sexual violence, or discrimination against

women and girls, where economic, political, and social policies encourage their empowerment and wellbeing.

CSW65 – 2021:

In the year 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic brought a profound shock to societies and economies of the world. It also exposed and exacerbated gaps in women's leadership and participation in decision-making. This year's CSW Priority Theme was Women in Leadership - 'Women's full and effective participation and decision-making in public life, as well as the elimination of violence, for achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls in the World.' This sixty-fifth session provided an opportunity to come up with strong action-oriented policy recommendations





and ensure that we work towards a future that is more equal, resilient and sustainable.

The pandemic exposed deeply rooted gender and racial inequalities within social, political and economic systems globally. Many of these social movements were led by women activists – young women and women of colour – who were determined to send a clear signal that racism, inequality and discrimination, would no longer be accepted. Such expressions of global solidarity represent not just collective outrage, but the hope that together we can finally begin to deal with the systemic inequalities that hold us back.

CSW65 – Webinars:

The sessions were held from March 15- 26, 2021. The registration was free and a large number of women across the globe could attend the parallel events organised by NGO CSW as they were held virtually and did not involve any travel.

AIWC also organised a parallel event on ‘Violence at Home and Beyond: Women's Daily Lives under COVID-19’. It was one of the important sessions of CSW65 that took place on March 17, 2021, at 6.00 pm. AIWC members also attended this session in which the members from other countries also participated. The Sponsoring Organization was the NGO Committee on Human Rights, New York and the Panelists were:

1. Smt. Sudha Acharya, All India Women's Conference's Principal Representative to the United Nations, who moderated the session.
2. Smt. Bobby Nassar, International Federation of Settlements and Neighbourhood Centers, Co-Chair, NGO Committee on Human Rights
3. Smt. Sheela Kakde, President, AIWC, New Delhi
4. Smt. Kuljit Kaur, Secretary General, AIWC, New Delhi
5. Smt. Niya Hicks, Goddard Riverside Programme Director, IFS Representative
6. Smt. Indrani Rampersad, Independent Researcher and Priest, based in the Caribbean
7. Smt. Gwendoline Coipeault, Paris-based International organisation RIFL
8. Smt. Pam Rajput, Professor of Women's Studies and renowned activist of Women's Rights
9. Smt. Navina Sitaram, AIWC representative to the UN
10. Smt. Usha Nair, Zonal Organizer of South Zone B of AIWC.

My Observations:

It was great to see women's full and effective participation. The following was the outcome:

Smt. Sudha Acharya, AIWC Principal Representative to the United Nations moderated the session. She also spoke about their organisation in New York and how they helped the migrants during Covid 19.

Smt. Niya Hicks explained about the IFS (Internal Family Systems) groups that she worked closely

with to create and maintain the pathways for community-based organizations (settlement houses) serving vulnerable populations to advocate in the UN and drafted workshop proposals and completed annual reports also.

Smt. Indrani Rampersad, addressed the problem of the youngsters and the access to the people who are working for it. There is a plight of increasing cases of women's suicides, robbery and violence because of the Covid-19 pandemic, also impacting their economic condition. They have either lost their jobs or they are functioning in the 'work-from-home' mode.

AIWC President, Smt. Sheela Kakde's inputs were through her PowerPoint presentation on the work of our 93-year old organization, right from its formation. She covered the pioneers of AIWC, who were renowned leaders of India, and not only formed a part of the struggle for India's Independence, but also tirelessly worked for the upliftment of women and children. Finally, she explained about the present status of AIWC and administration of our 500 branches.

The Secretary General, AIWC, Smt. Kuljit Kaur, explained through her PowerPoint presentation about the Covid situation in India and working women's status. They were stuck in their homes due to the 'work-from-home' mode during the pandemic and many were being mentally, physically and sexually assaulted by family members, even facing problems like marital rape and unwanted pregnancies. She talked about the activities taken up by AIWC, for women's freedom from violence and problems of students and youngsters.

She also mentioned the recommendations offered by AIWC for women's safety, to the country's Parliamentary Committee:

1. Need increased budget to improve women's economic condition.
2. Keep women in the workforce. Bring back those who have left the work location.
3. Increase in the number of short stay homes for women in distress or women rescued.
4. Introduce sign coding in India, as is done in certain other countries, such as Spain, so that women can seek help in an emergency where speaking becomes difficult.
5. Psychiatric treatment services should be provided to women.
6. Health Service Providers to take up the task of reporting domestic violence cases they come across.
7. Sensitize the police about the violence women have to face at home and be considerate to help them on SOS basis.

These recommendations given by her were appreciated well by all the panelists.

The session was very informative and ended with a vote of thanks by Smt. Sudha Acharya. Overall, it was observed in the deliberations by the panelists that in all the countries across the globe, women suffered a similar type of physical, mental and sexual violence within the four walls of their home in the lock-down period. Police complaints in that period would have meant 'exit from home' leading to 'nowhere to go'.

The outcomes of the Commission's consideration of the 'priority theme' during its 65th session, have taken the form of agreed conclusions by all the Member States.

Due to the virtual nature of the sessions in CSW65, even I, like many, eagerly attended a few of the parallel events organised by the NGO CSW.

Recommendations to the Parliamentary Committee on Curbing Atrocities and Crime against Women & Children

By Smt. Supriya Bhalerao, Joint Secretary, AIWC

It was a matter of pride for AIWC when it was invited for a meeting with the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Home Affairs to give recommendations on 'How to Control Atrocities and Crime against Women & Children'. Our Secretary General Smt. Kuljit Kaur being an expert in this area gave a presentation to the Members of Parliament, at the Parliament Annexe Building. It was appreciated extremely well by the Committee and these recommendations will be a part of the report to be presented to both the Houses of the Parliament.

In the meeting, she first briefed the audience about our organization All India Women's Conference and explained its main aims and objectives - Emancipation, Education and Empowerment of Women and children, as well as the Goal No 5 of Sustainable Development Goals of the UN, which is about Gender Inequalities and ending all discrimination against women and girls.

In the presentation she said that,

- The initiatives of AIWC to achieve women's safety through its various programmes are 1) Gender sensitization programmes in schools, colleges, communities and in organised and unorganised sectors, 2) Training adolescent girls in Life Skills, 3) Organising meetings with partner NGOs to present the

recommendations for the safety of women to the Government and other authorities to take stringent action to stop the crime and atrocities against women.

- The members of different political parties at the meeting were also reminded about the steps taken by the Government of India in this area, like 1) amendment of the stringent criminal laws in 2013, after traumatic incident of Nirbhaya in 2012, 2) 'Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao' programme, 3) Introducing of fast track courts, 4) Increase in forensic labs and one-step crisis centers, etc.
- But the present scenario in the country shows that women and young girls are not safe,



President Smt. Sheela Kakde and Secretary General Smt. Kuljit Kaur at Parliament House Annexe



*With Chairman of the Committee,
Shri Anand Sharma*

neither at the bus stops nor in the buses while travelling, or in restaurants or markets, or at workplace, not even in their own homes, which should be the safest place for them.

- As per the National judicial data more than 20 lakh criminal cases are pending in the district and High courts. National Crime Bureau 2017 informs that 1.27 lakh cases of rape are pending in the courts, 2000 rape cases are pending for more than 10 years. Ninety women on an average are raped every day and seek justice. The conviction rate in such cases is 32.2 % only.
- Only 20% of the Nirbhaya funds have been utilised under the Ministry of Women & Child Development.
- ‘Justice delayed is not only justice denied, but crime perpetuated’. Due to the delay at the

judicial level, there is no fear in the mind of the perpetrator. The seven year long delay in the case of Nirbhaya is the present example which has led to increase in the cases of sexual assault and rape all over the country, from one month old baby girl to eighty year old woman, the disabled, the blind, the dumb and the deaf are also not spared by the rapists.

- The following Recommendations were given by the AIWC:

- 1 Filling up of vacancies of the judges. There are fast track courts but no judges.
 2. Understaffed police stations. One police officer cannot handle all type of criminal cases. The large number of criminal cases handled by just one officer makes him/her immune and numb to the seriousness of the rape cases. Separate police cell is required to deal with women related crimes.
 3. As per the law, the accused can be granted bail, if the charge sheet is not issued within 60 days. Steps should be taken that NO bail is granted to the rape accused.
- Utilisation of Nirbhaya fund:
- Since only 20% of Nirbhaya fund has been used, it is suggested that
- a) There should be increase in the forensic labs. It should be opened in every District for speedy investigation and in turn, speedy judicial procedures.
 - b) One-stop crisis centers are now 450, but many more must be opened to grant relief to the survivor.

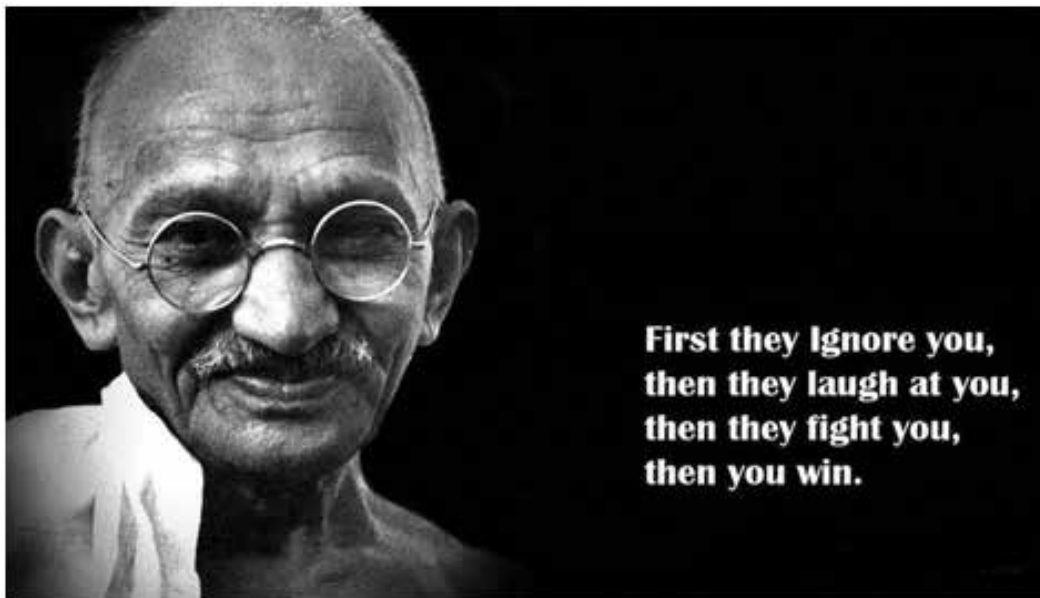


With Prof. Rakesh Sinha, MP from Jharkhand

- c) More shelter homes should be opened and preferably near the Hospitals where trained counselors for counseling of victims should be appointed.

- d) Number of awareness and sensitization programmes for the politicians, Judiciary, Police and Community in general should be organized to sensitize them to treat women and young girls with respect and dignity.

After the effective and powerful presentation by Smt. Kuljit Kaur, few Members of the Committee suggested that AIWC should do a study on sex workers' life, especially in the Pandemic period and submit a report. Smt. Kaur along with the MIC, Legal Affairs and Assistant Programme Manager, visited the brothel of the sex workers to understand their problems and miseries, faced during the Pandemic. This was a daring and courageous act indeed, as the team was not welcomed and faced a lot of resistance but was ultimately successful and prepared and submitted a detailed Report which has also been highly appreciated by the Members of the Parliamentary Committee on Home Affairs.



**First they ignore you,
then they laugh at you,
then they fight you,
then you win.**

Climate Change > Gender Justice

By Smt. Kalyani Raj, MIC-Environment & Climate Change

When we talk about climate change harming our planet, we do not really state the underlying truth of it. The real casualties of climate change will be us - the human race and all the other species that we share this world with.

Climate change is not new – ice ages, floods and other catastrophes have been reshaping our planet for millennia now...but over great periods of time, it's the human age that has unnaturally expedited this process.

The eventual outcome of this unabated climate change therefore, isn't the destruction of the planet, it is the extinction of life from it! After all, the earth has survived for billions of years and will survive for billions more – we may not. That's why we call today's climate change anthropogenic, or man-made. Which gives rise to the question of who is responsible for it and who suffers the most from it?

While we have acknowledged that everyone has contributed to the crisis at different levels, we are also coming to the slow realisation that in the end, we're all in the same boat, and we need to work together to avert global disaster.

That said, it has also been well documented that women are the lesser contributors to climate change, but are the greater victims of it - another imbalance that needs to be corrected for our climate efforts to meet with success.

Because in reality, climate change is a matter of justice.

Women, as we know particularly in the south Asian countries, face intersecting discrimination and inequality due to patriarchy and socially structured gender roles. In India gender disparity manifests itself in multiple ways – by Race, by culture, in politics, social or economic situations and few more. If we look at some of the gender linked statistics, particularly the parameters of secondary education, maternal health, economic participation, political or even labour force participation, India probably scores much below even neighbouring countries. Crises like climate change or COVID, worsen the situation and widen the gap of existing inequality.

Yet even as we push our governments for climate justice, women around the world are still fighting to endure everything from storms to starvation. While we are advocating gender equality, we are hearing horrific stories of domestic abuse and violence. How can we achieve any equitable society when half the world's population is struggling to overcome gendered obstacles, just to reach equal footing with her fellow 'man'?

Reasons for this inequality are multiple - insecure land and tenure rights, obstructed access to natural resource assets, limited access to basic education, lack of access to markets, capital, training, technologies and few more. We cannot forget the

additional burdens due to their responsibilities both inside and outside the home. These very factors result in limited participation of women in decision making. In fact, when we compare the demands of the women's organizations during Beijing Conference in 1995 and the key demands of WGC before the Paris Agreement in 2015, they are almost a repeat. It does, therefore, indicate that despite the women's organizations, gender experts and individuals strongly voicing their opinion about barriers impeding gender inequality for more than two decades, there has hardly been any progress in reduction of the gender gap.

This is happening probably because strategic implementation along with enabling policies and regulatory framework is lacking. Apart from this, I personally feel that there are two main reasons (a) very limited number of women participating in the policy formulation level and (b) lack of strong political will for gender mainstreaming in climate change policies.

What is therefore, the recourse or how can we change the scenario?

Women need to be provided the basic tools to

survive in what is still a man's world. And it has to start from the very beginning. The single factor that can phenomenally change almost everything is her education. Girls and young women need to have mandatory and uninterrupted access to education, no matter the circumstances – be it calamity, poverty or society. This fundamental resolution is the key to building their capacity as knowledgeable experts, who can sit across the table from men in any forum, and participate in the discussions and decisions, as informed representatives of their gender. This will result in more effective policy and inclusive action, by virtue of having considered all gendered perspectives.

If aided by sufficient advocacy work about differential and disproportionate impact of climate change on women, strong political will, sufficient investment, effective research and accurate monitoring measures, this systematic change can beget gender equality and in turn, climate justice, among other things.

Unlike the COVID crisis, we know what causes climate crisis and to some extent, ways to abate it. Let us pledge to do it together.

National Youth Day

By Smt. Shevata Rai Talwar, Assistant Secretary, AIWC

Arise! Awake! And stop not till you reach your Goal!

The Birth Anniversary of Swami Vivekanand on 12 January is celebrated as National Youth Day since 1985. He was a great philosopher and spiritual leader of the 20th century who while coming from a rich background having a dynamic personality, was open minded to social problems and empathised with the down trodden, especially simple villagers belonging to the lower castes. The Govt. of India felt that the philosophy of Swamiji and the ideals for which he lived and worked would be a great source of Inspiration for the Indian Youth.

Narendranath Datta was born in Kolkata in 1863 to Vishwanath (an attorney at law of the high court of Calcutta) and Bhuvaneshwari Devi a simple devout lady. Having a great sense of reasoning and a sharp memory 'Naren' as he was fondly called, excelled in studies and later joined the Presidency and then Scottish Church College and studied, Western logic and philosophy, history and literature. From an early age he was into gymnastics and meditation, and also a student of Vocal and Instrumental music. He even learnt to sing devotional songs in Hindi, Urdu and Persian from a Muslim teacher. He also became associated with Brahmo Samaj – a movement against religious dogmas and caste system. His quest for 'GOD' continued and finally brought him into the fold of his Guru Sri Ramakrishna under whom he later on took up and formed a new monastic brotherhood.

After the disturbing situations of the passing away of his father and then his Guru, he travelled all over India and toured abroad, creating a bridge between the Eastern – Western world, highlighting our rich Indian Culture and Heritage. He believed in the brotherhood of mankind and the universality of Religion and chose to serve God through selfless service to mankind.

In the year 1893 his famous speech at the World Parliament of Religions held in Chicago captivated his audience and made him into a harbinger of Indian wisdom to the spiritualism starved West. In the year 1897 he formed the Ramakrishna Mission and 1898 the Belur Math which jointly propagate Vedanta and various forms of social service such as assistance and relief work in natural calamities, running of hospitals and educational institutions.

Swami Vivekanand passed away at the age of 39 years. He was a source of inspiration to great freedom leaders like Nehru and Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose. His concept of 'Goal orientation' and 'potential divinity of the soul' continue to make him a youth icon even today. He believed that one should, "take up one idea and make it the goal of life. Think of it, dream of it, and live on it. Let the brain, muscles, nerves, every part of your body be engrossed in that idea to crystallize into one and only one idea you dream or desire. Arise, Awake and Stop not till you reach your Goal." He believed that strength was in the mind. We were as strong as we believed ourselves to be. He said that 'Purity, Patience and Perseverance are the three essentials to success and above all love.'

PAST PRESIDENTS SERIES

Webinar on Smt. Sarala Ray

Sixth President of AIWC (1932)

By Smt. Chandrani Neogie, M.I.C.- Short Stay Home, AIWC

To know more about our rich legacy, AIWC Head Office organized a series of webinars on our Past Presidents, as instructed by our energetic and spirited President Smt. Sheela Kakde ji.

The formation of All India Women's Conference in 1927 had behind it a growing aspiration for women's uplift in India. AIWC was founded under the leadership of Margaret Cousins but soon it was run completely by dynamic Indian women and it became the most important women's organization in the country.

Family History:

Sarala Ray (1861 -1946), the sixth President of AIWC, was a product of the aspirational ambience mentioned above. A brief life sketch of Smt. Sarala Ray reveals much of her position in the contemporary context.

Sarala Ray belonged to the famous Das family of Telirbagh, Dhaka, now in Bangladesh. She was the eldest daughter of Brohmamoyee Debi and Durga Mohan Das and was born on the 26th November 1861. Her father Durga Mohan Das was a Brahmo Samaj Leader and a social reformer with notable contributions in the field of widow remarriage and women's emancipation.

Her younger sister was the renowned social activist, Lady Abala Bose, wife of the world-



famous scientist, Sir Jagdish Chandra Bose. Lady Abala Bose was an Indian social worker, known for her efforts in women's education and her contribution towards helping widows.

Sarala Ray was a cousin of Deshbandhu Chittaranjan Das and Sudhir Chandra Das (Chief Justice of India). Her brother Satish Ranjan Das was the Advocate General of Bengal and later the Law Member of the Viceroy's Executive Council, and a prominent member of the reformist Brahmo Samaj in Bengal at that time. He had chosen the site for the famous Doon School, India's first Public School.

Born in this illustrious family Sarala Ray at the age of 18, married one of the most learned men of the time, Dr. P.K. Ray, IES (Indian Education Service) who was the first Indian to be the Principal of the Presidency College, Calcutta.

Her daughter Charulata Mukherjee was the founder of the present AIWC Calcutta Branch in Bengal and was elected Life President of this first AIWC branch at Calcutta from 1927. Charulata Mukherjee and Dr. Muthulakshmi Reddy were the first to take up the cause of the prevention of immoral traffic in women and children. Charulata Mukherjee was elected Secretary General of AIWC from December 1933 to December 1935. Charulata's daughter Renuka Ray; grand-daughter of Sarala Ray continued in the line of torch bearers; she became Member of Lok-Sabha and Minister of Refugee and Rehabilitation in Dr. Bidhan Chandra Roy's cabinet in West Bengal. She was associated with AIWC from 1931 and became its President from 1953 – 1954. Her son Air Marshal Subroto Mukherjee, was the first Indian Commander-in-Chief of the Indian Air Force and has been called the "Father of the Indian Air Force."

Educationist:

Sarala Ray was amongst the early students of Banga Mahila Vidyalyaya and Bethune School, the first girl's school founded by John Elliot Drinkwater Bethune. Sarala Ray and Kadambini Ganguly were the first two girls who got permission from Calcutta University to appear and pass Matriculation Examination in 1878. She devoted her life to women's education. She established a girl's school in Dhaka when her husband was posted there. After their return to Calcutta, she was

a member of 'Shakhi Samiti', the first women's association in India, established by Swarnakumari Devi, sister of Rabindranath Tagore.

Rabindranath Tagore wrote his famous dance drama "Mayar Khela" at her suggestion and dedicated the first edition of the book to her, in appreciation. "Mayar Khela" was first performed at Bethune School. Sarala Ray's home was the centre of the intellectual elite of Calcutta. People like Dadabhai Naoroji, Gopal Krishna Gokhale, Pherozeshah Mehta and Mahatma Gandhi were regular visitors. Rabindranath Tagore, then a young man, also used to drop in very often.

Sarala Ray lived in London for some years where her husband was Education Adviser to Indian students in London in 1910. It was during this period that she started the Indian Education Association with the purpose of providing scholarship for the training of Indian Women Teachers in the U.K.

She met Gopal Krishna Gokhale in London and he became a friend and mentor. When her son died, she was in deep depression and Gokhale asked her to start a girl's school. After Gokhale's death, she founded a school in 1920 and named it "Gokhale Memorial Girl's High School", an inter-provincial institution on new educational lines, introducing domestic-science, drawing, music, comparative religion, sports and much more for girls, subjects which till then did not appear in the curriculum in a girls' school. Rabindra Sangeet and Vedic Songs used to be sung as school prayers. In pre-independence India, she had adopted as a prayer song in this school "Jana Gana Mana Adhinayaka...", later to become our National Anthem. Sarala Ray was a remarkable educationist

with a vision and long before the three-language formula was thought of by the Government, all students in the school had to learn three languages – Bengali, English and Hindi. Later her own Institution Gokhale Memorial School and College took shape and became a model throughout the country at that time.

Sarala Ray was the first women to become Secretary of Brahma Balika Shikshalaya founded by her younger sister Lady Abala Bose. Sarala Ray was a member of the Senate of the Calcutta University and the first woman to hold the post.

AIWC and Life:

Sarala Ray was associated with AIWC from her youth and had been a brave unbending pioneer throughout her life. She was elected President of AIWC in 1931. In 1932, she, as President of AIWC, was elected to preside over the 6th Annual Session of AIWC in Madras.

In her Presidential address she emphasized that the keynote of the Conference was educational reform. She pointed out the deplorable condition of women's education in India and the high rate of illiteracy among Indian women. In her address she outlined her ideas on women's education. She worked out a scheme to prove that "Education meant development of thought and culture – that education brought in wider outlook of life". To her mind the Social and Educational questions are inter connected with each other. "The Society we form is the outcome of the Culture and Education we acquire. The real root of the question is want of Education – the want of the right vision of life."

She died in 1946 full of honours. We, the women of India today, should remember leading figures like Sarala Ray, who had been the builders of modern India. We are indebted to them for all the pro women legislations which we enjoy in Independent India.



ROSHNI welcomes your articles!

Email us at aiwc.roshni@gmail.com.

Writeups should be sent in MS Word format.

Please do not send handwritten notes, PDF formats or PowerPoint presentations.

Photos are worth a thousand words – make them well-focused and in JPG format.

PAST PRESIDENTS SERIES

Webinar on Smt. Vidyagauri Nilkanth Seventh President of AIWC (1933)

By Dr. Laxmi Gandhi, Bardoli

Smt. Vidyagauri Ramanbhai Nilkanth was the seventh President of All India Women's Conference. She was born in a highly cultured & educated family on 1st June 1876 at Ahmedabad. Her father, Shri Gopilal Dhruva was a judicial officer and mother, Balaben was a housewife. Her primary education was at Raibahadur Maganbhai Girls' School. She took her secondary education at Anglo Vernacular Classes at the Mahalaxmi Training College, Ahmedabad. In those days marriages were arranged at very young age. She got married to Ramanbhai Nilkanth at the age of thirteen years. Ramanbhai was a great writer and educationalist. With support and encouragement from her husband and family members she continued her studies even after marriage. She passed Matriculation exam in 1891 standing first in Gujarati language in the University of Bombay. In those days Gujarat was not a separate state. It was Mumbai Rajya in which Gujarat and Maharashtra were combined. By this time, she became the mother of two daughters. Even then she continued her studies with interruption of two deliveries. She continued her higher education and registered for BA with her sister Shardaben in Gujarat College, Ahmedabad taking subjects like moral philosophy, psychology & logic. She and her sister were the first lady graduates of Gujarat in the year 1901.

Association with AIWC

She was the pioneer in starting AIWC Gujarat Branch at Ahmedabad, in the year 1927. Salman

Taibaji was the first President of Gujarat Branch. Vidyagauri Nilkanth was the third President of Gujarat from 1930 to 1931. She became National President of AIWC in the year 1933. Smt. Rani Laxmibai Rajwade was the secretary general. During her tenure, the seventh Annual Conference was held at Lucknow. Smt. Muthulaxmi Reddy was the Conference Chairperson.

She hosted the 11th National Annual session of AIWC at Ahmedabad in the year 1936. Smt. Margaret Cousins was the President of AIWC, and she was Conference Chairperson. Her sister Shardaben Mehta was also a great worker in AIWC. Shardaben and Salman Taibji were the two delegates from Gujarat who were present at the 1st Inaugural Session of AIWC at Pune. Both of them were selected as committee members in All India Committee. Vidyagauri and Shardaben visited various cities and towns of Gujarat and established constituent branches all over Gujarat. They established around thirty branches all over Gujarat.

As Educationist

She devoted her life to women's education. She started adult education classes for the illiterate women. She encouraged girls to go to school. She also encouraged different small states (Rajwada) and helped them to start schools for girls. She was associated with a number of schools and educational institutes, including Diwaliba Girls School, Ramanbhai Chhotalal Girl's School, and Vanita Vishram at Ahmedabad. Vanita Vishram

provided school education to women and widows and the girls who were deported from schools after marriage. She founded Labhshankar Umiyashankar Pathshala for women for higher education which was later affiliated to “Karve University” (SNDT) college. She was a Professor in this college. She taught subjects like English, Moral Philosophy and Psychology.

Her Literary Career

Her husband Ramanbhai Mahipatram Nilkanth was a popular writer of Gujarati literature. She was also influenced by him and started writing articles in Gujarati magazines such as Gunsundari, Stree Bodh, Sharda, etc. She has written several essays with light humor as well as biographies of her relatives and friends who influenced her. These essays were later on published as a book in 1955.

She was highly impressed by the activities of Educationist Dhondo Keshav Karve who was the great promoter of women’s education. He established SNDT University for women. She wrote Autobiography of Prof. Dhondo Keshav Karve in 1913.

Her other Publications as Novels

Gruh Dipika	1931
Nari Kunj	1950
Ganan Shudha	1950
Forum	1955

She translated a book “Status of Women in India” written by Maharani Chimnabai (1st President of AIWC) from English to Gujarati in 1915. She also translated many Bengali books into Gujarati. She was secretary of Gujarat Vernacular Society from 1925-57. She was a member of Gujarati Sahitya Parishad for life and became its first lady President in 1934.

Work in Other Fields:

She worked for war relief fund during the First

World War. She was made MBF for her services during the war. She was awarded Kaisare – E - Hind Award by the British Govt.

More About Family:

She had two daughters, Vinodini and Saudamini. Both were highly educated and have continued her legacy. Vinodini Nilkanth was a writer. She used to write articles related to women, “Ghar Gharni Jyot” in Gujarati newspapers. She also wrote many short stories and novels. Her younger daughter was Saudamini Mehta. She got married to Gaganvihari Mehta who was India’s Ambassador to USA. I am very happy to tell you that our Patron late Aparnaji was daughter of Saudaminiji and Gaganvihariji. I had no opportunity to meet the great personality Vidyagauriji but I was lucky to work as a Jt. Secretary with Aparnaji when she was President of AIWC, 2002-2005.

Her sister Shardaben Mehta was also a very active social worker and associated with AIWC. She was President Gujarat state branch in 1934-1935. Her husband Dr. Sumantbhai Mehta was a Medical adviser to Maharaja Sayajirao Gaikwad of Vadodara. She was related to Urmilaben Mehta who was Sec. Gen. AIWC during the year 1941-42-47 and President in the year 1949-50. Shardaben’s daughter in law Pushpaben Mehta from Ahmedabad was Sec. Gen. during the year 1954 to 1956 when Laxmi Menon was President. In short, her whole family was devoted to AIWC.

On 7th Dec. 1958 at the age of 82 years, she left this world for heavenly journey. She was working for the upliftment of women till her last breath. Every year in memory of both sisters Gujarat branch gives two awards to the women who are AIWC members of Gujarat and doing excellent work for upliftment of women and girls.

My salute to the great visionary lady Vidyagauri Nilkanth who has devoted her life to inspire women to work for wellbeing and upliftment of women.



From the President's desk...

Through the first Roshni issue of this year 2021, I wish you all a very happy year with the Covid-19 Pandemic fading away and health and happiness being restored in life.

I express my gratitude to all our sisters across the Country who have selflessly extended a helping hand to the needy, without any discrimination of cast, creed and gender. We all have tried to sail through the rough weather in the last year and will continue to do the same in this year.

I sincerely request you all to join the Head Office in raising funds for our upcoming project Aashiana, an old age home for the elderly widows being built in Mahavan near Gokul in Mathura District of UP. The land plot has been donated by a member of ours and the Architect is giving her services free. We are in need of around 2.5 crores, to be able to construct the building. We would then shift the Matajis from the existing old age home in Vrindavan which is a rented place. You will find a formal Appeal in this issue. Do contact me personally for any details you need.

All the best wishes for the year 2021! Stay safe and take good care of yourself !!

Sheela Kakde
President, A9WC, New Delhi

Appeal to AIWC Members & well-wishers



Project Aashiyana

Home for Elderly Widows,
Mohalla Chowdhar Pada,
near Chaurasi Khamba World
Heritage Temple at Gokul, (14 km
from Vrindavan)
Town Mahavan, Dist. Mathura, UP

Dear Friends,

All India Women's Conference, is India's premier NGO working for the **Education, Emancipation and Empowerment of Women** for 94 years, is setting up a new Old Age Home for elderly widows.

In fact, AIWC has been already running a Home for elderly widows and a Short Stay Home for 'women in distress' for nearly 30 years in Vrindavan since 1992, in a rented space. It is now in the process of building a new facility, **Aashiyana** in Mahavan, near Gokul in UP.

Prime project of AIWC:

This project takes care of elderly widows, 'Matajis', abandoned by their families in the Vrindavan temple, or women who have left their family due to unbearable circumstances, are brought to our Old Age Home. Here we take their entire responsibility and get them in good health and sound mental condition. It gets us immense satisfaction when they seem to enjoy better health and lead joyous life, while they spend time with the other Matajis in the 'Home'.

Project Plan:

Project Aashiyana is being built at the above address on a 600 sqm plot, as a 2-storied solar-powered Green building.

Ground floor: On this floor, 30 'Matajis' will stay in 4 dormitories with a **dedicated living space** for each resident. There will be a **common dining hall and kitchen, courtyard** and a **designated Prayer area**, specially designed for the convenience of the elderly, with the facility of **ramps, lift and ventilation**. Space is also provided for House wardens and support staff.

First floor: On this floor, a **Shelter home** can house 30 distressed girls. Also a facility of **Vocational centre to train youth** in different skills like computers, tailoring, is planned in a hall.

The construction will begin in June 2021 !



Existing Old Age Home and Short Stay Home in a rented building at Vrindavan

APPEAL

Through this letter, I, with my colleagues by my side, make an humble and sincere request to you all ! Our dream of creating this **Project Aashiyana** can become a reality only if we are able to raise the required monetary fund for its construction. We are fortunate that the land plot is donated by a senior member of AIWC and the Architect has given us her services free; so we have the land, the plans, and the sanctions with us and now what we need is the funds.

The condition of 'Matajis' in that age, stirs everyone's collective conscience in the Society, no matter whether anyone is directly connected with it or not. It is our duty to ensure that they get loving care and reasonably good health, in the last stage of their life.

Benefits for Donors

Donations are exempted from Income Tax under section 80G(5)(vi) of IT Act, 1961.

- Donations:**
- 1) Donations are invited by Cheque / DD / Bank Transfer only.
 - 2) Cheques in favour of 'AIWC AASHIYANA MAHAVAN PROJECT payable at New Delhi'
 - 3) **Bank Details For Donations by Bank Transfer**, are as under:
 Beneficiary Name: AIWC AASHIYANA MAHAVAN PROJECT
 Beneficiary Account No: 2417101022451
 IFSC Code: CNRB0002417
 Bank Name: Canara Bank, Br. Name: 2417-Delhi Bhagwan Das Road 110001
 Bank Address: Canara Bank, Sarojini House, 6 Bhagwan Das Road, N Delhi 110 001
 - 4) **Donors**, please give us:
 - i) Your name with complete address and mobile number
 - ii) PAN Details with self attested xerox copy
 - 5) **Note:** AIWC will issue a proper receipt on receiving of above details.
All communication/correspondance may be sent to president@aiwc.org.in

With warm regards,

Mrs Sheela Kakde

President

All India Women's Conference New Delhi

Ram Navami, April 21, 2021



Secretary General, President & Treasurer of AIWC

Women's Safety Week Celebrations

By Smt. Kuljit Kaur, Secretary General, AIWC

Women of the world want and deserve an equal future free from stigma, stereotype and violence, a future that is sustainable, peaceful, with equal rights and opportunities for all. To get us there, the world needs women in every field where decisions are being made.

This year, the theme for International Women's Day (8th March 2021) is "Women in Leadership: Achieving an equal future in a COVID-19 world". Women's full and effective participation and leadership in all areas of life drives progress of everyone. Yet, women are still underrepresented in public life and decision-making.

International Women's Day is observed on March 8 every year. It is the celebration of the social, economic, cultural, and political achievements of women over the years. Women are the key to preserve the human race and in today's world, the importance of women in society is beyond suspicion. International Women's Day is celebrated in many countries around the world. It is a day when women are recognized for their achievements disregarding the divisions, national, ethnic, linguistic, cultural, economic or political.

All India Women's Conference joined its voice with the theme and celebrated "Women Safety Week" from 1st March 2021 to 10th March 2021 with our branches across India. Despite COVID19 pandemic, a number of branches have observed the Women's Safety Week through different activities like:

Nukkad Natak

Drawing and Painting Competitions

Awareness of Legal rights of women and present scenario in the society

Women's empowerment through awareness programmes

Quote

"There is no limit to what we, as women, can accomplish." –

Michelle Obama

Visiting schools and old age homes

Hygiene and Sanitation awareness

Following are the details of celebrations of Women's Safety week which was organized by the Head Office and branches:

All India Women's Conference,

Head Office, Delhi

AIWC celebrated International Women's Day at Head Office in Aga Khan Hall on 8th March 2021. The function was inaugurated by President Smt. Sheela Kakde. Members of branches, AIWC staff and AVI students attended the celebration.

Smt. Kuljit Kaur, Secretary General explained the history of International Women's Day. She informed that International Women's Day has been observed since the early 1900's—a time of great expansion and turbulence in the industrialized world that saw booming population growth and the rise of radical ideologies. The seeds were sown in 1908 when 1500 women marched through New York City demanding shorter working hours, better pay and the right to vote. Clara Zetkin suggested the idea in 1910. In 1911 Austria, Denmark, Switzerland and Germany celebrated it, therefore the centenary was celebrated in 2011.

The United Nations began celebrating International Women's Day in 1975, which had been proclaimed the International Women's Year. In 1977, the United Nations General Assembly invited member states to proclaim March 8 as an Official UN holiday for

women's rights and world peace. It has since been commemorated annually by the UN and much of the world, with each year's observance centered on a particular theme or issue within women's rights. 19th November is celebrated as Men's Day but has not been adopted by UN so far. It is celebrated in sixty countries on the theme of Health and Gender Equality; we can each help to create a gender equal world.

Smt. Asha Gambhir, member of Ujjawal Branch said that every day is women's day. Why should we have to respect women only on this special day, women have to be respected each and every day in society. Smt. Bulbul Das, MIC-Women's Safety said that "Women are powerful leaders. It is time to recognize the impact of women in leadership and we should commit to placing more women in positions of power. Representation of women in Parliament and all other spheres in India is very less. When women hold more leadership positions then you can see healthy development in the country."

Nukkad Natak was performed by the Asmita Theatre Group on different themes of women's safety like "Child sexual abuse", "Beti Bachao, Beti Pado" and Female Foeticide. Around seventy students from Asmita group performed Nukkad Natak under the guidance of the famous director, Shri Arvind Gaur.

Ujjawal Women's Association (Delhi)

The Ujjawal Women's Association organized a three-day Women's Safety Week programme. On day one, a webinar was organized in which the main speaker was Smt. Sharda Sharma, an advocate of High Court and a former government official.

Smt. Sharda Sharma gave an illustrious talk on the various laws in which the young girls and women can protect themselves. She traced the position of women since ancient times and brought it to the present times when the issue of safety of women is ever increasing. She also gave examples like the



case of Ayesha dowry deaths and real life examples from schools and neighbourhood. This session was followed by an active participation of members and students. Smt. Bina Jain applauded the lecture for conveying the idea of women's safety in such succinct terms. She also gave suggestions for achieving the goal of security for women. On day two, March 6, 2021 there were two lectures followed by a Nukkad Natak. The programme was held in the new office of the UWA and its beautiful surroundings added to the aura.

Smt. Bulbul Das, MIC-Women's Safety informed the gathering about how 8th March is celebrated globally as International Women's Day. Smt. Ritu Raina was the second speaker of day two of the programme. She explained Section 21 (1) Prevention of Sexual Harassment (POSH) of Woman at Workplace Act, 2013.

Dhuri Hoon Mai Constituent Branch of SWEDWA, Budh Vihar (Delhi)

An awareness of women's safety programme was organized on 8th March 2021 at the premises of Dhuri Hoon Mai, Budh Vihar, Rohini, Delhi. Around twentyfive participants attended the programme with social distancing. The branch also invited some speakers to discuss a) The Domestic Violence Act and b) Section 498 A. NRI marriages, issues arising after NRI marriages and steps to be taken care of under NRI marriages were discussed. On the other hand, Sexual Harassment at workplace and Section 498 A was also discussed.



Nukkad Natak by D-Group and Painting competition for neighbourhood children (organised by Ujjawal Women's Association)

Suruchi Vikas Samiti, Indore (Madhya Pradesh)

Suruchi Vikas Samiti along with Constituent Branch Vijay Nagar organized women's safety week on 8th March and 10th March 2021. Shri K.C., retired Registrar General was invited to throw light on some issues. Shri. K.C explained Teen Talak and Shah Bano Case.

After this Shri K.C also explained about Bhanwari Devi Case, a social worker from Bhateri, Rajasthan, who was gang raped in 1992 for her efforts to prevent a child marriage in a family.

Shri Mahesh Sharma informed, "We are living in patriarchy society," where men feel they have rights (swamitava) over women. He also emphasized on Self Defence training for girls and women. On 10th March 2021, the branch organized a rally on the theme, Dowry System. Nukkad Natak was also

performed by the branch. NRI marriages issue was discussed.

AIWC Kakinada Branch (Andhra Pradesh)

AIWC Kakinada Branch conducted three programmes during women's safety week celebrations. On 8th March 2021, the branch participated in interactions with different organizations in Kakinada like Red Cross, Shine Org, Shuchitra Creations and Ideal College. On 9th March branch members visited Janavali Old Age home at Kakinada. Smt. Padmajavani, Branch Treasurer explained about AIWC and its activities. Another member Padalatha explained in detail about the importance of hygiene and nutritious food. The branch distributed fruits to the Old Age Home residents and diapers to the adults.

On 10th March, two programs were conducted by the branch. Around twenty five young women participated. Smt. Lalita, Sub Inspector explained about duties of police in solving women's problems. Smt. Susi gave a powerpoint presentation about women's protection in law. Participatory methods were used in this program. Branch members visited Maharishi Sambamurthi Handicapped School. Hygiene Kits were distributed to twentyfive girls.

AIWC, Gandhi Nagar Branch, Vellore (Tamil Nadu)

On the occasion of International Women's Day, AIWC, Gandhi Nagar Branch organized awareness on Domestic Violence Act 2005 and Sexual Harassment at Workplace. Around thirty beneficiaries of the self-help group and four members of AIWC attended the programme. The chief guest delivered an inspirational speech on Domestic Violence Act 2005 and Sexual Harassment at work place.

AIWC, Amritsar Branch (Punjab)

Women's safety week was celebrated by Amritsar Branch. The branch informed the participants about

the history of Women's Day which is celebrated on 8th March every year. On that occasion, the branch threw a light on "Equal Work, Equal Pay". The United Nations created the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in 1948. By the 1970s, people were talking about a different idea of equal pay. More and more single mothers were trying to support themselves on their own.

The speaker also informed the participants about the role of women in today's world. Women are the epitome of strength, love, sacrifice and courage. The role of women in today's world has changed significantly and for better. Women are now self-sufficient, well aware and financially independent.

Sanjivini Mahila Sansthan, Meerut (Uttar Pradesh)

Sanjivini Mahila Sansthan Branch celebrated women's safety week on different dates i.e 5th March, 8th March and 9th March 2021. On 5th March, school students performed nukkad natak and classical dance on the theme of "Domestic Violence". Around one hundred and twenty members were present in the celebration. On 8th March 2021, the programme was celebrated in Kasturba Gandhi School, Meerut. On this occasion, the speaker Smt. Manju Agarwal (Counselor) explained about Women's Safety issues (How to respond to eve teasing). Poster Painting competitions were also organized in the school. Around fifty students participated in the competition and got appreciation certificates from the branch.

On 9th March 2021, Branch members visited Zila Meerut Jail to celebrate women's safety week. Speaker Dr. Smriti Yadav interacted with women prisoners on Domestic Violence. After interactions women prisoners also asked many questions about the topic. Around one hundred and ten women prisoners attended the programme.

Gandhi Nari Kalyan Samiti (Uttar Pradesh)

Gandhi Nari Kalyan Samiti branch celebrated women's safety week on 14th March 2021. The programme was inaugurated by Smt. Neera Goel. On the occasion, the branch informed about the purpose of the programme and also explained about the All India Women's Conference history. Smt. Shanti Sharma recited a wonderful and effective poem related to women's dignity. Questions related to women's safety were discussed in the programme, like eve teasing, rape, domestic violence etc. During the discussion it was also emphasized that sometimes judgment given by the judges related to rape cases were objectionable and created trouble in the society. If we all together change the mindset towards women, then you can see the development in the society.

Maitreyi Women's Organization, Kakinada (Andhra Pradesh)

Maitreyi Women's Organization, a constituent branch of AIWC Kakinada observed "Women's Safety Week" on 8th and 9th March 2021, in 30th division and 29th Division Secretariat. They conducted the following programmes: 1. Anemia detection and medication camp for women, especially for sanitation workers. 2. Women's Safety Awareness by DSP Shri Murli Mohan, SI Smt. Kanka Durga of women police station about Disha Law of AP and procedure for arresting women and their rights. 3. PPT on different laws and rights of women was explained by Smt. Susi Chakka. Around fifty participants were present in the programme.

On 10th March 2021, awareness on gender sensitization programme was organized in AMG Municipal High School, Kakinada. Around forty boys and girls attended the programme.

Durgabhai Deshmukh Adopted Village, Komaragiri (Andhra Pradesh)

The branch celebrated women's safety week



programme on 8th March 2021 in a rural area of Komaragiri. In this area women are superstitious and have no knowledge about health and hygiene. On this occasion the speaker explained about thyroid issues, muscle weakness, hormonal problems, and good nutrition habits to the participants.

New Women's Welfare Society, Moradabad (Uttar Pradesh)

Women's safety week was celebrated by the branch every day from 1st March 2021 to 10th March 2021 on various issues like Gender Sensitization, Domestic Violence, Health and Hygiene and Mental Health in schools and other relevant places.

All India Women's Conference, Matri Sadan (Uttar Pradesh)

Smt. Chanda Poddar welcomed all participants and motivated them to participate in these kinds of programs. The branch celebrated Women's Safety Week programme on 8th March and 12th March



2021. On the first day the branch informed the participants on how to respond in difficult times. One of the participants Smt. Shreya Jain recited a beautiful poem on the environment. The second day programme was inaugurated by Smt. Kunti Paul. A guest, Smt. Kusum Rathi, Sub Inspector, talked about the role and responsibilities of the younger generation for their bright future.

All India Women's Conference is also planning to write to the Central Government to observe Women's Safety Week from 1st March to 10th March in order to convey the message to the public to respect young girls and women and they have every right to lead a life of dignity.

AIWC believes that all RIGHTS are HUMAN RIGHTS, and all WOMEN'S RIGHTS are HUMAN RIGHTS.



International Women's Day Celebrations

Bhopal Branch

By Smt. Madhu Saran, President, AIWC Bhopal and Zonal Organiser, Central Zone B

Bhopal Branch, in collaboration with Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan, Regional Office, Bhopal, organized a webinar on “Ability and Skills Required for 21st Century Woman” on “International Women’s Day” on 8th March 2021. The eminent speakers from AIWC were welcomed virtually through Google Meet by Smt. Shraddha Jha, Assistant Commissioner, KVS RO, Bhopal.

Dr. D.P. Singh, Vice President, (AIWC) & Ex. Principal Govt. MLB College Bhopal initiated the webinar by introducing AIWC and expressed her valuable views on the status of woman in the past and also the disparities in the situation of women in the present time. She highlighted the need of education and awareness of Women’s Rights.

Smt. Madhu Saran, Zonal Organizer, Central Zone B and President AIWC Bhopal, talked at length about stereotyped customs and traditions imposed on women. She shared the activities of AIWC, regarding women’s issues and the assistance provided by their forum.

Smt. Santosh Agarwal, Vice President, joined virtually from Delhi. She showcased the AIWC’s concerns for women’s upliftment and steps to be taken against social and mental abuses. She

pointed towards women’s strength and appealed for their empowerment.

After the deliberations of AIWC members, a group discussion was held by the teachers of Kendriya Vidyalaya No-1 Bhopal. They discussed the ability and skills required for 21st century women, including very crucial and highly demanding issues like physical development, emotional intelligence, hard and soft skills, work-life balance, financial management and modern techniques for safety and security, followed by stress management tips.

Smt. Shraddha Jha summed up the webinar by adding her valuable and encouraging suggestions for empowering the 21st century women. She was optimistic that by possessing 21st century skills, women of India will shine at the global platform.

The webinar was virtually joined by members of AIWC and Shri. Somit Srivastava, Deputy Commissioner, KVS RO Bhopal, principals of Bhopal Region, Shri. Saurabh Jaitly, Principal, Kendriya Vidyalaya No-1 Bhopal, parents, teachers and students.

A vote of thanks was proposed by Smt. Susana Kujur, Vice Principal, Kendriya Vidyalaya No-1 Bhopal.

Human Touch Foundation Greater Noida

By Smt. Upasana Singh, President

Greater Noida Branch and Human Touch Foundation celebrated Republic Day at Sakipur centre. A large number of women and children participated enthusiastically. A cultural program was organised. Snacks were distributed among all the guests. S/Smt. Smriti Srivastava, Neeti Srivastava and Kriti Naren organised the program successfully.

Human Touch Foundation celebrated International Women's Day at a Govt. school in village Tugalpur. A street play, poster making, and a cultural program were part of this event. Family members of students were also present in this program.

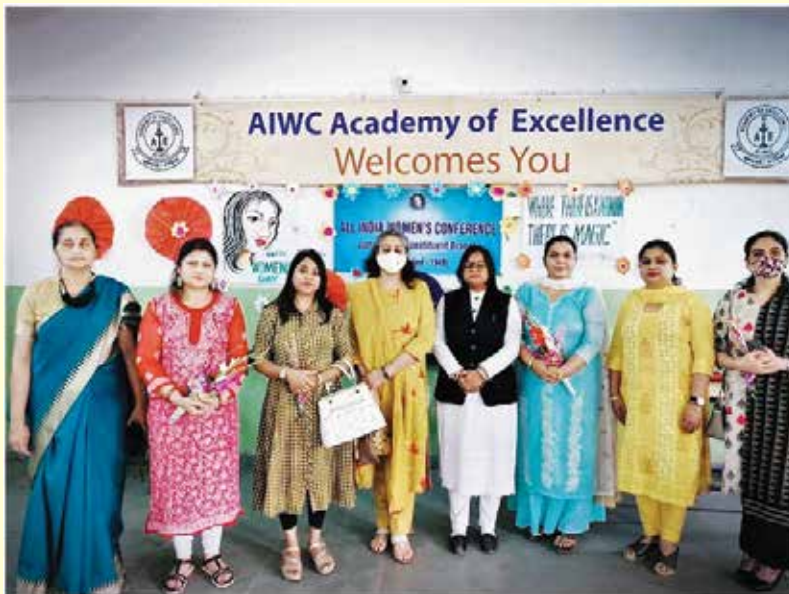


Information about women's welfare government schemes was provided in an entertaining manner through the street play.

Jamshedpur Constituent Branch

By Smt. Sneha Nandi

Jamshedpur Constituent Branch celebrated International Women's Day on 8th and 9th March in Baridih. On the first day, the programme included Nukkad Natak by People's Association for Theatre, and Self Defence Techniques by renowned Karate Teacher Mr. Jitender. On the second day, there was a talk on Child Abuse and Sexual Harassment by Adv. Sunaina Pandey and Adv. Kanchan Mishra, as well as a talk on Health & Hygiene by Smt. Sarika Singh. Sanitary Napkins were donated to the school pad bank.



Sanju Women's Welfare Association, Chennai

By Smt. Shanthi Socrates, President, SWWA

Every year, Sanju Women's Welfare Association (SWWA) celebrates International Women's Day in a grand manner, catering to the needs of the underprivileged women. This year, we finalised our plans with AIWC Madurai Branch, to serve the rural women of Kappalur village in Madurai Dt.

Smt. Shanthi Socrates President; Smt. Maruthi Sivaram, Secretary; Smt. Juliet Abelincoln Treasurer; Smt. Vijaya Subramanian Joint Treasurer; Smt. Vedavalli Jayachandran, Executive Committee Member and our trainer Smt. Nibuna started for Madurai to conduct the Women's Livelihood project in the form of jewellery making. On 27th March, with great enthusiasm, we readied our banner, certificates and all the materials of the jewellery kit. Necklace, bracelet, bangles and earrings of eight designs were taught to fortyfive women and girls who participated with

real interest. Thirty participants who completed the course were awarded certificates. ₹15,000 worth of materials along with the jewellery kit were given to the participants free of cost. As a part of Women's Day celebrations, SWWA did one more project on the same day for the welfare of pregnant women of Kappalur. Dr. Sowmini Devi gave an awareness talk on proper nutrition during pregnancy, importance of the girl child and the need for saving girl children and trees. Each pregnant woman was given a packet of dates just as we did in other districts of Tamil Nadu including Chennai in our previous SAVE GIRL CHILD SAVE TREES projects. The day ended on a happy note with all our members feeling utmost humility that they were given an opportunity to care about the needy even when they were battling the severity of Corona pandemic situation.



South West Delhi Women's Association & Branches

SWEDWA, Majnu ka Tila:



Girl Child Day celebration by SWEDWA on 24th January, 2021

On Girl Child Day, 24th January, we had a program highlighting issues concerning the girl child. Over 200 women and teen-age girls attended. The theme was Safety and Protection of Girls. The program started with a powerful and moving Nukkad Natak on harassment of girls, presented by Asmita Theatre.

The main speaker was Advocate Priyanka Marwah of the Delhi Legal Services Association. She explained the various provisions of law related to protection and safety of girls. Smt. Shubhra Mendiratta, President, SWEDWA, asked the group to spread awareness of rights of girls, and intervene in cases of harassment and violence against girls, within the family or from outside.

AIWC President, Smt. Sheila Kakde and Secretary General, Smt. Kuljit Kaur, attended the celebration, and interacted with the group. SWEDWA

distributed sanitary napkins to adolescent girls and stationery to all children.

*By Smt. Shubhra Mendiratta,
President, SWEDWA*

Anugrah, Safdarjung Enclave:



We celebrated International Women's Day on 6th March. The program was attended by Secretary, SWEDWA, Smt. Magdaleen Marin, and Vice-President, Smt. Vijay Laxmi, members and friends. The theme of our program was: 'Under-Age and Child Marriage of Girls, Interference by Parents'. Members presented a One Act play on the subject. The message conveyed was that freedom should be given to girls to decide between marriage and study. Girls should not be forced to accept decisions of their parents for getting married. Parents should also not discriminate between girls and boys when deciding about their future. The play was appreciated by all.

Smt. Magdaleen Marin, Secretary SWEDWA, spoke about spreading the message of gender awareness in society. Smt. Vijaya Laxmi, Vice President, gave reasons for the prevalence of early marriage of girls in our country, and described its harmful effects on the well-being of girls. It was now time to change the mindset of society and make all efforts to bring parity in the education and upbringing of boys and girls. One member narrated her own experience as a girl, when she was forced by her parents to abandon studies and get married. "Now I will see that my daughter continues her studies as long as she likes", she said.

The International Women's Day program arranged by us, was found to be both relevant and useful for all who attended it.

***By Smt. Pratibha Pathak, President, Anugrah,
with inputs and photo by Smt. Vijay Laxmi,
Vice President SWEDWA***

Shakti, Palam Mahila Samiti:

"Gender Sensitization" was the theme of International Women's Day celebrations in Palam colony on 7th March, in which several related issues including women's safety were discussed. A large gathering of members heard Sub Inspector, Palam Colony Police Station, Principal of Government School, Palam, Smt. Magdaleen Marin, President, Shakti, and others discuss current issues and give guidelines for dealing with violence against women in different forms. The group included teachers and school-children, as well as families of Palam village and nearby areas.

By Smt. Magdaleen Marin, President, Shakti

Guldasta, Najafgarh:



We celebrated International Women's Day on 8th March. A large gathering of women and children attended a discussion on the theme of women's empowerment, and the importance to women of International Women's Day. We gave IWD Awards to seven women achievers who had made notable contributions to women's empowerment.

Vibhuti, Vasant Vihar Enclave:

We organized a program for widows and children in the nearby Hanuman temple ashram on 8th March and distributed fifty saris, gave caps, and organized sports for children, with lunch for all ashram residents

By Smt. Sunita Pathi, President, Vibhuti

Dhoori Hun Mai, Rohini:

An innovative program "Gaon ki Gori vs Shahrki Mem", which included a debate, quiz, dress competition, role play and other activities, was organized on 5th March. It concluded with awards and gifts given in the "Gaonki Gori" category to



Kavita Sharma and Lakshmi who, by their own efforts were supporting their families by selling home-made pickles, papad and other food items. In the "Shahrki Mem" category, the award was given to Kumkum Sharma, employed in Police Lines, Rohini, who along with her work, takes a lead in organizing community work like waste management, building toilets, tree plantation, etc. The program was thoroughly enjoyed by all our members, participants, and families in the neighbourhood.

*By Smt. Babita Agarwal, President,
Dhoori Hoon Mai*

SWEDWA Nukkad Natak:

"Soch men Badlav"- International Women's Day was an occasion for SWEDWA Managing Committee and members to enact a play on Awareness of Women's Rights. The story is about an elderly widow who does not give in to her



sons' demands, but takes her own decision to settle her property. The play, written by Vijay Laxmi, was enacted by Magdaleen Marin, Mythily Jagannathan, Vijay Laxmi, Sushila, and Monica. Shubhra Mendiratta was the sutradhar.

*By Smt. Mythily Jagannathan, Coordinator,
Shadara Creche Project*

Women's India Association, Chennai

By Smt. M. Bargavi Devendra, Hon. Secretary, WIA

The WIA this year organized the Women's Day celebration on 20th March at WIA Premises in an 'inhouse' manner due to Covid-19 situation in the country. We invited our branches, the students who are aided with scholarships through AIWC Educational Trust, students who have completed 11th batch of Nurse Aid training course at WIA, joining students of the 12th Batch of Nurse Aid programme, the Balasevikas of the crèche programme and the staff of WIA.

The Office bearers of WIA, the President, Smt. Padma Venkataraman, Vice President Dr. M.L. Shyamala, Hon. Secretary Smt. M. Bargavi Devendra, Joint Secretary Smt. Vanaja Krishnamurthy, Assistant Secretary Smt. Anitha Shankar, Hon. Treasurer, Smt. Booma Srinivasan and other members from the branches of MRWA, Sanju Madar Sangam, Mangayarkarasi Mahalir Mandram, Anna Nagar Ladies Club, Indira Nagar Women's Assn. and the students who receive the AIWC Educational Scholarship assistance participated.

After the prayer, the Hon. Secretary introduced the programme for the day followed by the Presidential address by Smt. Padma Venkataraman, President WIA. The President lit the lamp as a mark of the inauguration of 12th Batch of N.A. training programme, as this year without canvas the entire strength of 20 came and joined the course. Next, the President distributed the scholarships for



WIA President Smt. Padma Venkataraman presents a scholarship cheque

five students (₹79,000.00) provided by AIWC Educational Trust, and the certificates to the 11th Batch of N.A. students who have completed the course.

The last item was the distribution of cheques to the balasevikas (11 crèches) supported by ICDS project and to the staff (5 members) of WIA. The students in turn shared their experiences. A lady who was helped by the Treasurer Smt. Booma Srinivasan was honoured by Dr. Muthulakshmi Reddy W. Assn., and she expressed her gratitude for the support provided by Smt. Booma to overcome her difficulties in her life.

Smt. Booma Srinivasan, Treasurer of WIA gave the vote of thanks at the conclusion of the programme.

Rajkot Branch

"Glimpses of International Women's Day, 2021 - A Splendid Experience"

By Dr. Bhavna Joshipura, Vice President AIWC

On the eve of International Women's Day, under the aegis of All India Women's Conference - New Delhi, Anand College of Legal Studies and A. M. P. Government Law College, Rajkot, an International Conference on "Women in Leadership: Achieving an Equal Future in a COVID-19 World" in accordance with the theme of International Women's Day - 2021 was organised, in which women representatives from different walks of life joined virtually from all over the nation and globe - which made this programme historic.

The International Conference was organised under the chairpersonship of National President, All

India Women's Conference Smt. Sheela Kakde. Internationally renowned personalities such as Smt. Cheryl Hayles— Chairperson, International Alliance of Women (IAW), and President of Australian Graduate Women's Association and Dean International of Curtin University Faculty of Health Sciences, Dr. Jaya Dantas were Guest of Honour and Distinguished Speaker in the programme; General Secretary of AIWC Smt. Kuljit Kaur, Secretary of Shree Ramkrishna Seva Mandal, Smt. Jyotsnaben K. Patel and Executive Vice-President 1st of International Alliance of Women, Dr. Manju Kak also graced the International Conference by remaining present.



International Conference on "Women in Leadership: Achieving an Equal Future in COVID-19 World"



Dr. Bhavna Joshipura at the Conference

The international luminaries had joined the event by invitation from Dr. Bhavna Joshipura. Dean, Faculty of Law - Sardar Patel University, Vallabh Vidhyanagar. Dr. Rekha Kumari Singh and Principal of A. M. P. Government Law College Dr. Minal Raval were the programme coordinators of this international conference.

The National President of AIWC Smt. Sheela Kakde welcomed the dignitaries on behalf of the organisers. The General Secretary of AIWC Smt. Kuljit Kaur appreciated the activism of all regional branches of AIWC throughout the country for women's welfare activities. It was the very first time that the newly elected Chairperson of International Alliance of Women, Smt. Cheryl Hayles was addressing the congregation of women social leaders in India. Smt. Hayles voiced the need for women NGOs to collaborate with the United Nations in the year 2021 for effective participation, involvement in decision making and achieving sustainable development goals. Dr. Jaya Dantas spoke on the post COVID pandemic. The world should focus on Redevelopment, Renewable Energy and Reconstruction to attain active participation of women in local leadership. Dr. Bhavna Joshipura - National Vice-President of AIWC and Chief Coordinator of this International Conference delivered the vote of thanks and informed all the delegates of the conference about the activities undertaken by AIWC during the COVID pandemic, especially activities done for mental well-being of women and combating domestic issues faced by women in distress.

*Here's to strong women / May we know them
May we be them / May we raise them*



Branch Activities

Ujjawal Women's Association, Delhi

By Dr. Yuthika Mishra, Vice President, UWA

UWA recently got a permanent office-cum-workplace in Chitra Vihar in East Delhi by the grace of great souls who appreciated our work. Most of the time was spent in getting the place, and in refurbishing it to convert it into an office. The office was formally inaugurated on the auspicious day of Makar Sankranti on 14th January 2021.

A small havan was performed by the members collectively and soon we will be starting our work here.

Meanwhile, the two permanent projects at Mandavali and Pandav Nagar continue, although the girls were hesitant to come due to the pandemic.



Allahabad Branch

The year 2021 started with a New Year's celebration in a virtual meeting on 5th January.

It was joined by our respected Patron Smt. Jamnotri Gupta, Dr. Jaya Majumdar, Prof Vidya Agrawal and Dr. Vimla Vyas. Many active members took part, and the event was much appreciated by all. On 10th January, youth were honoured by Dr. Kirtika Agarwal. We also celebrated Swami Vivekananda's Jayanti at Vatsalya Sabha Ghar. From 12th to 24th January initiative was taken by our members to celebrate Youth Day and Girl Child day by uploading motivational slides on social media to show strength and unity. On 26th January under Mission Shakti Abhiyan, we distributed 200 blankets to the poorest community of our society. They were also motivated to take vocational training to earn their bread by Dr. Vimla Ji. Smt. Sarita Rastogi promised that she would help poor children get education in her institution. The students of Aarya Kanya Basic Junior High School, Kalindipuram, also joined the program. They were taught about Sumangla Yojna and also how the distribution of the tablets to girls will give them wings to fly. Smt. Radha Agarwal gave her blessings.

On 2nd February a General Body Meeting was held at the residence of Smt. Indra Sharma.

On 3rd Feb, Constituent

By Smt. Ranjana Gulati, President,

Branch of Allahabad City Branch, Vandana Child Care Trust distributed woollens and food packets to under privileged students and gave a talk on Health and Hygiene.

On 1st March, Women's Day was celebrated with students and staff members of Sanskar Public School. The topic of discussion was Women's Safety and Empowerment. The hospitality of Smt. Santosh Tripathi was appreciated by all the members. The students also gave lovely speeches and recited poems on Women's Empowerment. On 6th March, we celebrated Women's Day with some jail inmates and legal counseling was also done by advocates. On 24th March, Dr. Vineeta Vishwakarma organized a program for training the nursing staff under the project Atmanirbhar Bharat. She also conducted free Covid vaccine drive in her hospital on Women's Day and did a lot of social work during the pandemic.



Girl Child Day at Arya Kanya

Bardoli

Editor's note: Dr. Laxmi Gandhi was the first of our members to get vaccinated for Covid-19, on 16th January 2021. At this stage, there was widespread unease regarding the safety of these vaccines. Dr. Gandhi sent us this photo along with the following message for her AIWC sisters:

My dear friends,

Thank you all for appreciating me. I have sent you my photo just to make you realize that there is not much risk in taking this Corona Vaccine. People are afraid due to bad rumours and controversies in newspapers and on TV. They have made all the arrangements to see that all are safe. If any reaction or complication occurs it can be treated immediately.

Dr Laxmi Gandhi, Bardoli



Garia Mahamayatala Jadavpur Constituent Branch

By Smt. Basudha Ganguly, President, GMJ Branch

Members of Garia Mahamayatala Jadavpur Constituent Branch paid a visit to Ashoka Niketan Old Age Home on 6th. January '2021. It was truly a memorable visit. All of us were eager to meet each other after a long gap due to corona pandemic. It was really a mental relief accomplished by an excellent get together. Coloured bags filled with a mask/cream/orange/cake/biscuit packets/ apple juice / Joynagarer Moa (2) were distributed among all Senior Citizens by our Branch. They were feeling little down hearted following the unprecedented pandemic. However,



their lively participation and intimate gestures raised the occasion to an unforgettable level. We all enjoyed the occasion like anything.

World GIRL CHILD DAY was celebrated by GMJ Const Branch on 24th January with a drawing competition for girls entitled "JEMAN KHUSHI TEMAN AKO. " Draw what makes you Happy.

AIWC GMJ branch members donated a new wheel chair and various food packets to each senior woman (18 residents) at APANGHAR Old Age Home run by AIWC Metropolitan Branch. It is an AIWC Old Age Home situated at Thakurpukur, Kolkata. (31.01.2021)



An awareness camp and interactive session was organised on 18.02.2021 at Kailash Nagar villages in Kakdeep, South 24 Parganas, West Bengal. The speakers were Smt. Shikha Mitra, on "Climate Change and Rain Water Harvesting", and Smt. Bratati Ghosh on "Water Conservation and Sanitation". Beneficiaries were from Vagaban Nagar, Cuban Nagar. and Pashchim Gerachak. The event was funded by AIWC New Delhi. Kakdeep is 280 km from Kolkata.



Haemoglobin and Blood Sugar (not random) tests were conducted on 24/03/2021 at Sonarpur Old Age Home. Beneficiaries were thirty residents. These were organised and funded by GMJ Branch



Kalimpong Branch



Kalimpong Branch Celebrated 10th Foundation Day On 16th Of March 2021.



President Smt. Yuden Pempa Hissey, Gen Sec. Smt. Aruna Pradhan & Treasurer presented the history of AIWC Kalimpong from 2011-2021.



New Inductions on Foundation Day



Admiration Certificates Presentation to the Members Who Donated During Covid19.



Legal Awareness Programme

29 January 2021

(self-sponsored program).

Resource persons: LD Chief
Judicial Magistrate Smt. Ishani
Chakravarty Banerjee and
LD Assistant Session Judge
cum Secretary DLSA Shree
Bishal Mangrati Chandralok
Jan JagrityPariwaar. Total
beneficiaries: 50.

Chairman Rabi
Pradhan of Kalimpong
Municipality - Thanking
AIWC for the initiative
of Swatchata Abhiyaan
and for being example
in Kalimpong.



Kalimandir Steps
Swatchata Abhiyaan
would not have been
possible without the
help of Municipality
of Kalimpong and the
members of Jan Seva
Kalyaan Samity.

Sanjeevni Mahila Sanstha, Meerut Zila Jail Sanjeevni Prashikshan Kendra

By Smt. Beena Agarwal, SCM, Sanjeevni Mahila Sanstha

For the last seven years, Sanjeevni Mahila Sanstha, Meerut is running a Bag Stitching and Tailoring Project to make female prisoners at Meerut Jila Karagar, self-dependent and empowered. The project is highly successful. Bags made by them were being sold in stalls at different places by Sanjeevni.

We have been highly appreciated and honoured for our persevering work for the women in jail by Mahanirakshak Karagar U.P. (Lucknow) on 26th January 2021 (Republic Day).

The appreciation letter was given at Meerut Jila



Karagar by our Honourable Mr. B.D. Pandey (Meerut Jail's Superintendent).

Stree Shakti Mahila Samajam, Constituent Branch of TVPM Main Branch

Stree Shakti Mahila Samajam, Constituent Branch of TVPM Main Branch of AIWC, organised a three- day Awareness-cum-Training Programs on Fresh Water Fish Farming from 17-19 March 2021 under the aegis of The Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA), nodal agency under Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of India. One person from each ward of Nedumangad

Municipality was nominated for the course. Number of participants per program was limited to fifteen, following COVID protocol. Trainees were given a stipend @Rs 220/-per day. One participant belonging to SC category has been recommended for 75% grant from MPEDA to start a fish farm. The Samajam maintains an Aquaponic Re-circulatory System where they rear fish for the market.

Srinivasa Gandhi Nilayam

By Smt. Vasanthi Ramesh, SCM, WIA, Chennai.

The primary objective of Srinivasa Gandhi Nilayam is to support socially, economically and physically underprivileged women and children. During the COVID19 pandemic and resulting lockdown, catering to this segment of the society, who were particularly affected, was the need of the hour.

Free Dispensary Project:



Inauguration of the free dispensary was done by prominent philanthropist, Shri Nalli Chettiar on the birth anniversary of Late Smt. Susheela Padmanabhan. Patients started coming in large numbers as there are no similar facilities nearby. Till date, around 80 patients have consulted with our doctors Dr. Vasantha (Gynaecologist) and Dr. Revathy (General Physician), as well as consulting physiotherapists and psychologists. Taking turns, each doctor graciously spends a day per week attending to patients. After consultation, patients who are prescribed medicines are directed to the local pharmacy to get medicines free of cost. Srinivasa Gandhi Nilayam in turn pays the pharmacy for the costs incurred. Based on the overwhelming positive feedback, we look forward

to serving women and young children in need for many years to come.

Wet Grinder Project:

In commemorating the birth anniversary of our Vice-President, (Late) Smt. Susheela Padmanabhan, we distributed four commercial wet grinders worth ₹25,000/- each for differently-



abled women in January 2021, to help sustain their livelihood. While “Work from Home” is the trendy buzzword of late, these ladies have been pioneers in making Idli/Dosa batter at home and selling it to nearby eateries, restaurants and homes. They were unable to cope with the growing demand and required commercial grinders to keep up. We gave them special training on how to operate the machines, as well as additional marketing training. We also arranged discussions with other entrepreneurs where they shared ideas on increasing sales and income as well as other aspects of running a successful business. We were glad to hear from the ladies that these sessions increased their self-confidence, drive to work hard as well as contribute and live as equal members of society.



Coaching Centre:

As the State Govt. announced the reopening schools for 10th, 11th, and 12th std. students, we have resumed our coaching centre for poor, first generation students which we started last year. As of now, 20-25 students are enjoying our coaching centre and look forward to the classes each day. With the coaching center, our goal has been to make education fun and teach concepts in an engaging, friendly manner that draws students to our classes. After a stressful school day, students look forward to our sessions where they first play basketball and snack on various healthy treats and hot drinks. After having fun, students review their class materials with our enthusiastic teachers who revisit the syllabus in an approachable and interesting way. Frequent tests are being conducted to ensure that the students are making progress. Over the weekends, children also have access to one-on-one counselling sessions with one of our members –Smt. Surya Rekha, a psychologist. These sessions help them deal with the fear, stress and doubts brought about by this pandemic. Based on the report given by the counsellor, action is taken to enhance their skillsets and augment it with extracurricular activities. The Principal and



teachers of the school have been delighted with the progress and are keen to broaden this programme to more students.

International Women's Day:

International Women's Day was celebrated with college students of Krishnaswamy College by conducting a 2-day workshop on life skill enhancement through Gandhian way and peace education by joining hands with Gandhi Peace Foundation. A workshop on quilted bags was conducted.

We close this financial year by launching an innovative project for the rehabilitation of prison convicts and their families. Families of convicts are often looked down upon and are both economically and socially boycotted. We have created a rehabilitation program to help them deal with this scenario and try to uplift them socially and economically. To begin with, our focus has been on the provision of basic amenities, education for their children, skill development as well as assistance with finding jobs. Concerned by their privacy we are not disclosing the details of the beneficiaries.

Rajkot Branch

By Dr. Bhavna Joshipura, President, Rajkot Branch and Vice President AIWC

I. Launching of Vaccination for Senior Citizens: On 1st March, the vaccination for senior citizens and persons with co-morbidities was launched, As the urban health centre (managed by AIWC~RMC) got two vaccination centres, I got the opportunity to launch the vaccination programme by taking the vaccine. Mass Vaccination Awareness Drive was also conducted by AIWC -Rajkot for health workers to inspire the public to be vaccinated.

II. At HUDCO - encompassed with urban slums. An awareness programme was conducted addressing the issues of Corona pandemic precautions, violence during the pandemic, psycho-social problems and counselling modalities.

Dignitaries Present: Vanitaben Rathod, Leenaben Raval (Grassroots Leaders)

III. Collaborative programme with educational institution, civil society and NGOs focusing on emerging trends in Social Justice.

Dignitaries Present: Nirmalsinh Herma.

IV. At Gondal Town - The Rajkot Rural Police Department organised a programme on "Sexual harassment at Workplace - Socio-

Legal Aspects" - I discussed the legal aspects and methodology to conduct an inquiry about sexual harassment at the workplace. In addition to this discourse, I was felicitated by District Superintendent of Police Shree Balram Meena. The Maharani Saheba Bhuvneshvaridevi of erstwhile Gondal state remained present and expressed her concern about social awareness.

V. Yoga awareness programme under the aegis of Gujarat Government Youth Board: Shri. Prakash Tipre, a renowned Yoga Teacher and Member of the Board specially remained present and demonstrated with holistic approach. 'FIT INDIA' Movement was also addressed. Dr. Bhavna Joshipura informed the beneficiaries about ongoing projects of AIWC - Rajkot on Women's Welfare.

VI. A meaningful interaction with a disciplined audience of "Vanza Mahila Mandal" was organised at Gandhigram Urban Slum. The significance of this programme was about the representation from the particular community where women have a specialised skill.

Dignitaries Present: Niharikaben and other Community Leaders

VII.A felicitation programme and a community development programme were organised at Regional Health Centre, Government of Gujarat by Indian Lions and leading doctor and social worker Dr. Jyoti Hathi. I was very much delighted to express my views before the frontline workers and other health workers.



Keynote speech at Gondal Town Hall Programme on Sexual Harassment at Work Place



Vaccination Drive by AIWC Health Centres: Monks of Ramkrishna Mission were one of the first beneficiaries for the same

VIII. Mental Health Awareness Programme "The Secret to Healthy Life: Pure Heart and Strong Mind" was organised at Ramnikkunvarba Old age Home by the expert team of Doctors of Padmakunvarba Community Hospital.

IX. Felicitation of Police Inspector Sejal Patel for constant support for activities carried out during the Corona pandemic for women's safety and support.

X. World Water Day- 2021 was celebrated with

a meaningful pledge-taking ceremony. The theme of World Water Day in 2021 is "Valuing Water". According to the United Nations, "The value of water is about much more than its price." This day is celebrated in line with Sustainable Development Goal number 6 which is aimed at achieving water and sanitation by all for 2030. We have taken pledge on these three important things:

- i. Water harvesting in our building and zero water waste.
- ii. Best utilization of waste water, cultivation of plants and creation of kitchen gardens
- iii. Awareness programmes for Save Water movements

World renowned environment study expert Chinmaya Hemani explained important aspects with demonstration. Dr Bhavna Joshipura delivered concluding remarks.

Vishakhapatnam Branch

On 20th March 2021 a poetry collection by our member Rahimunnissa Begum, SCM, Vishakhapatnam Branch, entitled "Pandemic Pearls" was released through the Vice Chancellor of Andhra University Prof. G. D.V. Prasad Reddy.

This poetry collection was penned during COVID 19 pandemic times. The book is dedicated to the "freedom fighter" and the Nightingale of India Smt. Sarojini Naidu ji. The "Bangle Sellers" poem of Sarojini Naidu ji was the inspiration for the book.



TVPM Main Branch, Trivandrum

By Smt. Indira Ramakrishna Pillai, Director, LIEW, Sahana, TVPM

Our office has remained closed from 16 March 2020. However, we have tried to keep our activities going, even in the worst conditions. Fifty three webinars were hosted by South Zone-B and other branches under the Zoom Pro package of AIWC-TVPM during this period. Videos of the Zoom Pro webinars are posted on You Tube and more than 5142 people have viewed the videos during January to March 2021.

Asraya Programs during January-March 2021

- Every month, at least one Get Together is arranged for the women where they meet, talk and disperse after lunch. This continued during this period also, following all COVID protocols
- On 23 March 2021, a Health Camp was

organised for the beneficiaries of Asraya as well as senior citizens from the neighbourhood. UST Global funded the Health Camp and doctors from Government Ayurveda Hospitals provided their services. Medical Testing Services were provided by Rajeev Gandhi Centre for Biotechnology, Trivandrum. Nearly eighty persons attended the Camp and various medical tests were conducted for 36 persons. A ten-member team from UST Global conducted cultural events and games for the women of Asraya who were delighted to win prizes. A sumptuous lunch was served to the beneficiaries of Asraya, the team from UST Global and resource persons.

- Seven beneficiaries of AIWC Trust for Education scholarships were given the scholarship cheques at this function.

Thanjavur District Branch

By Dr. Vasantha G., President.

Thanjavur Main Branch held meetings with the Constituent Branch office bearers on how to extend support to the community. We distributed one week's worth of meals to the COVID-19 care unit patients at Medical College, Thanjavur. The importance of social distancing and hand washing were explained to the public in surrounding villages and taluks with the support of health volunteers. The importance of masks was also explained. A

dental check –up was organized in the village. Masks, soap and sanitizer were distributed free of cost to the village people.

New Year 2021 was celebrated at an orphanage in Thanjavur. Sweet cakes were distributed to the aged. Pongal was celebrated in the surrounding villages like Budalur, Vallamand Kurungulam with our Main Branch support. An Awareness Programme against COVID-19 was also conducted.

Ashok Nagar Main Branch, Ranchi, Jharkhand

By Smt. Shail Jha, President

On 22nd March, AIWC Ashok Nagar, Main Branch, Ranchi, Jharkhand organised an event in Society Park of Ashok Nagar in collaboration with Steel Authority of India Ltd (SAIL), Ranchi.

It was a Holi celebration in a different way with underprivileged women of neighbouring areas. Women in large numbers were present on this occasion, observing the corona guidelines. We distributed clothes like bedsheets, towels, sarees, sweets and colour packets among them. The motto was to bring a smile on their faces.

We often organise activities related to welfare for needy women and children.



Our members of AIWC were present and took part enthusiastically in all activities. We hope to organise such events in future also. We are grateful to Director SAIL for his valuable support.

Junagadh Branch, Saurashtra

By President: Sadhnaben Nirmal and Secretary: Chandanben Raval

An unique Cooking Competition was organized in January by the branch where twenty three members participated. They had to prepare Sabji with combination of two vegetables and had to upload the video of the preparation in the kitchen. Four winners were given prizes and three members were given consolation prizes. On

Valentine's Day, a competition was organized in which participants had to upload videos of their dialogue with their loved one. twelve participants took part. On Holi, an online dance competition was held on Holi Rasiya, "Holi Mein Ude re Gulal" in which sixteen participants took part which was very interesting.



Webinars

Webinars by Head Office on Women's Safety

Compiled by Smt. Supriya Bhalerao, Joint Secretary, AIWC

This year Management decided that March 1-10, 2021 should be observed as Women's Safety Week since the International Women's Day is observed during the month. The resolution was passed for this and sent to the Ministry of Women Development & Child Development of Government of India to act accordingly so that enough importance is given to Women's Safety in India.

The Head office of AIWC arranged some important and useful webinars for three months to end by March 2021. Experts were invited for addressing AIWC members from all the states of India, who in turn, were expected to share this knowledge with their branch members, further to be spread in their area networks such as, schools, colleges, other women's clubs, etc. Smt. Kuljit Kaur, as an expert on women's issues was involved in most of the virtual meetings and some other members also shared their valuable views. The President Smt. Sheela Kakde encouraged this series of webinars and gave an inaugural address at each one. Five of these webinars were conducted during the period January-March 2021.

1) *Domestic Violence: The role of NGOs & Local bodies* on January 5, 2021

Smt. Sumi Chopra, Zonal organizer of North Zone organized it.

Speakers: 1. Prof. Pam Rajput, Punjab University, Former Chair, GOI, High level committee on Status of Women

2. Adv Shubhra Mehndirata, MIC Legal affairs, AIWC.

Dr Pam Rajput discussed the role of local bodies and suggested that in the big cities and big towns ward-wise study should be done about the types of crime against women are seen. Women's safety has to be everyone's responsibility including local residents, individuals, religious organizations, markets, staff at schools, colleges, institutions, corporate companies and the kind. The most important thing is that woman has to stand for herself and not justify or hide beating by the husband or by family members. Domestic violence is not only physical, but it affects the mental health of women and girls. Public spaces for women are becoming unsafe. Therefore, NGOs must seek government's help for implementation of Help lines and One-stop help centers. Prevention is important and awareness about the law must be created by making small booklets to be shared with local residents. Let the local become global with accountability. It must start at the level of wards which are responsible to keep their

members safe and happy. This is the way to realize goal number 5 and 11 of SDG to be achieved by 2030.

Adv Shubhra explained in detail about the provisions of the Domestic Violence Act laying stress on the point where the victim of Domestic violence can directly approach the Magistrate.

2) *Commodification of Women's Bodies* on January 11, 2021

Speaker: Smt. Kuljit Kaur, Expert, Women's Safety and Secretary General, AIWC.

She gave a power point presentation on the topic giving a strong message about the different ways women's body is depicted to be used as commodity. She said that women's body is precious, a source of creation, and reproduction of the human race but is being dehumanized by using wrong images in magazines, advertising, etc. Eroticized depictions are used for showing women as subservient and subjugating to men's existence. It reinforces sexism in societies. The organizations will have to come forward to stop this exploitation of women's bodies.

3) *Legalisation of Prostitution* on January 1, 2021

Speaker: Smt. Kuljit Kaur, Expert, Women's Safety and Secretary General, AIWC.

A powerpoint presentation was given by the Secretary General about the plight of the sex workers and the conditions they live in, the different types of serious venereal diseases they contract and the deprivation of dignity in their life. After a healthy discussion on the topic, it was decided that AIWC does not approve of

Legalization of sex workers' trade, but it was unanimously agreed that AIWC should try its best to improve the plight of sex workers and come forward to improve their life.

4) *No' means 'No': Sexual assault and Marital Rape* on January 22, 2021

This webinar was organised by Adv Bulbul Das, MIC, Women's Safety.

Speakers: 1. Prof. Ved Kumari, Law faculty, Delhi University, presently Vice Chancellor of National Law University, Orissa

2. Adv. Sharada Sharma, Former Deputy Secretary, Ministry of External Affairs, GOI.

Prof. Ved Kumari spoke about the growing Menace of Sexual Assault in our society and said that Law alone cannot curb this crime. It is extremely important to teach our children the concept of equality. Purity is in the heart and not in the womb.

Adv. Sharada Sharma gave an overview of Laws related to Sexual Assault and the remedies and said that there should be sustained campaign against sexual crimes. NGOs have big role to play of empowering the women, and she added that marital rape must be criminalized. It shall be a progressive step to create awareness about Women's rights.

5) *Crime against Women & Law and Reclaiming Public and Private Spaces* on March 8, 2021

Speakers: 1. Hon'ble Justice Manju Goel, former Judge of Delhi High court, presently looking after Arbitration cases

2. Dr Monika Bhardwaj, DCP Crime Branch, Delhi Police

Justice Manju Goel spoke about the laws

related to women and their application in Court. She also emphasized that NGOs like ours should take up the causes of Marginalized Women in our society.

Dr Monika Bhardwaj spoke about the Role of Police in Women Safety in Public and private spaces. She told us about all the new initiatives

taken by the Crime Branch of Delhi Police and about a number of new safety schemes for women.

All webinars were very informative for the members to understand and follow the AIWC's stand in different issues. Members attended in large numbers.

Girls! Tips for you to be alert and safe!!

Here are a few smart ways for a woman to be safe. Search for them and acquire if you could. There is a possibility that some smart kids may help in developing these for you.

Safety bracelet: It is a fashionable bracelet for you which can be synced with your cell phone. You will need to add a few friends and family members on the 'guardian network.' Then two buttons on the side of the bracelet can be used to send messages and call any registered guardians and also allows you to audio record the situation.

Smart Pendant: It is best when attackers are not aware of your safety methods and a pendant may work the best. This could be used to share live location and to find the nearest hospital or police station too. It could be a rechargeable device with its battery life of 7-10 days.

bSafe: This mobile app comes with many features through its SOS button to be activated by touch or voice when you cannot reach for the phone. You can share the live location or record a video and audio of events after activating the SOS button, to a select network of only a few friends and family members on the app. It also has the feature of alarm and siren to inform nearby people of the danger. Likewise, the app allows you to make fake phone calls to escape from difficult situations. This is available both for android and iOS phones.

Shake2Safety: This app can be used without active internet connection on the phone. You can either shake your phones or press the power button four times to alert registered contact numbers through text or call. You do not need to wait to unlock the phone in order to reach your near ones. This app is available on android phones.

Pepper Spray: Women are always advised to have a pepper spray handy. One can buy pepper sprays that are legally approved. When sprayed on the attacker, it causes irritation to their eyes and skin thereby giving you time to make a quick escape. Available online!

Safety alarm: Safety alarm will work as a siren for alerting nearby people that you are in danger. They usually come in the form of a key chain or a pen, easy to carry and produce loud whistles or noises. They may even provide SOS communication by alerting your emergency contacts via smartphone. Live-tracking tool in these devices can help your contact reach you quickly too.

- suggested by **Supriya Bhalerao**, Joint secretary, AIWC

Ballygunge Constituent Branch

Webinar on Raja Ram Mohan Roy and the Prohibition of Sati

By Indrani Sengupta, MIC – Art and Culture

Prof Sakti Sadhan Mukherjee spoke on Raja Ram Mohan Roy at a webinar organised by Ballygunge Constituent Branch on 6th March

Raja Ram Mohan Roy was a pioneer among social reformers who thought of the safety of women. In the eighteenth and nineteenth century a horrendous crime was prevalent in the name of religious practice. Young widows were burnt alive with their dead husbands. It was known as 'sati'. The hands and feet of the girls were tied and they were thrown into the burning pyre. Drums and gongs were beaten loudly to suppress their heartrending screams. It was the worst form of violence against women that could be perpetrated. Violence is still being perpetrated in different forms. On the occasion of commemoration of Women's Safety Week we recalled the legacy of this great social reformer who fought relentlessly for safety of women.

Raja Ram Mohan Roy read the religious books thoroughly and found no religious basis for the cruel practice that was prevalent in the name of

religion. The task was not easy because traditional Hindu society supported it and the British rulers didn't want to interfere with native rituals. Raja Ram Mohan Roy believed it was a social evil that had to be removed on the grounds of humanism and basic right to life. He had a group of enlightened supporters, but traditional Hindu society stood like a rock. He was not a man to give up. Through meetings, protests, petitions and visits to England he succeeded in getting the Prohibition of Sati Act passed on 4th December 1829. It was a red letter day for women's safety.

Safety of Women is not a new concept and pioneers like Raja Ram Mohan Roy must not be forgotten when we talk of such laws. His path breaking fight inspired later social reformers to protest against cruelty and violence against women and several laws have been passed subsequently. Violence has not stopped so our concern for safety of women is great. No law alone can stop it so A.I.W.C is relentlessly advocating Safety of Women throughout the year through various programmes to bring about a change in mindset.

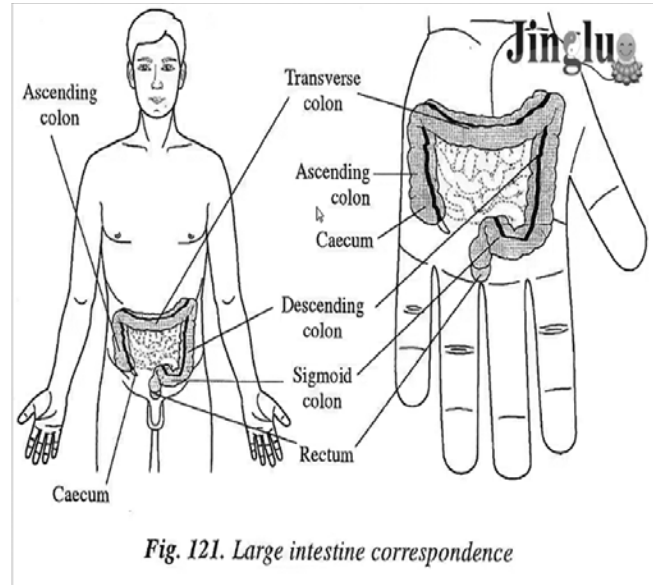
RPM Women's Welfare Association, Chennai, Webinar on 'Love And Heal Your Body Yourself'

By Smt. Preetha Raj, President, RPMWWA

RPM Women's Welfare Association organized a very different webinar on Valentine's Day, i.e., February 14th 2021. The idea was to spread the message of 'Importance Of Loving Ourselves and Taking Care Of Ourselves'. The webinar was organized by our member Smt. Susan George who is a student of the speaker, Dr. A.M. Sivakumar, Jingluo Therapist / Acupuncturist, Founder & Chairman of Jingluo Health Club. Jingluo Quick Heal Therapy guides people on various healthy ways to heal and remain healthy.

Smt. Preetha Raj, President, RPMWWA, welcomed the gathering by wishing everyone love and happiness on Valentine's Day, and handed over the platform to Smt. Susan George, who gave a crisp introduction about the Speaker and the various therapy methods.

Dr. Sivakumar, started the session by explaining the basics of Quick Heal Therapy with the help of a Power Point Presentation. He taught the members the various simple methods of cure using pulses / leaves / seeds/roots etc. He taught us the various acupressure points specific to different body organs in both our hands, and how to improve the functioning of organs by sticking the seeds/leaves using a microporous tape. He further mentioned that the seeds or grains that we use for this treatment will be similar to the shape of the organ which needs the cure. For example, bean for any ailment pertaining to kidney, black pepper for



eyes, walnut for brain, buckwheat seed (Pappurai in Tamil) for Lungs, grape seeds for pancreas etc. He taught us that all ailments in our body can be cured through Jingluo Therapy.

The PPT presentation was very educative and useful to the participants. The meeting was attended by various members of AIWC and constituent Branches of WIA including the President of WIA and Smt. Varaprasadini, AIWC Zonal Coordinator for South Zone and other doyens from WIA and AIWC. Many participants had their own questions on treatment for various ailments through this method, and the Doctor gracefully answered all the queries raised, and cleared everyone's doubts. The session went on for more than two hours and the response shown

by the attendees was immense. The South Zone Coordinator, Smt. Varaprasadhini, President of WIA, Smt. Padma Venkatraman, and Smt. Rama Anatharaman of AIWC thanked the members of RPMWWA profusely for the very informative meeting.

The Secretary of the Association, Smt. Bharathi Srinivasan thanked the distinguished speaker of the day, who had shared valuable knowledge

on keeping us fit with the very simple technique using easily available pulses/seeds/vegetables in our kitchen. She also took the opportunity to thank all the distinguished guests from our parent association WIA, its constituent Branches, AIWC Members. Special thanks were due to Smt. Varaprasadhini, the South Zone Coordinator of AIWC for her continuous encouragement and appreciation of the activities of RPMWWA.

Jagriti Women's Conference, Haridwar Webinar on Health Awareness

By Dr. Karuna Sharma, Secretary, Jagriti Women's Conference

Jagriti Women's Conference organised a webinar for girl students and staff members of Centre for Home Science, M.M.P. Girls College, Sati Kund, Kankhal, Haridwar on the occasion of Rashtriya Balika Divas, keeping in mind that Health Is Wealth and a healthy girl or lady can contribute to her family and society better.

The topics were-

1. Diabetes: Awareness & Prevention
2. Health Care: Tips & Myths.

Our speakers were Dr. M S Singhal, Diabetologist and Dr. Alka Singhal, Ayurvedist. Dr. Singhal explained each and every aspect of diabetes- types of diabetes, precautions, symptoms, food habits, importance of exercise and proper medication etc. Dr. Alka Singhal explained in detail about the foods which we should eat like whole wheat flour,

bajra (millets), barley etc., We should choose lean proteins and green leafy vegetables. She also told us that a fatty diet is more harmful than a sugar diet. She advised us to avoid self-medication. It is the most harmful thing.

Body building supplements should be avoided. Regular exercise is the best thing to remain healthy.

Almost 140 participants attended the webinar. There was a very lively question and answer session also. Dr Karuna Sharma convened the program and Smt. Neru Jain gave the Vote of Thanks.



Kozhikode Branch Webinar on Cookery

By Smt. Bhuvaneswari Ravindran, Secretary & SCM, Suvarna, AIWC-Kozhikode

SUVARNA, Kozhikode Branch of AIWC organized a Cookery Session over Zoom for its members, in association with NESTLE India Limited on 27 January, 2021. Smt. Sera Paul, Activation Consultant, NESTLE Kerala Region, conducted this Session. Smt. Sera introduced members to various products of the NESTLE group. The actual demonstration was limited to three products of NESTLE viz., Maggi Coconut Milk Powder, Maggi Noodles and NESTLE Milkmaid. In a session of 45 minutes, three dishes using these items were demonstrated—Lady's Finger Curry using coconut milk powder, Paneer & Bell Pepper Noodles and Eggless Chocolate Cake using Milkmaid. There was also an interactive session wherein members could clear their doubts.

Seeing the popularity of this Session, Zonal Organizer Smt. Usha Nair was consulted to see if other branches could organize similar sessions. Six more sessions were organized by other branches. Since the session was in Malayalam, it could be organized only by Kerala branches. The other sessions were: Harisree Women, AIWC Chengannur on 12 February; Tittamangalam Vanitha Samithi, a constituent branch of AIWC Thiruvanthapuram on 22 February; Priyadarshini Mahila Samajam, AIWC Neyyattinkara on 6 March; AIWC Thiruvanthapuram on 8 and 30 March, and Kanika, AIWC Thrissur on 20 March. Members and well-wishers from AIWC branches across Kerala participated in the sessions.

While the series of classes were going on, on the occasion of International Women's Day, Nestle

announced a competition –“Nestle Cooking contest” - for members of AIWC branches in Kerala. The contest was open to Indian citizens resident in Kerala. Each contestant could submit only one recipe of any dish using Maggie Coconut Milk Powder or Nestle Milkmaid. The recipe was to be sent along with photographs of the prepared dish kept beside an empty packet of the Maggie product used.

On 30 March, Nestle announced results of the contest during a session by AIWC Trivandrum branch. Judges had selected the dish “Multigrain Vegetable Porridge in Coconut Milk” submitted by Smt. Geethalakshmi Padinharapat, a member of SUVARNA – Kozhikode Branch. It was a proud moment for SUVARNA. The winning recipe can be viewed on the YouTube link: <https://youtu.be/VxSYmtV3U0s>.

Sera had taken care to demonstrate new dishes in each session which drew members to participate in all the sessions. Participants were introduced to a variety of dishes that were quite simple and provided ample options for using a wide variety of healthy add-ons including common as well as exotic vegetables, particularly important in case of noodles. Rather than consuming plain noodles with only tastemaker, options were thrown up to make it a wholesome food. These additions help in making the dish nutritious and at the same time look attractive, tempting children to try them out.

The sessions were quite useful and were appreciated by members.

Thiruvananthapuram Branch Webinar on Water Day 2021

(Report prepared by Adv. Gayathri S. Mohan, International Youth Delegate, nominated by Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, Government of India; Member-YUVASHAKTHI - AIWC Youth Volunteers Group)

A webinar on the theme 'World Water Day 2021' was organised by Trivandrum Branch on 21 March 2021.

The Guest Speaker was Smt. Kalpana Ramesh and the title of her talk was 'The Last Mile for Water'. Smt. Kalpana is an environmentalist, designer and architect who advocates water conservation and restoration of traditional water sources. She has been working for several years on rainwater harvesting projects across Hyderabad. She was also part of a survey for cataloguing traditional stepwells. Her current social start-up, "The Rainwater Project", provides sustainable integrated water management solutions in public and private sectors, along with lake and well restoration and conservation.

Smt. Kalpana spoke of how she advocated and worked for tanker free homes, reuse of waste water, rain water harvesting and conservation of environment. She recalled how she commenced work on rainwater harvesting, starting from her own home. Later, as a lead of 'Blue Hyderabad Initiative', in collaboration with various organizations, she worked on restoring the 'dead' Kudi Kunta lake in Hyderabad, starting with creating awareness and engaging communities around the water body. Working with the communities and by engaging with different departments in the Government, she could get the lake restored. Fish and birds reappeared and the

surroundings turned green. The quality of water and the environment of the lake vicinity have improved significantly over three years.

Using the 'Super Blocks Model of Barcelona', she divided each zone in Hyderabad into blocks for rain water harvesting. Specific interventions were done in the blocks with the help of scientists and water analysts. She offered handholding to schools, temples, organisations, apartments, and independent houses, to make the environment water positive. This in turn, leads to lake and well restoration, improved ground water quality, cleaner environment and good air quality in the surrounding areas.

There were lively interactions following the talk. AIWC members from across India who had joined the webinar appreciated the impressive presentation.

For the novel initiatives and the dynamic leadership displayed, Kalpana has been awarded at national and international levels, and several recognitions have come her way. She was one of the seven women chosen to take over the Prime Minister's social media handles on Women's Day. Today, as part of the 'Blue Hyderabad Campaign', she hopes to carry the message of conservation of water and water bodies to other cities and towns across India.

Smt. Usha Nair, Zonal Organiser AIWC South Zone B welcomed the participants and moderated the session. Smt. Padmini Nair from AIWC Thiruvananthapuram Main branch offered the vote of thanks and expressed gratitude to Smt. Kalpana Ramesh for giving an informative talk. She also thanked all the participants in the webinar.

Tiruvananthapuram Branch Webinar - Brightening Lives of Specially Abled

(Report prepared by Kum. Beegom Ferbin Nizar, All Saints' College, Trivandrum, member of AIWC Yuvashakthi Volunteer Group)

Webinar 7 in the series Looking beyond COVID-19 was organised by AIWC on the topic “Brightening the lives of specially abled” on 19 Dec. 2020.

The endeavour aimed to understand challenges faced by differently abled persons, especially during the pandemic. It also sought to identify good practices if any, that could be continued beyond this period. The resource person was Smt. Tiffany Brar, an Indian activist who is herself visually challenged, a community service worker, and founder of Jyotirgamaya Foundation, an NGO that helps visually challenged people in all spheres of life. She is recipient of several awards, both national and international.

Smt. Tiffany Brar gave an elaborate speech. She spoke about her childhood and education. She gave a brief account of the work carried out by Jyotirgamaya Foundation. She also discussed the crises specially abled people face in life and the added challenges of COVID-19. She mentioned problems such as inability to move around freely, lack of access to special facilities and even normal requirements like acquiring sanitary pads, disability pension etc. She also raised her concern about lack of proper supervision and intervention by the Government for example, apps like AryogyaSetu app that do not follow web content accessibility guidelines. She also discussed domestic violence

which has become aggravated during the pandemic for specially challenged persons forced to stay at home. Her organisation was facing problems in locating suitable persons for preparing audio recordings of textbooks for visually challenged students in colleges. Tiffany stated that developing user friendly technology for specially abled people is the need of the hour. She also hoped that the good practices related to cleanliness and hygiene that we have been forced to adopt during COVID-19 (such as maintaining personal hygiene, wearing face masks while going out, managing garbage safely and efficiently etc.) would be continued even afterwards so that our towns and villages remain clean and healthy.

The interactive session was lively with members of AIWC and others sharing their views and ideas. Smt. Kuljit Kaur, Smt. Rama Anantram, Smt. Bhuvaneshwari Ravindran, Smt. Rehana Begum and several others shared their views. Members of AIWC from branches across the country volunteered to extend help to Jyotirgamaya Foundation for recording textbooks and other material. Smt. Tiffany said that the immediate requirement was for recording of Malayalam books.

Smt. Usha Nair, Zonal Organiser, AIWC South Zone-B welcomed the participants and moderated the session. Dr. Kamini extended the Vote of Thanks. She expressed gratitude to Smt. Tiffany Brar for attending the webinar and giving an informative talk. She thanked everyone for participating in the session.



Women's Rights under Islam

By Smt. Farida Hussain, Trustee, AIWC Education Trust

There is widespread belief, especially amongst non-Muslims, that Islam treats women unfairly and gender justice is not possible within Shari'a (Islamic) law. However, this is a flawed and incorrect understanding of women's rights under Islamic law. The intent of this article is not to conduct an exhaustive discourse on Muslim women's rights but to focus on specific rights given to women under Islam.

Sources and Essence of Islamic Law

Islamic law is primarily based on The Quran and thereafter on the Sunnah (the hadith and the example of the Prophet) for further clarification and guidance. When the Quran and Sunnah leave an issue unresolved, Muslim scholars resort to *ijtihad* – the science of interpretations and rulemaking, where they can supplement Islamic Law with local customs.

The fundamental values in Islam as expounded by the Quran are equality, justice, benevolence, and compassion. Quran emphasises the principle of equality among all human beings. Quran 49:13, among other verses, states that God created humans from male and female, and despite the empirical differences among humans (based on race, gender, etc.), the Quran regards them as equals and only ranks humans based on their deeds and piety. God created men and women from the same soul, as guardians of each other in a relationship of

cooperation, not domination.

Gender Equality

Islamic scholars have grouped human rights in Islam under six heads called *kulliyat*, according to Justice SSM Quadri, former judge, Supreme Court of India. This automatically includes the rights of women.

1. Haqq-al-Haya: right to life
2. Haqq al-Nasl: right to family and community
3. Haqq al-Mal: right to private ownership of a means of production
4. Haqq al-Hurriya: right to liberty
5. Haqq al-Karama: right to dignity of conscience, religion, and responsible expression
6. Haqq al-Ilm: right to education and pursuit of beneficial knowledge

The normative framework of the Quran reflects gender justice. Verse 2:228 of the Quran states “and women shall have rights similar to the rights against them (men) in a just manner”. The Quran, from the first, refers to rights of women. It states (verse 4: 1) that “Mankind revere your Guardian Lord, who created you from a single being (*min nafs waahidatin*) created of like nature, his mate and scattered countless men and women...” Thus, men and women are made equal in creation itself.

The Quran indeed ushered in a revolution as far as women's rights were concerned, straight away giving woman her distinct individual and legal personality, which was absent in society in the 7th century AD.

Women's Rights within Marriage

In Islamic law, marriage is a contract and therefore, all Muslim women, who have attained puberty are competent and have the right to enter into a contract to marry a person of their choice. They have been given an immutable right by the Quran to enter into a marriage contract by themselves: without the woman's consent no marriage is valid. Islamic law gives both parties to the marriage the right to fix the terms of contract of the marriage. The wife can stipulate conditions, which ensure her security both with regard to abrupt termination of the relationship as well as economic stability.

Upon attaining puberty, Islamic law also recognises the woman's right to repudiate a marriage arranged by her guardian when she was a minor, which is called "option of puberty". At the time of marriage, a Muslim woman has the Quranic right to "Mehr". This is the amount payable to the wife as a token of respect, which is fixed by mutual agreement by husband and wife. The essence for payment of Mehr is to provide economic independence to the wife so that she can set up herself well in life having her own means of income, which is independent of the income or the resources of the husband. In Islamic law, even after marriage a woman retains her individual personality and is entitled to decide matters concerning herself, her properties, and her personal dignity.

Women's Right to Divorce

Islamic law allows women the right to divorce and to inheritance, and remarriage, when divorced or widowed even though they seldom exercise these rights.

There is an additional principle of Muslim law for safeguarding women in marriage – Tallaq Tafwiz, which means delegated divorce. That is, the husband's authority to pronounce divorce can be delegated to the wife at the time of nikah or marriage, so that such a power is not available to be exercised by the husband. The wife can exercise such power during agreed contingencies, like the husband taking a second wife. The parties can include in the terms of the contract regarding maintenance of the wife even if the wife is economically better placed than the husband.

The verse 4:19 in the Quran commands men to keep their wives in a good manner or to leave them with benevolence. In the same verse, is also ordained that women cannot be married off against their will. In the next verse 4: 20 is stated "even if treasures have been given to her by the husband they cannot be taken back after the marriage is dissolved". Verse 33:35, mentions the equality of men and women, and in verse 4:32, women have their financial independence including the right to work and earn.

- a) The Quran prescribes a procedure for divorce, which entails arbitration and reconciliation before talaq is pronounced by the husband. "If you fear a separation between the two of them appoint an arbitrator from his family and an arbitrator from her family. If they desire reconciliation, Allah will bring them

into agreement. Verily Allah is knowing and knowledgeable.” (Quran 4: 35). A [pronouncement] of talaq or divorce is only permissible twice after which the parties should hold together on equitable terms or to separate with kindness (Quran 2: 229).

- b) The Quran gives women the right to divorce at will and without obtaining consent of her husband after a suitable compensation.
- c) Talaq a tafwidh: The delegated right to divorce wherein the husband delegates his right to divorce to his wife at the time of nikah.

Islam and Polygamy

Polygamy is not prescribed for all Muslim men; it was permitted in certain circumstances. Unless a Muslim man is marrying to do justice to widows or orphans, the norm laid down is to marry only one. “If ye fear that ye shall not be able to deal justly with them, then only one... That will be more suitable to prevent you from doing injustice.” (Quran 4: 3) Monogamy is the norm and polygamy is an exception, and only with the condition that all (wives) be treated justly. However, the Quran verse 4: 129 warns “ye are never able to be fair and just as between women even if it is your ardent desire.”

Women’s Rights to Education

One of the most important rights granted to women in Islam is the right to education. The first revealed word of the Quran commanded the believers to “Read”. And this command did not distinguish between male and female believers. Education is not only the right but the duty of every Muslim, male or female. The best gift from a father to his

child is education and upbringing. The first wife of the Prophet Muhammad Khadija was a successful and highly educated businesswoman in her own right.

“Whosoever follows a path to seek knowledge therein God will make easy for him a path to paradise.”

At various times the Prophet Mohammad told his followers: “Acquisition of knowledge is binding on all Muslims, male and female.”

“Seek knowledge from the cradle to the grave.”

“May Lord increase me in knowledge.”

“The primary obligation of Muslims is to acquire knowledge regardless of gender.” 46: 1-5

Women’s Rights to Property and Inheritance

When a Muslim woman attains the age of maturity (puberty), in Islamic law she has full rights on her person and the right to own, hold, and administer her property. There is a misunderstanding that in Islam women inherit half of what men inherit. However, this is only in the case where there is no last will and testament. In such situations, men inherit more because they are then required to use the inheritance to support those female members of their family who are dependent on them.

Socio-Politico-Cultural Influence in Interpreting Islamic Law

Why, then, are Muslim women in many countries still being discriminated against? It is critical to understand that this discrimination does not originate in Islam, but from laws made, in many cases, by Muslim men. It is the patriarchal interpretation of the Islamic law influenced by

the socio-politico-cultural influences of that society/country that have been detrimental to the experience of their legitimate rights by Muslim women.

This is the reason why, for instance, women till recently were forbidden to drive in Saudi Arabia, while they could do so in the other 48 Muslim majority nations. This is also the reason that is there a law only in some “Muslim” countries that women must cover their hair and not in others. This and its ideological opposite - laws passed by some “secular” countries that forbid women to cover their hair or choose the manner of their dress in public places both stem from patriarchal prejudice. In both these cases the manmade laws take away the freedom of choice that women enjoy in Islam.

As the Islamic scholar, Laleh Bakhtiar writes, “the freedom of will granted by Islam carries a great responsibility. Women must educate themselves on their rights. Once they understand their rights, they must come together in order to obtain and reclaim their God-given rights and actively pursue the development of a fair and just community.” The most vital factors for empowerment of women -- personal dignity and liberty and economic independence -- are assured and protected in Islamic law. Patriarchal interpretation of Islamic law is responsible for the gap between the relative inequality some Muslim women experience and the equality they enjoy in Islam. Ignorance of Islam is primarily responsible for disparity between equality women enjoy in Islam and its stereotype as a religion that discriminates against them.

“The best and most beautiful things in the world cannot be seen or even touched. They must be felt within the heart”. **Helen Keller**

“In this life we cannot do great things. We can only do small things with great love”. **Mother Teresa**

“It is a wholesome and necessary thing for us to turn again to the earth and in the contemplation of her beauties to know of wonder and humility”. **Rachel Carson**

“It is not easy to find happiness in ourselves, and it is not possible to find it elsewhere”. **Agnes Repplier**

“Learn to get in touch with the silence within yourself and know that everything in life has a purpose”. **Elisabeth Kübler-Ross**

“You may encounter many defeats, but you must not be defeated. In fact, it may be necessary to encounter the defeats, so you can know who you are, what you can rise from, how you can still come out of it”. **Maya Angelou**

(compiled by Smt. Shevata Rai Talwar, Asst. Secretary, AIWC)

II hindi section II

रिपोर्ट ऑफ हीलिंग थेरेपी प्रोग्राम:

अखिल भारतीय महिला सम्मेलन, प्रधान कार्यालय की अध्यक्ष श्रीमती शीला काकड़े ने AIWC स्टाफ के लिए मार्च महीने में प्रत्येक शुक्रवार को दोपहर 2.30 बजे हीलिंग थेरेपी का गठन किया। इस थेरेपी सत्र का संचालन डी.आई.जी. नीता सिंह ने किया।

पिछले साल लोग एक लम्बे लॉकडाउन में अपने-अपने घरों में रहे, जिसके कारण उनकी हेल्थ पर बड़ा असर पड़ा, बाहर ना निकल पाने की वजह से इंसान कई अनचाही बीमारियों से ग्रस्त हो चुका है। यह आप सभी जानते हैं कि बीमारियों कभी भी बताकर नहीं आती हैं। यह एक ऐसी चीज है जो कभी भी किसी को भी हो सकती है। सबसे ज्यादा हम सभी मानसिक परेशानियों से जूझ रहे हैं।

अध्यक्ष महोदया, ने यह निर्णय बड़ी ही सूझबूझ के साथ लिया, कि AIWC हेड ऑफिस में इस तरह का हीलिंग कार्यक्रम कराया जाए।

AIWC कर्मचारियों ने संगठित सत्र में इस कार्यक्रम में सक्रिय रूप से भाग लिया और अपने भीतर एक परिवर्तन देखा, जो की दिन-प्रतिदिन अपने आप में हीलिंग थेरेपी का अभ्यास करने के बाद हुआ।

AIWC स्टाफ ने अपना अनुभव बताया कि हीलिंग थेरेपी से उनको कितना लाभ हुआ है।

मुहम्मद सलीम द्वारा बताया गया कि अध्यक्ष मोहदया की जानकारी से हम समस्त कर्मचारियों एवं कार्यालय परिसर में रहने वाले सदस्यों को महत्वपूर्ण फायदा हुआ है जिसमें सभी प्रकार के दुखों का निवारण डीआईजी नीता सिंह द्वारा बिलकुल साधारण सी विधि व मंत्र उच्चारणों के माध्यम से बताया गया। जो मैडम डी.आई.जी. नीता सिंह ने मंत्र उच्चारण बताया वह मन को बड़ा ही शांति देता है और मानवता से प्रेम का सन्देश देता है, स्वयं से प्रेम करना, अपने शरीर के अंगों के प्रति प्रेम करना सिखाता है। मैं धन्यवाद करता हूँ मैडम नीता सिंह एवं हमारी अध्यक्ष मोहदया जी का।



मैडम अलबीना द्वारा बताया गया कि उनको हीलिंग प्रोग्राम से शांति मिलती है। आत्मा हमेशा जानती है की सही क्या है। चुनौती तो मन को समझाने की होती है। इस प्रोग्राम से तन जितना झूमता है उतना ही स्वस्थ रहता है और मन जितना स्थिर रहे उतना ही शांत रहता है।

AIWC Executive Secretary, Ms. Poonam Gupta Said, "It is a very good initiative by the Management to enhance mental and physical capabilities. The following prayer we are doing in the session:

"I love my Heart & Soul

I Love All Humanity

Join Heart & Soul Together

Love, Peace & Harmony

Love, Peace & Harmony".

Through this Soul Healing, we can expand our holy awareness, build relationships and develop connections with earth and sky as well as with all and our spiritual guide. It is truly impressive as it has the power to heal our body parts and ourselves. It gives significant improvement in our emotional, mental and physical health and we came to know how these are inter-connected. We are really thankful to the Management for arranging this wonderful Therapy.

हेल्थ सुपरवाइजर (अजरा कयूम) बताती हैं कि उनको कंधों में तकलीफ है। हीलिंग थेरेपी से काफी मदद मिली अभी कुछ समय पहले उनकी बेटी बीमार थी उन्होंने अपनी बिटिया को ध्यान में रखकर यह थेरेपी किया और बेटी से भी करवाया। उनकी बेटी को बहुत अच्छा महसूस हुआ। यह थेरेपी बहुत ही सकून देने वाली है और मैं शुक्रिया करती हूँ हमारी मैनेजमेंट का उन्होंने हमारे स्वास्थ्य के लिए यह प्रोग्राम करवाया।

Programme Manager Ms. Ritu shared her views that healing is an “energy therapy” though it’s a long process to connect ourselves but I learned one thing if you respect your body, heart and feelings then you are the happiest person in this world. Through this process you generate positive energy inside your body, in scientific terms when you generate positive energy, your body chemicals

work faster for any ailments healing inside or outside your body.

We must appreciate these kinds of programmes for the employees in our Organization. I would like to thank our management for taking initiative in COVID19 pandemic time.

कुल मिलाकर अधिकांश कर्मचारियों ने कहा कि यह कार्यक्रम बहुत ही सार्थक है और उनके अंदर महसूस होने वाली हर नकारात्मक ऊर्जा को कम करने में मदद करता है,। यह कार्यक्रम प्रेरणा देता है कि लोगों को उनके शरीर और अंगों की सराहना करनी चाहिए। हमेशा अपने दिल और आत्मा को धन्यवाद कहना चाहिए ताकि वे हमेशा स्वस्थ रहें।

धन्यवाद!

प्रतिभा आर्य
(प्रोग्राम ऑफिसर)

Bhopal Branch (Hypertension and Menopausal Awareness)

संस्था अध्यक्ष श्रीमती मधुसरन

ऑल इंडिया विमेंस कांफ्रेंस भोपाल ब्रांच द्वारा एक दिवसीय जागरूकता कार्यक्रम हाइपर टेंशन एंड मीनोपॉज पर संस्था की अध्यक्ष श्रीमती मधुसरन जी के मार्गदर्शन में सम्पन्न किया गया। सर्वप्रथम संस्था की उपाध्यक्ष श्रीमती सुशीला गोयल जी ने सभी महिलाओं का स्वागत किया व संस्था की गतिविधियों की जानकारी देते हुए बताया कि संस्था महिलाओं और बच्चों के उत्थान के लिए कार्य करती है। संस्था की आधारशिला परिवार परामर्श केंद्र के बारे में जानकारी दी कि केंद्र में परिवार समस्याओं का समाधान आपसी चर्चा द्वारा किया जाता है व परिवारों को टूटने से बचाया जाता है।

तत्पश्चात गयनो कोलॉजिस्ट डॉक्टर कमल लाड द्वारा हाइपरटेंशन पर जानकारी देते हुए बताया कि महिलाएँ छोटी छोटी बातों पर टेंशन लेती हैं जिसके कारण उनका

ब्लडप्रेसर कभी ज्यादा कभी कम होता रहता है डॉक्टर कमल ने महिलाओं का ब्लड प्रेशर भी चेक किया। जिस महिला का ब्लड प्रेशर कम या ज्यादा था उनको दवाइयाँ लिखकर दी व नमक कम लेने की सलाह दी।

डॉक्टर कमल ने महिलाओं से मेनोपॉज के बारे में चर्चा की एक महिला ने बताया जिनकी उम्र लगभग 35 वर्ष होगी उनको 2-2 महीने में पीरियड आता है जो नहीं के बराबर होता है। डॉक्टर ने उस महिला को कुछ टेस्ट करवाने को कहा व दवाइयाँ भी लिखकर दी।

जागरूकता कार्यक्रम में महिलाओं ने गाइडलाइन्स का पालन करते हुए मास्क लगाकर रखा और एक दूसरे से दूरी बनाकर रखी सेनिटाइजर व सेनेटरी पैड्स, स्वल्पाहार ब्रांच द्वारा वितरित किए गए।

‘फिर जीतेगा इंदौर’

ए मेरे प्यारे बहादुर इंदौर
मैंने बचपन से देखा है
तुझे हर झंझावात झेलते
युद्धकाल का ब्लेक आउट
दंगों कपर्धू के काले दिन
डेंगू चिकन गुनिया से रोग
अब ये कोरोना का कहर
तूने हराकर सबको
जीत का दिखाया जलवा
उड़ाते रहे मजाक लोग
पोहे जलेबी नमकीन का
पर यही सब खाते खाते
स्वच्छता में चोका लगाया
नंवन ही रहे अभी तक
हरियाली का आल मतो
मोह लेता है पर्यटकों को
और सड़कें, वाह भई वाह
गौरैया नहीं अब मेहमान
ए मेरे इंदौर याद कर फिर

वो सारे अच्छे प्यारे दिन
ये दौर भी निकल जाएगा
इस बार भी हारेगा नहीं तू
जीत का जश्न तू मनाएगा
पालन करेंगे आदेशों का
मास्क से श्रंगारित होकर
दूरियाँ रख घर में ही रहेंगे
हाँ, दिलों को जोड़े रहेंगे
मदद के हाथ बढ़ाएंगे ही
कोई भूखा प्यासा ना रहे
तेरा मेरा नहीं, सब हमारा
रोज सांध्य बेला में क्यूँ न
याद करें परम पिता को
हम इंदौरियन्स मिलकर
दोहराएं यह नारा हम सब
यह दौर भी चला जाएगा
इंदौर फिर जीत जाएगा

श्रीमती सरला मेहता
सदस्यअखिल भारतीय महिला सभा
मुख्य शाखा,स्नेहलतागंज, इंदौर

Gurgaon Mahila Mandal (Awareness on Beti Bachao Beti Padhao Scheme)

अध्यक्ष श्रीमति शारदा

बेटी कि उपलिब्धियों कि प्रशंसा करें व उसकी हिम्मत बढ़ाए!

कादीपुर गुडगाँव ऑल इंडिया विमेंस कॉन्फेरेन्स दिल्ली के सौजन्य से गुडगाँव ग्रामीण महिला मंडल ने कादीपुर सिलाई सेंटर में बेटी बचाओ बेटी पढ़ाओ विषय पर जागरूकता कार्यक्रम आयोजित किया जिसमें स्कूल की छात्राओं व महिलाओं व आंगनवाड़ी कार्यकर्ता व आशा वर्कर ने भाग लिया व डॉक्टर प्रियंका ने बताया कि इस विषय पर ज्यादा फोकस किया जा रहा है व इस योजना के उद्देश्य के बारे में बताया कि बालिका के अस्तित्व व जन्म की सुरक्षा सुनिश्चित करना चाहिए। बालिकाओं को शोषण से बचाना व उन्हें सही गलत के बारे में बताना चाहिए। शिक्षा के माध्यम से बालिकाओं को सक्षम व आत्मनिर्भर बनाना व महिलाओं को शोषण से बचाना व सेक्स डिफरेंसेस को रोकना चाहिए।

आपकी बेटी हमारी बेटी, सुकन्या योजना, कन्या दान योजना महिला मातृत्व योजना, भ्रूणहत्या कानून का लागू करना इसमें सजा का प्रावधान होना, माँ व बच्चों का टीकाकरण, पोषण योजना इत्यादि योजनाओं से लड़कियों को लाभ पहुँचाया जा रहा है। बेटी बचाओ, बेटी पढ़ाओ योजना का आरम्भ पानीपत व हरियाणा में प्रधानमंत्री श्री नरेंद्र मोदी जी द्वारा 2015 में किया गया था व इस योजना से हर जिले, गाँव में इस योजना का प्रचार व प्रसार किया गया। सुकन्या समृद्धि योजना बेटी के लिए भारत सरकार की बचत योजना है जिसे बेटी बचाओ बेटी पढ़ाओ स्कीम के तहत लांच किया गया है। इसमें कम राशि से 10 साल तक की लड़कियों का बैंक अकाउंट माताओं को गर्जियन बनाकर अकाउंट खोला जाता है। जिसमें 1000 रुपया उससे अधिक राशि वार्षिक जमा की जाती है। जो 18 साल पुरे होने पर बेटी को एक साथ जमा रकम मिल जाती है। जो उसकी शिक्षा व शादी में काम आती है।

प्रोफेसर सरिता ने बताया कि बेटी आज हर क्षेत्र में आगे बढ़ने के लिए तत्पर हैं। संघर्ष व चुनौतियाँ भी स्वीकार करती है और आगे सफलताओं की सीढ़ी चढ़ती हैं। इनको शिक्षा के साथ योग, कराटे व ड्राइविंग भी सिखानी चाहिए जिससे आत्म विश्वास उत्पन्न होता है। सुषमा आंगनवाड़ी सुपरवाइजर ने आपकी बेटी हमारी बेटी, सुकन्या योजना, कन्यादान योजना, महिला मातृत्व योजना, भ्रूण हत्या कानून को न मानने में सजा व जुर्माने के प्रवाधान के बारे में बताया, इस प्रकार हरियाणा में आपकी बेटी हमारी बेटी स्कीम 2015 के बाद बी.पी.एल परिवार में पहली बेटी व अन्य परिवार में दूसरे बेटी होने पर हरियाणा सरकार द्वारा उन्हें प्रमाणपत्र दिए जाते हैं जो 18 वर्ष की आयु होने पर लगभग एक से डेढ़ लाख तक की राशि मिलेगी जो उनके उच्च शिक्षा के लिए काम आएगी।

स्वाति सामाजिक कार्यकर्ता ने बताया कि बालिकाओं को शोषण से बचाना व शिक्षा क्षेत्र में आगे बढ़ना व आत्मनिर्भर बनना इस योजना का उद्देश्य है।

संस्था कि प्रेजिडेंट शारदा ने बताया कि आजकल गांव में भी बेटी बचाओ योजना के बारे में जागरूकता बढ़ रही है संस्था सचिव शोभा लाल ने बताया संस्था द्वारा आटा, कादीपुर, सहजवास, प्रेमपुरी में बालिकाओं व महिलाओं को विभिन्न प्ररिक्षण दिए जाते हैं ताकि वे आत्म निर्भर बन सके व परिवार में मुसीबत आने पर जैसा की कोरोना समय में हुआ परिवार की मदद कर सके व संस्थाकी और से पूर्ण आशवासन दिया गया कि बेटी बचाओ बेटी पढ़ाओ स्कीम में जो किसी को भी फॉर्म भरवाना है उसकी मदद करेगी व सभी ने सामाजिक दुरी व मास्क का ध्यान रखा

Suruchi Vikas Samiti|Indore (Awareness on Cyber Crime and Social Media Misuse)

संस्था सचिव श्रीमति श्वेता शर्मा

ऑल इंडिया विमेंस कॉन्फेरेन्स इंदौर ब्रांच की उपशाखा सुरुचि विकास समिति द्वारा दिनांक 17 जनवरी 2021 को एक दिवसीय कार्यक्रम का आयोजन किया गया। जिसका शुभारंभ श्रीमती तुरखिया द्वारा किया गया। कार्यक्रम का विषय साइबर क्राइम एंड सोशल मीडिया का दुरुपयोग था। कार्यशाला के मुख्या वक्ता श्री असीम पंड्या जो की एक साइबर एक्सपर्ट हैं व भोपाल आईटी कंप्यूटर साइंस के थर्ड ईयर के स्टूडेंट हैं। उनके द्वारा साइबर क्राइम एंड सोशल मीडिया के दुरुपयोग के बारे में काफी जानकारी दी गई मुख्य रूप से सोशल इंजीनियरिंग और रोजमर्रा में हो रहे साइबर क्राइम के बारे में उदाहरण सहित जानकारी प्रदान करी एवं उससे बचने के कई उपाय बताए

श्री असीम ने श्रोताओं को बताया उनको सतर्क रहने की जरूरत है। किसी भी इलेक्ट्रॉनिक आइटम का सावधानी पूर्वक इस्तेमाल करें व उनके मुताबिक अगर हम सावधानी

पूर्वक किसी भी इलेक्ट्रॉनिक गैजेट का उपयोग करेंगे व हमारे लिए ज्यादा लाभ दायक होगा और हम खुद को साइबर क्राइम से बचा सकते हैं।

श्रोताओं को उन्होंने कैसे पासवर्ड बनाया जाए कैसे उसका इस्तेमाल किया जाए यह भी बताया। उन्होंने जागरूक किया कि कैसे आजकल कम्पनीज और सोशल मीडिया साइट हमारे साथ खिलवाड़ करती हैं। और हमारा प्राइवेट डाटा डिलीट कर देती हैं।

बाद में श्री अखिलेश शर्मा द्वारा साइबर क्राइम से पीड़ित व्यक्तियों एवं स्वयं के साथ घटित साइबर क्राइम के अनुभवों से साझा किया।

वक्तव्य उपरांत सभी श्रोताओं का प्रश्नों द्वारा एवं समस्याओं का भी समाधान असीम द्वारा किया गया। कार्यक्रम की मुख्या अतिथि श्रीमती तुरखिया थी कार्यक्रम का संचालन संस्था की सचिव श्रीमति श्वेता शर्मा द्वारा किया गया



A thought-provoking quotation, relevant to our times
Submitted by Smt. Bina Jain, Patron, AIWC



Allahabad Branch celebrated International Women's Day in a school in Phulpur.



This girl was a resident of our Bapnu Ghar. She was taken home by her relatives.



An event organised by Kakinada Branch to celebrate Women's Safety Week



Yuva Divas was celebrated in Canning Durbadal, a rural constituent branch of Calcutta South Branch



125th Birth Anniversary of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose was celebrated by Bolpur Shanti Niketan Constituent Branch and Supur Constituent Branch in the orphanage of Vivekananda Educational Society for Rural Development



World Water day was celebrated by WIA by cleaning Marina Beach, Chennai



Technical officers from PUSA Institute gave training on new agricultural methods to women farmers of Sadhrana village.



Smt. Harsha Ladhani, President, Mumbai Branch, signed an MOU to inaugurate the E-Waste Centre in the Hostel Premises.



Sanjeevni Sanstha, Meerut, celebrated Holi and Mahila Divas



Bangalore Branch celebrated International Women's Day at the destitute home run by WCD